

Creating
Togetherness

COCKING COLUMN

DECEMBER
2024

Est. 2021

www.cockingcolumn.com/xmas

Sun 1 Dec, 3pm

Carols by Candlelight
St Catherine of Siena Church

Mon 2 Dec, 11am

Monthly Service
Pendean Nursing Home

Mon 2 Dec, 6.30pm

Parish Council Meeting
Village Hall

Tue 3 Dec, 7pm

Blue Bell 5th Birthday
Blue Bell

Wed 4 Dec, 7pm

Christmas Talks: Darron Carver
St Catherine of Siena Church

Sun 8 Dec, 3pm

Lessons and Carols
St Mary's Church Bepton

Wed 11 Dec, 7pm

Christmas Talks: Anna Clement
St Catherine of Siena Church

Weds 18 Dec, 9.30am

Monthly Requiem
St Catherine of Siena Church

Wed 18 Dec, 7pm

Christmas Talks: Aaron Baker
St Catherine of Siena Church

Thur 19 Dec, 10.30am

Village Coffee Morning
Blue Bell

Thur 19 Dec, 6.30pm

Panto: Little Red Riding Hood
Village Hall

Sat 21 Dec, 5pm

Carolling in Cocking
See poster for detail

Tue 24 Dec, 4pm

Crib Service
St Catherine of Siena Church

Tue 24 Dec, 9.30pm

Midnight Mass
St Catherine of Siena Church

Weekly at St Catherine's

Wed, Fri, 9.30am

Morning Prayer

Sunday, 9.30am Sung Mass

**For updates on events and offerings at
your village pub, visit:**

<https://thebluebellatcocking.co.uk/>

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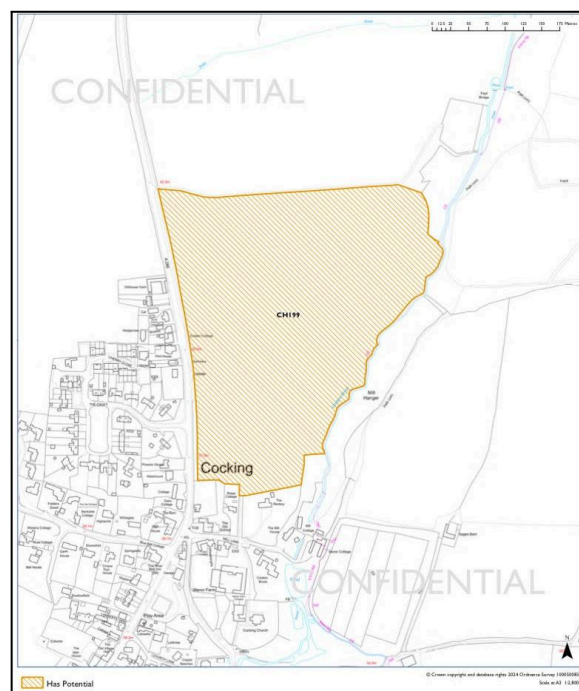
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UPDATES

Closure of Village Shop. Our village shop—the Little Pantry—has just sadly announced its closure, precipitated by complaints about its use of the garden for customers and plans to host a tea room in the house. These plans were an important means of keeping the shop financially viable. The Editor would like to thank Suzanne and her team for their valiant attempt to keep our village shop going; and also to express disappointment that there have been attempts to impede their ability to run a viable business. According to the Plunkett Foundation, 400 villages lose their shops each year. We run the very real risk of being one of them.



South Downs National Park. As many of you will be aware, the South Downs National Park Local Plan Review is underway. This process has identified a potential site in Cocking for development to housing (see image). Full details can be found on the Parish Council website at www.cocking.org, and a copy of the relevant information is included in this issue. A public consultation is proposed for Jan-March 2025. A representative from the South Downs National Park will be attending the December Parish Council meeting on 2 Dec (see below).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Contemplative Services Winter Break. Contemplative Services at St Catherine's is taking a winter break, and will resume in February.

