

Tidebrook Nature Recovery Group

Tidebrook Nature Recovery Group is a group of volunteers who try to meet monthly for a couple of hours to work together on a variety of projects to improve biodiversity and enhance our natural environment (tree planting, ponds, wildflower meadows etc). Do get in touch with Alex Macdonald to join the Whatsapp group. The plan is to visit and help with Tidebrook nature projects, tree planting, pond digging, wildflower meadows etc. Please let us know what you are up to, and if we can help. In Tidebrook churchyard, the trees already planted are growing well, the two wildflower meadows have been cut and work is needed to plant yellow rattle and other wildflower seeds. The woodland path is still to be cleared; and, with funding assistance from the High Weald Nature and Community Fund, the invasive laurel in the woodland will soon be cut, leaving room to plant more trees. There are also Ash logs to be split for firewood. Do join us if you can.

Alex Macdonald 07961 128906

Tidebrook Breakfast with Prayer

On the first Saturday of each month a small group meets for breakfast at 8.30am in the Parish Room. We follow breakfast with a brief Bible reading and a time of prayer, ending at 9.45am. We welcome all who may like to come and also welcome prayer requests on behalf anyone who may not be able to attend. The next date is 6th September.

Contact David Payne at davidpayne07@gmail.com or on 01892 783731

Services in September

7th	10.00am	Family Service – A Blinding Light
14th		No 5ive Service: Holy Land Event. <i>Information on p5 inside</i>
21st	10.00am	Family Communion
28th	10.00am	Morning Prayer
5th October	11.00am	HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE (please note the later than usual time of this service)

Beverley Boylan and David Barker, Churchwardens

Deadline for October: Thursday 11th September

Please contact Rosie Pearson with your news or other contributions for the next newsletter on 01892 784802 or email: rosie@hucksters.co.uk



TIDEBROOK NEWSLETTER

September 2025

It has been a notably hot and sunny summer - though perversely the weather on the day of the Tidebrook Community picnic wasn't good! So it was called off and it is hoped that we will gather for this enjoyable event in summer 2026. Moving into autumn, on Sunday 5th October thanks will be given for the harvest with a special Harvest Festival Service, which will be followed by a lunch.

Thank you to our FOCUS & Newsletter Delivery Team

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Maureen Rawson who, after many years of dedicated service, has stepped down from her round delivering FOCUS magazine and the Tidebrook Newsletter to Best Beech Hill. Her commitment has been greatly appreciated, and we wish her a very happy and well-earned rest.

We are also delighted to welcome Philippa Mackinnon who has kindly offered to take over Maureen's round. We are most grateful to her for stepping in, and we're sure she will be warmly received by everyone on her route.

We hope all our readers continue to enjoy receiving their monthly FOCUS magazine and reading the Tidebrook Newsletter. Finally, a big thank you to all our delivery team for the invaluable role they play in keeping our community connected.

*Suzanne Hicks - FOCUS Magazine Co-ordinator for Tidebrook
suzannehicks65@gmail.com*

Tidebrook Coffee Morning - would you like to host one at your home?

We are looking for someone who would be willing to host the next Tidebrook coffee morning which is due to be held on Thursday 30th October at 10.30am-12.00pm. Coffee/cake/biscuits are served and it is a lovely opportunity for people in Tidebrook to get together. All are welcome. You can turn up any time between 10.30am and midday as gatherings are always flexible. Many thanks.

