

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #57: July 2017

Free

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

This month's cover shows Cuckfield Rec in full bloom and is a great picture of summer in the village. Thanks to **Mandy Wilson** for sending it in.

We love images of Cuckfield to adorn the cover. If you have an image that you think would be perfect for the front of the magazine, do please email it in to photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk or have a look at the website: www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk/cover-photos

Getting inside the magazine, over on **page 4 Kate Fleming** brings us the two current contenders for the Mayoral race later in the year. But she also issues a challenge – who will stand alongside them in the contest?

Talking of village traditions, **Staplefield Summer Fete and Car Show** took place recently and we hadn't had opportunity to feature it before now. Check out **page 8** for a brief write up and, of course, photos of the fun!

Along similar lines, let me plug the **Bolnore Village Summer Fair** – which takes place on Saturday 15th July. There's mention of this and more in Bolnore on **page 19**.

Page 20 is an article which I personally took great pleasure in writing, as I had the privilege of spending time with renowned Cuckfield resident **Roy Viccari**. He has had a fascinating life already and in this feature he shares some of his stories growing up during the Second World War.

If you know someone who we should talk to, have a word with them first and then do let myself or **Simon Yeend** know – email editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk in the first instance.

As **Wimbledon 2017** draws to a close, Simon talks to the local Tennis Club about their refurbished facilities on **page 24**.

Page 28 will be a popular feature I feel sure, as **Phillipa Malins** and the museum team guide us past some old buildings in the village and their previous uses.

In one final plug, send us your holiday selfies please – see **page 33!**

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Cuckfield Life
Published by Kipper



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The race to be Mayor is on

By Kate Fleming

Will this be the year for Leanne or will Evelyn be donning the robes in October?

Will the people of Cuckfield be joining the international political arena and electing a female Mayor to lead and promote our rapidly developing community?

Right now the second question looks like a serious possibility, as Leanne Knapman and Evelyn Stenning are the sole runners for this prestigious role. Our current mayor, Wilf Knighton, will also automatically become a candidate, but at the moment he is the only man standing. It is, however, early days and the opportunity to stand is still open. So gentlemen, this is your chance to represent your pub, club, organisation or simply stand as an independent candidate.

The two lady candidates are well known around the village, albeit in slightly different surroundings.

Leanne is a member of the Murphy family, many of whose names shine forth from the Mayors of Cuckfield board in the Queen's Hall. She is a busy working mother of three, married to Gareth and involved with village life. She has been associated with The Independent State

all her life and is a valued member of the committee, bringing new ideas and support to the organisation. Last year she took responsibility for the Pensioners Christmas Lunch, which was a resounding success. This will be her 13th attempt to become Mayor. Could this one be lucky for her?

Evelyn Stenning is a formidable opponent for Leanne or indeed any candidate. She is a retired midwife who has worked locally and so will know many of the population in an extremely special way! She is working tirelessly to gather funds for her campaign. She has organised coffee mornings, supervised a village quiz and has gathered together sponsors for a 5k walk. All this so that on the big night she can deliver the most money needed to become Mayor.

So, lads of Cuckfield, this is your moment to balance the competition. We need more males to accompany the reigning Wilf. This will lay the foundations for a competitive election night at The Rose and Crown and the ability for The Independent State of Cuckfield to create and sustain important activities for both young and old in our community.

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Coming soon... Café in the Park

During the summer the kiosk will be open in Cuckfield Recreation Ground (behind Queens Hall) thanks to a local mother and daughter team.

Sarah Fry and Charlie Fergusson will be opening the kiosk for tea, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes, snacks and, of course, ice creams!

Charlie, who grew up in the village and also runs the bar for the Rugby Club in her spare time, says that they've identified a need: "Cuckfield Rec gets very busy over the summer and we wanted to help families get the most out of fantastic outdoor space on their doorstep."

Although opening times are yet to be confirmed, it will be open throughout the summer – except when the weather is terrible! You can keep up to date with the kiosk on local social media, where they will post regular updates.

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Evelyn's bid for Mayor is hotting up

Resident Evelyn Stenning chose one of the hottest days of the year to undertake her sponsored walk in a bid to boost funds for her campaign to become Mayor later this year.

She had two friends, Doreen Gregory and Jan Atkinson, to accompany her on the five-mile walk from Whitemans Green through the fields, woods and the edge of Cuckfield Golf Course to Sparkes Lane, Brook Street.

They began at 10am and the temperature was already baking. Evelyn said: "The route and scenery had changed considerably since we had been many years ago, too many to count. We continued along the lane to the Brook Street sign, across the road to Tanyard, then climbed several stiles with great laughter.

"We walked through fields and woods, past herds of cows, careful to dodge the fresh cow dung. We met two people running, which made us feel hotter. Fortunately, we'd remembered to bring water with us, so we were able to cool off. Eventually we came on to the hard road that goes from Borde Hill and Hanlye Lane.

We did meet a walker who kindly took our photo for proof before starting the incline up to Hanlye Lane and then finishing up again at Whitemans Green. After that two-hour slog it was home for a relaxing shower and a well-deserved lunch at the Rose and Crown."



So far the walk has raised £250. Evelyn's next fundraiser is a Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th July, 10am-12noon in The Old School and on Sunday 6th August a 'Get to know Cuckfield' Part 2, which is a quiz walk around Cuckfield.

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Staplefield out to celebrate the summer

By Victoria Ponsford

"Who you gonna call?" asked Maggie Chamberlain, Co-Chairwoman of the organising committee for the Staplefield Fete this Bank Holiday Monday 29th May.