Carols by Candlelight. 3pm, Sunday 1 Dec at St Catherine of Siena church. Free entry—with mulled wine and mince pies after!



Pendean Nursing Home. The next service is at 11am, Mon 2 Dec. Do join us there, or let Fr Jonathan know if anyone would like a visit.

Parish Council Meeting. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Mon 2 Dec, 6.30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend. The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blue Bell 5th Birthday Party!

Come and celebrate this milestone on 3 Dec from 7pm where there will be a buffet provided. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the pub for £5 or on the door. See poster below.

Cocking Christmas Talks. We are excited about Cocking Christmas Talks at the church. 7pm, 4th, 11th, and 18th Dec, featuring talks by experts from the *Weald and Downland Living Museum*. Our very own Darron Carver will speak on the development of the church as a building. Then, Anna Clements will speak on witch marks (to ward them off!), found in some Cocking homes. And Aaron Baker will speak on a Tudor Christmas. Entry by donation—with mince pies and mulled wine!

Monthly Requiem. 9.30am, Weds 18 Dec at the parish church. Every month, we remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries fall during the month. If you would like someone to be remembered, please let Fr Jonathan know.

Village Coffee Morning. 10.30am, Blue Bell, third Thursday of each month: 19 Dec. A wonderful opportunity to catch up with neighbours or get to know village newcomers. No need to book; just turn up—bring a friend. Drinks and biscuits courtesy of the Friends of the Blue Bell.

RahRah Panto. The Christmas Panto is back! It's Little Red Riding Hood this year, 6.30pm 19 Dec at the Village Hall. Tickets available at the Village Shop (cash only). £10 per adult (with wine/beer) and £5 for children (with soft drink).

Carolling in Cocking. Come join us as we sing around the village, starting at the church at 5pm, and stopping at Church Lane, the Croft, Cherry Close, and ending at the Blue Bell at 6.30pm. See poster for details.

Chair Yoga & Cake. Free Chair Yoga & Cake is on Thursdays at the Village Hall. If you are interested, please contact Portia Charles (portiacharles100@gmail.com). This season ends after Dec 5; the next season begins 6 Feb.

Embrace Yoga at Cocking Village Hall
www.midhurstyoga.co.uk

Hatha Yoga
Weds 6pm

One-to-One Yoga Sessions
Bookings available

embrace yoga

for more information please visit www.midhurstyoga.co.uk
or contact Jane Menon
07841537105 | jane.menon@hotmail.co.uk

REQUESTS & OFFERS

Food Bank. The church serves as a drop-off point for the Food Bank. In December, we are especially collecting **UHT (Long Life) Milk and Juice, and Squash/Cordial Drinks.**

Christmas Appeal 2024. The wars in Ukraine and the Holy Land continue to ravage the lives of many, including many children. Once again, this year's Christmas appeal is for three charities dedicated to relieving the suffering of children in warzones: WarChild, UNICEF, and Save the Children. To donate, use the QR code below or:

<https://underthedowns.co.uk/xmas/>



Chess. Anyone interested in learning or playing chess this winter, please contact Peter Knowles, (+447779355314 or peterknowles2009@hotmail.co.uk).

WhatsApp. To join the Village WhatsApp group or contact the Cocking Mutual Aid group, send Fr Jonathan a WhatsApp message: 07799 271913.

