

Chailey News

Free



Sussex
2026

February 2026

The Church of St Peter Parish of Chailey



WEEKDAYS

Monday 8pm Bell Ringing Practice

Thursday 6.30pm Choir Practice

New ringers and choir members always welcome.

Transport to services can be arranged: please contact the churchwardens. The Church is open during daylight hours.

PRIEST IN CHARGE: Revd Paul Mundy 01825 723186

PARISH OFFICE : The Parish Office will be manned occasionally
Teresa Wenban 01825 722286
stpeterschurch12@hotmail.co.uk
Web site www.stpeterschailey.org

CHURCHWARDENS: Mr Paul Corver 01825 724687
paul.corver@btinternet.com
Mrs Bea Annis 07837859750
jonathan.a.d.annis@btinternet.com

PCC SECRETARY: Mr Chris James 01825 722411

MAGAZINE ADVERTISING & FLYER INSERTS:
Mr Chris Jones 01825 508721
E-mail jonespellingford@aol.com

CHAILEY FREE CHURCH, SOUTH CHAILEY

Please see details of services and weekday activities later in magazine

Contacts: Mr Roger Nutley 01273 890114
Pete Cottingham 07757 388477

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Herons Ghyll:	Wednesday 9.30am	Sunday 11.30am Holy Days 12 noon
Haywards Heath:		Sunday 8.30am 10.30am 5pm
Uckfield:	Saturday 5.30pm	Sunday 9.30am
Lewes:		Sunday 9am 10.30am

For further information about Roman Catholic services and activities, please contact Mrs Mary Butterfield, 01825 724003

(cover illustration by William Hobday. Commissions Taken.
www.penandinkartist.co.uk. email: williamhobday@gmail.com)



St Peter's
CHURCH CHAILEY

FEBRUARY SERVICES 2026

Services will be held each week as shown due to church closure for repairs to the floor. All 8am Holy Communions will be at St Mary's Newick.

Sunday 1st February *The fourth Sunday of Epiphany*
***Five Bells, Chailey* 9am Parish Communion followed by breakfast.**

Sunday 8th February *The second Sunday before Lent*
***St Martin's, Chailey Heritage* 10am Parish Communion**

Sunday 15th February *The Sunday next before Lent*
***St Mary's, Newick,* 10am Parish Communion**

Sunday 22nd February *The first Sunday of Lent*
***St Martin's, Chailey Heritage* 10am Parish Communion**

Sunday 1st March *The second Sunday of Lent*
***Five Bells, Chailey* 9am Parish Communion followed by breakfast.**

BCP is the Book of Common Prayer (1662). All other Eucharistic Services are from Common Worship: Order One. We welcome everyone warmly and families and children are always welcome at all our services.

Rectors Ramble

"The Spirit drove him out into the wilderness, and he was there for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him".
Mark 1:11-13

Dear friends,

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the St Peter's Chailey's Church & Community Magazine. *'I always give in to temptation', wrote George Bernard Shaw, 'because I find that what is bad for me does not tempt me.'*

If only it were true! Seven weeks or so ago, many of us made New Year resolutions.

I wonder how many are still being kept?

Or are we more like the man who said giving up chocolate was easy – he'd done it dozens of times! Some people find it helpful to distinguish between doing wrong and being wrong.

Who knows what would have happened if Adam and Eve had admitted their guilt straight away?

But we all know that, so very often doing wrong leads to being wrong. We search for reasons for acting as we did; we blame our environment, our education, or someone else.

Adam blames Eve: Eve blames the serpent; and the serpent's 'he said that; but what did he mean?' is, quite literally, the oldest trick in the book!

Mark, in his account of the temptation, uses an interesting phrase. He says that Jesus 'was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.' It has been suggested that this represents the psychological truth that while we resist temptation, it remains fascinating, alluring, dangerous.

It is when we admit the reality of what tempts us that it can be converted into a strength, because it loses its power over us. It becomes, not our master, but our servant.

