



BERWICK SELMESTON ALCISTON

# VILLAGE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024

## VILLAGE NEWS

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Advertising is coordinated by Brian Calcott. Tel. 07999 788618.

Distribution is coordinated by Jeremy and Valerie Shaw. Tel: 01323 811567.

The Production Team is Liz Golden and Martin Chilvers.

Contributions, Photos, etc (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month by email: [empty.sea@outlook.com](mailto:empty.sea@outlook.com)

They can also be passed to one of the coordinators:

Liz Golden, 2 Cornford Crescent, Berwick Tel: 01323 870163.

Valerie Shaw at Selmeston House, Selmeston Tel: 01323 811567.

## Donations

Financial donations to the Parish News are gratefully received.

Cheques payable to "Berwick, Selmeston and Alciston Village News" can be passed to:

The Treasurer, Brian Calcott at:

2 Railway Cottages, Station Road, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6TA.

Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to:

Barclays Bank - Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

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### Benefice Priests

Revd Canon Peter Blee Rector of Berwick and Vicar of Selmeston with Alciston

The Parsonage, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6SR

Tel: 01323 870512 Email: [peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk)

Revd Shirley Pearce Assistant Priest

The Vicarage, Wilmington, Polegate, BN26 5SL

Tel: 01323 318231 Email: [revshirley@gmail.com](mailto:revshirley@gmail.com)

Shirley Pearce's 'on duty' days are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

### Churchwardens

Alciston - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623

Berwick - Andy Williamson Tel: 01323 870163 / Paul Lewis Tel: 01323 870927

Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

### Benefice Administrator

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

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

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### Parish Council Clerks

Alciston - Sandy Thomas Email: [alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com)

Berwick - Lynette Kemp Tel: 07864 637274 Email: [berwickparishcouncil@aol.com](mailto:berwickparishcouncil@aol.com)

Selmeston - Bryan Stevens Tel: 07799 862765 Email: [selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com)

### Village Hall / Field Hire

Berwick Village Hall - Carole Vine Tel: 07341 660046 Email: [berwickhallhire@btinternet.com](mailto:berwickhallhire@btinternet.com)

Berwick Field - Carole Vine Tel: 07341 660 046 [berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com](mailto:berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com)

Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall Website: [www.southdownsvillagehall.org](http://www.southdownsvillagehall.org)

## Cover Photo



There was a very good turnout at the Ploughing Match that was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September at Church Farm, Litlington.

As well as the ploughing competition, many of the children from Alfriston enjoyed an educational and fun day away from school, learning about how our food is produced.

The flower and produce show was well supported, and the caterers (supplied by local farms) were very popular.

The weather was fine: dry and sunny – if a little breezy! It was a great day out, and more well attended than the organisers had anticipated. We look forward to next year's competition.

## The Ludlay Quartet Concert

*3.00 pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
at Berwick Church*

Featuring: Beethoven Quartet in C Minor  
Op 18 No. 4;  
Tchaikovsky Andante Cantabile;  
Schubert 1st Movement,  
Quartet in G No. 15.

Tickets cost £18 (Under 18 years free)  
and are available from Eventbrite or at  
the door.

*Jane Grutchfield*

## Village Artisans Christmas Craft Fair

10.00 am to 3.00 pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
at Berwick Village Hall

- A wide range of beautiful and local Christmas crafts
- Something for everyone!
- Top notch refreshments
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## Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir in Concert, with special guests 'Sussex Flutes'

7.00 - 9.00 pm - inclusive of a 30 minute  
interval - on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
at A&S Village Hall  
(Doors and bar open from 6.00 pm)

Enjoy a wonderful evening with a  
packed programme of Welsh songs  
along with some classics.  
Drinks and snacks will be available to  
purchase.

Tickets are £12 per person via the online  
booking site: Ticket Source  
([www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)).

Contact Phil 07538 187552 (Alciston)  
or Janie 07785 940915 (Selmeston)  
for details.

