

# Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #86 : Dec. 2019

Free

Running a sweet shop

page 14

5 mins with Vanessa Evans

page 19

Christmas puzzle fun

page 44

Including...

**Bolnore**  
VILLAGE

5 PAGE SECTION

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## EDITORIAL



By David Tingley, Editor

I know you all read this magazine in different ways, but, depending on when you are picking up this **Christmas issue**, I just wanted to say that it's quite alright for you to head straight to **page 44** where you'll find some **festive puzzle fun**. But there is certainly lots more besides...

The **Baptist Church** has listed its seasonal services on **page 25**, shortly followed by **Holy Trinity Parish Church** on our centre spread.

Our **Bolnore** focus pages start on **page 19** with a 5 minute introduction to **Vanessa Evans**, and **Grace Church** (which meets at The Woodside) shares its special services on **page 20**.

**Caroline Young**, understandably, talks mincemeat and festive food on **page 16**. We show fab new visuals for the **Haywards Heath Rugby Football Club** at Whitemans Green on **page 6**, and, on **page 30**, **Jacqueline Elmore** meets **Iain Pringle** – the leader of a group which calls itself 'Sad Dads', but it's not as sad as it sounds!

**Page 36** is our semi-regular reminder of the **locations of defibrillators** around the area, which you may want to familiarise yourself with.

**Mayor Claire Bellamy** writes her monthly piece on **page 41**, followed by our WSCC recycling guru **Colin McFarlin** who gives us tips for what to do with our boxes and bits after Christmas – turn to **page 42** to get the low-down.

On **page 47** we find **George Baty** with his trusty copy of Cuckfield Life on holiday. If you are heading away over the next month – why not pop this copy in your suitcase and send us evidence of the magazine's travels? I love to receive these. An email to [photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk) will get to the correct place.

May I wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year from me and all the Cuckfield Life team. Our **next deadline is early**, so get us anything for the January issue before **18th December!**

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# NEWS

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)

## Comic play at QH

Rain or Shine Theatre is set to return to Cuckfield next month with its fast paced comic retelling of the classic tale *The Wind in the Willows*.

Follow the adventures of handsome Ratty, innocent Mole, wise Badger and, of course, the incomparable Toad as they row, ride and run on and around the banks of The River in an escapade suitable for the whole family! Hailed as 'a delicious mirthfest', *Rain or Shine* will once again be reinventing a classic using its now signature 'Morecambe & Wise-ish comedy' style for another season of adventure, mayhem and, above all, multi-role madness!

At The Queen's Hall for one night only, the doors and bar open at 6.30pm on Friday 17th January. Tickets (£10/£7) are available from Cuckfield Parish Council office.



## Welsh rugby success for Samuel

Samuel Walker, a Year 10 student from Warden Park School, represented the Welsh Rugby Union Exiles in the under 15s last month.

He played three matches against the North Wales Districts in Colwyn Bay and has been involved in the Welsh Rugby Union programme for the last two years. This was, however, his first opportunity to represent Wales.

Exciting times for Samuel. Well done!

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# Church Roof Fund supported by sculptor

Cuckfield sculptor Julie Janvrin is helping to raise much-needed funds for the Holy Trinity Roof Fund from the sale of a set of ceramic crib figures.

Painstakingly sculpted in fine detail, the figures have all been raku-fired, giving them the distinctive colours and crackled glazed surfaces associated with this ancient art form.

Destined to be a precious family heirloom and handed down through the generations, the set of figures is for sale at The Green Tree Gallery at Borde Hill, with all proceeds going to Holy Trinity Church.

"Creation of these nativity figures has been a real labour of love," says Julie. "As well as raising money for the forthcoming roof fund at Holy Trinity, I would love the figures to be treasured by a local family for generations to come."

The figures can be seen at the gallery alongside a



myriad of unusual Christmas gifts, many handmade by local artists and craftspeople.

Green Tree Gallery is open 11am-4pm Tuesday - Saturday and 12-4pm on Sundays in December until Friday 20th December.



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## HHRFC remains focused on turning a dream into reality

By Tracey Spuyman

The vision of creating a new multi sports pavilion at Whitemans Green - with assistance from Fairfax and its education foundation Fairfax Building Young Futures - is becoming reality for Haywards Heath Rugby Club – as these realistic visuals indicate.

One glance at how the MSDC approved plans will look once built gives an idea of the transformative nature of these proposals resulting in expanded parking facilities, which will make the nearby roads safer for all Cuckfield residents to navigate. The project will also provide massively improved sport and social facilities, allowing for expansion of the Club and development of girls and ladies rugby and a 21st century community facility for use by other clubs of all kinds.

As a new decade fast approaches, the HHRFC Board has kept its feet firmly on the fundraising accelerator. While the strength of the application for council funding was recognised by being awarded an exceptional 12 out of 12 in fulfilling the relevant criteria, the commitment from MSDC to provide £150,000 towards the project, whilst much appreciated, fell short of what was hoped for and leaves a funding gap which the Club is working to fill. It is hopeful that other sources of government funding may become available since the project ticks so many boxes, fulfilling the future health and well-being aspirations of all political persuasions. The fundraising totaliser in the current Clubhouse continues to move upwards, with each age group contributing in some way



through their own activities and every donation, big or small, making sure that the momentum continues to move forwards.

On Friday 7th February the Club is hosting the HHRFC City Lunch in London. An extensive auction will include an executive box for eight at Old Trafford on 11th April (Easter Saturday) for the Manchester United fixture against Bournemouth, generously donated by David Grant from Merlin PCB Group. This fantastic auction prize provides an unrivalled experience in the Sir Alex Ferguson Stand and is a bucket list item for many sports fans.

Full information is available on the Club's website at [www.hhrfc.co.uk](http://www.hhrfc.co.uk) where tickets can be purchased online or tables reserved for groups wanting to sit together. The Club hopes that the local community will get involved and support this event, while enjoying a fun afternoon by the River Thames!

If anyone is in a position to help HHRFC accelerate efforts to build the new Clubhouse or contribute in any way to its fundraising activities, perhaps by donating an auction prize, please contact: [rugby@hhrfc.co.uk](mailto:rugby@hhrfc.co.uk).



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## Local heros receive applause from Mid Sussex

Guerrilla gardeners, inspiring sports leaders, fundraising exercisers and green gurus were honoured at the recent Mid Sussex Applauds awards.

Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council Cllr Colin Trumble hosted the new community recognition awards. He commented, "The celebrities of this event are of course all those honoured and recognised, and what a fantastic range of projects, stories and events we have heard from across our fabulous district."

Cuckfield had a number of mentions at the ceremony not least of which is Sarah Cheesmur, who took joint second place in the Stronger Together category. Looking to highlight individuals who have helped bring together cultures and communities through a project or activity, Sarah (pictured below with Jane Hill) was noted as having setup the Cuckoo Choir in 2013 as she recognised the potential for retired people in the village to become isolated.



Every Friday over 60 people meet to sing a variety of songs and have now forged friendships outside Cuckoo Choir. The group sang with the Budapest Cathedral Choir in 2018 and at Cuckfield MusicFest earlier this year.

Also receiving commendations in the Good Sport Award was Ansty Ladies Cricket Club and Woodside Netball Club.

Ansty Ladies have provided and promoted cricket for women and girls for over 12 years - one of the first junior girls' setups in the locality. Last winter they initiated free coaching in schools to further promote women's cricket and try to increase the numbers of girls playing the game.

Alison Armstrong runs Woodside Netball Club with her daughter Amy - both go far above and beyond in encouraging the teams and organising competitions. They also provide top notch training and have invited professionals to the club to help inspire the teams. The club is genuinely inclusive and provides netball for all ages, whether you wish to play competitively or just for fun.

Lastly, we are delighted to say that Kipper Life, the company that produces Cuckfield Life, was commended in the Business in the Community Award. Colin Trumble commented: "The effort that you and your team put into producing a number of community magazines has evidently impacted people's lives in and around the District for the better."





