

# Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #88 : Feb. 2020

Free

Find out What's On...

**page 48**

Author Casey's link to Cuckfield

**page 26**

Bolnore's fundraising couple

**page 21**



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## Bolnore

VILLAGE

**6 PAGE SECTION**

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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

I'm sorry, it seems we may have been a little previous with last month's snowy **cover photo!** As you can see, this time we are delighted to feature one of **Claire Mitchell's** photos complete with gorgeous blue Cuckfield sky! Thanks Claire, there's a £20 shopping voucher to spend in the village on its way to you. If you have a great photo of Cuckfield, please email it to [photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk).



With many folk having started running since the new year, it's great to feature a few people who are taking it that bit further. On **page 9 Julie Williams** tells us when she will be running the London Marathon in April. Bolnore couple **Tiffany and Mike Georghiades** are taking on the same challenge – and their fundraising is already coming in many forms! Read their story on **page 21**.

If you are keen to support the school in Bolnore it's great to see the Friends starting up a new initiative: the **Bolnore School Lottery**. Find out more on **page 22**.

**Page 34 and 35** is the home to **book reviews** from students at **Warden Park Academy**. Put the magazine under the nose of any teenage kids you know and see if they discover their next gripping read.

I, like many others, was very sad to learn of the sudden death of funeral director **Matthew Gallagher** just after Christmas. Matthew very much fostered the family connection to Cuckfield and was very supportive of many groups and organisations here. You can read a brief obituary on **page 40**.

On **page 38** is the regular page from Holy Trinity Church vicar **Michael Maine**, **page 43** features **Holiday Snaps** from three readers and the **What's On** sections start on **page 48**.

As always, we love to receive articles and suggestions for future issues. Just email myself and Jacqueline on: [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk).

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### Cuckfield Life

The Barn, Hurstwood Grange,  
Hurstwood Lane, RH17 7QX

Telephone 01444 884115  
[www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk](http://www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk)

Editor: David Tingley  
Assistant: Jacqueline Elmore  
[editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)  
Advertising: Emily Billson  
[ads@kipperlife.com](mailto:ads@kipperlife.com)

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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)

## Do you like to sew?

A new community group has arrived in Cuckfield at the Baptist Church.

Cuckfield Sewing Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6.30pm and is a group for modern sewers, with an emphasis on dressmaking. Set up by long-standing Cuckfield resident Nicole Patterson, the group aims to bring together like-minded people who like to sew, knit and enjoy time spent with others devoted to their craft. Take your machine, a project and sew with others.

All ages and all levels are welcome. If you don't know how to sew or what to make, just pop along one evening to find out more. You'll find lots of tips, information and group encouragement to get you on your way.

Nicole says: "I've been dressmaking for a few years now and always wanted to get together with others for an evening's sewing. I couldn't find anything close to home where I could park, take my sewing machine and sew all year round. Cuckfield Baptist Church has the perfect light - a bright room, with plenty of parking and ample space for the monthly event, so I thought I'd start a group."



In addition to the regular monthly evening, Cuckfield Sewing Group is also holding a quarterly all-day sewing day. The next event is on 28th March from 10.30am – 4.30pm. For further details please contact [nicolebpatterson@icloud.com](mailto:nicolebpatterson@icloud.com).

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# New village centre for Ansty

Work has now started on the building of Ansty Village Centre under the careful gaze of members of the Ansty Village Centre Trust.

The existing village hall was a dilapidated wooden hut that was gifted to the village following the end of the First World War. When it was shipped over from France the temporary building was originally expected to have a lifespan of 20 years!

Despite its poor condition, the hall and recreation ground was used for around 15,000 visits per year. The new Ansty Village Centre will transform the facilities on offer to villagers and the wider community. With a sizable main hall, professional kitchen, function room and double the amount of sports changing rooms available – the new space is predicted to encourage twice the number of visits within three years of its opening.

The total cost of the project is over £1.4m, but the Trust has been very successful in securing funding from various sources. The England & Wales Cricket Board put in £150,000, Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council £100,000, Mid Sussex District Council was able to release over £320,000 from Section 106 housing developer contributions to the project in addition to recently agreed funding of £100,000 and a new 150 year lease on the ground and car park. A staggering £219,000 has been raised from local



community groups too.

Liz Bennett, Parish Clerk for Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council, said: "When the Ansty Cross pub closed a few years ago it left a large social hole in the village, but this new community building gives us the opportunity to create a new social hub that will put the heart back into Ansty.

"The Ansty Village Centre Trust is leading the project but it has been a real collaborative effort between many local groups. Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council, Mid Sussex District Council, Ansty Cricket Club, Ansty Sports and Social Club, the Ansty Village Hall Trust and local businesses have all played a huge part in helping to fund this new community building. It has been wonderful to see the whole community working together to make this dream into a reality."



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## The beautiful shop in Haywards Heath

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When the little girl was taught to make pom-poms by her great-grandma she would have hardly dared to imagine that she would grow up to run her own fabric shop – but that was the dream for Caroline Packham from a very early age.

“She taught me to sew, everything from buttons on a shirt to tea cosies,” Caroline explained. “Even now when working I can lose myself in the process of sewing. Creating something new, stitch by stitch.”

Caroline runs Caroline at Home at 29 The Orchards in Haywards Heath. The store contains dozens of fabric books from which customers can choose the style of their new curtains, blinds or reupholstered favourite chair. The large worktable in the centre of the shop is often found with numerous books open in a state of indecision.

“Some customers know exactly what they want, while others ask for advice,” Caroline explains. Whilst the first step is getting lots of books out, Caroline always takes the preferred option to the customer’s house for them to see it in-situ. “I like to go and take all the measurements myself where possible, so it’s a great opportunity to see how it’s going to look in the room.”

Caroline describes her choice of fabrics as ‘traditional country linen style’, and she is pleased to stock the likes of Voyage, Sophie Allport and Zoe Glencross – who grew up in nearby Lindfield. “I particularly like working with and supporting individual designers who have been through art college and worked hard to create their own brand and style,” Caroline explains.



With Caroline at Home everything is sewn by hand. For Caroline, quality – and therefore reputation – is key, and her personal service to local customers keeps people coming back and giving recommendations to their friends. “We were really thrilled with the curtains that Caroline made for our lounge,” commented customer Esther Witherall. “They also upholstered a chair that is a family heirloom and it looks fabulous. The quality of the work was outstanding and we couldn’t be happier.”

In-store there is plenty to turn your eye too. In addition to stocking the hugely popular brands of Emma Bridgewater and Chilly bottles, Caroline has personally selected

lines which include beautiful mugs, candles, reed diffusers, cards and gift wrap. Plus Chalk – a lifestyle brand, made in England, which includes ladies fashion, purses and cushions.

Arts and Crafts superstar William Morris should probably have the last word here when he said: ‘Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful’; a mantra that Caroline very much believes in.

Call Caroline today on 07591 984703 about a project in your home, or pop in to Caroline at Home to browse in this fabric paradise for home décor ideas and gifts.

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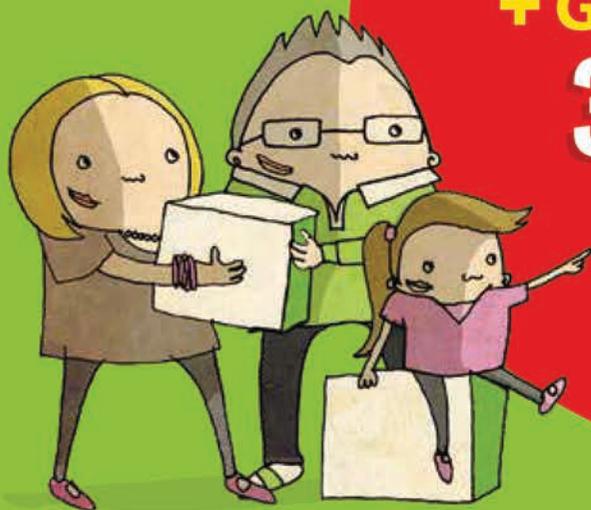
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# Outdoor half term fun promised at Wakehurst

Have you ever thought of making nettle soup with your children? If so then get along to the half-term fun at Wakehurst's wild botanic garden later this month.