*Rachel Lewis*

## Act of Remembrance Refreshments

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
at A&S Village Hall

Refreshments will be available  
following the Selmeston 10.50 am  
Act of Remembrance at the  
War Memorial. All are welcome.

*Rachel Lewis*

## Arlington's Village Market and Coffee Morning + Pop-Up Museum

10.00 am - Noon,  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
at Arlington Village Hall

The museum will also be open in the  
evening from 6.00 to 7.00 pm.

Some of the regular stalls are Anne's  
traditional fresh bread with other  
naughty goodies and fresh eggs;  
Lynne's popular home-made cakes and



## BERWICK 100 CLUB

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The Berwick 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery under the Small Society Lottery Gambling Act 2005 and is registered as such with Rother District Council, Registration Number 30266. Berwick Village Hall Trust is a registered charity with the Charity Commission under number 1031341

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savouries; Jean's 'all sorts of everything' in aid of the Parkinson's Society, a second-hand book stall with books about the local area, and other sundries, jewellery, cards, and more.

Arlington's Pop-Up Museum will also be taking place at the same time; the focus this month will be 'Remembrance'. The museum 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 our 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 October Market was extremely busy, and the hall was again full of people chatting and visiting the stalls. The Pop-Up Museum was hosted by the Hailsham Historical & Natural History Society which was very popular.

For further market information please contact Anne Hope:

Tel. 01323 486219 / 07760 424169.

Email [anntonyhope@gmail.com](mailto:anntonyhope@gmail.com).

For further museum information please contact Wendy Holmes:

Tel. 07889 689844.

Email [talkingteapot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:talkingteapot@yahoo.co.uk).

*Pauline Jackson*

## **Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute**

*7.30 pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
at Firle Village Hall*

At our October meeting we had a social evening when members brought along something which held special sentimental memories - these included a soft toy, a photo album, a memento from Costa Rica, a photograph of family and items of jewellery. It was a chance for us to chat about happy memories.

In November we have the entertaining 'Seaford Strummers': a ukelele group who always encourage us to sing along to our favourite songs.

Please do join us as this is a great evening of music and laughter. Plus, coffee/tea and cake afterwards.

Do join us, we will be very pleased to see you. Please give me a call if you would like further information.

*Rosemary Norris*

*President Tel: 07784 707016*

## **The Snowsmith - Sold Out**

*3.00 pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
at A&S Village Hall*

Half a String Theatre returns to the A&S Village Hall with this wonderful puppet and theatre show to entertain all the family.

Due to overwhelming demand, we can no longer take online ticket orders. To be put on the waiting list please email:

[bookings@southdownsvillagehall.org](mailto:bookings@southdownsvillagehall.org).

*Rachel Lewis*

## **Selmeston and Alciston Village HUB**

*11.00 - 12.30 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
at A&S Village Hall*

The Hub welcomes you all to enjoy refreshments and delicious tea and coffee, as well as homemade cake in a convivial, warm environment.

Pop in anytime, it's open to everyone - bring your little ones for a run around and meet up with neighbours and friends of all ages.

Please contact any of the committee below if you have any questions or need help with transport to and from the hall.

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Selmeston, East Sussex  
07791 864384

Contact: Thea 07772 155772,  
Helen 07969 732109,  
Mairi 07582 938185  
or Janie 07785 940915.

*Rachel Lewis*

## **Watson - The Final Problem**

*6.00 pm Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
at Wilmington Church*

A 'sell-out' Edinburgh and Adelaide  
Fringe show performed by Tim Marriott  
from BBC's The Brittas Empire.

Please email [revshirleym@gmail.com](mailto:revshirleym@gmail.com)  
or call or text 07880 554750 for  
tickets.

The cost is £20, and this includes a  
Victorian food buffet.

Drinks will also be on sale.

*Shirley Pearce*

## **Village Artisans Christmas Craft Fair**

*10.00 am to 3.00 pm on Saturday  
7<sup>th</sup> December at Berwick Village Hall*

The Village Artisans are proud to host  
a Christmas craft fair where a wide  
range of high quality and unusual  
crafts will be on offer to help with  
those tricky Christmas presents and  
help make your home 'Christmassy'  
this season.

