



Findon

September 2026

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 September 2026

Findon Sheep Fair 2026 - Nepcote Green

This year's Sheep Fair will take place across the weekend 11th to 13th Sept

- **Friday 11th Evening - Barn Dance in the Marquee 19:00 to 23:00 ***
 - **Saturday 12th Daytime - Main Sheep Fair on the Green 10:00 to 16:30**
 - **Saturday 12th Evening - Party on the Green in the Marquee 19:00 to 23:00 ****
 - **Sunday 13th Daytime - Salvation Army Songs of Praise Service 14:45**
- (* admission by ticket, and at the door if not all tickets sold. ** admission by ticket only)

The Saturday daytime event is free to enter and includes a Funfair, Sheep Judging, Camels, Birds of Prey, Morris Dancing, Food Stalls, Beer Tent, Mobile Belfry, Face Painting, Country Crafts, Archery, Stalls and many more attractions.

Car Parking is available in adjacent fields at a cost of £6 per car. In order to ease traffic congestion during the daytime event we will once again be operating a one way system through the village. This will be signposted and marshalled and will run from 7am to 5pm. We are grateful for the patience and

consideration given by villagers in keeping traffic congestion to a minimum. We are especially grateful for those who have revised shopping and other delivery plans to alternative days to avoid the sheep fair day and reduce the potential for traffic disruption.

We would like to thank our sponsors, volunteers and the Findon Valley Scouts for their support that allows the event to run. If there are any concerns or feedback you would like to provide to the sheep fair team, please contact us via email at admin@findonsheepfair.org.uk

During the event, a duty officer will be available at the end of main marquee to answer any questions. If you have any immediate concern please pop along and notify us of this.

Finally, since the last Sheep Fair we have started putting together some podcasts which include interviews with some of those involved in the event. To listen to them, go to www.findonsheepfair.org.uk/podcast/



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News from the Rectory

Writing this in August with a fifth heat wave on the way, I wonder how long the hot, dry summer will last. Will we have rain in autumn? This year the meteorological start of autumn is the 1st of September and on September the 23rd the autumnal equinox brings equal lengths of night and day. It is hard to imagine a “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” described by John Keats in his poem, “To Autumn” Keats later depicts the blessing of harvest foods to store. Although the harvesting of crops is sometimes later in the year or as this year much earlier, autumn is a time of year to give thanks for all that we receive. The churches in our parish each have a harvest festival, both Findon and Patching on the 6th September and Clapham on the 20th.

I recall as a child we made up small boxes of fruit and vegetables which we took to church and laid at the altar. These gifts were then taken to elderly people in the community. Today harvest service gatherings provide community support differently. Donations include non-perishable goods that can be given to centres that cater for homeless people such as Turning Tides or community pantries, a number of which are located in Angmering and Littlehampton. At Patching church, the gifts of home produced or purchased fruit, vegetables, cakes, breads, preserves, groceries and more are auctioned, raising funds for a local charity. This year the beneficiary will

be St Barnabas Hospice. You are welcome to join the harvest auction at Patching church on 6th September at 11.15am, following the 10am harvest service. The event is always good fun.

There are many types of supportive communities, faith groups, youth organisations, special interest groups, neighbourhood communities and many more; as time goes on new communities develop and some disappear. I recall post war life in a northern industrial town. There was very little motor traffic so children played in the streets, whip and top, skipping, marbles, hopscotch and rounders, using the street lamps on the four corners of crossroads as bases. Games were rarely paused for ‘traffic’. Occasionally a car came by or the ‘rag and bone’ man with his horse drawn cart, shouting unintelligibly. Recognised by occupants they bought out items that nowadays would be taken to a charity shop or an amenity tip. Such communities dispersed as people were moved to better housing, often in tower blocks.

I was interested recently to read that in Leeds residents who fulfil certain requirements can close their streets for periods and allow children to play there. It seems a good way to build neighbourhood communities that have been adversely affected by rehousing, moving for work and latterly the isolation of covid and that of social media, where at times those that are isolated can experience harmful approaches.

continued on page 5

The Foot Lady

Georgina Downs
Dip.CFHP Dip.Ctec MPSPract.



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Website: www.yogafortoday.yoga

I wonder if John Keats was a member of a supportive community. He died from tuberculosis one year after publishing 'To Autumn' in 1820, at the age of 25. The ministry of clergy and church communities can help celebrate marriages and baptisms and provide support in times of ill health and bereavement.

Although the parish is in 'vacancy' we are able to provide clergy to cover all the services listed in this publication. Contact details for information or assistance are included.