A nettle cookery workshop is just one of the exciting activities on offer at this popular garden.

Throughout half-term week, visitors are invited to settle down for storytelling around the campfire, explore the winter woodlands on an exciting collecting trail or join the cookery workshop.

The 'Test your Nettle' fun and practical cookery workshops, from 17th to 21st February, invite youngsters to wander into the beautiful Wakehurst woodlands and forage for ingredients before making a delicious nettle soup.

The event also offers storytelling around the camp fire while warming up with soup, cheese and tea.

The event costs £15 per child and is suitable for those aged five and upwards. All those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Advance booking is recommended.

Families visiting the gardens can also help to create a Mini Bug Hotel and Green Heart Collage from 15th to 23rd February.

Head to the Visitor Centre to receive a collecting card showing what to look for in the gardens, then pick up sticks and green things, from mosses to leaves, to create a bug hotel. Get crafty and make a decorative green



heart to add to the 'Show the Love' communal collage. This free event takes place in the Millennium Seed Bank atrium.

Throughout the week youngsters are also invited to pick up an Explorer Rucksack and prepare for an intrepid self-led journey through Wakehurst.

The rucksacks, costing £4, are available at reception.

For more details visit: [www.kew.org/wakehurst/whats-on/february-half-term-fun](http://www.kew.org/wakehurst/whats-on/february-half-term-fun)

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By David Gasson

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# Julie takes on the London Marathon

Cuckfield runner Julie Williams is warming up for a tough new challenge in 2020 – raising sponsorship funds for St Peter and St James Hospice so she can compete in this year's London Marathon.

Julie, who has lived and worked in the village for the past 23 years, is training hard and holding a series of fundraising events.

This includes a 10-hour Spin Class Marathon with up to 60 cyclists mainly drawn from the Mid Sussex Tri Club, plus a little bit of help from her three boys.

Julie explains: "I have been lucky enough to take part in lots of triathlon events over the years, but the London Marathon has always been one of my lifetime goals.

"The hospice movement is one of my favourite charities because they fulfil such a vital role alongside the NHS and get very little funding from the government. High quality end of life care is so important as well as support for families dealing with the challenges of bereavement and grief."

Julie, who originally trained as a nurse, has for the last five years run O'Reiki Therapies, offering a range of complementary treatments. She also volunteers at Sweet Wrappers, a drop-in sling library and breastfeeding support group for local parents. Julie who is also learning the cello, has recently joined the



Ensemble Reza Community Orchestra, which rehearses at Warden Park School.

Julie has already received support from local businesses, including Artologie, Jojo Boutique and Anna Swan Candles, who have donated generous raffle prizes.

"There is so much going on in Cuckfield. I love living here and it has been a fantastic place to bring up my children."

If you'd like to help Julie reach her target of £2,000 please visit: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JulieWilliams75>

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The scholarships are means-tested and awarded to children who excel academically and show potential in art, design technology, drama, music or sport. Two places are available for children starting in Year 4 in September 2020 and applications are open now until 30th April 2020.

The selection process involves completing an 'Application & Means-Testing Financial Form', which will be reviewed by the Headmaster and Bursar. Assuming all initial criteria are met, a full report will be requested from the child's current school and the parent/s or guardian/s invited to meet the Headmaster. Prospective Foundation Scholars are invited to attend an 'Experience Day' at Cumnor; when they will be interviewed by the Headmaster, undergo academic tests, work and play alongside their contemporaries and offered the opportunity to show their particular talent/s in art, design technology, drama, music or sport, as appropriate.

The Bursar will then visit all prospective families at home, following which the Headmaster will put forward his final recommendations for consideration and confirmation by The Cumnor Foundation Board. The aim is to offer two Foundation Scholarship places each academic year, according to the potential of applicants.

Christian Heinrich, Headmaster at Cumnor House Sussex explains: "Once they join us, each Foundation Scholar is allocated a tutor who is a member of Cumnor's teaching community; while their family is given access to a Foundation Mentor who will meet with them regularly and continue to offer support and advice during their scholarship journey."

What sets Cumnor House Sussex's Foundation Scholarships apart from others is their tenure. Successful Foundation Scholars receive access to a free education in the independent sector for ten years, from age eight to 18.

Heinrich continues: "Due to the relationships we have forged with senior independent schools, each Foundation Scholar will move seamlessly from completing their prep school education with us to one of our sixteen independent senior school partners, also on a 100% funded scholarship as part of that school's own bursary scheme. Places are offered subject to each child meeting their chosen senior school's entry criteria."

Current senior school partners are Ardingly College, Bedes, Benenden, Cranleigh, Eastbourne College, Hurstpierpoint College, The King's School Canterbury, Lancing, Mayfield, Radley, Roedean, St Mary's Ascot, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Wellington College and Worth. Work continues on securing additional senior school partners.

There are a total of seven Foundation Scholars already in place across Years 4, 5 6 and 7 at Cumnor House Sussex. The first will make their transition to senior school in September 2021, with their sights set on joining Sevenoaks.

The mother of our first Foundation Scholar comments: "Every child is talented, they just unwrap these talents at different times. Through the Foundation Scholarship, Cumnor has offered my child an astounding opportunity and environment to discover new gifts. The school's ethos of children 'Daring to be Different', and its ability to embed well being into every lesson through its unique 'iSpace Wellbeing' Curriculum Programme, has allowed my child to manoeuvre confidently through new emerging friendships and embrace a newfound interest in a wide range of different subjects."

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# Year of the Vegan



**By Jacqueline Elmore**

Last month saw record numbers signing up to Veganuary – a lifestyle challenge where non-vegans commit to trying to live on a plant-based diet for the entire month of January – and in 2020 there are more vegans in the UK than ever before (not just in January!).

In 2018 there were 600,000 vegans living in Great Britain alone. According to the Vegan Society the number of British vegans will grow further still with pollsters claiming that 2.9 million people will be vegan within the next twelve months. Some evidence suggests that being vegan can result in a healthier lifestyle and there are also compelling arguments with regards to environmental impact, animal welfare and ethics; it seems that these are just some of the reasons why people are trying to give up meat and remove animal products from their diet.

For Ian Hills and Lorraine Roach, who have lived in Cuckfield for over ten years, becoming vegan was a simple choice.

"The reason we both decided to cut animal products out of our diets was down to health and that alone," Ian explained. "With so much variety and so many different types of good quality plant based food there is simply no need for us to eat meat anymore and to be honest we're healthier and happier because of it."

Ian and Lorraine have both lost parents to cancer. When Lorraine's mum was first diagnosed with the disease, efforts were made to help change her diet in the hope that these lifestyle changes would result in a longer life.

"Everything that she ate from that point on was organic and she steered clear of processed food. She was given six months to live but ended up living for three years," Lorraine said. "That was a real turning point for us. Part of the reason we no longer eat animal products is because of what happened to our parents. Being vegan and living 'compassionately' suits us better."

Ian and Lorraine's story starts in Brighton 14 years ago where they first met. Some might say that it was inevitable that they would eventually succumb to the vegan way of life given that Brighton has more plant based eateries per capita than bigger cities such as Manchester and London.

“Spending time in places like Brighton and parts of London amongst the vegan community with other like minded people you educate yourselves more, so the subject of animal welfare and environmental issues become just as important as health.”

In 2009 they moved to Cuckfield and set up home in the village. Today they have a new addition to the family: Haize, a beautiful three year old brindle greyhound that they rescued from the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Trust in Twineham (who also eats a vegan diet!).

“We have met lots more people since having the dog. When you’ve got a dog it gives people more reason to stop and say hello. Cuckfield is a very friendly place and we’ve made some good friends since being here, such as neighbours and other people from the local community.”

Ian and Lorraine are now partners in their working lives too. They do a lot of house maintenance but also get involved in many creative projects like some of the work they do at Latitude, Download and a number of other large music festivals.

“There’s a lovely vegan stall owned by a friend that we have worked with at the festivals. I make a lot of their signage and frontage. I’m an electrician by trade so I also do their electrics and we both help to cook. It’s hard work but also a really good laugh. Everyone there gets along, so for us it’s great fun.”

