

Cuckfield *Life*

Inc. Brook St, Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #19 : May/ Jun '14

Free



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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

This month we have just about managed to fit in coverage of two recent events in Cuckfield's calendar. It seems like ages ago now, but we have a report on the **Easter Monday Walking Race** on **page 14**. We also slightly held up production to make sure we could include photos from the recent **Cuckoo Fayre** at the Rec on **page 18**. Both events are organised by The Independent State of Cuckfield and we are very grateful to **Kate Fleming** for writing these articles and submitting them to us. Well done to all those involved. Can I also say that it was great to have another chance to say 'Hi' to many of our readers and contributors again this year at the Cuckoo Fayre. Lots of useful and informative conversations were had during the afternoon. Do please keep the ideas and tip-offs coming in by calling or emailing us.

Whilst we are in that area, **Cuckfield Tennis Club** is pleased to announce that it has been granted license to manage the courts in the village. Read about what difference that may make to you on **page 4**.

There is also an educational theme to this issue!

Jo Roche has put together a wonderful article tracking and celebrating **500 years of education** here in the village. This follows a talk she gave recently at The Old School. Read about it on **page 22**.

Warden Park is on the look out for past pupils of the school to help the current students through the '**Futures First**' scheme. Howard Collins explains how you can help in the article on **page 29**.

We have a plug for the **Scarecrow Festival** coming up at Holy Trinity Primary School on **page 7**, Cuckfield Town FC present a **fundraising cheque** to the school on **page 4** and even our **Village People** guest this month is a former school headmaster (read **David Perry**'s story on **page 18**)!

I do hope you enjoy the read and learn something new about the village or perhaps your neighbour in this issue.

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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

New management for Cuckfield tennis courts

by **Jeremy Eustace, Chairman**

After more than 50 years in existence, Cuckfield Lawn Tennis Club is pleased to announce that it will be now managing the courts at the Richard Worsley Recreation Ground, Cuckfield. We would like to take this opportunity to thank MSDC for granting us this opportunity after an exhaustive consultative process and especially the help of local Mid Sussex councillors Robert Salisbury and Peter Bradbury.

But what does this mean for Cuckfield and the whole community?

- The club will be looking after the maintenance of the courts instead of Mid Sussex District Council
- It will be up to those who play to ensure the courts are maintained properly for the enjoyment of all
- There will be an easier and better online booking system to ensure everyone has a fair chance to book a court as required
- Competitive membership rates, including our new family membership
- The hourly court rates remain very competitive at £6 per hour (check our website for details)



- No further undue deterioration of the courts with a structured annual maintenance programme
- We are keen to ensure everyone can enjoy tennis to whatever extent and level they want. We are pushing ahead with a more structured coaching programme, available for both juniors and seniors, as well as offering the opportunity to book up ad hoc coaching if required.

Please come down and give it a go or have a look at our newly designed website to get further information: www.cuckfieldtennisclub.org.uk

Everyone is welcome to be part of an exciting future.

Donation to school



Cuckfield Town Football Club is celebrating the success of yet another Cuckfield Charity Race Night. Earlier this year, more than 175 racegoers poured into the Queen's Hall in Cuckfield to try their luck on the gee-gees and support two local causes.

More than £3,100 was raised throughout the evening, with a donation of £1,600 being given to Holy Trinity CE (A) Primary School in Cuckfield.

Holy Trinity School's Headteacher, Jo Munn, commented: "I was pleased that the evening was such a success and the amazing amount raised shows just how strong the Cuckfield community is.

"The money kindly raised will help us fund new sports and IT equipment to allow the children to get more from their learning experiences."

SHOWING IN THE PHOTO: School Counsellors from Cuckfield CE (A) Primary School holding the school flag. Front row, Jo Munn, Headteacher, Nolan Mortimer, Chairman Cuckfield Town FC presenting cheque for £1,600.

Ansty Open Garden

Green-fingered residents of Ansty will once again be welcoming the public into their gardens this summer as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

Visitors will be able to explore five stunning gardens on 18th May and 22nd June from 1.30pm to 6pm.

Each garden has its own special character:

Whydown Cottage covers an acre, with water features and an atmospheric woodland including an Embotrrium; 3 Lavender Cottages has an attractive garden to the front and pretty brick courtyard to the rear with cottage flowers; picturesque Appletree Cottage is set in two acres with herbaceous beds, vegetable garden and fruit cage, with wonderful views; Springfield's one acre offers mature trees and large pond, also camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons plus herbaceous border; Little Orchard is a 3-acre garden with informal plantings of trees and shrubs, family friendly woodland and fine views.

Visitors can park off the A272 – just look out for the signs. Teas will be available at Whydown in May and at Appletree Cottage in June. Combined admission is £5, children free.

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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Whitemans Green,
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London Lane,
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Orchard Cottages,
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Neighbourhood Plan proceeds to referendum

Cuckfield Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan team are pleased to announce that, following examination by an independently appointed Examiner, the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan can now proceed to a public referendum. Neighbourhood Planning allows local people to develop a statutory plan which will help determine the future of the Cuckfield Plan area and must be used in assessing planning applications in the area over the next 20 years.

