

# Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #81 : July 2019

Free

Meet Neil Tomlinson

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Phone Box Library open

page 8

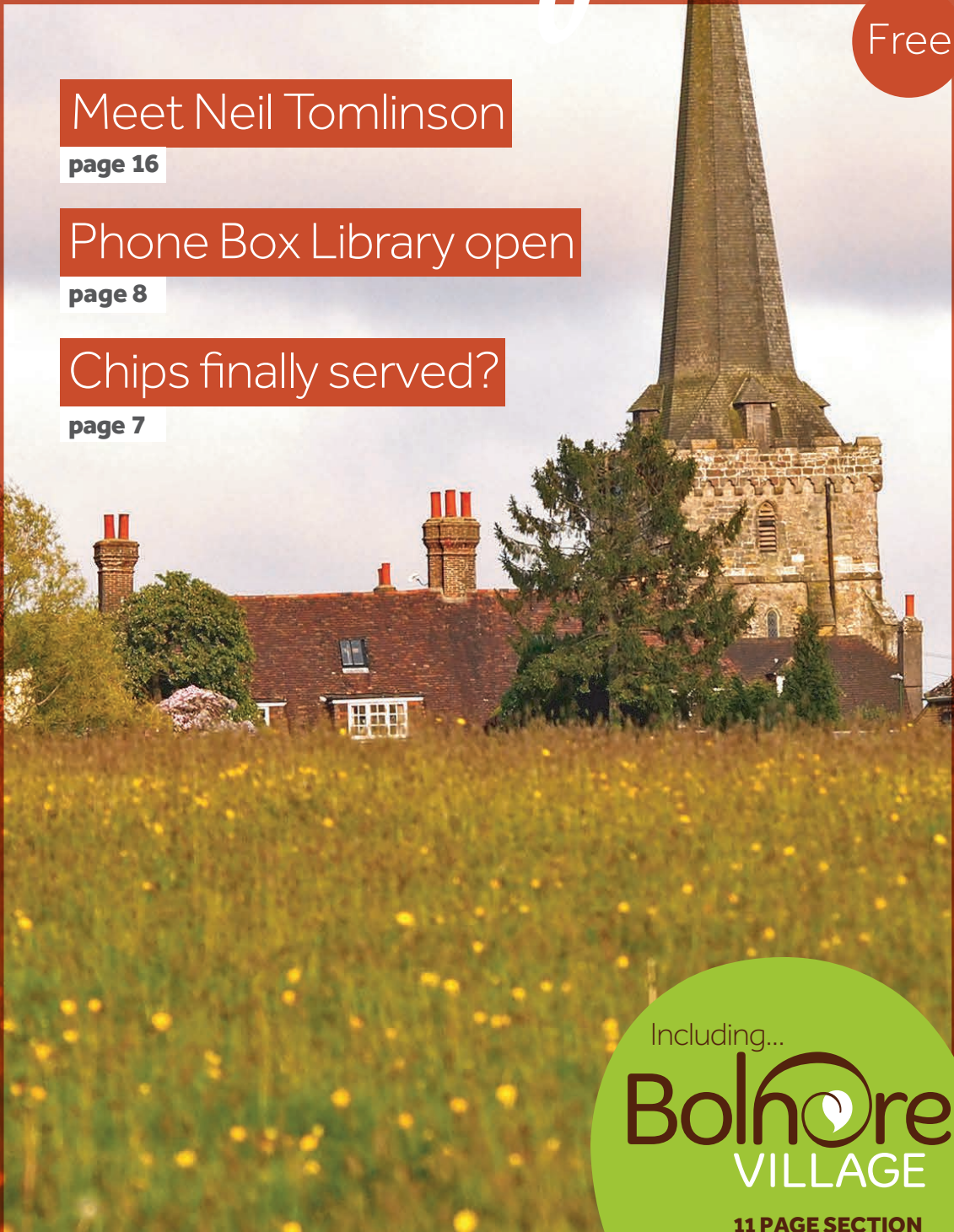
Chips finally served?

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Including...

**Bolnore**  
VILLAGE

11 PAGE SECTION





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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

With Cuckfield Life coming out as it does, in the middle of each month, we find ourselves on the very precipice of 'summer holidays' season. We've certainly enjoyed the pre-summer sun so far, but if you are going out and about in the next month or two please take your copy of the magazine with you and send us a selfie (see **Holiday Snaps, p45!**)

Our roving reporter **Jacqueline Elmore** has been out and about with her notebook and pen as ever, and this month we are delighted to share a **Village People** candidate from Bolnore – **Neil Tomlinson** on **page 16**. And, on **page 30**, we go **Behind the Counter** at **The Victory** pub in Staplefield to meet landlords **Jane Pedgrift** and **Janet Shepherd**.

**Elaine Goodwin**, our Bolnore correspondent, brings us plenty of **Bolnore-specific stories** from **page 14**. Why not start with the photos and faces of the school **Sports Day** round-up (**p.24**)?

If you have something to share with the community of Cuckfield or Bolnore, do please get in touch. The easiest way is usually via email in the first instance ([editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)). Whether it's an event to promote, someone local to celebrate with or a suggestion to give us for any of our regular features – we always love hearing from readers.

Starting on **page 47**, we have published the Annual Report by **Paul Mantripp**, outgoing **Cuckfield Parish Council chairman**. Do take a read and see just how much is done by CPC on behalf of its residents.

And finally, if you like a fantastic community story – and you know we do – turn to **page 8** where **Jessica Buckman O'Connor** writes about the opening of the **Brook Street Phone Box Library!** You've gotta love this place!

Enjoy your summer, whatever you are doing.



Issue #81 – July 2019 –  
3,500 copies printed

Next magazine copydate:  
30th July 2019

Next magazine published:  
13th August 2019

### Cuckfield Life

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We 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)

## Ex-student returns to Warden Park

Last month, former Warden Park student Harry Daymond returned to the school to give a talk about his journey in creating the 'Kart Kompany'.

Harry's idea came about from building his first kart in his garage at home with his Grandpa that he wanted to sell sweets from. He understood that his target audience was not only children but also adults, and he was inspired by classic childhood sweets.

Harry developed his initiative and skills in school, particularly in his Product Design and Business lessons. Throughout his A-levels Harry continued to develop his idea while promoting the business in local venues and on social media. Through hard work and determination Harry won a business prize fund of £50,000 after entering the Young Start Up Talent competition in 2017.

Today Harry continues to grow his business and inspire other entrepreneurs.



## Tennis Finals Day pairs announced

Members of Cuckfield Tennis Club celebrated their annual handicap tournament and BBQ last month. The handicap tournament is a regular event with two leading pairs going forward to the final, which takes place in early September. Members were randomly paired, each playing a 25 minute game in a round robin format and any game that is won helps the overall total score.

The two couples to contest the final on 7th September will be (as pictured): David Miller & Sarah Fricker and Candy Hood & Martin Sambrook.

## Orchestra crowdfunding

The Reza Community Orchestra, which meets in Cuckfield each month to rehearse, is appealing to the local community to raise vital funds to continue running the annual programme from September 2019 to June 2020.

Since 2015 over 250 musicians from Mid Sussex have taken part - which allows children as well as former players of various instruments, to play together in a multi-generational orchestra led by conductor Steve Dummer with support from professional musicians including the members of Ensemble Reza.

Managing Director Hannah Carter explained: "We need funding to ensure we can run the orchestra from September. Funding will cover venue hire, insurance, publicity, music arrangements, photocopier and for the time of Steve, our fantastic conductor.

"Players are literally dusting off instruments and joining friends and family to play in this orchestra. With the support from an expert team of professional musicians the orchestra is a safe and friendly environment for both adult and child beginners."

But the crowdfunding campaign needs to raise over £6,500 before 19th July in order for the orchestra to continue its work.

Anyone can back the project by going online before the closing date: [www.spacehive.com/reza-community-orchestra](http://www.spacehive.com/reza-community-orchestra)



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# Church Street Secrets now in new light

By Phillipa Malins

When Cuckfield Museum lent the 'Church Street Cache' to the Ashmolean Museum last year, as part of the Spellbound exhibition of superstition and witchcraft, the objects were displayed in a very different way. Rather than being viewed through a fairly small aperture as they had been at Cuckfield, mirroring the way the deliberately concealed objects were found under floorboards in the attic of 1 Church St, the collection was shown in a spacious, well lit case.

This has led Cuckfield Museum to invest in a new display case for the cache, which we are calling Church Street Secrets, where the objects, thought to have held a type of protective magic for the house, can now be seen more



clearly and in great detail. The cache includes a child's dress, a man's leather hat, shoes, jars and a doll's arm. All date from the late 19th Century, apart from one shoe which is from the 18th Century.

We are using the new case to display other fascinating objects which have come to light in Church Street. There is the tricorne hat dating from the 1780s found walled up in 2a Church Street, and the ledger from Askews, the undertakers and joiners, which was rescued from a skip by Pat Gallagher when he took over the business. There are also relics from Peelers' past – the police house which still contains a cell downstairs, later used as a cloakroom but still with the grille on the door!



## Bunker Post open days

The Cuckfield Royal Observer Corps Post will open on the following dates:

Saturday 20th July – 11am-4pm

Sunday 21st July – 10am-2pm

Sunday 25th Aug – 10am-2pm

Bank Holiday Monday 26th Aug – 10am-1pm

Mark Russell and Ed Combes will be showing visitors around the ROC Cold War Nuclear Bunker during the summer. No booking necessary. More information see: [www.facebook.com/cuckfieldnuclearbunker](http://www.facebook.com/cuckfieldnuclearbunker)



## August Food Market

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> 09:30 - 12:30

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[www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com](http://www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com)

# Traditional Fish and Chip shop coming...

After two years the new fish and chip shop on Cuckfield High Street is finally opening. The shop – named Cuckfish - was beset with various difficulties, including planning and utilities supply, but owner Mustafa Dilek and wife Jan are now expecting to open the restaurant at the end of the month.