In Matthew's account of this event, we see something of the process by which Jesus achieved this, and presumably taught his disciples. It shows that sin, as Paul reminded the church at Rome, has to be worked for; but grace comes as a free gift!

The characteristic notes of Lent are self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added, and we are reminded that we come into the world with nothing – so whenever we give, it means we're handing over something that we in turn have received.

How might our awareness of Christ's 'salvation history' – and our own history – impact upon our own readiness to increase our giving to St Peter's which has served our community with generosity and hope for so many years?

Could your giving this year enable us to secure a future for St Peter's for many generations to come?

As we enter the season of Lent, on Ash Wednesday 18th February, the Church invites us once again to walk with Jesus into the wilderness. For forty days and forty nights, Jesus stepped away from the familiar and the comfortable, into a place of testing, prayer and dependence on God. Lent is not about punishment or deprivation for its own sake, but about attentiveness: learning again what truly sustains us when familiar supports are stripped away.

This Lent feels especially resonant for us at St Peter's Chailey, because we too find ourselves in an unexpected wilderness of sorts. As many of you know, St Peter's is currently closed while the long-awaited new floor is installed. The doors are shut, the pews are stacked, and the building that has held our prayers, baptisms, weddings, funerals and quiet moments for generations is temporarily silent. For many of us, that absence is keenly felt. Holy spaces matter, and when they are taken away, even for good reasons, we notice how deeply rooted they are in our lives.

Yet Lent reminds us that wilderness times are not wasted time. In the Bible, the wilderness is often where God does some of God's deepest work: shaping identity, clarifying purpose, renewing trust. Jesus' forty days prepared him for public ministry. The people of Israel learned dependence and obedience in the desert. And so, as we find ourselves without St Peter's for a season, we are invited to see this not only as an inconvenience to endure, but as an opportunity to reflect on who

we are as a church beyond bricks and mortar.

Church, after all, has never been only a building. It is a people, gathered in faith, rooted in prayer, and sent out in love. Over these weeks, we are being reminded of that truth in very practical ways. We are discovering that the Body of Christ stretches beyond our walls, and that hospitality, generosity and partnership are gifts to be received with gratitude.

We offer sincere thanks to The Five Bells pub, which has stepped into an unexpected roll with our breakfast service at 9:30 on the first Sunday of the Month in February & March. There is something quietly beautiful about prayer and conversation happening around tables more often associated with meals and friendship. It echoes the ministry of Jesus himself, who so often taught, listened and welcomed people at the table. In these gatherings we are reminded that sacred moments can happen anywhere, and that community is often strengthened when we meet one another on common ground.

We give heartfelt thanks first to St Martin's Chapel at Chailey Heritage, whose welcome has been both warm and generous on the second and fourth Sundays, whilst the church is closed. To worship in that chapel is to be reminded of faith lived with resilience and hope, and of God's presence among all God's people. We are grateful for the openness with which space has been shared, and for the spirit of kindness that has made us feel at home.

And we are deeply thankful to our sister congregation at St Mary's, Newick, for their generosity and partnership during this time. Their hospitality is a living sign of the wider Church at work: congregations supporting one another, not out of obligation, but out of shared faith and mutual care. In worshipping alongside them, we are reminded that we are part of something much bigger than our own parish.

Lent is a season of waiting, of patience, of trusting that God is at work even when progress feels slow or uncertain. The new floor at St Peter's will, in time, be laid. The doors will reopen. The familiar rhythms will return, renewed and strengthened. But we hope that we will not simply return to "how things were".

Instead, may we carry forward what this wilderness season has taught us: gratitude for one another, openness to partnership, and a deeper awareness that God walks with us wherever we gather.

As we journey through Lent together, may we be attentive to God's presence in unfamiliar places, thankful for the kindness we have received, and hopeful for the new life that always follows the wilderness.

And when we do finally step back into St Peter's, may we do so with hearts enlarged by this season of shared pilgrimage, and if there is anyone of you who is looking to explore the idea of Baptism of Confirmation please be in touch, as we will be announcing our dates for our Deanery Confirmation very soon.

Have a great month, be joyful, keep the faith and keep doing the little things that make a difference to those you love and those in need.