Cuckfield is the first town in Mid Sussex to progress to the stage of a public referendum and will send a positive message to other communities in the district who are embarking on their own plan.

Chairman of the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan team Nigel Page said: "This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the incredible amount of hard work our volunteers have provided. I am particularly pleased to see that the examiner recognised the vision for the village and the quality of the community engagement, which allowed us to develop the plan based on the input of the local community. This is a truly local plan written by local people, with a wide ranging vision."

The key themes and policies for the plan aim to:

- Identify sites which will bring forward new market housing and affordable homes
- Ensure Cuckfield retains its distinctive character and setting between the High Weald AONB, South Downs and neighbouring settlements

- Protect the village centres of Cuckfield and Whitemans Green
- Provide identified infrastructure and allow expansion for both schools, whilst taking into account the environment and ecology
- Ensure the health and well-being of residents and seek to allocate and protect open space, community buildings and essential services

The examiner states that the plan is deliverable and meets the basic conditions it must be tested against. It contains 22 Policies and is based on 18 new pieces of supporting evidence, some of which are identified as being exemplary and a model for other communities to follow. The full examiner's report can be read at the website www.cuckfieldplan.com.

The Plan will now go to referendum to be voted on by the community of Cuckfield. If there are more than 50% of the votes cast in favour, it then becomes part of the Development Plan for the area and a statutory consideration in determining planning applications.

The Neighbourhood Plan team will now start working on the referendum, which will be held in late June or early July 2014. "We will be working hard to make sure that the Cuckfield community vote in this landmark referendum and take the opportunity to shape the future of the village over the next 20 years," Nigel commented.

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Scarecrow Festival

By Rebecca Panayides

On the weekend of 7/8th June you'll find scarecrows in all shapes, forms and guises set along a trail among the six acres of Holy Trinity C.E.(A) Primary School grounds. Spot them in the woods, the vegetable garden, basking in the sun (we hope!) beside the wildlife pond, hiding in the willow tunnel or wooden ship or tending plants in the plastic bottle greenhouse. In 2012 the display included HM Queen, the Stig and a couple of Scaredogs, to name but a few of the 80 entries created by groups, societies, businesses or families from around Cuckfield, making this a real community event. Follow the trail and vote for your favourite. Can anyone can better the 2012 winner from Barkers Garage - an amazing scarecrow (pictured) made entirely from car parts?

While you're enjoying the grounds, have a cup of tea and cake in the happy knowledge that you're also helping to raise money for the worthy causes of St Peter and James Hospice and The National Autistic Society. 'Cuckfield Nature Village' will also be on site with information about encouraging birds and bees into your garden with plants for sale in aid of the NSPCC. The event will be open from 9-4pm, entry costs £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. If you feel inspired to



create a scarecrow it's not too late, just make sure your creation is tough enough to be outside for the weekend and labelled with any details you wish, is freestanding or has some means of support and arrives at school during the week of 2nd – 5th June. Any queries contact: htgrounds@hotmail.co.uk

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Cuckfield community building under threat

By Nicola Brewerton

At the end of last month a 'For Sale' sign appeared outside the London Lane Youth Club Building. This is the building used every weekday by Cuckfield Pre-School Playgroup (which employs 11 local people), by Orchard House which cares for children with severe learning difficulties and also for after-school maths tuition and a karate group.

Cuckfield Parish Council is doing all it can to secure the future of the Youth Club and purchase it from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and has also designated the Youth Club as a community asset, so there is a block on any quick sale. However, this latest move on the part of WSCC means that we need to work together as a community to ensure the future of this important and well used building.

At the beginning of the year WSCC asked Cuckfield Parish Council for £200,000 to buy the Youth Club. The Parish Councillors had all agreed that this would be a great Community asset and negotiations were ongoing. WSCC is now seeing if it can extract even more from the land and has put it on the open market to see what other offers it can attract. These offers, along with Cuckfield Parish Council's offer, will be considered by WSCC.

In the meantime the Neighbourhood Plan is close to going to a referendum. If it is voted in there is an explicit policy that no planning can take place if it results in the loss of community buildings. No other purchasers are



likely to want the land in that case.

If you feel strongly that we should do all we can to protect our community assets, can you please do two things:

Firstly, write to Nicholas Soames (your MP) and, at WSCC, Janet Mockridge (Deputy Cabinet Member), Councillor Evans (Children – Start of Life) and Councillor Brown (Finance) telling them what the Youth Club means to the village.

Secondly, support the community by voting in the Neighbourhood Plan when it comes to referendum in late June/early July. It will make a difference.

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Renewable energy in Balcombe

Residents in Balcombe have created a new co-operative called REPOWERBalcombe which plans to install around £300,000 worth of solar panels on the rooftops of local buildings this spring. This will produce enough clean, homegrown electricity to match 7.5% of the village's electricity demand. Long-term, the group's goal is to match all of the village's electricity needs with locally generated renewable energy.

