

# Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #30 : AprMay '15

Free



Parish Council newsletter

**page 15**

Make mackerel pâté

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Sue meets the Queen

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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Well, in Cuckfield Life this month there is plenty of life! We have a packed magazine with so much going on and to talk about.

**Cuckfield Parish Council** share all that it is doing on its regular newsletter pages which start on **page 15**.

Simon Dennis, from The Rose & Crown, gives us some super tips on how to create the **perfect pâté** on **page 22**.

Another regular to our magazine are the members of **Cuckfield European Association** who have been off on their travels. Have a read on **page 26** and, if you like what you see, why not consider joining?

Resident **Sue Pegler** recently found herself in front of HM **The Queen** – read why on **page 21**.

**Cuckfield Golf Centre** is once again offering FREE golf lessons – see **page 9** for how to snap up the limited sessions taking place in May.

On **page 6** you can read how **Cuckfield Museum** has recently **updated its lighting system** and what that means for what they can now have on display in the impressive cases housed in the top of Queens Hall.

For those who love a little creative construction, what better outlet than the annual **Scarecrow Festival** held in the grounds of Holy Trinity Primary School? See **page 28** for details of how to enter.

And last, but certainly not least, it's always a pleasure to meet and interview local folk for our Village People feature – but this one has been a long time coming. The curate of Holy Trinity Church, **Sandra Hall**, has been recommended to us many times for a feature in our pages by many of you who know and love her. On **page 10** we are delighted to tell her story as Claire went to meet her recently before she leaves Cuckfield for pastures new later this month.

PS: Great cover photo by Majorie Chilton this month! Please do send in your photos of the village to as at [photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk) – thanks!

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April blossom around Holy Trinity Church

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We'd love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)

## Cancer charity Golf Day

A local charity is holding a Fundraising Golf Day at Cuckfield Golf Centre on Thursday 28th May.

Cancervive, which was started seven years ago by Paul Huggett after he had been widowed twice by cancer, offers help and support to the family, friends and colleagues of cancer patients.

"After my own experience," Paul explained, "I knew there was a need, for those who care for and survive the patients they have been looking after, to talk about what it's like to be on the other side of cancer. We bridge that gap and offer a telephone helpline, online Forum, home visits and support groups." In May the charity is also launching a new drop-in centre in Crawley for teenagers and will be joined by The Olive Tree, Jigsaw 4 U and St Catherine's Hospice.

Bookings are now being taken for the Golf Day in Cuckfield, which starts at 9am and costs £45 including a BBQ. Call Cancervive on 01273 834912 or email [paul@cancervive.org.uk](mailto:paul@cancervive.org.uk).

For more information about Cancervive please visit our website [www.cancervive.org.uk](http://www.cancervive.org.uk).



## Cuckoo Fayre coming up

Cuckfield's annual outdoor community event takes place this year on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May at the Recreational Ground just off the High Street.

The day always attracts great crowds from the village, all checking out the stalls and taking part in some of the fun, games and competitions held on the green. Cuckfield's mayor Rob Helliwell will open the fayre officially at 1pm.

## Charlie Dimmock joins local gardening event

Strictly Gardening, Haywards Heath's community fun event, is coming up next month and promises to be the very best ever, as well as being an official part of the Chelsea Fringe Festival for the first time. The theme is the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and gardening expert and TV personality Charlie Dimmock will be opening the proceedings as well as being part of the celebrity Gardener's Panel, chaired by Jean Griffin of BBC Radio Sussex & Surrey, for a Question Time on all things green.

Other elements to Strictly Gardening this year will be a book signing by best-selling children's educational author Martyn Barr, a huge teapot decorating competition for all primary schools, and nursing and care homes in the area to enter, a secondary school Bake Off which Cuckfield's Warden Park will take part in and nursery schools will have the opportunity to show off their planted up mini wheelbarrows!

Plus there'll be local school choirs, bands and performance groups to entertain. To round off there will be a huge Tea Party at the end for everyone, courtesy of all our local Girl Guides!

Strictly Gardening will be held in The Orchards, Haywards Heath on Saturday 16th May from 10am.

If you'd like to get involved in this great community gardening event, contact Ruth de Mierre on 01444 453399 ([ruth@i-dmc.co.uk](mailto:ruth@i-dmc.co.uk)) and join the fun!

## Nursery sets record straight

The owner of a Cuckfield nursery is frustrated following a damaging recent newspaper story. It was reported that the Norto5 KIDZ childcare setting on Whitemans Green was awarded a rating of 'requires improvement' (previously called 'satisfactory') by Ofsted.

An Ofsted inspection report is based on a snapshot of when an inspector comes to the setting unannounced and observes how the nursery is run. The inspector is then required to review his/her findings with management before they publish their findings.

According to owner Peter Bird: "This particular Ofsted inspector did not review her findings with management prior to publishing the report and, as a result, we believe that her conclusions were erroneous.

"The day before the inspection we had just introduced a new online child development application, which was recommended to us by other Early Years practitioners. The opportunity to record, share, observe in this way we believe is really important to parents."

One parent recently wrote to Peter saying: "The online system is fantastic and keeps us up to date daily with our children's progress and development."

Peter Bird continues: "On the day that the Ofsted inspector came our staff were learning the new programme and this has been misinterpreted as not being supportive enough to the children's needs."

The fact that the report was published without review has been raised with the Family Information Service.

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# Museum lighting

State of the art lighting recently installed at Cuckfield Museum has opened up a host of new opportunities. The new system, which includes individually controlled LED lighting for each display cabinet, means fragile objects from the museum's collection can now go on display. The lighting was installed while the museum was closed over the winter and was part funded by an Arts Council England grant.

Curator Sue Burgess explained the benefits the new system will bring. "We are delighted that we now have an eco-friendly LED system for our display cases and overhead lighting," she said. "Individual dimmer switches means we can adjust the lighting in each cabinet to the appropriate levels for the exhibits. We're really pleased as it means that we can now more safely display objects from our collection such as first edition books, original documents, and costume items."

New exhibits currently on show at the museum include a collection of matchboxes from the Sussex Match Company, along with copies of the original artwork, and 'Practice Makes Perfect!', a collection of children's handiwork. The main exhibition explores the history of Horsgate House.

The museum staff are also in the process of downloading its collection of historic postcards onto a laptop, so visitors can explore the history of the village at the touch of a button!