Kath Hutchinson
Churchwarden, Patching

Rev. Colin Cox, Associate Vicar
c/o The Rectory, School Hill Findon, BN14 0TR. Tel: 01903 873601
findoncprectory@gmail.com www.findon-clapham-patching-churches.com
Friends of St John the Baptist Church - www.fosjbf.org
Friends of Clapham and Patching Churches - www.focpc.org.uk

Autumn Launch for Church Events

Sunday 6th September

New - Breakfast at 9-30
am at Findon Church

**Worship and Praise
Service** at 10 am

Messy Church Craft in
Vestry

Group "Hope Rising"

Sat 19th September

Walk from Findon
Church to the Junction
Cafe at Clapham
Start 10 am.

Some transport back for
younger families.

All ages welcome

Sat 10th October

**Findon Church Open
Morning**
10am to Mid-day

Table top sale. £10 per
table Contact 07837
049547 to Book

Children's activities
including face painting.
Refreshments

We hope to see you at these events

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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Findon Village Hall Trust

Our weekly classes, village groups and monthly activities are back in full swing in September after the summer break, so don't wait for a New Years resolution have a look at what's on offer - try out a new activity at the hall now.

On September 4th at 7pm the Parish Council are holding a screening of the National Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis. The film is intended as a catalyst for a wider public conversation and a stepping stone towards a live televised national briefing, introduced by the Prime Minister and delivered by independent experts, so that the whole country can be fully informed about the risks we face and the solutions available. The village hall will be providing a bar and following the film there will be a chance for a discussion about the issues raised.

We will be back in October with a mix of film nights and a music quiz for the autumn and winter months.

Relaunching Lunch @1pm

Did you know we have been hosting a monthly community lunch at the village hall since January 2025 when we took over from the previous organisers who decided to retire?

So, we have decided it's time for a bit of a change - a new name and a new invitation to people to come along and try it out. Following a consultation at our July lunch we are changing the name from Light Lunch to **Lunch@1pm** and we hope to encourage more people to come along and try out our community lunch (see poster on page ****).

We asked people what they enjoyed about Light Lunch and here are a few of their replies;

A friendly atmosphere with a strong sense of community.

Elaine Dibben

A welcoming opportunity to socialise and catch up with others.

Excellent, plentiful food - many attendees simply said they "love the food."

Attending saves people from having to cook later in the day.

Good value for money.

The chance to meet people they would not normally come across.

The raffles are popular with excellent prizes that add to the enjoyment of the event and support local charities.

Lunch @1pm is particularly valuable for people who live alone, providing companionship and reducing isolation **but** it's open to everyone.

Anyone who is working from home and fancies a screen break and a chance to chat

Children are welcome (£2.00 each) and often join family members especially during school holidays.

Well behaved dogs are welcome to come along with their owners

Anyone who needs a lift can get in touch and ask for transport to be provided by one of our volunteers

You don't have to live in the village - we are regularly joined by diners from Findon Valley, Clapham and High Salvington. We will be back after the summer break at the end of September.

We provide a 2-course meal for £6 with two homemade soups and three homemade puddings to choose from, with seconds offered for both courses.

If you haven't been before, or haven't come along for a while, or you are new to the village, why not come and try it out. We look forward to welcoming you.

If you have any questions do contact Elaine on
bookingsecretary@findonvillagehall.net

THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

*Findon Parish council
with CREW present a
screening and
community
discussion:*

At Findon Village Hall,
High St Findon BN14 0TA
Friday 4th September
6:45 for 7pm start
Book on the link or website
worthingcrew.co.uk

*If you care about local
flooding, air pollution,
food prices, the cost of
energy, or the environment
you might want to see this.*



Ben Clarke

I would like to thank everyone for your kind messages, emails and cards following the sudden death of my beloved husband Ben. It was really lovely to read how much he was respected and liked in the Village.

On Friday 14th August, a large Requiem Mass was held in his home town of Luton. There were tears, laughter, many stories, singing, dancing, great food and rather a lot of drink. We celebrated long into the night. A perfect Irish send-off. Ben would have loved it!

Sara Clarke



**Arun Choral Society**

Elgar

The Dream of Gerontius

Sunday 25 October 2026
7.30pm
Arundel Cathedral

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Angel - Deirdre Arratoon
Priest - Ben Hendry-Watkins
Directed by Dr Joe Paxton

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Sunday 6th September, 2-4PM
Nepcote Green

Help fill the rabbit scrapes and holes
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STOP PRESS I'm hugely excited to announce that the first shop podcast telling the story of how it started back in 2017, is now live. It features three of our lovely volunteers who have been involved since the beginning, is packed with interesting stories and snippets, and is less than 15 minutes long. So, after reading this article (and maybe the rest of Findon News), you can make a cuppa, put your feet up, and listen in. What a perfect start to the day! Just follow this link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2501391/episodes/19430381>.

