

Hamsey News

Winter 2025





Contents

Welcome	3
Hamsey Parish Council update	4
Planning	9
News from St Peter's	10
Friends of Hamsey Church	13
Hamsey Primary	16
Guards of Honour	20
Monday Afternoon Club	22
Wild Hamsey	24
Sustainable Hamsey	25
Hamsey Gardens	26
Jamie's Farm	28
Repair Cafe	30



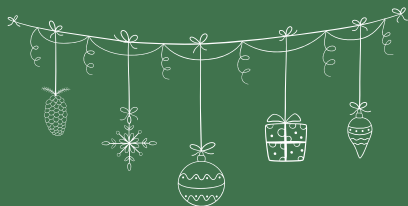
Welcome from the Editor



This is my third winter edition of Hamsey News as Editor and it is again a real pleasure to put it all together. Seeing all the activities planned around this season makes me feel less like hibernating and more like socialising - despite my cold feet and fingers as I type.

Talking of socialising, those of you who eagerly pencilled the Beechwood Hall Christmas Party into your diaries, after the light trail on 06 December, may be concerned to see it no longer advertised. Unfortunately, there wasn't the funding for the equipment needed to put on a good night. Don't be disappointed though, The Blacksmith's Arms have kindly stepped in to host the Hamsey Night's Crew for a pop-up party and Summer Festival fundraiser that same night. This is a great way to support your local community and your local pub.

Join us there from 19:00 until late!



Helen Clegg
Editor

helen.clegg@hotmail.co.uk



Hamsey Parish Updates



As we come to the end of a busy autumn, I want to begin by thanking everyone across the parish who has contributed, volunteered, written in, raised issues, or supported the work of your Parish Council. The last two meetings have shown just how much activity continues behind the scenes, from planning and highways to youth engagement, events, environmental work, and community wellbeing. I'm incredibly grateful to all councillors and residents who help keep our parish moving forward with such care.

Over the past months, we've continued to represent the community robustly on the Cala Homes development, meeting with Lewes District Council and developers to make the parish's objections clear. Nonetheless, we have been informed by Lewes Planning Department that the open fields between Cooksbridge and Hamsey, known as 19HY will be going forward as a developable site into the next phase of the plan consultation, (the document



that sets out what and where they find acceptable for development of the whole district, including housing). A potential 60-900 additional homes. As we found with the 13HY site north of Cooksbridge, now up for 151 new houses, this will likely lead to a speculative planning application being submitted before the plan local plan is in place to control them. We will be organising community engagement events, so please keep a look out on the Parish Council Website or sign up for notifications there for more information.



Alongside this, councillors have been pushing for better pedestrian and cycle connections, improvements to the A275, and increased road safety. We have seen far too many accidents in recent weeks, and we continue to press Highways for lower speed limits. Thank you to everyone who reports issues; every report strengthens our case.

Our finances remain in good shape, and we have set a careful budget for 2026/27 that protects services while allowing us to continue supporting local charities and community needs. My thanks to Marie, our Parish Clerk, for her impeccable financial management.

We are also exploring new communication methods, including WhatsApp Communities, to help reach residents who don't use Facebook, especially in emergencies.

And work is beginning on updating our Neighbourhood Plan and Rural Design Code, a major task for the year ahead.

On the environment, councillors remain eager to support the Rights of the River Ouse Charter and to contribute to the Sussex Nature Recovery consultation.

One of the loveliest acts of community activity this season has been the bulb planting. A huge thank you to Sarah Hughes, Miki Brightmore, Alice Barling Gasson, and Martin Blackmore, who dug, lifted, cleared and planted until hands and backs were sore. With a bit of luck, we will be awash with daffodils welcoming the spring, a small but heartfelt reminder of what community effort can create.



Combined with the new railing planters at the school, we hope the area will become more visible from the road, small but meaningful steps to help remind passing traffic to slow down.