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	Festive Opening Times	
	Bar	Food
Christmas Eve	12-9pm	8.30-10am, 12-4pm
Christmas Day	12-2pm	Kitchen Closed
Boxing Day	12-6pm	Kitchen Closed
Friday 27th Dec	12-11pm	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm, 6-8.30pm
Saturday 28th Dec	12-11pm	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm, 6-8.30pm
Sunday 29th Dec	12-6pm	8.30-10am, 12-4pm
Monday 30th Dec	12-10pm	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm, 6-8.30pm
New Year's Eve	12-Late	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm
New Year's Day	12-6pm	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm
Thursday 2nd Jan	12-11pm	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm, 6-8.30pm
Friday 3rd Jan	12-11pm	8.30-11am, 12-2.30pm, 6-8.30pm

South Downs Land Availability Assessment 2024 Provisional Findings
Site Assessment Proforma

REF: CHI99	Site Name: LAND EAST OF THE A286 AND NORTH OF MILL LANE
Settlement, Parish, District	Cocking, Chichester
Current Use	Agricultural Fields
Use(s) considered	Residential and Open Space

Landscape Assessment	Is the site suitable?
High Landscape Sensitivity due to the open and extensive visibility of the site and the intrusion into the surrounding rural landscape that development of this site as a whole would result in. The scale of the site as a whole is not in proportion to the settlement size. The southern end of the site is well related to the nucleated settlement pattern of Cocking. The exposed chalk of Mill Hanger adjacent east of the site is a notable visual feature of the site context.	
Suitability	Yes (in part)
The Cocking Conservation Area is adjacent to the south and east of the site. Hoe Copse Local Wildlife Site is adjacent to the west of the site along with areas of ancient woodland. Some surface water flooding at the base of Mill Hanger along the east edge of the site (Flood Zones 2 and 3). The site (a total of 10.7ha) is considered suitable in part (an area approximately 1.5ha) for a small-scale landscape-led development in the southern part of the site, following contours and responding to views in, out and across the site. Any development including access should seek to provide a suitable transition in built form and fabric to the open countryside. Suitable access to the site is challenging. Mill Lane is not suitable for vehicular access due to its rural character as part of the Conservation Area but does have potential for non-motorised users supporting the relationship with the settlement core. A low key sensitive new access from the A286 may have some potential subject to further investigation albeit this should seek to avoid a mature tree belt and any significant level changes to lessen the impact on the character of this area including the Conservation Area.	

Availability	Is the site available?
The site is being actively promoted and is available for development.	
	Yes

Achievability	Is the site achievable?
Access of the site is likely to be challenging but may be possible with development of part of the site, and further consideration of sensitive access design to retain rural character of Mill Lane and avoid urbanisation of the A286.	
	Yes

Assessment Recommendation	Has Potential
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Reason for Rejection
Not applicable

Site Area (ha)	Estimated Yield	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years
10.7	25	25		



THE BLUE BELL
AT COCKING

5TH *Party* BIRTHDAY

Come and help us celebrate the Hub's
5th Birthday at the Blue Bell

**TUESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2024
FROM 7PM**

We've come a long way through thick
and thin, and we would love you to
join us in celebrating!

The Hub and Pub are vital to our
community, please support them

Buffet Meal at
£5 per ticket on
the door or in
advance at the
Blue Bell





Christmas

A t T h e B l u e B e l l

T O S T A R T

Spiced Parsnip Soup with Toasted Ciabatta
Chicken Liver Pate, Rustic Bread and Farmhouse Chutney
Thai Crabcakes, Salad and Sweet Chilli Sauce
Wild Mushrooms on Sourdough Toast
Traditional Prawn Cocktail

T O F O L L O W

Naturally Smoked Haddock Mornay, Saute New Potatoes, Chantanay
Carrots and Green Beans
Traditional Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings
Mixed Nut Roast with a Wild Mushroom Sauce and Honey Roasted
Vegetables
Braised Oxtail, Celeriac Puree, Colcannon and a Red Onion Jus
Goats Cheese and Fennel Tart, Dressed Salad and French Fries

T O F I N I S H

Ferrero Rocher Cheesecake
Warm Sticky Toffee Sundae Pudding
Lemon Panacotta
Christmas Pudding
Apple and Pear Crumble
Cheeseboard (£5 supplement)

2 Courses £27.00

3 Courses £32.00

Available in December until 24th

Enjoy!