## Walking Race

The Independent State of Cuckfield hosted the Easter Monday Walking Race in brilliant warm Spring sunshine. Twenty seven walkers gathered at the Recreation Ground and set off to walk round the village, their previous handicap times taken into consideration. Once the last walker had disappeared down the High Street en route to Ansty and Deakes Lane, the children took over, searching for Easter eggs, riding their scooters and playing football. An idyllic village scene.

First home, winning the Men's Challenge Cup, was Gary Atkinson who also took home the Swain Cup for the fastest male walker. Leanne Knapman won the Ladies Challenge Cup to celebrate her 'first over the line' triumph, but the Bowring Cup for the fastest female walking time went to Sarah Fry.

This is also a team event with The Wheatsheaf and The White Hart receiving trophies for their winning combined efforts. Our two Co-op shops also entered a team but on this first time it didn't pay dividends.

The Mayor of Cuckfield, Rob Helliwell, participated in the race and donned the mayoral robes to present the cups and medals to the winners (pictured above).

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## 10th anniversary bunting

Nimble fingered residents have responded to an appeal to help create unique new bunting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cuckfield Show.

Several pennants have already been dropped off at Sussex Crafts in the High Street, where Philip and Seb will be putting together the commemorative bunting to adorn the main marquee.

"It's a big marquee so we need lots of pennants," said Philip. "All you need to do is make a triangular pennant (approx. A4 size) in any fabric you want. It could be patchwork or a pattern or design that is relevant to you."

He added that many villagers have already taken up

the challenge and the bunting is beginning to grow! "We had one featuring fruit and veg and another covered in bugs!" said Philip. "I found some liquorice allsorts fabric and have made a pennant for the Singing Allsorts and one of our customers found some featuring sewing equipment us to make a Sussex Crafts pennant."

"The bunting will make its debut at the Village Show in September but will also be used for other village occasions," added Philip.

For advice and information on creating your pennant call into Sussex Crafts, or visit [cuckfield.org](http://cuckfield.org) to download a template.



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# Free golf sessions

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Cuckfield Golf Centre, set in the heart of Sussex and with the backdrop of stunning views, is offering free golf sessions throughout the month of May. Every day in May a small group introductory session will be organised to introduce people to the centre, its facilities and to the game of golf.

The sessions will be delivered by qualified PGA coaches Nevil, David and Neil, who are passionate about introducing new players to the game. The initiative is supported by England Golf with its Get into Golf campaign and is also in National Golf Month. The initiative set up by England Golf aims to make England the world's leading golf nation by 2020.

The free sessions are available for anyone who is interested in giving golf a go in an informal and relaxed environment. There are no restrictions as to who can attend the sessions which will involve an introduction to all aspects of the game and the golf centre. Participants will also be able to enjoy the views at the end of the session over a hot drink from Room with a View. Exclusive follow-on playing and coaching opportunities will be offered to all who attend.

Nevil Perryman-Best, Head Teaching Professional at Cuckfield Golf Centre, said: "Each year we have run our popular Learn to Play in May initiative and this year to run it alongside national schemes like Get into Golf and National Golf Month can only help us spread the word. We have committed to offer a session EVERY day in May, giving more than 200 people the opportunity to come to the centre and get involved. Whether looking to learn a new sport or returning to the game, our facilities and coaches offer the ideal environment to start playing, play better or play more. We are most excited this year about the follow-on initiatives that we have in place that include SHORTEE memberships and events."

Day	Date	Time	Day	Date	Time
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11am – 12pm	Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am – 12.30pm
Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Monday	18 <sup>th</sup>	1pm – 2pm
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.30am – 12.30pm	Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 10am
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 11am	Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 10.30am
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 10am	Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup>	7pm – 8pm
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	1pm – 2pm	Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm – 7pm
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	7pm – 8pm	Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	5.15pm – 6.15pm FAMILY SESSION
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 10am	Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am – 12.30pm
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 12pm	Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 12pm
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	1.15pm – 2.15pm FAMILY SESSION	Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 10am
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	1pm – 2pm	Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 10.30am
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 10am	Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	11am – 12pm FAMILY SESSION
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	12pm – 1pm	Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 10am
Thursday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7pm – 8pm	Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am – 9.30am
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup>	1pm – 2pm	Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am – 10.30am
Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm – 6.15pm FAMILY SESSION			

Ed Watson, who attended a Learn to Play in May session in 2014, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the warm welcome and relaxed atmosphere that the coaches and centre offered. Through further coaching, practice, joining the club and playing regularly my game is improving. I've also managed to get my 3 boys actively involved in the children's clinics which they love. One of them is even having a golf birthday party!"

To sign up for a session please contact the team on 01444 459999 or [kbest78@hotmail.com](mailto:kbest78@hotmail.com). Please note spaces are first come first served so we advise signing up sooner rather than later. Equipment will be provided – all you have to do is book and turn up on the day in comfortable clothing.

To sign up for a session please call 01444 459999



## Sandra Hall

### VILLAGE PEOPLE

#### By Claire Cooper

When Sandra Hall was preparing to take up her first post in the ministry, as assistant curate at Holy Trinity Church, she was given one simple piece of advice: "Love the people and they will love you back."

It's advice that has served her well, for as Sandra prepares to leave the village to take up her first parish she's been humbled by the heartfelt messages from parishioners who are clearly very sorry to see her go.

"Leaving is going to be very hard and I can't help but feel sad," said Sandra. "I've made some wonderful friends here and the village will always have a special place in my heart."

Sandra has been appointed priest-in-charge in the parish of Slinfold and Itchingfield, near Horsham. Her last service at Holy Trinity will be on April 19.

"It's going to be a sad day," said Sandra. "When it was announced that I was leaving I had many tears. I just hope I can hold it together."

Sandra arrived in Cuckfield in June 2010.

"I came here straight after ordination so this was my training parish," said Sandra. "It was all very exciting - my first year as a deacon."

She was ordained priest in the parish in June 2011, with two other women priests. "It was a magnificent service. The church was completely full and the music and singing were fantastic."

Sandra always knew she would leave the village when her training ended but was delighted to extend her stay after vicar Nick Wetherall retired. "My training finished last year but because Nick was leaving I was allowed to stay and look after the parish while a replacement was found. It's been a great experience for me."