Mustafa, who has owned a kebab shop in East Grinstead since 1993, was drawn to Cuckfield's village life and the surrounding countryside after having driven through it many times and was reminded of his childhood growing up in a village in Turkey. This inspired him to open a traditional fish and chip restaurant that reflected the character of the village.

"I'm really looking forward to being part of this community and getting involved," Mustafa said. After launching a competition to find the perfect name he was delighted to have over 300 entries, including seven suggesting 'Cuckfish'. The first person to have given the name will receive a £50 voucher for the restaurant and the other entries suggesting the same name will enjoy a £25 voucher.

Although opening times are still to be confirmed, Mustafa is expecting to make good use of the seated terrace during the summer.



An advertisement for Rohan Solicitors. On the left, a large, bright pink inflatable flamingo ring floats in blue water. On the right, the Rohan Solicitors logo is displayed, consisting of a hexagonal shape made of smaller triangles in red and blue. Below the logo, the text reads: 'ROHAN SOLICITORS' in blue, 'Relax' in large red letters, 'Knowing we have your legal needs expertly covered' in white, the phone number '01444 450 901' in red, and the website 'www.rohansolicitors.co.uk' in white.

# When is a Phone Box not a Phone Box?



Diana Giles at the official opening of the library

## By Jessica Buckman O'Connor

Like all the best ideas this one started over several drinks at a dinner party...

The Brook Street Society meets regularly to support our local community, ensuring neighbours have all the relevant news affecting our village and organising social events for the residents of Brook Street.



Brook Street Committee:  
Judith Hallett, Jessica Buckman O'Connor and Lucinda Meagher

Brook Street doesn't have a central meeting point – but we do have a lively, friendly and welcoming group of neighbours who are always there to support each other. From the (in)famous Brook Street Cider Parties of the past to our local gatherings of neighbourly drinks and picnics, we are all proud of our village and always eager to improve it. Our disused phone box was slowly rusting and decaying with paint peeling and windows cracking, so we thought we should act. The idea for the Brook Street Phone Box Community Library was born.

Over several weeks we washed and sandpapered, mended and repainted – even the children joined in. The wonderful carpenter Paul Pritchard, from Cuckfield Carpentry & Decking, came up with a plan and our generous Parish Council agreed to cover his costs.

He made shelving to take children's books and toys, a noticeboard and even seating for little ones (and older ones) to rest and relax while they browse the selection of books – kindly donated by the villagers themselves.

We are hugely proud that the fun we had and the hard work we put in to creating the Brook Street Phone Box Library has been recognised by Sussex Heritage Trust and the Sussex & Surrey Association of Local Councils. Our Community Library was awarded First Prize in their annual Phone Box Awards 2019.



To celebrate our achievement, Brook Street gathered on 9th June with drinks and nibbles, gossip and a book swap, and an official opening by local resident and author Diana Giles, who is the author of *The Life of Captain Sir James O'Grady J.P.* KCMG.

Please do come and visit – take a seat in the sunshine, borrow a book and enjoy Brook Street as we all do.



Residents who helped do the work on the phone box



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Photos: Caroline Lillywhite

# Festival hits the high notes!

## CUCKFIELD MUSIC FESTIVAL

**By Hannah Carter and David Mortimer**

All good things come to an end, but what a fantastic week we had with the first ever Cuckfield Music Festival! In just over a week we ran ten concerts and celebrated performances from international musicians (who were mostly Sussex based!).

From a lively opening concert featuring the Horsham Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble Reza to the closing event with the exquisite singing of the Magnificat Choir from Hungary and our very own Cuckoo Choir, this was a Festival for everyone.

Jazz lovers had two wonderful evenings of music. The popular seven-piece show band, the Speak Easy Revival Orchestra, kept the audience on the edge of their seats with their fun antics (including balloon modelling and drainpipe playing accompanied by some amazing jazz melodies), whilst the Mark Edwards Trio set the scene for a more chilled evening of standard classics delivered with superb musicianship.

Holy Trinity Church was an excellent venue for several concerts, possessing not only superb acoustics but also a brilliant grand piano. With her virtuoso performance Caroline Tyler made the fullest use of its range in her lunchtime recital, whilst Dominic Ferris had a packed audience on its feet with his spellbinding show of pop classics, film music and classical favourites. Local guest stars Jane Haughton and Michael Maine also came on to join Dominic in some entertaining vocal comedy.

Other highlights included The Rising Stars! concert featuring ten immensely talented young musicians from local schools, the popular vocal group No Strings Attached and a fascinating talk on music in painting by saxophonist Dr Matt Wates. And then there was the evening of Greek folk music from Plastikes Karekles (sadly, rain prevented this from being outdoors – but the audience still enjoyed their picnics and bubbly in the Church). The scenes of half the audience enthusiastically dancing round the nave somehow summed up the cheerful atmosphere of the whole Festival.

This tremendous week of music would not have been possible without the commitment and support from over fifty volunteers who so willingly gave their time in all sorts of roles – marshalling and ticket-checking, organising and running the bars and the Launch Supper, taking social media and the website under control, shifting (heavy!) chairs around to create extra capacity and even heaving grand pianos up and down steps. It was a truly remarkable local effort and a fantastic experience to be part of!

We keep being asked ... 'What about a future festival?'

99% of those yellow questionnaires so many of you kindly filled in said you'd like a second music festival in either 2020 or 2021, so once we have both recovered we'll sit down and have a good think! Watch this space!



# Cuckfield Baptist Church

We are a Bible-teaching, all-age friendly church in Cuckfield, seeking to know Jesus and make Him known in Mid-Sussex.

We meet at 10:30am every Sunday morning, and **everyone** is welcome - whether or not you'd call yourself a Christian.



To find out more about us and what we do, visit our website:  
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## Bug Hunt draws crowds

The Friends of Ashenground and Bolnore Woods (FoABW) hosted their annual children's bug hunt last month.

Children found spiders, grasshoppers, butterflies, beetles, moths and various other insects, which were all identified by Mid Sussex Ranger Jo Wilson and Conservation Specialist Debby Martell who were leading the hunt.

Chair of FoABW Lorraine Maynard commented: "It was a wonderful sunny afternoon for a bug hunt and the children found some wonderful bugs. We had a great turnout. Thank you to everyone who came along."



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# Scouts prepared for fun!

The annual Bolnore Village Scouts AGM Activity Fun Day took place last month, where the Scouts showcased what they get up to and invited everyone to have a go.

Activities on offer included Box Karts, a campsite experience with 's'mores', and welly wanging - which proved to be a huge hit with everyone.

Scouts Leader Roxie Grant said: "A huge thank you to all the volunteers, parents and Scouts from all sections who made the effort to come to the event."

The scouts are looking for a new Chairperson and a Cub Leader. For more information contact: roxie@bolnorescouts.org.uk.



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# The water guy

VILLAGE PEOPLE



By Jacqueline Elmore

There comes a moment in everyone's life when we begin to question our place in the world, our role on the planet and sometimes even our ethical approach to how we choose to spend our time. The catalyst for deeper introspection often occurs after a big life event; the death of a loved one, the birth of a child, or simply the realisation that life itself is short and that whilst we are here it is important to live it wisely and to live it well.

For Neil Tomlinson, self-confessed environmental activist and owner of water brand Aquapax, that moment came when his father passed away and he asked himself 'what is it that I am truly doing with my life? How do I want to make a difference?'. It was at this juncture in Neil's life that his view of the world changed and he began a new journey away from the corporate tide.

At the height of Neil's 'corporate career he hadn't planned' he was Head of Group Marketing and New Country Development with a European financial institution. Most Monday mornings he would fly out on the red eye from Heathrow to Madrid, Brussels or Amsterdam and be on the return flight home on Friday evening, long after most people had shut down for the weekend.

"It seems to have taken over ten years to become an overnight success story..."

When Neil finally left the financial sector his brief to the recruiters was that he wanted to work for a company that served a better cause or one where he could nurture his ethical dream. At that time, he was offered two roles; one in the energy sector, based in Warwickshire, and the other as Marketing Director of South East Water based in Haywards Heath. He chose the latter.

Neil explains: "In my time with the Executive Leadership team at South East Water, I was responsible for the engineering capital programme, with a statutory duty to uphold water quality in the South of England. I



immersed myself in everything to do with water quality delivery, alongside commercial responsibility for the laboratory's external analytical contracts, so any water quality issue in the south east was a very sobering matter to review."

Neil's real wake-up call on water quality came when he began reading the labels on bottled waters and comparing the declared ingredients with what he knew was being supplied to customers via water treatment works across the UK.

"That is when you start to think 'hold on a minute, what exactly is going into bottled water'. Also, why are people actually buying questionable quality plastic bottled water, which we all know has become the scourge of our world. So, when you have that kind of knowledge you have a burning moral responsibility to try to do something different."

It was while out walking with his wife on the South Downs that he realised he was no longer looking at the beautiful horizon, and he knew he had to do something to help bring about change.

"I just became totally distracted with the sheer volume of plastic in our hedgerows, and if you can't even enjoy a nice walk without seeing plastic bottles everywhere, you know it's time to make a change or, better still, be the change."