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# Boost for schools outdoor classroom funds

By Sharon Howe

Following our article in the September issue of Cuckfield Life, we're delighted to let you know that we've recently had some big boosts to our fundraising pot for our outdoor classroom at Holy Trinity.

We want to thank the community of Cuckfield for donating so generously both through our online donation page and supporting us as your charity of choice in the Co-Op's Local Community Fund. PTA members Laura Henger and Sharon Stewart, along with Parent Governor Nicola Brewerton, recently attended the Whitemans Green Co-op for the presentation of a cheque for £2,386.05 from the Big Co-Op Payout.

We have also been successful with a £5,000 grant from Southover Manor Trust.

This is a charity providing grants and funding for schools, colleges and other educational institutions in Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

These contributions, along with previous donations and pledges from the Cuckfield Bonfire Society, Cuckfield Local, Waitrose and other PTA fundraising, are a good chunk of the funding we need, however we still have another £5,000 to go to reach our target. The children and staff at Holy Trinity Primary School are really



excited that they could soon be using a new outdoor classroom. We are working hard to get funding for the last £5,000, but the school's PTA would welcome any donation, large or small, to contribute to our outdoor learning facilities.

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# Rising culinary star from Cuckfield's manor

Ockenden Manor Hotel & Spa's Senior Sous-Chef Freddie Innes is cooking up a storm on this year's season of MasterChef: The Professionals. The 25-year old Chef flew through the first round and won the judges over with his signature pan-fried sea bass with parsnip puree, fondant potato and a red wine jus.

Born and raised in Sussex, Freddie developed a love for cooking from his grandparents, who he spent a lot of time cooking with as a child. From baking with his grandmother to joining his grandfather, a gamekeeper, on local pheasant shoots in the Sussex countryside, Freddie grew up surrounded by people with a passion for food.

Following a year at catering college, Freddie decided to dive into the world of fine dining by joining the award-winning restaurant at Ockenden Manor in Sussex as a Commis Chef. Freddie commented: "At Ockenden Manor, no two days are the same – that's why I enjoy it so much. You meet different guests, create new dishes and meet local suppliers, all while always working as a team."

Last year, while on holiday in Spain, Freddie was encouraged to apply for MasterChef: The Professionals by his girlfriend and her mother. In



spring he was selected as one of the 48 contestants from thousands of applicants.

Along with the full support of his home county, Head Chef at Ockenden Manor Stephen Crane is proud to champion the talents of this rising star: "We're very proud of Freddie. The most natural step for me is to encourage the next generation of chefs. I enjoy building positive relationships and inspiring youth to realise their dreams and fulfil their potential."




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## Claire cuts the ribbon at chippy

The long-awaited High Street Fish and Chip shop, Cuckfish, held its official opening ceremony last month. Cuckfield mayor Claire Bellamy was asked to cut the ribbon at the event which was attended by a small group of hungry locals at lunchtime.

Owner Mustafa Dilek promised to donate proportionally to the Independent State of Cuckfield's

charity fund for all the orders taken on the opening day. Following the event, he was able to write a cheque to ISOC for £200.

Holders of an old Cuckfield ISOC 'passport' were also able to claim free chips on the day. Former mayor Ken Gregory was first in line with his copy of the passport (pictured).

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# Cuckfield's Candy Man

BEHIND THE COUNTER



By Jacqueline Elmore

For those of us of a certain age, nothing is more nostalgic than the sight of a stacked wooden shelf lined with multicoloured glass jars crammed full with sweets. From strawberry bonbons to sherbet lemons, kola kubes to gobstoppers, the best sweet shops that we knew stocked a veritable smorgasbord of childhood delights. At one time the local sweet shop was both the heart of the high street and the most exciting part of a child's day.

Kevin Barber, who runs the Cuckfield Candy Store, explains why he is such a fan of old style confectionery and its ability to transport us back down memory lane: "The idea behind Cuckfield Candy Store, besides being a business, was always to create memories. As a child there was a tuck shop in the village where I used to live and I have long-lasting memories of that place. More often than not, a sweet shop can bring back feelings of your younger self, when life was not so much about living but about discovery and having fun."

Originally from Sussex, Kevin spent most of his childhood growing up on the coast in Worthing. His first job after he left school was working for British Telecom after which he began designing components of cars for the auto industry. At the age of 24 Kevin won his first overseas contract and continued to work throughout Europe in Holland, Germany and Spain for 15 years.

"When I finally stopped travelling for work, I decided to buy a place in Horsham, which is where I met my wife; from there we moved to Cuckfield."



It wasn't long after Kevin and his wife moved into their new home that they experienced a burst water main and had to move into the flat above what is now Edit for over a year. It was at this moment that Kevin spotted the empty premises on the opposite side of the road and decided to grasp the opportunity and open his very own shop.

"The village was crying out for something with a bit of character at the time, and I was sitting looking out of the window and thought to myself, that place would make a nice sweet shop and a lovely little addition to the High Street."

When Kevin first opened Cuckfield Candy Store there was a lot of excitement in the area with people queuing out of the doors of his shop.

"Weekends always used to be chaotic in here. Now it's not quite as busy, except for the school run, but I guess much of that is down to competition from the supermarkets and the fact that people have changed their eating habits, at least where sweets are concerned!"

When Cuckfield Candy Store first opened in 2009 it not only sold sweets but also traditional wooden toys in the area at back of the shop. That space is now used as storage for Kevin's other business, Stadium Sweets, housing bags and boxes of stock waiting to be bagged up for football games at the Amex.

"We sell 33 types of sweets at every home game from the kiosk in the family stand at Brighton Football Club and have been there since the stadium opened in 2011. We've grown from one small kiosk and now have an additional ten trolleys all around the stadium, employing 13 people for every home game."

Kevin also has a kiosk at Southampton Football Club and is hoping to expand his sweet business into other locations too.

So what are Kevin's bestsellers?

"That's an easy one. They tend to be the pick and mix varieties, especially where the children are concerned. Chocolate peanuts and raisins are always a popular choice with adults."

With Christmas only a matter of days away, Kevin's shop is ready for the festive season. On the main counter alongside the expected selection boxes and bags of chocolate coins are more unique gifts.

"We try to offer something a little bit different at Christmas, gifts that the supermarkets don't sell. As well as luxurious handmade English chocolates and truffles, we have giant chocolate Christmas puddings, penguins and Santas, traditional sugar mice and handmade Turkish Delight, and, of course, there are our gorgeous Jellycat soft toys."

The magic of a sweet shop seems to work on adult customers too (me included). It was 9am on a Wednesday morning when I visited Kevin, so I didn't experience the hordes of small children picking out their favourite treats during the after-school rush. What I did witness, however, was a small flurry of older customers wandering about the shop looking to buy a fluffy toy or a birthday card. As one elderly lady left the shop, she turned to Kevin and said: "Nothing can beat the romance of a traditional sweet shop like this one."

The sight, smell and (eventually) taste of a sweet shop can often transport us to another place and time. It is for this very reason that such shops, in particular village sweet shops like Kevin's, need to be treasured before they disappear from the high street for good.

This year, why not pick out your Christmas confectionary from Cuckfield Candy Store.

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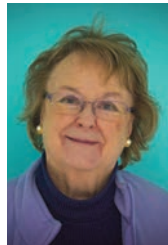


**By Caroline Young**

So many of our traditional celebrations are marked with special foods – birthday cakes, Easter eggs, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and, of course, Christmas.

The origins of many Christmas foods go back even to medieval times. Mincemeat originally contained meat along with the fruit and spices. It was used to fill one enormous pie dish and was called Christmas Pie.

To make your mince pies, large or small, even more fruity add grated eating apple or well drained crushed pineapple to the mincemeat before spooning into the pastry shells. Or carefully lift the tops of hot individual mince pies and pop in a spoonful of brandy butter just before serving. Don't forget the very important tradition of leaving a mince pie and glass of sherry by the fireplace for Father Christmas – and, of course, a carrot for Rudolph.