She also used the time to look for her next post. "Slinfold and Itchingfield appealed to me straight away," said Sandra. "I'm a country girl at heart and grew up on

a farm, so a parish in the countryside was perfect." The parish has two churches and covers four lovely villages. "It's also only about a 35 minute drive from Cuckfield, so it doesn't feel like I'm going too far away!"

Sandra was born in Leatherhead but shortly afterwards the family moved to Ovingdean. "So I always thought of myself as a Sussex girl!"

After leaving school she worked in the accounts department of American Express, and as a farm secretary, before spending many years in the sales team of Bass Charrington. "I also worked as a driving instructor for 4 years after being made redundant," Sandra recalled.

"I now have a great admiration for parents who teach their children to drive in their own cars! I was always so pleased to have dual controls!"

Her calling to the ministry came in 2006. "I heard a new deacon preaching about her role and almost immediately bells started to ring and bright lights flashed in my brain," said Sandra. "It was like a light going on. I suddenly knew that this was what God wanted me to do."

Initially Sandra felt her calling was to become a deacon. "I didn't think I could ever be a priest - I just wasn't clever enough.

"I tried to run away from the idea but God would not let go. I kept having this niggling feeling.

"I finally asked myself: 'What's holding you back?' It was only then when I realised that I didn't need to rely on my own strength but the strength God provided in me."

Sandra commuted to her training college in Cambridge, spending weekends at home with husband Richard. "He was my number one supporter and extremely proud of me.

"Training was lovely but hard work, and very taxing on the brain particularly as I had left school with 5 O levels and had done nothing for years."



After college, Sandra moved to Cuckfield to continue her training. "I was excited but a little scared. I knew I was fulfilling God's will but I was a bit nervous of what was to come."

But she needn't have worried. "Nick was a fantastic training incumbent, putting himself out to make sure I was getting the right experience," said Sandra.

Villagers in Cuckfield were happy to welcome their second woman priest. "I was lucky because Jean was here before me," said Sandra. "I got a wonderfully warm welcome."

"I've loved everything about working here, although I remember being terrified at the prospect of my very first school worship," Sandra recalled. "I hadn't had any experience working with children. I was petrified. Now I love doing it."

During her time at Cuckfield Sandra has formed close bonds with dozens of families, celebrating weddings, baptisms and funerals. "Every wedding is special and it's a privilege to be able to support families who have suffered a bereavement."

The support was reciprocated when Sandra's husband Richard was diagnosed with cancer.

"I had the best year of my life in Cuckfield and the worst," said Sandra. "In 2011 we celebrated our Silver Wedding anniversary with a wonderful safari to Africa. Shortly after we returned, Richard was diagnosed with cancer." He died in July 2012 aged just 59.

"When my husband died everyone was so kind, loving, caring and supportive and it's given me a very special bond with the people here," said Sandra. "I knew people were upholding me in their prayers." Parishioners showered Sandra with flowers, gifts and lots of chocolate.

"Everyone knows that, like the Vicar of Dibley, I'm a chocoholic," said Sandra. "But, unlike her, I don't hide mine in my Bible! When people ask how I cope with stress I say - talk to people, talk to God and eat chocolate!"

"Richard loved the Vicar of Dibley and had all the DVDs," Sandra added. "We had the choir singing The Lord's my Shepherd 'Dibley style' at my ordination, at Richard's funeral and I'm sure we'll have it again when I leave."

Among the highlights of Sandra's time in Cuckfield was the pet service held last autumn.

"As an animal lover it was something I had wanted to do for many years. It was lovely to see everyone arriving

with their pets and I certainly hope to do it again."

Sandra also enjoyed organising a Quiet Day for the Mothers' Union at Worth Abbey. "It was a day of led prayer, with plenty of opportunity to wander around the beautiful grounds," said Sandra.

Another highlight was the reordering of Holy Trinity Church. "It's been wonderful to see the building evolve and become a venue for music events in the village," said Sandra.

"When they took away the screen and I saw the East window in all its glory it moved me to tears."

"Cuckfield is a beautiful village, where the community and the church often come together and work alongside each other."

"From the annual village service when the new Mayor is introduced to the village to the Christmas tree festival, the church has become a good place for people to congregate."

"But it's also a beautiful prayerful building with a tremendous feeling of peace."

Sandra moves out of her home in Glebe Road at the end of the month and will fly to Tunisia with family to celebrate her mother's 80th birthday before starting work in her new parish.

"The last 10 months have been fantastic," said Sandra. "Looking after Cuckfield has meant I'm more than ready for the challenge ahead."

"Saying goodbye is going to be difficult but once I've left I can start getting excited."

Sandra's new parish has two churches – St Peter's at Slinfold and St Nicolas at Itchingfield, about 10 minutes away from each other

"St Nicolas is a lovely ancient church in the middle of the countryside with no running water or toilet facilities," said Sandra. "St Peter's is in the heart of the village. The parish also covers Barns Green and Bashurst, so there will be lots of travelling, but luckily I love my driving."

It won't be long before Sandra is reunited with friends from Cuckfield. "A coach full of villagers will be coming to my licensing service," said Sandra.

"And I'll be returning to Cuckfield regularly to tend Richard's grave and catch up with friends."

Cuckfield will always have a very special place in Sandra's heart. "I have many special memories of special people. But it's easy when you're working with people who have learnt to love you," said Sandra.

"I just hope my new parish will learn to love me too!"

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# Open Garden

On Sunday 10th May 2015 from 2 – 5.30pm the Worrall family are kindly opening their garden, Birchanger Gardens, Handcross RH17 6JY, in aid of St Catherine's Hospice.

This is a beautiful 7-acre garden with magnificent displays of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias. There is a grassy avenue, lake, lily pond, pergola, Etruscan-style temple and much more.

This lovely garden is only open to the public for a few weekends each year, so make sure you don't miss it. It is located 2 miles east of the A23 at Handcross on the B2110 and 2 miles north of Balcombe and will be signposted on the day. Entrance is £4, children visit for free, and dogs on leads are welcome. Car parking is free and refreshments, with home-made cakes, will be served.

For further details please contact Marian Erritt on 01444 413391.

Additional gardens will be open to raise funds for St Catherine's, so see their website, [www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk), for details.

## Village events

### FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Rob Helliwell

This month I have three subjects in my head to share with you which fall into past, present and future categories.

