





## Contents

Welcome	3
Hamsey Parish Council update	4
Planning	7
News from St Peter's	8
Friends of Hamsey Church	10
Hamsey Primary	13
Monday Afternoon Club	17
Hamsey in bloom	18
Hamsey gardens	19
Wild Hamsey	20
Monday Group	21
Resident artists	23
Rail and roads	26







#### Welcome from the Editor

As I write this issue we are still eking out the last days of Summer before Autumn and back-to-school season is upon us.

We have been blessed with glorious weather and the sun certainly shone on the Solstice Party - so much so that the bedazzled organisers - including myself - forgot to take may photos during the event. So as a flavour below, here are some pics from before the cider started flowing. It was a great event and well-attended. Thanks to Southdown Cider and The Barcombe Bonfire Crew for keeping us in good spirits and Hamsey Nights for bringing us together in such style - particularly Tom for keeping the music pumping. Hamsey Night's Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday 06 December, so clear your diaries now (maybe for the Sunday too, ahem)!

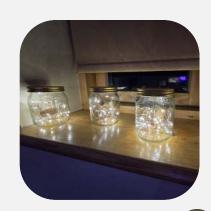
In this edition, you will be introduced to Hamsey Primary's new Head of School, Angela Green; two local artists, Amanda and Matilda; and our new Hamsey in Bloom contributor 14-year-old Hadassah, who lives on Chatfield Close where she enjoys taking pictures of her family's garden flowers.

It is really important that we include the talents and voices of Hamsey's young people in our newsletter too. So if, like Hadassah, you are inspired to send in an article or your creative work please do get in touch!

Helen Clegg Editor helen.clegg@hotmail.co.uk







# Hamsey Parish Updates



This summer has been a season of coming together as a community, with a shared focus on understanding the potential impact of CALA Homes' planning application for 151 houses north of Cooksbridge. It has been inspiring to see so many residents take part in discussions and stand together to ensure Hamsey's interests are represented.

A special thank you goes to our newest councillor, Leith McKenzie, whose professional insight as an architect has been invaluable in analysing the plans and preparing the council's formal response. His detailed work has given real strength and clarity to our position, and our collective submission will help ensure that decision-makers understand the true implications for our parish.



I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to the consultation. Lewes District Council received more than 300 responses, an extraordinary show of community spirit

This response speaks volumes about Hamsey's determination to protect its future and shows what can be achieved when we act with one voice.



A huge shout-out also goes to the whole parish council team for their tireless commitment. Their work may often happen quietly, but its impact is felt parish-wide, from keeping Beechwood Hall at the heart of community life to pursuing road safety improvements, championing sustainability, and supporting local events.



At Beechwood Hall, I am delighted to congratulate our parish clerk, Marie Owen, on stepping into the role of hall manager. Her experience, organisation and commitment make her the ideal person to guide the hall confidently into its next chapter. We are also pleased to welcome Bernie Jones as our new part-time marketing lead, who will be raising Beechwood's profile, attracting more bookings and seeking fresh funding

We continue to listen closely to residents about the future of the parish. The things people value most are our rural landscape, our close-knit community and the character that makes Hamsey so distinctive. This input is helping us focus on the things that matter most and ensuring that any changes strengthen, rather than weaken, those qualities.

Please keep talking to us, every voice matters, and every idea helps shape the future of Hamsey. We remain committed to protecting our rural character, enhancing community spaces, and making Hamsey safer, greener, and better connected.

Thank you to every resident who has supported, volunteered, raised issues or simply shared a kind word; it is this spirit that keeps our parish thriving.

Cllr Minty Cadwallader 07956 372282 www.hamseyparish.gov.uk





# BEECHWOOD HALL & RURAL PARK

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS, BAKERS, MAKERS, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES!

WE'RE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF OUR FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET, A JOYFUL CELEBRATION FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER, TWINKLING LIGHTS.