The following spring Neil resigned from South East Water and set up Aquapax, with the foundation 'a pure thirst for the environment'.

Aquapax was the first carton water brand in the world. The Latin-based name means 'water of peace'.

"It came about because I had been going crazy thinking about all these plastic water bottles and thought that there must be a better solution. It was my catalyst to find another way to package conveniently portable drinking water, and then to do the right thing by carbon balancing all our energy use and allocating a proportion of our turnover to charity. The rest they say is history."

Neil has been involved in the drinking water business now for 19 years and believes that this is his true calling. It is where he is meant to be.

For the first 17 years of his life he lived by the sea in Durban, South Africa where he spent weekends surfing the waves on Durban Beach. There is an illustration used on the outside of the blue Aquapax packaging of Durban Beach, the sun and the waves of the sea. Neil calls it 'my life on a box'.

His commitment to sustainability is not just about ridding the world of plastic either. It's become much more than that. He's now a fully-fledged flexitarian too and will rarely eat meat. For a born and bred South African who spent many years enjoying biltong and 'braai' (Afrikaans for BBQ or grilled meat), a social custom in South Africa, choosing to give it up must have been a big ask.

Neil explains the reason why he made the decision to eat less meat and try to live a greener lifestyle: "The day it happened I was carrying 37kgs of water. I twisted to load it into my van and my stomach ruptured. On waking

up in hospital, the surgeon told me "I've seen inside your tummy, and while I'm not one to lecture, it's evident you've eaten a great deal of red meat in your life; the best thing you can do to improve your health is to cut it down or cut it out."

In 2015 Neil had another challenge. Despite having given up red meat, he experienced a stroke across the right hemisphere of his brain, which had a sudden dramatic impact on his health and well-being.

"When you can't walk or talk properly, your objective becomes to learn how to walk and how to talk again. Dribbling is not a good look for a grown man, and I took the view that I was not going to be a stroke victim. I was going to be a stroke survivor. All you have is your attitude. Everything else is outside of your control."

He posits the theory that the root to happiness lies in connecting with mother earth and wanting what you have.

"I still think you need to take your shoes off to truly feel grounded. There are so many people who never have direct contact with the earth anymore. They simply aren't connected to it. Gardeners and horticulturalists understand it. And most in the vegan community seem to get it too."

Outside of work, Neil enjoys spending time with his wife and children. He lives in Bolnore Village and has done so for 18 years.

"We moved into Bolnore in 2001 and we really enjoy life in the 'village'. Neighbours around us have generally been here for quite some time, and there's a park just around the corner where lots of the local children play, including our own kids."

As Aquapax continues to grow so does Neil's passion for sustainability and the environment, with his consistent call to 'ditch the plastic'.

"Our latest iteration for Aquapax is a brand-new sugarcane (biopolymer) lid. Aquapax is therefore the original carton water brand, the first one litre carton-water brand and now the first to embrace a renewable sugarcane lid."

The premium water brand sells in the UK and Europe and has growing custom in the Middle East. Here in the UK Aquapax is sold via many independent minded retailers, cafes, yoga studios, gyms etc, as well as in selected Waitrose and Superdrug shops. Online the brand sells through the company's own website as well as via Amazon and many specialist well-being providers. Neil is particularly proud that in the high-end department stores of Selfridges in London and La Grande Épicerie in Paris, Aquapax has become one of the bestselling water products.

Neil concludes: "It seems to have taken over ten years to become an overnight success story, but as Gandhi said 'be the change you wish to see in the world.'" Inspiring stuff, I think you'll agree.

# RBPM sponsors PE at Primary School

Local property company RBPM Solutions issued a press release last month to officially announce its sponsorship of PE at Bolnore Village Primary School (BVPS).

Director of RBPM Rob Becvar, who has two children at the school and is also a Governor, is passionate about the importance of physical education in schools.

He commented: "Personally, growing up, I really appreciated and learned from all the sport that I was able to take part in, each individually teaching me important core values. I am such a strong believer that children having the opportunity to play sport, any sport, teaches so much whilst, quite importantly, keeping fit and having fun."

He continued: "All sport has direct links to the school's core values – Respect, Resilience, Working Together, Aiming High and Celebration – proving sport is such an important part of child development."

RBPM has supplied the school with new sports kits and hopes, with its continued support, the school can purchase new equipment and provide new sporting opportunities to all the children.

Rob has already been invited to the school assembly

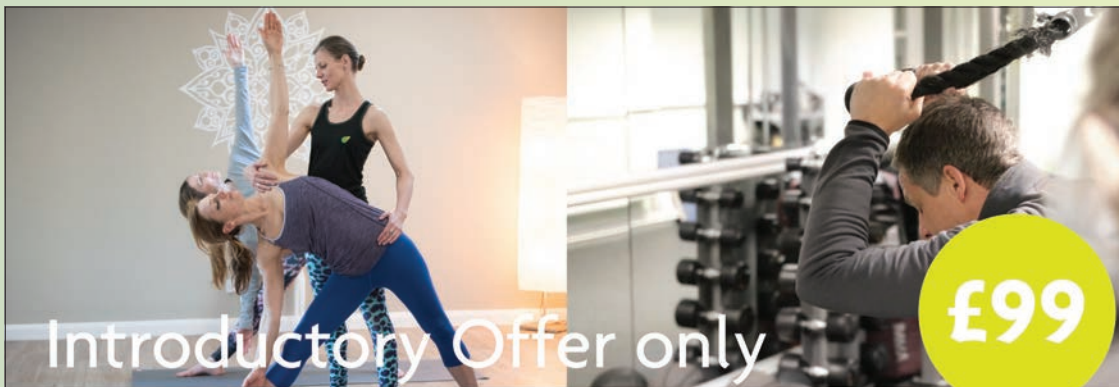


Photo: Sonia Hallam Photography

at the end of each half term to present the RBPM Sports Trophy and prize to one of the children. The trophy is awarded to a child who has done particularly well in demonstrating the school's core values while taking part in sport.

Rob commented: "Presenting the trophy is an absolute joy, especially hearing the stories of what the recipients have achieved."

He added: "We hope this is the beginning of a very long and happy relationship."



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# New Headteacher appointed at school

Last month the Governors of Bolnore Village Primary School announced the appointment of Mrs Tracy Taylor as the new Headteacher of the school with effect from 1st September.

Tracy comes from Bramber Primary in Worthing and has been the Head there for 11 years. Prior to that she was the Deputy Head for three years at Balfour Infant (now Primary) School in Brighton and Hove. Tracy has also been a classroom teacher for 14 years, so she is bringing with her a wealth of experience as a successful teacher to the school.

Chair of Governors Chris Gage commented: "As Governors we believe that Tracy will fit well into Bolnore and is the right person to help direct the next phase of the school's development. A passionate outdoor person herself and with a great sense of team building and the shared belief in irresistible and memorable learning, we are convinced that Tracy will continue to drive and support the many great things that are well established at the school."



## This month's quiz winners

The winners of last month's Quiz Night at the Woodside were 'Sorry We Were Chatting' - seen here in the foreground of the photo. Behind them sits 'The Team Whose Name Is Not Publishable', who took the wooden spoon award on the night.

The next Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 27th July from 7.45pm. Teams of 2-6 people, £2 per person. To book your table email [alison.events@bolnore.org.uk](mailto:alison.events@bolnore.org.uk) or just turn up on the night.



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# Mums host stress-busting fundraiser

**By Elaine Goodwin**

Bolnore mums Becca Lee and Liz Fowles are hosting an evening of relaxation to raise money for the school.

The session will comprise of gentle yoga, mindful movement and guided meditation, all to a backdrop of acoustic chart anthems. The event, aimed at fellow mums, promises to leave everyone feeling relaxed and calm in time for the start of the summer holidays.

Liz comments: "It's an end of term treat for worn out mums - a night off from bedtimes and chores!"

The event, named 'X-Hail - The Extended Chill', will be held on Thursday 18th July at Bolnore Village Primary School starting at 8pm (until 9.15pm). All funds raised will go towards providing mindfulness and meditation workshops and resources for the school.

Mindfulness and meditation have become widely recognised as useful tools in improving all-round health and can benefit all ages.

Liz explains: "Meditation is a bit like closing down some or all of your tabs on your browser. It allows your body and mind to switch off while you rest and gently slip into a state of deep relaxation. Fifteen minutes meditation can be the equivalent of an hour's sleep! This can have a huge impact on your health and well-being. It can lower your stress levels, enhance your mood and enable you to come up with more creative solutions at home and work. It can help you to reconnect and feel more energetic whilst at the same time improving the quality of your sleep."

Liz is a mum of two and knows how important it is to switch off, recharge and relax. She has a background of over ten years in therapy, coaching, healing and birthwork. Liz teaches X-Hail classes, a modern style meditation practice that aims to make meditation more accessible, easy and appealing to people with busy lives and busy minds.

Self-care advocate Becca is a busy mum of three and runs her own wellness business providing holistic coaching and yoga classes held here in Bolnore and locally.

Together the two promise to give fellow mums a chance to relax, unwind and reconnect while also raising valuable funds for the school.

Tickets cost £10 and include a Tropic mini facial cleanse. Self warming eye masks will be for sale before the session starts at £3 each.

Liz adds: "Please wear comfortable clothes, bring your favourite blanket and a bottle of water. We'll provide the rest!"

To book visit: [bookwhen.com/xhailsussex](http://bookwhen.com/xhailsussex)



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5 MINUTES WITH...

## Fay Flude

Fay works at Bolnore Village Pre-School, loves reading and has three rescue cats who like to interfere with her reading by sitting on her book or device and demanding attention!