BEECHWOOD

hall & rural park

What's On at Beechwood Hall

Monday

Yoga with Robin (9:30–10:45am)

robintassie@gmail.com

Iyengar Yoga with Jo Clayton (12:30–1:30pm)

joclayton42@hotmail.com

Tuesday

Feldenkrais – Awareness Through Movement (10:00 - 11:00am)

For more information call: 07595 543605

Mish Mash Morris Dancing (evening)

phil77_again@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday

Limber Pilates with Amy Martin (7:00 - 8:00pm)

amy@limberphysiotherapy.co.uk

Lewes BJJ - Adult Martial Arts (8:30 - 10:30pm)

lewesbjj@gmail.com

Thursday

Scaravelli Yoga with Dot Bowen (9.30-11.30am)

For bookings and more information, please call 07940770123

Sunday

Monthly Restorative Yoga Mornings with Tracey Clare (10:00am - 1:00pm)

traceyclare@zoho.eu

Special Workshop

Basketry Workshop with Matilda Grover

Date: 10th & 11th Jan 2026 Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

matildagrover@outlook.com

A particularly positive development this autumn has been youth provision. Thanks to Cllr Carolyn Henry, who successfully secured a grant to help develop new youth activities in the parish, we are now able to shape a monthly youth club that truly reflects what young people want.



A huge thank you also to Cllr Neil Osborne, who has stepped forward to manage and run the new youth club, supported by Cllr Leith McKenzie and Cllr Dave Bush. We wish them the very best as this takes shape. And to all the young people in the parish: please tell us what you'd like to see, theatre, DJ workshops, rapping, sport, crafts, gaming, self-defence, whatever excites you. This is your space, and we want to build it around your ideas.

Beechwood Hall continues to go from strength to strength, supported by a refreshed approach to managing maintenance costs across the rural park. A particular thank you to Jim Edwards for supporting this, with beautiful new picnic benches at the Hall.

Our community events remain incredibly popular, with a sold-out theatre night, Tales for an Unruly Audience, a very successful Christmas craft fair, more Christmas events ahead (the light trail and Santa's sleigh!), and both the Easter Trail and Community Day already planned for 2026.





As ever, thank you to my fellow councillors, Cllrs Henry, McBrown, McKenzie, Bush, and Osborne for the endless hours they put in on behalf of the parish, and to Marie for keeping us organised, informed, and running smoothly. Thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who help deliver Hamsey News.

Finally, and most importantly, we say a loving goodbye to two wonderful colleagues. Firstly, our Inclusion Officer, Natalie Kinch, whose help, dedication and support have been invaluable over the years. From joining us as a councillor in 2018, to stepping in as Clerk during lockdown, and then guiding us as our Inclusion Officer, you have been the glue that has held our happy band of parish councillors together. We wish you all the love and luck for the future, and we have no doubt we'll continue to rely on your deep community knowledge and quick-thinking brain in the years ahead (although we will try not too!). Most importantly... we sincerely hope you remain our Christmas Elf on the sleigh!

And if that weren't sad enough, we also say a fond farewell to Cllr Amanda Sanders, who is stepping back from parish duties after almost 3 years (how time flies) of dedicated service. Amanda, we are deeply grateful for the time, care and warmth you have given to our community. Your work on rail and bus issues, your stewardship of the phone box library, your help with the food bank collections, your willingness to volunteer whenever help was needed, and your steady, capable presence have all made a real difference. We wish you health, happiness and every good thing in the days to come.



We will miss you both enormously, but send our love and very best wishes to you and your families. And lastly, to all residents of Hamsey Parish, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year!

With best wishes,
Minty Cadwallader
Chair, Hamsey Parish Council
07956 372282
www.hamseyparish.gov.uk

Planning



Applications still awaiting a decision/in progress (as at 31 October 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/25/0339 – 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.



SDNP/25/03056/LDE – 3 Pine Barn, Old Church Lane, Hamsey: Self-contained dwellinghouse.

SDNP/25/03057/LDE – The Woodshed, Old Church Lane, Hamsey: Self-contained dwellinghouse.

LW/25/0484 – Former Hamsey Brickworks, South Road: Erection of 12 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated access, landscaping, parking, and infrastructure works.



DON'T URBANISE HAMSEY



JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

WWW.DONTURBANISEHAMSEY.ORG

News from St Peters

In Hamsey Parish there are two churches both dedicated to St Peter; the original church which some of you may know and the later one opposite the Blacksmith's Arms, at Offham. This later was built at the insistence of the then incumbent as access to old Hamsey was difficult and very muddy.

