

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #20 : Jun / Jul '14

Free



Cuckfield Parish Council newsletter

page 35

Otto talks Bees

page 18

What's On guide

page 42

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

On your marks, get set, GO! Your fresh copy of Cuckfield content is here, and it's a bit of a marathon read with 44 pages!

Cuckfield Parish Council has plenty for us to read on **page 35**. **The Neighbourhood Plan** is a big and exciting part of what the Parish Council is up to at the moment, and we are pleased to be able to share where the project is at as it progresses and the end gets ever closer.

Last month we included a report on the Cuckoo Fayre held in May. On **page 11** we share the stories of two groups of **students from Warden Park** who used the Fayre to sell their wares and make some money for good causes – all off their own backs. Good on them!

While on the subject of fairs, we report on the (slightly wet) **Staplefield Fete and Car Show** which took place last Bank Holiday Monday. Thanks to Maggie Chamberlain and Catherine Hodgson for their contributions – read about it on **page 14**. Plus we look forward to the **Holy Trinity School Fair** - which takes place on 12th July – on **page 6**.

Page 15 shows us what happened when a local **Cub Scout group** visited Cuckfield's own **museum** of treasures and historical fascinations. Thanks to **Phillipa Malins** for keeping us up to date with this valuable resource on our doorstep.

You can also read about one example of the monies spent from last year's **Mayoral elections** on **page 28** courtesy of the current mayor himself. There is news of the **Cuckfield Nuclear Bunker** being open again in the summer – see **page 7**. Plus there are events being planned by **Haywards Heath Rugby Club** (**page 11**) and Ginny Rogers spearheads a **Macmillan fundraising day** on 5th July (**page 16**).

Lastly, I am continually amazed by businesses and services that exist around us, yet are unknown by most. On **page 13** we introduce a new **Occupational Therapy service** just for helping kids.

Keep the great stories and photos coming, thanks!

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Cuckfield Life Published
by Kipper



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

Thinking about taking up golf?

Then get along to Cuckfield Golf Centre from 2pm on 27th July and try it for free!

The Centre is offering an afternoon of free activities for new golfers and those returning to the game.

Visitors can enjoy free green fees on a shortened course and a free clinic, with opportunities for a free 20 minute lesson. Even the coffee and cakes are free and there are prizes to be won in the putting competition.

"We are looking forward to welcoming residents to enjoy our stunning course and facilities," said owner Robert Dickman. "There'll be something for everyone – for those who have some experience of the game, to those picking up a club for the first time."

To secure your place, contact a member of staff or visit www.cuckfieldgolf.co.uk

Holy Trinity Church fundraising

Generous villagers have been pledging their support for Holy Trinity Church by signing up to two fundraising initiatives.

'Creating a Stir', Holy Trinity Church's Stewardship and Fundraising Campaign which was launched last November, has seen giving increase by more than 25%.

Supporters have also sponsored floor tiles on the Baptistry area. So far, more than 100 tiles have been sponsored at £50 each and 300 tiles are still available. A map of the baptistry floor can be found on the Stewardship notice board in the church.

Sponsorship Forms are available from the notice board and church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org. Dedicate a tile to someone who was baptised or married at Holy Trinity and their names will be added to the book of benefactors.

Guided tours of the church will be held on 28th June, 19th July and 23rd August between 5.30pm and 7pm. To book a place contact the church office on 456461.

Karate success



Last month the Ichiban Shotokan Karate Club, which meets at the Cuckfield Youth Club, hosted one of the top karate instructors in the UK, Bob Rhodes, who is himself 8th degree black belt. The training session was a huge success and 16 students, of all ages, successfully achieved a good pass in their Karate Union of Great Britain (KUGB) grading examination.

Jason, a member of the club for 22 years and club instructor at the Brighton and Cuckfield clubs, said: "The students have been training incredibly hard for this special grading, however it all paid off in the end as they all did exceptionally well." The parent of one of the students said: "The grading, held in the Cuckfield club, was the first grading at this venue and was a huge success. However, it may also be the only grading ever held at Cuckfield, as the youth club is due to be sold by the County Council."

Ansty Gardens Open Days

Green fingered Antsy residents welcomed hundreds of visitors through their garden gates last month as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Four of the stunning gardens will be open again on 22nd June from 1.30pm to 6pm.

Each garden has its own special character. Appletree cottage (pictured) has herbaceous beds, vegetable garden and fruit cage and wonderful views. Springfield offers mature trees and a large pond with camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and herbaceous border. Little Orchard has informal plantings of trees and shrubs, family friendly woodland and fine views and 3, Lavender Cottages has an attractive garden at the front and pretty courtyard to the rear with cottage flowers.

Admission to all four gardens costs £5, while children go free. Teas will be served at Appletree Cottage throughout the afternoon.

Visitors can park off the A272 – just look out for the signs. For more information, visit: www.ngs.org.uk



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A selection of properties for sale and recently sold within the village.



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Cuckfield £1,100,000



Warden Ct.,
Cuckfield £785,000



Ledgers Meadow,
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Ardingly Road,
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Whitemans Green,
Cuckfield £399,950



London Lane,
Cuckfield £295,000



Orchard Cottages,
Cuckfield £139,950



Chaplefields,
Cuckfield £134,950

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Richard Butler MNAEA, Director
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Twitter: @mansellcuck



Holy Trinity Primary School Summer Fair - Sat 12th July

By Jo Roche, Chair PTA

We would like to invite all of Cuckfield to our Summer Fair, which is being held at the school in Glebe Road on Saturday 12th July from midday to 3pm.

In addition to all the traditional stalls, including tombola, candy floss, hook a duck and face painting, we have several exciting additions to this year's fair. We will be visited by Animazing and their collection of exotic mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates for you to see (maybe hold!) and learn about. There will be a car show including vehicles as diverse as a Lotus Elise, 1995 Ferrari 355 Berlinetta, VW camper van and Land Rover Defender complete with Howling Moon roof tents. Our sponsors, Hamptons, will be running a silent auction for us, so you could pick up a great prize from this or buy a lucky raffle ticket!

Join us for lunch, or something from the cake stall, and wash it all down with a glass of Pimms or a pint of local ale. There will be plenty for your little ones, too, with soft drinks and smaller portions for them to enjoy.



The children from the school's charity group have chosen to support the Haywards Heath Food Bank so, by way of an entry fee, we would ask you to bring a donation of canned or packet food which the Food Bank will use to help local families who are struggling to make ends meet.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Hamptons International is extremely pleased to be sponsoring Holy Trinity Primary School Summer Fair on Saturday 12th July Midday – 3pm

Please do come along to meet the Hamptons team.



Darren Middleton
Branch Manager



Tereza Kemp
Associate

Hamptons Haywards Heath

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ROC post opens

Cuckfield's Royal Observer Corps post opens its door (or trapdoor) again over weekends throughout the summer.

The bunker is owned by, and has been restored by, a group of volunteers run by Mark Russell and is opened up on just a few weekends to enable local people and enthusiasts to come round and have a look.

The bunker was post number 50 of over 1,500 originally built across the UK in the 1960s. When open it is brought up to the working state as it was when it was officially decommissioned in 1991.

Open weekend dates for this year are 12-13th July, 30-31st August and Saturday 13th September.

The bunker's official website is www.rocremembered.com but if you wish to book to visit the post you can call Phillipa Malins at the Cuckfield Museum on 01444 452307.



Website: Cuckfieldtennisclub.org.uk

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

Cuckfield Tennis Club is now run by the members to enable us to encourage more people into playing tennis, particularly Juniors who will have a programme put in place for them. Coaching will be available for all, whatever your age or ability, with LTA/PTR recognised coaches.

