

*A Magazine*  
*For the Villages of Folkington,*  
*Milton Street and Wilmington*



*July 2024*  
**£1**

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Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Summer Boules Tournament @ the Village Hall	2pm – 7pm
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Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Wilmington Guided History Walk	6:30pm-7:30pm Ticket Only
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Pop-Up Museum Weekend (see separate banner)	11am – 3pm
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Jazz on a Summer Day Wilmington Village Hall	2pm – 5pm

**Call For Content**

*We are looking for articles for this magazine. Preferably something related to the Parish – but not necessarily so. If you have some 'secret' family recipes to share, or other articles, please send them through. And of course, if you have a picture you think might be of interest for the front cover – yes please!*

*All submissions for content for inclusion in this magazine should be sent to:*  
[lmhparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:lmhparishmag@gmail.com)

## FROM THE VICARAGE

A new blockbuster movie was released during Covid, called Tenet: A CIA agent, participates in an undercover Russian operation to steal an unidentified object during a terrorist siege on an opera in Kiev. After retrieving the object, the agent sends part of his team out with it through a secret exit. He rejoins the Russians, who realize that they have been tricked and torture him. He bites on a suicide pill. Upon waking, the agent learns that the pill had been fake; 'welcome to the actual world' he is told. He visits a facility where he learns that technology has been developed that allows objects to have their entropy reversed and move backward through time, and that inverted bullets are being brought back from the future and sold on the black market.

It's a long and involved story, and film critics suggested that movie-goers see the film three times, in order to get the story, as it moves back and forth in time in a bewildering manner. It is not about life as the world knows it. It was a truly perplexing film.

The Church calendar can be a bit like that. We celebrate Christmas and three months later Jesus is crucified; we celebrate his ascension, and then we are back into studying his ministry, and his calling his disciples. We need to revisit the Word of God frequently, to make sense of it, and often, each time we read it, something else stands out. And although the narrative is the same, the context in which we live is always changing, giving us pause for thought, inviting us to do something different, or differently. It is good to have an anchor, something of permanence in our lives, holding us fast.

As I write this, the media is full of the political parties' manifestos, those promises that have been given so often; the debates, the interviews and the frankly weird behaviour of some politicians. There is much concern for the future of our country.

Well, let's look on the bright side: we know there is a real probability the elections here will be free and fair. No one is being threatened with life or limb if they don't vote as they are told to do. The army will not be out in force to keep the peace or for other sinister reasons. The chance of bloodshed at polling stations is remote. Under such circumstances, I think it is shameful not to vote, even if the decision where to place our mark is a difficult one.

We are living in perplexing times; our core values, those honourable beliefs in common humanity and care for our communities must always be where we return. On the commemoration of D-day, veterans were honoured for their contribution to making the world a safer place, so we need to do the same, in whatever small way we can.

As we in church revisit familiar worship, well-known Bible readings and beautiful hymns to give us guidance and help from God, 'who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3: 20), whatever serene place or action helps you to cope in this crazy, frenetic and sometimes alien world, return there. The future may be uncertain, but life is precious and we have much to be grateful for.

A few lines from a poem by W D Hardy seem so appropriate; 'The story of the parish, has turned another page, and most their parts are playing, upon another stage, but summer still comes softly, as in a bygone age.

God bless you,

**Rev Shirley**

## **Letter from Anne Farrant**

The editor received the following letter from Anne for inclusion in this magazine to thank all the people (70+) who had written to her.

*My sincere thanks for all the kindness shown to me since John died.*

*I have been truly overwhelmed with wonderful letters, cards and flowers.*

*It's a difficult time and all your condolences have helped me so much I can't thank you enough.*

**Anne Farrant**

## Shirley's Letter to the Parish



Last week I visited Anna Reid, a member of Victoria Baptist Church, called by God to 'look after the stranger in your midst'. This organisation, Eastbourne Network, has been assisting many asylum seekers and

refugees over several years. The benefice of Alciston cum Salmeston, Arlington, Berwick and Wilmington has played a supporting role in donations and funding.

Network receives referrals from social services, health and education departments and acts as an advocate, a 'voice' for those in need of support.

Anna gave me an update. All 6 hotels in Eastbourne providing accommodation for asylum seekers have been closed, meaning c600 people were moved to other centres in the UK. Countrywide, there are about 100,000 asylum seekers with applications at the Home Office waiting at least 2 years for a decision.

Here in Eastbourne, the Syrian arrivals from 2016 onwards are mostly settled and working (taxi drivers, restaurant staff, even an electrician that trained through Network). Now, most of those being assisted are Iranians, some of whom have been subject to imprisonment and torture for choosing to be Christians.

There are also cases of skilled workers coming on a sponsored visa; if their contract doesn't work out, they are here with no recourse to public funds [NRPF] for failure of employers and agencies who recruited them.

Once an application for Leave to Remain has been successful, the applicants have refugee status and are no longer given a place to stay. Network is always looking for accommodation and any household goods or furniture to assist those who can settle. Children's clothes and toys are also much needed. Anna sent me this:

*"Thank you so much Shirley for the fantastic toys, books, puzzles you brought yesterday. I took a lot to a new Afghan family this morning and there were shrieks of delight from the four young children and their very smiley parents; they loved the tractor and trailer. Tomorrow after church I will call in on a new Syrian family. They will get many of the books, puzzles and early learning."*

If you would like to assist financially, please send your donations to:

Eastbourne Network, Acct 45154759, Sort code 52-41-00

You can contact me to collect household goods, toys, etc, and I will take them to Anna for distribution.

There is a concert in aid of Network at St Pancras, Arlington on 7<sup>th</sup> July, so please do come if you can.