Old Hamsey church is recorded as a church in the Domesday survey of 1086. It managed to remain untouched by enthusiastic Victorians and has never acquired the modern necessities of electricity or water and in consequence a toilet! One of its many claims of interest is a visit from King Athelstan in 925 who held his court in the area and may have visited the church. The building is cared for by a charity The Friends of Hamsey which, over the years, has restored the roof and recently the interior, so it is looking very well. It is also the Parish churchyard with an estimated 3,500 burials. Its remoteness and position have led it to become a special place for many. Walkers who make the detour to what is a dead end (no pun intended), can visit the church, open most weekends, and enjoy the views across to the Downs.

As with all ancient buildings, stories mostly fictitious, are built around them. It was a 'plague church' abandoned by deceased residents being one. Another is that the Holy Grail is buried in the chancel. This alas untrue, otherwise I would have no financial concerns in regard its management.

Over time the church and surrounds have acquired the definition of a 'thin place'. You may have come across this concept. The idea has a long history. These are places where the veil between the earthly realm and the spirit realm seems thinner. Heaven and earth are only three feet apart, so the saying goes, but in Celtic thinking that distance is even less. Wild places and holy sites like Hamsey, have deep meaning and heightened experience, they are 'thin places'. Many sites have acquired this definition; wild places of natural beauty, mountains, and holy sites, Lindisfarne for example. Such places can help us focus and even prompt a 'spiritual' experience.



However, this seems to imply that spirituality should have a kind of 'thinness', a kind of ethereal nature separated from the bodily and material which I suppose we should call 'thickness'. There is a kind of dualism in which we imagine creation and our lived experience as two realities, one of spirit and one of matter. By implication 'thinness' is to be sought and praised, we relate to an invisible 'elsewhere', rather than the physicality of the here and now. This separation suggests that the divine is separate from the messy business of ordinary life.

One of the characteristics of our (inadequate) concept of God is that God is omnipresent, present in this world everywhere not just particular places. Indeed, a doctrine of creation holds that all things are within God and not separate. We do not need buildings made from stones or natural beauty to find the spiritual.

Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite friar, whose words are recorded in *Practicing the Presence of God*, spoke about being with God as he worked in the monastery kitchen peeling the potatoes (a loose translation) as when at prayer in the oratory.

Perhaps another way of thinking about the spiritual is to explore how it is found within the material, thus not separated. This way can alert us to seeing God in the material 'now-ness'. We do not have to escape the 'thickness' of daily life to find God. It is there in the kindness of a stranger, the hospital ward, the flowering weed growing on a rubbish heap, the welcome of your dog, the signs of life emerging from a polluted stream, the car park at Tesco, in prayer and wonder, and especially in my case, my morning cup of hot coffee, always received with a prayer of gratitude.



Our Christmas services:

Carols by candlelight: Old Hamsey, 14 December, 15:00

There is car park in the field before the bridge, but it can become crowded and slippery if the weather is wet. Suggest parking at St Peter Offham and walking down (10–15 minutes). Wrap up warm and bring a torch.

Nine lessons and carols: St Peter's Offham, 24 December, 09:30

Start your Christmas with this traditional service – early enough to catch up on the last minute arrangements afterwards. Refreshments following - Mulled wine and mince pies.

Holy Communion (Traditional Book of Common Prayer):

St Peter's Offham, Christmas Eve, 25 December, 09:30



Friends of Hamsey Church

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our well-attended annual OPEN DAY on Sunday 31 August. The sun shone and there was music throughout the afternoon from our talented Sussex musician friends.

Tasty teas and delicious homemade cakes were served by Angie, Diane, Emily, and Jo; Rupert's popular Pimms table saw steady traffic; Alice's raffle was more than just the ticket; Sue's graveyard info was pored over and some very special Hamsey calendars by Paul Evans were on sale. In total over £1,800 was raised; making it our most successful Open Day to date. Thanks to everyone who helped contribute to that success!

In the wake of Keith Pettit and Paul Evans three weekends of ARTWAVE at Hamsey in September, both artists very generously donated all proceeds to the Friends of Hamsey Church restoration fund.