Subscriptions:

Adult	£77
Couple	£133
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Juniors/students	£20
Non-playing Social Membership	£10

Non-members hourly rate per court	£6
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Contacts:

Chairman:	Jeremy Eustace	01444 413051
Secretary:	Sarah Fricker	01444 413266
Membership:	Gerry Canning	01444 247171
Junior Coordinator:	Karen Taaffe	01903 297669





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TUESDAYS	NEWICK	NEWICK VILLAGE HALL	09:30-10:30
	BURGESS HILL	ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE	19:00-20:00
WEDNESDAYS	LINDFIELD	KING EDWARD HALL	12:30-13:30
	HAYWARDS HEATH	HARLANDS SCHOOL	19:00-20:00
THURSDAYS	NEWICK	NEWICK VILLAGE HALL	19:00-20:00
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By Fiona Evans, Limited Editions Interior Design

Whatever your style ... if you have an interior design project in mind why not try Fiona Evans at your local branch of Limited Editions? Working from home I will come up with room designs that will inspire, challenge your imagination and deliver practical solutions.

Professional interior designers will save you time on sourcing, manufacturing bespoke items, installing and quality checking all the latest designer products for your individual project, delivering on time and to an agreed budget. If you are daunted by a blank canvas or have too many conflicting ideas, an Interior Design Ideas Session is the first step towards achieving your goal.

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Incorporating bespoke furnishings, Limited Editions create interiors and furnishings that are unlike anything you will find on the high street.

Contrary to popular belief, interior designers do more than just suggest paint colours, select fabrics and plump up cushions. Entering the project early I can design or alter floor plans to maximise use of space in extensions and new builds, provide lighting plans, design fitted furnishings and organise flooring, before adding the finishing touches such as decoration, bespoke window treatments and soft furnishings. I have access to many designer fabric and wallpaper samples, such as Designers Guild, Colefax, Zimmer & Rohde and many, many more, to create schemes that you may not have imagined. Given a choice of three schemes per interior, the work is carried out by a team of professionals to decorate and supply bespoke pieces. I don't, as some TV shows suggest, splash paint around as some crazy quick fix or staple fabric to a lovely old chair that would look

at its best if reupholstered properly. As an Associate member of BIID (British Institute of Interior Design) strict standards are observed.

At the initial free appointment in your home you will be asked many questions about style, use of space, budget, preferred colours etc to form a brief. We'll talk about the cost of the design work for the interior/s, which will include drawings, fabric selection and research. If you are happy to go ahead I'll make sure that the right choices are being made and after much work the projects will be presented to you on mood boards. If you would like Limited Editions to fulfil the project and supply the chosen furnishings and decoration, then it will all be supplied at retail cost and the design fees will be refunded; so if I work with you from the start of the project to its conclusion then the design work is free!

"Perhaps using an interior designer isn't on your 'to do' list but actually in the long run it can mean avoiding expensive mistakes and save you money"

The size of the project doesn't matter. You may only want a pair of curtains or an upholstered footstool but are struggling to find the right fabric to match your sofa etc. I will come to your home, discuss the requirements and help you find the right fabric. A selection will be presented to you at our studio in Storrington or at your home if you wish and the chosen fabric incorporated into a fabulous accessory, hand tailored curtains or roman blinds.

Hope to hear from you soon!

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School pupils raise money at Cuckoo Fayre

At last month's Cuckoo Fayre there were two stalls set up and run by enterprising Warden Park Academy students. Both were selling cakes they had made, but for different charitable purposes.

One group of four Year 7s rose to their homework challenge to generate funds for the school's chosen charity this year. Sophia Flowers, Georgia Heath, Georgina Bacon and Katty Tahourdin decided they would make more if they worked together. The whole school was encouraged to raise funds for The Royal Marsden Hospital and the girls managed to add £202.44 to the school's total after their stall's success.

Elsewhere at the Fayre there were a group of Year 9s from the school selling their wares. Emily Phelan, Ellie Jackson and Thea Milford are part of a group of 24 students who have been selected to go on a two week trip to Ghana in the summer of 2015. The group will be helping out a school which Warden Park has partnered with by installing computers, sewing and painting. They are also each encouraged to teach local children one thing from their skills while there. Each child on the trip has to raise £2,750.

The girls were ably assisted with their stall and mammoth baking by friends Blair McIntosh, Grace Paterson and Cloe Tait. The stall raised £220.



Rugby Club benefits from NatWest Fund

Haywards Heath Rugby Club has been awarded £1,500 by NatWest as part of the RFU Rugby Force Weekend initiative to implement much-needed facility projects at the Clubhouse. This gives the Club a fantastic opportunity to action immediate external projects that will complement the planned Clubhouse transformation next year. The plan over the weekend 21st-22nd June is to build a permanent pathway between Beeches Farm Field and the Club car park to improve the link between the minis training area and the Clubhouse and to install decking outside the Clubhouse creating an outside seating area for everyone to enjoy. Now the plans and the money for the building materials are in place, all that is needed is a team of willing volunteers to help make this happen.

This is a fantastic opportunity for everyone connected with the Club to stand up and make a difference over the weekend in June when the work must be completed.

Whether you have building experience or not, whether you can spare all day or just one hour, please sign up to help. The Club needs as many people as possible to get this work done and by way of encouragement there will be a BBQ and refreshments available and there will be organised touch rugby to keep the children (large and small) occupied. Each project will have experienced project leaders and there are also other important tasks that need to be done at the Clubhouse over the same weekend to make sure everything is ready for next season. Everyone can do something - male and female, young and old - and together the Club has the opportunity make a huge difference to the Clubhouse facilities.

Please email Sarah Fry on sf@hhrfc.co.uk ASAP with your name and contact details and an idea of the amount of time large or small that you can give the Club so project teams can be put together for the many tasks that need to be completed over the weekend.

HHRFC is determined to make this a fun and productive weekend for all - if you can spare the time and want to help, get involved!

Adventures in the sun

VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Fresh Spring in her delicate sprigged gown of colour, light, buds and bird song danced through the fields and gardens of our land.. Before we know it Summer has overtaken her young sister. Blossom everywhere. Full greens of every tone host the fledgling birds in the trees and hedges as we all enjoy the warmth and sunshine. The calendar is full with gardens to visit, sports days, picnics and events of all kinds in the great outdoors. Cricket pitches are all prepared for the summer season and the grass on our rugby and football pitches takes a well earned rest. How blessed we are in Cuckfield to have this bountiful countryside all around us.

What better time could there be than Summer for curiosity and adventure? Only recently I discovered Newbury Pond by the footpath below the Church Yard. One of Cuckfield's hidden secrets. Do you know the story of the Cuckfield Nuclear Bunker/Royal Observer Corp Post and where it is? If not the Cuckfield Museum can point you in the right direction and tell you about this piece of our history.

As you walk the byways this summer keep a look out for wild flowers and the abundance of the hedgerows. Moths and butterflies have their particular favourite grasses and flowers to support their life cycle. You might fancy a day out at one of the Sussex Wildlife Trust's Nature Reserves to explore this further. You could really get your roots down and find yourself at one with Nature as a wonderful escape from all the traffic problems from the building sites in the centre of our town.

Talking of exploring, have you found the new venue for the Cuckfield Local Monthly Food Market? You will have noticed that the courtyard of the Talbot is boarded up whilst the new restaurant and so on are built. What to do? No courtyard, no Market! Enter Mansell McTaggart to save the day by offering the delightful and spacious yard behind their premises. Our May Market was a great success there so it will continue to be held in the heart of the village for the foreseeable future. Let's hear it for Mansell McTaggart! Next Markets are on 14th June and 12th July at the usual time of 9:30 to 12:30. If you think that you know Cuckfield, think again and come to find this hidden treasure and buy your goodies for the week-end.

Enjoy all the gifts that living in Cuckfield brings and keep a look out for the date of the Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan. Our village. Our choice. Note the date and make sure to give your support by confirming the plan on Referendum Day. This is one vote that you can guarantee will count well into the future for all of us.

Enjoy the special feeling that the late evenings of the long days of high Summer holds. Bask in the beauty before the year begins to fall away after Solstice.



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Mr & Mrs Dale, Haywards Heath

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New therapy rooms open in Ansty

Husband and wife Dominic Simpson and Vicky Ruffle have just opened a children's occupational therapy centre in a 300 year old barn south of Ansty.