**Rev Shirley**

## **Family Support Work (FSW)**

### **June 2024 Update**

Dear Friends,

The summer is drawing ever closer, and with it a break which for many of our families is something to dread as opposed to something to look forward to. With financial constraints still a huge issue for the majority of our caseloads, it is hard to fill the long summer break with activities that keep children occupied without adding additional stress to already complex family situations. As a result, we try to organise as many local and charity-wide events and activities that we can that will give parents a break and give children the opportunity to try new experiences. If you would like to support this in any way then please see our "Magical Summer" campaign on our website home page ([www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org)).

Our recent activity has been very much focused on helping families with school, housing and health related issues. Complicated forms and bureaucracy can be very overwhelming for our clients, so our practitioners' ability to explain in simple terms and assist with these official documents is a huge help.

Moving to our fundraising activity, we are delighted to announce that the "Leap of Faith" skydive team was able to complete their jump. The total raised so far is in the region of £6700, which is absolutely wonderful! Thank you so much to everybody who supported this event, and if you head to the News section of our website you will be able to see the video of their experience. We also had a successful Cuckmere Pilgrim Path sponsored walk at the end of May – a new event which we will be repeating next year by popular request. Our Amberley-Arundel walk is taking place on 22nd August, so please get in touch if you would like to join this event by emailing the team on [fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk).

Our charity shop in Eastbourne is very short of children's clothes and toys, so if you are able to donate any suitable items then we would be delighted to hear from you – please contact Spencer [admin@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@familysupportwork.org.uk) or phone 01273 832963.

With many thanks for your continued support and prayers.

#### May's work in numbers

- 250 individual visits and 1054 calls with families supporting 250 adults and 202 children
- 46 supported meetings with other agencies
- 68 group sessions held supporting 741 parents and 399 children
- 96 food deliveries made

#### Prayer points

- Give thanks for some recent successful significant funding applications

- Give thanks for all of our volunteers who are giving so much support to family activities and fundraising events at the moment (over 175 people in total)
- Pray for M, a mother in one of our families, who is currently dealing with an incredibly violent ex-partner who keeps trying to break into her home and attack her and her 2-year old child

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**  
**[www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org)**

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### *Folkington, East Sussex a Village History*

by Eric Beavis, revised by Hilary Beavis

Revised edition to update research in 1986. Historical charts record the village as peaceful and tranquil within the South Downs National Park. Descriptions of the Church and Churchyard with its notable memorials to the cookery writer Elizabeth David and the harpsicord player Violet Gordon Woodhouse are included.

A section added outlines changes that have occurred over four decades within the A27 boundaries of the South Downs National Park.



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## Life Behind Bars

### Grogshop Herald: issue 25



*Life Behind Bars* or more accurately, *Confessions of a Publisher turned Publican*: my first end-of-year-review of life in the boozy business.

It was Ruth's suggestion in fact, when chatting over a glass of fine red at Tony & Julia's private view, which by the way was a really excellent insight into what Tony & Julia get up to behind their wisteria. I always knew they led a colourful life but I didn't know it included so much canvas. ***Congratulations and well done to you both!***

So, The Long Man Inn is one year old and what have I learnt? Well, obviously I was having a major breakdown when I decided to take on the pub because pubs are closing down all over the place - *so much for a cast iron business plan!*

Back to the point though, *what have I learnt?*

#### Pro's

- Punters love how the pub looks.
- Guinness, our pub dog is adored by everybody, including cat lovers.
- Overnight guests love our comfy rooms, food, friendly staff and high standards of cleanliness.
- Fish & Chips are our number one bestseller.
- We've haven't gone bust - yet!

#### Con's

- Our little china chicken salt & pepper pots are regularly stolen - can you believe it?
- Some people like their plates piled high, while others complain about the quantity of food.
- Don't mess with Jayne (that's my experience anyway but customers love her).
- I spend a lot of time talking and thinking pubs - so much so I'm in danger of becoming even more boring than usual.

In retrospect, would I do it again? Ask me at the end of our second year.

In the meantime, we send a heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported over the last twelve months.

**Wrap up warm,  
Wash your hands,  
God Bless The Queen and  
God Help The King!**

**Peter Bridgewater  
Long Man Inn  
07715490096**

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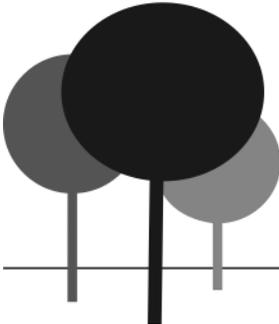
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## **Retrospective on the Summer Fair Saturday 8th June, 2024**

Back in April, due to various commitments on the part of village club committee members, we had decided we were not able to organise the Summer Fair. Then, seemingly overnight, we all changed our minds! So, it was a difficult start trying to make sure we got the message across to everyone in the three villages that the fair was definitely 'on'. Anyway, very hastily Ruth, our Chair, set the wheels in motion. While Christine rang round for stall holders, Debbie designed the flyers and they were printed and distributed by Ruth, Rosie, Tim and Debbie. Ruth garnered help to put up bunting and set up the tables and we were ready to go.

Unfortunately, despite wanting to enjoy warm sunny weather outside the hall, it was necessary to hold the event inside as the temperature was decidedly chilly. The kitchen brigade Brenda & Claire arrived, the tea urn was turned on, delicious cakes, sausage rolls and hot dogs appeared and the afternoon festivities commenced.