Paul sold more calendars and both artists held silent auctions, and the outcome was: limited edition calendars £325, Paul's original painting 'Magical Winter Evening at Hamsey' £2,345, Keith's limited edition 'Evening Light at Hamsey' wood block print £500, and donations £55.30. Total £3,225.30. Grateful thanks to them both!





"Oh, Come
All Ye
Faithful..."

CAROLS at Old Hamsey

Join us for a delightfully traditional Carol Service

Sunday 14th December
2025 at
3pm



OLD ST. PETER'S CHURCH
IVORS LANE, HAMSEY
EAST SUSSEX BN8 5TB

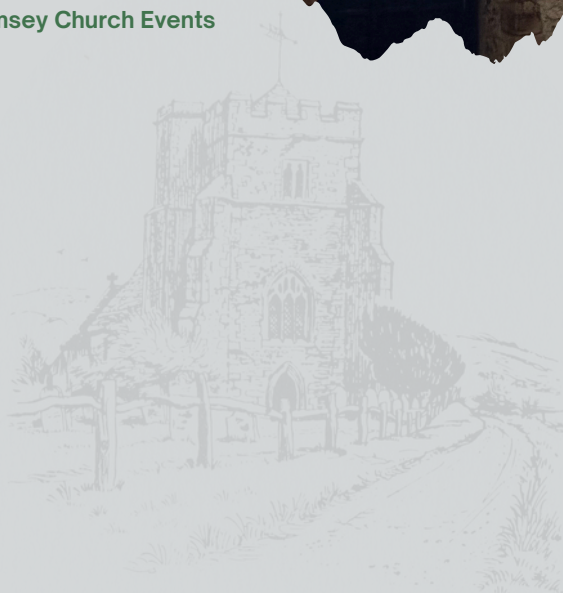
ALL WELCOME... with perhaps a blanket and a torch!

Following this summer's interior redecoration works the church is looking splendid but we still have £60,000 to raise for TOWER REPOINTING AND REPAIRS. The tower suffers both from failed pointing and from replacement pointing made of non-breathable cement mortar, rather than the necessary lime mortar; this must be replaced and some stonework repaired.

Plans are in progress for a ticketed evening event in late spring featuring some of the musicians who performed on Open Day and others; details to be announced. Watch out, too, for another quiz evening early next year!

We look forward to seeing you at 15:00 on Sunday 14 December for this year's CAROL SERVICE by candlelight; do wrap up warmly for this very popular traditional service and don't forget your torch!

Marion Hughes
Friends of Hamsey Church Events
Committee



Hamsey Primary



Year 6 members of the School Council have been tasked with being mini-journalists! Each chose a class to write a termly round up for Hamsey News.

Hedgehogs (Reception & Year 1) by Bonnie

This term, Hedgehogs class have been diving into a breathtaking world of art. Reception children have been painting some outstanding self-portraits and have done inspirational drawings of bunnies. On the other hand, Year 1s have done incredible chalk drawings of skeletons.

In phonics, Year 1 have been learning digraphs and trigraphs while Reception children have been learning how to use single letter and double letter sounds in words. Reception children have been learning how to count to 50 fluently while Year 1s have been learning how to add and subtract using cubes to help them.



In their Project work, they have been filling in their "Incredible Me" books. In these books they have drawn pictures of their family; made secondary colours; drawn fire work pictures; and painted poppies.

Here are some comments from the Hedgehog children:

My favourite thing about the play area is the white board because I like drawing on it!



Sapphi

My favourite part of the play area is the sand pit because I like building with it



Vinnie





Foxes by Isaac

This term, Foxes Class Project work has focused on learning about history. They have been comparing the past with the present, comparing clothes and everyday items. They have done drawings of the Victorian era and their families. They have even been learning about toys and music from the past and present, and put these on a timeline. They learnt about Lin Manuel Miranda, the person who composed the music for Encanto. The children selected instruments that they thought would best represent the magical powers of one of the characters and made their own music using invented notations for their friends to listen to and guess what character it might be. The Foxes compared their teddy bears by drawing their teddy bears next to a picture of a teddy bear from 1920. They also learnt about Mary Seacole who was a person who helped wounded soldiers in war.