The link is easier if you are reading this online – go to either the Findon News website or Findon Village Store. Oh, and whilst I think of it, see if you can spot the deliberate mistake! I did think of running a 'raffle'; tell the shop your answer, and our manager will donate an ice cream to whoever's name he pulls out of a hat, but I thought it might create havoc as you all rush down there in your enthusiasm! Let me know what you think of it, and also your ideas for future bite-size podcasts.

Whilst I'm talking about media matters, do look at our website. It's packed with news, photos and interesting items, such as our Community Benefit Scheme, whereby we plough surplus profits back into local projects, such as the School, Preschool, and Swimming Pool.

Now, I'll try to calm down and move on to other, more mundane, matters (depending on your viewpoint). The

hot weather has brought people flocking to the shop, maybe partly because of the two air conditioning units installed there! We have considered putting a chair in the cold store and renting out the space, five minutes at a time, but decided against it. One Saturday afternoon, a group of 22 cyclists came in to quench their thirst! What a summer it's been – and there's talk of another heatwave this month. I think we're all struggling a bit with them now.

Moving swiftly on to some good news, this month sees the start of university. Very exciting, and maybe a bit nerve-racking too! You'll want to be prepared as much as you can, and we won't let you down at this important time. Of course, you can always rely on us to stock 'Good Luck' and 'Congratulations' cards, and other essential items like chocolate, and maybe some pens and paper too. (Are they still used at university?)

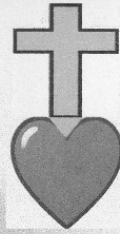
Back in January, Lloyds Banking Group (including Halifax and Bank of Scotland) stopped letting customers securely deposit cheques via the PO. And yes, some people and organisations, still use cheques, and were hit sorely by this. Well, I'm pleased to say that as of 1st September, the service is being reinstated. They've learnt the error of their ways. About time banks became a bit more user-friendly, I say.



Did You Know?

Back in the 1930s, Southview Drive - just off Cross Lane - was nothing more than a simple dirt track with six homes. Among villagers it was fondly known as "Quality Street", a nickname inspired by the status and standing of the families who lived there.

This wonderful snippet of village history was shared by Bob Fell, who grew up here in Findon and whose grandparents lived on the original "Quality Street". Thank you, Bob - and a very Happy (belated) 88th Birthday.



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Saturday 19th September 2026

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Findon**

6.30pm to approx 9pm

**Refreshments available at the interval
Cash advisable**

**For more information
Contact kmeknights@outlook.com**

Findon Village Gardens Association - Summer Flower Show

The Findon Village Gardens Association Summer Flower Show was held this year on Saturday 8th August

Despite having just endured the fourth heatwave of the year, once again, the members never let us down. As usual, our summer show provided a glorious array of flowers and a fabulous selection of vegetables. Together with the floral art, handicrafts, cookery and photography classes in the hall, 2026 showed once again the immense talents of our exhibitors.

Jane Gregory and Stewart Hilton won awards in the flower section and Sue Gleason took the floral art prize. There were some fantastic entries in the handicraft section where Pam Howard and Gill Gostick both won first prize in their respective classes.

There were high quality entries across all four photography classes with Derek McCourty's photograph selected to appear on the cover of our 2027 Summer Show schedule.

Tricia Smith, Paddy Winter and Richie Line shared the vegetable awards, with Richie taking the overall prize for most outstanding exhibit for his carrots. Finally, Nikky Cussen was awarded the RHS Banksian Medal, for the most points overall.

As ever, our thanks go to the local businesses who donated prizes for our raffle; our refreshment volunteers who provided visitors with endless supplies of tea and cake; all the stallholders, including Worthing Camera Club, Findon Sheep Fair and Maggie Martin.

And finally, our biggest thank you, as ever, goes to the members of the Findon Village Gardens Association who submit their entries year after year ensuring we always have a wonderful show.

Sue Brown, Show Secretary.



200 Club

The monthly 200 Club draw was held on 10 August.
Congratulations to the £25 winner - Helen Doyle, ball number 95.

The Autumn Newsletter and membership renewal details will be sent to members at the end of September/early October.

Tony Brimyard
Secretary, FVHSC 200 Club



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Cinnamon Trust

The Cinnamon Trust Summer Fair and Cream Tea took place in Findon Village Hall on Saturday 15th August in very hot and sunny conditions. The heat kept the numbers a little lower than usual but lots of lovely supporters turned up and had a very enjoyable time.

The cream tea was enjoyed by all and I really appreciate all the home baking contributed. Pretty floral decorations by Nikky adorned the tables and the Gardens Association gazebos were a great asset providing shade against the hot sunshine. We had a great selection of raffle prizes and a huge array of donated pet items. David Gear had a successful afternoon with his Men in Sheds stall.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped or contributed in any way. The total raised on the day and with prior donations was £1228 so after paying for Hall Rental and other expenses we raised £1144 for the Cinnamon Trust.