Well, the answer really was 'Ghostbusters!' this year.

The Sussex Ghostbusters, a team of Ghostbusters super-fans kitted out with movie-accurate uniforms and equipment from the Ghostbusters movies, were there to raise money for local charities.

The Ghostbusting crew along with 'Philvis', an Elvis impersonator, and MP Nicholas Soames rubbing shoulders with Baron Von Thunderclap from the Monster Raving Loony Party (both taking a break from election campaigning) were among the many wondrous sights to behold at this year's annual Staplefield Fete and Car Show.

The festivities started with a stunning opening from St Mark's Primary School Maypole Dancers. This was followed by the ever-popular dog show, run by Kate Fassam from Raising Hopes Dog Training. This event is always well attended, with dogs coming from far and wide and in all shapes and sizes. This year cocker-poo Snoopy stole the highly-coveted title of Best in Show.

Running annually since the 1920s, Staplefield Fete has never lost its traditional style, something that keeps many people returning each year for more.

It's evident that, with so many volunteers coming to help out, the fete really encapsulates the community spirit of a Sussex village.

"We are always evolving each year, but we like to keep the traditional village fete feel. It's really important to us to maintain it," said Maggie.

The car show, with all the vehicles from days gone by, helps to keep the theme alive, and this year the introduction of rides around the adjacent villages in a 1952 London Transport bus was a real vintage treat.

Fun for young and old alike, there was something for everyone. Soaring temperatures and humidity kept the Beer Tent busy all day, and the Pulled Pork stall provided by The Victory Pub was the perfect way to keep one's strength up to try to win a coconut at the Coconut Shy, Splat an Egg with a Pétanque ball or tackle the enormous bouncy castle.

This year's fete raised an amazing £7,375.00 for St Mark's School in Staplefield, St Mark's Church and the Staplefield Village Hall. A huge number of people attended this year, and with rising numbers the organising committee is keen to hear from local businesses and entertainers that would like to be part of next year's fete. Please contact Maggie Chamberlain (maggs49@btinternet.com).





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Good News

Dear Friends,



Here is some news I shared with the congregation at Holy Trinity recently:

- World hunger is at its lowest point for 25 years
- The number of women dying from pregnancy and childbirth related causes has halved since 1990
- Life expectancy in Africa has increased by almost ten years since 2000
- The number of deaths from malaria is at a global record low
- Pandas are no longer an endangered species

Despite the febrile nature of both politics and national life at present, together with much disturbing news from other places throughout the world, there is a great deal to be thankful for. Such news should lift us and help us to rejoice.

This doesn't take away from the fact that each one of us is called to be aware and respond to constantly arising situations and awareness of inequality, not least within our own walks of life. Such inequality comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. There are people from Cuckfield who have had to rely on the Foodbank in Haywards Heath.

At Holy Trinity we are always collecting for Family Support Work, a great local charity which helps families in crisis for all sorts of reasons. You are welcome to leave foodstuffs: dried pasta, biscuits, cereals, pasta sauces, coffee, tea, tinned food. If it is in date, do consider dropping off something in the church porch to make a real difference to people's lives.

As Mother Teresa of Calcutta commented, 'We may feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.'

All best wishes,
Michael (vicar)

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Hit Cuckfield comedy transfers to Hurstpierpoint

After its recent sell-out smash opening in Cuckfield, naughty new Sussex comedy 'Bridge to Farce' is now 'swinging' its way to the Players Theatre in Hurstpierpoint from the 2nd to 5th August.

Tipped to make it all the way to London's West End, the fast moving comedy play lifts the lid on some outrageous suburban shenanigans!

Produced by the Cuckfield Dramatic Society (CDS), this is their first collaboration with the Players Theatre. CDS Chairman Peter Bowman said: "When a show is this well received, it's wonderful to be able to take it to a new audience so soon and The Players Theatre is a terrific venue, allowing audiences to get close to the action."

Steve Somers, Hurst Players Chairman, said: "We're delighted to offer this hilarious new comedy a well deserved second run, and for the Players Theatre to host our friends from CDS for the first time. It's an exciting development and a sure sign that local theatre is thriving."

Written by local residents, Richard Willis & Paul Ruse, the fun revolves around politically ambitious Margaret and her long-suffering husband Norman, who are expecting a new couple into their bridge circle. When wife-swapping beginners Barry & Angie arrive by mistake, both couples spend an alarming evening at cross purposes!

The show sold out at Queen's Hall and received glowing reviews, including one from an independent reviewer at the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, who said it was 'a well-rehearsed, slick production by an extremely talented group'.

Players Theatre is situated at 147 High Street, Hurstpierpoint (BN6 9PU), and the curtain goes up at 7.30pm. Tickets from www.cdsweb.co.uk or 01444 848156.

Cuckfield Dramatic Society is also busy gearing up for their next production in October, Anton Chekhov's Uncle Vanya. Auditions have already taken place, as well as an acting workshop led by director Emma Gosling. Watch this space for more soon.

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New school head teacher says Hi on YouTube

Warden Park Academy's new head teacher, Dominic Kenrick, has made a video to introduce himself to pupils and parents before he takes up his role in September.

Kenrick, who lives in Haywards Heath, is promising to set the bar extremely high in all aspects of schooling and to continue the "World Class" approach that the school has demanded of itself.

He said: "The relationships between students, teachers and parents is fundamental in achieving this success and by working together we can ensure that students at Warden Park make outstanding progress and leave as well-qualified, mature young people.

"My expectations of the students in terms of their achievement and behaviour are very high – I expect all students to be ambassadors of the school, to wear their uniform with pride and to display the highest standards of personal conduct.