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- Do you want the chance of winning up to £500 each month?
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- All profits will go to The Blue Bell Community Hub
- Terms and conditions apply
- email 200clubcocking@gmail.com

FIRST DRAW JANUARY 2025
GOOD LUCK!

For more information:
www.cockingcolumn.com/200club



Cocking Christmas Talks

Wednesdays, 7pm

St Catherine of Siena Church
Mill Ln, Cocking, GU29 0HJ

Dec 4: Darron Carver

A sermon in stone: a history of church buildings

Dec 11: Anna Clement

Apotropaic marks

Dec 18: Aaron Baker

A Tudor Christmas

Entry by Donation

Hot Chocolate, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies Available





Darron Carver is Head of Collections and Site Operations at the *Weald and Downland Living Museum*. He has a passion for built heritage and has a personal interest in churches, their builders, construction and use. His current research is focussed around an unusual ledger stone in St Mary's Bepton which he hopes will be the subject of a future village talk.



Dr Anna Clement is MSc Programs Leader at the Weald and Downland. Anna became interested in Apotropaic (witch) marks after one of her students completed their dissertation on the subject and is now heading up a research project at the museum focussed on building a typography of the various marks to aid further understanding and research.



Aaron Baker is Domestic Life Interpreter at the Weald and Downland. He has worked in historical interpretation for over 12 years, appearing at Historic Royal Palaces, English Heritage, and at the Museum. Whilst he can turn his hand to almost any time in history, his favourite period is the late Medieval world; the end of the Plantagenet dynasty and the emergence of the Tudors.

Carolling
in Cocking
Sat 21 Dec

5pm	St Catherine of Siena Church
515pm	Church Lane
545pm	The Croft & Cherry Close
630pm	Blue Bell

Come join us in singing in the festive season!

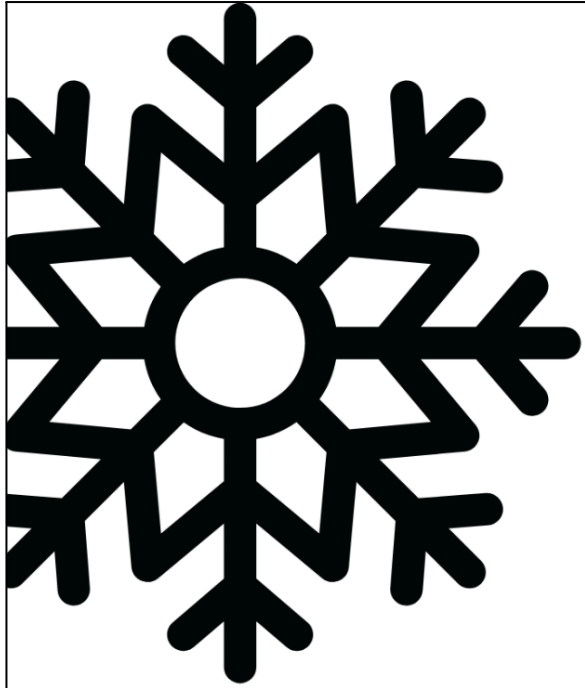
For more info, visit
www.ckingcolumn.com/xmas

Crib Service

4pm, 24th December 2025
St Catherine of Siena Church



Come and experience the Christmas story again in word and song. Everyone—young and old—are encouraged to dress up in your nativity costumes—or you can try on some of ours.
Free entry. Mulled wine and hot chocolate by donation.



Christmas in Cocking



www.cockingcolumn.com/xmas

Dec 1 3pm Carols by Candlelight

Dec 21 5pm Carolling in Cocking

Dec 24 4pm Crib Service

Dec 24 9.30pm Midnight Mass

No service on Christmas Day in Cocking

Dec 25 9am Christmas Day
St Mary, Bepton

Dec 25 1030am Christmas Day
St James, Heyshott