By the time you settle down to read this April edition of Cuckfield Life, The Independent State of Cuckfield Easter Monday Walking Race will have taken place.

A brave and fit group of walkers will have gathered in the Recreation Ground and, according to their handicap, set off to circumnavigate the village. They might have been accompanied by a dog, pushing a buggy plus baby or be in fancy dress. They will have marched down the High Street, up to Ansty, along Deakes Lane, then right past the Rugby Club and back to the Rec, where they would have staggered past the finishing line to await their walking time determined never to undertake this crazy challenge ever again. A great village event; unique, full of history, competitive and rewarding. Trophies and medals will have been awarded and will grace the homes of the winners until next year.

You'll be sorry if you've missed that!

However, you can redeem yourself because another special event which we have to look forward to is the Cuckoo Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4th. I will be officially opening this at 1pm and I know you will be there to see me, fully robed, as I am driven into the Recreation Ground. I also know that you will be there to support all the charities and organisations which will set up their stalls to sell an amazing range of products. Homemade cakes, plants, preserves, clothes, burgers and sausages; you name it the Cuckoo Fayre will have it. You will, I know, take part in the raffles and competitions and enjoy the entertainment taking place in the central arena and throughout the afternoon across the ground. Bring your dog if you have one, it could become 'Best in Show'!

As I write, the present situation remains the same. Still the yellow lorries trundle along Broad Street and up the High Street with staggering regularity and weight with which they pressurise our fragile roads, pavements and buildings.

I had limited response to the questions I posed last month about this village problem, so I will try again.

Living in a conservation area makes us conservators, which according to Collins 21st Century Dictionary are: ones who preserve from injury or violation; a guardian, custodian, protector from harm, decay or loss.

In the light of this, Cuckfieldians, my question is: How is it that a conservation area has not been granted a weight restriction order?

See you at the Cuckoo Fayre. Let's hope that the sun shines for us.



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# Cuckfield

## PARISH COUNCIL

News from  
Cuckfield Parish  
Council

Spring 2015

## Chairman's Annual Report 2014/15

By Nigel Page, Chair of Cuckfield Parish Council

This is the final year of a four year term for the current Parish Council with a new one due to be elected in May. My report for this year focuses on the completion of projects we set out at the beginning of this term in 2011 and a summary of our committees during 2015. Achievements were only made possible by the dedication of councillors, some of whom left us over the term and others who joined mid-term, and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the Parish Councillors who have served during the past four years.

In October 2014 we welcomed Annette Jones as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, replacing Nicky Sage who left to take up a new career after five years with the council and who we wished well. Jane Forester joined as our new clerical assistant last March. A number of staff work behind the scenes, either as caretakers or grounds people, to keep the Queen's Hall and cemetery operating as people expect.

I am pleased to summarise completion of the following projects:-

### Neighbourhood Plan – now adopted and part of the MSDC Development Plan

The Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan was 'Made' on 1st October 2014 and now forms part of the Mid Sussex District Council Development Plan. Our Plan was the 25th Plan nationally to complete the process and the first in Mid Sussex. Taking four years, with over 50 people having worked on the project, thousands of hours went into preparing evidence and policies. Importantly, the Parish Council learned a lot through its consultation and communications with all age groups which will benefit future projects. The Plan is now used on all planning applications and we have monitoring indicators to review decisions. A number of examples demonstrate the impact of the Plan and how it is used to determine planning applications. One example is the open space in Broad Street where applications for six and 20 houses in a very sensitive part of the village was determined by policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and delegated powers by the Planning Officer. One was subsequently refused based on policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and the other withdrawn. The role of Permitted Development has caused a few surprises especially with regard to change of use for business purposes, The Ship conversion to a convenience store being an example.

### Youth Club Building – Safeguard and Acquisition

I am pleased to announce we completed the purchase of the Youth Club building in London Lane on 4th February 2015 and we now own the building and freehold for the site. This completion marks twelve months of negotiation with West Sussex County Council who had put the building up for sale in 2014 and the Parish Council took the decision to safeguard the building when it heard of the sale. The building has been the home for many years to groups such as Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup, Orchard House Youth Club, Kumon Learning Centre and a local Karate Club. These groups would have been threatened with closure due to lack of local space had the building been sold to a commercial party. Identified in the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan as an essential community building which should be protected, 85% of the community responses during consultation were in favour of Policy CNP 20 which seeks to safeguard the building. The building will run and operate 'as is' in the short and medium term and the Council will identify value for money maintenance projects. Using our experience of running other assets, we have set up a new Community Building Committee to ensure it is run with the required financial and regulatory responsibility. The Committee has met with the current hirers to ensure a smooth transition and looks forward to working with them. Importantly, the Parish Council plans to increase its use by other groups and therefore ensure viability. In the long term, the Parish Council's vision is to seek a mix of funding and grants to provide a new purpose-built facility which would be a significant undertaking requiring the Cuckfield community spirit to help achieve this. It will be an exciting project for the next Parish Council.

## And now for my summary of the Committee activities over the year...

### Roads & Traffic

Whitemans Green has seen new marking and speed reduction measures in place and we have worked with Highways to quickly address the flooding on the roundabout which was causing pedestrian safety issues.

Ardingly Road Zebra Crossings - Two crossing points in Ardingly Road, one near to Bylanes Close and the other at Longacre Crescent are being replaced by zebra crossings. The scheme has gone through a lengthy process from design stage through to approval from West Sussex County Council. Unfortunately there have been a number of setbacks along the way but the Parish Council have worked hard to manage these. We are now very pleased to be able to report the appointment of a contractor and road space for the project has been booked. Work will commence on the 5th May with completion by the 22nd May 2015.

London Road Puffin Crossing - As part of our ongoing safety improvements for the village, a Puffin Crossing located between the bus shelter and Tower House Close is being installed by West Sussex County Council. Work is due to commence on the 3rd August with completion by 4th September 2015.

Street Lights Replacement Programme – As reported previously, all street lighting and illuminated road signs within Cuckfield are currently being replaced as part of a government funded project to ensure all lighting columns conform to current safety and energy efficiency standards. I am pleased to report it is nearing completion but required a significant amount of unexpected work by the Parish Council. Seen as a once in 30 years project and to make sure we retain the heritage of the village and bring uniformity back to some of the light fittings, the Parish Council is funding some of the columns with Section 106 monies from recent developments. All Conservation Areas will have heritage style columns with the main through routes. London Road, London Lane, Ardingly Road and South Street south of the Conservation Area will have a combination of heritage columns and 'swan neck' brackets.