Badgers by Tess

Badgers have had an amazing action – packed start to the year learning about the Ancient Greeks. Their Maths and English lessons were so amazing.

In science, Badgers have been learning about animals, including humans. They have been studying a healthy meal - like green beans, potatoes, salmon and a lemon - and looking at the food wheel. In their Fizz Pop science session, they learnt about how bodies recognise sweet and sour tastes. They told me it was a lot of fun trying to guess what the tastes were. They also looked at the different parts of the body like the skull, humerus, rib cage, radius, ulna, spine, tibia and fibula. In term 2, they looked at different types of rocks like crystal, magma, igneous, intrusive and extrusive and many more lovely things. Badgers are amazing at science.





HAMSEY SCHOOL OPEN MORNINGS

A KIND, CREATIVE COMMUNITY WHERE
LEARNING IS AN ADVENTURE

RECEPTION CLASS 2026 OPEN MORNINGS:

- WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER '25 – 9.30 – 11.30
- FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY '26 – 9.30 – 11.30

Please contact the school office for more information:

HAMSEY SCHOOL OFFICE – 01273 400370

www.hamsey.e-sussex.sch.uk



SkylarkFederation

In art they learnt about different techniques, like shading light to dark and using a pen pressing hard and softly. They tried some top tips like do not rush and use lots of details. Badgers also drew 3D objects like a cube and a sphere. They shaded-in a bottle, a teacup and an object of their choice.



They liked creating a bubble painting where they choose their own colours. They also created Ancient Greek patterns. Some children loved drawing for our Harvest celebrations, they drew animals such as owls, badgers, foxes and hedgehogs.



In their Project work, they have learnt about ancestors and what we know about the Ancient Greeks. They shared some facts about the Ancient Greeks.

Josh and Dora told me:

"They invented the Olympics!"

Bronwyn and Effie said:

"They are from Greece".



Owls by Rupert

This term in Owls Class we have been very busy! In our project work we have been learning about our Stone Age to Bronze Age ancestors. We have looked at cave paintings from the Lascaux caves. Some of the artwork is up to 30,000 years old! My favourite part of the term was when we went to Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire. Our first activity was making fences with the wattling technique. Then we used flint to carve chalk. Our last activity was when making jewellery out of pieces of copper wire.

In maths this term we have been learning about Roman numerals; place value charts with numbers up to 10,000,000; mental strategies in addition and subtraction; common multiples; and factors. We also have learnt about square and cubed numbers and have completed a lot of work on fractions.

In English we have learnt how to correctly use speech punctuation and semi-colons. We have used foundational skills in all our work.

Guard of honour:

Living memorials to honour Hamsey's fallen

*They shall grow not old as we
that are left grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning.*

We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon

A year has passed already since the avenue of veteran oak trees on Hamsey Lane was dedicated to the men of the parish who lost their lives in the two world wars. This majestic guard of honour is a living memorial and an enduring tribute to the men's bravery and the sacrifice they made.

Many of us will have read the details on the small plaques the parish council carefully placed on these trees: the men's names and ages, where they lived, where they served and tragically how they died. Looking at their dates of birth and death, it is impossible not to imagine the heartbreak their loved ones must have felt as the men, many at a very young age, lost their lives fighting for the freedoms we enjoy. It is so fitting that these oaks were chosen to commemorate the servicemen.

Much loved by local residents today, the Hamsey oaks would no doubt have been familiar to the men themselves as they walked and played along the lanes and fields. Most of the trees are over 200 years old. One dates back to the 1700s and is still going strong. Together they help give our landscape its special character and a sense of time and lives long before our own. They are witnesses to enormous changes and by rights will be present for centuries to come. life.

One of the beauties of this living memorial is that the oaks are hosts to a world of wildlife, providing a home to so many non-human Hamsey residents. A single UK oak tree can support over 2,300 species, offering food, shelter and spaces to breed. No other tree species in the UK supports a greater diversity of life than an old oak. 326 species depend on oaks for their very survival, and 229 species are rarely found on any trees other than oaks.