Vicki Soutar email: vickisoutar@gmail.com or phone 01435 874897

Lucy Maud's Diary - a Tidebrook History 1886

19th August

I must write a short account of the finest time I've had since Louy left Towngate. On Monday August 19th I found Charlie had put my name down for the singles and at 11 o'clock when some of the members had come Pussie called me down to help. Bertie Spratt and another boy cleaned the tennis balls on the doormat on the top of the hall steps. What amused me was the ashen faces of the players as they arrived at finding us on our knees scrubbing the balls on the mats as if our life depended on it. I drew the first round against Rheta Kirby the championess of the club and was beaten at two games. I only got two games against Miss Somerville in the second round either but it was fun and good practice too. There was one boy, a Mr Dalton who played in the gentleman's singles against Frank Spratt the secretary. I think it was four games the first set and three games the second. I liked him very much, he was among the last to leave and I walked with him from the tennis court and thought him very charming. Then I also hoped that if I played in the doubles I might get him for a partner. Wednesday was the school treat and it rained but was great fun. Then Thursday 22nd we stalled Papa, Nellie and I to Mayfield and got there at 12.30. To my surprise and joy I found that Frank Spratt had drawn the players and I was to play with Mr Dalton. In the first round for the first prize we were beaten by Bertie and Ethel Spratt. I drew Mr Dalton again for the second prize to my great surprise and joy too, for he is a charming boy. And we beat Nellie and Frank Liprett, first set were beaten 6 - 4. Second set beat at 6 - 3. They counted by games. It rained off and on the whole time but the players did not mind that and the setters got in the veranda of the Hall's house and watched. The reason why we beat was that a big black cloud came up and over the setting sun and though the others could see, plainly Nellie could not see an atom. We came home under the idea that the only person left to be beaten were Miss Hall and Bobbie Wilde, or as Mr Innes called him, Wild Robert.

Sunday 25th August

Ethel and I hurried to school. Nellie stayed to practise the hymns on the harmonium. In church Auntie, the Tupsies, George, Et and I sat in the long seat. Uncle and Charlie and the others behind in the chancel. Auntie has taken to sit in the long seat now that Nellie plays the hymns and voluntaries for she will not sing to her playing. Alfred read the lesson. After church we all dawdled about the tennis courts laughing because someone had left out the net. And after the afternoon church and after tea we all prepared to walk to Wadhurst and eat plums. In Snape Wood we parted after a discussion for I thought we ought to go home with Pussie to take care of her. George and the Tupsies and Pussie went home and the other six of us on. Snape Wood was rather muddy but Grandfather's garden was perfect. We took Mr Innes round and showed him its beauties while Charlie

Some questions about The 5ive



What is it?

An informal, accessible service that nonetheless covers challenging subjects.

When is it and where is it held?

The second Sunday of each month in Tidebrook Church.

Refreshments are served from 4.30pm before the service begins at 5pm. Music is contemporary worship. All are welcome, even if church "is not your thing".

What topics are covered?

Talks this year have included:

- Ups and Downs of Life
- Science and Faith
- What is Pentecost?
- Should Christians be Political?
- The Persecuted Church
- Is there Hope for the Holy Land?

Why is there no 5ive service at Tidebrook this month?

Following our recent service looking at the question of *Is there Hope for the Holy Land?* we felt there would be interest in an event that is being held nearby on September 14th at 6pm so are inviting all to join us visiting St Thomas Church, Southborough for an event entitled *Seeking Peace and Justice in the Holy Land*. An evening with an Anglican priest, a Rabbi's daughter, and a human rights monitor.

Any funds raised will be sent to Musalaha, a Christian reconciliation ministry based in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

SEEKING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14th at 6pm

**St Thomas Church
Pennington Road,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells,
TN4 0SH**

**An evening of music and story with
an Anglican priest & a Rabbi's daughter,
Christian musician Garth Howitt
and Jewish celebrant Hanna Yaffe
from Jerusalem,
with EAPPI volunteer Mel Moss**

**Funds will be raised for Musalaha,
a Christian reconciliation ministry
based in Jerusalem and Bethlehem**

and George went in to see Grandfather who was not so well. Innes admired most our favourite bit, the shadiest of shady terraces ending in the narrow path by the summer house. Then we went and studied plums in the lower walled garden. The others came back saying Miss Collard was coming in a minute. Charlie climbed the upper walled garden (at the bottom of which is that dank green pond which gave me nightmares when a child) for the gardener had locked it as usual and taken the key in his pocket to church, then filling the basket which we held over the wall for him. It was fun. And after half an hour we turned our feet homewards. Miss Collard coming a short way. And then home by the short cut by Dr Whites, the forge and the Best Beech Hill. I listening and sometimes joining in on arguments between Innes and Charlie.