"The values of the school should underpin the values of the community as a whole. Great communities are based on care and kindness, those are vital."

He believes empowerment is the way to get the best out of students.

"Education is a transformer and empowerment is the absolute priority," he said.

"Students who are empowered personally, socially and academically to go on and make the very best of their lives and be absolutely fulfilled in all that they do. A great academic outcome will be the ticket for students to move on in their learning."

The full video is available to watch at: <https://youtu.be/4wzjCWb3d8o>



Three-Peakers celebrate successful climbs

At just after 5.15pm on Saturday 1st July, a team of ten walkers from the Borde Hill Gardens based fitness club, Linear Health & Fitness, arrived at the bottom of Mount Snowdon in North Wales, having climbed to the summit earlier that afternoon.

There is nothing unusual in finding hikers on Snowdon on a summer afternoon, but this group had also just climbed Ben Nevis in Scotland the previous evening and Scafell Pike in the English Lake District in the early hours of the morning, so completing the 'Three Peaks Challenge', climbing the highest mountain in each of Scotland, England and Wales, all within 24 hours.

As Linear member, and successful Three-Peaker, Gwen Graham explained: "We all exercise regularly at the club and really enjoy training, but it is nice to have a goal, like the three peaks, to work towards to help keep you motivated." Fellow member, Tobi Shear-Smith adds: "As well as our regular exercise classes, the club also organised a series of training walks, so we knew we were well-prepared. The challenge now is to think what goal to set ourselves for next summer!"

Linear Health & Fitness is always keen to welcome new members, and anyone considering joining is encouraged to check out the website or pop-in to the club in Borde Hill Gardens. You never know, this time next year you could be up a mountain!



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Unique and quirky

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

How do you give your space additional wow factor by making it unique? It's tempting to go with the flow and follow trends in design magazines, yet wouldn't it be exciting to be a bit different? Adding something that reflects your personality or displays your interests, a real statement to your family would be a great way to go. Perhaps a bespoke piece of furniture (old or new) designed to be unusual, upholstered in jazzy fabric with a striking finish might be what you're looking for or simply a cushion made by you or a friend to reflect your personality using your own unique design.

I was reminded recently what fun adding a quirky object to an interior can be when I came across an unusual pair of taps in a ladies loo! One of the taps was actually a soap dispenser perched elegantly on to what should have been the pipe joining the hot water tap. The quiriness of the dispenser formed the focal point for such a small interior. Such a memorable feature can make an interior unique.

Bespoke furnishings made to fit difficult dimensions and angles can also include unique design elements, while free-standing pieces decorated by you in your own style will also be unique. Having something handmade as a one off by a craftsman will provide a unique focal point.

Framing your children's art or using it as a design base is a great way to go. Their lovely naive creations make great designs which can be transformed into a wealth of accessories. Depending on how creative you are, the designs can be transferred on to cushions, place mats, picture frames etc. It's the finishing touches that say it all and don't have to be expensive, especially if you make them yourself. Be different by adding touches to bought accessories to make them your own.

Craft made by a local craftsmen or a special piece brought back from a holiday can give an interior personality by its quiriness, design or reflection of its origin. It can generate a unique finish to the interior and a talking point, whether it's a painting, a piece of sculpture, an unusual chair or eye-catching rug.

Lighting transforms a space. The way you light your home for tasks or mood can also be a unique feature in itself. A fabulous chandelier, quirky lampshade, coloured LEDs lighting up a corner or adding a swathe of light beneath kitchen units or even a lamp with an unusual stand will all go towards creating a unique and a possibly quirky space.

Don't forget the floor. A bespoke rug tailored to your living space as a one-off design is a more expensive option, but it's an eye catching piece of art that one no one else will have. More simply a painted wooden or concrete floor with a less expensive rug can be the answer and still be pretty unique.

It's good to be different and fun to see the results.

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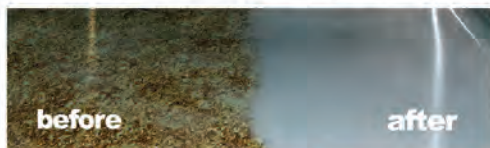
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Ladies take part in Muddy Run for charity

Seven Bolnore ladies made up the ten-strong 'Dirty Birds' team that took part in a charity Muddy Run in Tilgate Park, Crawley on 25th June.



The Muddy Run lived up to its name, with the ladies having to crawl through mud-filled tunnels, dodge buckets of water thrown at them, swim under cargo nets through a muddy paddling pool and finish the five-kilometre course by hurtling down a 10ft slide into, you guessed it, a muddy puddle.

The Dirty Birds completed the event in 45 minutes and raised more than £3,300 for Cancer Research.

Summer Fete: 15th July

Bolnore Village's Summer Fete takes place on Saturday 15th July between 12 and 4pm. Featuring stalls, live entertainment and the ever popular dog show, it promises to be another memorable afternoon. Full report of the day in next month's issue of Cuckfield Life.

Lotto turns three years old

This month marks the third anniversary of the Bolnore Lotto. Although the number of members has been constant at around 80, which is only a small proportion of the nearly 3,000 people who live in Bolnore, they have managed to raise an impressive amount of more than £7,000.

If you're not yet a member of the Bolnore Lotto, what are you waiting for?!

To join simply select your preferred payment option link below:

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Or get in touch with Carlos Leon if you'd prefer to sign-up and pay by cheque or standing order.

School breakfast club opening

The Hub Kids Club is coming to Bolnore. The respected childcare company are hoping to be open at the Woodside in time for the new autumn term this September, pending an Ofsted inspection.