Acorns of course provide food for many species including badgers and wood mice, and are especially enjoyed by woodpeckers, nuthatches and jays. Indeed, jays bury up to 300 acorns a month in the hope of eating them up later, making them the greatest rewilders in town. Over a thousand invertebrates love oaks – butterflies such as the purple hairstreak butterfly feed exclusively on oaks. The trees provide habitat for very many birds, and the bark provides cosy niches for bats, beetles and moths. We are lucky enough to share our area with two thirds of UK bat species, and the oaks are doing a fine job of providing just the sort of housing so many of them need.

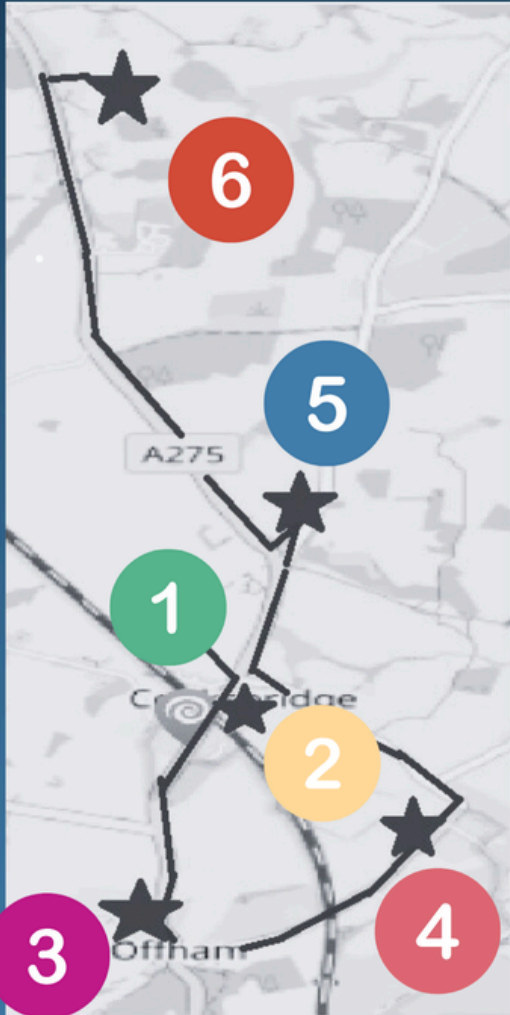
Oak roots are surprisingly shallow but extend well beyond the trees' crowns. It is not hard to imagine the underground networks of mycorrhizal fungi linking the roots of the Hamsey oaks, sharing nutrients, keeping them strong together and connecting them in their very own wildlife web.

How wonderful that these marvellous oaks have been dedicated to the lives of the men who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. Our guard of honour keeps their memory alive for us and for many generations to come. The role the trees play in protecting so much wildlife is invaluable too. It falls to us to protect them as veteran sentinels of the lives, loves and landscape we cherish.



Hamsey Christmas Sleigh 2025!

Sat 13th Dec
4.30pm start



- 1 Chatfield Close
- 2 Bus Stop opposite Cooksbridge station
- 3 Blacksmiths Arms
- 4 Highwells, Hamsey
- 5 The Rainbow Inn
- 6 Hamsey Lakes



**HELP for
HEROES**
Support for our Wounded



Sleigh Tracker link
hamseyparish.



gov.uk



Monday Afternoon Club

We were delighted that Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, had space in her very full diary to fit in a return visit to Monday Club in August. After a fascinating talk she joined in birthday celebrations for Brian and Beth - both celebrating significant birthdays (though some years apart!).

It's always good to have a talk by a local resident so Alan Jackson from Offham was a very popular choice of speaker in October. His slide show on Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines (actually it was Magnificent Women - and not just Amy Jonson!) was superb.

Every year Monday Club members generously support Offham Church's Harvest Appeal with donations for Landport Food Bank.

Before they were later distributed they formed part of the lovely Harvest Festival displays in St Peter's - beautifully arranged by Monday Club's Jane and her helpers.