Top notch refreshments will also be  
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## Christmas Date for your Diaries: Fabulous Festive Afternoon

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
at A&S Village Hall*

Join us for a festive afternoon for all the family: carol singing, food, Santa and, of course, our well-stocked bar with mulled wine.

Look out for more details on the WhatsApp, posters, and here in the Village News.

*Rachel Lewis*

## Councillor Vacancy

Berwick Parish Council has a vacancy for a co-opted Councillor. Are you interested in local current affairs?

Do you wish to serve your community?  
Could you provide a voice for residents?  
Parish Council meetings are held bi-monthly, generally on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at Berwick Village Hall starting at 7.00 pm.

Please contact the Parish Clerk, Lynette Kemp on 07864 637274.

Email: [berwickparishcouncil@aol.com](mailto:berwickparishcouncil@aol.com) for further information.

*Lynette Kemp*

*Clerk to Berwick Parish Council*

## Hedges! A Polite Reminder

If you are a householder who has hedges bordering public paths, please remember to cut them back so that those with wheelchairs or pushchairs can get through. Many thanks.

*Lynette Kemp*

*Clerk to Berwick Parish Council*

## November's Gardener's Diary

What we can do this month in the vegetable garden is: clearing any rubbish off the soil to prepare for

manure or compost. The best way is to cover the ground with compost and leaves, leaving it until next year to dig in, allowing the worms to work it into the soil.

Don't forget you can plant Garlic and Broad Beans this month, so they will have a great start in the spring.

Rake up all the leaves you can for the compost heap, if you have a rotary mower try running over them to break them up and you will find they will compost down quicker.

Check the onions to see if any are rotten. If they are, throw them away, the same with potatoes.

Don't forget to raise your mower up for the last cut of the year!

*Lisa Collington*

## Recipe of the Month: Boozy Mincemeat

(Makes about 3.5 kg/7lbs- could easily be halved.)

Ingredients

500g currants

500g raisins

500g sultanas

500g Bramley apples peeled, cored and finely chopped

2 x 200g boxes shredded suet

100g blanched almonds - coarsely chopped

350g demerara sugar

100g dark muscovado sugar

1 rounded tsp ground cinnamon

2 rounded tsp mixed spice

1 lemon

250g mixed peel

125ml dark rum

125ml Disaronno liqueur or Amaretto



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175ml brandy

Method

Put the dried fruit in a very large bowl with the apple, suet, almonds, sugars and spices.

Grate the lemon into the bowl and then squeeze in the juice. Tip in the peel and alcohol.

Mix all the ingredients thoroughly and cover and leave for 24 hours, stirring occasionally. Pack the mincemeat into sterilised or dishwasher cleaned jars. Seal tightly and store in a cool place. Best used within six months.

Valerie Shaw

## Secret Sussex: When Mrs Sandilands Went to Court

The village art project that forced Nancy Sandilands to take on a bishop, lawyers, MPs and the 'immoral' bohemian artists.

BBC Radio Sussex producer Lindsey Tydeman reveals how a plan to have murals painted by members of the degenerate 'Bloomsbury Set' on the walls of Berwick church tore the village apart.

The programme is now available on the BBC iPlayer:

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0jns5zt](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0jns5zt).

## Family Support Work (FSW)

With so many plans being made for Christmas parties, hampers, pantomime visits and associated activities, it is sometimes easy to forget the core work which is so vital for our families.

In the last month, our practitioners have been supporting many families in incredibly difficult situations including a family of 7 living in 2-bed emergency accommodation, and a single parent

family in which the mother has just been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The huge variety of families who are referred to us results in a wide range of support needs. We are fortunate that amongst our practitioner team we have some specialist experience which can be shared (some of our practitioners have particular experience in special educational needs issues, supporting victims of domestic violence, and supporting first time parents). It makes such a difference to our families, as this recent message confirms:

*"You've been such an amazing support and help. Without you I wouldn't be where I am now, and everything you've done and invited us to have made a huge impact on my life and my kids' lives.*

*We are so greatly appreciative and grateful you are in our life for all the help and support that you have given and still are giving."*

Looking ahead to Christmas, if you are planning to support us with Christmas food collections then we would be very grateful.