Rev Paul x

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,

Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions,

And power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers,

In spiritual commitment to you,

And in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



February Diary

Thursday 5th ~ Craft & Chat 6.30pm-8.30pm

Join us for our monthly meet-up at the church.

Bring along a craft you are working on or join in with our 'craft of the month'.

All are welcome but under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday 9th ~ Messy Church 4.30pm-6.30pm

For the whole family (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Crafts, games and activities, singing and stories. Finishes with a meal together.

Suggested donation £2 per family.

Saturday 21st ~ Big Breakfast 9am

All welcome to join us for a tasty breakfast.

Wednesdays ~ Open Doors 11am-3pm.

Come along for chat, cake and a cuppa! All ages welcome.

Sundays ~ We meet at 10.30am for a time of worship and we warmly invite you to join us.

Chailey Free Church, South Chailey, BN8 4AN

For more information contact:

Roger on 01273 890114

Pete on 07757 388477



www.chaileyfreechurch.com

Pastoral Care Fund

St Peter's church has set up a specific fund to help families in Chailey who are suffering from hardship and difficult circumstances. Help is available to anyone in the village, not just to church members. If you know of anyone who needs financial or material help and who would benefit from access to this fund, please contact Rev'd Paul Mundy, one of the Church Wardens, or email 'stpeterschurch12@hotmail.co.uk'. This fund is ongoing and if you feel you can contribute, however little, it would be very much appreciated.

Donations can be made at any time to the Treasurer or directly to the bank. (Chailey P C C, Sort Code 09-01-55 Account 06923088. Please state 'Pastoral Care Fund'). Cheques can be posted in the letterbox outside St Peter's bell tower or handed to a Church Warden.

If you are able to gift aid your donation, please include a note with your name, address and postcode, or you can email a note to the Treasurer via: 'stpeterschurch12@hotmail.co.uk'.

From the Parish Leaflet for February

Our Pound Day on February 15th: had a highly successful result this year, in spite of the very wet weather. The following letter has been received by Mrs Orton from Miss L Martin, the Appeals Organiser. 'It is with very great pleasure that I acknowledge the welcome remittance of £6 and the splendid contribution of approximately 250lbs and 10 dozen eggs to our household stores. Your valued support in this way is most encouraging and our warmest thanks are tendered to you and all your helpers. Will you please where possible also convey our gratitude to those who so kindly gave to this special appeal.'

Note: Originally Pound day was a community effort where people gave a pound of staples (sugar flour) or fresh produce to support the war effort. Items were brought to collection points like the vicarage and transported to camps like Summerdown. Pound Days continued long after WW1 had ended due to severe food shortages.

Annette Shelford - annette@shelford.net

Chailey Evening WI

Chailey Evening WI meet, at the village hall, on Tuesday February 3rd at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Sue Hillman-Smith, a paramedic who in October 2025 received an award for 30 Years' NHS Long Service. The subject will be 'Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers' and having attended one of Sue's talks I know she is an enthusiastic and excellent speaker. She will explain about resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator after someone suffers a cardiac arrest, whilst demonstrating the complete procedure. Sue will also explain the difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest and how men and women can show different symptoms. Giving important information that could prove exceptionally useful to us all at some time in the future. For that reason this meeting is a must for all. Do come along, all are welcome, and the first visit is free and includes refreshments. For more information visit the group's Facebook page or call Mandy on 07546 592739.

Chailey Bonfire Society

Join us for a Mexican Quiz Night on Saturday 21st February at Chailey Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are £12 per person for teams of up to 6. Price includes a Nachos & Chilli supper. We will be running a bar (soft drinks included) and a raffle on the night.

Team entry forms are available by contacting us via Facebook – (search Chailey Bonfire Society) or by email from secretarychaileybonfire@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

The winner of our December 100 Club draw was number 44 – V Jerram, and the January draw was won by number 89 – A Killner congratulations and thank you for your support. Our next jumble sale is on Saturday 7th March at Chailey Village Hall from 11am. Jumble can be left at the hall on Friday 6th March from 7.30pm (no earlier) until 9pm and from 8.30am on the Saturday. We will be offering a local collection service from the end of January – please get in touch by email – secretarychaileybonfire@gmail.com, via Facebook or call Diane 07773 935403 to arrange a convenient time.