They both believe that it is the younger generation that will really notice the difference and the change to modern society will have a far greater impact on them: “In our lifetime are we really going to see a difference? Hopefully we will, but it’s the generation beneath us that will benefit from it in a big way as long as we continue to try and do the right thing. We have to start making changes now though. It is not just about following a trend. This is real life.”

“Most people fear change but we are definitely seeing a shift. In my opinion,” said Ian, “if we don’t move with the times then we probably won’t have a planet here to enjoy. One of the first things we can do to help protect the environment is to cut down on our meat consumption or, better still, stop eating meat completely.”

Ian and Lorraine accept that following a vegan lifestyle might not be for everyone and the transition can be difficult but with time it can be hugely rewarding: “Education is key, especially at a young age particularly if you really want to make a difference. I think if we all actually paid attention and did our own research and understood where our food actually comes from we may have made some different choices earlier on in our lives.”

What was once a fringe movement has now become a mainstream trend and not just for social media likes either. Some have changed their diets for moral reasons, some for ecological and some simply because they want to be more health conscious. Whatever your reason or their reason, as one famous progressive once penned: ‘The times, they are a changing’.



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# Passion for Fashion at The Talbot

By Kate Roche

A pre-loved fashion sale is being held in Cuckfield next month aid of the Rockinghorse Charity.

The Rockinghorse Charity fundraises for The Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital and Trevor Mann Baby Unit in Brighton, and the Special Care Baby Unit in Haywards Heath. This amazing charity has been supporting sick children and their families for over 50 years.

Please join us for an evening of shopping beautiful pre-loved items and pick up a bargain whilst supporting this fantastic charity.

Any donations of any good quality, nearly new women's and kid's clothing/shoes and accessories are welcome and will be gratefully received.

The fundraiser will take place on Thursday 5th March from 7.30pm in the Hayloft, upstairs at The Talbot, Cuckfield. Tickets cost £5 each and will be available on the door.

For further information, please contact Kate or Sophie for any ticket or clothing donation enquiries: [katejroche@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katejroche@hotmail.co.uk) or [sophieyorkejohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sophieyorkejohnson@gmail.com).





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# Bolnore Village Farmers Market



A new farmers market has been launched in Bolnore Village. Unfortunately, you'll have to wait a few months yet before you can meet the locals and the stallholders.

Bolnore resident Karly Harris is the brains behind the concept. "The idea behind the venture is to give residents the opportunity to shop more locally, help them to relax and enjoy their weekend without the need for them to head to their nearest supermarket."

Karly's main aim in all of this is to try to attract a variety of local traders, particularly those who are looking to sell bread/pastries, cheese, fresh eggs/milk, preserves- jams, chutneys, honey or agricultural products. She is also interested in finding traders and stalls that sell potted plants, jewellery and clothing/accessories for adults and kids.

"I wanted to provide a local farmers market in the heart of Bolnore Village to try and get the community buzzing again and to help try to raise money. Each stall we sell on, is raising money towards the maintenance of the Woodside Community Centre."

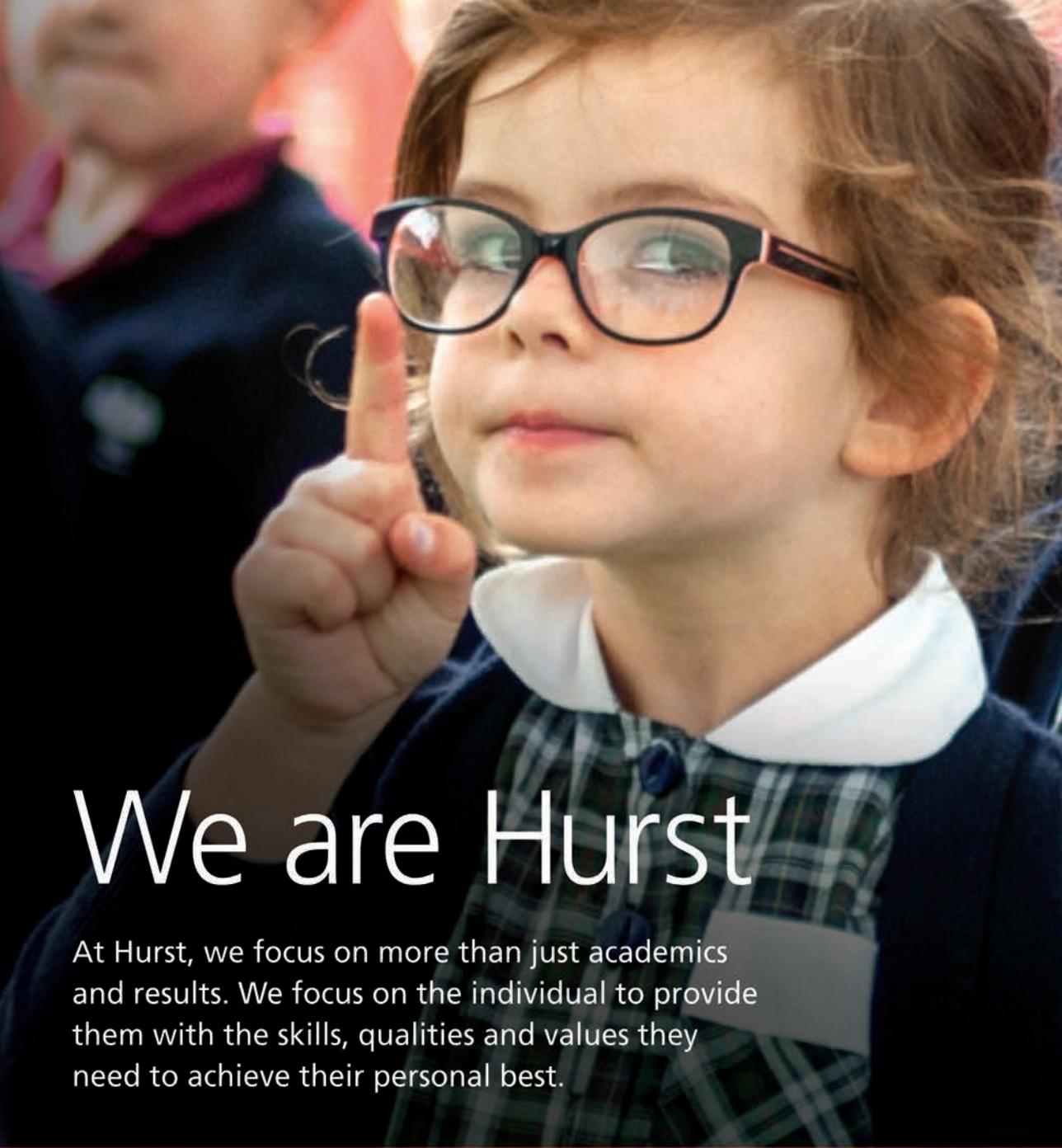
Karly herself used to buy fruit and vegetable boxes from companies that made claims they would deliver fresh produce to her door. All too often that would never happen, and after a number of negative experiences she began collecting her groceries from branded stores.

Karly explains: "The response to my original Facebook post about the Farmer Market has been phenomenal. I'm thrilled to learn both traders and, more importantly, the residents of Bolnore are really excited about the market."

Karly has already signed up a number of traders and spaces are now limited. If you are interested in organising a pitch please contact Karly: tropickarly@gmail.com.

The Bolnore Village Farmers Indoor Market will take place on Sunday 24th May at 10am. £10 per stall. Any money raised will go towards the Woodside Community Centre fund.

The advertisement features a dark background with a glowing orange tassel hanging from the top. The text is in white and orange. At the top right, it says 'PROJECT SIXTY ONE ELECTRICAL SERVICES'. Below that, in large white letters, is 'Local. Reliable. Experienced. Qualified. Electricians.' In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'EWS DOMESTIC INSTALLER'. At the bottom, the contact information is listed: 'hello@projectsixtyone.co.uk', '07399 914 842', and 'projectsixtyone.co.uk'.



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# What's the pond work all about?

By Lorraine Maynard, Chair of Friends of Ashenground and Bolnore Woods  
Pond Meadow has three balancing ponds, constructed by Crest to channel surface water from Phases 4 and 5 of Bolnore Village towards the River Adur.