**How long have you lived in Bolnore?** Nearly 6 years

**What's the best thing about being here?** Working so close to home, the people and the sense of community. I even like the slalom route into and out of the village!

**Favourite ice cream flavour?** Mango sorbet

**How many houses have you lived in?** 15

**What would you like to see in Bolnore that isn't here?**  
A cafe, or else hanging egg chairs on a communal grassy area

**Favourite holiday destination?** Devon, Dorset and Cornwall - I imagine living by the sea one day

**Song you play the most?** Stereophonics, Handbags and Gladrags

**What would you do if you won £1million?** Set up a local mental health project for children and young people

**What was the last present you gave someone?** A couple of sessions with a physiotherapist to relieve back pain for a friend

**Strangest thing you've ever eaten?** A meal my husband Nigel cooked on a camp fire. Can't tell you what it was, it was unidentifiable!!

**What would you rather give up for a month - TV or music?** I don't watch TV so it would have to be music

**Which App on your phone do you use the most?** Pigeonhole

**What's your proudest moment?** The births of all my five children, watching my eldest two graduate and, recently, my 14 year old son perform on stage at The Hawth

**Your advice for life?** Make time for experiences as these become memories and both are more precious than possessions

If you would like to provide your own answers for 5 Minutes With, simply email them to [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk) along with a photo of yourself, or do please encourage a friend to send their answers in!

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## Sports Day success



Sports Day for BVPS children took place last month, with events for younger and older children being split across two days.

Younger children took part in an egg and spoon race, 40m sprint, standing long jump, bean bag target throw and water obstacle relay.

Older children's challenges included a 60m sprint, shot putt, howler throw, broad jump, chest push, agility cones and speed bounce.

Children competed in their house teams – Air, Water, Fire, Earth - with Fire taking the trophy on the first day and Air winning on the second day.

Sports Leader and organiser of the event Mr Smithson commented: "Thank you to everyone for coming along and supporting the children, to everyone involved in making Sports Day such a great event and of course to the children for being so fantastic."



Photo: Sonia Hallam Photography



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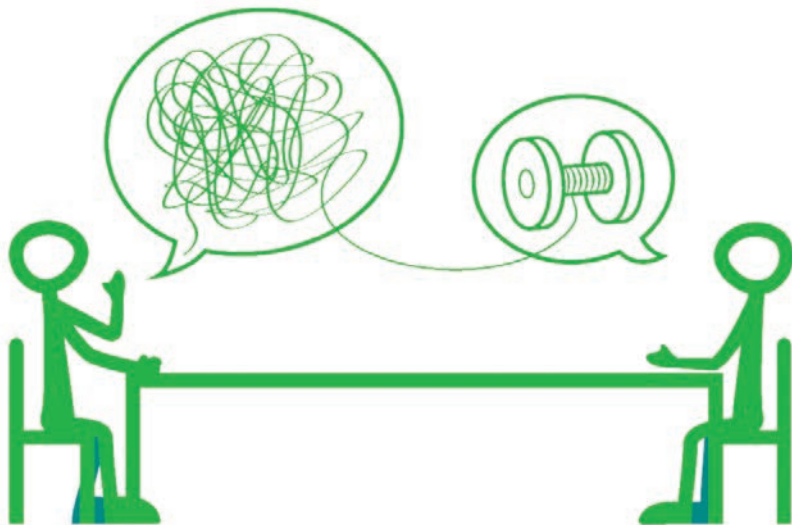


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## Coaching is everywhere...but what is it really?

By Lindsey Jones, Nine Dot Partnership

Life coaching, executive coaching, business coaching, success coaching... so what is coaching and how does it differ from training and mentoring? All of these terms tend to be used interchangeably, and it does get confusing since all three approaches seek to take a person to the next level, whether in a work setting, their own development or in dealing with life, generally.

### Training as a way to impart knowledge

Training focuses on giving a person new knowledge, skills or instilling new behaviours. It is a structured process involving the transfer of learning and is often seen as 'traditional' education. Like being in school, trainees are told what to do, shown what to do and allowed to try it themselves. Training can be quite passive. The trainee attends and is then likely tested on their knowledge. It often feels inflexible to the learner, or even frustrating, if they don't learn in a mainstream way.

### Mentoring is a way of sharing specific advice or skills

Mentoring is a process of sharing specific knowledge usually in a one-to-one setting. The mentor is generally regarded as an expert in his or her field and the relationship with the mentee is well-defined and generally part of a mentoring program. The mentor imparts their knowledge, advice and supports the mentee – this may be task specific and therefore quite short-lived or it could be more open-ended where the mentee's role is more complex.

### Coaching is a process to drive personal development

In contrast, coaching focuses specifically on enabling an individual to grow and develop.

Coaching helps the client identify their needs. These may not always be clear at the start and, as a result, different needs may come to the fore over time. A good coach, in conjunction with their client, defines an approach for addressing these needs. It's a collaborative and flexible process requiring the full engagement and participation from the 'coachee' – who, with support, designs their way forward.

This self-discovery and development of solutions allows the client to pin-point their route to growth;

therefore, there is a far greater sense of ownership, buy-in and commitment. Interestingly, since the coachee is ultimately responsible for their own progress, this generally leads to quite rapid and long-lasting change.

For the coachee, the sense of self-propelled development and growth is almost infectious and can affect change in all aspects of their life. This personal transformation can lead to new 'light-bulb moments' allowing the coachee to flourish further, often far beyond the original scope of the coaching arrangement.

In the workplace, regardless of its type, investing in coaching demonstrates to staff that you care about their specific development and them as individuals. As a result, coaching can increase satisfaction, loyalty and commitment thus reducing staff turnover and improving engagement. Coaching used to be reserved for the most senior managers within the organisation but now, increasingly, it is being utilised at all levels since the benefits are wide-ranging and have a positive ripple-effect both within teams and across departments.

### In summary:

- Coaching teases-out and identifies the needs
- Coaching allows for self-realisation and growth
- Coaching is tailored and person-specific
- Coaching develops the person over time, allowing them to flourish
- Coaching is collaborative, participative, flexible and is an active process
- Coaching signals personal investment and creates a positive ripple-effect

If you'd like to find out more about how great coaching can help you, your team or your organisation, please get in touch with Lindsey Jones on 07704 681 332 or email: [lindsey@ninedotpartnership.com](mailto:lindsey@ninedotpartnership.com).

Lindsey is a qualified coach registered with the Association for Coaching; Lindsey is also certified as a PRISM Brain Mapping Practitioner and a certified NLP Master Practitioner and a qualified Psychologist specialising in Occupational Psychology. [www.ninedotpartnership.com](http://www.ninedotpartnership.com)

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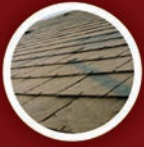
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# Pulling pints

BEHIND THE COUNTER



**By Jacqueline Elmore**

The great British pub today still remains a formidable sight: roaring log fires, casks of ale, muddy boots and paws, Sunday crackling and English country beer gardens. For many, however, it is so much more than just a place to knock back a hoppy pint or enjoy a packet of dry roasted peanuts. It is often the epicentre of social activity and the main focal point of community life.

Perched just behind the cricket green in the village of Staplefield sits the perfect village pub; the Victory Inn is a double fronted, clematis climbing public house with a 200 year old history. It was given its name for the legal victory achieved from the license it obtained. Originally the pub was a grocery store and the then proprietor decided he wanted to start selling beer and thus applied for a license. Initially the application was rejected as there was already a pub in the village, but he persevered and was eventually granted a license in 1848. The pub sign still shows a judge on one side and the landlord on the other.

The pub itself is run by tag team Chef Extraordinaire Jane Pedgrift (originally from the Midlands) and 'Master of the House' Janet Shepherd (from Blackpool) who have both been managing the establishment since 2010.

"Our aim right from the start was first and foremost to create a place that serves good food with a great environment," commented Janet. "It was always important for us to offer our customers a place to come with a relaxed informal atmosphere but one that also offers some professionalism. We pretty much welcome anyone - children, dogs, nomads."

The Victory is very much your traditional British pub and, for the most part, it's been that way for a long time.

Framed pictures pepper the walls while old wooden chairs and church pews fill cosy corners and an aged wood burner positioned near the bar lies empty waiting for the crisp return of autumn and the ravenous rambler.

Since coming on board, Janet and Jane have shaken things up a little by offering a different kind of menu. Old time favourites in the shape of classic pub grub still remain on the bill but there is also a sprinkling of Spanish Tapas fare on the list too.

Jane explains: "We used to live in a little village on the Costa Blanca where I ran a restaurant before we came here. I learnt a lot about Spanish food and I guess some of what inspired me followed me back here to Staplefield, so that's why there is always a little bit of Tapas on offer on our menu."

The partners have been managing pubs most of their lives, so they know a thing or two about running a decent boozier. However, moving south to a rural idyll that may have once raised an eyebrow at the prospect of a gay couple taking over their local they were offered a warm and generous welcome by the Staplefield community the moment they arrived.

"This village is full of a lot of people who have lived here a long time so it was refreshing to be accepted so quickly. Once they got to know us and saw what we were trying to do with the pub that definitely helped in our favour. For two women who had never lived here before to be welcomed with such open arms was - and still is - amazing."

Jane and Janet looked at a number of other pub dwellings before they had even laid eyes on the Victory.

"The pub was very run down and it needed some proper attention but it was perfect for what we wanted to do and we simply fell in love with it. We wanted to take something that was on its knees and try to revive it. We like a challenge and we have a bit of experience in helping to breathe new life in to old pubs. Before we came here we used to manage pub projects where we would help turn a dying pub into a thriving one. We took on The Victory when it was at a real low point but we've done a lot of work to help create the place that we and all our customers love so much today."