The group has signed a lease for its first site on nearby Grange Farm.

The co-operative will look to sell investment in the form of shares to the community later in the year. Shares can be bought from £250 upwards, with the controlling investors coming only from the local area.

Joe Nixon, REPOWER Balcombe spokesperson, said: "We are very close neighbours and what effects Balcombe will also effect Cuckfield in the future. When we release shares later this year we hope Cuckfield residents will be keen to invest."

The group is keen to make clear it is not a protest group. The website – www.repowerbalcombe.com – states: 'We are a co-operative social enterprise – a legitimate business being run for the good of our local community. We are not anti-anything; we are pro-community and pro-renewables.'

Call 101 to help stop illegal off-roading in the countryside

People witnessing illegal or antisocial off-road driving on paths in the countryside are being called on to report it to the police using the new 101 phone number.

Sussex Pathwatch is a special service set up to help protect the safety of everyone using rights of way, fields and woodland and to prevent the damage that illegal off-roading can cause. Anyone can report an offence by calling 101 or emailing contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk in Sussex.

Angela Ward, ranger for the South Downs National Park, said: "Most people driving off-road do so legally and with consideration for other people. Unfortunately there are a small minority driving illegally. They put everyone's safety at risk, give legal drivers a bad name and cause damage to the countryside.

"That's why we're working with the Police and local authorities on this scheme. If illegal off-roading isn't reported then the police can't take any action."

Find out more about Sussex Pathwatch at www.pathwatch.info or follow on Twitter @SussexPathwatch

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'Anyone for Breakfast?'

Cuckfield Dramatic Society is presenting 'Anyone for Breakfast?' a comedy by Derek Benfield at the Queen's Hall, Cuckfield. There will be four evening performances from Wednesday 28th – Saturday 31st May at 8pm.

When her good friend Jane decides to make an assignation with a young man she met at the squash club, Shirley is only too happy to lend her house for the purpose, as it leaves her free to spend the evening with the object of her affection – Jane's husband Roger. Things start to go wrong when Shirley's husband arrives home unexpectedly with a pretty German air hostess, followed shortly after by Roger arriving to visit Shirley, and the scene is set for an evening and a morning of

riotous misunderstandings as the many guilty parties try desperately to keep their own particular secrets secret.

Tickets cost £7 for Wednesday/Thursday and £9 for Friday & Saturday and are available from Mansell McTaggart in Cuckfield High Street or telephone 01444 452911.

"After an enforced break last autumn CDS is back, this time with a farce to have you rolling in the aisles - though this is optional. We have a new cast in the hands of award-winning director Harriet Sheldon. Please come and join in with the fun," Caroline Denholm said.

www.cuckfielddramaticsociety.com



Play Meadow update: Help by end June

By Janet Beales

The fight is not over yet to save The Play Meadow at the end of Courtmead Road as a recreational green space for future generations to enjoy. Please support us as we approach the deadline at the end of June for the Parish Council's bid on behalf of the community.

Follow the campaign at www.facebook.com/savecuckfieldplaymeadow to see how you can play your part in preserving this much loved green space in perpetuity.

The Heart Of Sussex Walk

The British Heart Foundation is once again organising its exceptionally popular sponsored walk, under the new chairmanship of ex-Haywards Heath Mayor John Sabin, along the beautiful Sussex South Downs on Sunday 29th June.

It is a FREE day out suitable for all walkers, whether you are a true walking enthusiast wanting a challenge or just wanting a walk with the children and dogs. You can enter as an individual or as a team with family and friends.

There are four different starting points varying in lengths from 21 miles from Clayton Windmill, 15 miles starting at the Swan Pub in Falmer, 8 miles from Southease or a relatively gentle 5 miles from Firlie Beacon.

You can leave your car at any of the four starting points and then be driven back by one of the BHF volunteers to collect it, having enjoyed a well-earned tea in Alfriston Village Hall.

As this is a free event, all the British Heart Foundation are asking is for all supporters to raise as much as possible for this very worthwhile cause by setting up an online giving page with JUST GIVING. Every penny raised goes towards research into heart disease, patient care, a better understanding of how to look after our hearts and helps patients best cope with their illness.

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Photograph: Tony Taylor

Easter Monday Walking Race

By Kate Fleming

Throughout the year The Independent State of Cuckfield organises a range of enjoyable village events which benefit all members of the community, and raises funds for local charities. One of the most unique, however, is the Easter Monday Walking Race. This race, which has taken place since the 1920s requires the walkers to circumnavigate the perimeter of the village, or, to be precise, five miles of road which enclose a section of the village. Not exactly 'beating the bounds' but reminiscent of that tradition 'strengthening the community and giving it a sense of place'. Running is forbidden, and Marshalls line the route on the look out for cheaters who break the rules, but anything else goes. You can take your dog, and many do, push your baby in a buggy, run with your child or wear fancy dress. This year some of the 37 walkers strode down the High Street in pyjamas, wore blonde wigs up the road to Ansty, super woman was spotted pounding down Deakes Lane, and a wealth of bunny ears paced past the rugby ground. Then past The Ship, don't stop, and back down to the Recreation Ground to pass the finishing line and wait with extremely bated breath for their walking time. Anything under one hour, in this complex handicapped event, is considered spectacular and worthy of local fame.