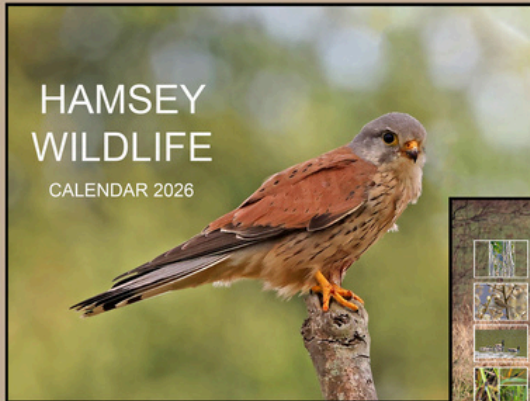
We are now looking forward to our annual Christmas Lunch at Gradwell Park, Chailey on 15 December. I've got 30 bookings at the moment - almost the maximum but may be able to squeeze one or two more in so do be in touch if you are interested (and a retired member of the village community). Just call me on 07889 281214.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Judith Bastide



Wildlife in Hamsey



My New Calendar for 2026 featuring Wildlife in Hamsey
£12 Payment by Card or Cash
contact me either on
peterschueler@mac.com or WhatsApp using the QR Code



Proceeds from my calendar
this year will go to
The Bevern Trust

fb Hamsey Cooksbridge and Offham Wildlife



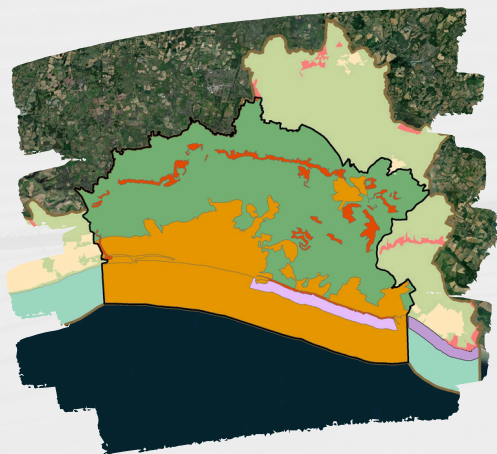


Sustainable Hamsey

In a significant environmental achievement for Hamsey Parish, especially amidst intense development pressure, our area has now been included in the Sussex Living Coast Biosphere Reserve.

This expansion is part of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) initiative that successfully renewed its designation for another 10 years at the World Congress of Biosphere Reserves. The renewal recognises the vital work taking place to enhance unique landscapes and, crucially for Hamsey residents, granted the application to expand The Living Coast area.

The expanded Biosphere now covers over 700 square kilometres of Sussex, stretching from Worthing to Seaford and north over the South Downs National Park to the Low Weald, encompassing 550,000 residents.



The Living Coast, originally designated in 2014 for its unique chalk land and seascape, has a proven track record of success:

- protecting water supplies through measures such as rain gardens.
- enhancing sustainability by delivering toolkits and coaching to local businesses.
- supporting conservation projects like the restoration of the Cockshut chalk stream and the Kelp Recovery Project.
- fostering environmental education via the nationally renowned 'Our City Our World' programme in schools.

The expanded Biosphere aims to strengthen and build on 10 years of collaboration between local organisations, communities, and businesses, providing new opportunities to connect people and nature. Its allied organisations aim to:

- protect and enhance wildlife and habitats
- promote a sustainable economy and communities
- champion environmental education, training, and research

Backed by Hamsey Parish Council, this marks a vital step in safeguarding Hamsey's unique local environment.

Hamsey gardens

A colourful Mast year

**November sky is chill and clear.
November leaf is red and sear' - Sir
Walter Scott.**

We are so lucky to live close to Sheffield Park where we can see nature's annual dazzling display of colour to guide us into the dark, damp winter. This year the crunch under foot of acorns, beechnuts and conkers is greater as it seems we are a Mast year – beginning with bumper crops of berry fruits.

Did you know...

Foliage is mainly green due to chlorophyll that makes plant food through photosynthesis. As days shorten deciduous trees (those that lose leaves), need a lot less food, so the production of chlorophyll stops. As the green chlorophyll fades the underlying colours of red, orange and yellow show through. The colder temperatures trap these colours in the leaves giving us the vibrant displays.



Great autumn colour plants for your garden include Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*); *Euonymus alatus*; Rowans (*Sorbus*) and *Rhus typhina* along with *Cornus* stems of 'Midwinter Fire' and now is a good time to plant bare root trees and shrubs, before the ground freezes.