So, just what is it that has kept Jane and Janet in Staplefield for so long?

"That's an easy one. The pub and village, but more importantly the people that live here will always hold a special place in our hearts. It's a lovely village. We've lived here longer than anywhere else we've ever lived before. That says a lot about the place. When you run pubs you do move on. It's a very transient lifestyle. We used to move on a lot. It was very much two years here, two years there and so on. To say we've been here now for almost ten years speaks volumes."

The duo are firm supporters of the village and have in the past run a number of great fundraising causes and continue to do so today.

"We do a lot for the village and the community as a whole. We run lots of events – quiz nights, curry nights, race nights that sort of thing, to help raise money for the local school. We try and change the charity we support every year too. One year we helped raise money for Motor Neurone Disease and last year we organised a fundraiser to help towards money for a new defibrillator for the village."

The couple were recently invited to Buckingham Palace to attend a garden party in recognition of some of the charities that they have helped raise money for and their ongoing support of the Staplefield community.

At the end of May Staplefield held its annual Village Fete and Vintage Car Show, which Jane and Janet were very much a part of. The positioning of the pub, particularly its location being right on the village green, offers the perfect vantage point to watch the car run and see the fete in all its glory.

The Victory is a hearty place. And when I say hearty, I mean the pub is all heart. On a busy day The Victory is a buzz of people (and dogs). That's clearly down to Jane and Janet who between them have created a heady mix of warmth, of smiling faces and hospitality.

"The art of running a good pub is being able to chat to your fellow man, building a rapport and having a genuine interest in the people that you serve and listening to them. Once you've mastered that, people will keep coming back."

The poet and playwright Samuel Johnson once said 'there is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness has been produced, as by a good Tavern'.

The great and glorious British pub; time for another I think.





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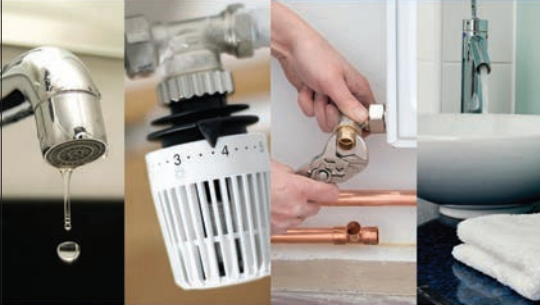
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# Super summer meals

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No exact quantities, it depends on how many servings you want.

Using a large bowl tip in halved red and yellow cherry tomatoes, finely chopped red onions (or spring onions) and red and/or yellow peppers and diced cucumber (I like to quarter the cucumber lengthwise first, scoop out the seeds then cut into dice). Add a handful of some or all of slivered pre-soaked sundried tomatoes, raisins, canned corn, peas or tiny broad beans (fresh or frozen). Make a dressing of one-third lemon juice, two-thirds olive oil plus a little honey, wholegrain mustard, crushed garlic and seasoning. Add and gently stir to combine, cover and chill.

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(or bright green hummus!)

Drain and rinse a can of chickpeas and tip into the processor. Add a generous spoonful of tahini paste and the juice of 1 lemon. Buzz to a smooth puree, adding a little oil to make a creamy consistency. Then add either a generous spoonful of sun-dried tomato puree (or tomato ketchup) or a chopped bottled roasted red pepper OR for Green Hummus add a large spoonful of pesto sauce. Buzz just to combine, check seasoning and tip into a serving bowl. Serve with carrot sticks or wedges of pitta bread that has been warmed on the grill.

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By Caroline Young

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### Chilli bean salad (makes 4 servings)

Gently fry 1 large thinly sliced red onion and some crushed garlic in 3tbs olive oil until soft but not browned. Stir in a splash of red wine vinegar, 200g can chopped tomatoes and a thinly sliced lemon. Tip into a bowl. Bring a 400g can each of haricot beans and kidney beans just to the boil, drain well and add to the bowl. Stir in seasoning to taste, cover and refrigerate.

### Couscous salad with apricots and pinenuts (makes 4 servings)

Tip 160g wholegrain large couscous into a pan with a handful of chopped dried apricots and 450ml hot vegetable stock. Cook to packet directions then leave to stand for about 10 min until liquid is absorbed. In a salad bowl whisk together 50ml olive oil, 3tbs white wine vinegar, 2tsp mild mustard and 3tsp sugar. Gently stir in the hot fruited couscous, a handful of finely chopped spring onions, seasoning and a generous sprinkling of toasted pinenuts. Cover and chill.

### Rocky road cupcakes

Put 250g digestive (or shortcake) biscuits into a plastic bag and crush to small crumbs. Put 125g each of butter and golden syrup into a pan with 3tbs cocoa powder and 2tbs milk. Gently heat, stirring, until melted and combined. Stir in the crushed biscuits and a bag of miniature marshmallows. Spoon into paper cases and chill until set.

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## New Initiative from Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield

**By Helen Swift and Hilary Turner-King**

Hello! We would like to introduce ourselves. We are two new Children and Families Lay Ministers, Helen and Hilary, appointed by Holy Trinity Church to further the great work already being done with children, young people and their families.

We are blessed that Holy Trinity Church is a vibrant church family reflecting family life in all its forms from the very young to the very old, from the weak to the strong, understanding of our differences, patient and caring in times of difficulty, striving to be loving and supportive of each other. Like all families, sometimes we get this right and sometimes we're not so good! But, fundamentally, at the heart of our family is the deep joy of sharing in God's love for each one of us.

As a church family, we want to be outward looking. So, what will we be doing to achieve this? We'll be setting up new initiatives at church and we will be working closely with schools and different organisations in our community, offering support in whatever way is needed. We also hope to walk alongside families during life events, both happy and more challenging, sharing God's love and concern in practical ways.

Holy Trinity Church has a vision for developing the many solid and established links with children and families we already have, and we hope that you too will want to be a part of that vision. Do get in touch with either of us via the church office. We will be very happy to hear from you.

### **Summer programme of events for all the family**

We have an exciting programme of activities for families over the summer holidays. Do come and join us at any, or all, of these events! (More details on our website nearer the time)

Kicking off the programme will be:

**Sun 14th July Mega Holiday Messy Church 9.40am** where we'll explore all the fun of Summer Holidays and our wonderful world. Lots of exciting craft activities for all ages. Come and get messy!

### **Thurs 1st August Village Treasure Trail 10am - 4pm**

Come to the church to get your treasure pack any time between 10am and 4pm and set off to find Nemo, Jaws and friends! Detecting a fishy theme? Finish the trail with refreshments and a chance to make your own fish to take home.

**Fri 2nd, 16th & 30th August ESCAPE Youth Pop Up Café 2.30pm-5pm** in the Old School. For Years 7 +

### **Wed 7th August Family Holiday Film Club**

Following the success of our previous film clubs, come and enjoy a film, popcorn and a pizza tea. Good fun for all the family.

### **Thurs 15th August Picnic and Games in the Park 2-4.30pm**

Join us in the Recreation Ground for family fun and a picnic with friends. Activities and games for all ages. (If the weather's bad, we'll picnic in the Old School with some indoor games!) Bring a rug and a picnic!

### **Thurs 22nd August Holiday Family Film Club**

More popcorn, a different film and burgers and chips for tea!

**Thurs 29th August An afternoon of Arts and Crafts 2-4pm Victorian Hall, Old School** – Come and be creative!

We very much look forward to seeing you!



# This year's book festival plans in place

By Sheila Mortimer

Cuckfield Book Festival (aka Cuckfest) has grown up! We have become a Community Interest Company, which means we are affiliated to Companies House and have a more formal structure appropriate for small not-for-profit organisations – a board of four people: Sheila Chasser, Sue Laing, Sheila Mortimer and Elspeth Chasser. Principally this makes us accountable and any profit Cuckfest makes will be used for the good of the community. There is a management team looking after the programming, finance, social media, the children's programme, volunteering, catering, marketing and anything else you can think of. It really does take a lot of organising, which begins early in the new year.

The programme is looking good, with one or two surprises and an earlier start this year. On Thursday 3rd October, the first event will be at Borde Hill, the outstandingly beautiful garden on the edge of Cuckfield. The autumn colours should be at their best and the event will consist of a tour of the garden from the Head Gardener, a glass of prosecco in the house and then a talk from gardening author Vanessa Berridge who will be in conversation with Andrew John Stephenson Clarke whose great grandfather created the garden. Tickets will be £20 each and numbers will be limited, so watch out for the launch of the festival when tickets will be available – in mid August.

There will be a literary quiz again on the Thursday evening, the Ockenden Manor Supper on the Friday (with an unusual guest this year!) and the two days of fascinating speakers covering crime fiction, social history, spies, royalty, bookselling, fiction, cycling and comedy plus lots more. The Big Book Group on Sunday night will be talking about Clare Clark's *In the Full Light of the Sun*.

Children's sessions will be in the Old School on Saturday 5th October and, once again, we thank Cumnor House Sussex for their support. We're focusing mainly on the under-tens this year, with a fun-filled day.

We have tried to make the programme as varied as possible and hope you find something to draw you in. Last year we discovered that not everyone realised that there is no need to have read the books that were being discussed beforehand (although for the Big Book Group this does add to the enjoyment). Come along and hear the authors talk about their books and browse the Waterstones table afterwards.