These ponds require regular maintenance as part of the Ecological Management Plan for Ashenground and Bolnore Woods. This year the Friends Group was lucky enough to receive a grant from The Sussex Lund Trust to undertake the work to Pond 1. It had become very silted and overgrown with alder saplings and reeds. The banks had begun to collapse, making the pond narrow and shallow. Last month work was carried out by the excavation team who cleared the silt, rooted out the invading saplings and weeds and reset the banks of the pond.

We are hoping to carry out a similar programme of works to Pond 3 next year and plan to apply to the Lund Trust for a further grant to fund this.



Photo: Debby Martell

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**5 MINUTES WITH...**

## Michael Bramble

Michael is the manager of the Woodside. He is a keen sports fan and an avid follower of Tottenham Hotspur and Essex CCC. He has played school football with Frank Lampard, posed nude for a calendar and nearly died (literally) on stage, although not all on the same day!

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

**What's the best thing about being here?**

The community spirit (when we really get it right, such as at the Summer Fete)

**Favourite ice cream flavour?** Rum 'n' Raisin

**How many houses have you lived in?** Thirteen (I think!)

**What would you like to see in Bolnore that isn't here?**

An old man's pub

**Favourite holiday destination?**

Melbourne (Australia, not Cambridgeshire!)

**Song you play the most?**

I Want You To Stay by Maximo Park was my ringtone for about 11 years, so probably that!

**What would you do if you won £1million?**

Faint (then maybe build a dream house!)

**What was the last present you gave someone?**

Pearls of wisdom

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

Couscous, avocados, lentils and pulses - I mean, why?!

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

Reluctantly, music - I couldn't give up watching sport for a whole month

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

Spotify

**What's your proudest moment?**

Getting into Cambridge (the A14 can be murder!)

**Your advice for life?** Those who shout loudest and longest usually have the least to say

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!

## Going to the tip: remember your ID!

West Sussex residents are reminded to take a form of identity with them when visiting Burgess Hill Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS).

The new system was introduced at the end of last year in a bid to save West Sussex taxpayers £250,000 per year by ensuring that the sites are only used by those who pay for them.

It means that all users of HWRSs in the county are now required to show a form of identification, which can be a driving licence, current TV licence, Council Tax or utility bill.

The scheme has been introduced due to the high number of people travelling across county boundaries to recycle and dispose of their waste. Surveys have shown that an average of one in ten people using HWRSs closest to the county borders live outside of West Sussex.

At East Grinstead, this can increase to as many as one in five people.

For more detail about waste and recycling see: [www.recycleforwestsussex.org](http://www.recycleforwestsussex.org)



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# Cuckfield Baptist Church

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# Fundraising couple aim for £5,000

By Tiffany Georghiades

Eighteen months ago Mike and I had just relocated to Bolnore Village from London and had our engagement and housewarming party in the Rose and Crown surrounded by the people we loved the most. At this point I honestly thought life could not get much better. Just nine weeks later we were hit with the devastating news that Mike's Grandad had suffered a stroke, which led to him passing away a few months later and, at the same time, my Dad had been taken ill, which turned out to be a diagnosis of Stage 3 Pancreatic Cancer. Our worlds fell apart overnight, and what followed has been fifteen months of heartache and uncertainty, but also fight and determination to give my Dad the best possible chance of survival.

Pancreatic Cancer is the deadliest of all common cancers with the five-year survival rate less than 7%. The UK lags behind the rest of the world, ranking 29th out of 33 countries with comparable data. Despite this, it has received less than 1% of total UK cancer research funding over the last decade. We want to change this and to raise awareness of Pancreatic Cancer because too often it is found too late.

It is our absolute honour and pleasure to have places on the Pancreatic UK London Marathon 2020 team. We have a target of £5,000 and have been busy fundraising all over the country. On the 11th January we held a charity car wash right here in the village and were completely blown away with the support and generosity from local residents and also those who wanted to share their story with us too. We made 11 cars sparkle and raised a total of £160. Thank you to everyone that trusted us with your cars, came to talk and donated - it was great to meet all of you.

We are looking to hold more fundraising events and



are also launching The West Sussex Big Quiz Week, which is in the making, as well as hosting a raffle. If any local businesses would like to support us with a raffle prize we would be so grateful! The quizzes will take place at The Talbot in Cuckfield on Wednesday 26th February, The Rose and Crown on Thursday 27th February and The Red Lion (Lindfield) on Sunday 1st March. Entry is £3 per person, and you can secure your place by emailing us or turning up on the night.

Thank you all for your support thus far, and we look forward to hopefully meeting many of you in the next few months. We will also be looking to hold another charity car wash, so look out for our notices and on Facebook!

If you would like to sponsor us please get in touch: [tiffany.georghiades@gmail.com](mailto:tiffany.georghiades@gmail.com) or visit this website: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/tiffanyandmike](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/tiffanyandmike)



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# Friends launch school lottery

There's a new fundraising initiative at Bolnore's school as the PTA launch the School Lottery.

Jo Dixon, part of the Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School, explained: "This is a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment as well as run extracurricular activities."

Tickets cost just £1, and one person per week will receive our Bolnore Cash Prize (which is bigger the more who sign up), plus they'll also have the chance to win £25,000 in the wider lottery draw! For every 50 regular tickets sold the school will receive £1,000 a year!

Jo tells us: "The response we've had since the launch has been so fantastic we've upped our target to 100 tickets - getting 42 sign ups in the first three days!"

If you'd like to sign up and help support the school, you can do so here:  
[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/bolnore-village-primary-school](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/bolnore-village-primary-school)



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# Later Life Lending: Mortgages for the Over 55s

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**By Nigel Urban**

**Mortgage, Equity Release and Protection Adviser**

Growing up in Mid Sussex in the 1960s and 1970s presented a simple view of mortgages. Homeowners invariably took them out in their twenties, paid them off over about 25 years and never borrowed again. Those days are largely over. With low interest rates, house price inflation enabling remortgaging and the provision of interest only mortgages, many homeowners are borrowing into retirement.



A common reason for that is when remortgaging 'interest only' mortgages. The investment strategies intended to repay those have often proven unsuccessful or were abandoned, so many borrowers are finding themselves with their mortgages ending but without the money to pay them off.

Downsizing may be a solution. A smaller property may be acceptable, if there is sufficient equity available. Moving home is not always best, though. People have emotional attachment to their homes and moving has associated costs, not just logistics but estate agents' commissions, conveyancers' fees and stamp duty on the new property.

Thankfully the financial services sector has responded and there are now options for over 55s (even over 50s in some cases) to take out mortgages into retirement, even for life. The term is 'later life lending', an unpopular term with the author, who is in that age group and still considers himself youthful.

Later life lending comprises term mortgages, Retirement Interest Only mortgages (RIOs) and lifetime mortgages.

Term mortgages, like traditional mortgages, have a set duration. They can be repayment or interest only, usually the latter. They require affordability, with income throughout the term being considered. For terms extending beyond retirement, pension income is assessed. For joint mortgages, independent affordability must be demonstrated after a certain age, for example the ability to transfer pension benefits to a spouse

after death, or life cover. If the repayment method is interest only there must be a repayment strategy, often downsizing, although sale of holiday homes or investment properties are other possibilities.

Alternatively, an RIO might be the solution. These are interest only mortgages which last until the borrower (or last borrower for joint mortgages) dies or goes into permanent care. They require affordability but need no repayment strategy. Currently up to 70% of the property's value can be borrowed.

Finally, there are lifetime mortgages, otherwise known as equity release. Like RIOs, they last for a lifetime or until going into permanent care. Affordability is not required. Maximum borrowing depends on the younger borrower's age and the value of the property. The older the borrower, the more that can be borrowed, currently to a maximum of 58% of the value of the property. Possible features include rates fixed for life, voluntary payments, guaranteed minimum remaining equity and downsizing protection (escaping early repayment charges on moving, typically after five years). Lifetime mortgages are appropriate if no other option is feasible or desired. Monthly payments are optional – otherwise the interest rolls up and equity decreases. Products with a 'no negative equity' guarantee are recommended.

The mortgage products above can also be used to raise capital on an existing property or purchase a new one.

The later life lending market is complex; the above is a simplified overview. Specialist lenders are usually required and, with many criteria to be considered, care must be taken in selecting a product - the use of a qualified mortgage adviser is highly recommended and sometimes required by the lender.