Christmas pudding was originally called plum pottage and was a mixture of spices, meat, fruit and lots of breadcrumbs to make the meat go further. It was like a thick soup. By around the 16th century it had become – minus the meat – a pudding cooked in a ball shape but it was the Victorians who first packed it in a pudding basin. Traditionally it should be made on Stir-Up Sunday in November, the Sunday before Advent, then it will have God's blessing. Make sure you stir it clockwise – you will have bad luck if you stir in anti-clockwise! Each member of the family should have a stir and make a silent wish.

Serving turkey on Christmas Day is a comparatively new tradition. Goose, chicken and roast beef were once traditional and, even earlier, a whole roast boar's head would be served with great ceremony. Turkeys were reared in huge flocks in Norfolk and Suffolk and then driven to the London markets on foot, grazing as they went – what a sight that must have been!

Tastes change and today many people prefer a lighter Christmas Cake to the traditional dark fruit version under its blanket of golden marzipan and royal icing. Make a lighter but equally festive version using glace fruits such as pineapple and cherries instead of dried fruit. I also add chopped candied ginger and slivers of dried apricots. Brush the baked and cooled cake with melted redcurrant jelly and decorate with toasted nuts and red and green glace cherries.

Everyone loves an edible Christmas present. These Almond Truffles are made every year in our house

and are very popular. Break 8 trifle sponges into fine crumbs (or use the processor), tip into a bowl and stir in 150g ground almonds. Warm 4tbs apricot jam until runny and add to the bowl, plus 2tbs rum or brandy (use orange juice for non-alcoholic truffles). Mix together to a smooth mixture then shape into walnut-sized balls, arrange on a baking sheet and chill for several hours to dry the surface. Then roll each truffle in cocoa, drinking chocolate or sifted icing sugar. Alternatively coat with melted chocolate. They look very pretty set in tiny paper cases. Keep the truffles in a cool place.

Best wishes for a delicious Christmas.

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# BOD Fest comes to Cuckfield

By Jeremy Eustace

Last month saw the return of the Band of Dads Festival (the BOD Fest) to The Queen's Hall.

This year its original members were accompanied by two other bands and one DJ. Other names included; Living Lies; a four piece troupe made up of former and current Warden Park students and BOD Second Chapter, a copycat ensemble, from East Grinstead.

DJ Missy G (Grace Budd) played a bunch of tunes to help get the party going before the main act finally appeared on stage.

Brighton Bier sponsored the special night by providing two of their finest barrels of beer to help the crowd really get in the mood.

The evening was a great success and The Queen's Hall was filled to capacity with many people dancing the night away.

The event raised a staggering £2,500 which, once decided, will go towards a range of local and national charities.

A huge thanks to the bar staff, wives and friends who helped make the evening such a success.

For further information on BODs please visit [www.bandofdads.co.uk](http://www.bandofdads.co.uk) or if you wish to make an enquiry please email: [enquiries@bandofdads.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bandofdads.co.uk).



## School host fitting remembrance tribute

Last month Warden Park School hosted a group of veterans for lunch in honour of Remembrance Day. The veterans were looked after by a group of keen historians who had the opportunity to hear first-hand of their experiences whilst in the armed forces.

At the Cuckfield church service, Headteacher Dom Kenrick laid a wreath on behalf of the academy and two senior students, Anna Record and Lara Berzins, read the names of First and Second World War service personnel from the Ansty and Cuckfield parishes.



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### 5 MINUTES WITH...

## Vanessa Evans

Vanessa has worked in the school office for the last five years and was a travel agent for British Airways before that. Her claim to fame is that, as a teenager, she entertained Brian May's children on a long haul flight but didn't realise who he was until she saw him afterwards at the luggage carousel!

**How long have you lived in Bolnore?**  
Nine years

**What's the best thing about being here?**  
The school and everyone in it!

**Favourite ice cream flavour?**  
Strawberry

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

**What would you like to see in Bolnore that isn't here?**  
A youth group for young adults

**Favourite holiday destination?** Sydney

**Song you play the most?**  
Too many favourites to mention!

**What would you do if you won £1million?**  
Donate some, share some, spend some, save some

**What was the last present you gave someone?**  
Book of dad's jokes (for my dad)

**Strangest thing you've ever eaten?** Crocodile

**What would you rather give up for a month – TV or music?** Music

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

**What's your proudest moment?**  
Being top seller at British Airways Holidays, winning Business Class flights to anywhere in the world

**Your advice for life?**  
Treat everyone with respect and don't take life or yourself too seriously!

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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# Christmas in Bolnore starts at Woodside

Grace Church – the church that meets each week in The Woodside – is hosting a series of special Christmas services in Bolnore in the run up to the 'big day'.

Minister Jon Hobbs explains a little more about each of the services:

**Sunday 15th December, 4pm: Carols by Candlelight**

This is an atmospheric and classic carol service, followed by festive refreshments. Children can stay with parents, but there is a creche and a Christmas Party taking place for Key Stage 1 children, if parents would rather that.

**Christmas Eve, 4pm: Family Chringle service**

A short and fun child-focused service, where children go home with their own Chringle orange, with sweets and a candle.



**Christmas Day, 10am: All Age Celebration**

A service to bring in Christmas Day with friends and family.

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## Woodside Christmas Quiz fundraiser

By Gemma Coombes

The Woodside is hosting a Christmas Quiz on Saturday 14th December. There will be a cash bar, prizes and lots of festive fun. A great opportunity to get together with old friends or meet new ones. Form your own team of eight, or you can be introduced to new friends.

The Quiz is being organised by a small team of volunteers, who also ran the successful family Halloween disco. All proceeds go towards vital improvements needed at the Woodside, which provides the community of Bolnore and beyond with a place to learn, dance, meet, party, worship and exercise.

Kelly Robinson, a Trustee of the BVCP, the charity that manages the Woodside, said: "These fun events enable our community to come together to ensure the future of the facility."

Entry is £5 per person to include a mince pie as well as a glass of mulled wine (or non-alcoholic alternative). For tickets, please email: [info@bolnorewoodside.org.uk](mailto:info@bolnorewoodside.org.uk).

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# Join the Co-op scheme to help your local school

The Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School (FoBVPS) have once again been chosen for the Co-op Local Community Fund. The last time they participated in the scheme they raised £3,500 with the help of the community.

This year the Friends are supporting the school to raise funds to build an all weather pitch on the school field, so that children can play outside on the field whatever the weather.

The Co-op scheme runs for 12 months until 24th October 2020 and is an easy way for the community to help raise funds for the school whilst also earning cash towards your shopping.

Every time you use your Co-op card the school will get 1% of what you spend and you also get 5% which can be spent on future shops. Visit this website to log in to your Co-op membership account and select the Friends as your chosen cause: [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership)

Then just swipe your card whenever you shop at the Co-op. If you don't have a Co-op membership account,



it's well worth applying as you will always get money back for your shopping.

Joining this scheme costs nothing, takes just a few minutes to set up and the funds raised will go a long way to helping your community school.

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# New directors for Phases 4a and 4c

By Toby Hudson, BVMC Director

As we enter the Christmas period and into the New Year, we have some fantastic news for the residents of Bolnore Village phase 4a and 4c. When those phases were completed, the Bolnore Village Management Company (BVMC) was set up to run those parts of the village. The directors of the BVMC were Crest employees and played no active part as directors and refused to listen to residents complaints, particularly over the ineffective management companies appointed to carry out the work. After a long, hard fight residents of phases 4a and 4c finally managed to replace the directors of the BVMC, thus taking back control of the village. This fight was supported immensely by the directors of the Bolnore Village Community Interest Company (BVCIC), which looks after phases 1 - 3, and we are thankful for their support and encouragement.

By taking back control, residents finally have control on how the village is run and looked after. This will also enable a very close working relationship between the BVMC and BVCIC, to ensuring residents get value for money and Bolnore continues to be a wonderful place to live.