### Planning

We continue to see an increasing number of applications for conversions and extensions, which are generally of good quality, design and construction. We saw the completion of Mantell Park (Buttinghill Drive) providing 42 new homes and Bevan Bank with 6 new homes. The development at Ardingly Road has now started and will deliver 14 new homes and a Public Open Space. The new road there will be known as Horsefield Green.

Mantell Park will also deliver an area of Public Open Space but we still have significant concerns over the drainage scheme and the slippage which has occurred during and after construction. This has currently led to a reduction in the drainage scheme which we are concerned

may have consequences downstream and, locally, means a sizable amount of open space is potentially unsafe. We are working with Mid Sussex District Council and Taylor Wimpey to ensure this is resolved so we can take on the land as per the legal agreement.

Yew Tree Court, Glebe Road redevelopment has now started. Whilst a long term benefit with the provision of affordable homes in the centre of the village, it will mean a period of disruption while the old building is demolished and the new one constructed. Access and location near to Holy Trinity Primary School are factors which the Parish Council has fed back to Planning Officers and the developer. We will monitor the situation.

There have been some disappointments to report for the year as well. The Parish had worked hard to try to safeguard the open space at the end of Courtmead Road but was unsuccessful. Planning permission was granted and we expect a substantial single dwelling to be built.

The Inspector's decision to uphold the Penland Farm planning appeal is a major decision for both Haywards Heath and Cuckfield. It will have significant impact on the infrastructure of Cuckfield and encroach on the Strategic Gap between Cuckfield and Haywards Heath.

Whilst our village centres continue to be vibrant and the heart of Cuckfield and Whitemans Green, the sale and conversion of The Ship Public House to a convenience store caused much frustration and concern around the whole village. The ability to make this change in a Conservation Area with minimal planning consent was a shock to everyone and in fact highlighted a national trend and weakness in policy on Permitted Development. Despite enormous effort from the Parish Council and led by our community groups, there was very little that could be done to prevent the conversion without it being fully considered in terms of planning. The Council continues to liaise with The Co-operative Food to ensure the current Co-op in the High Street is retained (see further update in this newsletter). Subsequently, there has been significant attention on this subject and the Council is looking at ways to make sure we retain our public houses as community assets. We are investigating what is now needed for Asset of Community Value (ACV) applications to be made on our remaining public houses.

### Environment

The Environment Committee has focused on ensuring the churchyard and cemetery is well maintained and provides a beautiful and tranquil environment with stunning views to the South Downs. Dick Taylor, our grounds person, retired last year after 13 years of service and we put in place a regular maintenance contract with a local business to work alongside Brian Smith, our



part-time grounds person. Paul Frost, Village Orderly (pictured here on left) for Cuckfield and Lindfield, retired last month after four and a half years with us and nearly 20 years previously working in and around West Sussex street cleansing. We wish Paul all the very best for a well-earned rest.



The Observer Field (Newbury Lane) is our long-term project to develop and maintain a natural zone for wildlife and ecology. The introduction of bees has been an important development for this year. We have supported the volunteers with the renovation of the Royal Observer Corp Nuclear Bunker, part of Cuckfield history, which has attracted many weekend visitors.

December 2014 saw our biggest and most successful Christmas Street Festival, with lots of festive activities and cold crisp weather attracting many people and making a good start to the festive season.

### **Worsley Memorial Recreation Ground: Playground update**

The 7th March marked the official reopening of the refurbished playground at the Recreation Ground. You will find a new sculpture of an Iguanodon with climbing rock stacks, both linking Cuckfield to its past when Gideon Mantell traced the first fossil of an Iguanodon back to quarries in Cuckfield. Cuckfield commissioned the Iguanodon from local sculptor Hannah Stewart.

### **Queen's Hall**

The Queen's Hall continues to be a key asset to the village and one which takes a lot of time and effort to maintain, ensuring we deliver a good experience for our regular hirers and community groups. Our caretakers, Chris, Vicki and Paul, continue to look after the Hall admirably. We have seen a good use as a wedding venue and it continues to attract very positive feedback. We have worked hard to minimize impact on our neighbours at the end of the events which are strictly managed and monitored.

### **Community Building Committee**

Set up to manage the new Youth Club building asset, I am pleased to report that Jane Revell and Mary Crouch agreed to join the Committee and provide vital knowledge and insight to its running based on their previous experience. An opening ceremony is being planned for September, with a competition to seek a new name for the building marking our new ownership.

### **Finance and General Purpose**

I am pleased to report the Parish Council still holds sound reserves and continues to operate within the financial power vested to it. We have increased the precept this year by 3%, which equates to £88.36 per year for a Band D household, a 10p rise on last years Band D rate.

### **And finally... a New Council from May 2015**

In May the existing Parish Councillors will retire their office in readiness for a new Parish Council to be elected, which this year coincides with the General Election. Some councillors will be standing for re-election but some will be stepping down and it is hoped new nominees will come forward to take up the challenge of an interesting and worthwhile role. My thanks go to all councillors who have worked so hard over the last term and who, along with Cuckfield's community spirit, have made this village a special place to live.

### **THE CO-OPERATIVE CONTINUES TO SERVE CUCKFIELD AND WHITEMANS GREEN**

A STATEMENT FROM THE CO-OPERATIVE FOOD (25 MARCH 2015) TO THE RESIDENTS OF CUCKFIELD:

"Steve Hammett, National Stores Director of The Co-operative Food, met representatives of Cuckfield Parish Council on 6 March. The meeting was organised by The Co-operative to provide an opportunity for the Parish Council to raise any issues relating to the two Co-operative Food stores in Cuckfield – in the High Street and at Whiteman's Green.

Mr Hammett told the Parish Council that the two stores are now both trading well, though the High Street store had had a difficult few weeks when the Whiteman's Green store opened. There had been some issues around availability in the run up to Christmas – mainly because the store had originally been earmarked for closure and logistics had to be 'turned back on'. These issues have now been resolved and, whilst the High Street store remains under review, no decision about its future will be taken until late 2015 at the very earliest.