Vicky began working for herself as a private therapist back in 2010, mainly focusing on providing services to a number of schools in the area. Two years ago she brought in an additional therapist as the demand grew. Then the couple began to look for opportunities to create a fully equipped centre locally to help facilitate some of the assessment and therapy needs in the area.

"Occupational therapy (OT) can be very hard to explain," admitted Vicky. "Usually the need for it comes after noticing particular traits or behaviours in children. These could be a difficulty in sitting still or in following instructions. Sometimes the children we can help are simply labeled as 'naughty' by others around them but when we understand what's actually going on in the brain, we can help them to create strategies to combat it."

With NHS waiting lists for OT services as long as 18 months in some cases, Jigsaw OT hopes to allay parents' fears and help their children to show signs of improvement within a much shorter timescale.

Jigsaw OT is the only centre in Sussex that boasts a Sensory Integration Therapy Room – and one of only



a handful in the country. Vicky and all the therapists at Jigsaw are specialist trained in this area. The pair are planning drop-in days for later in the year, when concerned parents can simply turn up to ask questions of the team at the centre. More information can be found at www.jigsaw-ot.co.uk

Picture shows Dominic Simpson and Vicky Ruffle with Kaye Johnson and Mel Campbell

Cuckfield Baptist Church invites you to The Mix

For Children: A fun mix of games, quizzes, craft, & Bible stories

For Teens and Adults: A mix of interviews, music, a Bible talk and coffee & cakes

Sunday 29 June
at 10.30am

Sunday 13 July
at 10.30am

A One Hour Mix
for All Ages

Polestub Lane, off London Road, Cuckfield, RH175GP
www.cuckfieldbaptistchurch.co.uk 01444 473531

Staplefield Village Fete



Photos by Catherine Hodgson



By Maggie Chamberlain

Despite the dismal weather there was a good turnout for the Staplefield Village Fete and Car Show held on the late May bank holiday Monday. In true British spirit people from near and far donned wellies and wet weather gear determined to enjoy themselves, ensuring that the afternoon was a triumph over adversity.

The fete was declared open by the Rt Hon Nicholas Soames MP who with his family attend the event every year and counts it among his favourite village fetes. We were grateful to local residents Susannah Constantine and Lesley Hextall for judging the dog show (sponsored by Cuckfield Pet and Country store) and actor/scriptwriter Clive Panto who gave a lively and hilarious commentary throughout the afternoon lifting everyone's spirits. The children enjoyed the 'Do Stuff Bus' too.

At one point it seemed that a new competition was in progress 'How many people can you fit in a Beer Tent' as people cosied up to escape the elements!

The Car Show organised by John and Lindy Stevenson continues to draw superb entries every year and the stars of the show this year were undoubtedly the Jaguar SS100 and Bugatti Type 49.

Beneficiaries of the proceeds include St Marks Church, the village hall and other local worthy causes. If you are interested in participating in next years event please contact me on 01444 484825.



July Food Market

Sat 12th 09:30 - 12:30

Mansell McTaggart Courtyard

Our market continues for the summer in its new home – come and find us!

For market updates follow us on Twitter @Cuckfield Local

www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com

Cub Scouts discover Cuckfield treasures!

Cub Scouts from 10th Haywards Heath turned fossil hunters and time-travellers at Cuckfield Museum, as they discovered the village's global claim to fame.

The Museum, based in Queen's Hall, Cuckfield High Street, traces the history of Cuckfield's development from its earliest times to modern day and details some of the World's first dinosaur discoveries – an iguanodon found at Whitemans Green!

The Cub Scouts conducted their own 'dinosaur dig' in the Museum and identified a range of different fossils.

"Few people realise that Cuckfield was the site of some of the World's earliest fossil discoveries. The giant reptiles discovered on the site of Whitemans Green in Cuckfield were named Dinosauria – and the name has been popular ever since," said Rebecca Skimming, palaeontologist, who is in charge of pre-history at the museum.

"It was really awesome. I got to pick up a dinosaur tooth that was as big as my head!" said Cub Scout Isobel Bevan.

10th Haywards Heath Cubs were also given an interactive tour of the village's history with displays on farming, transport, domestic and family life, and the Cuckfield Union Workhouse. In the centenary year of the First World War, the Cubs saw local memorabilia highlighting the effects on village life of the 1914-18 war.

The cubs looked in detail at objects as varied as a primus stove used on the Western Front in WWI, still with its can of smokeless kerosene fuel, and a grisly mantrap used to catch poachers. They were particularly



interested to see the 1880 map of Cuckfield and Haywards Heath and to see how small Haywards Heath was at that time, with a farm at Muster Green.

10th Haywards Heath Cub Alexander Drane said: "The Museum was wonderful, with so much history and so many facts. I especially enjoyed holding the fossils as they gave you a real feel for the past. I hope everybody enjoys it as much as me!"

Curator Phillipa Malins said: "It was lovely to welcome the Cubs to the Museum and to see their enthusiasm and excitement for the village's history. Cuckfield has a rich and colourful history to be proud of and it's a pleasure to be able to share these treasures with the wider community."

Museum volunteers Phillipa Malins, Mike Nicholson and Rebecca Skimming, who arranged the special event, rewarded Cubs for their efforts with certificates of achievement and their Cub Scout Local Knowledge badges.

Cuckfield Museum is open 10am – 12.30am on Wednesdays and Fridays, and Saturdays 10am – 4pm. Entrance is free but donations are welcome.

Museum's War display extended

Because of great public interest, Cuckfield Museum's WWI display, A Small Town at War, will remain in place for the time being. New objects have been offered on loan and will appear in the display from mid June, like this clock made from the propeller of a WW1 plane, and a Red Cross bag, still containing the soldier's badges and objects of identification, which was tied round his neck when he was sent to a Field Hospital.

More details can be found at www.cuckfieldmuseum.org



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Cancer Support Group host fundraising day

By Ginny Rogers

A few of us are organising a Macmillan Fundraising Day right here in Cuckfield on Saturday 5th July between 10am - 5pm.

This has all been borne out of the Mid-Sussex Breast Cancer Support Group which meets once a month in the Old School, Cuckfield and is run by Macmillan Nurses. It is our way of saying a big thank you, especially to Teresa Hoskins who always goes the extra mile for all of our ladies.

I started organising some social events for the ladies, who have either just been diagnosed or are undergoing treatment or have finished treatment and go along to meet other 'like-minded' ladies, have a chat over a cuppa and get the support they deserve.

We have pub lunches, teas, a group of us are going to the Breast Cancer Care Fashion Show in London later in the year, and lots of other activities are planned for the year.

I wanted to raise some money for Macmillan and thought I would hold a Fundraising Day here at my house - Tythings, London Lane, RH17 5BL. I put it to some of the ladies who immediately offered their help and now we are planning a fun-filled day. A big thank you to Sharon Botting, Terrie Fairman, Mel Billings for their help and support in getting this underway.

Local businesses have been very generous in



donating raffle prizes such as a spa day at Ockenden Manor and gift vouchers for the Rose & Crown. There will be a tombola, hand massages, nail art, kid's lucky dip, guess the name of the teddy, guess how many sweeties in the jar plus loads of other stalls and a BBQ (weather permitting)!

If anyone can't make it on the day but would like to make a small contribution via my Just Giving page that would be fantastic: <http://bit.ly/U721w6>



David launches pilot with Prince Charles

Cuckfield resident David Curtis-Brignell has been instrumental in the development of a nationwide pilot tourism project launched by HRH Charles Prince of Wales. The pilot scheme will encourage tourists across the country to contribute towards projects which deliver help to hard-pressed rural areas in Britain. David was responsible for bringing together a number of major tourism businesses to be involved in the 'visitor-giving' scheme and advising the Fund team on operational matters.

Small amounts add up to significant sums, which will then be used to fund projects including supporting community assets such as pubs, post offices and community transport schemes in isolated rural areas.