Some exciting names have agreed to come – see you there! You'll find out more on these pages in the coming months and you can check: [www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk](http://www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk)

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Festival fans can buy weekend and day tickets, from £35. The adult weekend ticket gives full access to the 3-day festival, including camping and all activities, workshops, music and experiences.

Maintaining the Italian spectacle, Britain's leading outdoor touring company, Opera Brava, will be performing against the magical backdrop of the Elizabethan Mansion House two open air productions. La Traviata takes place on 26th July and The Barber of Seville is being performed on the 27th July, with a chamber ensemble.

For further information about all the Summer Events at Borde Hill and to find ticket prices, please visit [www.bordehill.co.uk](http://www.bordehill.co.uk) or call 01444 450326 for details.



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# Holiday snaps

As ever, Cuckfield Life readers have taken their copy of the magazine away with them. Do send yours in to [photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)



Ken Gregory on Tresco, Scilly Isles



Kevin & Sarah Barber-Khan enjoying sunrise at Machu Picchu, Peru

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## Chairman's Annual Report: 2018-2019

By Paul Mantripp, Chairman (2018-19)

### Introduction

I am pleased to submit my Chairman's report for this year as we complete our final year of a four-year term. This report will be published at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2019 and in our regular newsletter, which is published in Cuckfield Life and on our website [www.cuckfield.gov.uk](http://www.cuckfield.gov.uk).

The coming year will be the first year after Council elections which were held earlier this month. I would like to thank all Councillors for their dedication and application in discharging the business of the Council. Some Councillors have returned for the new term and they have been joined by many new Councillors, whom I congratulate on their election.

The Parish Council is formed of ten locally elected residents (non-political) who give their time voluntarily to ensure we can run a Parish Council, and the Committees which enact our statutory responsibilities, as the first tier of local government.

Our primary focus is to serve the interests of the Cuckfield area and Community. The Parish Council is part of a hierarchy of government and is tiered as below. I mention this for clarity to show who has responsibility and how decisions are made. Where the Parish Council is not a decision maker it acts as a consultee to represent the community in key decisions.

- Central Government defines national policies and statutory law, which are cascaded down to the County Council, District Council and lastly the Parish Council. Sir Nicholas Soames is the MP for Mid Sussex.
- West Sussex County Council is responsible for services such as Education, Highways, Social and Healthcare services. Your current elected representative is Cllr Peter Bradbury.
- Mid Sussex District Council, with whom we work closely, along with the three Town Councils and Parish Councils form the rest of the Mid Sussex District. They are responsible for planning decisions, housing provision and local amenities such as parks and recreation. Cllr Robert Salisbury and Cllr Peter Bradbury are the elected ward councillors representing Cuckfield in Mid Sussex.
- In 2018-19 the Parish Council ran committees for Community Buildings, Environment and Wellbeing, Estates, Finance, Planning and Roads and Traffic.

The core activity for the year is summarised in the remainder of this report.

This Annual Report and the Annual Parish Meeting is our opportunity each year to share the efforts of the previous year and to look forward. We have worked to continually improve the Annual Parish Meeting and to make it relevant to the community, with guest speakers who reflect the interest and feedback we have received during the year.

This year we are delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Inspector Pete Dommert, Prevention Inspector, Mid Sussex Police.

The Parish Council has several committees whose activities are summarised later in the report. Each committee works in a specific area. This year the focus has continued to be on Roads and Traffic in respect of safety improvements, running both Queen's Hall and Cuckfield Village Hall, and to ensure we provide good services for burials in the cemetery and investing in our allotments. We have received the land transfer for Horsefield Green, south of Ardingly Road as a public open space.

We have continued our commitment to making Cuckfield's roads safer. The London Lane traffic calming works will commence in the summer of 2019 and will bring to fruition a campaign for enhanced pedestrian safety which I first became involved with in 1991. A long time in gestation would be a fair comment, but nonetheless a welcome improvement. The time and resolve required at Parish level to implement traffic calming and road safety improvements is considerable as all works approvals and funding need to be channelled through WSCC. We are fortunate to have Colin Mercer as the Chair of our Roads and Traffic Committee for many years. He has worked tirelessly to achieve all of the calming measures within the village and London Lane in particular. Thank you, Colin. The speed watch programme continues in conjunction with Sussex Police, and the programme is staffed by local community volunteers who monitor and report speeding vehicles to Sussex Police who will then decide on what action to take.

We have also increased our contracts hire charges for both community buildings. The Council managed its costs and expenditure within its means and budget, but these increases were necessary to ensure it provides the right services to the community.

The Parish Council raises the majority of its income through the precept (Council Tax, collected by Mid Sussex District Council).

You can find a list and contact details of Councillors on our website [www.cuckfield.gov.uk](http://www.cuckfield.gov.uk) and in our regular newsletter in Cuckfield Life.

I should also add that I concluded my last term as a Councillor having stepped down as Chairman on 16th May 2019.

The workload the Parish Council addresses each year increases, as does the complexity of the legal framework in which we are required to conduct ourselves. Our success in doing so is due to the great work undertaken by the Parish Council team, led by our Clerk Sam Heynes.

I am pleased to summarise the activity of each of our committees for 2018- 2019 on the following pages.

## Planning Committee

By Cllr Burton

2018-19 has been another busy year for the Planning Committee. Whilst the business of the Committee has continued in the number of applications considered with responses to Mid Sussex District Council, who are the Local Planning Authority, there have fortunately been no new applications that would significantly erode the distinctiveness of Cuckfield.

### District Plan

The key issue in the year was the adoption, after ten years in the making, of the new District Plan. Whilst it is a relief that we may be getting some respite from the planning-by-appeal experience we have had in recent years, with planning policies now carrying full weight, the sting in the tail was the much higher housing target which the developers successfully argued for being imposed. The District now needs to find space for another 2,000 dwellings over the plan period on top of those it had previously included. The solution in the Examination was fudged by spreading these across Category 1 and 2 settlements in an undefined manner (as a large village, Cuckfield is Category 2). An exercise is now currently underway, by the snappily titled Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), to reassess every potential site. It is therefore highly possible that the village is going to have to take an additional 200 houses on top of what is assessed in the Neighbourhood Plan. That's an additional 20% increase in the size of the village, on a scale of the Penland Farm development, in just a few years and can only be accommodated by further erosion of the gap between us and Haywards Heath or in the fields south of the

church. This will have a major impact on the village. The Parish Council will continue to argue strongly to defend our Neighbourhood Plan policies, which aim to protect our settlement distinctiveness and environment.

### Burgess Hill Northern Arc

The central lynchpin of the District Plan, 3500 new houses on the northern side of Burgess Hill, is accelerating. The District secured the support of the Government Homes England department to co-ordinate the development, and it's hoped that this will mean infrastructure is implemented in a timely manner, rather than all being left to the end (or not at all) as we've seen when developers are left to their own devices. The older Martlets centre in the town is about to be torn down to make way for a new leisure, shopping and housing area. No word on when the A2300 upgrade to the A23 will be undertaken, but funding has been secured apparently. This is crucial to try to prevent traffic through Cuckfield getting even worse than it already is.

### Penland Farm

This development of 210 houses continues into successive phases. The three-month closure of Hanlye Lane, that developer Redrow insists is required to construct the new roundabout junction, will now be carried out over the summer of 2020. By this time, the London Lane scheme in Cuckfield will have been completed (in August 2019), so hopefully it will be a little safer for pedestrians given all the additional traffic for such a long time. It is unfortunate that the District Council did not insist on this infrastructure being in place first, before houses were built on the space where there could have been a temporary diversion, and which would have prevented the considerable inconvenience. Profit has trampled over community disruption once again.



### Planning Enforcement and Issues

There are a number of planning issues which the Parish Council is continuing to press MSDC to take, or continue, action on.

- The Buttinghill drainage pond is still in a state of collapse, and Taylor Wimpey are continuing to do all they can to avoid doing anything about it. CPC cannot take this land over formally as intended public open space until this is resolved. We continue to pressurise.





- MSDC has confirmed that the entrance gates to the new Denning Place development along Broad Street do not have planning permission, and these block the



- strategic views across Blunts Wood identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. However, MSDC has taken almost a year so far to do nothing about it.
- MSDC granted itself planning permission again (the seventh time) in the new year for the play meadow in Courtmead Road, despite losing previous High Court Judicial Reviews. I don't think anyone thought this saga would run for so long or cost the taxpayer so much (over £100k in professional fees, let alone Council staff time!).
- Whilst officially just outside the parish boundary, developments at Cuckfield Golf Club continue to cause concern. We await the outcome of the recent application for residential use of the clubhouse and landscaping issues.
- Across the road the proposed new clubhouse for Haywards Heath Rugby Club is making progress through the planning stages.
- The Court Meadow School site is currently being sold by West Sussex County Council. The Parish Council submitted an application for this to be entered on the Assets of Community Value register, such that we could have some influence on what will happen to the site (which is allocated for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan), but unfortunately this was flatly rejected.

### Planning Applications and Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring

CPC continues its monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan policies and targets, and overall this year there haven't been any significant breaches of the policies (aside from Denning Place and Courtmead Road highlighted above).

Overall the Parish Council formally responded and made recommendation on 42 applications. The number of applications for conversions and extensions have dropped off a little this year to 37 (last year was 41). Those we see are generally of good quality, design and construction and aim to retain the character and distinctiveness of the village. New dwellings rose to five; two of these CPC objected to but were overruled by the MSDC planning committee. There were nine applications in total (reduced from 12 last year) where the CPC recommendation was different to the MSDC outcome – some 20%. Members of the planning committee assess each of these now to identify any particular reasons and trends.