Wednesday 28th

We all got up early, very early and Nellie, Ethel and I went to the station with Mr Innes for we were going on to our drawing lesson and snatched at the lift. I sat on the horse and as we were leaving I told Mr Innes that he must come in the spring next time and see the daffodils and primroses in our woods and hear the birds sing and he promised he would and so we left feeling depressed for Mr Innes is a good man and true and so like Charlie that he has really become the part of extra elder brother. And I am very sorry his visit has come to an end and I hoped he enjoyed himself and that's all.

I must go out now and play with George; but it is very strange that though he knows all about us we know very little about him, except that he has a mother, a brother elder than himself, and a sister named Sybil who is my age and whom I should much like to see. This is his fourth visit here.

September 27th

I really must take to writing there ever a day that anything happens. I'll just write hand today. I must first put down how Pussy and Papa went to France for a week. You see Pussy had been ill with her eye for some time and a doctor in London told Papa that she must go right away for sometime, so Papa taken her to France from Monday to Saturday and when she came home she was ever so much better and there was just a difference in Papa. He was browner and they had had a real jolly week. Meanwhile we had been enjoying a most miserable week. The painters were doing the dining room and we had to have all our meals in the schoolroom, however everything cleared up directly Pa and Pussy came home. They bought me a jolly French brooch all full agreeable, and Nelly a bracelet, besides a vase for each of us. Then next, Charlie Allen and Annette came. Charlie Allen was sunny to say the least of it. On Sunday night after we had been for a walk he wanted Aunt to let me have supper with them but she would not allow that, so he would have my supper sent up. So they were going to send up mine and Ethel's on one plate but he would not allow that and had them both sent up beautifully in two

plates. Silly old thing but it was rather kind of him. Then Annette told me if I wanted to learn to paint I had better begin on coloured oak leaves. Then I don't remember much more until Charlie's friend Mr Innes came to stay here. He was going to stay three weeks but he could not set. Was rather sorry for it. He only stayed from Monday to Saturday. While he was here of course I did not go near where they were sitting very often because of course I thought they would not want me but fancy afterwards Charlie asked Nelly whether he bored us. I'm sure he did not and am sure the little bit of novelty did Pussy loads of good. One day that week Mrs Gee asked us, that's to say George and myself, if there was a kind of treat which she was giving to the men and their families who worked in the garden and the house. These were her nephew and niece. Her nieces name was Mary. I liked her awfully. She was very pretty and had jolly brown eyes. I liked her brother too. He was the first gentlemanly boy I had seen yet. I don't call such Freddy a gentlemanly boy because he is conceited. Alf thought Mary's brother Johnny conceited but I didn't. He was not very handsome as wonderful to look at not half like Alf or Charlie or Bert and played tennis badly, but rather nicely, we went on the pond too with Mary. She is sixteen and rather small for her age. Then Mrs Gee invited Alf and me again because she told Puss she liked my manners. She certainly liked Alf very much. We played tennis the entire time and I and her brother were beaten to sticks by Mary and Alf.

Inspired by Elgar

During the Communion Service on 20th July we had the great pleasure of hearing Jane Spurr play on the organ a beautiful piece she wrote inspired by Elgar. Jane writes: "*Recently Nimrod (the 9th of Edward Elgar's Enigma Variations) came to my mind and wouldn't leave it. It seemed to be saying to me "I know you revere me - so why don't you write something similar". I accepted the challenge and started by quoting the first four bars of Elgar's 9th Variation - backwards. Then I wrote my piece in a matter of hours. I have never written any of my previous 131 pieces so swiftly. I was minded of what Victor Hugo said "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and which cannot remain silent". Finally, I must acknowledge the dedicatee - without whom none of these 132 pieces would have been written.*"

Harvest Festival Service and Lunch, 5th October

Please note that the service will start at 11am. If you wish, please bring non-perishable items for Nourish, our local foodbank. Their website www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk has a useful list of items needed. Details of the lunch will be included in the October newsletter.