**Talk to me to discuss your options: by email to [nigel.urban@financeplanning.co.uk](mailto:nigel.urban@financeplanning.co.uk) or call me on 07765 465508 (preferred) or our head office number 01444 449200. FCA Registration Number 715721. [www.financeplanning.co.uk](http://www.financeplanning.co.uk)**



# 'No can do!'

Alex King captures this dog failing to exit the house via the cat flap! Thanks Alex, for being in the right place at the right time.



# Book Festival opportunities

By Sheila Mortimer

Although Cuckfield Book Festival is being held a little later this year (12th – 15th November), we're already beginning to plan the programme – in fact our first two speakers have already been booked. We're constantly on the lookout for people who will contribute to what will be a varied and challenging few days, and the programming team is now scanning the book pages every week and visiting many literary festivals to get a flavour of new books and their authors.

Keep an eye on the website ([www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk](http://www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk)) for more news. If you'd like to be involved as a volunteer or a sponsor, please contact [info@cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk](mailto:info@cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk).

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## A novel approach

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Jacqueline Elmore

When Casey Kelleher was five her mother read her *The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Anderson. This story triggered a journey of discovery that continues to this day; a realisation that books could supply the magic that real life often lacked; a great love affair with literature and with the act of reading.

"Christmas was always my favourite time growing up because I was always given a huge pile of books," Casey explained. "The books were often fairytales, and to me these books and stories were pure heaven. There is nothing better than the joy that can come from the pages of a book; there is a power to reading."

Casey is a self-professed bookworm but is also a very successful author. She has recently completed her tenth novel, and her very first paperback was written over a decade ago. However, Casey was not always a novel writer. Long before she had published any of her literature she could be seen working on Cuckfield High Street as a holistic therapist for Beauty Within.

"I started writing my first book, *Rotten to the Core*, whilst I was working in the salon. I mean, who would have thought that I would go from giving holistic treatments to writing really dark, gritty thrillers about the subcultures and underbelly of criminal gangs in London?"

It was Casey's grandfather who first inspired her to write. He was in his 90s when he began writing his life story and was only a few chapters in when he sadly passed away.

"There's that old saying that 'everyone has a book inside them' and after my grandfather died I decided that I didn't want to get to a stage where I didn't at least give it a go myself. My first book actually became a bit of a family joke. I'd tell my husband and young sons: 'I'm off to write a few chapters of my book' and they'd sit there and giggle. It was more of a hobby for me at that time, so we didn't really take it very seriously but before I knew it I had a complete manuscript all finished and the first book was done."

It wasn't until Casey had a conversation with one of her old salon clients that things really began to take shape.

"We used to have a famous Irish novelist and poet called Josephine Hart who would visit me in the salon, and with her help she kindly gave my manuscript to her agent who in turn offered me some very sound advice. Her agent recommended that initially I self publish whilst I was looking for a suitable agent myself. From that point on it simply took off."

In Casey's first month of publication book sales totalled 25 copies, which for her was a staggering amount considering she thought that only family and friends would purchase the book. Before she knew it sales of *Rotten to the Core* began to soar. The book eventually went into the Top 100 Thriller Chart on Amazon and she started selling thousands.

"The book was doing so well that I had to give up my job at Beauty Within. Soon after I released two further self published books and a year later I got my first publishing deal with 'Bad Blood'."

One of Casey's biggest inspirations is Martina Cole, the British crime writer who has some twenty books under her belt, also using London's gangster underworld as the subject matter.

"When I first read Martina's books I was probably 15 and it was a bit of a shock to the system to say the least. When you go from reading the likes of Danielle Steel to a book written by a female about the violent underbelly of gangland London it can take a bit of getting used to for sure."

Although Casey still adores her 'gangland London' fictional roots, she has taken a slightly different approach with her latest offering. This time around she has written a psychological thriller, which has been written using her 'simple and organic' method: "The process usually starts when a character pops into my mind and will not let me forget them. I often get to a point where I literally can't stop thinking about them. I then slowly start to build a better and bigger picture. I develop their world. I define their stories and create the cast of people that come into their lives."

One of Casey's books that remains a firm favourite is *The Taken*: "Much of my enjoyment in writing *The Taken* was to do with the amount of research I did before its execution. The story itself is about people being trafficked and illegal immigration. I got completely absorbed in reading and researching that topic. Some of it was pretty distressing to read but it was also very real and I wanted to express that properly in the novel."

Right now Casey is working on two books, which she is hoping to release later this year.

"Of course it can be a long-winded process and you sometimes find yourself sat behind a blank page for days or even weeks before you actually begin writing. In the beginning when I first started it was new and exciting, but I'm ten books down now and, although I'm still very passionate about what I do, it is still work."

Casey's advice for other aspiring writers is a straight forward one; to read as much as possible. "Even if I have been writing all day, the only way I can truly relax is to read. My book of choice would normally always be something crime related but I have also recently started reading psychological thrillers. If I didn't read, my mind would never switch off, so I have to read even if it's only two or three pages in one sitting."

Casey also recommends that new writers stick with it: "One of the biggest lessons that I have learnt is to try to remain positive and confident in what you are doing. For a while I felt very out of my depth and questioned if I was good enough or worried that I hadn't had the right education to be a writer. If you believe in what you are doing and commit to the process then once you've got your first physical book published then the doubts will subside."

Casey's plans for the future are to continue with her book writing efforts and to also get more involved in other writing projects.

"As long as I am still enjoying the writing process then I will continue doing it. I think I still have quite a few books left in me and too many ideas racing around my head to stop now. There are still lots of exciting things that I'd like to do. I've had people in the past contact me about theatre productions or film rights that are yet to take shape so for now I'm happy to concentrate on working on the storytelling and see where it all leads."



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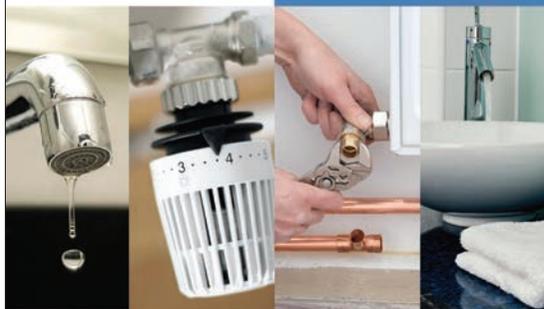
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**RECYCLE THIS...**

Colin McFarlin is a Volunteer Waste Prevention Advisor with West Sussex County Council. If you have a question for him, email: [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)

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And you will receive a very special goody bag for taking part, and feature in this magazine with your recycling journey and the tips you have picked up.

We can only include one champion a month, so email me today if you want to be included and want to find out how you can improve your recycling.

Email us via [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk) and we'll put you in touch with Colin.

**I went along to meet Terisa and find out about her recycling.**

Terisa, daughter Tarlie and son Gabriel (even Yanko the cat!) wanted to recycle more but needed more information and realised their knowledge was not up to date, and they did not want to get it wrong. They do not have time to look everything up!



Terisa tells me her wake-up call was the Blue Planet programme. As a busy family they use convenience food. Their black kerbside bin was full every two weeks!

She was delighted when I went to talk to her church group. She tells me she learned so much. "I now use my compost bin and I bought a second-hand wormery after the talk. You buy the worms from Amazon (Tiger Worms) and they arrive in the post!

"The family now collects all our stretchy plastic and takes it to the supermarket. A simple routine of a bag to pop it into and drop it off before you start shopping.

"We don't think everyone is aware of this fabulous information!"

Carrier bag bins can recycle so many more plastic items, such as:

- Plastic carrier bags
- Plastic bread bags (shake out)
- Plastic cereal bags (like porridge oats bags, but not inners from boxes of cereals although some are recyclable, check the label)
- Plastic wrappers and ring joiners from multipacks of cans
- Toilet roll and kitchen roll plastic wrappers
- Plastic freezer bags
- Plastic magazine and newspaper wrappers (from your letterbox post)
- Fruit and veg supermarket bags
- Bubble wrap

Please make sure these are all clean so they can be recycled!