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Otto-Paul Somodi

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Things are buzzing in the centre of Cuckfield – in more ways than one! Just yards away from the bustling High Street, tucked away in a meadow behind Holy Trinity Church is a cluster of traditional bee hives, home to hundreds and thousands of honey bees. Keeping a watch over the hives is Cuckfield resident and bee-keeper Otto-Paul Somodi. I was delighted when Otto invited me to join him on an inspection of the hives and to share his passion for bee-keeping.

by Claire Cooper

"You've chosen a good day to visit as something unusual has happened at the hives!"

That was how Otto greeted me as we met outside Holy Trinity Church. I could tell I was in for an interesting visit!

Otto explained that he had just come from the hives where he saw a swarm had gathered on the outer wall of one of the hives. He said that the queen, although ready to swarm, was unable to fly to a new location as her wings were clipped. "Will she die?" I asked. "No," Otto replied "We are going to collect this swarm and move it to a new hive!"

As we made our way to the hives, in a meadow near to the church, Otto explained that it is not unusual for bee-keepers to clip the wings of the queen as a means of swarm control, confine her to the hive and build up a thriving and productive colony.

To ensure I made the most of my visit, and got up close to the hives, Otto lent me a traditional white bee-keeping suit, complete with netted hood. He explained the need to ensure all zips and Velcro were securely fastened. "The bees can get through the smallest of places," he said.

Our first job was to light the 'smoker' away from the hives. It is used to calm the bees. Once lit, fresh grass is added to the container to prevent sparks. "The smoke makes the bees rush back to the hive," said Otto. "It's rather like people rushing back into their houses to

collect their possessions before the fire comes. For bees, their treasured possessions are their honey stores."

Our next task was to collect the swarm. It was just a matter of sweeping the cluster of bees into a 'skep', a small wicker basket. "Once the queen is inside, the rest will follow," said Otto, placing the skep upside down on some sheets he prepared earlier near the hive.

Then it was time to inspect the hives. A few puffs of smoke was all it took to encourage the remaining bees to return to the hive. Otto carefully took the hive apart, explaining its structure in the process. He then lifted out the frames pointing out the pollen and honey stores and the cells which contained eggs, larvae and sealed brood. We looked at the different bees, the queen, the drones (the large males) and of course the workers (all females). He explained that it's important to check the hives regularly to ensure that the bees have enough food and space for the queen to lay eggs and for any signs of disease.

Otto took his time checking each hive layer and the frames within. The bottom layer is the 'brood box', which is filled with frames with sheets of wax, some drawn ready for the queen to lay in. The queen will lay as many as 2,500 eggs a day in peak season. A mesh excluder prevents her from laying in the 'supers', the extra layers above the brood box and with further frames within. This is where the bees normally store the honey which is then taken from them.



The hive we inspected contained at least 30,000 bees but surprisingly, and reassuringly for me, few seemed interested in us. Otto explained that the guard bees were the ones checking us out first, the rest were busy saving their honey stores. Otto mentioned that queen bees can live for about three years – sadly the workers usually die from exhaustion after just six weeks during the foraging season.

Once the inspection was complete, Otto turned his attention back to the 'skep' to find the bees, at a guess around 6,000 of them, had settled inside. He then carefully wrapped it in three bed sheets ready to take it to Slaugham in the back of his car.

"I'm particularly careful when I wrap up the skep as on one occasion when I was transporting a swarm, I glanced in my mirror and saw that a good many bees had escaped and were hovering over the back seat!" he recalled. Undeterred, Otto just kept on driving!

Otto took up bee-keeping six years ago following retirement. "I'd always flirted with the idea of keeping bees but when I retired I decided to take the plunge," he said.

He enrolled on a bee-keeping course at Plumpton College and joined a local group and through them the British Beekeepers Association.

Now, with some experience, he currently has eight hives – two in the meadow, two in his garden at home and four more in Slaugham. He is also an official swarm collector, frequently called upon by Mid Sussex District Council. "Last year I collected seven swarms and was called out many times more for what turned out to be bumble bees," said Otto. He added that bee-keepers do not touch bumble bees. His advice is simply to give them space, let them be; they are vital to our environment and in time they will move on.

Despite caring for hundreds of thousands of bees, the amount of honey produced is modest. "A good hive in a good season might produce around 100lbs of honey," he said. "You don't get rich by keeping bees! In five years of bee-keeping only one hive has produced enough honey for me to sell – I think I made about £70. I usually give away the honey to friends, acquaintances and relatives."

He added that any wax is given to a friend who makes candles. As to the swarms, some he keeps and some he gives away to other bee-keepers to look after.

"But the pleasures of bee-keeping far outweigh any money one might make," said Otto. "It's very calming and relaxing. You feel at one with nature and every summer brings a new experience."

Even the occasional bee sting hasn't dampened his enthusiasm. "The way I look at it, it's much better to find out if you have allergy to stings when you're only two miles from the Princess Royal Hospital, than, say, many miles from anywhere," he says.

Otto was confident that the swarm we collected will settle in the new hive. "There's a mid 17th century proverbial bee-keepers' saying which goes:

'A swarm in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm in June is worth a silver spoon; but a swarm in July is not worth a fly,'" said Otto.

"So the swarm we collected is almost worth a silver spoon: meaning they should grow into a decent colony and build up a respectable honey store."

As Otto left for Slaugham, I made my way back to my car, privileged that I had played a very small part in this event and with a new found fondness for the hard working honey bee.

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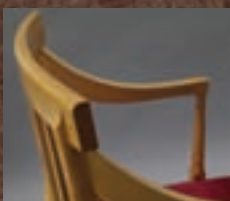


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The very best silver designs on show

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Now in its sixth year, this annual exhibition of the very best in contemporary British silver will be showing over 350 pieces of exceptional jewellery, in addition to the latest contemporary silver and enamel pieces from over 30 of the very best silversmiths in the UK.

John Higgins, founder of the Contemporary Silver Gallery in Lindfield, explains: "At our Summer Exhibition in 2013, and as a trial, we exhibited a small selection of jewellery and were absolutely delighted by the very positive reaction from our customers." So, in preparation for the 2014 Exhibition, John visited the studios of many of the best designer/makers throughout the UK and has selected a highly talented group of 25 to show their work at his 2014 Summer Exhibition. "We are very confident that we have a clear understanding of what our customers are looking for," says John, "and can offer them a very broad range of work to suit all pockets and tastes. We will have a wonderful selection of earrings, pendants and necklaces, bangles and cuffs, brooches and cufflinks on display, from some of the most exciting and creative designer/makers working today."

Whilst John is delighted to be able to offer such a large and diverse range of contemporary jewellery this year, he will, as usual, also be exhibiting over 150 pieces of the very best quality sculptural and decorative silver from many of the finest and most experienced silversmiths and enamellers, including Hiroshi Suzuki, Rod Kelly, Jane Short, Phil Barnes, Junko Mori, Rauni Higson, Malcolm Appleby, Graham Stewart, Clive Burr, Clair Malin, Michael Lloyd, Miriam Hanid and Wayne Meeten – as well as pieces from other highly talented silversmiths.

John adds: "Many of the pieces that will be available have been commissioned by us in readiness for this exhibition and therefore visitors will have the opportunity to select something completely unique from these exceptional craftsmen."