The issue of deliveries was raised, particularly occasions when lorries have parked on the road outside the Whiteman's Green store causing an obstruction. Mr Hammett agreed to look into this issue, which appears to be deliveries of bread. He suggested that if the delivery were to be made earlier in the day, when the car park is less busy, the lorry should be able to park in the car park.

The Co-operative is keen to continue the conversation with the Parish Council and committed to keep it informed about progress on resolving these issues."

## Parish Council meetings

### April – June

2nd April	Youth Centre (Community Bldg)	8:15pm
16th April	Planning	7.30pm
30th April	Planning Environment	7:30pm 8:15pm
7th May	Election Day	
18th May	Council Annual Meeting	7.30pm
21st May	Planning Roads & Traffic	7:30pm 8:15pm
11th June	Planning Finance	7.30pm 8:15pm
25th June	Council	7:30pm



## A date for your diary...

Friday 7th August, 7.30pm

Cuckfield Recreation Ground

High Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5EL

Ticket price : £13.00, Concessions £11.00,  
Child £6.00 (5-15yrs)

Tel: 01444 451610 or visit [www.rainorshine.co.uk](http://www.rainorshine.co.uk)

Grounds open 6pm for picnics – please bring your own seating – indoors in the Queen's Hall if wet.



## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOLLOWING  
ELECTIONS ON 7TH MAY 2015

### Chairman

Nigel Page: 474720  
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### Vice-Chairman

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### Other Council members

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### Parish Clerk

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The Parish Council Office in the Queen's Hall is open from 10am – 4pm each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
Other times by appointment.

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### Forbidden Nights

Friday 24th April | Martlets Hall

Think Cirque du Soleil meets Magic Mike in this classy all male variety show. 18+

### An Evening of Dirty Dancing

Friday 1st May 8.00pm | Clair Hall

5 star homage to the greatest movie soundtrack of all time.



### Those Magnificent Men

Sat 2nd May | Clair Hall Studio

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### Sean Lock: Work In Progress

Sat 16th May 8.30pm | Clair Hall

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# Sue meets the Queen

Cuckfield tennis coach Sue Pegler, who has inspired many deaf youngsters to take up the sport, was recently presented to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace.

Sue was one of 300 Churchill Fellows, chosen from over 4,000, to be part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Winston Churchill Fellowship Trust was set up in 1965 to 'travel to make a difference' in a particular field of work or interest. Sue was a 1984 Fellow and, from 1999 to 2003, served in the Council to help choose categories and interview prospective Fellows.

"Being invited to Buckingham Palace and meeting the Queen and Duke was such a privilege and great honour," said Sue. "It was lovely to meet other Churchill Fellows too who are doing tremendous work at the grassroots of society and are so passionate and enthusiastic!"

Sue was granted a fellowship for 'Social Integration of the Young Deaf through Tennis'.

The funding enabled her to travel to New York for the USPTCA Conference, meeting other coaches from all over the world.

She went on to spend 8 weeks studying 'Integration through Sport of the Deaf' in America and Canada, visiting the Deaf University and schools teams in



Photo: BCA Film

Washington DC, North Carolina, Baton Rouge, Texas (where Arthur Ashe had a big tennis school for deaf youngsters run by a qualified deaf coach,) San Francisco and Montreal, and witnessing the confidence gained by deaf sports people competing against hearing players.

Armed with contacts, information and experience, Sue set up tennis coaching days all over Britain inspiring a whole generation of deaf youngsters to take up the sport and eventually taking Britain's first team to compete in the Deaf Davis Cup.

Her first pupil, Andrew Rees from Cuckfield, went to achieve international recognition in world games for deaf tennis and rugby.

Sue is now keen to encourage others to apply for grants. "It's a chance in a lifetime to make Britain better in your field of work," she said. "The possibilities are endless to integrate people into communities through sport and you gain much more than you give."

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# Spring starter

ON YOUR TABLE



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*author*



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By Simon Dennis, head chef at The Rose & Crown

Here is a simple but tasty spring starter which is ideal for any dinner party. It can be prepared in advance, ready to wow your guests. We serve this with pomegranate and rye bread with wild rocket, which really complements this oily fish. I hope you enjoy our seasonal recipe from my team!



## Smoked Mackerel Pâté

### Ingredients

2 smoked mackerel, skinned and boned  
125g/4oz cottage cheese  
150g/5oz soured cream  
juice of half a lemon, or more  
grated nutmeg  
black pepper and salt

### Garnish

cayenne pepper  
2 lemons cut into wedges

### Method

1. Liquidise all the ingredients. Season to taste with pepper, nutmeg and salt.
2. Put into individual dishes or one large one. Cover with cling film and chill for two hours.
3. Sprinkle with a little cayenne pepper and serve with lemon wedges.



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**May Food Market**  
**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Talbot Courtyard**  
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www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com

# Flooring ideas

## DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Limited Editions

Planning a re-furb? It goes without saying that comfort and style are not limited to soft furnishings, décor and lighting as flooring is an important factor in the finished interior. Comfort aside, flooring needs to be practical, good looking, durable, easy to manage and overall complete the look contributing to the final 'wow factor'. Start by deciding what you want from your chosen flooring in a particular interior. Do you want it to zone an area such as a dining/play area within a larger space? Help increase insulation? Unify interiors so that they flow into one another? Add style or cosiness? Or some or all of the above?

There are many surfaces to choose from and a popular choice is wooden planks, providing a beautiful finish within their spectrum of warm tones and grain patterns. Select from, for example, oaks of many kinds and tones, cherry and walnut. Keeping the original floorboards in an older home is a consideration. Who knows what kind of beautiful floor might lurk underneath an old carpet ready to be stripped, varnished, stained or painted? Replacing damaged boards is possible with the availability of reclaimed oak or pine planks. Add geometrical pattern, depth and historical style (popular between 1900 and 1940) with reclaimed wooden parquet flooring as an alternative. For a different approach, the 'fake' wooden flooring route takes you to a luxury vinyl having a tough durable finish fabricated in flexible planks which look like the real thing to flow seamlessly through the home. It's all a matter of choice and style to create a unique interior.

Large floor tiles in stone or porcelain can unify a modern interior with the tiles running from area to area or room to room. Small tiles will generate a texture or pattern which can make the space look smaller. Choose glazed tiles or seal absorbent ones, such as limestone, to prevent stains. Luxury vinyls will also give you great choices in stone effect.