"We take our milk bottle tops to a local collection point, no longer in my black bin," said Terisa who works in a nursery school and now collects crisp packets from the children's lunch boxes and plastic pens. These go to her local Terracycle point.

Top tip from Terisa: Buy a big bag of crisps and put a handful in each lunch box – have what they want, no waste!

"With a bit of effort and a bit of time, my black rubbish bin has only one small plastic bag every two weeks – before it was full," she said.

Congratulations, Terisa. You are this month's Recycling Champion.



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# Cuckfield Museum reopens 15th February

By Sue Burgess, Museum Curatorial team

Our opening display for 2020 is A History of Cuckfield in 20 Objects. Visitors can expect to see some unusual items, some from our reserve collection and therefore rarely displayed, each chosen to represent an aspect of local life over the centuries. For example the immense wealth generated by the iron industry, the impact of the early 19th century 'golden age' of stagecoaches passing through between London and Brighton and, not least, the one thing that prevented Cuckfield becoming a town like Haywards Heath.

Cuckfield's clockmaking tradition is highlighted by a new acquisition, an Edward Bates silver pocket watch dating from 1793 and also by a Gatland longcase clock dial and movement from the 1740s, loaned while awaiting restoration.



We commemorate the Cuckfield men who went to war in 1914-18 and celebrate the goodwill extended to servicemen stationed here in WWII. What is noticeable is Cuckfield's long-standing fundraising tradition - from Richard Bevan's Improvement Association and the building of the Queen's Hall to today's Independent State of Cuckfield.

One of the dinosaur bones excavated at Whitemans Green, an unusual relic from the Union Workhouse and a more recent reminder of life at Cuckfield Hospital give an idea of the scope of what we have put together. However, we fully expect our visitors to have their own ideas about what else should have been included - and we look forward to hearing them!



Cuckfield Museum situated upstairs in the Queen's Hall and will be open Wednesday to Friday: 10am-12:30pm and Saturday: 10am-3pm, from Saturday 15th February.



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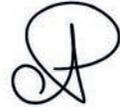
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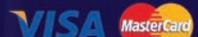
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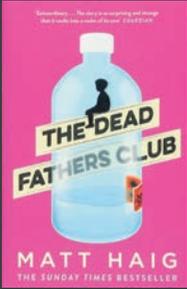
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# The Dead Fathers Club by Matt Haig

## BOOK REVIEW

By Matthew Aspinall, Year 8

The Dead Fathers Club by Matt Haig is an incredible display of outstanding writing. This humorous book attempts to remake William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' and it is about a young boy named Philip Noble whose father died in a mysterious car accident. After the accident his father's ghost comes to him, egging him on to kill the man responsible so he can rest in peace. The man responsible is his uncle. Torn between moral rights and his father's loyalty, he fights for the ability to do what's right, or what he thinks is right.

I think this book is aimed at ages 13 or 14+ because of the dark storyline, but I thoroughly enjoyed the book and think that this is a must read for anyone.

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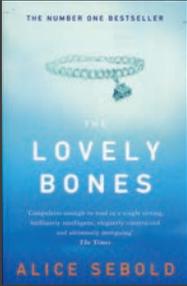
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# The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

## BOOK REVIEW

By Sophie Barnes, Year 9

The Lovely Bones is about Susie, a young girl who is brutally murdered at the age of 14 by her neighbour. Susie dies at the beginning of the book and, from then on, looks down upon her family and friends from heaven. From Susie's perspective, we see the people she is watching grow up and deal with her death in different ways while she is stuck in the afterlife, a place where she can have whatever she wants except the one thing she wants the most: to be back on earth with them.

I would recommend the book to ages 14+ as it has some mature themes throughout. The Lovely Bones is beautifully written and extremely touching. Definitely five star!

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# Meals to warm you up

SIMPLY GOOD FOOD

## Cod and Potato au Gratin

Melt 75g butter with 1-2 crushed garlic cloves in a small bowl - 1 min. Peel and thinly slice 675g baking potatoes. Layer in a flameproof dish, drizzling the butter and some seasoning between each layer. Spoon over 4tbs milk. Cover and bake MED for about 10 min or until soft in the centre. Top with 2 chunky fish steaks, such as cod or salmon, lightly cover and cook until fish is opaque. Top generously with some grated cheese (and/or buttered breadcrumbs) and slip under a preheated grill until golden brown.

## Tuna Peppers

Finely chop 1 small onion and 2 celery sticks and tip into a medium casserole with 1 crushed garlic clove and 15g butter. Cover and cook 1 min. Stir in 2tsp plain flour, 2tsp tomato purée and 75ml milk. Cook for 2-3 min, stirring once, until the sauce come to the boil and has thickened. Stir in 50g grated Cheddar cheese and a well-drained and flaked 198g can tuna, Season to taste. Halve two red or yellow peppers in half lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Fill with the tuna mixture and place in a shallow flameproof dish. Spoon 2tbs water around the peppers. Cook on MED/High for about 8 min or until the peppers are soft. Pop under a hot grill until golden brown.

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By Caroline Young

Cold, damp and breezy days are here, though we are fortunate not to have the climate problems so many other parts of the world are experiencing. We may grumble about our weather but at least we do not have volcanos, bush fires or hurricanes to deal with. To warm you up, try my simple winter recipes, all cooked in the microwave. Power level is 100% (if not mentioned). All recipes serve two.



## Poached Chicken with Herb Sauce

Arrange 2 skinned and boned chicken breasts in a shallow dish just large enough to hold them in a single layer. Tuck under any thin ends to make a compact shape. Cover and cook MED/HIGH for about 8 min or until cooked through. Lift the chicken on to a hot plate and keep warm. Put 3tbs crème fraiche or double cream and 3tbs pesto into a small bowl. Cook for 1 min or until bubbling hot. Season to taste. Slice the chicken diagonally and arrange on hot plates, spooning the sauce on top.

## Smoked Sausage Casserole

Combine 2tsp oil, 1 finely chopped small onion, 2 thinly sliced carrots and 2 crushed garlic cloves in a medium casserole. Cover and cook for about 3 min or until soft. Stir in 200g can chopped tomatoes, 1tbsp tomato purée, 1tsp sugar, pinch dried mixed herbs and 100ml stock. Cook for 1 min or until just bubbling. Add 225g smoked sausage, cut into thick slices, pushing it under the surface of the sauce. Cover and cook on MED/HIGH for about 10 min or until the sausage is piping hot. Good served with rice or just hot garlic bread.

## Apple Crunch

Peel, core and slice 2 eating apples and arrange in 2 dishes such as ramekins or large teacups. Top each with 1tbs sultanas. Mix 1tbs demerara sugar with a pinch of ground cinnamon and spoon over the fruit. Cover and cook 2 min. Crush 6 gingernut or shortbread biscuits, mix with 1tbs demerara sugar and spoon over the fruit. Cook uncovered for 1-1½ min or until bubbling hot. Delicious topped with a little double cream.

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# Standing Together

Dear Friends,

It was recently my privilege to lead the Holocaust Remembrance service in Haywards Heath, falling this year on the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz. As well as remembering the victims of the Holocaust – the Jewish children, women and men of Europe, together with those who perished with them - the genocides of Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur and Armenia were also commemorated.

The names of these various places conjure up the terror which humanity is capable of launching against its own. What places the Holocaust on a different level was the desire for the systematic and mechanised extermination of a people because of their faith.

Christian theology was profoundly challenged and changed by the events of the Holocaust. Christians are called to acknowledge all people as brothers and sisters regardless of race, tribe, faith, no faith or difference – all are to be treasured within the Love of God.

When you and I stand up against intolerance and affirm that all people are equal, and we place love at the heart of our motivation, then the world becomes a better place.

With all best wishes.