Standard Stall: £15.00 Hamsey Residents: £10.00

15th November 2025

2PM - 5PM - set up from 1pm.

Contact: 07703987977

marketing@beechwoodhall.org

Beechwood Hall Cooksbridge BN7 3QG



Registered Charity No: 206200



# Planning HAMSEY PARISH SCOUNCIL

Applications still awaiting decision/in progress (as at 30 June 2025)

SDNP/24/04718/HOUS – Holters Green, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge. Single-storey side extension, alternation to pitch of existing extension roof and insertion of dormer window, alterations to external fenestration and various internal works.

**LW/24/0823** – Resting Oak Hill Cottage, Resting Oak Hill, Cooksbridge. Dropped kerb with access over pavement.

**LW/25/0201** – The Orchard North End Lane, Hamsey. Demolition of existing permanent mobile home and erection of one dwelling house.

LW/25/0339 – Land at Cooksbridge Road, Cooksbridge. The provision of 151 residential dwellings (class C3) including 40% affordable housing and commercial floorspace provision (class E), with public open space, soft and hard landscaping, play, space. Community orchard, vehicular access, car and cycle parking provision and associated infrastructure including SUDS provision.



Applications determined/approved since last meeting

SDNP/25/01793/FUL – Bretts Farm, Whitfield Lane, Hamsey. Demolition of existing barn and erection of new barn and extension of access track. Approved.

SDNP/25/02143/PIP – Fishpond House, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge. Erection of one dwelling. Approved.



## News from St Peters

As we move towards autumn it seems that we have not had 'summer' like we used to. But everything around us changes.

I have spent some months sorting old church documents stored away in lofts. I discovered the first Offham Parish magazines dating back to 1958. What struck me were the changes, not just in what the church did, but the different social attitudes from that time.

Looking back is not always a good thing. The past is past for a good reason; there is much we can let go. But the turning of the year also brings with it hope for renewal; another spring will come. So bulbs and seeds seem to find their way into my shopping when all I came for was new gardening gloves and earth for my pots. This attitude of looking forward is healthy and natural to us.



November will see our Remembrance service and later our plans for Christmas. Much work has been done at Old Hamsey and the Friends' article will tell you more.

The end result is an ancient church much restored internally and on 04 August we had our usual monthly services after two months 'camping' at St Peter Offham. There are many people who regard this little church with special love and affection and were grateful to be able to attend again.

With the help of Plumpton College, we have managed conservation grazing in the churchyard, which has proved to be the best programme of management we have had so far. The two sheep – renamed Goodness and Mercy – have chomped their way through Hamsey and are busy consuming East Chiltington churchyard. They are expected back at Hamsey for the winter after their short vacation. If you have family associations with the parish and/or would like to be involved in conservation you would be very welcome.

#### Best wishes,

#### **Rev Anne Dunlop**

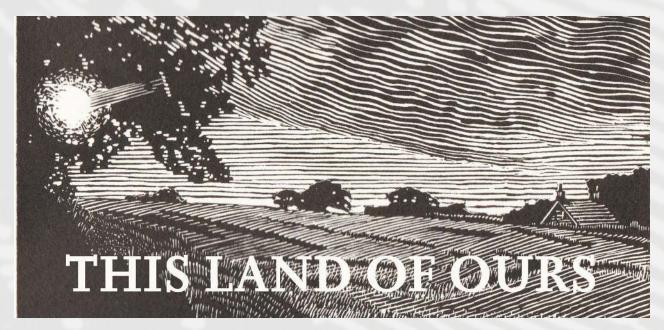
Our final services for the year at Hamsey are in September and then the Christmas Carols – provisional date 14 December.

Our regular Sunday services using the traditional Book of Common Prayer, are at 9:30 at St Peter Offham.









Keith Pettit and Paul Evans, artists whose work is tied to their native landscape, come together to form their much-loved annual Artwave show at the extraordinarily beautiful, isolated and ancient Old Hamsey Church.