Our Christmas wishlist is available to share, and if you would like to arrange a collection by our van then please contact the office in plenty of time on 01273 832963.

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Our carol service this year is being held at Fletching Church on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. We do hope that many of you will be able to join us, so please keep an eye out for further information across our website and social media channels.

With many thanks for your continued support and prayers.

September's work in numbers

- ◆ 204 individual visits and 1071 calls with families supporting 222 adults and 171 children
- ◆ 47 supported meetings with other agencies
- ◆ 46 group sessions held supporting 402 parents and 239 children
- ◆ 85 food deliveries made

Prayer points

- ◆ Give thanks for the many new volunteers who have come forward

from West Sussex, and pray that we will also get some new volunteers from East Sussex

- ◆ Pray for our small fundraising team, that everybody remains positive despite a very difficult landscape
- ◆ Give thanks for the wonderful personal feedback we receive from families that reminds us just how much our support means to them, and keeps everybody motivated.

*Nikki Kerr*

*Director of Fundraising and Marketing*

## Bad Internet Behaviours and How To Fix Them - Copycat 'Official' Websites

It's possible to process or renew many official documents without paying a fee, but when you search for the relevant website it's often the case that a 'copycat website' will appear that offers the same service but charges a fee to

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do so. Such sites are not actually illegal, but they do have to make it clear that they're not affiliated to the official site.

Examples of this include: Driving licence renewals and theory tests, Passport applications, Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and congestion payments, Visa applications, Tax return sites, European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC), Birth and marriage certificates, etc.

To avoid falling for such sites the first tip is to remember that such sites exist! So here are some tips.

1. Check the web address - look for a secure 'https://' rather than an 'http://' at the beginning of the website's address. This is especially important if you are about to enter personal information as it indicates that there is encryption in place to protect your personal details;

websites just with http:// don't encrypt your details.

2. Did the search identify a paid-for search engine result. These are the highlighted or boxed adverts displayed at the top of your search. The official site may not be the first link displayed after the paid ad - look down the list until you spot the genuine one.
3. Don't assume because the website has an '.org' web address, as this is no guarantee that it's the genuine site. For example, UK government websites have '.gov.uk' address.
4. When you think you have found the official site just take a few moments to double-check the site as it may even say that it is not officially affiliated with the official body. Go to the site's 'home' or 'about us' page

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before buying a product or filling out an application form.

Another bad habit to break next month.

## Jays

Each autumn a lot of my conversations go like this: "This morning I saw a weird pink and blue bird on my lawn." Me: "It's a Jay." "There's a parrot on my bird table!" Me: "It's a Jay." "I've just seen..." Me: "It's a Jay". Spotting such an exotic looking bird in the back garden gets even my most wildlife-averse friends reaching for the Blencowe bird identification hotline. Yet despite looking like it has flown in directly from the jungles of Costa Rica, the Jay lives in Sussex all year round. For most of the year it withdraws to the woodlands and leads an elusive life amongst the leaves. But in October it is time for the Jay to step out of the shadows.



Jays look fabulous. With extravagant pink plumage, a drooping black moustache and a snazzy electric blue flash through the wings, it's no surprise that the eminent Sussex naturalist, W.H. Hudson, called it 'The British Bird of Paradise'. Surprisingly, it's a member of the crow family. But while the related Ravens, Rooks, Crows and Jackdaws all wear black funereal feathers, the Jay obviously didn't get the memo about the

dress code! Gather the Crows for a family portrait and the Jay stands out like Danny La Rue in full drag amongst a crowd of coal miners. But, when the Jay opens its beak, it reveals its family heritage. The song of the Jay is a rough, rasping, nails-down-the-blackboard shriek, which would make any Crow proud.