Michael (Vicar)



---

## SUNDAYS

(Modern Language unless stated BCP = Book of Common Prayer 1662)

- 8am Holy Communion (BCP 2nd and 4th)
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist (1st Sunday of the month: Family Service - sometimes a Eucharist)
- 11am Sung Holy Communion (BCP – 1st Sunday of the month only)
- 6pm Sung Evensong (BCP) (2nd Sunday only – Holy Communion with discussion)

## WEEKDAYS

- Monday, 9am Morning Prayer
- Wednesday, 10.30am Holy Communion – followed by Vicar's Coffee and Cake in the Old School
- Thursday, 9am Holy Communion – Celtic inspired form of worship, with short discussion
- Friday, 11am Holy Communion – BCP

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# Matthew James Gallagher

12/03/73 – 29/12/19

It is with great sadness that we report the very sudden death of Matthew Gallagher on 29th December 2019 at Kings College Hospital, London aged 46 years. Matthew's funeral took place on Saturday 18th January 2020 at Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield, attended by over 600 people. The funeral was a celebration of his life with music he had selected personally and tributes given by friends from around the world, his fellow professionals within the funeral profession and a family tribute detailing Matthew's love of life and all the people within it.

Matthew was born on 12th March 1973 in Richmond upon Thames and moved with his parents, Pat & Sandy Gallagher, to Cuckfield, where he attended Holy Trinity Primary and Junior school before moving on to Warden Park, completing his GCSEs, before attending Vardean Sixth Form College in Brighton.

Having completed his A-Levels, he graduated from The University of Leeds with a BA Honours degree. He then went on to Goldsmiths College, University of London, gaining a post grad certificate in education.

He taught in many schools in and around London as a supply teacher before entering the educational recruitment sector, which after several years, saw him move to Australia to expand and develop a new operation. He stayed there for four years before returning to the UK.

He joined the family business in 2007 and became a director, joining his parents and other board members at P & S Gallagher Funeral Directors with offices in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill, Bowley Funeral Service in Hassocks and Bowley and Gallagher Funeral Directors in Preston Park, Brighton.

Pat Gallagher explained: "Matthew has been instrumental in developing the business over the last few years, expanding the company into Brighton and refurbishing and renovating all the premises throughout

the company.

"He brought a refreshing and different insight into how he thought the modern day funeral directors premises of today should look and feel. His thought and vision has certainly left its mark within the family business, with bright modern facilities being created using colour and furnishing styles that have complemented the building the company use, being the envy of many other funeral directors premises.

"His demands and determination with his fellow directors and contractors alike have now been shown to be the way forward for the company, and it is his vision and creativity that will become his long-lasting legacy within the family business."

Alongside his role within the business, he became a valued member and part of the governing body in The Independent Funeral Directors College. Joining in 2007, he brought the experience from an educational background in his previous career to the College, and he was paramount in his vision within the College, training as an Assessor and then Verifier. Two valuable positions within the education arm of the profession.

He was also an executive member of SAIF Charter, the prepaid funeral planning arm of the profession of which he was a staunch supporter, sitting on the

Executive and chairing one of the committees. He was also a qualified member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, being the cemetery registrar for both Cuckfield and Walstead Cemeteries.

Matthew will be very sadly missed by his parents, family, colleagues and his many fellow professionals and friends around the world.

"Matthew's legacy is love in his lifelong friendships. He was proud of us all, knowing goodness will guide us, if love is inside us."



# Year end coming up soon?



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## A busy start to 2020

### FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Claire Bellamy

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

Saturday 25th January saw National Village Halls Day, and the Queen's Hall was the place to be, showcasing some of the great businesses and societies Cuckfield has to offer.

My first official engagement was an invitation from Cuckfield Preschool inviting me to be their quizmaster at their recent fundraiser. Over 75 people bought tickets and tested their musical, local and general knowledge. A great evening was had by all – even me, despite the fact I had no voice on Sunday!

One of 2020's mayoral contenders, Sarah Galbraith-Gibbons, recently put on an 80s night in Cuckfield. It was a fabulous evening filled with music and dancing. It never fails to amaze me how willing Cuckfield residents are to don a fancy dress costume! Judging from the amount of people and the number of empty bottles, I'd say she's made a good start to her fundraising!

Back to the topic of recycling! A Lindfield friend has become a drop-off point for TerraCycle, a company that recycles materials the council cannot accept. Items include pet food pouches, toothbrushes, baby food pouches, bottle tops, coffee pods, pens and old cosmetics. These items can be dropped off at 25 Wickham Way, Lindfield – there is a big yellow bin on the drive. Please do make a conscious effort to keep these items separate from your landfill waste and drop off every once in a while – it all helps!

Catch up with me again in March for another exciting update!

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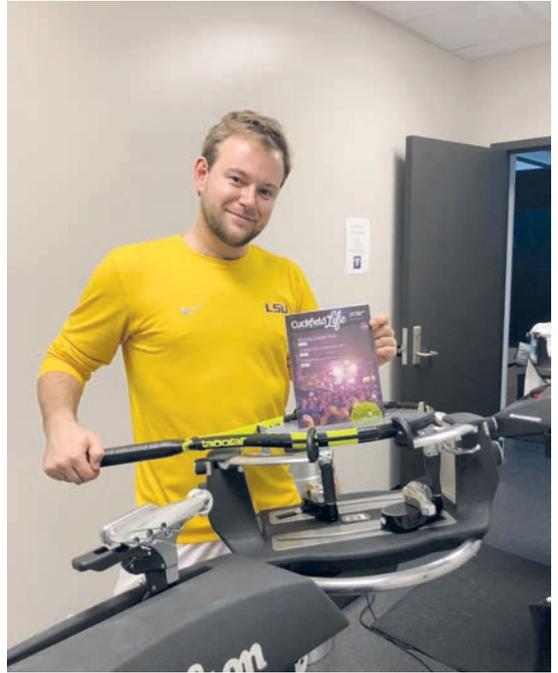
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# Holiday snaps

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)



Emma Reed (left) and Helen Kemp (right) in St Marks Square, Venice



Harry Vaughan restringing tennis racquets in Louisiana



Sue and Paul from Cuckfield Pantry and Tearoom enjoying a midwinter break in the Canaries



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# Calling all young makers to a competition

Cuckfield resident Barbara Ingram, with good friend and co-chair Sue Ng, is on the hunt for a talented and creative young person. Could this be you, or someone you know?

## By Sue Ng

Get super creative this spring and enter The Young Artisan of the Year Competition at the South of England Show at Ardingly this summer. Over £5,500 in prize money is on offer and there is a real opportunity for your talent to shine.

We are looking for talented young people between the ages of 14 and 23 to come forward and enter. The Competition will take place between 11th-13th June 2020.

The Competition has been running for 34 years and was formerly known as The Young Craftsman of the Year Competition. It's a very popular destination at the South of England Show, attracting up to 10,000 visitors each year.

The standards are very high and visitors are always overwhelmed by the workmanship, the quality and the ingenuity of the work on show. Prizes are awarded for exhibits in the following categories: woodwork, metalwork, ceramics, textiles, jewellery making and design and technology.

Your school may already enter exhibits in the Competition, in fact Oathall Community College won a top prize in 2018. However, we would like to encourage all local schools and colleges to take part. We also like to encourage individual entries too. Young people who have hobbies at home and who love to be creative are welcome to enter. The show has helped to launch many successful careers in its 34 years.

With creative subjects being squeezed out by the demands of a more academic curriculum in many schools, we believe it's so important to nurture creativity amongst our young people. We would really like more exhibits in our Design and Technology section, as we



believe that this is an area which combines innovation with creativity and for which this country is renowned.

This year we have extended the Competition to include degree level students. In 2020 cash prizes will be awarded in two age ranges, 14-17 and 18-23.

We will be introducing a new category of 'collaborative work'. This will allow up to four young people to make an exhibit in one, or a mixture, of the categories for a special collaborative prize. We hope this change will appeal as a challenge to local schools. We have already been promised funding for this, so that not only the students but also their school or college get a share of the prize money.

If you would like further information, please send an email to Elizabeth Crockford ([wiz@seas.org.uk](mailto:wiz@seas.org.uk)) for an information pack.