There was a plant table with Caroline & Dickie, the usual raffle with Christine & John, children's books, toys & games with Tess & Alan, Pari & Catherine with the usual pre-loved (Bric-a-Brac), a large cake stall manned by Averil & Belinda Ferretter, Jane Hooton's quail eggs, Katie & Chris Terrell's preserves, the ever popular £5 Board with the usual suspects Michael & Steve Cook, and the ever popular bar with Melissa & Abey offering FREE Pimms all the afternoon.

This whole event was very well attended by residents. A shout out to Milton Street's ladies who always bake several cakes for the occasion, thanks to you all. A special thanks to Greta for organising and collecting these.

We would like to welcome new soon-to-be residents Lynne & Patrick (Pat) at The Post House in Wilmington who supported the event and also Caroline & Dickie in Milton Street as this is the first time they ran the plant stall.

Our thanks go to everyone who was involved, all those who donated items, too many to mention personally, but in the kitchen, the bar, all the cake bakers and the stall holders, those that contributed in any way whatsoever, we say a big THANK YOU to each and everyone of you. Because without you this very enjoyable afternoon would never have been possible.

## Long Man Parish Council Annual Assembly

The Long Man Parish Council held an Assembly in the Village Hall on the 24th of May.

This is designed to be an annual event, partly meet and greet and partly an update of various issues, items of interest etc from councillors in an accessible & friendly environment.

As a bonus item, the Parish Council had arranged for Rod Barker to give a talk about the local area.

Whilst the formal minutes of the meeting will be published in due course, here are some notes / takeaways from the meeting to whet your appetite. Hope you find them interesting. If so, why not attend the next meeting?

### Items of Interest (to me at least)

The attendance was good with the Hall being almost filled. Whilst this may have been down to the promise of free drinks and nibbles (which were excellent), nobody knew what to expect. So it was pleasing to see a decent interest from the community.

The following items made my notebook, but the Councillor's updates were generally interesting (and at times amusing) –lo and behold Councillors are ordinary folk too – who knew!

- Wealden is the 2nd least violent area according to recent crime statistics.  
*Editor's note: a legal eagle opined (possibly scurrilously) later that this could be partially attributed to the East Sussex courts predilection for applying the maximum remedies (sentences) available to any crimes perpetrated against "elderly" folk. And Sussex has a higher average age than the rest of the country!*
- The local housing plan (a document necessary to access central government funding) has been published and targets the building of 15,729 new homes by March 2040.
- Planning permission has been granted for a new £13M sports hub in Hailsham (originally less than half funded locally with a government grant topping up the total). The facility will be located on the land purchased by Wealden Council at Knights Farm, which is just off of the Boship Roundabout (by the Shell garage on the A22) to the North of Hailsham. The facility is quite extensive with floodlit (artificial) football fields, tennis / netball courts, padel courts, a skate park, a clubhouse (inc. changing rooms / toilets) and a café.
- There's a new gym facility open to all. Those who have ventured down the Cuckoo Trail recently (between Polegate and Hailsham) may have seen an outdoor gym has popped up with 11 pieces of equipment for you to flex your muscles.

- Proud being in the national park? The Tree Warden reported that 163 trees will be planted (inc. 28 disease resistant elms) and 135 native shrubs and trees (some around the Wilmington Green road junction including holly / hawthorne etc). An ecological management plan is being created for the junction.
- Wealden Council has approved a spend of £1.5M for food waste collection. This will mean we'll be taking delivery of a separate food waste refuse bin at some point this year.



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## Local Area Talk from Rod Barker

As part of the Long Man Parish Council Assembly, Rod Barker gave an engaging, funny and fascinating talk covering about 100 million years of history about why things are like they are in the area. There follows some notes I made during the talk. Any errors are, of course, my own.

Rod began by talking about the underlying geology of the area giving much more detail than is reproduced here.

But around 100 million years ago the Downs were a shallow tropical sea. Marine deposits (e.g. fish skeletons etc) and other fine particles sank. Eventually becoming chalk, sandstone and clay.

Fast forward: about 10 million years ago, the mountain building period of our blue planet occurred courtesy of plate tectonics. The African plate slammed into the Eurasian plate and at the edges it was quite a massive collision with mountains being squeezed upwards (e.g. the Alps). But 1000 miles further north, we experienced the 'ripples' from the collision: the Downs were formed.

Rivers such as the Cuckmere, Ouse, Adur and Arun flowed down in a radial drainage pattern (meaning they ran from a nominally central point – high ground – to low ground. Deep channels were cut.

At the end of the last Ice Age (around 10,000 years ago) sea levels rose rapidly as the ice melted. This caused floods, but more importantly, filled in the deep valleys including what we now refer to as the English Channel (yes, were once connected to France before circumstances effectively built us a moat).

Over time, shingle drifted along the coast of Sussex and cut off access to the sea from the rivers.

Aside: Did you know that Newhaven was named because it was a ,new' harbour (albeit new in the 16th Century new)? It was created as the port at Seaford began drying up.

Now, moving on from geology for a bit, and onto the villages which were basically formed following a uniform template.

Each community was essentially self-sufficient needing: arable land; grazing land; and wood (to build with and burn in winter).

Hence we have a succession of little villages – called spring line settlements – which unsurprisingly were centred around springs for the fresh water. Springs occur basically where chalk meets clay and the water is forced up to or near to the surface. It was noted that this isn't exclusively a 1500 year old phenomenon. Even pre-Roman ancient britons' needed fresh water and farmland.

So we have water at the foot of the Downs. Clay was very good land for growing crops at the time (it's flat and fertile). The sides of the Downs were covered in grass, but steep, so great for grazing sheep. Hence the spring line settlements / villages. In short, Sussex was extremely desirable! And better still, England was famed for its sheep and the quality of its wool which commanded premium prices in Europe.

There was, however, a snag.