The reason we see more Jays in the autumn is because they are busy. Jays are nuts about acorns and at this time of the year their favourite food is in plentiful supply. But the Jay is a clever bird. Aware that there are lean times ahead it starts making a long-term investment for surviving the winter. With up to nine acorns jammed in its beak and throat, the Jay flies far from the woodlands and hides these nuts in nooks and under dead leaves. With an impressive ability to remember exactly where he has stashed them, the Jay will return, and tuck into these life-saving larders in the cold days of winter. I've employed a similar strategy many times at parties! Faced with a full buffet at the start of the night, I hide a few piles of crisps and vol-au-vents behind curtains and cushions to help me get through the evening.

One Jay can store up to five thousand acorns in a season. Not all are remembered and retrieved, and from these lost acorns, mighty Oaks grow. I often wonder how many of the huge Oaks we see in Sussex were originally planted by Jays. Through the centuries these birds have been architects of the English countryside: a landscape created by the forgetfulness of a pink crow.

*Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we*

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*Michael Blencowe  
Photo: © Alan Price  
Sussex Wildlife Trust*

## **From the Vicarage**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1903, from a barge on the Potomac River in West Virginia USA, a precision-made vehicle took off, to attempt the first manned flight in history. This vehicle was called the "Aerodrome" It had been designed by Samuel Pierpont Langley and each part was made by a team of professional engineers to Langley's specification. Several smaller unmanned models had been made and had worked well. The Aerodrome was propelled into the sky by a large catapult. It soared up. Then immediately crashed into the river. The pilot was rescued but the Aerodrome was damaged beyond repair; the project was abandoned.

*Nine days later, the first manned flight was successfully made in North Carolina in a vehicle designed by two brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright. They had no professional training but had a successful business building bicycles. When Wilbur flew their "Kitty Hawk" 852 feet in 59 seconds, they had already attempted the flight dozens of times over the previous four years. After each crash they repaired the Kitty Hawk; their team was their employees*

*from the factory, who gave their spare time voluntarily. The Wright brothers succeeded because they had passion.*

When the clergy talk about ministering in the rural areas, we all attest to trying something that didn't work. However, if something is worth doing, we should not give up; rather if it is important to us, we may need to re-think, re-pray, re-try.

Paul told the Church in Galatia: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."* Galatians 6:9-10.

Comparing small rural congregations with larger suburban churches is a mistake. A small church is not a failed large church, just as a satsuma is not a failed orange. These days, where we struggle more is finding volunteers to run events and people to attend them. And this is not just in church, but in other organisation such as village clubs, village cricket, the WI. What skills do we have? What activities can we do well to share our care in the community?

A thriving community is good for everyone and so, despite having little support for the coffee mornings in Wilmington, I shall continue to be at the village hall each 4th Thursday of the month. Despite having to cancel last month's pub quiz, we are doing it again this month. When your village club organises an event, support it; when someone is needed to help, volunteer. And, may I suggest, when your parish church opens its doors to invite you in for a special service, do give it a go. We are here for you. God bless.

*Rev Shirley*



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## ◇ CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING PRAYER

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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion

09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Sunday

08.00 Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00 Selmeston Holy Communion

10:45 Wilmington Remembrance service  
(Joint service with Arlington)

10.50 Remembrance services at Berwick  
and Selmeston War Memorials

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion

09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Prayer

9.30 am each Wednesday

at Berwick church.

(On the first Wednesday of the month there is Holy Communion (BCP) instead.)

5.00 pm each Thursday

at Wilmington church.

To receive a weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please email the Benefice Administrator at [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

Pastoral Prayer or Talk

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 Prayer and to offer help in any way possible.

Telephone: 01323 870512, 01323 318231 or

Email [peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk), or [revshirley@gmail.com](mailto:revshirley@gmail.com)

Please visit the benefice websites to check on services and times:  
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