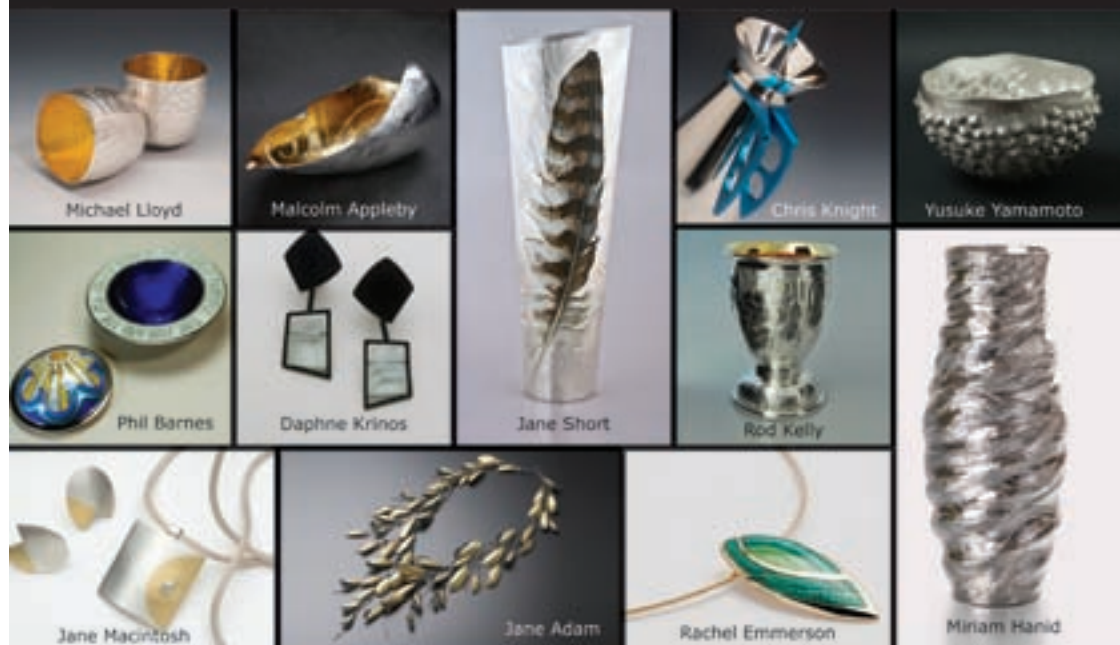
Don't miss it! The exhibition runs from 12th-29th June in Lindfield. Contact John Higgins for your personal invitation to The Contemporary Silver Gallery on 01444 483782.



ABOVE: Blister Bowl (Silver and Enamel) by Michael McCrory (Northern Ireland)
RIGHT: Rough diamond and emerald stacking rings by Pruden and Smith of Ditchling

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The bream dream

ON YOUR TABLE



Black Bream, Panzanella Salad

Serves 4 people

Ingredients

- 4 Fillets of Black Bream
- 250g ripe cherry tomatoes
- 50g capers
- 1 bulb of fennel
- 500g bread (preferably a little stale)
- 1 Red onion
- 1 bunch of basil
- 100g olives
- 500g salad leaves
- 100ml Rape seed oil or olive oil
- 50ml Sherry vinegar

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By Simon Dennis, head chef at The Rose & Crown

A classic Italian bread and tomato salad, topped with a fillet of beautiful black bream for a perfect lunch in the garden. You can get your local fishmongers to fillet the fish for you making this dish simple and quick to prepare.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C.
2. Tear the bread into large chunks and place on a baking tray. Place the bread in the oven for approximately 5 minutes until dry and lightly toasted.
3. Once the bread is toasted put it into a bowl and leave to marinade with the rape seed/olive oil and sherry vinegar.
4. Chop the tomatoes and olives, finely slice the red onions and fennel and add to the bread and oil mix to marinade along with the capers.
5. Pan fry the bream skin side down on a medium heat until the skin is crisp. Turn the fillet and cook for a further 2 minutes.
6. To bring the dish together mix the salad leaves and torn up basil with the bread mix to make the panzanella salad and place the bream on top.

Urgent need: Plea for mayors

The Independent State of Cuckfield committee are asking for all Cuckfield residents to consider running as a candidate for mayor. The mayoral elections will be held in October and are 'openly corrupt' as votes are bought for money which is raised for local charities and distributed throughout the year.

In this vein the committee have organised a 'Meet the Mayors' event on Saturday 12th July. Gathering from 7.30pm at The White Hart there will be an opportunity to meet mayors past and present plus wine and nibbles for the local crowd.

It will be a great opportunity to find out what it means to be mayor of the village, hear about the amazing opportunities that such a position affords you and - more importantly - how dirty the campaign tricks can be! Current mayor Mike Schlup's campaign slogan was 'Honesty, Integrity & Bribery'!

If you live in the parish and are interested in running for mayor this year and wish to find out more you are encouraged to simply turn up at the event. Or - if you prefer - you can email the committee at independent_state_of_cuckfield@hotmail.com to ask any questions beforehand.

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Helping the Playgroup

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Mike Schlup

It's been a busy few weeks for the Independent State of Cuckfield. First there was the Easter Monday Walking race, followed by the Cuckoo Fayre. Both events raise a little bit of money for the ISOC funds but the main objective is to bring the community together in order to have some fun. The Cuckoo Fayre also enables many other local good causes to promote their message and raise some money. This is the great thing about ISOC, helping as many local organisations and individuals as possible.

One such organisation is the Cuckfield Playgroup. Founded just a couple of years after ISOC in the late 60s, the group offers pre-school care and activities for children from two and half years up to school age. Based at the Cuckfield Youth Club building in London Lane, the group operates 5 days a week. Funding comes largely from the government, which used to cover all the costs, but unfortunately this funding has not increased over the last 4 years. As a result the group has turned to fundraising in order to be able to cover the basic day to day overheads. Although the committee is made up entirely of volunteers who manage the accounts and fundraising, the group employs 11 members of staff to run the playgroup and this is by far the largest chunk of the overhead.

I asked Nicola Brewerton, the group's treasurer, what the support from ISOC meant to them. She told me: "The £2,000 donation from ISOC is critical to the future success of the group. In particular, it has allowed us to recruit a new high quality supervisor following the retirement of Mary Crouch. We are also investing in a new computer and software, which will be used both for administration purposes and also by the children to help develop their computer and mouse skills."

Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup is closely involved with many village events and also has an ongoing fundraising programme, including a cricket fun day held on the last weekend in June. To find out more about the group visit www.cuckfieldpreschool.co.uk.

As featured in the last issue of Cuckfield Life, the Cuckfield Youth Building is currently under threat as West Sussex County Council attempt to sell the plot for development. You can help protect this community asset by writing to the local council and also voting for the Neighbourhood Plan in the upcoming referendum.

Finally, I have been talking to people around Cuckfield in an attempt to get some more candidates to run in this year's election. Many say they are too busy and wouldn't be able to find the time. But if 10 candidates each did one fundraiser, then the monies raised would quickly add up to a tidy sum. You don't have to win - you might just have some fun simply by taking part. Get in touch at mikeschlup@gmail.com



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Coro Nuovo

Coro Nuovo is a new choir which started last year and is based in Haywards Heath but draws on experienced singers from all over Sussex and beyond.

The choir is led by the international tenor Andrew Rees, whose performance experience brings a wealth of enthusiasm and energy to choir direction. What makes Coro Nuovo different from other choirs is that many of the singers are experienced in their own right having performed as soloists, and some are actively pursuing a musical career. This means the choir do not need to engage professional soloists as they have their own within the ranks. This season the choir welcomes 15 new singers and we are delighted that some of them are recent Music Conservatoire graduates. The choir also love to support and mentor emerging musicians by giving them exposure to perform with them at a concert.

One of Coro Nuovo's singers is Cuckfield resident Rebecca Milford (inset). Rebecca is a rising young star with a beautiful soprano voice. Many of you will have heard her sing at the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity last year, where she sang some Mozart and Purcell. Rebecca is studying for her A levels and hoping for a future career in music. She studies singing with

Janet Gratton. Her dad, Orlando, sings bass with Coro Nuovo and is an occasional singer in the choir at Holy Trinity.

Future plans for the choir is to set up a bursary for emerging musicians. Getting a foothold into a musical career is tough and expensive. If Coro Nuovo can 'sponsor' a young musician (with a Sussex connection), then that helps in a small way to further classical choral music into the next century.

Coro Nuovo's forthcoming concert will be on 20th July at St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath at 7.30 pm. The theme will be Best of British, celebrating 500 years of choral singing from Tallis to the Beatles. The choir are looking forward to welcoming Kieran Carter, a fabulous 19 year old cellist who is on course for a great career as a performer. Kieran will be playing a movement from the Elgar Cello Concerto. Tickets for the concert are available from the website www.coronuovo.org.uk or by ringing Kate 07740 946276.