Round about 800 years ago, in stark contrast to today, the tops of the Downs were wooded – important because wood was an ideal building material and winter fuel for the settlements. The Normans loved the quality of English wool and doubled the number of sheep. Thing is, sheep aren't particularly sustainable minded. After a quick and tasty pudding, they ate any saplings they could find. Over-grazing by the sheep denuded the top of the Downs of trees. And no trees = no tree roots which led to the topsoil not being held together and susceptible to erosion. The top soil was quickly washed off the top of the Downs and into the valleys. The top of the Downs were naked and we had marshy valleys. Pretty much the situation we have today.

Now, remember all that wool we were exporting?

Well, The Cuckmere was navigable for shipping at the time (which were the size of sailing yachts rather than the massive container ships of today). The incoming tide even carried you up to Alfriston for 'free'. Barges carried supplies between Lewes and Alfriston carrying ~10 tonnes of goods. *Editor's note: today's largest 18 wheeler trucks carry some 40 tonnes by comparison.*

Side Note: Did you know that, in medieval times, Wilmington (along with Pevensey and Lewes) were options on the 'escape route' by which the Archbishop of Canterbury could escape, if necessary, to France? *Editor's note: this 'plot' was satirised in the BBC Blackadder episode: "The Archbishop".*

Now, let's talk about smuggling and its effect on the area.

In Georgian times (1714 – 1837) taxes were very high to fund the fight against the US rebellion. Smuggled goods were a lot cheaper (no tax to pay) and this encouraged the smuggling enterprise in Sussex.

Recognising the 'problem', the Board of Customs established the 'Excise Line' patrolled by Riding Officers and what was effectively an armed militia. In response, smugglers organised into gangs and enlisted the local labourers to carry goods across the excise line. The labourers were willing to help because payment for one night's work was the equivalent of about a week's wages.

At the end of the Napoleonic wars, there were significant food riots across England. But not in Sussex (see, told you Sussex was 'safe'). If you worked occasionally for the smugglers, you could make some extra money and afford to buy food!

Related to smuggling – did you know that Little Bo-Peep isn't a tale about a shepherdess at all. It's actually about smugglers! Bo = Beau (French) = good and Peep = Lookout. So it was about good lookouts posted outside of the hills and pubs where smugglers used to meet. *Editor's note: the Smuggling Museum in Cornwall claims that Bo-Peep was a shepherdess who used her sheep to cover the tracks of smugglers. But you get the idea.....*

The origins of the Long Man (big fella on the hill) are shrouded in mystery. 'Officially' an illustration of the Long Man dates back to 1710. But Rod gave a far more extensive and romantic exposition.

Back in 1710 it appears that the Long Man was basically a lump or a shadow in the grass. How did it get there?

Or maybe it was carved into the hill by the Saxons when they invaded in around 500 (Sussex being the kingdom of the South Saxons). Ælle of Sussex is recorded in early sources as the first king of the South Saxons.

As mentioned earlier, the earliest know picture of the Long Man as a 'shadow' on the landscape was documented by the surveyor John Rowley in 1710. The first illustration of the Long Man was recorded in 1766 by William Burrell when he visited Wilmington Priory.

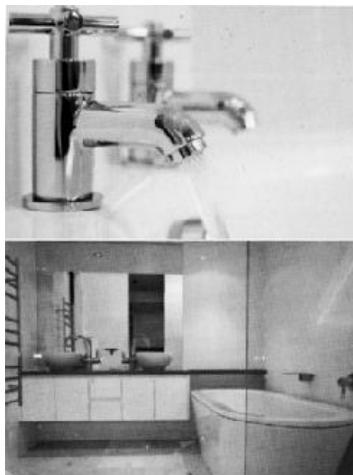
In 1870 the 'shadow' was dug out to expose chalk and about 4 years later yellow bricks were installed by the Sussex Archaeological Society to better outline it. These were replaced in 1891 with white bricks which were themselves replaced with todays concrete blocks (painted white) in 1969. *Editor's note: Did you know that during the war the blockwork was painted green to prevent the landmark being used by enemy aircraft?*

Sadly the good natured 'restoration' of the Long Man has of course destroyed the archaeology so it can't be truly investigated properly. Romantically, you may choose to believe he dates from Ælle of Sussex – the first king of the South Saxons. This also ties in with the age of the 1600 year old yew tree in Wilmington church yard. But realistically, the Long Man is a late medieval or Georgian construct.

To finish off:

- Did you know that the some of the sites in Sussex can be seen in the illustrations of Rupert Bear? We leave you to revisit your childhood and see what you can spot. *Editor's note: In 1935, Alfred Bestall took over the Rupert Bear stories and illustrations until he died in his 90s. His illustrations are reputed to have been influenced by his time spent on the Sussex Weald, East Devon and the Vale of Clwyd (North Wales – the Professors castle was based on Ruthin Castle).*
- Sussex was the last pagan stronghold in England and was only converted in 620 or so.

*If the above write up has piqued your interest, please be aware that Rod will be doing a walking tour of Wilmington as part of the July Pop-Up museum in the village. This will be ticket only. So keep your eyes peeled for further information.*



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# The HG Quick & Tasty Fish Curry

Serves 2

## Ingredients

- Firm White fish or prawns
- Yellow curry paste
- 1 tbsp Nam Pla (Thai fish sauce)
- 1 400ml can of coconut milk (note - full fat!)
- 250-300g Baby / Cherry tomatoes
- 1tsp Sugar
- Chopped coriander to garnish

## Method

Firstly, put the rice on!

This recipe cooks in the time it takes you to boil the rice (assuming you're cooking from scratch).

Make sure you shake the can of coconut milk vigorously to get it mixed - you don't want the coconut water separate from the rest at this point.