While the race is taking place, this year in sunshine and balmy spring weather (it has been known to snow), children search for hidden foil covered tickets which entitle them to a chocolate egg – the Easter Bunny has

all kinds of ways to deliver.

It is, however, a race and consequently winners and non winners generate a competitive strand which weaves its way through the event. Medals, trophies and cups are there to be claimed for a year of glory. Mike Schlup, The Independent State of Cuckfield's current mayor, was on duty, fully robed, to present the prizes.

The Men's Challenge Cup was won by Gary Atkinson, who also made the fastest time (52:30) so had to choose which trophy he preferred for his mantelpiece. He chose the most prestigious award, the Jim Swain Cup for the Fastest Man for Cuckfield Residents, thus allowing Tim Bergin to gather up the Challenge Cup in spite of being four minutes slower!

The Ladies Challenge Cup was won by Leanne Knapman but the fastest walker was Sarah Fry (54:26) in this unique handicapped race. Charles Dunnett won the Frank Wood Trophy for veterans with a highly respectable time of 58:48, a time of which to be proud. The Wheatsheaf in Broad Street retained the cup for the male walking team, while The White Harte Ladies regained the prize after losing last year, just beating the Hayward's Heath Rugby Football Club.

This is a great village event, bringing together simplicity and high technology to withstand the test of time and sustain a sense of belonging in an inevitably rapidly changing community and culture. Full results can be seen here: <http://bit.ly/1nyyb9w>





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Sunshine at the Fayre

CUCKOO FAYRE PHOTO ROUND-UP



Photos: Tony Taylor & David Tingley

By Kate Fleming

The Independent State of Cuckfield's Cuckoo Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday, was opened by the Mayor Mike Schlup in brilliant sunshine and warm weather. The crowds had already gathered to buy and sell a range of produce, there were prizes to be won and plenty to eat and drink.

The Village Band played their music throughout the afternoon and entertainment filled the central arena.

First to perform was Sofia leading a Zumba session. Participation was encouraged and all contributed rhythmically and physically to a set sequence. Then to stretch and tone with Costica de Lumabeiti.

The Punch and Judy booth also drew a crowd of all ages willing and able to communicate with Punch, Judy

and the Policeman, and scream when the crocodile appeared. Surprising and reassuring that at a time of such a sophisticated technological way of life, a 400 year old theatrical tradition can still mesmerise our children, and allow adults to reminisce.

BPM Dance Academy (a group of local children street dancing) delivered an energetic and skilful performance well supported by a large audience. The ever popular dog show produced its own stars; Shadow, Toto, best coats, cutest and dogs in fancy dress. Where's Wally? Had to win a rosette.

However, the Cuckfield Westie, not only won the best veteran, but best of show too. Fantastic Alfie, there's hope for all of us!



David Perry

VILLAGE PEOPLE

by Claire Cooper

Moving to a new area is often a life changing experience. And for David Perry, settling in Cuckfield has proved to be inspirational – in more ways than one!

Since moving to the village eight years ago, David has written poetry, composed music and captured his new surroundings in a series of stunning paintings.

"Since moving to Cuckfield I find myself inspired by so much," says David. "The sunsets, moonlight and beautiful countryside. So many walks have ended with me hurrying back home to capture something I have seen."

Walking through Bluntswood, resulted in his poignant picture 'Before the Developers'. "I sincerely hope the land is never developed but I felt I should capture the landscape just in case," said David.

Passing by the war memorial in Bolney inspired David to write a poem dedicated to the local men who lost their lives. "It looked so lovely and yet neglected," he said. He has also written a poem dedicated to the village and its history, which we are delighted to share with our readers.

David has even been inspired by a front cover of Cuckfield Life and is currently re-creating the view of the tree in Holy Trinity churchyard!

David, his wife Elle and daughter Hebe moved to Cuckfield after he took early retirement following a career in teaching.

"We wanted to get out of London, came to Cuckfield and quickly found our lovely house," said David. "It's a beautiful village – big enough for one to be anonymous, but small enough to make friends."

Moving to Cuckfield also meant catching up with a childhood friend, Andrew Symonds. "We both attend Cuckfield Baptist Church," said David, who helps to run the Friday 'coffee and cakes' morning.

As a former primary school head teacher, David has been a key figure in the lives of hundreds of young children. He has seen many pupils flourish and go on to achieve great things, but one little girl, a pupil at Hildenborough Primary School in Kent, was particularly special – Kelly Holmes.

"She was a gorgeous little girl – very sweet, and I've been delighted to follow her progress," said David. He added that a few years ago he was taken by his wife to be among the studio audience watching Kelly perform in Dancing on Ice. "When Kelly saw me she shouted 'Sir' and, of course, I replied 'Dame!'"