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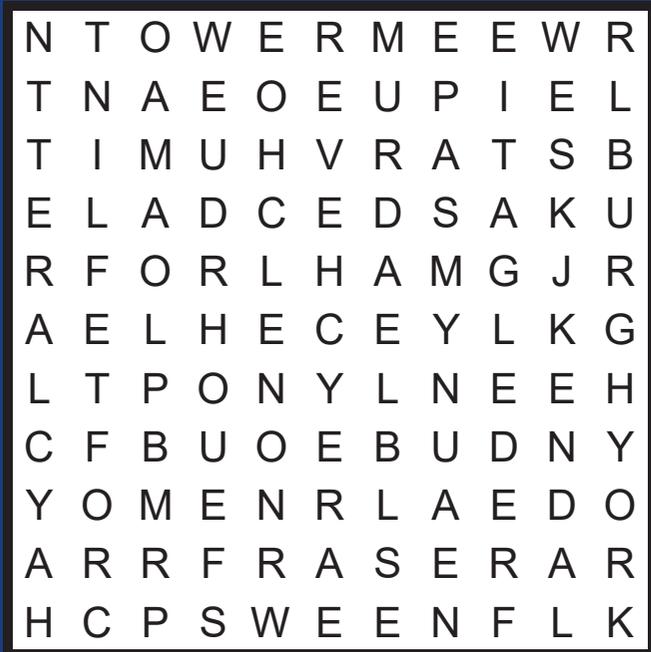
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- Burgh
- Clare
- Croft
- Deal
- Delgatie
- Drum
- Elcho
- Flint
- Floors
- Fraser
- Gylen
- Hay
- Hever
- Holt
- Kendal
- Leod
- Maol
- Mey
- Moy
- Muncaster
- Oer
- Piel
- Raby
- Rait
- Red
- Star
- Sween
- Tower
- Udny
- York

Answers on p.50

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# Sudoku

Find the solution  
on p.50

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

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

Tel: 01825 791 561

[wineinfo@bluebellvineyard.co.uk](mailto:wineinfo@bluebellvineyard.co.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.

### March

- 14th **Jumble Sale** – 9.30am-12noon  
Fundraiser for Cuckfield Preschool Playgroup
- 20th **Cuckfield NSPCC Quiz** – 7.30pm  
Annual quiz, teams of six. Tickets £12 per person, to include a cold platter and delicious home-made puds, available from Hairsmith, Broad Street, Cuckfield opposite the car park.  
Bar and Raffle.

### April

- 17th **Craft & Vintage Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm

## AT WOODSIDE

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

- 9.30am **Pilates**
- 11am **'BOLDERS' over-50s group**
- 5pm **Beavers/Cubs**

### Wednesday

- 9am **Falcon Health Chiropractors**
- 10am **Happy Art**
- 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**

**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).**

# What's on...

## ELSEWHERE

### February

- 12th **Mid Sussex Franco-British Society** – 8pm  
Clair Hall - An illustrated talk in French by Professor Brian Stimpson on the subject of the French painter, Cézanne (£5, Barbara Stevens 01444 452385)
- 13th **HH Ceramics Group** – 10am  
Clair Hall - Dr Michael Signy will give a talk on 'Rivets, Repairs and Replacement Handles' (Free entry on first visit, otherwise £8, call 01444 483372 or 452804)
- 13th **Mid Sussex National Trust** – 2.30pm  
Clair Hall - Talk on Preston Manor, Brighton by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs (David Waite, 01444 453954)
- 13th **The Chambermaid (15)** – 8pm  
The Players Theatre – Hurst Village Cinema showing ([www.hurstfilms.com](http://www.hurstfilms.com))
- 15th **Music Concert** – 7.30pm  
Methodist Church, Haywards Heath - Jonathon Radford plays works by Debussy and Gershwin arranged for alto, tenor and soprano saxophones (Tickets £15/£5 available on the door or 01444 417654 [www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk))
- 16th **Plumpton Ramble** – 10.30am  
Meet at Railway Station (BN7 3BW) - 3.5 mile leisurely walk around Plumpton by Mid Sussex Ramblers (Phil, 01273 835931)
- 16th **Jazz Before Lunch** – 11.30am  
The Hassocks Hotel - Julie Roberts (vocals), Michael Hinton (piano) and Terry Pack (double bass) (tickets £6, [www.WeGotTickets.com](http://www.WeGotTickets.com))
- 17th **Sussex Family History Society** – 7.30pm  
Bridge Cottage, High Street, Uckfield TN22 1AZ - Steven Homewood talks on 'Uckfield Breweries and their Bottles' (Free refreshments, open to all)
- 18th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm  
Baptist Church, Polestub Lane, Cuckfield - Food & Drink
- 19th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10am  
Clair Hall - The Great Exhibition of 1851 by Prassanajit de Silva (Non-members welcome, £7)
- 20th **Shakers Re-Stirred Again** – 8-10pm  
-21st Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks - A Comedy by Gin Palace Productions in aid of Coco's Foundation (Tickets through Eventbrite)

- 22nd **Mid Sussex Meeples** – 9.45am-5.45pm  
Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill - Board gaming group (£5 entry all ages and levels welcome. Paul Lamprey 0788 407 0465)
- 22nd **Staplefield Walk** – 10am  
Meet at the Victory Inn (RH17 6EJ) - 5 mile moderate walk of Staplefield and beyond by Mid Sussex Ramblers (John, 01444 483860)
- 26th **Ansty Garden Club** – 7.45pm  
Ansty Village Hall - The Story of Kew Gardens by Sarah Oldridge, Adult Education Coordinator Kew Gardens (Derry Baillieux 01444 474660)
- 29th **Dominic Ferris - Live in Hurst** – 7.30pm  
New Bury Theatre, Hurst College - Dom Ferris plus special guests (call 01273 470027 or visit <https://bit.ly/35XBGox>)

### March

- 1st **Swing into Spring** – 2.30pm  
Wivelsfield Village Hall - Exciting Big Band. Show songs old and new, ballads and swing for charities supported by Cuckfield & Lindfield Rotary (Tickets £12.50 [rccl@gmx.com](mailto:rccl@gmx.com))
- 3rd **Mid Sussex NHS Retirement F'ship** – 10.15am  
Franklands Village Hall - Paws and Claws by Lynn Bassett
- 5th **Cuckfield Museum Talk** – 2.30pm  
'Rev Francis Sewell, Benefactor', a talk by Richard Bryant of the Lindfield History Project Group. Richard looks at the life of the Rev Sewell, born in 1815 in India of a wealthy family, and his personal involvement and benefaction in financing a major restoration of All Saints Church, Lindfield, and his impact on the village and its community (Mike Nicholson, 01444 457448 or email [events@cuckfieldmuseum.org](mailto:events@cuckfieldmuseum.org))
- 5th **Passion for Fashion** – 7.30pm  
The Hayloft in The Talbot, Cuckfield - Pre-loved fashion sale in aid of the Rockinghorse Charity (£5 per ticket or on the door)

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

From the puzzle fun on page 46

**WORDSEARCH:**



**SUDOKU:**

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

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Finance Planning Group .....	23
Ginkgo Garden Solutions .....	30
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G&S Roofing .....	50
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Jonathan Lea Network (solicitors) .....	5
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P&S Gallagher (funeral directors) .....	29
Ready Steady Store .....	7
Rohan Solicitors .....	11
Sarah Lacey Dry Cleaning .....	37
Seymours Solicitors .....	39
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SPB Plumbing & Heating .....	30

Steve Farrell Bricklayer .....	34
St Peter & St James Hospice .....	19
Sussex Wealth Management .....	2
White & Sons (roofing) .....	36

### Retail

Caroline at Home .....	6
Cuckfield i Wear .....	28
Fine Furnishings .....	18
Nubie .....	4

### Out & About

Bluebell Vineyard .....	47
Cuckfield Baptist Church .....	20
Cuckfield Flower Festival .....	35
Cuckfield Local Food Market .....	51
Cuckfish .....	8
Ockenden Manor .....	14

### Education/Childcare

Cumnor House Sussex .....	10
Gielgud Academy .....	45
Hurstpierpoint College .....	17
Norto5 Kidz (daycare) .....	3
The Sussex Swim School .....	15

### Health/Lifestyle

Amy Packer Permanent Makeup .....	33
Be-Yoga .....	9
Jacqueline Coolen Podiatrist .....	32
Linear Fitness .....	30
Mid Sussex Osteopaths .....	29



**March Food Market**  
**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 09:30 - 12:30**  
**Cuckfield High Street**



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\*source: Rightmove, sales agreed by Mansell McTaggart in RH16 1, RH16 2, RH16 3, RH16 4 and RH17 5 between 1 Oct 2018 to 30 Sep 2019.

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