Then pour half the can of coconut milk into a frying pan / skillet.

Stir in the yellow curry paste and boil vigorously.

You want the coconut milk mixture to split - that is the oil should separate and start floating on top. This should take a few minutes (up to ~5 minutes) of high heat. Don't be shy at this point - boil it until you see that lovely yellow oil floating on top.

Add the remaining coconut milk, 1 tablespoon of fish sauce, a teaspoon of sugar, half the baby tomatoes and turn the heat down to medium. If you like your curry sauce fairly liquid, go for less heat to reduce the evaporation. Otherwise just below a rolling boil is ideal.

Put a lid on the pan and leave to bubble away for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare the fish (see chefs notes).

After 10 minutes gently squish the tomatoes into the sauce (they should be really soft and disintegrate).

Then add the fish to the pan together with the remaining baby tomatoes. Spoon a bit of the sauce on top of the fish to even out the cooking.

At this stage you can either put the lid on, or if the sauce is looking a bit loose for your taste, leave it off to encourage some evaporation (and thicker sauce).

Depending on the type of fish and how well cooked you like it, it'll take between 5-10 minutes to cook.

Serve with rice and sprinkle with chopped coriander to taste.

### Cook's Notes

The amount (weight) of fish isn't specified – it just depends how hungry you are!

Yellow curry paste is used in this recipe. It's a milder flavour than the more usual red or green curry pastes associated with Thai cooking and pairs well with delicate flavours like fish.

You should have about ~20 or so baby / cherry tomatoes for this recipe. A bit more, a few less, it doesn't matter. But do remember to wash them **and** prick them with a fork / knife (you don't want them exploding whilst cooking!)

Because you're boiling the coconut milk to split it, you really do need the full fat version (none of that reduced fat / lite stuff here).

If you forget to shake the can of coconut milk before you open it and the solids have settled out, worry not. Just add half the solids and half the coconut water to the pan with the yellow curry paste and stir together as you heat it.

Using brown sugar gives the sauce a nice nutty flavour. Equally, you can omit the sugar altogether (yellow curry paste is slightly sweet anyway...). The sugar is there traditionally to balance the saltier flavour introduced by the fish sauce (ergo – don't go mad with the fish sauce!)

If you don't have any fish sauce, then apparently Buddhist monks substitute (light) soy sauce. Maybe use half the quantity. But you don't then get that lovely umami hit from the fish sauce 😞

Depending on how strong a flavour you like in your curry, you can add between 1 to 3 heaped teaspoons of yellow curry paste to this curry.

The curry works best with a firm white fish such as cod, halibut or haddock etc (because the steaks don't collapse whilst cooking). As an alternative, try monkfish tail - remove the sinew and cut into 1 inch chunks. Prawns work equally as well, but remember to reduce the cooking time appropriately.

There's a rule of thumb that says a 1 inch thickness of fish (room temperature) takes about 10 minutes to cook. That's a hefty cod steak! A ½ inch piece might cook in 4-5 minutes. Or you can just be like me and cook the fish for 6-8 minutes and not worry about it.

Poppadums add a nice crunch to the dish if you can be bothered to make them!

## Wilmington: The American Connection

**Q:** What does the Sussex village of Wilmington have to do with the USA?

**A:** It has naming rights.

Wilmington, Delaware; Wilmington, Massachusetts; Wilmington, Vermont, Wilmington, North Carolina and the neighbourhood of Wilmington, Los Angeles are all named in honour of the 1st (and only) Earl of Wilmington – Britain's second prime minister 1742 -43.

Spencer Compton (1674- 1743) was a Whig politician who had a long career in the House of Commons before being made Baron Wilmington in 1728, then Earl of Wilmington in 1730 and elevated to the House of Lords. He was a favourite of the monarch, George II, having been his Treasurer when he was Prince of Wales. He was also a friend of Thomas Penn, of Pennsylvania fame.

Compton had bought the East Borne estate in 1724. He had the main house extensively re-modelled and renamed it Compton Place. It still exists today as a language school alongside the Royal Eastbourne Golf Course, built later, like the town of Eastbourne, on the estate land. The estate included the Manor of Wilmington - priory and village.

When Compton was elevated to the House of Lords he chose to name himself after the Manor.

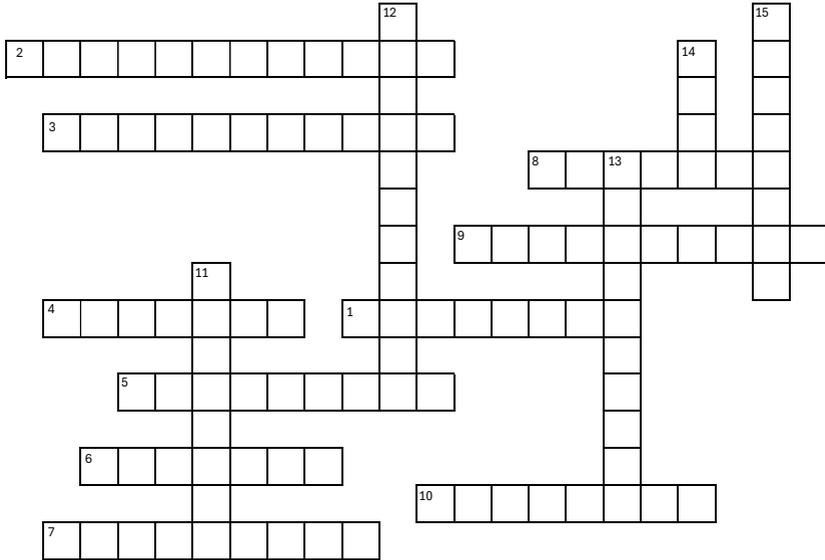
Compton died without heirs and through more distant branches of the family the estate eventually passed to the Dukes of Devonshire. The 9th Duke put the Wilmington land up for sale in the 1920s to help pay death duties.