Finally, the new directors would like to say a huge thank you to all residents who supported the fight and lent their voice to the campaign. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Pub quiz for Eliza

Last month the fundraising for Eliza Jones continued with a pub quiz at The Woolpack. Mum Stacey Jones said: "Thank you to all the very generous people who donated gifts, as it meant lots of people bought raffle tickets." The event raised £635 on the night – which will go towards Eliza's treatment to ease her discomfort from Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy.



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# A music festival for 2021

By Hannah Carter and David Mortimer

We are pleased to announce that the second Cuckfield Music Festival will be from 12th – 20th June 2021.

It's perhaps a bit early to be saying 'keep the dates' or advising you not to book a holiday then, but we thought you'd like to know that there will be a second one

The response to the first Festival last June was more enthusiastic than we had dared to hope. One of the ways this was demonstrated was by the large number of questionnaires completed. That the overwhelming majority would like the Festival to be a regular event, preferably annually, was obvious from the answer to one of the questions

An annual event would be wonderful but we had to consider the practicality of it. Looking back at the notes we kept for the first Festival we realised that we had begun making bookings 14 months ahead (some performers need to be booked well in advance). Obviously we could not be engaging people for a second Festival until we knew if the first had been a success, and we reckoned we would have too little time both to agree a balanced but varied programme and be sure of securing some of the names we'd want.

Moreover, we didn't want to risk being too demanding of the many volunteers – approaching 50 of them – who so willingly gave their time to creating that all-important welcoming feel, whether meeting and greeting, serving



drinks, selling programmes, shifting chairs (not to mention grand pianos!) and cleaning up after the event.

We are now at work in the early stages of planning the 2021 Festival. We are delighted that Katie Derham is continuing as our Patron, and whereas the first Festival aimed to give predominantly Mid Sussex musicians a platform, we have expanded our sights this time round. We now want to concentrate mainly – but not exclusively – on Sussex-wide musicians.

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You would be welcome to join us for one of our  
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**Cuckfield Baptist Church**

**All-age Family Nativity Service**

22nd December, 4pm

**'Carols by Candlelight' Service**

24th December, 6:30pm

**Christmas Day Service**

25th December, 10:30am

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

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## Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory



Dear friends,

Words of T. S. Eliot from *Journey of the Magi*. A well-loved poem, it is cleverly constructed, initially quoting from the 'Nativity' sermon preached by Lancelot Andrewes, the Bishop of Winchester, before James I on Christmas Day 1622: 'A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey.'

Three hundred years later, Eliot wove a narrative which seems as powerful today as when he wrote it. Personalising Andrewes' words, he draws the reader to journey with the mysterious wise men seeking the Christ Child. He conjures up everyday life in vivid and sometimes jarring imagery, until the travellers find new life from the mystery of a child born in the humblest of circumstances – a refugee child sleeping in a trough.

Eliot himself experienced the call of Jesus Christ in his life the year before he wrote the poem, realising that to follow Him was to experience the fulness of life. This fulness of life is open to everyone. There are no barriers; just the desire to continually journey towards understanding how much each of us is loved by God, who sent Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life – the greatest present imaginable.

May your journey, however you pursue it, be rich in blessings.

A very lovely Christmas to you and a Happy New Year.

Michael (Vicar)

## The Cuckfield Nativity Thursday 19th December at 6pm

*with live animals*

Join us again as we journey from the church, hearing the Christmas Story as we travel through the churchyard and area around the church, singing carols, meeting Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, Fluffy (and other) sheep, donkeys and kings before we find the Holy Family at the Old School. Bring a torch, and it is probably best to wrap up warm!





**Thursday 19th December**

6pm The Cuckfield Nativity (with live animals) – starting in church

**Sunday 22nd December**

8am Holy Communion  
9.45am Family Nativity and Carol Service  
6pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve**

2.30pm & 4pm Crib Services (Church) (tickets free from church office)  
4pm Stable Service (for the very young) (tickets free from church office)  
11.15pm Midnight Mass

**Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.45am Family Communion with Carols

**Sunday 29th December**

8am Holy Communion  
9.45pm Parish Eucharist (no evening service)

# Bonfire Society seeks to recover losses

By Paul Pritchard

Since 1986 Cuckfield has seen the annual fundraising bonfire and fireworks grow from a small PTA event to the massive village event it is today. On a normal year, organisers expect to see between 5,000 and 7,000 attendees at the village's largest event.

Since those early days, what is now The Cuckfield Bonfire Society, has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for local charities. Initially, raising funds for Holy Trinity Primary School, at one point it had paid for every smart whiteboard in the school. Over more recent years, the society has widened its fundraising remit to include more local charities that deal with the needs or education of local children including Kangaroos, Cuckfield Pre-school Playgroup and the village museum.

This year, another 12 months of hard work all culminated on 2nd November. However, it would appear that Mother Nature conspired to make it a gruelling set-up, with torrential rains and gale force winds, along with the World Cup Rugby Final, meant the volunteers and society members were hampered at every turn. The job this year was three times harder than normal but, nevertheless, the event went ahead and the organisation, the fireworks, music and fire were all a huge success. Unfortunately the weather took its toll on gate numbers and only half the expected visitors arrived to enjoy the night.

So, after all the hard work, the evening ended up losing over £7,000. The loss is measured not in lost earnings, but in actual costs that have to be met, fireworks, PA, lighting etc. It costs around £18,000 to put on the event and these costs would still have to be met even if it were cancelled.

The society has a contingency fund to ensure bills can always be settled after the event regardless of the number of visitors, but this year's loss has eaten a very



big hole into this and, although we can still put on next year's event, it is a very weakened position. As another year like this one could see the end of the event.

In order to combat the impact of this year's losses, the Society has setup a crowdfunding page, which has already, thanks to the generosity and support of the local residents, raised £1,500.

We have been blown away by the generosity of the people of Cuckfield's, but we still need more help and hope that the many thousands who enjoy the event year in and year out will see fit to help, no matter how small.

Anyone (individual or business) that would like to donate can do so here:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/steve-wilcock](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/steve-wilcock)

Meanwhile, the planning has already started for next year with everything crossed that Mother Nature will be kinder in 2020!



## Museum winter break

Cuckfield Museum closes for its winter break on 14th December at 3pm and will reopen on 15th February. The museum will be supporting the Village Hall Day at The Queen's Hall on 25th January by mounting a special display taken from our archive, looking at the history of the hall.

This photo shows convalescing soldiers in their 'hospital blues' who were nursed at the VAD Hospital in the hall during WWI.

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# Making a difference

**By Jacqueline Elmore**

Last month the nation celebrated International Men’s Day (IMD) with vigour. The origins of this annual event are part of a long-standing campaign to help raise awareness of the issues facing men across the globe. Today the cause is more prevalent than ever, with a strong focus on mental health, drawing particular attention to the subject of male suicide. In 2019 the IMD campaign has sought (and continues to seek) to improve the overall well-being of men and boys in the modern age.

Cuckfield resident Iain Pringle strongly supports the evidence linking physical activity with enhanced mental health and well-being. As creator and influencer of local weekly group Sad Dads, Iain believes in the goodness of physical exercise and how it can help to improve self-esteem and overall cognitive function.

“It’s a well-known fact that playing sport or doing something that increases your heart rate can have a positive impact on our ability to cope with stress. Sad Dads is there to try to get people involved in exercise and aid inclusivity.”

The aim of the weekly gathering is to get Iain and his buddies physically moving, playing games and generally making the most of their Wednesday evenings by having fun.

Each week Iain and his comrades meet in the gym at Warden Park School for an hour where they run around playing frisbee, hand-hockey or shoot hoops with a rugby ball.

Instead of standard sports the group chooses to play games that are different and slightly off the beaten track. “We tend to avoid playing games where one or two people are far better than others,” Iain explained. “In fact, if anyone shows any acumen or skill associated with a particular sport then we tend to move on quickly. Our go to game is basketball but with a rugby ball. It’s a real run around because you can’t bounce due to its shape, and you generally have to run around for a long time, so

it’s a good one for keeping us on our toes.”