After retiring David has continued to teach secondary school children with special needs, such as dyslexia. "I find it particularly rewarding," he says. "It's a case of getting



children to believe that they can achieve so much more than they think they can. Once their confidence improves, they make huge progress."

Although he still does occasional tutoring, David describes himself as a 'house husband' and has enjoyed having the time to develop his writing, musical and artistic talents.

David first started painting around 30 years ago. "I wasn't particularly artistic at school – I was too busy playing sport," said David, who is a former member of the England schoolboys rugby team.

But discovering his hidden talent later in life means David brings a fresh enthusiasm which is evident in his work. "I have always enjoyed painting landscapes and capturing the essence of the seasons," he says. "I try to incorporate small details, so the more you look, the more you see."

Whiteman's Green and New England Wood are particularly favourite locations but David also finds inspiration walking on the Downs with his little dog Roxy. "We are particularly fond of the walk from the Downs to Rottingdean."

David's poetry has been published in Living Poets magazines and he is often asked by family and friends to write poems for special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. He has also recently completed six sonnets to commemorate World War I.

His music has been performed by some of his pupils in school concerts and in several churches in Kent. His most recent composition for organ, Cuckfield Toccata, was played in Holy Trinity by Ken Segar. "He took such care of it and played it beautifully, I just sat there thinking "I wrote that". He has now finished a piece for oboe, violin, viola and cellos based on English folk harmonies, Greensleeves, Scarborough Fair and The Banks of Green Willow.

David would be delighted to exhibit his paintings in the village and would welcome any opportunities to help any children who may be finding 'learning' a bit of a chore for whatever reason.

To contact David, please call 01444 413 229.

Cuckfield By David Perry

Not yet a paradise lost,
This village, composed beneath a ridge
On the Sussex Weald, set in open landscape,
Reaching northward in patterned undulation
To the sky's edge; east, west and southward fading
Into the shadow of the downs' dark shoulder
Marking an historical horizon.
Its high street bending in gentle descent,
Flanked on either side by buildings that suggest
Half a millennium of architecture
Turning west before the church, leading out
Under a canopy of cedar into
The valley, away towards Ansty, and
On to the far chalk cliffs that front the sea.
This village holds a beauty old as time,
Shared by many generations, bequeathed
By them as a safe inheritance,
With a trust that any change would preserve
The essence of its created character.

Yet even here there are manipulators,
Who bend and make the law as they require!
Beware the priests of profit, the monarchs
Of a false morality, who pervert
Their own legislation with impunity,
Who have no sense of duty or justice,
No common feeling, no concern or care
Outside their personal well-being.
And locked in lonely self-interest,
Deluded by self-righteousness,
They feign charity, make pretence of honesty.
But they bear the mark of Cain; the badge
Of arrogance, the mask of hypocrisy.
It may be their malevolence will fester,
Haunt the dark lanes of their sleep and whisper
Among the un-named shades of night, echo
Along the treeless street, and shame at last
Their smug indifferences into repentance.
So that Cuckfield in its maturity
Will not betray the promise of its youth.

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Donation to Clubhouse

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Mike Schlup

Last month I had the pleasure of joining some of the members of Haywards Heath Rugby Club for their annual Blazers Lunch and I was delighted to be able to present them with a cheque from ISOC for £1250 towards their new clubhouse fund. Although not strictly a Cuckfield club, HHRFC is and has always been very well supported by the Cuckfield 'locals' and the club's future plans will bring even more benefits to the community. Martin Newey, HHRFC Chairman, explains more:

"With a rugby heritage dating back over 50 years, HHRFC is one of the largest and most successful sports clubs in the local community, with more than 1,500 children, parents and senior members. Having been granted planning consent to massively improve the Clubhouse, the HHRFC Transformation Project is now in its implementation phase and the Club is exploring ways to raise the required funds to achieve the goal of building the new Clubhouse by the end of 2015.

"This process has been given a most welcome boost by the generous donation from the Independent State of Cuckfield and the Club is very grateful for the continuing support of the local community. This was presented to the Club by Mike Schlup, the current Mayor of Cuckfield.



"The new development will benefit not just local rugby, but a whole range of other local sports and of course will also enhance the social facilities available to the community. The new Clubhouse building will fundamentally improve the social and playing support areas for the Club, primarily by expanding the existing clubhouse space with an additional floor." For more information contact Mark on mn@hhrfc.co.uk

More good news on the candidate front. Leanne Knapman has once again thrown her hat in the ring and will be representing The White Harte - could this finally be her year? It will be up to you, the voters, to dig deep for Leanne if she is to finally swap her Wonder Woman outfit for the Mayor's robes. And it's not too late if you also want to take part in the year's campaign. Email mikeschlup@gmail.com for more details.

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500 years of education

by Jo Roche

'On the 11th day of the month of July in the year of our Lord God 1521 and in the 11th year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry the VIII, I Edmund Flower Citizen and merchant tailor of the City of London, whole of mind and in good memory ... And whereas I certain years past at my costs and charges have caused a Free Grammar School to be maintained and kept at Cuckfield aforesaid for the erudition and learning of poor scholars...'