They are offering a breakfast club from 7.30am and an after-school club until 6.30pm for pupils at Bolnore Village Primary School. They will be based at the Woodside, just a short walk from the school, with exclusive use of the secure hard-court area for outside play.

For more information email Gemma Coombes and Hannah Edwards at info@thehubkidsclub.co.uk

School friends fund Forest School and more

The Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School (FoBVPS) have helped to save Forest School and music classes at the school, with a generous donation of £7,000.

With the school struggling because of budget cuts the FoBVPS have stepped in to help with the shortfall.

A spokesperson for FoBVPS said: "As parents, we all appreciate that the experiences of Forest School and music are key to what make our school special. Music is currently delivered in a unique and engaging way, and Forest School provides children with the opportunity to learn outdoors and develop in ways which are difficult to do within the constraints of a classroom setting.

"As a committee, we were asked to consider contributing £7,000 to the school to allow for the sustained provision of these subjects, whilst enabling the school to deliver a balanced budget and avoid a deficit. It was unanimously agreed that FoBVPS would be willing to make this donation.

"We will be asked to support these areas for the foreseeable future and we wanted to communicate that we will be raising money to simply continue the great work our school has been able to offer in the past. We will also be launching a BT MyDonate page for parents who wish to make one-off donations, or for individuals to use if they want to fundraise by carrying out sponsored activities, whether it be a mud run, bike ride or sky dive!" The MyDonate page is here: <http://bit.ly/2s8qaUI>

Flea Market cancelled

The Bolnore Flea Market was cancelled at the last minute. Organiser Dan Weaver reluctantly pulled the plug after a slow uptake, following the raging success of the first year in 2016. Dan promised to be back in 2018 but is looking for volunteers to help with the organisation of the event.

Anti-social behaviour concerns in Bolnore

The Bolnore Village Community Interest Company has felt compelled to send out two messages warning of antisocial behaviour in the village.

The first concerns litter, with the BVIC disappointed to find litter in the village following a recent clean-up campaign. Discussions are ongoing as to whether the village needs more litter bins to help combat the problem.

The second issue is children and young adults damaging trees in the village. A spokesperson for BVIC said: "There is a significant financial cost associated with such damage, a cost paid by residents. Parents have a responsibility for the actions of their children and it is parents who will eventually pay, through increases in the service charge, for the damage caused."

More than just the war

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Roy is a man full of stories! Born in Streatham in 1931, Roy Viccari was just a boy during the Blitz of the Second World War. He's been a photographer, carpenter, hairdresser and is a prolific artist to this day. Roy moved to Cuckfield with his wife Rosemary in 1960 and has been involved in dozens of aspects of the community since then, not least starting Cuckfield Bowmen (now revived as Cuckfield Archers) in 1967.

By David Tingley

There are so many anecdotes to tell that Roy is in the process of writing a book. In the meantime, let me share just a few from the Cuckfield legend here...

Roy Viccari, as his name suggests, has strong Italian roots. His father's family were big farmers in the Monte Cassino region of Italy and moved, with two of his brothers, to London in 1900 to make a new and more prosperous life. Together the three brothers built three hairdressing businesses that started small in Brixton, but Roy's father, Pietro, went on to be based in Piccadilly and had an impressive clientele which included Agatha Christie, Prime Ministers' wives and many other famous names of the 20s and 30s.

Pietro Viccari was arrested at his door as part of the controversial internment of nearly 19,000 Italians living in Britain in 1940. "A policeman was standing at the door," Roy said, "and he simply asked for my father, saying he was being arrested! That was the last time we saw him." It is thought he was taken to a camp in Bury, Lancashire, before boarding the ill-fated Arandora Star liner which was torpedoed, resulting in the deaths of half of the 1,500 passengers and crew.

Unbelievably, some years later a gentleman walked into the Piccadilly hair salon and returned Pietro's wedding ring! Knowing he couldn't swim, and fearing certain death, he had put it on the finger of a fellow



Roy and Rosemary's Golden Wedding in 2010



Bombing every night

Italian and asked him to return it to his family in London if he made it through the ordeal alive.

But, back to Roy, who tells me a number of times during our time together: "I've had a fantastic life!"

Roy, who was one of six children, explained: "As an eight year old boy during the Blitz, I grew up with danger." Whether that was the green Messerschmidt tail fin which landed and was left outside their front door for two days, or playing on the sites of bombed buildings. "The common practice of running into the nearest air raid shelter was hazardous in itself," Roy told me. "Not only were we forced into very confined spaces for, sometimes, hours, but the better gas masks came in wooden boxes – and they really hurt when you got knocked by those a few times in the smoke filled shelters."

The family was lucky enough to have a second home (bought very cheaply, Roy suspects, due to its precarious proximity to the airport runway!) in Shoreham. Roy recalls watching some of the 'Battle of Britain' training circuits from his window there and being intensely excited about it. Roy has had a keen interest in aircraft since those days and has lectured in the subject many times over the years.

Roy went to a total of 16 different schools during his rather fragmented education, one of which was Dulwich College Prep School – where he eventually received a high accolade in Art. "One day," Roy explained, "the headmaster – Mr Leakey – told us that we were all being taken out of London to safety. Several attempts to find



suitable accommodation for us all, ranging from Cornwall to Wales, kept being requisitioned by the Forces. Finally, the Royal Oak Hotel, Betws-y-Coed, North Wales, was to become our home for the remainder of the fighting.

"The train was packed with 240 boys plus all the other passengers. We had just a wash bag and towel with us, and our food for the journey, which we'd all eaten before we left the station!"