Our next event will be our Christmas Fair on Saturday 5th December 10am till 12.30 in Village Hall. Date for your diaries! Get your Christmas shopping done early, enjoy some homemade Christmas goodies and help the people and pets at the same time. I will be baking my usual Christmas cakes to order and will put details in October Findon News.

All that remains is to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our Summer Fair and to wish you all well for the rest of the summer.

Very best wishes on behalf of the Cinnamon Trust from Maggie, John and "Rosie" xx



FINDON FRIENDS OF ST BARNABAS

Are holding a Fish & Chip Supper with a quiz. It's at the Findon Manor on Thursday 24th September.

Tickets are £18.00 per person, with teams of up to 6 people.

There will also be a raffle and "guess the weight of the cake"

Arrival is 6.30pm to be seated by 7pm.

For tickets, please contact Charlotte....07818290032

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Findon Village WI

To sum up our August meeting in three words, that would probably cover it! Beetles - you may ask! This month we held our Beetle drive - a wonderfully quirky name for a fun evening of friendship. For those who haven't come across one before, a Beetle Drive is a traditional British dice game which gets everyone mixing, moving around the tables and chatting — exactly what a WI evening should be about. I don't need to remind anyone about the glorious sunshine we've been having, but the evening was certainly enhanced by the addition of Pimm's (a non-alcoholic version was available too!), accompanied by Sue's delicious shortbread biscuits and Kathy's chocolate brownies. A great summer's evening with friends to remember!

What else have we been up to?

Our Crafty Ladies have been busy with several projects, including something rather special that will play a part in the village's Remembrance Day commemorations on Pond Green later in the year. We've also been trying our hands at Sashiko stitching, a traditional Japanese embroidery technique, usually worked with white thread on indigo-blue fabric.

Crafty Ladies meet on the third Monday of every month, from 2pm–4pm in Nepcote Hall at the Village Hall. You don't have to be a WI member to join us — visitors are very welcome. It's £3.50, including refreshments, so come along and have a go at something new.

Our two book clubs continue to be very popular, meeting each month at The Gun Pub. Current reads are *The Boy from the Sea* by Garrett Carr and *Agent Sonya* by Ben Macintyre — from Irish family saga to Soviet espionage, we certainly like to mix things up!

Coming up...

The next meeting date for your diary is Thursday 10th September. Our guest speaker, 'Salty Dog' Ian Worley, will be regaling us with 'Tales from the Sea'. Keeping with the nautical theme, our monthly competition is 'Seaside Postcards'. We are intrigued to see what our members come up with.

And there's no slowing down — just two days later we will be out in force at the **Findon Sheep Fair on Saturday 12th September**. You'll have no trouble finding the FVWI stall — just follow the trail of homemade cakes and bakes! We will be tempting everyone with a selection of goodies made by our members; including legendary homemade cakes and bakes, savouries, jams, preserves and chutneys. We would love to see you, so do come along and say hello — and perhaps treat yourself while you are there! Every purchase helps to support Findon Village WI.

As I have said visitors are always very welcome at our meetings. If you have been wondering what Findon Village WI is all about come along and give us a try.

For all our upcoming events and information, take a look at the findonvillagewi.wixsite.com/mysite or get in touch at findonvillagewi@hotmail.co.uk

There's definitely more to WI life than jam and Jerusalem... although, judging by the planning for our Sheep Fair stall there may actually be a lot of jam!
Nikky - FVWI Committee





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Findon Parish Council

The Wattle House Update

Thank you again to everyone who attended the Thinking Day back in July. The thoughts, ideas and reflections you shared have genuinely helped us continue shaping the project and ensuring The Wattle House reflects what matters most to the village. Over the summer, the project team has been working hard, and we are now ready to share the final vision and operating model for The Wattle House.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

September Flyer

Now that our team has created a final vision and operating model Findon Parish Council needs to ensure that any proposal has the support of the village before we embark upon any changes to the current status of The Wattle House. This represents Council consultation with the village and seeks a sufficiently positive response to move forwards with significant next steps.

We are creating a flyer that outlines the proposal and seeks feedback, positive or negative, with an opportunity for further comment. This flyer will be delivered to all village homes in September to gauge that support

Your opinion can be given:

Online via the QR codes on the flyer

By returning the leaflet to the Village Shop

The Wattle House Community Presentation

Saturday 10th October - 12pm–2pm

Findon Village Hall

SAVE THE DATE *** SAVE THE DATE

We warmly invite all residents to join us for a presentation of the project, where we will outline:

The final vision for The Wattle House
Community response to the proposal

How we see it operating day-to-day
How we hope it will benefit the community
How we hope the project will help safeguard and celebrate the heritage of this rare historic building

This will be followed by a Q&A session. A representative from our heritage craft delivery partner, Weald & Downland Museum, will also be attending to demonstrate an example of the traditional rural crafts we hope to offer if we are successful in our endeavours.