There is still time to get involved and help with our fundraising events, if you would like further information, please contact secretarychaileybonfire@gmail.com.

Chailey Horticultural Society

Our 2026 schedule is now available. All members should have received their copy along with membership renewal forms and entry forms.

Schedules complete with membership forms and show entry forms are available from The Five Bells and any committee member. Our first show is on the 21st March in the village hall so please come along and support us or even better put in some entries!

Also keep an eye out for other events we plan to put on.

February can be a bit of a dismal month, often(cold , damp and dark but it does represent the beginning of the growing season with the increase in daylight hours.

Aubergines and chillies require a long growing season and should be planted before the end of February. A propagator is really essential to ensure germination. When the second lot of leaves appear transplant into pots. I use small biodegradable pots so movement into larger pots doesn't require root disturbance. They will still need heat and light so in the absence of a heated greenhouse make use of sunny windowsills and be prepared to move plants around. For chillies in pots try De Cayenne and Apache with scoville heat units around 50 to 60 thousand but if you wish to impress your friends (and maybe lose them!) offer them the wonderfully named Carolina Reaper with a heat measurement of 1.6 million!

For aubergines Money Maker is a good reliable standard. Also don't forget that all these can be bought as plug plants.

Greenhouse tomatoes and sweet peppers should also be planted by the end of the month. Buy in seed potatoes and set them to chit in a light dry frost free place. Old egg boxes are useful for this. The first earlies can be planted out at the end of the month in potato sacks or buckets which can be moved around so as to get maximum light and warmth

and avoid frosts.

Finish pruning apples, pears and quinces and ensure grease bands are in place.

One herb I omitted last month was Bay whose leaves are an essential ingredient of many dishes. It can be grown in open ground but also does well in large containers. It likes plenty of sunshine and some protection from cold winter winds so a west facing wall or patio is ideal. It is fairly drought tolerant and doesn't like to be in a waterlogged environment so ensure good drainage and water sparingly. A light feed along with pruning in late spring will ensure a healthy plant of a manageable size. Flowers and the black berries are not edible and it is the leaves you are after. Flavour is strongest in late summer and older dried leaves. Fresh leaves have a softer flavour and are easier to use.

I think one of the worries for gardeners in the coming year is another drought and hose pipe ban. Despite some very wet days my impression this has been a moderately dry winter which won't have helped our already depleted reservoirs. So what to do? Firstly ensure maximum rain collection from roofs and out buildings into water butts . From late spring put a thick layer of garden compost around all trees especially fruit trees and fruit bushes and raspberry canes to reduce evaporation.

When planting out brassicas , tomatoes or any large plant dig a hole at least twice the size of the root ball and fill with water. Keep filling with water until it drains away very slowly. Use plenty of water retentive compost and water in and the finally surround the plant with plenty of mulch to reduce evaporation. Hopefully by doing this you encourage the roots to go deep and thus becoming more resistant to drying out.

Don't forget to collect a schedule and start preparing for our first show!

Good Gardening

Peter Estcourt - 07803179708 - pge44@icloud.com

<https://www.chaileyhorticulturalsociety.co.uk>

Citizens Advice Drop In

Citizens Advice offer a monthly Drop In advice session in Chailey. This is usually held at St Peter's Church. Please note that in February and March this will be held at an alternative venue The Reading Room Chailey Green BN8 4DA on Friday February 6th and March 6th 10am - 1pm. A similar drop in session will be held in the Community Centre in Newick on Tuesday 10th February and 10th March 12.00 - 3.00pm

High quality, impartial and professional advice, support and referrals given on a huge range of topics, including welfare benefits, housing issues, food and energy poverty, debt and much more.

This is a great opportunity to get easy access to advice locally without having to travel long distances for appointments.