Not forgetting carpets, think fabulous textures with loop or cut piles in neutral tones or, for the more adventurous, jazzy stripes or patterns in fantastic colours. Remember that carpet with a decent underlay will increase insulation. Consider amazing hand knotted rugs in glorious patterns in wool or silk, or go bespoke with rugs designed to fit exactly with your décor and furnishings. Natural fibres such as wool, coir, seagrass or jute are lovely but are only suitable for dry areas; best to avoid areas such as the bathroom that might get damp.

Considering an eco floor? Here are a few examples:

Bamboo floors come from a renewable source and offer a natural and hard wearing finish.

Glass tiles made from recycled wine and beer bottles could adorn your floor or there are alternative tiles made from such things as ash, porcelain, glass and old mirrors.

Cork flooring and underlay is one to consider being naturally fire retardant, water resistant and warm.

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## School forest garden

### VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

One bright, sunny Saturday morning a few weeks ago I went down to Holy Trinity School. That particular morning was Grounds Day when a group of parents spend the morning digging, pruning, clearing, creating and generally helping to make the grounds what they are. What an inspirational place this is, vibrant and alive with the first shoots of spring echoing the laughter of children. This is a facility of great value, fostering a love of nature in the generations growing up at Holy Trinity.

The latest plan is the creation of a forest garden. This appeals to me as it is a method of agriculture which grows produce in a way that mimics the structure of a natural forest, the most stable and sustainable type of ecosystem in this climate. First to go in are the tree saplings, which were being planted that morning by some of the children; walnut, quince, medlar, mulberry and so on. The idea is to grow fruit and nut bearing trees to provide a canopy, with the autumn leaf fall giving a natural mulch to the plants below. In due course the fruiting shrubs make the middle of the sandwich, under-planted with low growing, shade tolerant fruit and vegetables. In this way the area cultivated yields threefold instead of the usual one plot one crop method. With more and more of our farming fields going under the concrete carpet, forest gardening uses land in the way that Nature does so well. Cuckfield Local has sponsored the saplings and we look forward to seeing the venture grow and flourish over the months and years. The initiative chimes wonderfully with our project for 2015, From The Ground Up, celebrating the 2015 Year of Soils.

Thanks again to all who brought their tops and lids to the last Cuckfield Local Market for recycling, which leads me to the Cuckfield Society Village Show. One of the classes this year is 'trees made from the contents of your recycling bin'. Lots of room for getting the creative juices flowing.

Talking about recycling, good news for beaches, oceans and all of marine life – the New South Wales government in Australia are planning to introduce a Cash for Containers deposit scheme. Residents will soon be able to claim a 10c refund on empty bottles and cans. Coca-Cola are not happy! Let's hope that New South Wales' example is quickly copied by governments around the world. What a difference this would make in so many ways. "Bring it on," sez I.

The next Cuckfield Local Monthly Food Market will be on 9th May at The Talbot 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Do come along if you have not visited the Market yet. You may be pleasantly surprised at the yummy local food and goodies on offer. You could also find out about our 2015 From The Ground Up Campaign. Sheila and Margaret will be at the Cuckfield Local table as usual and look forward to meeting you.

[Cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com](http://Cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com)



# CUCKFIELD EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

[www.cuckeuro.co.uk](http://www.cuckeuro.co.uk)



The CEA sees one of its most important roles as the stimulation of friendships across national boundaries and cultures. Here are a couple of examples. We would always be pleased to hear of our members doing the same thing...



## Day trip to Boulogne

by Jill Butler, new member

We had a great day out! An early start to Folkestone Eurotunnel gave time for a quick pitstop with obligatory 'duty free' shopping. These places have doors at all corners, so of course I came out of the wrong one and had to walk around the building. The train journey was uneventful (time for a good natter and made lots of new friends) and we soon exited into bright sunshine.

In no time we arrived at the Boulogne Auchan for the first big shop experience and posed for a group photo. Then a quick scamper round to purchase bread and wine but I came out to find the coach missing. Wrong door again!

From there we headed for the port and viewed a great display of the daily catch, then off to a fish restaurant and a really tasty lunch. After this we walked around the shops and saw an outdoor fashion show. Leaving others watching the models in their bridal wear, us serious shoppers contributed more to the French economy.

We had a lovely day with good company, a great lunch and shopping. Encore !

## Programme for 2015

### 21st–25th May

Official visit by Karlstadt twin town. 35 guests coming by coach for the weekend.

### 3rd October

Boules knockout competition at Marshalls, starting at 11.30 with ploughman's lunch included.

Entrance fee £6 per person. Note informal boules practice at Beech Hurst first and third Monday of the month at 6pm starting in April.

### 28th November – note new date

Novemberfest at Old School 12 noon with French and German delicacies. Entrance fee £12 per person and cash bar.

### 19th December

Christmas event, venue to be announced.

We welcome Caroline Henson to the committee with immediate effect and are looking to recruit more new members. Please contact the Secretary, Andrea King (413172 [andreaking@cuckeuro.co.uk](mailto:andreaking@cuckeuro.co.uk)), or the Chairman, Andrew Symonds (412409 [andrewsymonds@cuckeuro.co.uk](mailto:andrewsymonds@cuckeuro.co.uk)), if you would like to join the committee.

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**Carol**

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[www.ospacuckfield.co.uk](http://www.ospacuckfield.co.uk)



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# Scarecrow Festival

This summer, on 13th and 14th June from 10am–4pm, Holy Trinity Primary School in Cuckfield will once again be hosting a Scarecrow Festival within its extensive 6 acre grounds. There will be trail of amazing, creative scarecrows for visitors to explore – in the woods, by the pond, hiding in the wooden ship and gardening in the greenhouse! There will also be a refreshments stall, run by Holy Trinity Church and Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup, so visitors can also enjoy a drink and cake. All funds raised from this event will benefit the school, the church and the playgroup.

The school is inviting all families, residents, businesses, clubs and societies to take part by creating a scarecrow to be displayed. It is free to enter a scarecrow for the trail and entrants can be as imaginative as they like – last year there were over 80 entries including a scarecrow witch, football team, mechanic and Queen!