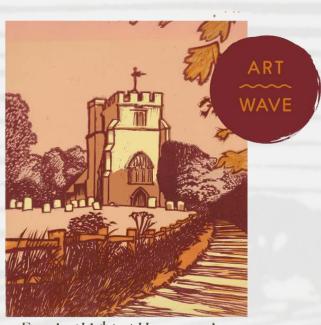
~ Weekends from 6-21 September, 11:00-17:00 ~

-Take part in a silent auction to win one of two original artworks ~

~ Proceeds to Friends of Hamsey Church Fund ~



Magical Winter Evening at Hamsey An original Paul Evans painting



Evening Light at Hamsey - An original Keith Pettit print

## Friends of Hamsey Church

Hamsey Church is now open again at weekends after almost 12 weeks of closure for extensive interior conservation work and decoration. The church is now looking splendid.

You can also take part in one of two silent auctions. The first, for an ori painting, 'Magical Winter Evening and Hamsey' by artist Paul Evans. The second, for 'Evening Light at Hamsey' and the part in one of two silent auctions. The painting and part in one of two silent auctions. The painting and part in one of two silent auctions. The first, for an ori painting, 'Magical Winter Evening and part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The first, for an ori painting, 'Magical Winter Evening are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The painting are part in one of two silent auctions. The part in one of two silent auctions are part in one of two silent auctions. The part in one of two silent auctions are part in one of two silent auctions. The part in one of two silent auctions are part in one of two silent auctions.

Unfortunately, this edition goes to press just as we celebrate the reopening, but those of you who made our open day at the end of August will have enjoyed music throughout the afternoon from some very talented Sussex musicians, teas, delicious homemade cakes, a Pimms table, a raffle and information about the church.

A Celebration of
Hamsey Church
A 'Calendar for 2026' by
Artist Paul Evans
All proceeds to Hamsey Church Restoration

We still have a fundraising mountain to climb, which is why we also launched a number of opportunities for you to offer your support - it is not too late to join in. You could buy a very special Limited Edition 2026 calendar featuring 12 of artist Paul Evans' evocative pictures of Hamsey Church through the seasons.

You can also take part in one of two silent auctions. The first, for an original painting, 'Magical Winter Evening at Hamsey' by artist Paul Evans. The second, for 'Evening Light at Hamsey', the first of an edition of just 10 original lino prints by Keith Pettit. The auctions will continue through this year's Artwave weekends from 6–21 September. Both artists are generously donating all proceeds to the Friends of Hamsey Church and its restoration.

Look out, too, for another quiz evening later this year!

# Marion Hughes Friends of Hamsey Church Events Committee





## Hamsey Primary

Welcome from the new Headteacher



Hello, my name is Angela Green and it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head of School at Hamsey Community Primary School.

For the past two years, in my role as Deputy Head, I have seen firsthand what future full of opportunity and possibility. a special place Hamsey is. The children's enthusiasm for learning, the creativity in classrooms and the warmth of our community make this a wonderful school to be part of.

At Hamsey, our vision is simple yet powerful: we are a kind, creative school where learning is an adventure.

I am committed to making sure every child at Hamsey experiences the lifechanging power of education: developing a lifelong love of learning, thriving in a culture of high expectations and belonging, and being prepared for a

I feel honoured to lead Hamsey into this next chapter and I am really looking forward to getting to know more of the village community. Please do say hello if you see me at the school gate, I would love to meet you.

Best wishes. **Angela** 





Photography by James Boyce, official Patina photographer



### Hamsey Primary - Brushstrokes and beats!

The summer term at Hamsey was filled with music, colour and creativity, celebrating the power of music and art to bring joy, to build confidence and to connect us with one another. We were delighted to welcome back our favourite local artist and Hamsey parent, Jules Annis, who launched our summer 'Create' project with her wonderful portrait assembly. The children enjoyed energetic Samba workshops led by visiting musician Orla Tubb, held outside in the sunshine in our beautiful school grounds. The sound of drums and rhythm carried across the school field and we hope it was enjoyed by our neighbours! We are so grateful to our fantastic PTA for funding this hands-on music experience.