This was the will of Edmund Flower, the founder of the first school in Cuckfield. We do not know exactly when he started the school, or what his connection to Cuckfield was, but we will always be grateful for his generosity.

In his will he left Land in Kent & £100 to purchase further land. He decreed that the master be a 'graduate being a secular priest and a sufficient man to teach grammar'. Unfortunately his endowments proved insufficient for the running of the school, so on 1st Nov 1528 Rev William Spicer, Parson of Balcombe, made these up to £11.10s and reformed the deeds for the running of the school. In doing so, he declared himself the '2nd founder'.

Spicer declared that the Master should be a 'Secular Priest being a graduate having sufficient cunning & being of good conversation to be a Schoolmaster of the said School'. He stipulated what to do in the event of plague, a misdemeanour of the Master, who they should pray for, and when, and importantly how, the pupils should be taught, which was: 'grammar after the usage of the Grammar School at Eton next Windsor'. These detailed rules used by Eton were then laid out. It was a rigid, repetitive education in Latin:

'In every of the said forms the rules shall be said in the morning, & by & by more rules given unto them. After 9 of the clock the constructions shall be given all. After

one of the clock more constructions shall be heard. About 3 of the clock the Lattins shall be rendered.... The master may begin to hear at what form it pleases him, so that the tender babies & young Scholars be not foreslowed but ever taught plainly & substantially, soberly & discreetly instructed & handled without rigour & hastiness in deed word & countenance.'

The County Archives in Chichester hold a document called the Vicar's Book, dated 1690, which lists the first 23 masters, ending with John Tattersall in 1712.

The origin of the old school building is unknown but it is certainly medieval. It was likely extended to a three story school house in about 1575 and had further improvements between 1611 & 1632. In 1844 the boys' school room was on the ground floor with a small yard to the rear. The girls' room was on the first floor and they also had their own separate yard. On the top floor was the Master's accommodation. In 1873 the part now housing Next Step nursery was added and by 1881 a separate School Master's house built at the end of Newbury Lane. In 1884 major works were carried out, including removing the ceiling of the first floor school room to open the room into the attic roof and lengthening the school westwards by one bay. Further modifications took place as late as the 1970s.

Financial problems at the school date back to the late 16th century when the trustees entered into new leases with the tenants of the endowed lands for fixed rents totalling £28.8s in perpetuity.

In 1714 Cuckfield Vicar Rev Middleton left £30 in his will for 'putting poor children to school'. His friend Timothy Burrell left a further £150 three years later and with this the Middleton Burrell Charity was formed. The school received an income from them until 1994 when a final lump sum was handed over to the governors.

The 17th and early 18th centuries had seen a decline



in the fortunes of the school and a departure from the original ethos of providing free education for the boys of Cuckfield or Balcombe. In 1807 a report to the Bishop gives that 20 boys receive education 'paid for by private charity or public institutions'. However, a parochial return of 1818 states that there are only three or four boys receiving free education but up to 50 fee paying boarders. In 1819 a report on the education of the poor tells that only part of the school is used as a school house, the remainder let by the schoolmaster at £12 or £13 a year. By 1840 Pigot's Directory says that there 'is not one scholar on the foundation'.

Something had to change, and change it did. In 1844 the Vicar, Thomas Maberley, obtained an order from the Court of Chancery to reorganise the school along the lines of a National School. Latin & Greek were dispensed with and the School Master no longer had to be a cleric. Places were needed for 75 boys and 65 girls. The main photograph shows the school circa 1891.

Girls were taught in a separate 'school' within the same building and each school had its own Master or Mistress. They were assisted by teachers, most commonly pupil-teachers who were boys and girls of 13 and over.

Whether due to ill health, the weather, the need to work or apathy, the attendance figures show that the school is still experiencing problems as it approaches the end of the 19th century. This was not just a moral issue but had financial implications too.

The other big issue around this time was the question of merging the girls' and boys' schools. In 1890 it was resolved 'that provided [the Master] resigns, the boys' and girls' schools be converted into a mixed school'. However, although the Master did step down, Her Majesty's inspector [expressed] an opinion somewhat averse to converting the school into a mixed one and the resolution ... was rescinded.'

The new Master was a Mr Herrington (photo above left). He was well travelled and used such modern equipment as the magic lantern which you can see on his desk. He was a very successful Master and under his leadership the school experienced better times.

In 1908 the Managers received a letter from the LEA instructing them to give the Girls' Headmistress three months' notice as they were looking to amalgamate the girls' and boys' schools. This was not a popular decision and the Managers, supported by parents and others, appealed to Whitehall, not wishing to see such an 'experiment tried in the Cuckfield Schools'. It was to no avail however. On 1st April 1909, Mr Herrington assumed charge of the combined school and in 1924 the infants were also amalgamated.

In 1956, following the departure of the senior children to the new Warden Park, the name of the school changed again and it became known as Cuckfield Primary School. It is today called Holy Trinity CE (A) Primary School.