Can't attend the presentation? - New Wattle House webpage – COMING SOON
The Findon Parish Council website, will soon have a dedicated Wattle House page presenting our final ideas, explaining the project, and providing ongoing updates. There will be a small presentation of the project displayed alongside Bob Fell's wonderful collection of historical photographs in the Wattle House at this year's Sheep Fair – Please pop in to have a look.

Focus Groups

We will continue to engage with the village – if you have an interest in what happens with The Wattle House and would like to help be part of saving this remarkable heritage building, please get in touch by emailing

thewattlehouse@findonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Roads & Parking Update

The Community Highways Scheme (CHS) application for School Hill - proposing a one-way traffic system - was submitted at the end of July for consideration by WSCC Highways. Shortly afterwards, new road markings appeared on School Hill. Many residents

Funerals from £2,650.00 plus third party fees
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were surprised by their arrival, and feedback has been clear: the positioning of the markings means they are not easily visible to drivers and may not be effective in managing the traffic-safety issues experienced on this narrow stretch of road. The Parish Council has noted these concerns and will continue to monitor the situation while awaiting the outcome of the CHS application.

Nepcote Speeding & Rat Run Concerns

At the last Parish Council meeting, residents raised concerns about speeding and rat-run traffic along Nepcote. Residents reported incidents of anti-social driving and verge damage.

The Roads & Parking Group is now looking into what can be done to improve safety along Nepcote. As with all Highways matters, evidence is essential. To demonstrate to WSCC Highways that there is a genuine and ongoing problem, we urgently need residents to keep a record of incidents.

What residents can do

Please make a log of any:
Speeding incidents

Anti-social driving

Damage to vehicles

Damage to verges or property

This evidence is vital. WSCC will only **consider interventions — signage, engineering changes, or enforcement measures — when there is a clear record showing that a problem exists.**

UK Wildfires & Local Risk

The Met Office reports that the recent heatwaves may continue into September, keeping conditions unusually dry across southern England. With prolonged high temperatures and very low ground moisture, wildfire risk

remains a concern for many of us here in Findon.

Local landowners have already taken precautions: some grassed fields around the village have been left uncut because machinery striking a flint could create a spark. Leaving the grass uncut may seem hazardous, however in these conditions it is actually the safer option. Cutting dry grass increases the chance of machinery hitting flints, creating sparks, and igniting vegetation.

Safety Advice

Residents are asked to continue following current fire-safety guidance:

No BBQs anywhere on the Downs or surrounding fields

No bonfires until conditions improve

Take care with machinery that could create sparks

Do not discard cigarettes

Do not discard vapes or items containing batteries that could overheat and cause fire

Do not discard glass bottles

Report suspected fires immediately by calling 999 and asking for the Fire Brigade

With the ground still tinder-dry, even a small ignition can spread quickly.

<https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/be-informed-about-hazards/wildfires/>

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Call for Ideas

In last month's Findon News, we explained that the Parish Council would soon be putting out a call for ideas for projects that could benefit the village using CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding - ***That call is now open.***

CIL is money collected from new development within the South Downs National Park and reinvested into local infrastructure, facilities and community improvements. We are inviting

continued on page 25

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residents, community groups, clubs and organisations to put forward ideas -large or small - that could make a positive difference to life in Findon.

Examples of previous CIL-funded projects across West Sussex can be found here:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-news/case-studies/cil-funded-projects/cil-funded-projects-west-sussex/>

If you have an idea you'd like to put forward, please contact:

clerk@findonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Findon Sheep Fair & Festival

We can't not mention the biggest event of the year... The Findon Sheep Fair and Festival. Once again, we would like to thank all the people in this village, and all the volunteers who come in to help on the day, for the enormous amount of work that goes into making this wonderful event happen. The dedication, organisation and sheer effort behind the scenes is extraordinary, and it's what keeps this historic tradition thriving.

The 2026 Findon Big Fill – Sunday 6th September

In previous years, villagers gathered on Nepcote Green to help fill and tread down the many holes and scrapes left behind by the rabbits who live there — a cheerful, practical afternoon that made a real difference to the safety of the Green.

To support the Sheep Fair volunteers, Findon Parish Council would like to revive this community tradition — and this year, **on Sunday 6th September from 2pm–4pm, we will be holding:**

The 2026 Findon Big Fill

This will be a family-friendly event, younger helpers are very welcome. There will be goody bags for our youngest volunteers, and plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved.