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Cuckfield Evening Flower Club

By Anne Lee, President

CEFC was launched in 1981, inspired by the well-known local florist Shirley Martin, in conjunction with Anne Lee and several Cuckfield residents, and with the late Mrs. Kleinwort as its first patron. Starting in Holy Trinity Church Hall, the wealth of support soon made it necessary to move to the Queen's Hall where meetings are still held.

From the start it has been a very active club, holding internal, annual competitions along with a number of inter-club competitions.

In 1984 we had an open demonstration to raise funds for the Intensive Care Unit at Cuckfield Hospital in memory of one of our founder members and, for several years afterwards, continued to hold flower festivals at Cuckfield Hospital Church until it closed in 1991. Our charitable efforts have continued since that time in the form of coffee mornings, lunches and afternoon teas in support of local charities and the Sussex Kidney Trust.

Our programmes have always been based on demonstrations from talented flower arrangers, supplemented by workshops, slide shows and visits by local plant nurseries who were willing to share techniques such as hanging baskets.

We like to think we have brought entertainment and pleasure to our members over the years and in doing so have stimulated several of our members to become not only Area and National demonstrators but when Sue Flight entered the World Flower Show in Japan in 2005 she attained the accolade of a first prize.

We have always enjoyed the reputation of being a friendly club, a tradition we intend to continue, providing a platform for enabling new members and visitors to experience the wonderful art of flower arranging.

To further encourage this interest, we have arranged

visits to RHS Wisley, to the delightful garden of Beth Chatto and to flower festivals held at the Cathedrals of Westminster, Ely and Salisbury, as well as Westminster Abbey and one soon to Chichester Cathedral.

We are proud of our heritage and look forward to seeing new members. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

By Sue Spooner, Chairman

Please do not think you have to be a flower arranger to join our club. Many of our members come just to watch the demonstrations and meet friends. Apart from inspirational evenings full of beautiful flowers (which you can win in our raffle), we have social events like our summer and autumn suppers, tea in private gardens, a range of wonderful talks by some very entertaining people, eg. 'The Knicker Lady', and a variety of fundraising events. We end the evening with tea or coffee and sometimes, if you are really lucky, home-made cakes.

We have a dedicated 'meet and greet' member of the committee to look after you on your first visit, so don't feel you can't come alone.

I think the future holds many opportunities to enjoy the beauty of flowers and the creative art of flower arranging, so do come and join us.

'YOU MAY COME AS A STRANGER, BUT WILL LEAVE AS A FRIEND.'

We meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at 7.30pm at Queen's Hall, Cuckfield. For more information, please phone Sue on 01444 831602.

Photo: Margaret Williams (demonstrator), Anne Lee, Margery Parker and Bob Tunks (founder members)



Two surgeries among the best in Mid-Sussex

Two recent surveys among NHS patients show Cuckfield and The Vale Medical Practice to be ahead of the rest in the area (results at www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP). It lists both surgeries as 'above average' in terms of patient satisfaction. A further survey, conducted by the practice's Patient Participation Group* at the recent flu clinics, showed a 90% patient satisfaction level with medical services such as appointment booking and repeat prescription ordering. Most pleasing of all was the overwhelming support for the practice's online services.

Did you know that if you go online to the website www.cuckfieldmedicalpractice.co.uk you can make an appointment with a doctor at a time that suits you and request a repeat prescription?

To register for online communication visit Practice Reception (you will need ID) and you'll be given your personal username and password.

Flu Clinic Survey respondents also appreciated:

- that you can request a telephone consultation with a doctor or nurse
- 'Extended Access' offered, by appointment, with GPs and Nurse Practitioner on Wednesday mornings from 7.25am and on some Saturdays from 8.15am
- the text reminder service for appointments

If you are happy to be contacted periodically by email, please let Reception have your email address.

Receptionists are available at both Cuckfield and The Vale, Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 6pm. Consultations with doctors are by appointment only and tend to be between 8.30am and 12pm, and 3pm till 6pm each weekday.

Getting help when you most need it

We urge you not to rush to A&E with minor ailments or routine problems without checking out the alternatives. Contact out of hours services by calling NHS 111 – which is the number for all urgent, non-life threatening problems. They can direct you to the best local services for your problem.

In non-emergency situations during daytime hours, have a telephone conversation with one of the practice's clinicians.

And do you always have to see a doctor or is there someone else at the practice who can help? It's worth considering booking an appointment with the Nurse Practitioner or the Advanced Practice Nurse who see a lot of patients and triage calls. They are highly experienced and work in parallel with the doctors, give good practical advice and can issue prescriptions. And you don't have to wait too long to see them – ask for Sheila or Sharran.

Home visits are reserved for those patients who are housebound. If the doctor thinks you need a home visit, they will call ahead to assess your situation.

When the surgery is closed and you need urgent advice for a situation that is not life threatening, you can access out of hours services by calling NHS 111, which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

This information has been brought to you by the Cuckfield and The Vale Patients Participation Group* (PPG) which is a representative group of patients of Cuckfield Medical Practice and The Vale Surgery, who, together with the senior partners in the practice, seek to ensure that patients are involved in decisions about the range and quality of NHS services in this area.

Although the group has only been in existence for a short time, we already have an action plan in operation, with a clear identification of priority areas for improvement.

We are aware that key to our success will be our ability to communicate with and hear the views of individual patients. Do contact us on the Cuckfield Patients' email address (cuckfieldpatients@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about, or be kept in contact with, the group's activities.

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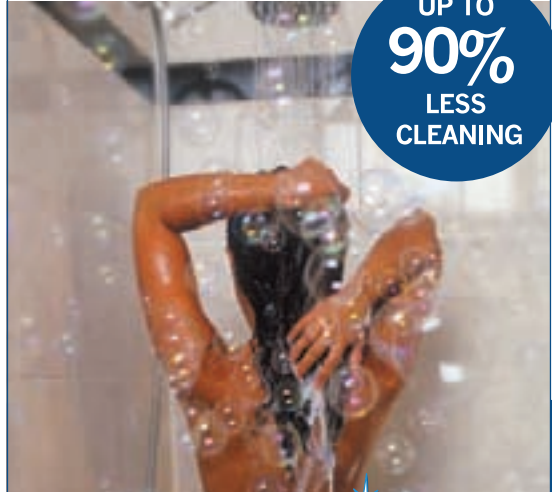
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Cuckfield

PARISH COUNCIL

News from Cuckfield Parish Council

SUMMER 2014

Chairman's Annual Report 2014

by Nigel Page, Chair of Cuckfield Parish Council

This has been a very busy and fulfilling year for Cuckfield Parish Council. We are now in our final year before the General Election when the Parish Council will be re-elected. We are therefore working hard to complete a number of projects in our final year of this term. This has meant a number of projects and issues requiring time and attention in addition to the regular Parish business and meetings. These include our Neighbourhood Plan; safeguarding the Youth Club building and Play Meadow; and a number of highways improvements. I will expand on these shortly.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the Parish Council Committees for their time and attention on the matters which are important to Cuckfield and its residents. There are a few changes to the Parish Committees to which I would like to draw your attention.

Firstly, I would like to thank Stephen Blanch who is stepping down as Chairman of our Planning Committee due to other commitments. Stephen has chaired this Committee for the past three years, leading and overseeing what is a demanding and challenging Committee. Andy Burton is now chairing the Committee. Martin Sambrook is taking over from me as Chairman of our Finance and General Purposes Committee. Martin is an experienced accountant and we are very fortunate to have Martin to oversee our finances. Giles Darling also decided to step down last year and we have been very pleased to have June Seale to fill that vacancy, with interests in the Environment and the Queen's Hall Committees. I would like to thank Giles for his contribution to the Parish during his time with us and look forward to working with June. Our other Committees remain unchanged and full details can be found on our website.