In the late 1970s the school began putting together proposals to add an extension to the original building. This caused much division amongst the population of Cuckfield. With the benefit of hindsight, it is a relief that the Planning Inspector refused the proposals as this forced alternative options to be considered but at the time it was a huge disappointment to many people.

In 1991 change came in a very dramatic way. The school relocated to new purpose-built premises on Glebe Road off London Lane and the old school building was bought by the Church as a community building.

The new school building has already been extended. It is situated in 6.5 acres of land and has 11 classrooms, an impressive computer suite and a newly refurbished library, and is well poised for the next 500 years of education in Cuckfield.

We've temporarily moved..

For the next few months you can find us just 50 metres along the High Street in the courtyard behind Mansell McTaggart and in front of the Vicarage.



June Food Market Mansell McTaggart Courtyard Sat 14th 9:30 am-12:30pm

We'd like to say a sincere thank you to all of the local residents and businesses who have been so helpful and supportive of this move... with a special thanks to Mansell McTaggart.



For market updates follow us on Twitter @Cuckfield Local

www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com



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
Family	£144
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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Emergency, emergency!

VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Cuckoo? What cuckoo? There I was last month talking about habitat, their song being the sound of spring and chatting about cuckoos and what they mean to us in our village. The true picture is rather different. David Mortimer gave a beautifully illustrated talk for Cuckfield Nature Village in March, 'How's our wildlife doing around Cuckfield', during which he mentioned the plight of these iconic birds. He tells me that last year was the first in 17 years that he didn't hear a cuckoo in New England Wood. Their call was heard whilst species were being recorded in Millennium Wood in 2010/11. They were heard there in 2012 but no reports for 2013. This reflects the findings that the cuckoo population is in steep decline nationally. The British Trust for Ornithology says this: 'The 'Red Listed' cuckoo is one of the UK's fastest declining migrants and, until recently, was one of which we knew least about once it left the UK.' Here's where tradition meets technology. They have been attaching satellite tracking devices to find out more about where the cuckoos go to in Africa and how they get there. This will help to discover whether the declining cuckoo numbers problem lies at home or abroad. You might like to have a look at a map of the migration paths tracked at www.bto.org/cuckoos.

The exciting part is that you can join in too. David has offered to keep a database of the wildlife around our village. Thank you, David. What you have to do is to PLEASE keep your ears open for the sound of the familiar call of the cuckoo this spring and summer when walking about the village or out with the dog. Keep a note of the date and where you were, then email David Mortimer at djm@dmort.com with the details. Let's hope that there will be good news coming in.

REMINDER – Swifts are important too, so if you see or hear these amazing birds screaming around near you, get in touch with Helen Crabtree (01444 441687 hcrabtree@gmail.com)

David Mortimer and Helen Crabtree are both Trustees of our own New England Wood.

Two of our Cuckfield Local initiatives are Plastic Bag Free Cuckfield and collecting plastic bottle tops and lids for recycling, so my heart sang when I heard Willy Walsh, CEO of International Airlines, owners of British Airways. He was saying that BA have plans to run some of its jet planes on rubbish. A new recycling plant will be built in Essex to convert post-recycled waste (rubbish to you and me) into clean burning liquid fuels.

Cuckfield Local Food Market on 14th June 9.30am - 12.30pm. See you there? Catch part 2 of CNV's Wild about Wildlife? Plants to keep wildlife healthy and happy in your garden at Holy Trinity School on 7th June when you come to the Scarecrow Trail there that weekend. The NSPCC will be selling plants too.

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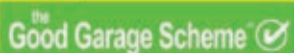
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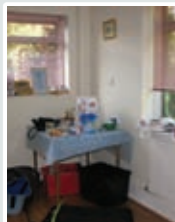
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Over 60 years of Art in Cuckfield

In 1953 a group of local artists decided to form the Art Club that became Adventurers Art Club. The principle enthusiasts of this venture were Frank James, Julia Trail and the Vicar of Cuckfield, Reverend Kemp (dubbed the 'Painting Parson!').



The object of the club was to encourage the practice and appreciation of the visual arts in Haywards Heath and the surrounding villages. It was to provide a common meeting ground for both professional and amateur artists and for laymen interested in the Arts. The club would promote the interests of its members by social events, exhibitions, lectures, classes etc. At this inaugural meeting in 1953 the yearly subscription was set at twelve shillings and sixpence (12/6d). The first meetings were held at the County Secondary School (now Oathall School). The first artist invited to show his work at the club, a Mr Thrasher, was paid half a guinea (10/6d) to cover expenses!

In 1954 there were 50 members, with numbers steadily increasing over the years. Frank James became a lifelong member; he was Secretary for 21 years and President of the club until his death in 2004.

The constitution and rules of the present club have changed little since its inception. It now has about 115 members and meetings are held at the Old School, Cuckfield on Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm during during term times. The programme consists of a mixture

of demonstrations, working sessions, appraisals of members' work, and social 'do your own thing' and chat evenings! A series of outdoor sessions are organised in the summer months.