*Thanks to the Wilmington Village Archive for this article. And if you want to find out more about the sometimes weird or wonderful history of the area, how about going along to a pop up museum and browsing the archives?*



## July 4th Crossword

With the connection to our US cousins, and the fact that July 4th is a bit of a big deal for them, this month's puzzle is in the form of a crossword.



- The current US President's familial home is in Wilmington. Which US State is it in?
- In which US State was the United States Declaration of Independence signed?
- To which country did the US government grant independence on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1946?
- John \_\_\_\_\_ was the president of Congress when the Declaration of Independence was signed and he was its first signatory.
- The national bird of the USA.
- What is the most consumed July 4<sup>th</sup> food in the US? About 150 million are eaten across the country – also a staple at Village Hall gatherings (hint: not cake).
- Third President of the US: Thomas \_\_\_\_\_
- One of the original colonies, also a city. Referred to as the "Big Apple".
- The first President of the US. Regarded as the "father of the US".
- The number of original colonies created by the British in the US.
- The 30<sup>th</sup> President of the US – and the only President born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Calvin \_\_\_\_\_
- What object links the Whitechapel Foundry in London with US Independence?
- What famous building is at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?
- In which State did the designer of the current 50-Star US Flag live?
- In which facility was the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution stored during WWII (hint: might be better known for storing gold).

*Est.*  *1993*

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## **Wilmington, Milton Street and Folkington Village Club Events at Wilmington Village Hall**

29 June – Boules Tournament (see separate page with poster)

26 -28 July: Pop-up Museum Weekend (see separate page with poster).

26 July: 6.30 pm: Village Walk + Talk by Rod Barker.

3<sup>rd</sup> August : 2 – 5pm. Jazz on a Summer Day (see separate page)

**Ruth Zacharewicz**

## **Arlington Village Market And Coffee Morning Plus the POP-UP MUSEUM**

**Tuesday 9 July, 10-12 noon, Arlington Village Hall**

**The Museum will also be open in the evening from 6-7 pm**

All are very welcome, as usual we will be pleased to see you. There will be fresh bread, cakes, quiches, local eggs and other regular stalls. Arlington's Pop-Up Museum will also be taking place at the same time, the focus will be '**Michelham Priory**' and it will also be open again from 6-7 in the evening.

Thank you to the many people, local and from further afield, who continue to support this community event. Please bring your friends and if you have not been before you will be very welcome. It is a very sociable morning. The June Market was again very busy and the hall was full of people chatting and visiting the stalls and the Pop Up Museum.

For further market information please contact:

Anne Hope, T: 01323 486219, M: 07760 424169,

E: <mailto:anntonyhope@gmail.com>

For further museum information please contact Wendy Holmes M: 07889 689844,

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EDJI stands for Ensembles for Jazz Improvisation and we will have guitar, bass, drums, trumpets, trombone and saxophones. Listen to the music while enjoying a Pimms, beer, glass of wine or a soft drink from our pop up bar.

Funds raised from the bar and food will go to the maintenance of the village hall. This year we have suggested a donation either on here when you reserve your FREE place or on the **afternoon** for the band.

Tony who plays baritone sax for the group tells us:

*"The EDJi little Big Band are delighted to be playing in Wilmington again this year with some changes that we hope you will like and here are some things we are excited about.*

- *We will be playing in the afternoon – no more sitting in the dark and cold of an August evening.*
- *We have asked the music teacher Ruth Whitelaw, a friend of the band, to hold a music class for children in the middle of the afternoon which we hope will give pleasure to both children and adults*
- *We will have a special opening to our second set when we, and we hope a special guest, will concentrate on playing the Blues*
- *We will have guest musicians from other bands joining us from time to time*
- *There will of course be a bar and food available.*

*We look forward to seeing you for Jazz on a summer day".*

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## Re-Painting the Long Man

Last magazine we gave you the heads up that there were some renovation works on the Long Man. Sussex Past have kindly provided the magazine with the press release below.

By the way, the front cover is a picture of the Long Man half way through his fresh new set of clothes. Although it doesn't show it very clearly in print, to the naked eye there was a marked difference between his left staff and body (which was freshly painted) and the right side (which was not).

-----



On Thursday 23rd May, volunteers participated in the re-painting of The **Long Man of Wilmington** as part of the '**Adopt a Piece of History**' campaign run by Sussex Past to ensure the care and guardianship of heritage and landscape in Sussex.

The re-painting was the finale of a fundraising campaign launched in December 2022 to support the work of the Sussex Archaeology Society (trading as Sussex Past) which owns and cares for the iconic hill figure known as 'The Guardian of the South Downs'.

The campaign enabled individual donors to adopt one of the 770 blocks that make up the outline of The Long Man.

Many of those who donated have had the chance to take part in the re-painting, including Brewers Painting and Decorating who donated the paint, Polegate Community Centre, staff from a local residential home and others.

It is a story that showcases the community spirit and love for The Long Man, which dates back to the 16th Century and is Europe's largest portrayal of the human form. The mysterious monument has baffled archaeologists and historians for hundreds of years. Fertility symbol? Ancient Warrior? Male – or Female? We may never know.

The work on the 23rd marks the end of the campaign, which has given almost 100 donors to the campaign the opportunity to share in the responsibility of maintaining the iconic landmark.