The group also plays uni-hockey or, as it is otherwise known, floor-ball. The game itself is a little bit like Ice Hockey, but instead of playing on ice it’s normally played on a polished floor with a puck.

The Sad Dads collective currently consists of around 10 to 12 attendees and isn’t all about playing sport either. The group also enjoys a bit of social activity, which can include wives and girlfriends too.

“Funnily enough it was the wives that gave us our name actually. We never had a name in the beginning, and it was the wives that christened us. Even though they don’t play with us, they’re very much involved in the social side of things, so I guess we have them to thank for coming up with the name.”

Iain is originally from Scotland but has been in Cuckfield now for 20 years. When he first arrived in the area there were many (evening) fitness classes aimed at men specifically, one of which was a class in Burgess Hill that advertised itself as ‘Men’s Fitness’.

“I ended up doing that because it had all of the right ingredients. GPs were prescribing these classes to men of all ages at the time to help with self-esteem issues, overall fitness and general well-being.”

It is for this very reason that Iain continues to work with Sad Dads. After ten years of supporting the group it still gives him a true feeling of purpose.

“Thinking about it now is giving me goose bumps. It all comes back to the issue of mental health, the pressures of modern day society and how they have an effect on men today.”

Since the group’s inception nearly ten years ago there have been a number of members that have been made redundant or that have gone through hard times. Iain has always tried to encourage people to keep attending the weekly classes because ultimately it does help, especially during the more difficult times.

“This group is all about inclusivity. The ethos around



Sad Dads, as cliché as this might sound, is not about winning or losing, it's about getting involved and taking part. I truly believe in that."

The other benefit, besides the fitness aspect, of being in Sad Dads is the social activity that it has created.

Iain now runs an honesty fund whereby the money he collects every month from each member simply goes into a pot that can then be used for group activities outside of Sad Dads.

Currently there is £1,000 in the fund that Iain and his pals can use to buy tickets to a gig, a sporting event or whatever they choose to spend the money on.

"The honesty fund has helped quite a lot actually. It sits there waiting to be used whenever we want to do something together, and, as popular things tend to get booked up, it allows us to buy tickets quickly and work out the details later. The group has also resulted in various splinter activities like the ski trip which has operated for several years, and last year 15 of us went away to Courchevel."

The make-up of the Sad Dads troupe has not remained constant, as Iain explains: "We all have busy lives and members come and go as work and life allows, which is brilliant. It also tends to regenerate as new



generations of dads come to the area and has been a great way of making new friends and introducing them to the village."

Iain and his pals are off to swing their pants with the 'King of Cool' Bobby Gillespie later this week in Brighton as he trips the light fantastic with his band Primal Scream. It turns out that Sad Dads really aren't sad at all. They're actually rather hip. In the words of Primal Scream, Sad Dads is all about getting out of the darkness and making sure, through inclusivity, fun and activity, that their light shines on.

For further information please call Iain 07557 688 105 or email: [piperpringle@gmail.com](mailto:piperpringle@gmail.com).



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# Ever fancied abseiling for charity?

Staplefield-based Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is launching a new fundraising event and the team is very excited about the challenge! DVLCC has families come to its centre from all over the south-east and several from the Arundel area, so it seems fitting that it will hold this inaugural new addition to its challenge events portfolio at Arundel Castle on 14th March 2020.

Fundraiser James Gaydon explained: "There are many motivations for signing up to abseil 180ft down the castle's Bake House Tower, not least of which is raising money for a worthwhile cause, but they also might include overcoming a fear of heights, wanting to give something back to the charity or simply to experience the wonder of abseiling from one of West Sussex's most popular landmarks."

The charity promises a great event for the whole family and a great atmosphere of mutual encouragement and celebration for each and every supporter. Registration is £25 per person, with minimum sponsorship of £250.

If you would like further information or wish to sign-up for this event get in touch with James Gaydon on 01444 473274 or email: [fundraising@dvlcc.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@dvlcc.org.uk). Further information can be found on the website: [www.dvlcc.org.uk/events/abseil-at-arundel-castle](http://www.dvlcc.org.uk/events/abseil-at-arundel-castle)



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## 2021 Cuckfield Calendar preparation started

Although not quite 2020 yet, Cuckfield teenager Megan TRM is already looking to 2021, as her thoughts are turning to producing a Cuckfield calendar.

Megan produced one for 2018 which sold very well, so she's going to do a new one to raise money for her school trip to Uganda and also the maintenance fund for defibrillator machines in the village.

So far Megan has secured sponsors for six months of 2021, which she's very grateful for – but she's keen to find another six businesses to buy an advert on each of the remaining months.

In addition to sponsorship, Megan is looking for fantastic photos of Cuckfield to adorn the calendar's pages.

If you can help with either sponsorship or local photos, please email Megan's mum Wendy: [wendytrmacrae@aol.com](mailto:wendytrmacrae@aol.com). In the meantime, watch this space later next year for where and when the 2021 Cuckfield Calendar will be on sale.



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# In memory of Elisabeth Dunnett

By Ros Longfield

Many of you will have known Elisabeth Dunnett either helping your child enter the world at the old Cuckfield Hospital or perhaps as the midwife delivering a grandchild at the PRH. In her memory we are making a collection of small change and foreign coins to support her favourite charity, Opportunity International.

This charity works to end global poverty by providing a hand up, not a handout. We believe that enabling individuals to create dignified and sustainable work is the foundation for transforming their lives, their children's futures and their communities.

There are jars for change in the porch of Holy Trinity Church, which when filled may be returned to the church office in the Old School. Thank you.



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# Life-saving knowledge

## Where's your nearest defibrillator?

At Cuckfield Life we'd like to encourage everyone living and working in the village to familiarise themselves with the sites of the life-saving defibrillator machines in Cuckfield and Bolnore and learn how to use them.

Cuckfield resident Wendy Tracey-Roberts Macrae has been working hard to ensure that two new defibrillator units are back up and running in the village.

Fellow resident and local electrician Guy Richardson has joined Wendy in her fight for safety and has kindly offered to fit the new units for free.

One of the new units has been placed outside Mansell McTaggart Estate Agents on the High Street and will be in the safer coded cabinet. The second unit has been erected on Whitemans Green, again in a safer coded cabinet and with a built-in CCTV camera.

If you notice that the status light is red and not green that indicates a problem with the unit, so please ensure that you report it as shown on the device.

Wendy says that we can all do our bit to help by getting involved. "Once the units are up, it is our responsibility as a village to maintain and check them."

Funds are still being raised at the Co-op at Whitemans Green where buckets have been placed at the tills.

Please look out for any orange donation boxes in any of the village pubs collecting money by the ISOC (Independent State of Cuckfield) for the purpose of maintaining these two units.

Wendy adds: "The units need replacement batteries and pads every 2-4 years; over the next six years we'll need about £800. Ideally we'd like to encourage the community as a whole to help towards the funding of these life-saving units."

Any local clubs should aim to register their details with the South East Coast Ambulance Service to enable any 999 call handlers to tell them where their nearest unit is in the village.

One new unit has recently been fitted since our last map, inside the clubhouse at Cuckfield Cricket Club.

If you are interested in finding out more about defibs in the village, please email Wendy direct at [wendytrmacrae@aol.com](mailto:wendytrmacrae@aol.com).