I would also like to recognise Frances Jones our Clerk, who retired at the end of March 2014 after 22 years of continuous service. She has played a crucial role in ensuring the Parish Council meets its legal obligations



Frances being awarded a gift from friends and colleagues by Ken Gregory, Vice-Chairman and Nigel Page, Chairman of the Parish Council.

and performs its duties to the community. Before she left she hosted an evening supper with past and current Parish Councillors and invited guests. It proved a very fitting send off for Frances, with a reflection on memories and stories from across the Parish over the years she has been with us.

I am pleased to report we have an excellent successor to Frances with Nicky Sage taking over as Clerk. Nicky has been our assistant Clerk for the past 2 years and clerical assistant before that. I would also like to welcome Jane Forester, our new clerical assistant, who will be working with Nicky.

We have also made improvements in our communication plan. We have successfully moved our newsletter to the popular Cuckfield Life to ensure value for money and consistent distribution to all residents. We have also released an updated and improved website.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has been the most demanding long-term project the Parish has invested in over this term. I am pleased to say we have just completed our independent examination process, which is the final stage before proceeding to a community referendum which we hope to be held late July 2014. This will be open to all Cuckfield residents on the electoral role who will be asked to vote on using the Plan to determine planning applications for the village. The exact date is dependent on an MSDC cabinet meeting and more details on the date will be released shortly.

The opportunity to be a Neighbourhood Plan Front Runner of the government's policy on Localism was taken by the Parish Council in 2012 and required a significant effort to follow the legal and procedural guidance required to develop a statutory plan which defines key decisions on housing, infrastructure, business and leisure for Cuckfield up to 2031. Cuckfield is the first council in Mid Sussex to reach this stage and only 26 other councils in the country have proceeded to referendum.

I would like to thank the community team and Parish Councillors involved in preparing the plan and the supporting evidence to get us to this stage. In particular I would like to identify Andy Burton who provided and made a sustained contribution on some of our key evidence and policies, which would have normally required professional services thus saving the Parish Council a significant amount of cost.

The Neighbourhood Plan policies and evidence can be found at www.cuckfieldplan.com



Youth Club/Playgroup Building

Perhaps the most important issue we are facing at the moment is the proposed sale of the Youth Club/ Playgroup building in London Lane by West Sussex County Council. The building is used by the Playgroup to provide care and education to the very young of our village and surrounding areas, and Orchard House who care for children and young adults with severe learning difficulties, and other youth groups. When consulted, 85% of those in the village who responded, felt that this building should continue to offer these very important services. With this in mind, the Parish Council has registered the building as a Community Asset, which means we have a period of time to put forward a bid for the property. The Council must now use this time to consider how to raise the necessary funds. Taking out a loan is the most likely possibility to enable us to achieve the asking price of around £200,000 to purchase the building. Fortunately, if this course of action is agreed by Councillors, it should not have any impact on the Parish Council Precept as the last payment for a current loan taken out to refurbish the Queen's Hall comes to an end in the summer.



However, the costs of maintaining the current building are high and it is probable that a new building will be required in the future in order to provide the village with a long-term, viable asset. Over the next three months we hope to secure the freehold for the site but this is subject to negotiations with West Sussex County Council and a potential challenge from other bidders who are prepared to offer more for the site is a possibility. There is still a lot of work to be done, so please look for updated information on our website.

Play Meadow update

Another extremely contentious issue we are facing is the proposed sale, by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), of the Play Meadow at Courtmead Road. Whilst we understand the points the District Council have made on the funding challenges they face, we believe, and the support from the village has been overwhelming on this, that the Play Meadow has a long-term social value far beyond any short-term financial gain by the District Council.

We have again taken the step to have the site listed as a Community Asset, giving us until mid-June to consider the options before any sale can go ahead. A community group has been established to raise funds for a community submission.

A full application is now being considered for a single dwelling which the Parish Planning Committee has currently objected to given its scale and impact on the landscape, Built Up Boundary, Conservation area and Holy Trinity Church.

Roads and Traffic Committee

Progress with the proposed new zebra crossings at Ardingly Road is taking longer than expected. Having agreed with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) that the Parish Council would take over some parts of the management of this scheme, we had hoped to speed up the whole process. However, this has still been significantly slower than we had hoped and it looks as though it will be October 2014 before the crossings will be installed. However, the new signage/road markings at Whitemans Green should be carried out in July this year and a Puffin crossing is due to be installed by West Sussex County Council in London Road later this year.

The scheme to improve the bus stops and parking along Broad Street is to be carried out by the County Council in the 2015-16 programme and we have also been in discussions with WSCC about improving safety at the roundabout at the top of London Lane.

The pavement along the High Street running north from the Queen's Hall is a real cause for concern. The County Council will be undertaking repairs and there is an ongoing conversation as to what the best course of action is to protect the pavement for the long-term.

We are also pleased to report the footpath linking the Baptist Church to Glebe Road is having the drainage fixed and surface dressed. This should ensure the footpath does not suffer from flooding and erosion next year.

Environment Committee

Following the completion of the Chatfield Road Development, and the allocation of community infrastructure s106 monies which resulted from that, the public toilets in the Broad Street car park have been completely refurbished by local firm Helme and Hallett. An excellent job has been done and the toilets are now a far better reflection of the pride we all take in our community.

The Cuckfield Society has been busy fundraising for new playground equipment for the Worsley Memorial Recreation Ground. That, coupled with more community infrastructure s106 monies which we are due to be allocated by Mid Sussex District Council, and a further £5000 from Parish council funds means that some exciting new equipment will be installed. In addition, using Community Arts s106 monies allocated to us, we have commissioned sculptor Hannah Stewart to build a bronze resin Iguanodon for the play area which will be safe for the kids to climb and reflects the fact that iguanodon remains were found right here in our village.

We are also pleased to report that the paddling pool, which was out of action for such a long period last summer, has been repaired and is up and running for the summer.

The cemetery continues to be beautifully maintained by our groundsmen and is still a wonderful asset for our village. Now that summer is approaching we hope all allotment holders will get busy on their plots. If you are interested in working a plot, do give the Parish Office a ring.

The Parish is also working on an updated Dog policy due to the new Dog Act 2014 (<https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/overview>). In the meantime we would continue to encourage all dog owners to make sure they act responsibly with respect to control, behaviour and fouling.

Queen’s Hall Committee

The Hall continues to attract bookings – we have a full summer of weddings and other events, and our regular hirers are staying loyal. However, being an old and listed building, the upkeep of the Hall is expensive, with further work having just been completed to fix a leak in the roof in the entrance to the Hall and new equipment having been installed in the kitchen. We also hope to have a new flag in place shortly.

Planning

Work is due to be completed in September 2014 at Mantell Park/Bylanes Close, which will provide 42 new homes of mixed size and affordability. We would like to welcome the new residents who have already moved in, some from within the village and some moving to the village.

We are working with the developers regarding the transfer of land to the rear of the development to the Parish Council. Management of this area will need careful consideration due to its location within the High Weald Area of Natural Beauty (AONB).

Residents and the Parish Council have met on a number of occasions for community consultation to hear feedback. Key comments which have been fed back to Taylor Wimpey are: damage to Bylanes Close road surface; compliance to working hours; drainage scheme and slippage of balancing pond; pedestrian safety where the Twitten crosses the new access, which is still a concern and the Parish is working with MSDC, WSCC and the developer to make sure a safe access is provided for vehicles and pedestrians.

Full permission has now been granted for 14 new dwellings in Ardingly Road. This has been a long and extended application but has resulted in a scheme and layout which is appropriate for this site. The original scheme for 28 would have had a detrimental impact on the landscape and character of the area, which was confirmed by the planning inspectorate. The agreed scheme provides an allocated amenity ‘Open Space’ and 14 new homes, which safeguards the character of the area.

The development of 6 new properties at the old Delmon House site is also progressing. We have had numerous complaints on the lack of mud prevention on the highway and asked MSDC enforcement officers to review working practices and site access which has improved the situation.

We also saw a number of applications for garden development and unneighbourly extensions which had a negative impact on neighbouring amenity space and street scene. We would encourage submitted plans to fully consider National, Mid Sussex and our own Planning policies and be of good design.