What should have been a six-hour journey took nearer 12 and the boys, who were shattered from lack of sleep due to air raids at night, took it in turns to sleep up on the luggage racks. "There were a lot of servicemen on the train, and they helped us get up and down for each of us to have a snooze."

Once at their new digs Roy recalls the food not being great! "Rations were sparse; plenty of porridge filled us up for the day. Lunch and supper were meagre; these meals had plenty of vegetables and hardly any meat.

"One of the puddings we had resembled frogs spawn, tapioca it was called. Semolina looked and tasted like wallpaper paste. It was awful. The greens I pocketed daily, as I did not like them. I remember writing to Mother and saying that: 'Even the dog will not eat them!'"

The boys were also closer to the action than they knew on one day in June 1944. It was D-Day and the schoolboys noted the rise in military presence in that part of Wales. "Although we did not know why they were there at the time, Allied forces were all around us hidden in the woodlands in preparation for D-Day. American tanks were lined up along Forestry Commission roads. I remember sketching an American tank squeezing between the narrow walls of a railway bridge near Betws Station (the walls are still broken today!).

"All the boys thought this was tremendously exciting and, later that day, encountered their first taste of American generosity when we were given a few sweets by the troops and were promised more.

"True to their promises the previous day, the American GIs showered us with goodies. Hungry hordes of early teenage boys were hanging out of every available window of the hotel frontage, with many more boys standing cheering on the roadside. Unheard of luxuries were given, such as Nestlé's chocolate bars wrapped in bright shiny red foil with gold lettering!"

But this wasn't the only display of generosity from



Roy's mother

the Forces experienced by Roy. His family home was bombed in 1944 and Roy's mother hadn't yet managed to find a safe place to live. So, on leaving their Wales lodgings at the hotel, he was kindly taken in by the family of one of his friends – Alistair Speed. He spent three weeks on the Isle of Arran. He had much fun, including swimming in mountain streams, climbing and even rowing amongst the submarines stationed up there. "One day we took our dinghy close to a sub and a couple of naval soldiers treated us to a couple of cigarettes and some sweets. We both had our first cigarette behind a boathouse and felt quite 'green' afterwards!"

Later on Roy would complete his National Service with the King's Royal Rifle Corp and he'd find himself in the 'Queen's 100' top shooters rankings three times. Perhaps just one of the reasons why he later found archery and started up the Cuckfield Bowmen.

There isn't space here to talk about Roy's eventual arrival in Sussex or when he began work at Mr Manvill's farm at Butlers Green – one of the key suppliers of milk to this area at the time. We also haven't touched on his lifelong love of professional art and painting, or his passion for sailing and their family yacht 'Marjorie' which they had for more than 35 years. We didn't even talk about his photography contract working for the Bolshoi Ballet. But with Roy, there's always another story, so we'll have to save part two for another time.



Marjorie - their boat for 35 years by Ian Evans



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Anyone for Tennis?

By Simon Yeend

This time last year Cuckfield Tennis Club was preparing for the upsurge in interest in the sport that Wimbledon brings, but with a touch of apprehension. The courts were in disrepair and the clubhouse was in danger of collapse.

Now, thanks to the generosity of the Mayor, the District Council and community of Cuckfield and some hard work by the committee, the club has newly laid courts and a revamped clubhouse. More than £30,000 has been spent on the refurbishment programme, money that has made a dramatic difference.

Membership Secretary Gerry Canning says the results are remarkable.

"The resurfacing cost around £28,000," he said. "There is a vast difference. The previous surfaces had not been maintained for several years and were uneven with loose tarmac and the bounce was inconsistent. I would go so far as to say they were unsafe for play.

"The new surface on the three courts is all-weather tarmacadam, the same as before, but they are now pristine. Everyone who has played on them has been very complimentary – the bounce is true and, yes, we love them!

"The clubhouse has been structurally secured with new foundations. It was being undermined by damp and wood rot. The rotten rear cladding was renewed to protect the building, plumbing was repaired to stop the ingress of water. A retaining wall has been built behind the clubhouse to protect the building, and new floor tiles were installed throughout the public area which are a marked improvement to the interior."



The club took over the running of the club from the council in 2015 and members have worked tirelessly to raise money and to get it to the impressive state it is now in. The new courts were officially opened by Mayor Wilf Knighton at a ceremony on Cuckoo Fayre Day and the publicity from that day has helped boost membership, with eight people joining in the weeks after that.

Gerry adds that the club is always looking for new members. "We are a friendly club situated in the delightful surroundings of the Recreation Ground, behind the Queens Hall in Cuckfield," he said. "We welcome all tennis abilities, young and old. We now have two coaches working mostly with the juniors, but also offering adult coaching for players new to the game or returning after a break.

"We have three sessions of social tennis each week for adults during the summer (Tuesday and Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons). No need to book – just come along and try us out. Junior coaching is on Wednesdays and Saturday mornings. Other times are available free to members. See the club website for details – www.cuckfieldtennisclub.org.uk – on how to join. There is a court booking system for casual tennis outside club session times.

"For the more energetic among you, we have several teams playing in local leagues and a club tournament each year. There are social tennis events throughout the year and, of course, the bar is open at every opportunity. So, whether you are a new or returning player, you will be assured of a warm welcome at Cuckfield. It's the next best thing to playing at Wimbledon SW19!"

The next social tennis event and BBQ, for adult members, is on Saturday 22nd July starting at 2pm.

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Businesses can enter walking teams for charity



Cuckfield based Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (DVLCC) is calling on local businesses to get their walking boots on.