At the end of term, families were invited to join us on the school field for a performance by the Brass Sparks band. It was a real treat to welcome them back for a joyful community performance in the glorious open air.

We are thrilled to see more and more children taking up instruments at Hamsey. Our weekly singing assemblies and lunchtime singing club are always full of enthusiasm, with children choosing favourite songs for us to sing together. To end the term, we held an open house, giving children the opportunity to share their creative work with families and friends.

#### Thank you PTA

We would like to thank our fantastic PTA for their tireless fundraising and support throughout the year. A particular highlight was the wholeschool trip to the British Wildlife Centre in the summer term, where children explored habitats, encountered native animals up close and learned about wildlife conservation.

Whole-school trips have become a much-loved Hamsey tradition, bringing our community together to learn and play. The PTA helps to subsidise many class trips throughout the year, easing costs for families and ensuring that our children enjoy a wide range of enriching learning opportunities.

Thanks to their significant contribution, our library has been transformed with a wide range of exciting new books that will inspire curiosity, fuel imagination and foster a lifelong love of reading. We are also delighted to celebrate that this year's PTA Pizza Camp raised an impressive £1,856!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who gives their time, energy and financial support to the school; your generosity makes a real and lasting difference for every pupil at Hamsey.

Best wishes,

Mary Robinson

#### **Arrival of the Hedgehogs**

Tiny paws, big dreams! Welcome to the new Hedgehogs!

We are delighted to welcome our new early years Hedgehog children and their families to the Hamsey community.

They have been paired with Year 6 buddies, who will support them as they settle into school life and help ensure their first term at Hamsey is happy and successful.

We would like to welcome Mrs Porter, our new Hedgehogs teacher, who will be working alongside the wonderful Mrs Curran to guide the children through their early school years.





#### **Owls Class takes flight!**

We would like to celebrate the children who left Hamsey this summer for secondary school - our wonderful Year 6 Class of 2025! They were a remarkable group of fun, creative, brave and determined children who rose to every challenge.

A highlight of Year 6 transition is always the PATINA parade in Lewes. This year, the children worked with our brilliant PATINA artist, Sally Edwards, to design and create costumes inspired by the theme: Night at the Museum. We were delighted to welcome back former pupils, now in Year 9, to lend a helping hand with costume making.

The year drew to a close with all of Owls Class (Year 5 and Year 6) putting on a brilliant production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies. Their dazzling performances reflected the huge effort that went into learning songs and lines, preparing costumes and making props. Finally, we want to celebrate the dedication of our Year 6 children, their families and the school team in preparing for the SATs this year. We are delighted to share that their hard work and perseverance were rewarded with great success, and we send them off with our very best wishes as they begin the exciting new chapter of secondary school.

16

## Monday Afternoon Club

How quickly time seems to be flying past this year! We hope all Hamsey News readers have had an enjoyable summer with plenty of opportunities to enjoy the glorious sunshine.

We were back in Offham Church Hall for our 18th August meeting when we welcomed Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne. She gave us a fascinating insight into her work.

#### **Recent meetings**

The annual coach trip to Chichester
Festival Theatre is always one of the
highlights of the club's programme. July
saw 42 members and friends spend a
very happy day at a dazzling
performance of Top Hat.



# Police

#### **Future meetings**

As always there is an open invitation to all over-60 residents and former residents of Hamsey Parish to drop in to our meetings. Visitors are always made very welcome!

For more information, feel free to contact me.