Mast years mean trees produce an abundance of nuts and seeds – this is due to warm dry springs and hot dry summers, drought stress can also have an impact, as tree think they need to produce off-spring for survival.

Did you also know that trees in close proximity will generally synchronise their Mast years – this is done through the 'Wood Wide Web' – a huge network of fungal threads allowing trees to share nutrients and water and send warnings of drought and pests! Isn't nature great, and all the more reason to treasure what we have and not cover with concrete and buildings!

Don't forget to buy your Hamsey Wildlife Calendar which captures the birds and animals we have in our community.

Happy Christmas and here's to a great 2026!

Wendy x



Festive fun dates for the diary



Light trail at Beechwood Hall



Saturday 6th December 4.30-6.30pm

Meet up with minis Christmas special at Beechwood Hall



Date change Friday 12th December 10am-12md

Santa sleigh coming round the parish



Saturday 13th December - 4:30 onwards



BEECHWOOD
hall & rural park

Kotryna's story: a week that changed everything



At 15, Kotryna couldn't see herself finishing school. She felt withdrawn, disengaged, and when she did attend, her behaviour was spiralling. But at Jamie's Farm, everything changed.

Held by the quiet rhythm of the countryside, with her phone set aside and surrounded by encouragement, Kotryna began to thrive. Through shared experiences — hiking, caring for animals, preparing meals — she connected with her PE teacher, who was also on the visit. That teacher became her mentor back at school. That trusted relationship helped Kotryna re-engage with learning and feel supported for the first time. Now 18, she's started university — with confidence and a belief in her future.

This experience has allowed me to continue my education and live my life with confidence. I would want every child to have the opportunity to experience Jamie's Farm, so if you're thinking of donating, just do it — it's so worth it!

Last year, over 1 in 4 secondary school pupils were persistently absent from school. At Jamie's Farm on Allington Lane, we help young people re-engage with education. Through life-changing experiences on our working farm, children overcome challenges, rebuild confidence, and return to school with a renewed sense of purpose.

Don't miss your chance to DOUBLE your impact. All donations in our Christmas Challenge — between 2nd and 9th December — are doubled! Thank you for helping children thrive this Christmas.

www.jamiesfarm.org.uk



BEECHWOOD YOUTH CLUB

YOUTH CONNECTION INITIATIVE

AGES 11 - 16

Dates:

20th November 2025

4th December 2025

24th January 2026

26th February 2026

26th March 2026

Monthly Youth club
brought to the community
through
Youth Connection Initiative
Monthly 7-9pm

Scan QR code to join
whatsapp group.



Beechwood Hall - Cooksbridge - BN7 3QG

Chailey repair café

Getting you ready for Christmas

It happens every year, doesn't it? You get the carving knife out to serve the turkey and it's blunt. You get the Christmas tree lights out and they don't light up. You put your favourite music on your vintage CD/vinyl player and it doesn't work.

Fear not – we are open on 13 December to help you get things going again. We will try to repair your portable domestic item while you wait and watch. There is no charge for the service, but we invite donations to support running costs.



There is no need to book – just turn up. You'll find us at St Peter's Church, Chailey on the A275 at Chailey Green on the second Saturday of each month between 10:00 and 13:00, where we also serve a full café service including our legendary cakes.

One remarkable item recently brought to us was a very unusual tablecloth needing attention to its hem. It belonged to Beryl Melville, who was part of an acrobatic act that toured the world. Beryl collected signatures from famous people she met, including Frankie Howerd, Jack Warner, Michael Bentine, Josef Locke, and Sophie Tucker.



The tablecloth dates from the late 1940s to early 1950s and was in very poor condition when it arrived.

The fabrics team gave advice on cleaning the fragile cloth. Team member Marilyn then volunteered to finish the 10 motifs Beryl had pencilled in ready for embroidery.

Do you have a family heirloom which needs the Repair Café treatment? If you're not sure if we can fix your item, email us at chaileysrc@gmail.com.

Bryan McAlley and the Chailey Repair Café team.



PLEASE
DON'T
STOP
THE MUSIC

Hamsey Nights presents...
Pop-up party and Summer Festival
fundraiser

06 DECEMBER 2025

Blacksmith's Arms, Offham

From 19:00 til LATE