Local transport can be provided by Newick Good Neighbours Service from Chailey Newick and Fletching please ring 07933096033.

Further information about rural out reach can be found at
Rural Outreach/Lewes District CA

www.Lewesdistrictca.org.uk



CHAILEY REPAIR CAFÉ – WE ARE ON THE MOVE!!!

Happy New Year everybody! We start 2026 with some important news....

St Peter's Church is closing due to urgent repairs to the floor being refurbished from January onwards. Chailey Repair Café is moving back to Chailey Village Hall, (next to the Five Bells just 500 yards down the road from the Church) from 10th January until the work in the church is completed, when we will look forward to returning to the Church.

2025 was an outstanding year for the Repair Café – we tackled 736 of your repairs, 77% successfully, many of those on the day. Although we will always do our best to fix your item while you wait (we don't offer a drop off service) sometimes the repair is just too complicated. When that happens, it is possible that the volunteer will offer to take your item home to complete as a private arrangement outside the Repair Café – but please note that is not always possible..

Our most popular service was sharpening, followed by repairs to lamps, clocks, zips and radios.

And the strangest things we tackled? A hoverboard, a trimphone and a tiara! Oh and numerous stuffed animals including a dog, moth, pig, reindeer, squirrel, unicorn, furby, cuckoo, owl and monkey – we see all sorts at the Repair Café!!

Our 2026 dates are easy to remember – we are normally open every 2nd Saturday of each month between 10am – 1pm. Our new 2026 posters and flyers with all this year's dates are now available at the Café, so you won't forget!

Chailey Repair Café is part of a world-wide movement where volunteer experts repair things free of charge – although a donation towards running costs is invited. Anyone can bring along broken items or clothing needing repair from home, and have a cuppa and a cake while they wait!

You'll find us at Chailey Village Hall on the A275 next to the Five Bells pub normally on the second Saturday of each month (10th Jan, 14th Feb, 14th March and so on....) between 1000hrs and 1300hrs where we have a full Café service including our legendary cakes! Contact us at chaileycr@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

See you very soon and a very Happy New Year from all of us here at Chailey Repair Café!!

Bryan McAlley and the Chailey Repair Café team

Chailey Commons Society

After a cold, snowy and frosty start to the year, and the passing through of Storm Goretti with heavy rains, we are all looking forward to the advent of spring and we can already see the days beginning to lengthen.

A good start to the year was a talk from one of the commons neighbours, the artist Sacha Turnbull. Living locally and crossing the commons regularly, she has long been interested in the artistic aspect of the local landscape which she has illustrated in a wide selection of artist impressions. Her enthusiasm and quest for detail showed us a wonderful range of beautiful paintings which she has from both outdoor sittings and in her local studio. It

was lovely to see the heathland shown in this way as well as other scenes and still life too.

You may have noticed the effects of ongoing conservation management on the commons clearing swathes of bracken and scrub to restore the open habitats of the heathland. The heaps of flailed bracken may provide habitats for reptiles.

The five Exmoor ponies have been back on Red House Common since mid-December. Careful observations by the pony checkers show that they are foraging on a mixed diet of gorse, bramble, and grasses as well as some acorns which are hopefully less damaging now. During the cold snap in early January, they were given some top up hay. Their owner the Moorland Mousie Trust are confident that they will find adequate forage on the common and that the hay can be phased out. Please do not feed the ponies which can also endanger their health.

We are looking for two more pony checkers to join the team of volunteers. If you are able to commit to two checks per month on a rota and are interested in supporting the conservation grazing of the commons, please contact the Society on mail@chaileycommons.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events in 2026

- Thursday February 12th Talk by Stewart Angell – A History of Mapping for Archaeology. Chailey Village Hall 7.30.p.m. Parking and refreshments; visitors welcome.
- Thursday March 12th Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Simm Elliott – Lichens of the Heathland – Chailey Village Hall 7.30.p.m. Parking and refreshments; visitors welcome.