Judith Bastide 07889 281214

#### Dates for your diary:

- 22 September, 14:00: Mike Palmer on the work of Lewes Talking Books Group
- 20 October, 14:00: Offham resident Alan Jackson's return visit with more fascinating tales of early flying aces (including Amy Jonson)



# Hamsey gardens

#### Abundance – good or bad?

Alongside my allotment colleagues we are 'suffering' under the annual mountain of cucumber and courgettes. My neighbours and friends are hiding when they see me approaching, it's not a question of 'would you like', rather 'you must take'! They are prolific but unfortunately don't preserve well, other than pickling – and there is only so much pickle one can eat!

At least courgettes can be grated into breads and cakes to make a healthy, moist snack. There are some good aspects of this abundance though. Their fast growth with lots of flowers means lots of flowers, which equals lots of bees, which in turn equals lots of fruits. A virtuous cycle!

My personal self-limiting solutions are to grow only one, maximum two courgette plants and only grow baby 'snack' cucumbers so they can be munched on by adults and babies (like Maeve below), alike.

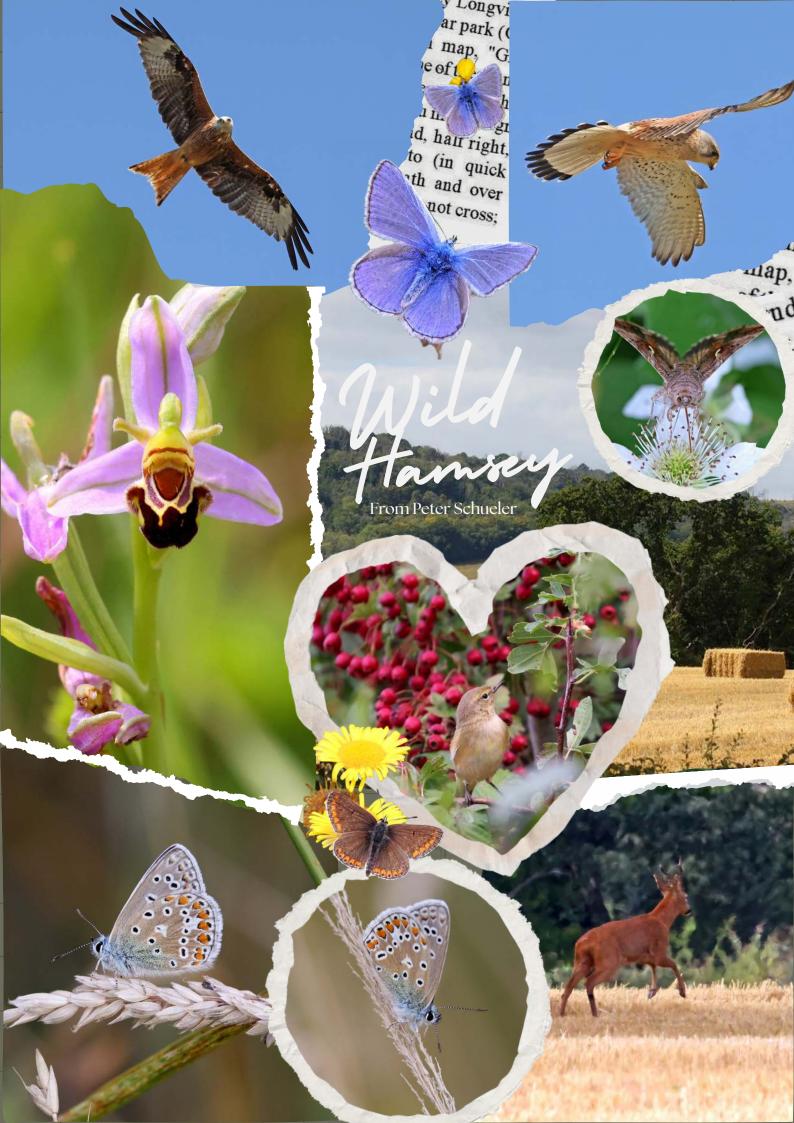






A favourite cucumber recipe Thinly slice cucumber and red onion. Salt and leave for 30 minutes to remove excess liquid. Rinse and dry on kitchen paper. Mix 2/3 tbs Greek yoghurt, 1 tbs red wine vinegar, 1 tbs olive oil, chopped fresh dill, a pinch of dried oregano, salt and pepper... very refreshing. Stay cool – as I write it's our fourth heatwave... I'm melting... courgette ice cream anyone?