Soil and filling material will be provided by Findon Parish Council. If you have a wheelbarrow, spade, or bucket, or Tonka Truck, please bring it along. The aim is simple: help prepare Nepcote Green for the Sheep Fair and support the volunteers who make this event possible.

Perhaps even bring a picnic and spend some time relaxing on the Green after the event.

We hope it will be a lovely way to come together as a village, support the team behind the Sheep Fair, and play a part in the preparations for Findon's most treasured annual event.



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Findon Open Spaces Volunteer Group

Nick Keating

If you happen to be out in the Village on Wednesday mornings, you may have seen a strange looking group of men wearing hi vis jackets, carrying spades or rakes; perhaps even looking down one of the many drains. Well if so, that's us, the Open Spaces group also known as the Chain Gang. We volunteer every Wednesday, from 9am till 11am and we've recently celebrated ten years of active service in the Village.

There's generally around seven or eight of us each week, but some weeks we get 12 or 13 of us. There's a great camaraderie within the group with a good mixture of work, rest and banter amongst the group. We always finish off with coffee and cakes (or homemade sausage rolls if we're lucky!).

We will carry out pretty much anything that needs doing in relation to the

village's open spaces, including cutting back the grass and hedges around the footpaths, clearing drains and road verges in the village, cutting back around Glebelands (the area by the Preschool, Village Hall and basketball court), watering saplings in dry weather and cleaning and painting the bus shelters. Whatever needs to be done really!

We're always looking for new members, so if you or anyone you know may wish to join us please let me know or give them my name. My email address is nick.keating7@googlemail.com

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for all the support they've given us and continue to give us.



A new member receives his official hi-viz jacket.



Findon Open Spaces volunteers ready for action in full hi-viz regalia!

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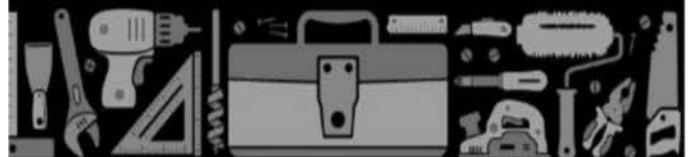


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Paws Animal Sanctuary

We are constantly filling our birdbaths every day. After a few pigeons have had a bath, they use up all the water. We have four birdbaths and use the rainwater from our three water butts. Our tomato plants have been heavy with tomatoes - they have done very well in this weather could be the rainwater. My daughter grew lots of vegetables this year, making sure they are were well watered. The beetroots were lovely.

Our vet bills have rocketed this last month, one morning a guinea-pig had a swollen eye and another a lump on his side (turned out to be a cyst that burst). We were lucky enough to get an emergency appointment for the two Guinea-pigs. The poor Guinea-pig had to have his eye removed over £400, and a quote for over £300 for the other to go back to have the cyst drained. Nearly all the vets have changed

over to MediVet. Most vet bills have increased. It costs approximately £300 for a dog or cat to have one tooth removed! Pet Insurance has increased so much people will struggle to afford it every month?

Happily, our animals survived all summer with fans on and cold mats to lay on. Bruno our dog sleeps on his cold mat in front of his fan indoors. It's been lovely sitting outside in the garden in the shade.

Stacey

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The Dream of Gerontius

cert, Mendelssohn's 'Elijah', Arun Choral Society will perform Edward Elgar's 'The Dream of Gerontius' under the direction of Dr Joe Paxton in the stunning surroundings of Arundel Cathedral on Sunday 25th October at 7.30pm.

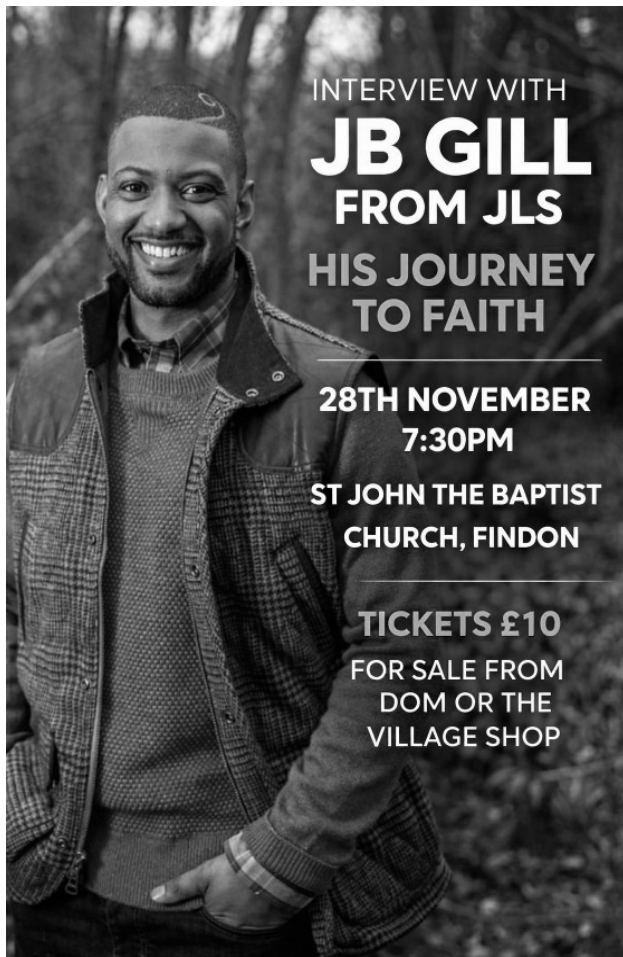
The piece is widely regarded as Elgar's finest choral work, indeed considered by some to be his masterpiece. Many will be familiar with the work following its fictitious 1916 performance by the Ramsden Choral Society in the 2025 film 'The Choral'.