Whilst there have been no significant Planning Appeals this year, the Parish Council has also submitted written responses to the Planning Inspectorate on a number of cases. Further details on all the Neighbourhood Plan policies, monitoring and targets can be found on the Planning stand at the back of the hall.

Just a reminder that there is a ten-minute item at the beginning of each planning committee agenda for anyone in the parish to raise any planning related issues. See website for details.

## Roads and Traffic Committee

By Cllr Mercer

Highways are always a source of public concern which generates the majority of comments to the Parish Council. We take those very seriously. The majority of the issues are the responsibility of West Sussex Highways with whom we work very closely, but we do own and influence certain projects which we prioritise.

Last year I reported that we were working with West Sussex Highways to provide a scheme to improve pedestrian safety in London Lane. The scheme has now been approved and the plans are on display for you to see. In order to minimise disruption, work will be carried out during the school summer holidays commencing on 22nd July and will take five to six weeks to complete. There will be a road closure in place, details of which will be advertised by West Sussex Highways nearer the time. The work involves widening the pavement from Glebe Road down to the Chatfield Road junction, formalising of the lay-bys and cutting back some of the vegetation.

The portable Speed Indicator Device (SID), which records the number of vehicles, type and speed, is now in its second year, and is still being moved around the village. The data it provides will help us in considering future safety improvements. We have also installed a second permanent SID at Whitemans Green to try to encourage traffic to slow down.

Our community speed watch group is still doing a great job. Any vehicles recorded breaking the speed limit will be reported to the police for action.

We are always looking to recruit more volunteers. If you can spare an hour or two per month and would be interested in joining please contact our clerk Sam Heynes or Colin Mercer our speed watch coordinator.



## Community Buildings Committee

By Cllr King

### The Village Hall

Initial decoration and refurbishment projects have been completed though there are others we may consider. The Council is considering the annual costs and intends discussing the future of the hall in depth during the forthcoming term of office. The Preschool continues to use it during term time, and we have regular enquiries from other potential hirers. The vandalism earlier in the year was distressing and costly for all involved and we now have CCTV in place which we hope will deter any repetition of this.

### The Queen's Hall

The major external redecoration and new hall floor undertaken a couple of years ago has meant that only general maintenance has been needed recently. However, as with any old building, there are constant problems with the fabric and regular essential maintenance projects.



The garden has been a major focus this year, and we now have a delightful gazebo and outdoor chairs and are able to offer outdoor wedding ceremonies as part of our marriage licence. This has proved a very popular option with couples planning their wedding ceremonies at the hall. You will find some lovely photographs from recent weddings in the hall on our website.

The office staff are very busy dealing with potential hirers and a new booking system has just been established.

## Environment Committee

By Cllr Dormer

The Environment and Wellbeing Committee had a successful and busy year. In 2017 the fees for a plot at both our allotment sites and our rules and guidelines were reviewed, as changes were needed as many plots had been abandoned and generally unkempt. In 2018, thanks to the hard work of our Deputy Parish Clerk, Caroline, the allotment sites are now better managed and each allotment site has a representative. There is general interest from possible new tenants, although there is less than a handful of allotments to rent out.

Cuckfield Parish Council is responsible for the Cemetery, Churchyard and Horsefield Green. A container, which will be painted in green in due course, has been placed on the Green to store maintenance equipment. Over the last two years there has been a change in our groundsman. Mowing and general maintenance are now undertaken by Alex and Matthew, who are constantly on the go ensuring all areas are well maintained along with balancing biodiversity, allowing crescents of wildflowers to grow.



In 2017 the Committee discovered an area of the cemetery



held around 500 unmarked babies' graves. Committee members felt a memorial or a commemorative sculpture was needed in recognition of the unmarked graves. Councillors Marie, Andrea and Fran set up a working group to commission a local sculptor to produce a galvanised steel feather bench. It was recently installed in the cemetery near to the unmarked babies' graves. An arts grant was obtained from Mid Sussex District Council for the sum of £3000 to cover all the costs. Later during the year there will be a small service followed by tea and cake. This will take place once the inscription plate has been completed and installed opposite the bench.

The Committee last year organised a couple of events, one of them being a litter pick during the summer. Unfortunately the weather had other ideas and it was like a monsoon! However, some brave people still came out to help.

The Christmas Street Festival drew great crowds for this seasonal event and, after three months of planning, it was a great opportunity for families to meet up and meet others who live in the village. An article will be placed in Cuckfield Life with contact details for anyone interested in the Festival.

# Finance and General Purposes Committee

By Cllr Laing

Finance information for 2018-19 is listed below. We were underspent in several areas. The funds for these items have been transferred to Reserves. We have several large items of expenditure forecast, including resurfacing pathways throughout the cemetery, traffic calming on London Lane, and the remainder of the ten-year fund to maintain Horsefield Green.

|                                       | 2018/2019 Budget        | Actual Net        | Balance        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Roads &amp; Traffic</b>            |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £17,600.00              | £17,463.39        | -£136.61       |
| Expenditure                           | £16,768.10              | £9,525.50         | £7,242.60      |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| <b>Planning</b>                       |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £5,000.00               | £5,000.00         | £0.00          |
| Expenditure                           | £5,000.00               | £0.00             | £5,000.00      |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes</b> |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £101,979.22             | £96,333.22        | -£5,646.00     |
| Expenditure                           | £102,027.22             | £97,762.20        | £4,265.02      |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| <b>Environment &amp; Wellbeing</b>    |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £113,282.00             | £144,293.81       | £31,011.81     |
| Expenditure                           | £113,782.00             | £90,665.62        | £23,116.38     |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| <b>Queen's Hall</b>                   |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £58,050.00              | £55,166.19        | -£2,883.81     |
| Expenditure                           | £58,050.00              | £51,100.61        | £6,949.39      |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| <b>Cuckfield Village Hall</b>         |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £23,600.00              | £26,859.04        | £3,259.04      |
| Expenditure                           | £22,940.00              | £14,965.24        | £7,974.76      |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| <b>Estates</b>                        |                         |                   |                |
| Income                                | £2,500.00               | £2,500.00         | £0.00          |
| Expenditure                           | £2,750.00               | £17,780.51        | -£15,030.51    |
|                                       | <b>2018/2019 Budget</b> | <b>Actual Net</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
| Total Income                          | £322,011.22             | £347,615.65       | £25,604.43     |
| Total Expenditure                     | £321,317.32             | £281,799.68       | £39,517.64     |
| <b>Net Balance</b>                    | <b>£693.90</b>          | <b>£65,815.97</b> |                |

| Reserve Movements                 | Current Value 2018-19 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Traffic Calming (London Lane)     | £20,925.11            |
| Grants                            | £435.81               |
| Horsefield Green Landscape & Pond | £28,858.75            |
| Horsefield Green 10 Year Fund     | £104,375.83           |
| Allotment Deposits                | £3,000.00             |
| Council Elections                 | £1,250.00             |
| CVH Refurbishment                 | £4,500.00             |
| Planning Committee Reserves       | £3,795.00             |
| Cemetery Pathways                 | £34,161.00            |
| South Street Railings             | £1,500.00             |
| Allotment Maintenance             | £444.00               |
| Stage Curtains                    | £2,300.00             |
| CCTV                              | £1,000.00             |
| <b>Current Reserves Total</b>     | <b>£206,545.50</b>    |

## Business Planning

During the next few weeks the newly elected Councillors will develop a business plan for the coming four-year term.

If you have any issues or concerns that you would like to be considered or included in the Business Plan, please contact Sam or Caroline in the Parish Council office.



YOUR PARISH  
COUNCIL

Cuckfield Parish Council – Opening Hours  
Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm

For full details of all our Councillors please see our website:  
[www.cuckfield.gov.uk/administration/the-council](http://www.cuckfield.gov.uk/administration/the-council)

[www.cuckfield.gov.uk](http://www.cuckfield.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/CuckfieldParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CuckfieldParishCouncil)

### Chairman

01444 443306 – andy.burton@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Vice-Chairman

01444 413172 – andrea.king@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Councillor

07375 100790 – jill.butler@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Councillor

01444 453173 – john.dickie@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Councillor

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07930 116504 – steve.oversby-powell@cuckfield.gov.uk

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### Councillor

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### Councillor

07870 190933 – hilary.schan-martyn@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Councillor

01444 412409 – andrew.symonds@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Parish Clerk

01444 451610 – sam.heyne@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Assistant Clerk

01444 454276 – caroline.hansen@cuckfield.gov.uk

### Administration Assistant

01444 454276 – jane.forester@cuckfield.gov.uk

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**Fri 26 July**

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## Rossini's The Barber of Seville

**Sat 27 July**

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**Tickets (advance booking required):**

Early booking: £30 (when booked before 30 Jun)  
Standard: £35 (when booked in Jul and on the night)  
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West Sussex, RH16 1XP 01444 450326



## Time to reflect

### FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Leanne Knapman

It's been a relatively quiet month on the mayoral front, and with my term as mayor almost up (maybe...) I would like to reflect on some of the fun I've had since taking on the role!

I've connected with some great groups and charities, attended lots of fun events, fairs and openings and met some really lovely people! The money raised by those running for mayor is used for some really amazing causes linked to the village and offers a great deal of support to many of those groups. In order for it to be successful, however, we need at least one person, preferably two, signing up for the job at hand - we love a healthy bit of competition!

We have some cracking candidates lined up already waiting to take my fluffy hat and robe from me this year. Will they be successful or will I whip out a last minute secret stash and stay on for another year? Find out in October! It would be great to see some new candidates in the bag for next year, so do please let us know if you're interested in standing for election.