There is also an app recommended by the Resuscitation Council. To download the app, visit the website: [www.resus.org.uk/apps/lifesaver](http://www.resus.org.uk/apps/lifesaver)

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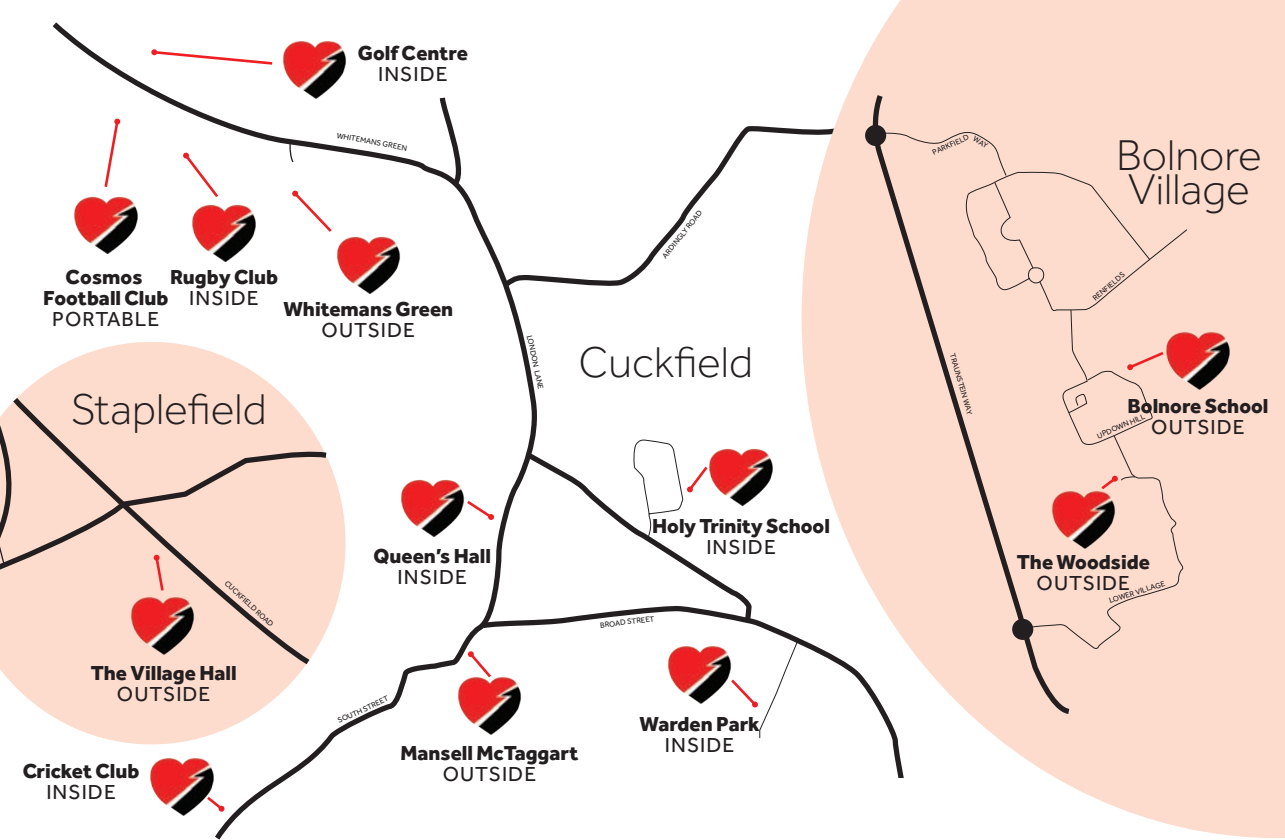
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Church Office:  
 01444 473531  
[cuckfieldbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:cuckfieldbaptistchurch@gmail.com)



# Reflecting on XR

By Margaret Tyzack-More

I've been reflecting on the momentous events of October and chatting to my friend who's joined her local Extinction Rebellion (XR) group in Burgess Hill. I wanted to know what had led her to take this step, and the first thing I asked was why we are hearing so much about Extinction Rebellion.

Catherine is clearly very concerned about the ecological crisis which is affecting huge numbers of people and the natural world everywhere. The scientists have been telling us for thirty years about the dangers of global warming yet, since then, we have seen carbon emissions rise by 60% with very little mitigation. We know that we are all in this together, which is why we have seen millions of people all around the world, under the banner of Extinction Rebellion, calling for clear action on carbon emissions.

Catherine explains just what XR is hoping to achieve from its campaign: "Firstly, XR is asking the government to be very clear with us the public about the reality of climate change. The UK's Chief Scientist has told us that we all need to make real and urgent changes across our lifestyles. All actions great and small make a difference. Whichever country we live in it's up to each of us to do our bit. The time for talking is over. How we live our lives, what we buy, what we eat, which energy supplier we use, who we choose to bank with, what transport we use and how often, these are all critical. And let's talk about what we are doing in our workplaces, schools and coffee mornings because how we are choosing to live today is crucial to our future world and our children's quality of life.

"Secondly, XR is asking for immediate action to halt biodiversity loss and urgently reduce carbon emissions. There are local actions we can take as individuals that make a real difference. It's not just about the terrible habitat loss in the global natural world; it's our local habitats, where we live, that are threatened too. The countryside around Mid Sussex is beautiful in its autumn colours but ash die back and the virus affecting conker trees is clear to be seen. The flaming reds of autumn are a gift. Not so the huge fires in California and the Amazon.

"The third really crucial area is the call to set up a national citizens' assembly to debate and agree the changes across society that are needed to tackle the emergency. On 2nd November the government decided that it would heed this call and 30,000 letters are being sent out to UK households. The assembly will be run in 2020. But we need measures commensurate with the scale of the emergency. Waiting 30 years to reach zero net carbon emissions is not acceptable."



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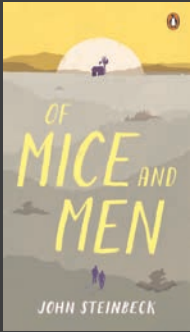
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## Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

### BOOK REVIEW

By Róisín Buckley and Evie Pinhey, Year 8

Of Mice and Men is a book based on The Great Depression in 1930s America. It explores the prejudice and hardships of the era: the author, John Steinbeck, is a social realist. Steinbeck created this novella to present the struggles from the point of view of Lennie and George, the two protagonists. It starts off with Lennie and George lumbering into the glade. After, they reach the ranch and so the chaos begins.

This book is a suspenseful classic drama that is recommended for all ages above 12 as it has profane language and mature themes. It has many unexpected twists and turns that will excite any reader! It is one of the best books of its time.

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## Busy mayoral duties

### FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

#### By Claire Bellamy

Firstly, a big thank you to those of you who supported me in my quest to become Cuckfield's 53rd Mayor and an apology for all the fundraisers you were dragged along to, the late nights and all the morning-after headaches! I hope you are enjoying a well-earned rest while I have been busy with my official duties!

Since becoming Mayor I have had the pleasure of sowing seeds in a new butterfly and bee meadow at Holy Trinity Primary School and, after years of attending Cuckfield Bonfire as a spectator, enjoyed successfully lighting this year's bonfire – despite the rain. It was a muddy but, as always, brilliant show.

Watching the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run in full mayoral dress was an experience – I was asked for my autograph by several children and had lots of waves from the passing cars!

Our lovely village is also home to several new businesses, which I have 'officially' opened in recent weeks. Cuckfish, our new fish and chip shop, needs little introduction and is proving popular. Welcome also to family-run businesses – Elliegance Beauty Bar and Lifestyle Changes PT, who offer pure relaxation and personal training services.

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Remembrance Service recently and wreaths laid by so many local groups.

See you next month for a catch-up on what I've been up to!

# Christmas unwrapped

## RECYCLE THIS

By Colin McFarlin, Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor WSCC  
Christmas is a busy time and poses more recycling questions! In this month's extended column I try to give quick answers to a range of festive waste dilemmas...



**Christmas Tree** – did you know that in West Sussex Christmas trees are turned into compost when you recycle them? In Cuckfield you can drop your real tree to Whitemans Green Recreation Ground car park (until 10th Jan) after you've finished with it, or to The Woodside in Bolnore. I call it treecycling!



**Wrapping paper** – remove as much packing tape as possible. Paper in the Blue recycling bin, tape in the Black top rubbish bin.



**Cardboard** – flatten boxes and remove as much Sellotape and packing tape as possible. Cardboard in Blue bin, tape in Black bin.

**Christmas cards** – remove bows and ribbons. Cards in Blue bin (even glittery ones!), everything else in Black bin.

**Sweet/chocolate boxes/tins/tubes** – metal, cardboard, plastic or paper can all be recycled (Blue bin).

**Glass bottles** – beer, wine and champagne in the Blue bin, without the tops please. Metal tops can go in the Blue bin separately. Plastic tops and corks in the Black bin.