Enjoy! Wendy



# The Monday Group



The Monday Group has been working hard in the parish as usual to keep our footpaths as clear and accessible as possible for everyone to use.

This year we have completed 13 jobs already. Hamsey continues to be one of Monday Group's top parishes, ranking 8th of the 22 parishes where we worked last year.

This year's jobs in the parish include nine clearance jobs, two new gates on the Downs, one new stile by Beechwood pond, new waymarks and other repairs.

We invariably build all the stiles and gates we install, using Sussex green oak for durability. We have only recently begun making our own gates, like the beautiful oak gates we installed on the

We are very grateful to Hamsey Parish Council for giving us a grant of £250 early this year. £250 covers the cost of materials for just one stile, and gates can cost even more, so the funds are soon put to very good use.

Local Monday Group member Jim
Edwards not only makes all the stiles
the local group installs, he is also
responsible for an amazing display of
beautiful wildflowers on his allotment at
Chandlers Mead, Cooksbridge. He also
grows prize-winning veg on his
allotment – this year he won awards for
best potatoes and best courgettes from
the Chailey Horticultural Society. What a
star!

- www.mondaygroup.org
- hello@mondaygroup.org
- 07510 12716



# ++ FESTIVE + WREATH MAKING + WORKSHOP +

Thursday 27th November 2025

Create your own beautiful Christmas wreath!



- Session 1: 4:00pm Session 2: 7:30pm
- **Q** Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge

£40 per person - All materials included

(including fresh greenery, ribbons & seasonal decorations)

Mulled wine & festive treats provided!

To book your place, contact: Bernie Smith-Jones 07703 987977

### Resident artists

Meet local artists Amanda and Matilda

#### **Amanda Harris**

I grew up in a whirlwind of creativity.

My mother, an accomplished artist and potter, would adorn leggy root vegetables with eyes and teeth, transforming them into creatures for our amusement. Art was for fun, and it never occurred to me that I couldn't do it too. I took it entirely for granted.

I studied life drawing, anatomy and biology, but I didn't really cultivate my art skills as an adult. It wasn't until I retired that I joined a class to learn to paint with oils, something I had never previously attempted. I fell in love with the medium immediately. Oil paint is versatile and magical to mix; it will do anything you want it to, and sometimes seems to have a life of its own. I just enjoy the process of painting. The skill is often in the looking; observation is key, and I am gradually learning the tricks to translate that into a picture.

I particularly enjoy portraiture, attempting to capture a likeness or mood. I have experimented with a wide variety of mediums, including clay sculpture, stone carving, pastels, watercolour, collage and acrylics, but it is painting with oils that I keep returning to.

I tend to work fast, preferably from life, and usually without much planning beyond a consideration of composition. It felt like a natural progression to collect some of my work and put it up on a wall for others to see, so, in a gung-ho moment, I booked a slot at The Grange in Rottingdean. An exhibition has resulted! I hope my Hamsey neighbours will come and visit, and realise that anyone who wants to can find their creative self.



Faces & spaces: a free exhibition of work by Amanda Harris @mandinithings
The Grange, The Green, Rottingdean, BN2 7HA - www.rottingdeanheritage.org.uk

- 8-11 October, 8:00-11:00
- 15-18 October, 10:00-16:00
- Sundays 12 & 19 October, 13:00-16:00





Paintings by Amanda Harris



Basketry by Matilda Grover, photography by Sarah Weal



#### **Matilda Grover**

I am a basket weaver and designer based in Cooksbridge. My practice blends craft, sustainability, and design.

I specialise in basketry, drawing on my professional experience and formal education in design and craft.