Post Office and the Talbot

The Post Office was closed for a short period during the year, which required a number of actions to avert a negative consequence for residents and traders in the village. The PO provides a vital community village asset and was considered imperative to retain. Although closed for a short period, and regrettably over the Christmas period, the Post office is now open and continues to provide a long-term asset to the village centre. CPC was also pleased to support the Talbot in its redevelopment plans and wishes the new management for the Post Office and Talbot every success.

Finance

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Environment Committee			
Precept	47,854	Churchyard	41,472
Burial Fees	37,489	Allotments	297
Allotments	935	Armas festival	2,451
S106 Toilet Refurbishment	24,260	Public toilets (including Refurbishment)	29,108
Other income	2,270	Other expenditure	14,607
Queen’s Hall Committee			
Precept	11,765	Staff	10,026
Fees and charges	41,364	Rates etc	14,386
		General maintenance	16,498
Finance and General Purposes Committee			
Precept	74,250	Administration and wages	58,822
Interest on Investments	450	Insurance	4,483
VAT refund	11,275	Loan repayment	18,722
Other income	1,520	Neighbourhood Plan	3,641
Roads & Traffic Committee			
Precept	4,062	Street lighting	4,044
Other income	2,635	Other expenditure	2,233
Total income*	250,089	Total expenditure	220,780

*Accounts to be finalised at forthcoming Council meeting.

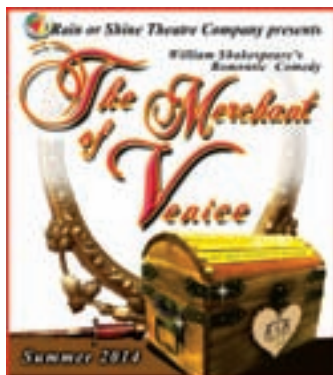
Reserves at 31st March 2014 stand at £98,415. We do anticipate additional expenditure over the coming year in some major areas. We have earmarked reserves for traffic calming initiatives which we know will come to fruition this year, machinery replacement, the upkeep and the running of the Youth Club which we hope to purchase this year, and there are some major refurbishment projects in the Queen’s Hall for which we need to put money aside, e.g. the replacement of the floor in the Main Hall.

Parish Council meetings

June - September

5th June	Planning Extra Ordinary Roads and Traffic	7.30pm 8pm 8.30pm
19th June	Planning Finance	7.30pm 8.15pm
26th June	Full Council	8pm
10th July	Planning Environment	7.30pm 8.15pm
31st July	Planning	7.30pm
21st August	Planning Roads and Traffic	7.30pm 8.15pm
4th September	Planning Queen's Hall	7.30pm 8.15pm
11th September	Full Council	8pm

DIARY DATE



Cuckfield Recreation Ground
High Street, Cuckfield
West Sussex RH17 5EL

Friday 1st August at 7.30pm

Tickets £13, £11 concs, £6 child (5–15yrs)
Tel: 01444 451610 or visit www.rainorshine.co.uk
Grounds open 6pm for picnics – please bring own seating- indoors in the Queen's Hall if wet.



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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nigel.page@nlp-one.com

Vice-Chairman

Ken Gregory: 457547
ken.gregory47@btinternet.com

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

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'The Pride of Sussex' postcard

Here is the photo of 'The Pride of Sussex', the County Flower of Sussex, *Phyteuma tenerum* captured by Cuckfield's Peter Lovett. It flowers on unimproved grasslands on the South Downs from July to December and sometimes much later. Anyone wishing to see it could follow any of the National Trust Downland walks

at <http://bit.ly/1hCtdY3>. Alternatively, should groups or individuals prefer a lead walk, guaranteed to see it, please see www.peterlovettwalks.eu for details of some of Peter's favourite walks. This photo is also exclusively available as a large, glossy postcard from Wealden Stores in the village.



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What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

July

11th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** – 7.30 for 7.45pm
Demonstrator Pat Macdonald: "Offcuts, Overs and Stumps". New members always welcome

Ian Waite to appear at charity fitness class


'FitSteps' fanatic Carol Rieley has organised a fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease Association by doing something she loves.

Ian Waite, who devised the fitness phenomenon based on ballroom dancing, has agreed to come to the large group session being held at The Dolphin Leisure Centre at 3.30pm on Sunday 29th June.

Entry to the class is £10. More information and tickets from Carol on 01444 482387.



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AND ELSEWHERE

June

12th-29th **Contemporary Silver Exhibition**
Summer contemporary silver, enamel and jewellery exhibition in Lindfield. (Contact John Higgins for an invitation <http://bit.ly/1jMpQOh>)

17th **Cuckfield Evening WI**
The Old School Cuckfield 8pm. Do It Yourself: some Members will give a short talk

25th **The Royal British Legion Women's Section**
Garden Meeting at Sally's

29th **FitSteps Fitness Class for Charity**
Dolphin Leisure Centre 3.30pm (see left)

July

1st **NHS Fellowship** – Franklands Village Hall, 10.15am. Talk by John Davey 'Old Inns of Lewes'

2nd **The Singing Allsorts Charity Concert**
Holy Trinity Church 7.45pm. Supporting Alzheimer's Research and Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. Tickets: Post Offices (£8)

12th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am–12.30pm
(behind Mansell McTaggart Estate Agents)

12th **Holy Trinity School Summer Fair** 12noon–3pm

12th **Meet the Mayors** – The White Hart Inn 7.30pm
Wine, nibbles and mayoral banter - see p. 27

12th **Cuckfield Royal Observer Corps nuclear bunker**
-13th open weekend (Philippa Malins 01444 452307)

12th **St Peter & St James 10k Sleep Walk** starting
from The Dolphin Leisure Centre, HH at midnight.
(Enter online before 4th July at www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk/event/sleep-walk-3)

13th **Open Garden** – Orchard House, Staplefield Road,
Cuckfield RH17 5HY 2–5pm. Enjoy this large family
garden with glorious borders with both plants and
vegetables. Teas available. £3 per person (kids free)

13th **Pet service** – Holy Trinity Church 3pm.
'All Creatures Great and Small: a short service to
thank God for our pets and have them blessed'
Bring your pets (as long as they are secure!), email
an image to david_seabrook@btinternet.com
or bring a photo. Refreshments served afterwards

19th **Soul of the City concert**
Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint 7.30pm

August

1st **"The Merchant of Venice" Outdoor Production**
Cuckfield Recreation Ground 7.30pm.
(Contact: 01444 451610 or www.rainorshine.co.uk)

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Haywards Heath Auto Centre	12
Drayton Plumbing & Heating	15
Helme & Hallett (builders)	16
David Willis Fine Furniture	21
Sussex Wealth Management	21
Damian Stanley Garden Services	24
Can I come and live here?	26
Expectation Landscapes	27
John Church Electrician	28
Headmasters (barbers)	28
Marcus Grimes (estate agents)	29
Dawn Benson Accountancy	30
Ginkgo Garden Solutions	33
Robert Simpson Construction	33
NFU Mutual (insurance)	34
Spear & Shield (cleaning product)	34
Dwell (architects)	40
Cuckfield Pest Control	40
Steve Moger Carpets & Vinyls	43
Elliott & Bunn (letting agents)	B

Retail

Willo	3
Fine Furnishings	17
John Higgins Contemporary Silver	23
Mr Baker (artist)	40

Out & About

Cuckfield Tennis Club	7
Cuckfield Baptist Church	13
Cuckfield Local Food Market	14
Metrobus	20
Cuckfield Golf Centre	25
AV Cars (private hire)	41

Education/Childcare

Norto5 Kidz (nursery)	3
Tavistock & Summerhill School	8
Ardingly Training Centre (swimming)	12
Creative Education (drama classes)	26

Health/Lifestyle

Stretch Tone (workouts)	9
Malchus Hearing	21
Potential Personal Training	24
Vinings Natural Health Centre	24
talking2gether (speech/language)	42

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