The charity is hoping to raise £30,000 on its walk on 16th September from Arundel to Brighton.

With the choice of either 12km or 35km, and heading off from the beautiful Arundel Castle at 7.30am, the stroll goes across the scenic South Downs, finishing at the stunning location of Devil's Dyke – a journey likely to take more than seven hours!

DVLCC is dedicated to supporting families with children under five years old with cerebral palsy and other motor learning difficulties.

Its early intervention service is delivered in partnership with parents to help their child to develop

physically, socially and emotionally, forming the foundation of their independence in later life. This is fulfilled by free weekly hands-on physical therapy sessions at its Children's Centre in Cuckfield.

Given that many children with motor learning difficulties suffer additional medical conditions, families are not always able to attend these sessions. As such, the Charity wishes to incorporate an Outreach Service which will provide digital audio visual technology for families to participate virtually. The Charity needs to raise £30,000 to fund the first year of the project.

For further information or to enter your team contact Nikki Cannon, Challenge Events Manager and Community Fundraiser at nikki.cannon@dvlcc.org.uk or call 01444 473274.

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Trading Places

CUCKFIELD HISTORY



By Simon Yeend

Although the outline of Cuckfield's High Street buildings looks much as it did 100 years ago, the trade carried on in them has changed beyond all recognition. Butcher, baker, ironmonger, haberdasher, grocer and two banks have been replaced by boutique clothing, cafes, estate agents, hairdressers, beauticians and lifestyle stores. Several shops and businesses, plus one of the original coaching inns, have been converted to residential use.

Cuckfield Museum has delved into its photo archive and is now displaying a series of photographs showing how the village looked a century or more ago. The team is aiming to bring the past to life with items from the collection, including a display of various tools of the trade that would once have been familiar to so many of Cuckfield's residents.

Cuckfield Life studied three of the old images and – with minimal detective work – discovered the buildings in question. The present-day snaps (from an iPhone, which would have utterly mesmerised the locals from those

days!) reveal the contrast in the use of the buildings.

The first pair of photos were taken in the High Street. What was once a general store, selling virtually everything, has been converted into three shops, David Foord Browne, Ensor and Sussex Crafts. Note the addition of all the street furniture, including a scuffed bollard, to cater for the automobile that replaced the horse and cart and the manure that came with that form of transport.

Phillipa Malins of Cuckfield Museum said: "I keep thinking what a stir this exotic looking party would have made – all the children have come out to see – and the contrast between the men in their turbans and the shirts and vests hanging in the village shop window."

Phillipa also gives wonderful insight into the second photo of Willett's bakery, now Diamond House opposite the Queen's Hall.

She said: "Sam Willett, the Singing Baker of Cuckfield, is glimpsed in the entrance to the shop. He was an expert on old Sussex folk songs, and collectors of these





old songs used to consult him - there was a revival of interest in the late 19th century. He was baker between 1871-1901. I should think this photo was taken in the late 1890s. He was obviously a man of limited stature, though this never seems to come out in records."

The final pair feature another shop that has given way to a residential home, on the opposite side of the road from Diamond House. F. Dann & Son sold all manner of cat and dog food as well as bird seed and parrot food – but, sadly, the demand for Spratt’s Dog Cakes, Bonio and Ovals wasn’t strong enough to keep this store going.

Other events at the museum

Cuckfield Royal Observer Post opens on 15th July 11am- 5pm and 16th July 10am-2pm as part of the Festival of British Archaeology.

In 1962 an underground bunker was built near Cuckfield churchyard as one of the Royal Observer Corps’ Posts. It formed part of the Cold War early

warning system and stayed in place until 1991 when the Post was closed. Mark Russell and Ed Combes have restored the bunker to how it would have looked at closure and have many interesting photos and artefacts which can be viewed above ground.

More information from www.facebook.com/cuckfieldnuclearbunker

Colin Manton, local historian and former curator at the Museum of London, will be signing copies of his latest book 'Victorian London Through Time' at Cuckfield Museum on 29th July 10.30am-12.30pm. The book has a fascinating selection of photographs and illustrations showing the many ways in which London has changed and developed since Victorian times. More information from www.cuckfieldmuseum.org





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Gatton Manor brings sunshine

By Ken Gregory

The splendid Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club, near Dorking, was the venue for our June Golf Day sponsored by Paul Masson Funerals, which Cuckfield Golf Society thanks for its support.

After a wet one last month at Horsham, the weather was a lot kinder to us with warm sunshine across this lovely course, which closes at the end of October for redevelopment and will then be a private members' course.

There were 14 members taking on this long and challenging course, which included two new members, and we all found the going hard.

Mike Harkess won the day with 33pts from Jimmy Stakim 31pts. The longest drive went to our sponsor, Paul Masson, with Mike also winning the nearest the pin in three.

Our next golf day will be on 28th July at Hillbarn, Worthing and in August we travel to Cowdray Park, near Midhurst in West Sussex.

If there are any keen golfers who fancy a round with us at any time, please just make contact with me and follow all the up-to-date news on our Facebook page.

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An artist's view on display in Cuckfield

By Oliver Pyle

Some may conclude that Mid Sussex does not quite match up to the scenic excellence of other parts of this wonderful county, such as the Weald, the historic towns to the west or the coastal splendour to the east. To do so would be to ignore the district's pretty villages, its marvellous woodlands, not to mention the drama of the Ouse Valley Viaduct.