**Plastic bottles** – fizzy drinks bottles in your Blue bin.

**Plastic/foil trays** – from Mince Pie and other food packaging, in the Blue bin please.

**Christmas paper chains** – in your Blue recycling bin.

**REMEMBER** the bin must close. If the lid will not close it may not be collected. Do NOT leave recycling next to the bin as it may not be collected.

What to do with other items that **cannot** go in your recycling bin...

**Plastic wrapping paper, bows and ribbons** – if you cannot reuse them place them in your Black top rubbish bin.

**Tinsel and baubles** – take to the Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS), 'the tip' to you and I.

**Christmas fairy lights** – as an electrical item take to the tip and not in your kerbside bin.

**Artificial trees** – take to the HWRS.

**Batteries** – take them to any supermarket that sells batteries, or the HWRS.

**Textiles** – from old rags and holey tights to clothes that don't fit any more, bag them up and take them to a charity shop that accepts 'rags' or take them to your HWRS. Do not put in your kerbside bins.



**Broken toys** – if they cannot be fixed, take to the HWRS.

**Used paper napkins** – Black top rubbish bin.

**Broken crockery or cups** – it happens at Christmas(!), take to the HWRS.

**Old drinking glasses** – take to a charity shop, or - if broken - put them in your Black bin.

**Disposable plastic plates and cutlery** – try to avoid as they will have to go in your Black top bin.

Please note: your Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling kerbside bin collections operates from Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January. Visit: [www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling) for details.

HWRS – Now on winter opening hours. For example, Burgess Hill site is closed on Thursdays. From 1st December you will need to show you are a resident of West Sussex to use the HWRS. Take with you your driving licence or utility bill. TOP TIP: photocopy them now and keep in the car or ready to take with you.

In the new year I would love to hear from you about your 'Recycling Wisdoms' and share your ideas in this column.

What do you do to recycle more, what do you do to recycle better in your house? Tell me about your local community recycling points.

Email the editor (with a photo if possible) to send these in to me. Happy (Christmas) recycling!

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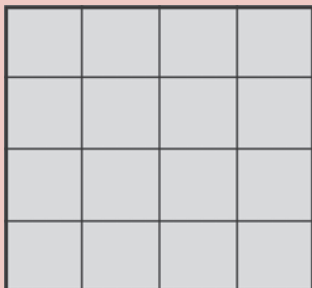
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# Time for a break

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE FUN...

In this, our festive issue, we have given you a bumper collection of brainteasers to have a go at. Answers on page 47.

## MAGIC SQUARE

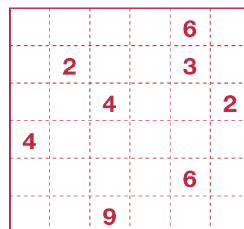


## GREETING CARD IDEA

From the 16 letters of the phrase above, find four words which fit the grid so that they can be read both horizontally and vertically.

## BOX CLEVER

Fill the 6 x 6 grid with as many boxes as there are numbers printed in the grid. Each box must be either square or rectangular and must contain just one of the numbers. The numbers show how many squares there should be in each box.



## MISSING LINK

Each pair of words has a missing word between them that acts as a link to both (e.g. FRONT – DOOR – MAT). The initial letters of the six answers (reading downwards) will spell out a tree.

- |          |       |         |
|----------|-------|---------|
| STERLING | ----- | LINING  |
| SALMON   | ----- | GIN     |
| TRUNK    | ----- | RAGE    |
| TURN     | --    | START   |
| WEDDING  | ----- | WALK    |
| DEAF     | ---   | TRUMPET |

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## SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. This is a logic puzzle and you should not have to guess!

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

## NONAGRAM

W	O	N
F	S	T
R	I	D



How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found. **15 Good; 18 Very Good; 21 Excellent.**

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

## TRAIN OF THOUGHT

\_\_\_ T \_\_\_

What words link the following definitions?

1. a side;
2. a group of people;
3. a social gathering;
4. those involved in something.



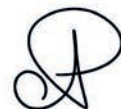
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# Women's Section closed after 74 years

After a lot of discussion over the last couple of years, this September saw the Cuckfield Royal British Legion Women's Section closed after more than 74 years.

A service was held at Holy Trinity Church to lay out the Standard. Rev Michael Maine officiated at the service, Evelyn Stenning - our Standard Bearer for many years - carried the Standard while Tina Owens and Rosemary Carter handed the Standard over to be kept at the church.



RBLWS National

Treasurer Sandra Fishlock

thanked Evelyn and the committee for memorable day and said she was sorry the section was closing.

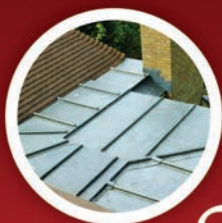
Chairman for 22 years, Evelyn outlined a number of the group's achievements and thanked members of the Mothers' Union for their practical help on the day.

"I know a number of people in the village wondered why there was no Women's Section Standard at the Remembrance Service this year - this is the reason.

I would like to thank Cuckfield for supporting us over many years, especially the local RBL Branch, The Independent State of Cuckfield and the people of Cuckfield," Evelyn said.

From the retiring collection they were able to give £130 to the church with the rest to Women's Section Benevolent Fund.

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## Holiday snaps

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



George Baty at Port Douglas, Far North Queensland, Australia

## CHRISTMAS PUZZLE ANSWERS

From the puzzle fun on page 44

BOX CLEVER:

			6
	2		3
		4	
4			
			6
		9	

SUDOKU:

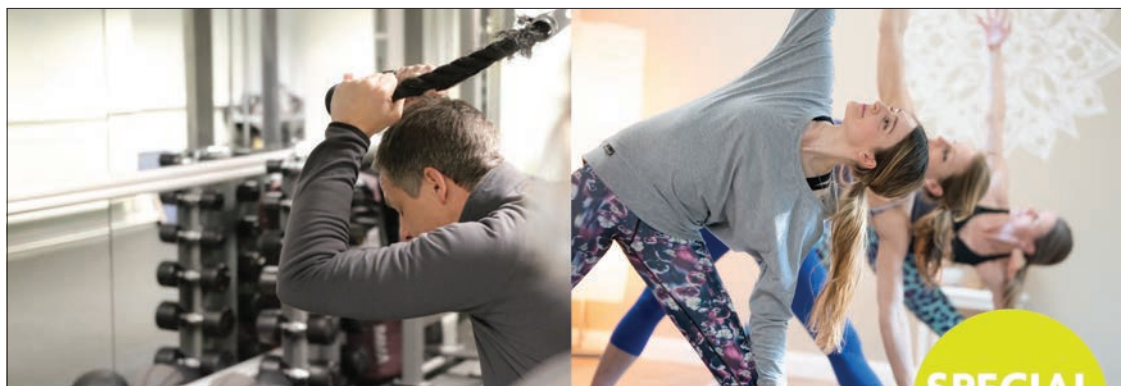
8	9	6	7	4	5	2	3	1
2	7	1	3	9	6	8	4	5
5	3	4	8	1	2	9	6	7
9	5	2	1	3	4	6	7	8
1	8	3	9	6	7	5	2	4
4	6	7	2	5	8	3	1	9
7	4	5	6	8	3	1	9	2
6	2	9	5	7	1	4	8	3
3	1	8	4	2	9	7	5	6

MISSING LINK: silver; pink; road; up; cake; ear.  
Tree: spruce.

TRAIN OF THOUGHT: Party

NONAGRAM: disown; dost; first; fist; foist; fortis;  
frons; frost; frowst; rosin; sift; snit; snort; snot;  
snow; SNOWDRIFT; soft; sort; sown; stir; stow;  
strow; strown; swift; sword; sworn; swot; wist;  
worst; wrist.