Greg Talbot, General Manager of Sussex Past, commented:

*"This is such an important day for us and demonstrates the enormous community spirit here in Sussex. The love and care for such a precious part of our heritage will ensure that it is enjoyed for generations to come."*

## Capuch-in-credible Arrival

### Critically Endangered Monkeys Find New Home in Sussex



A Sussex zoo team are celebrating the arrival of four new monkeys to their animal family – representing a species-first for the zoo, and an important step in the conservation of a critically endangered primate.

Keepers at Drusillas Zoo Park in Alfriston were thrilled to successfully welcome a troop of yellow-breasted capuchin monkeys from Dudley Zoo on 20th June and report that they have settled in brilliantly. Also known as golden-bellied capuchins, the species is among the most threatened primates in the world with less than 3,000 remaining in the wild, classed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.

The four males, 9 year old Doyle and Chops, 6 year old Deet, and 5 year old Clint, all from the same family group, have already won the hearts of the team at Drusillas and are delighting visitors with their many facial expressions, interactive inquisitive nature, and their individual personalities becoming more prominent each day.

Zoo Manager, Mark Kenward, spoke about the new arrivals:

*"Although the boys were from the same family group, moving to a new home created a new dynamic for them, so in the first few days we observed them trying to establish a hierarchy. Deet made the first play to be the 'boss' attempting to exhibit dominant behaviours but was very quickly overruled by the more confident and naturally authoritative Doyle who has settled into the leadership role."*

*"Clint is definitely Doyle's right-hand man, the two of them are quite similar in nature and tend to pair together often. Chops is a real sweetheart and will do anything to avoid conflict, he doesn't test any boundaries and just wants to be everyone's friend! So actually, Deet has ended up bottom of the pack despite initial enthusiasm, but we are also observing the whole group coming together at times to groom and rest together, so no one is being left out!"*

Mark continued:

*"Even after my three decades of zookeeping, it's still an exciting moment to have the opportunity to work with a new species, and the arrival of these boys also brings a huge sense of pride knowing that we are contributing to the collaborative conservation efforts of zoos around the world."*

Critically endangered species within zoos, such as these capuchins, are incredibly carefully managed and are often part of European Breeding Programmes, which aim to ensure not only the future survival of threatened species, but also their future genetic strength and diversity so they can thrive for generations.

Mark continued:

*"We are sometimes asked when a threatened species arrives, why we don't have breeding pairs and why we aren't trying to breed straight away. Zoos will often begin with an all-male group of a new species, to learn about them and develop a successful animal care programme first. Just because a species is threatened doesn't mean zoos will breed as much as possible – we all take a responsible approach to breeding, with breeding approval needing to be granted, and the right pairing of bloodlines found."*

*"We of course would hope to be part of the breeding programme in the future, but even if that doesn't happen, these boys will play a valuable role in educating our visitors about conservation and the threats primates face in the wild."*

Native to the east coast of Brazil, the yellow-breasted capuchin monkey (also known as the buffy headed capuchin and golden bellied capuchin) is one of the most threatened of the Atlantic rainforest and neotropical primates due to the nature of the threats it faces from deforestation and the subsequent genetic inbreeding that comes as a result of habitat fragmentation.

As part of its commitment to increasing their conservation efforts, Drusillas recently launched a new charity foundation – Drusillas Conservation in Action which aims to finance a range of conservation and research activities, establish and build grant programmes, and build a new culture of conservation.

Located just off the A27 in Alfriston, Drusillas Park is open daily from 10am. For more information, please telephone 01323 874100 or visit [www.drusillas.co.uk](http://www.drusillas.co.uk)

**For more information, please contact:**

**Tamara Nasser, Deputy Marketing Manager, Drusillas Park  
01323 874112, [tamara.nasser@drusillas.co.uk](mailto:tamara.nasser@drusillas.co.uk), [www.drusillas.co.uk](http://www.drusillas.co.uk)**

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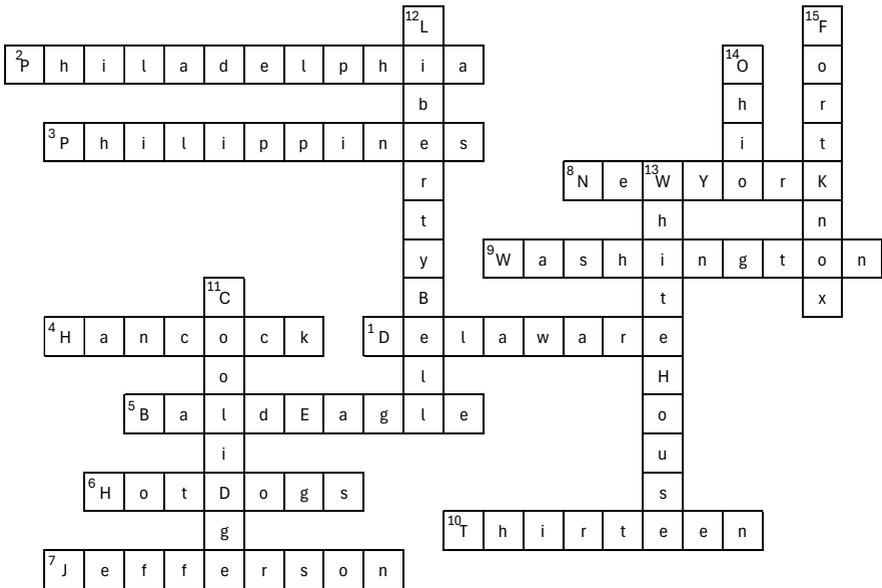
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## July 4th Crossword Answers



- 1) Joe Biden Lives in Wilmington which is the largest city in the State of **Delaware**.
- 2) The signing of the Declaration of Independence occurred primarily in the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia. Interestingly the actual signing took place on the 2nd August 1776 (even though the document is dated July 4th). And in a further anomaly, July 2nd is the actual date that Congress voted for independence.
- 3) The Philippine Islands were an American possession from 1898 to 1946 when they were granted independence from the US by the Treaty of Manila. Originally the **Philippines** celebrated their holiday on July 4th but it was subsequently moved to June 12th which was the date in 1898 when the Philippines Declaration of Independence (from Spain) was issued.
- 4) John **Hancock** signed the Declaration of Independence with a large, flamboyant signature. So much so, that a "John Hancock" is an informal synonym for a signature in the US.
- 5) The **Bald Eagle** was formally adopted by Congress as the emblem of the US in 1782 because of its association with authority and statehood. This wasn't a new idea, the Romans also used the Eagle as a symbol of governmental power.