For further information, visit our website – www.chaileycommons.org.uk or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/ or friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com

William Coleman - 01444 831098

Chailey Litter Pickers

Chailey Litter Pickers have continued to pick litter throughout the winter months in an effort to keep Chailey clean and tidy. Apart from the unattractive visual aspect of discarded rubbish, litter can be hazardous to both wildlife and domestic pets. Our group do their very best to minimise this impact, but a very real difference would be made if everyone used the many public bins throughout the village or just took their rubbish home!

The picks take place on different days of the week to enable as many people as possible to take part. In addition, some of the group pick their own areas as and when they are able to. The February group pick will be on Thursday 19 February starting at 10.00am from St Peters Church.

We welcome new people to the group who are interested in helping to look after Chailey. There is no need for a regular commitment. Bin liners will be provided, as well as high-vis vests, gloves, grabbers, and hoops for those that need them. The more the merrier! We are always happy to welcome and support any young people taking part in Duke of Edinburgh awards or similar schemes, where they might need to do some community service as part of their studies or challenges. Children over the age of 11 years are also welcome, but need to have an adult with them.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

More information about the Chailey Litter Pickers and future dates can be found on www.facebook.com/chaileylitterpickers

Sarah Droscher

Chailey Parish Council

In last month's edition of Chailey News, we advised that Cabinet Councillors at Lewes District Council would be convening on the 11th December 2025 to approve the fourth public consultation regarding the draft Lewes Local Plan. The Plan was approved and is now open for public consultation.

The Plan represents a significant advancement in establishing the future development strategy for the district. Local plans are based on evidence, with data collected to determine where new developments—such as housing, employment spaces, and community facilities—are suitable and where they are not.

According to the government's formula for assessing housing needs, the district must plan for approximately 15,000 homes throughout the plan period, which concludes in 2042, for its designated area. Nevertheless, the Council's spatial strategy can only identify a housing need of around 8,570 new homes during this timeframe. This estimate is grounded in evidence and takes into account the limitations affecting the local plan area, including its borders with the South Downs National Park and the coastline.

It is vital that as many residents as possible take part in the consultation. A strong response is important because when the Plan is examined by the Planning Inspector, the level of community engagement and public support will be a key consideration.

The consultation period is active up to the 28th February 2026. To find out more about the Local Plan, please visit https://planningpolicyconsult.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/LP_SpatialStrategyandSites

The Parish Council will be meeting with Highways on the 10th March 2026. Such meetings happen twice a year and are an opportunity to be informed of and to discuss Highways' planned interventions, but also to discuss with Highways problems on the lanes and roads of Chailey. Residents will find the record of our previous meeting on our website, <https://chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/council-meetings> and are invited to tell the Clerk by emailing to clerk@chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk of any particular problem in their neighbourhood so that we can raise it with Highways and report back

Chailey Allotments - We expect to see a couple of allotment plots become available in the new year. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot, then please get in touch with the Clerk at Chailey Parish Council. Email clerk@chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk or call on 01825 723388

Farewell Bettina

Hello to all, and I hope the New Year is going well for you.

In February the Parish Council will be saying goodbye to our Parish Clerk Bettina Newell, who is taking early retirement having worked with us for over 5 years. We are all very sorry to lose her but wish her every success in all she does. I know that many of you will have met Bettina in the course of her work and will miss her professional and friendly manner. Bettina has promised to help us out with some locum work from time to time so we sincerely hope that we will continue to see her on a regular basis.

We have been very fortunate to secure the services of Nicola Menniss who was bought up in Chailey and following a few years away, has returned with her family, so she already knows the village extremely well, and has a background of working in the community. Nicola and Bettina will be working together from mid January for a month, following which Nicola will be job sharing with our current Financial Officer Emma Reece.

If you have any questions or queries about anything concerning the Parish Council you can contact the Clerk at clerk@chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk or via the website <http://www.chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk> or by phone on 01825 722388.

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 1st April in the Village Hall and all are welcome to join us for drinks and nibbles before the meeting and to hear about the work of the Council over the last year, and our plans for the future. Doors open at 7.00pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm. More details to follow next month.