As a landscape artist, focussing largely on the West Country and London, I realised that I should start to look a little closer to home and explore the many opportunities that present themselves locally. Living in Cuckfield, and having spent most of my life in Haywards Heath and attending Warden Park School, I know the area intimately. As a local resident surely there was no better place to start than Cuckfield itself! With my inspiration clearly defined, I started a new series of watercolours entitled 'Our Village' - my view and interpretation of Cuckfield, and it is a real privilege for my work to be displayed and available in the village itself with the new gallery, Artologie, in the High Street.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being an artist is that you are forced to observe what is around you, not just throw a casual glance at whatever passes you by. Starting to look more closely at the village has been



hugely enjoyable and informative, and there really is a wealth of subject matter to keep me very busy! Cuckfield is a truly intriguing and beautiful village. Iconic trees (the cedar in South Street and the pine at the cricket club), the spire of Holy Trinity Church against the cool blue Downs, wonderful old buildings of historic importance and the view across the Ouse Valley as you head out through Brook Street.

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Georgie and David Tingley in Times Square, New York

July 2017

Great clubs in Cuckfield

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE



By Wilf Knighton

One of the aspects that makes life so enjoyable in Cuckfield is the large variety of clubs and organisations working to provide pleasure for the whole community. There are too many to mention here, but if you are new to the area and have not found one that suits you, keep looking. I am sure you will find it.

A highlight for me this month was the Cuckfield Dramatic Society's performance of *Bridge to Farce*. Some might have thought it was a bit risqué, but what does it matter, it was certainly a good laugh. I went to see it accompanied by my wife Pamela and daughter Debbie, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Auditioning and choosing the cast could not have been easy, and that they were all local thespians was a great credit to them. I later discovered the play was written by two local residents, Richard Willis and Paul Ruse. Is there no end to the talent in Cuckfield?

This month I also attended the Youth Focus Group at Clair Hall. This was a meeting to identify the needs of youth organisations throughout East and West Sussex arising from the local authority cutbacks of the Youth Service. The major task of funding such vital activities now falls on charitable donations. The Sussex Community Foundation (together with donors) is seeking to plug the gap. To give an indication of the size of the problem, they donated £355,386 to a variety of clubs last year. There are many who need financial help and the SCF know where they are, so if you have a tin box with spare cash, donate it to them or use it in the next Mayoral election.

Another issue which looked troublesome was the future of the Cuckoo Fayre, now that the main organisers, after some 20 years of excellent service, have decided it is time for others to take it forward. At a recent ISOC committee meeting, they confirmed the intention to keep it going and the planning for that starts now. Those with organising ability who would like to get involved should contact the chairman, Jim Ayling, at the White Harte.

Finally, it is surprising how time flies and my term of office finishes in a few months. The electioneering process starts now, so your pubs and clubs should now proceed to put forward your own candidates for the race! Good luck.

Pan Fried Mackerel & Ginger stir fry

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By Sebastian Candelon

Sebastian Candelon has owned the well-established Fresh Fish Shop on Commercial Square, Haywards Heath for nearly ten years now. His passion for food and seafood can be seen with his broad selection of quality fish in the shop and also his carefully selected and locally sourced range of products to complement fish. His recipes are mainly inspired by the cooking demonstrations held at the shop regularly.

"I am a great lover of fast food and this rapid recipe always wins for those who, like me, love healthy, nutritious and above all else tasty food but never seem to have time to make it!"



(Serves 2)

Ingredients:

4x mackerel fillets (pinned)
2x carrot (spiralize it)
1x courgette (spiralize it)
1x aubergine (diced)
1x decent lump of fresh ginger (peeled and diced)
1x clove garlic (peeled and diced)
1x lemon
1x fresh chilli (chopped)
soy sauce

Method:

Simply pan fry the mackerel with some coconut oil on a low heat skin side down for approximately 5 minutes until the skin is nice and crispy and the flesh has almost all turned a pale white. Flip it on the flesh side to sear and leave on the side.

Leave the pan on the hob but turn the heat up. Add more coconut oil and add your chopped garlic, chilli and ginger. Once sauteed, add your chopped aubergine and spiralised courgettes and carrot. At the same time add some soy sauce to your taste, which will create steam that will

lightly cook the veg. Toss in the pan for one minute and serve.

Add your mackerel fillets skin side up and drizzle some fresh olive oil with some lemon juice.

Seb's tip: if you do not own spiraliser you must get one; an amazing way to keep off the carbs! Just like noodles but made from vegetables! Even my kids love it and help me prepare the veg, which means at dinner time they are proud and happy to eat what they have made.

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Flying high with the Air Cadets

The Air Cadets were in Cuckfield last month giving a talk at Warden Park to Year 7 students.

Former Warden Park student Tom Jarvis, pictured, explained that after two years at college he is looking to join the RAF. He was so excited about the life experiences that this career path will afford him. Corporal Hinton, pictured, told the children about how the Air Cadets have helped her to grow in confidence in all aspects of her life. She also revealed the opportunities and activities on offer -



camping trips, adventures abroad, sports and, of course, flying!

The Air Cadets meet locally, in Haywards Heath, every Tuesday and Thursday. You can join from the age of 12. There are two intakes per year - April and September.

And for adults who want to enjoy all the activities, you can join as a volunteer.

Email recruitment@haywardsheathaircadets.org for more information.