MAGIC SQUARE: tare; acid; ring; edge



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# What's on

## CUCKFIELD VILLAGE HALL

### Monday

8am-4pm **Cuckfield Preschool**

### Tuesday

8am-4pm **Cuckfield Preschool**

### Wednesday

8am-4pm **Cuckfield Preschool**  
6pm **Pilates**

### Thursday

8am-4pm **Cuckfield Preschool**  
8pm **Pilates**

### Friday

8am-4pm **Cuckfield Preschool**  
4.30pm **Dance classes**

Cuckfield Village Hall is owned by Cuckfield Parish Council and can be found on London Lane, Cuckfield, RH17 5BD. Further details are displayed on the Notice Board outside and at The Queen's Hall.

### January

14th **Christmas Wreath Workshop** – 10am-12.30pm  
The Village Hall, London Lane, Cuckfield -  
Fundraiser for NSPCC Cuckfield. Demonstration  
and all materials provided (£20pp, book via 01444  
831602)



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Spice Village, 1 Ockenden Lane, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5LD

Open 7 days a week 5.30-10.30pm  
[www.spicevillagecuckfield.co.uk](http://www.spicevillagecuckfield.co.uk)

\* Takeaway available \*



# What's on...

## ELSEWHERE

### December

- 11th **Flower Festival Planning** – 7pm  
The Old School, Cuckfield - Come along to be part of next year's event
- 11th **Ansty Garden Club** – 7.45pm  
Ansty Village Hall, Deaks Lane, Ansty - Christmas Party (Derry 01444 474660)
- 11th **Choir Christmas Celebration** – 7.30pm  
United Reformed Church, Hassocks - By community choir All the Right Notes (£6 incl. a glass of wine and mince pie, alltherightnoteschoir@gmail.com)
- 12th **HH Ceramics Group** – 10am  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Patricia Ferguson will give a talk on 'Dolls' Houses and Ceramics' (First visit free, 01444 483372 or 452804)
- 13th **Christmas Carol Concert** – 3.30pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield - Organised by Alzheimer's Society
- 13th **HHU3A** – 2pm  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - Weald Ukulele and Song Band (U3A members only)
- 13th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** – 7.30pm  
HH Methodist Church - Christmas Sparkle by Gill Homer
- 14th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm  
High Street – Seasonal produce
- 14th **Candlelit Celebration of Christmas** – 7pm  
Newtimber Church, BN6 9BT - A festive evening of songs, poetry and storytelling with folk group Cotillion (Tickets £10/£4 includes mulled wine and mince pie. Book via Lucy 01273 831877)
- 15th **Christmas Carols** – from 12noon  
The Greyhound Pub, Keymer - BBQ and raffle. Proceeds raised in aid of Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. All very welcome to join in the festivities.
- 15th & 22nd **Sussex Chorus Carols** – 6.30pm  
The Coach House, Sheffield Park & Garden (TN22 3QX) - Christmas music and carols (tickets: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk))
- 17th **Pregnancy Support Group** – 7.30-9pm  
New support group for those affected by pregnancy or baby loss (for venue details contact [angie@walkingwithyou.org.uk](mailto:angie@walkingwithyou.org.uk) or call 07974 729566)
- 17th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm  
The Baptist Church, Polestub Lane - Christmas Party featuring magician Roy Plumridge

- 17th **Advent Carol Concert** – 8pm  
Ardingly College Chapel (free entry)
- 18th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - Lecture: Grandfather Frost and Old New Year - The Russian Christmas by Dr Rosamund Bartlett (Non Members welcome, £7)

### January

- 7th **Mid Sussex NHS Retirement F'ship** – 10.15am  
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath - Val Upton talks on 'The Way Ahead'
- 15th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - 'The Magic of Prague: Czech Art and Culture' by Gavin Plumley (Non-members welcome, £7)
- 15th **The Mid Sussex Franco-British Soc.** – 8pm  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - An illustrated talk in French by Joyce Quin, membre des Lords depuis 2006 (£5, Barbara Stevens, 01444 452385)
- 16th **Haywards Heath Ceramics Group** – 10am  
Clair Hall - Talk on 'British Art Deco - between the Wars' by Elisabeth Bogdan (Free entry on first visit, otherwise £8, 01444 452804)
- 16th **Mid Sussex National Trust** – 2.30pm  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath - 'History of The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew' presented by Sarah Oldridge
- 21st **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm  
Baptist Church, Polestub Lane, Cuckfield - 'Well-being with you in mind' by Amanda Grainger
- 24th **Downton Abbey (PG)** – doors 7pm  
Adastra Hall, Hassocks - Star Cinema showing (Tickets £4.50/£4)
- 25th **Burns Supper** – 6.30pm  
Roffey Park - Mid Sussex Caledonian Society annual event ([secretary@midSussexCaledoniansociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@midSussexCaledoniansociety.org.uk))

# What's on this month

## AT THE QUEEN'S HALL

### Monday

- 9.30am **Pilates for Intermediates**
- 10.30am **Pilates for Beginners**
- 9.30am **Yoga**
- 2pm **Preschool Dance**
- 3.45pm **Dance School**
- 7.30pm **Yoga**
- 7.30pm **Dog Training**

### Tuesday

- 9.30am **Preschool Sports**
- 1.30pm **Yoga**
- 3.45pm **Dance School**
- 7.30pm **Dog Training**

### Wednesday

- 10am **Stroke Association Club**
- 1.30pm **Line Dancing**
- 3pm **Dance School**
- 7.30pm **Ballroom Dance**
- 7.30pm **Yoga**

### Thursday

- 9.15am **Yoga**
- 9.30am **Preschool Dance**
- 7.30pm **Yoga**

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.

## January

- 10th **Wreath-Making Workshop** – 7pm  
The Queen's Hall, Cuckfield - By Chez Fleur
- 17th **The Wind in the Willows** – Doors 6.30pm
- 23rd– **The Queen's Hall through the Ages**
- 25th Cuckfield Museum prepared a special photographic exhibition of the hall  
(Times vary: Thurs 11am-3pm, Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-1pm)
- 24th **Open Taster Sessions**  
Series of taster sessions put on by local yoga/pilates teachers
- 25th **Open Day** – 10am-1pm  
Part of National Village Hall Open Day, hall hirers invited to showcase their events and activities

## AT WOODSIDE

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

- 9.30am **Pilates**
- 5pm **Beavers/Cubs**

### Wednesday

- 9am **Falcon Health Chiropractors**
- 1pm **Pilates**
- 5pm **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 7pm **Pole Fit**
- 7.15pm **Scouts**

### Thursday

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

### Friday

- 9.30am **Saplings**

### Saturday

- 9am **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**

### Sunday

- 10am **Burgess Hill Town Juniors**
- 3pm **Messy Church** (last Sunday/month)
- 4pm **Grace Church**
- 4pm **Woodside Netball Club**

## December

- 14th **Carols by Candlelight** – 4pm  
Grace Church service of readings and carols, with a creche and a Christmas party for Key Stage 1 children. Followed by festive refreshments.
- 14th **Christmas Quiz Night** – 7.30pm  
For tickets, please email [info@bolnorewoodside.org.uk](mailto:info@bolnorewoodside.org.uk)
- 17th **Bolnore Residents Open Surgery** – 7.30pm  
Hosted by Pembroke and Bolnore Community Interest Company
- 24th **Christmas Eve** – 4pm  
Grace Church short family Christingle service. A fun child-focused service to kick off Christmas.
- 25th **Christmas Day** – 10am  
Grace Church all age Christmas Day celebration, to celebrate the big day.

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## Retail

Cottenham's .....	28
Cuckfield i Wear .....	23
Nubie .....	13
Vinyl Vault .....	36

## Out & About

Cuckfield Baptist Church .....	25, 37
Cuckfield Local Food Market .....	31
Cuckfish .....	35
No.1 Broad Street .....	2
Rain or Shine Theatre Company .....	16
Spice Village .....	48

## Education/Childcare

Gielgud Academy .....	34
Norto5 Kidz (daycare) .....	3
Rok Skool .....	15
The Sussex Swim School .....	9

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FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

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FOR SALE

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