Entrance to the Festival is £2/adult and accompanied children are free of charge. This is a fun, community event for all the family, so please come along to the Scarecrow Festival and vote for your favourite!

For more information please contact [sraison@htprimary.co.uk](mailto:sraison@htprimary.co.uk) or [areynolds@htprimary.co.uk](mailto:areynolds@htprimary.co.uk).



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# Bollywood night

By Sally Nakajima

On Saturday 9th May Cuckfield's Queen's Hall will turn into a vibrant corner of Mumbai. Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup is hosting Cuckfield's first ever Bollywood Curry Night. Tickets are just £15 per person and for this you will get a great night filled with tasty Indian food and music and entertainment into the evening. There is also a free quiz, as well as a bar with local and Indian beers, wine, prosecco and soft drinks. We'd love to see as many curry lovers as possible attend this colourful, tasty night out with all proceeds going to your local Playgroup. Bring your friends and family, make a night out of it!

Cuckfield Pre-school Playgroup has been part of the community for decades and many of you or your children will have benefitted from the great teachers and atmosphere we offer. In recent years the voluntary committee has been forced to more than double

its fundraising targets in order to fill the gap left by inadequate Government funding. We are committed to offering completely free childcare to all local children after the age of 3 and therefore our fundraising is vital. The Curry night is our big fundraiser for 2015 so we'd love the support of everyone who enjoys a good night out. Local businesses have already been brilliant - sponsoring fabulous prizes and helping us sell tickets. Ockenden Manor Hotel & Spa has very generously donated a Sublime Sussex Sunday package. Other prizes include a Gliding Trial Lesson at Southdowns Gliding Club and a fabulous wine tour and high tea at The Bolney Wine Estate. Sussex Crafts have offered to help sell Grand Draw tickets from their shop on the High Street and event tickets are available from the Wealden Stores or Cuckfield Pre-School on London Lane. We look forward to welcoming you to a night full of food and fun.

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# What's on this month

## AT QUEEN'S HALL

## AND ELSEWHERE

Regular weekly classes (many are drop-in classes):

### Monday

- 9.30am **Fluid Physio (Pilates)**  
11am **Weigh In – Work Out**  
7.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society** – Dog Training

### Tuesday

- 9am **Tiny Soccerstars** for 18 months to 5 years  
9.30am **Tinkerbells** - music classes for children  
3pm **Codanza**  
6.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society**  
7pm **Pilates**

### Wednesday

- 9.30am **Tinkerbells**  
10am **Stroke Communications Group**  
12.30pm **Zumba Dance Fitness®** (Live Wire)  
1.30pm **Modern Line Dancing**  
4pm **Codanza**  
8pm **Best of Ballroom Cuckfield Dance Club**

### Thursday

- 9am **Tumbletots**  
9.30am **Tinkerbells**  
10am **Pilates**  
7.30pm **Social Ballroom and Latin American Dance**

### Friday

- 7.30pm **Evening Flower Club**  
(second Friday of the month)  
7.30pm **Historic Vehicles Preservation Trust** – first Friday in the month October to May each year

There is now a list of regular activities and classes on the Notice Board that includes contact details.

### April

- 24th **Cuckfield Craft and Market** 9.30am–1pm

### May

- 1st **Historic Vehicles Preservation Trust Meeting**  
Council Chamber 7.30–10.15pm  
8th **Cuckfield Flower Club** 7–10pm  
9th **Cuckfield Pre-School Bollywood Curry Night**  
Tickets £15 – see page 29  
12th **Cuckfield Museum talk** – Council Chamber  
2.30 pm. 'Austen to Automata: Adventures in Conservation at West Dean College' by Susan Fullwood, Curator ([www.cuckfieldmuseum.org](http://www.cuckfieldmuseum.org))  
17th **Circle Dance** with Stefan and Bethan 9am–5pm  
29th–  
30th **The Importance of Being Earnest**  
Cuckfield Dramatic Society

### April

- 18th **Ensemble Reza Family Concert**  
The King's Church, Burgess Hill 3–5.30pm  
([www.ensemblereza.com](http://www.ensemblereza.com))  
19th **Sandra Hall's Farewell Service** – Holy Trinity Church 9.45am followed by bring-and-share lunch in The Old School  
21st **RBL Women's Section Group Meeting**  
Horsted Keynes Mais House 2.30pm  
21st **Cuckfield Evening WI** – The Old School 8pm.  
'Walking through New Zealand with a Wheelbarrow' by Harry Townsend  
22nd **RBL Women's Section** – The Old School 2.30pm.  
Flower Demonstration by Ann Lee  
25th **Spring Craft and Gift Fair** – The Old School 10.30am–2.30pm. Stalls selling cupcakes, knitted items, handbags, scarves, jewellery, candles, cards, soaps, home wares, photo prints, books and gifts. Soup, cakes, tea and coffee available

### May

- 1st **Holy Trinity Church Lunchtime Concert Series**  
soup 12.30, concert 1–1.45pm. Paul Gregory performing music for solo guitar by Villa-Lobos, Rutter and Albeniz and much more  
4th **Cuckoo Fayre** – Recreation Ground 1pm  
5th **NHS Retirement Fellowship AGM**  
Franklands Village Hall 10.15am  
9th **Cuckfield Local Monthly Food Market**  
The Talbot 9.30am–12.30pm  
10th **Open Garden in aid of St Catherine's Hospice**  
Birchanger Gardens, Handcross 2–5.30pm.  
Entrance £4, children free (Marian Erritt 413391) – see page 13  
16th **Cuckfield Branch of the NSPCC Plant sale**  
Brinkley Lodge, London Road, Cuckfield 10am–1pm. Entrance free, coffee and cakes on sale  
16th **Strictly Gardening** – The Orchards, Haywards Heath 10am (Ruth de Mierre 01444 453 399 or [ruth@i-dmc.co.uk](mailto:ruth@i-dmc.co.uk)) – see page 3  
20th **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society Lecture** – Clair Hall 10.15 for 10.45am. 'The Turner Prize: Its History and Controversies' by Barry Venning ([www.mid-sussexdfas.org.uk](http://www.mid-sussexdfas.org.uk))  
28th **Cancervive fundraising golf day** – Cuckfield Golf Centre 9am. £45 including a BBQ (01273 834912 or [paul@cancervive.org.uk](mailto:paul@cancervive.org.uk)) – see page 3

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