In 1865 Cardinal Newman wrote a poem 'The Dream of Gerontius' dealing with the questions about afterlife and God. Elgar's chance to set Gerontius to music came

at the age of forty-two with a commission for the 1900 Birmingham Triennial Festival.

The Dream of Gerontius followed hard on the heels of the Enigma Variations, Elgar's first major success. However, the fate of the Dream's premiere did not go so well. Inadequate rehearsal, lacklustre soloists, an overworked chorus and the sudden death of their choirmaster, along with little sympathy for a Catholic text or experience of such demanding writing, saw to it that the performance was deemed an outright failure that led a furious Elgar to comment, "I have worked for forty years and, at the end,

continued on page 33



INTERVIEW WITH
JB GILL
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HIS JOURNEY
TO FAITH

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ALL WELCOME

Findon Planning Applications

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 to benefit from resource and cost efficiencies future Planning Committee

meetings will be held on the same evening as full Council meetings and starting at 7pm. The new dates to the end of the year are 14 September, 19 October, and 30 November 2026.

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 address to the FPC Clerk - 01903 877225.

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

Erection of a single storey extension to east elevation

10 Cross Lane Findon West Sussex
BN14 0UQ
Ref. No: SDNP/26/03106/HOUS

Remove/Cut back branches from touching/overhanging the house also from neighbours side.

28 Convent Gardens Findon West Sussex BN14 0RZ
Ref. No: SDNP/26/03176/TPO

Erection of up to 8 self-build residential park homes.

Land at Horsham Road Findon West Sussex
Ref. No: SDNP/26/02895/PIP

Discharge of Condition 9 of SDNP/20/00033/REF (SDNP/19/01876/FUL).

Soldiers Field House Soldiers Field Lane Findon West Sussex BN14 0SH
Ref. No: SDNP/26/02963/DCOND

Amendment to condition 2 of Planning Permission SDNP/19/01876/FUL and Appeal APP/Y9507/W/20/3254915 - Landscape Strategy

Soldiers Field House Soldiers Field Lane Findon West Sussex BN14 0SH
Ref. No: SDNP/26/02962/NMA

Providence denies me a decent hearing of my work.”

Fortunately, the Dream was better received at the German premiere in Düsseldorf in 1901 and has since become a much-loved contribution to the English choral repertoire.

Said Arun Choral Society membership secretary, Dee Tilbury, ‘Joe Paxton, our Musical Director has as usual been putting us through our paces and as always has been ably assisted by David Moore, our amazing accompanist. We have all been captivated by this beautiful and very English piece. Two of our favourite soloists join us for the concert. Tenor Andrew Rawlings will sing the part of Gerontius and Deirdre Arratoon, mezzo-soprano, the part of the Angel. Making his debut with the Society will

be bass-baritone Ben Hendry-Watkins singing the role of the Priest.

The soloists and choir of over 100 voices will be ably accompanied by the 51-piece Sinfonia of Arun orchestra. The choir is divided into a semi chorus and a double chorus, which adds to the ethereal feeling of the piece. At other times, Elgar’s masterful music conjures up a vision of the rural Worcestershire countryside, the motion of the sea and a wistful feeling of past times. This concert will be a wonderful experience for everyone.’

There will be an interval when wine and soft drinks will be on sale. Tickets are now available priced £18 (£9 under 18s) from Ticketsource or via the choir’s website www.arunchoralsociety.co.uk.

Mad Cap Corner

When we lived in Horsham, we used to visit Hilliers Garden Centre on a regular basis. Their employees did not have a uniform as such but wore navy blue bottoms teamed with a maroon top so that customers could identify them.