Elizabeth Berry - Chair, Chailey Parish Council

Chailey Parish Council's main source of information is our website at <https://chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>. This is where you can find our latest news, including the current consultation on the second phase of the Lewes Local Plan – something we would strongly encourage residents to read and comment on.

The website also hosts our meeting agendas and minutes, details of local amenities and organisations, and much more. It is well worth a visit, and you can also subscribe to our newsletter to receive email notifications whenever new items are added.

We appreciate that not everyone has access to the internet, so we will of course continue to advertise events and important updates in Chailey News.

The best way to contact the Parish Clerk is by email at clerk@chaileyparishcouncil.gov.uk or by telephone on 01825 722388. If you would like to meet with the Clerk in person, we kindly ask that you make an appointment in advance.

Finally, as mentioned in Cllr Elizabeth Berry's report, I will shortly be leaving my role as Clerk to Chailey Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and to thank everyone in the Chailey community whom I have had the privilege to work with, and especially the Council members and our RFO, Emma Reece who have all been a pleasure to work alongside. I have been continually impressed by their skills, knowledge and dedication.

By the time you read this article, our new Clerk, Nicola Menniss, will be in post. As Elizabeth says in her report, many of you may already know Nicola, as she is Chailey born and bred, and brings with her a strong connection to our community. I would like to extend a very warm welcome and wish Nicola every happiness and success in her new role. The Council are looking forward to working with her and are confident that she will be a great asset to the Council and to the village as a whole.

Finally, we are currently one Councillor short, so if you would like to help make a difference in the village, please do get in touch with the Clerk.

With best wishes Bettina Newell, Clerk to Chailey Parish Council

OTHER LOCAL NEWS

Uckfield, Lewes and Newick Arts Society

11th February: Natalia Murrays: The Courtauld Collection of Impressionist Painting.
Uckfield Civic Centre 2.30

February should bring us some daffodils and snowdrops to give us hope that Spring is on its way. This delightful lecture will surely do the same. Natalia was born in St Peterburg gaining a BA and MA in Art History at the Academy of fine Arts and a PhD at the Hermitage Museum. Natalia now works at the Courtauld Institute of Art and has written several books, featured in films on the Hermitage and the Russian Revolution, and in programmes for BBC Radio 4.

The Courtauld Institute of Art was founded by Samuel Courtauld in 1930. He was Chairman of Courtauld's the family textile business and, unusual for those days, he promoted education, sick leave and pensions for his employees. He developed a great interest in Art especially the French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings and, with his immense wealth, was able to assemble a fabulous collection, including Van Gogh's 'Self portrait with a bandaged ear' and Manet's 'Folies-bergère.'

Guests are always welcome and do not need to be invited by a member. Just £8 on the door.

Annette Shelford - annette@shelford.net



**An Evening Of Illusion & Impact: Annual Dinner & Auction. Friday 6th March 2026 7:00pm – 10.30pm
Barcombe Village Hall**

Join us on 6th March for a memorable night of celebration, fine dining, and illusion. Our annual dinner and auction is always a truly special evening and an opportunity for us to thank our wonderful supporters as we share the work of The Bevern Trust.

Hosted by our Patron, Natasha Kaplinsky, this unforgettable evening includes a delicious three-course dinner, a bespoke performance by world-renowned illusionist Bertie Pearce, as well as our much-loved charity auction, all in support of a life-changing cause. We're thrilled to be showcasing mouth-watering food from local caterers, Circa Events, who specialise in working with local producers and artisans to create exceptional menus.

We are very excited to make a special announcement on the night – book your tickets to discover our amazing news!

To book your tickets, visit beverntrust.org or call 01273 400752

The Bevern Trust is a disability charity based in Barcombe and Bevern View is its residential home, providing lifelong care for 11 young adults with profound disabilities.

Donate: www.beverntrust.org **Email:** info@beverntrust.org

Follow us on social media: [@thebeverntrust](https://www.instagram.com/thebeverntrust) **Thank you for your support!**

Fletching's 1880 Organ back in action

The Forster & Andrews pipe organ is now back in its place and was heard for the first time at the Carol Service in December.