I have a deep connection to the natural world and commitment to sustainable living which have led me to work increasingly with natural and locally sourced materials.

I divide my time between creating bespoke commissions for clients, teaching basketry workshops, and working part-time at Studio Amos.

I was fortunate to apprentice under Annemarie O'Sullivan (of Studio Amos) for two years. This training, alongside my professional work, gave me a thorough and creative grounding in weaving. I strive for my work to reflect my personal style - functional, understated products inspired by historic and global crafts. Material provenance is central to my work. I use locally foraged hazel, willow, rose and juncus, as well as UK-grown willow and rush.

I am passionate about sharing my skills and the heritage of basketry. I regularly run workshops in and around Sussex. During Artwave, my work will be on display at the Gun Brewery Taproom in Chiddingly, where I will also teach two workshops on 13 and 14 September.

My final workshop of 2025 will be a two-day event held at Beechwood Hall on 17 and 18 October, where participants will learn to make a willow frame basket and enjoy a delicious meal and refreshments each day.

For more information, visit: www.matildagrover.com or email hello@matildagrover.com



# Rail and roads updates

There have been several developments on rail issues affecting since our last report.

#### Cooksbridge station environment

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first passenger train in Great Britain the Cooksbridge Station Partnership has erected a weathervane by the station car park. It features a design of Locomotion No 1.



Our team was assisted in the laser cutting of the design by Steve at Cirrus Laser Ltd and the weathervane was forged and put together by Richard at Studio Forge in Offham. A big thanks to them and also lan from the volunteer team who oversaw it safely in the ground and tethered.

There is still space on the waiting room notice board for some more creative locos. Thank you to the pupils at Hamsey School for colouring in some trains during breakfast club. We always appreciate all the art you make to decorate the boards.



#### Train services from Cooksbridge

Our local train operator GTR (Southern) has now advised the detailed timings for the re-instated direct London Bridge service from the December 2025 timetable change:

Up (to London): Cooksbridge depart 07:19, London Bridge arrive 08:25.

Down (to Eastbourne): London Bridge depart 17:03, Cooksbridge arrive 18:01.

The service will run from Monday to Thursday only initially until demand is sufficient for GTR to make the necessary justification to the government's Department for Transport for a Friday service.

### Hamsey litter pick: A successful Summer clean-up

On Sunday 27 July, the community came together for the summer litter pick, demonstrating once again the positive impact local volunteers have on our shared environment. A dedicated team of eleven residents took to the lanes and byways covering the area between Bevern Bridge and the Lewes junction, south of Offham.

Over the course of the morning, volunteers collected a total of eleven bin bags filled with assorted litter, highlighting the ongoing need for community vigilance. Among the more unusual finds were a stray tyre, two kitchen mops, and a well-thumbed copy of The Guinness Book of Records.

These incidents of fly-tipping were reported quickly via the 'Love Clean Streets' app, an invaluable tool for residents wishing to improve the appearance and safety of our parish.



The next parish litter pick is scheduled for Sunday, 26 October, meeting at Beechwood Hall at 10 am. Everyone is invited to join in—whether for half an hour or the whole morning—to help keep Hamsey looking its best.

Everyone is welcome—come and do your bit for our lovely parish!

Peter Langley



# restive fun dates for the diary

#### Festive craft market and cafe

Saturday 15th November 2-5pm. Sellers wanted, contact marketing@beechwoodhall.org



#### Wreath making

Thursday 27th November 2 sessions 4pm and 7pm. Suitable for all abilities, parents can come to help younger children or do together.

#### Meet up with minis Christmas special

Friday 5th December 10am-12md









Light trail
Saturday 6th December 4.30-6.30pm

#### Christmas party (18+)

Saturday 6th December 8pm onwards





Santa sleigh coming round the parish

TBC (tentatively Saturday 13th December - early evening)

All at Beechwood Hall unless otherwise stated.



BEECHWOOD

hall & rural park