One year in May, I hoped to purchase a new alstroemeria plant and caught sight of a similarly-clad gentleman, leading a lady towards the perennials

Catherine York

section. I called out to him; “Is it too early for alstroemerias because I cannot find any? He replied, “Sorry, I do not work here.” The lady joined me at their fabulous astilbe display and said, “I told him not to wear that top!” It transpired she was not a customer but his wife and her exasperated comment made me smile all day.

Findon News is produced by volunteers and our only expenses are the printing costs. These costs are covered by advertising revenue and we are very grateful to all our advertisers for their continued support.

Please support them whenever you can.

Village Hall Diary September 2026

For one off events e.g. children's parties, meetings and weddings please email Elaine Dibben on bookingsecretary@findonvillagehall.net or visit www.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
Soccer Tots	Monday	Chanctonbury	9.45am
Yoga for Today	Monday	Nepcote	16.30pm
Encore Choir	Monday	Chanctonbury	18.45pm
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	9.15am
	Tuesday (15 th only)	Nepcote	9.15am
You Yoga	Tuesday	Chanctonbury	18.00pm
Line Dancing	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	10.00am
Chair Yoga	Wednesday	Nepcote	9.30am
Pilates	Wednesday	Nepcote	10.45am
Cloud Nine Yoga	Wednesday	Nepcote	19.00pm
Strictly Dancing with Lisa	Wednesday	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Pilates	Thursday	Chanctonbury	9.30am
Keeping Fit with Enzo	Thursday	Nepcote	09.15am
Carpet Bowls	Thursday	Chanctonbury	14.00pm
Circuit Training	Thursday	Nepcote	17.30pm
Tai Chi	Friday	Chanctonbury	10:00am
Cloud Nine Yoga	Friday	Nepcote	10.00am
Baby Steps Dance Group	Saturday (19 th & 26 th)	Nepcote	9.00am
	Saturday (5 th only)	Chanctonbury	9.00am
Danceaholics	Sunday Not 27 th)	Chanctonbury	18.30pm

Monthly	Date	Hall	Time
Tastevin	3 rd September	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Findon Village WI	10 th September	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Art Workshop	12 th September	Nepcote	10.00am
Parish Council Meeting	14 th September	Nepcote	19.30pm
Bead Magicians	15 th September	Chanctonbury	10.00am
WI Crafty Ladies	21 st September	Nepcote	14.00pm
Parish Council Planning Mtg	24 th September	Nepcote	19.30pm
Findon Garden Association	25 th September	Chanctonbury	19.30pm
Sound Bath	27 th September	Chanctonbury	5.30pm
Light Lunch	29 th September	Chanctonbury	12.45pm

Dates for your Diary in September

National Emergency Briefing	Friday 6 th September	Chanctonbury	19.00pm
Lunch@1pm	Tuesday 29th Sept	Chanctonbury	12.45pm for 1pm

Dates for Your Diary in October

Wattle House consultation	Saturday 10 th October	Chanctonbury	12.00 – 14.00pm
FVHT Film Night	Friday 23 rd October	Chanctonbury	6.30 for 7.30pm
Lunch@1pm	Tuesday 27 th October	Chanctonbury	12.45 for 1pm

PARISH OF FINDON, CLAPHAM AND PATCHING

SEPTEMBER 2026

All three Churches are open daily for private prayer.

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

Sunday 6th September Harvest Festival	8.00am 10.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Worship & Praise for Harvest in Findon Church with 'Hope Rising' Eucharist (Harvest Festival) in Patching Church, followed by charity auction
Sunday 13th September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Clapham Church Eucharist in Findon Church
Sunday 20th September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00am 10.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Findon Church Eucharist in Findon Church Eucharist (Harvest) in Clapham Church (Rev. Wilma Roest)
Sunday 27th September Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00am 10.00am	BCP Holy Communion in Patching Church (Rev. Roger Walker) Eucharist in Findon Church (Rev. Bill Meyer)

FAMILY EVENTS:

	Next Messy Church – Tuesday 6th October – 3.30pm in Findon Village Hall All children welcome with an accompanying adult for crafts, a story, singing and food
Lambs Tails now has a new name! 'Explorers'	Parent & Toddler Group for babies, toddlers, & parents/carers. Tuesdays 3-4.30pm at Findon Rectory. Contact Dom: fcpfamiliesworker@gmail.com for more information and future dates.
Saturday 19th September, 10am	Walk from Findon Church to the Junction Café at Clapham (some transport back available for younger families). Everyone welcome. For more details, contact Dom – fcpfamiliesworker@gmail.com

Weddings	8 th August – Jack Gardiner and Emma Horsnell-Shave 15 th August – Jed Powell and Ella Johnson 22 nd August – Andrew Johnson and Sophie Smith 29 th August – Andrew Cornish and Olivia Weatherill
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