We would love to see as many floats, vehicles or walking ones, as possible at the mayor's procession this year. Remember, every group/club that takes part benefits from a donation from ISOC, and the winners of the best floats get an extra bonus and some great kudos!

If your charity/group/school/club would like more information on how to get involved please email: [info@cuckfieldstate.org](mailto:info@cuckfieldstate.org).

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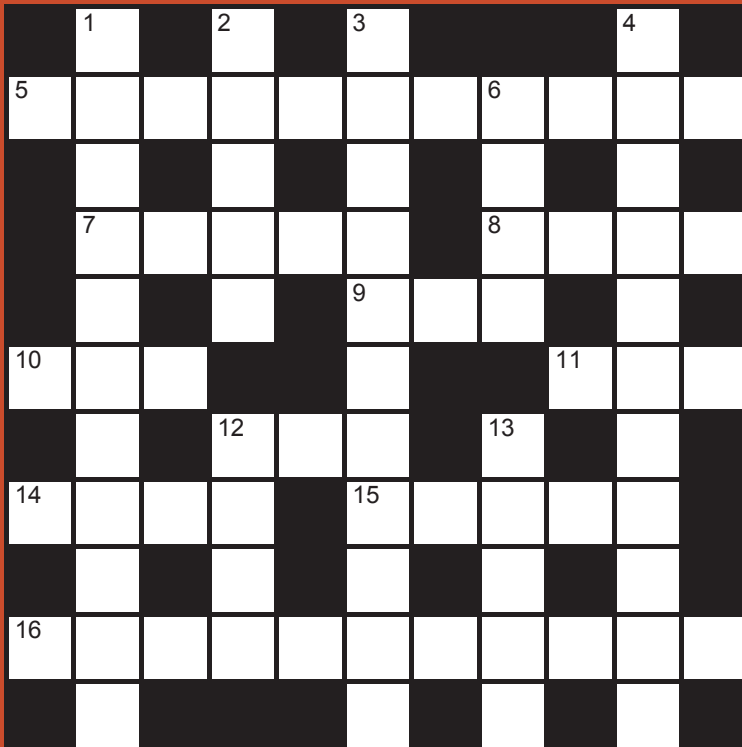
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# Family crossword



Got 20 mins spare?  
Have a go at this crossword - which should be varied enough for all ages to answer some clues.  
Answers listed on p.59

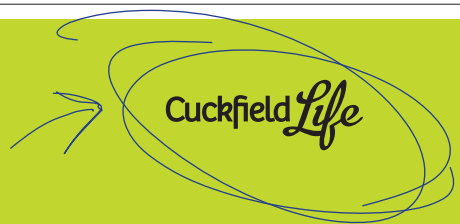
## Across

- 5 Dinghy, perhaps (7,4)
- 7 Strong thread (5)
- 8 Disfigure (4)
- 9 Chafe (3)
- 10 Drunkard (3)
- 11 Consumed (3)
- 12 For each (3)
- 14 Indifferent (2-2)
- 15 Tanker (5)
- 16 Possessing four right angles (11)

## Down

- 1 Patron saint of tanners (11)
- 2 Natural talent (5)
- 3 Subterranean (11)
- 4 Born in early December, for example (11)
- 6 Explosive weapon (4)
- 12 Bard (4)
- 13 Not under one's breath (5)

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# Sudoku #37

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

Find the solution to #37 in next month's magazine

## #36 Solution

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

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

Immerse yourself in a weekend of wild play and traditional woodcraft  
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For details visit [kew.org/wakehurst](http://kew.org/wakehurst)

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## RECYCLE THIS...

Colin McFarlin is a Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor with West Sussex County Council and sheds some light on what can and can't be recycled.



Thank you for all your individual enquiries about your recycling. By the time you read this I will have replied individually to all your emails to the editor on recycling. Do keep the questions coming...

### Recycling bin overflowing?

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who recycles all that they can. The recycling rate in West Sussex is improving!

More and more people are recycling at home and, if your recycling bin is anything like ours, sometimes by the time it's due to be collected it's getting pretty full!

Some great advice is to 'wash and squash'. Particularly for items such as milk and fizzy drinks bottles, and detergent and bathroom bottles. Give them a quick rinse and then squash them down. Do remember to take the tops off.

Large items of cardboard can be torn into smaller pieces – the size of a cereal packet is ideal.

If you've done all this and your bin is still full then why not get in touch with Mid Sussex District Council who may be able to organise another recycling bin for you. Email: [wastematters@midssussex.gov.uk](mailto:wastematters@midssussex.gov.uk)

Just a little reminder though, please ensure that all your recycling is:

- **CLEAN** – free from food and drink leftovers – a quick rinse will do
- **DRY** – keep your recycling bin lid shut – soggy paper and cardboard can't be recycled and can clog up machinery at the recycling plant
- **LOOSE** – not tied up in plastic bags

### TOPS OFF

I received an email asking how to recycle inhalers, and I would like to share the response with you all.

Nationally 73 million respiratory inhalers are prescribed every year in the UK and only 1.2 million are recycled.

First, locate your nearest participating pharmacy (<https://bit.ly/1d95Cfj>)

Then simply hand in your empty, out of date or unused inhalers. This service has been fully funded by GlaxoSmithKline.

Do you have an individual question on specific items you are not sure how to recycle? One email to [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk), with a picture if possible, and I can let you know.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Keep Recycling!



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Email: [kerry@hhauto.co.uk](mailto:kerry@hhauto.co.uk)



# What's on this month

## ELSEWHERE

### July

- 16th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm  
The Baptist Church, Polestub Lane - Head in the Clouds. My time in Tartan by Linda Short
- 18th **X-Hail Meditation Fundraiser** – 8pm  
Bolnore Village Primary School
- 24th **RBL Women's Section** – 2.30pm  
The Old School, Cuckfield – Tapestries talk by Rev Michael Maine
- 24th **Ansty Garden Club** – 7.45pm  
Ansty Village Hall, Deaks Lane, Ansty - Summer Supper

### August

- 2nd **As You Like It** – doors 6pm  
Cuckfield Rec (behind Queen's Hall) - The Rain & Shine Theatre Company perform Shakespeare in the Park. Picnics from 6pm, performance starts at 7.30pm (Tickets 01444 454276 or www.rainorshine.co.uk)
- 6th **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – 10.15am  
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath  
A View from the Wings - Brian Freeland
- 9th **Cuckfield Flower Club** – 7.30pm  
Methodist Church, Haywards Heath - Rosy Hardy on 'Summer Flowers' (£5 Sue: 01444 831602)
- 10th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm  
Outside The Talbot - Come and enjoy the best summer vegetables and local foods
- 15th **Activity Day** – 11am-3pm  
Cuckfield Recreation Ground – MSDC-organised children's activity day (sally.blackmore@midsussex.gov.uk)
- 20th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm  
Elviras, Borde Hill
- 28th **Ansty Garden Club** – 7.45pm  
Ansty Village Hall, Deaks Lane, Ansty  
Mark Rogers, Landscape Architect, speaking



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# What's on this month

## AT THE QUEEN'S HALL

### Monday

- 9.30am **Pilates** (intermediate)
- 9.45am **Yoga Boutique** (term time only)
- 10.30am **Pilates** (beginners)
- 1.30pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 3.45pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Dog Training**

### Tuesday

- 9.30am **Tiny Teckers**
- 1.30pm **Yoga**
- 3.45pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Dog Training**

### Wednesday

- 10.30am **Preschool Singing**
- 10am **Stroke Support Activities**
- 1.30pm **Line Dancing Class**
- 3.30pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Yoga**
- 7.45pm **Ballroom Dance Club**

### Thursday

- 9.30am **Preschool Dance Class**
- 7.30pm **Wedding Dance Class**
- 7.30pm **Yoga**

### Friday

- 9.30am **Preschool Singing**

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.

## September

- 20th **Craft and Vintage Market** – 9.30am-1pm  
Stalls and café

## AT WOODSIDE

### Monday

- 9.45am **Sing & Sign (3 sessions)**
- 4.30pm **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 7pm **DDMX Dance Fitness**
- 8pm **Kickboxing**
- 8.15pm **Becca Lee Yoga**

### Tuesday

- 9.30am **Pilates**
- 5pm **Beavers/Cubs**
- 7pm **Pole Fit**

### Wednesday

- 9am **Falcon Health Chiropractors**
- 9.45am **Yoga**
- 5pm **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 7.15pm **Scouts**

### Thursday

- 10.30am **Creation Station**
- 5pm **Beavers**
- 7pm **Bounce & Burn**
- 8.15pm **Bounce & Burn**

### Friday

- 9.30am **Saplings**
- 7pm **Woodies Bar** (subject to private hire)
- 7pm **Pole Fit**

### Saturday

- 9am **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 2pm **AFC Bolnore**
- 4pm **Post-football Bar** (matchdays)

### Sunday

- 4pm **Grace Church**
- 4pm **Messy Church** (last Sunday/month)
- 4pm **Woodside Netball Club**
- 7.30pm **Zumba**

**Note: The Hub (out of school club) runs every weekday between 7.30-9am and 3.30-6.30pm. Bolnore Village Preschool is open every weekday starting at 9am (term time only).**

## July

- 27th **Quiz Night** – 7.45pm  
This monthly Bolnore fun quiz is hosted by Jim Hoodless. Teams of 2-6 people  
(alison.events@bolnore.org.uk)

## September

- 28th **Quiz Night** – 7.45pm  
This monthly Bolnore fun quiz is hosted by Jim Hoodless. Teams of 2-6 people  
(alison.events@bolnore.org.uk)

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