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Sudoku #13

		3	7	1				5
	5					6		
		9				8		
1				5				6
					2		5	9
	6			7		4		
9					4		2	
	1	4	9					
				8		9		4

Find the solution to #13 in next month's magazine

Courtesy of <http://andrews-sudoku.blogspot.co.uk>

#12 Solution

2	4	9	3	8	1	6	7	5
1	7	6	2	5	4	9	8	3
5	8	3	6	9	7	2	1	4
4	1	5	9	3	6	8	2	7
6	2	7	4	1	8	5	3	9
9	3	8	7	2	5	4	6	1
7	5	2	8	4	3	1	9	6
8	6	4	1	7	9	3	5	2
3	9	1	5	6	2	7	4	8

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What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

Monday

- 9.30am **Pilates** (intermediate)
10.30am **Pilates** (beginners)
1.30pm **Dance Classes for Children**
7.30pm **Dog Training** (ring craft)

Tuesday

- 9.15am **Pre-School Football**
9.30am **Music Class for Children**
1.30pm **Yoga**
3.45pm **Dance Classes for Children**
7.30pm **Dog Training** (obedience)

Wednesday

- 9.30am **Music Class for Children**
10am **Stroke Support Activities**
12.30pm **Zumba Dance Class**
1.30pm **Line Dancing Class**
4pm **Dance Classes for Children**
8pm **Ballroom Dance Club**

Thursday

- 9am **Balance Class for Children**
7.30pm **Wedding Dance Class**
7.30pm **Yoga**

Friday

- 9.30am **Music Class for Children**
7pm **Evening Flower Club** (2nd Friday/month)
7.30pm **Historic Vehicle Trust** (1st Friday/month)

Changes may occur to the above details, especially during the summer when some events don't take place. Please note contact details for all regular classes/activities are available on the Notice Board at the Queen's Hall.

'Al fresco' theatre at Rec

Theatre company Rain or Shine are set to delight family audiences in Cuckfield once again with their production of Shakespeare's cross-gartered and hilarious cross-dressing comedy Twelfth Night, as they 'transport' you to a land where nothing is quite what it seems.

The UK tour includes Cuckfield Recreation Ground on Thursday 27th July at 7.30pm.

Audiences are requested to bring along low-backed seating or rugs, and a picnic to maximise their enjoyment of the al fresco performances.

Tickets are available by ringing 01444 454276, or directly from Rain or Shine on 0330 660 0541 or go online via www.rainorshine.co.uk



AND ELSEWHERE

July

- 15th **Bolnore Village Summer Fete** – 12-4pm
Woodside Green. Stalls, entertainment and dog show
- 17th **Music Therapy session** – 10am
Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, Staplefield Road
Session for Under-5s with cerebral palsy & other motor learning disabilities. Book in advance (also running on 24th and 31st July and 7th, 14th and 21st August)
- 18th **Cuckfield Women's Institute** – 7.30pm
Baptist Church, Polestub Lane. Craft Evening with Cathy Symonds
- 19th **Messy Play session** – 10am
Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, Staplefield Road
Session for Under-5s with cerebral palsy & other motor learning disabilities (free)
- 26th **RBL Women's Section** – Lunch at Southdown Nurseries, Hassocks
- 27th **Twelfth Night production** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Recreation Ground – professional production by Rain or Shine Theatre Company (tickets from www.rainorshine.co.uk or 01444 454276)
- 29th **Coffee Morning** – 10.15am - 12 noon
The Old School Cuckfield. In aid of Evelyn Stenning's Mayoral Fund

August

- 1st **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – 10.15am
Franklands Village Hall – Talk, by Mel Rees, to be confirmed
- 6th **Cuckfield Walking Quiz** – 10am-3pm
Organised as part of Evelyn Stenning's mayoral campaign – collect the quiz sheet from 1 Whiteman's Green Cottages anytime. Can be done in teams of four, suitable for children. A great way to get to know the village (£2 per person, tickets from Wealden Stores)
- 12th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm
High Street. Come and enjoy the best summer vegetables and local food for the holidays

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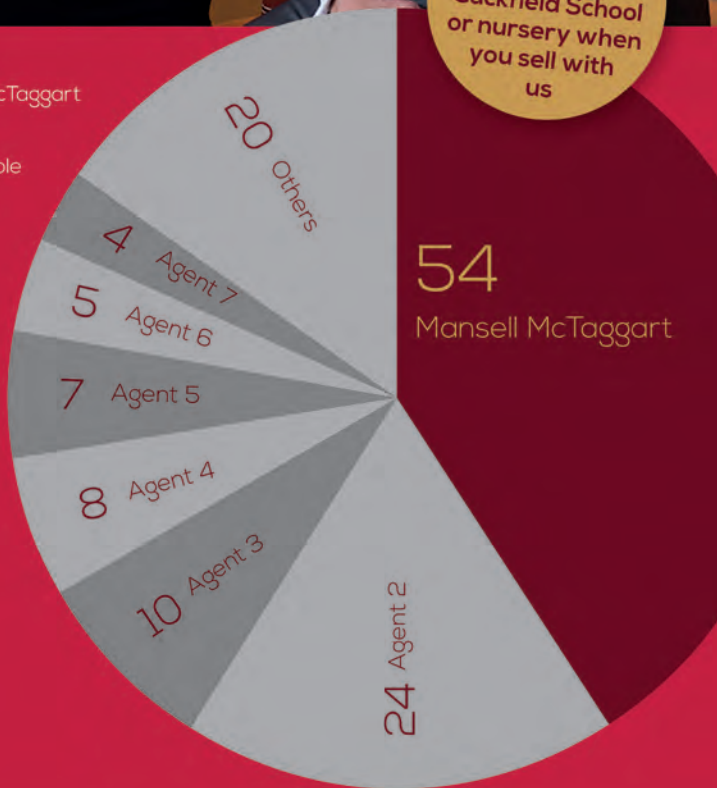
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