6) The story goes that on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1916 European immigrants were arguing about who was the “most American”. They decided to settle the contest with a hot dog eating competition. An Irish immigrant won eating 13 hot dogs. This story is urban myth – but it’s a good ‘un. However, Nathan’s Famous **Hot Dogs** eating contest has been held since 1972 with the current records being: 76 hot dogs (men) and 48 (women) in 10 minutes.

7) Thomas **Jefferson** was the third President of the US and the first to formally celebrate the 4th of July as Independence Day. In a strange coincidence, both he and John Adams (second President) died on the 4th of July 1826 – the day of the Jubilee – 50 years after the Declaration of Independence. The fifth President, James Monroe, died July 4th 1831. All three are regarded as “Founding Fathers”.

8) **New York** is one of the original 13 colonies founded by the British. 12 of which voted for Independence on July 4th 1776 but the New York delegation abstained because they had not yet received instructions. The New York state convention approved independence on July 9th and Congress received written permission from the state legislature on July 15th.

9) George **Washington** (also a “Founding Father”) is often regarded as the “Father of the Country” in the US. The District of Columbia was created directly in the US Constitution to “not exceed 10 miles square” and to “become the Seat of the Government of the United States”. It was named after Christopher Columbus but its most important city, Washington D.C. was named after George Washington.

10) There were thirteen colonies which declared independence from Great Britain: Connecticut; Delaware; Georgia; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York; North Carolina; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; South Carolina; and Virginia.

11) John Calvin **Coolidge** was born on the 4th July 1872. Named after his father, he quickly dropped the “John”. When President Warren G. Harding died on the 2nd August 1923, Calvin Coolidge (the vice-president) was sworn in on the 3rd August 1923. He sought re-election in 1924 and won with a large 54% of the vote (carrying 25 of the then 48 states).

12) The Whitechapel Bell Foundry cast the **Liberty Bell** as well as Big Ben. At the time of its closure (12 June 2017) it was the oldest manufacturing company in Great Britain having been founded in 1570. Interestingly there is evidence as far back as 1360 of bell foundries in the Aldgate and Whitechapel areas. Coming back to the 4th of July, the Liberty Bell was commissioned in 1752 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly and has the biblical inscription: “Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof”. It was rung to summon lawmakers to the State House. It is unclear whether the Liberty Bell was actually rung on July 4th 1776. But every 4th of July it is tapped gently (it developed a large crack) 13 times in honour of the original 13 colonies by descendants of people who signed the Declaration of Independence.

13) Construction of the **White House** began on the 13th October 1792. John Adams was the first President to live there. Whilst Thomas Jefferson had the idea for the famous West Wing (which houses the official offices of the President of the US), it was Teddy Roosevelt that actually got it built (1902). President Taft added the Oval Office in 1909.

14) In 1958 a history teacher in **Ohio** set a class assignment to redesign the US flag as Alaska and Hawaii neared statehood. Robert G. Heft created the flag based on the existing 48 star flag by adding blue cloth and white iron-on material. He earned a B-minus for his efforts. He challenged this by sending the flag to President Eisenhower. Thousands submitted flag designs, but he was the only person to stitch together a flag and send it to Washington D.C. Once the flag was selected, his grade was changed to an "A" and his design became the official flag in 1960.

15) In December 1941 the Library of Congress sent the Declaration and Constitution to the bullion depository at **Fort Knox**, Kentucky, for safekeeping. By September 1944 it was decided to return the documents to their permanent exhibit at the shrine in the Library of Congress.

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Police:	non emergency 101, emergency 999, voice mail 101 ext. 19028	
PCSOs Janine Daly and Liz McDonagh	07787 685751 or 101 or 01273 470101	
ESCC Highways		03456080193

## Services for July 2024

7 <sup>th</sup> 11am	Holy Communion BCP	Peter Blee
14 <sup>th</sup> 11am	Holy Communion	Shirley Pearce
21 <sup>st</sup> 11am	Holy Communion	Shirley Pearce
28 <sup>th</sup> 10am	<b>Joint service with Arlington, here in Wilmington</b> Holy Communion	Shirley Pearce

### Pastoral Prayer or Talk

The Reverends Peter Blee and Shirley Pearce are available to speak to people on the phone and are also able to pray with people on request in church at Morning or Evening Prayer and to offer help in any way possible; telephones: 01323 870 512, 01323 318 231. or emails: [peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk) [revshirleym@gmail.com](mailto:revshirleym@gmail.com) .

If you have any prayer requests please pass them on – they can either be kept confidential or included in intercessions at our online services. Suggestions and comments as to what is offered online or what might be offered in addition are welcomed.

Please note that these service details might well change!. Please look at the website ( [www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk) ) and check carefully on the Sunday link emails.

If in any doubt please contact Jane Grutchfield:

[benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

Our churches remain open for private prayer and reflection every day.