During the last six months the organ has undergone a complete refurbishment by organ builders Andrew Cooper & Co. Many of the pipes went to a specialist in Leeds while other major components were taken to the workshop on the Isle of Wight. These are all now back in place and the restored elements are being regulated and fine-tuned as they bed in. In addition, the case work has been re-oiled to give it a fresh glow.

The church was packed for the Carol Service on 21st December, when the instrument was heard again for the first time, to the delight of the congregation. During January the organ builders continued to make final adjustments as the instrument settled down, to ensure it was ready for the rededication by Bishop Will on 25th January

The result is a tribute to the combination of craftsmanship and musicianship of the organ builders and their deep respect for the original work of Forster & Andrews, ensuring the organ will be good for another 100 years.

Celebration Concert 20th March - save the date!

The restored instrument will be put through its paces by distinguished concert organist Daniel Moulton (danielmoulton.com) at a celebration event on 20th March. Tickets and further details will be available in February via the organ project website (www.fletchingorgan.org).

The PCC of St Andrew & St Mary the Virgin, Fletching, East Sussex. TN22 3SR, United Kingdom Registered Charity no. 1132321.

The project is grateful for the support of many individual donors and the following charitable foundations: The Chalk Cliff Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, LUND, Churchcare, Pilgrim Trust, The Friends of Fletching Church, King Charles III Charitable Fund, The Ian Askew Trust

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Could you protect the world's most famous family and the most recognised person in the world? Richard 'Dick' Griffin LVO was the former Royal Protection Officer to HRH The Queen and HRH Prince Philip. Come and join us and hear stories about his time working with the Royal Family. on Wednesday 18th February At Plumpton Village Hall Commencing at 7.30pm Members £3, visitors £10, including refreshments So please join us for this entertaining evening as Dick shares anecdotes from his time with Her Majesty, as he visited over 160 countries, and met His Holiness The Pope, Nelson Mandela, President Bush and other distinguished people.

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For any enquiries, contact Sue Akers on 01273 891701 or

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Our next show is on 15th February 2026. We hope that many of you will be able to come and enjoy "SONG SUNG BLUE". As always there is a licensed bar, teas, coffees, cakes and ice cream plus an interval so that there is an opportunity to meet up with friends and have an enjoyable evening out in the village. Booking in advance will secure seats in the front rows. You can also just come along at 7pm and buy a ticket on the door; the film will start at 7:30pm. **(Please note films are now being shown on the 3rd Sunday of the month, not the 4th)**

FEBRUARY'S FILM

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15th February 2026 in Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick BN8 4LY Licensed bar and refreshments from **7.00 pm**. Film starts **7.30 pm** **Tickets: £8.00 (cash only)** on the door, or by emailing detailed request to newickcinema@outlook.com Sub titles and hearing loop in place

Chailey News - March Issue

The deadline for the March issue of Chailey News is 10th February . To avoid problems due to the necessity to filter e-mails for spam please:

1. Send items to chaileynews@chec.co.uk
2. Include "Chailey News" in Subject section of the e mail.
3. If a new subscriber or sending from an e mail address for the first time please phone us on 01825 724376 so we are aware and able to look out for it.

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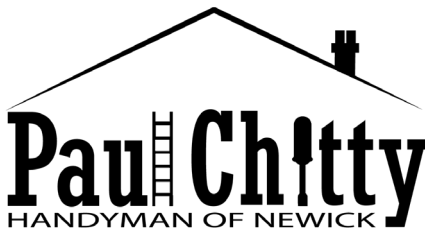
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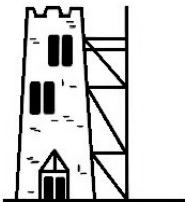
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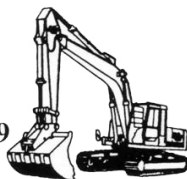


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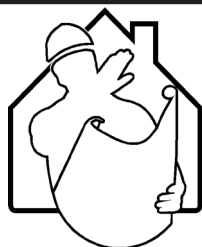
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