The highlight of the year has to be the Summer Exhibition. Members of all abilities are encouraged to show their work. Last year over 200 works of art were displayed at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield, with prices starting at £40. This year's exhibition will be held from Saturday 26th July–Sunday 3rd August.

To find out more about the club, visit the website www.adventurersart.co.uk.



Village dog walkers

Do you enjoy walking your dog locally? You may come across Julie and Nigel Brewer with their fox red lab, Jonson, and a dog boarding guest or two. This couple provide expert care and home boarding for dogs and have recently opened AB FAB DOGS – Dog Day Care Crèche & Training in Slugwash Lane, Haywards Heath.

Jonson was adopted from Canine Partners, an assistance dog charity where Julie worked. "Jonson acts as anchor-man to our guest dogs while walking and helps with many elements of puppy training."

The couple have lived in the village for many years, currently in Whitemans Green. Julie would like to offer local dogs free treatments for damaged or injured muscles, while studying for her Galen Myotherapy Diploma. Contact julie@abfabdogs.co.uk or call 01444 657511 for your puppy and dog care needs.



Cuckfield school seeks former students

Did you go to Warden Park? If you're a former student who would like to support current students, the school would love to hear from you.

Right now there are students in the assembly hall where you once sat, facing similar challenges and opportunities that you did. Being connected to you could really help them.

Converted in 2011 to Academy status, the school in Broad Street, Cuckfield, is one of more than 500 state schools across Britain which have registered with the charity Future First to set up networks of former students or alumni.

Future First's vision is that every state school or college should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community that helps it to do more for its students.

Former Warden Park student Howard Collins, now Grants and Fundraising Manager at the school, said: "We signed up to Future First's scheme straight away. A network of past pupils with all their valuable experience, contacts and life skills will be vital in helping us broaden our current pupils' horizons and equip them for the world of further education and work.

"There are many ways in which our former pupils can help Warden Park and we look forward to welcoming them back to school!"

Howard manages the Future First programme at the school, and is waiting to hear from you on formerpupils@wardenpark.co.uk. Students can also sign up to Future First's alumni scheme by clicking on the 'Former Students' link on the website www.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/wardenpark

Teachers wishing to sign up another school to Future First should click the 'Schools and Colleges staff' link.

More than 50,000 former students across Britain have already signed up to stay connected with their old school. They are inspiring young people in a number of ways; as career and education role models, mentors or e-mentors, work experience providers, Young Enterprise advisors, governors, donors or fundraisers.

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you

f futurefirst

I went to
Warden Park
and now I'm
an editor at a
publishing company

Emma Bonney, Editor

To find out more about your career options, visit
www.futurefirst.org.uk/findoutmore

still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help!

"More than 39 per cent of state school students don't know anyone in a job they'd like to do," said Alex Shapland-Howes, Managing Director of Future First. "If they see that someone who went to the same school and grew up in the same community has achieved a fulfilling and satisfying job, it helps them see it's possible for them too. It's really important for all students to be motivated to succeed in the working world and hearing first hand from relatable people in interesting jobs can make a huge difference."

For further information about Future First, log onto www.futurefirst.org.uk. Alternatively, contact the Press and Publicity Officer Sue Crabtree on sue@futurefirst.org.uk, Programme Director Megan Clatworthy on megan@futurefirst.org.uk or call one of the team on 0207 239 8933.

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ON YOUR TABLE

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Ingredients

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75g plain flour
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By Simon Dennis, head chef at The Rose & Crown

May is the time for beautiful English asparagus, perfect for a spring lunch. Here is our simple but stunning recipe to enjoy with friends.



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180c or gas mark 4. Bake the Maris Pipers for about 45 minutes until soft.
2. While the potatoes are still warm, cut them in half and push them through a sieve to ensure a fine mash.
3. Lightly mix in the parmesan, flour, egg yolk, salt and pepper to make a dough.
4. Roll the dough into a sausage shape approximately ½ cm thick. Cut into 1cm rectangles to make the gnocchi shape.
5. Blanch the gnocchi in a pan of boiling water until they float to the top.
6. Drain and lightly coat with olive oil. Fry off the gnocchi in a non-stick pan until golden and crispy.
7. Whilst the gnocchi is cooking, place the asparagus in a pan of boiling water and poach the eggs.
8. To poach the eggs: fill a medium size pan with water and the white wine vinegar and bring to a simmer. Swirl the water and crack into the centre. These will need to cook for 2 minutes for perfect poached eggs.

Serves 4 people

Coffee at the Chapel

A warm welcome - fresh coffee - home-made cakes



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Magical Meadows



Celebrate the beauty and importance of meadows, the plants that make them special, and the traditions and wildlife that depend on them, at the Magical Meadows Summer Festival at Wakehurst Place.

Visitors will be able to discover Wakehurst's beautiful wildflower meadows and enjoy a range of special events taking place during June, July and August. Step back in time and see magnificent heavy horses chain harrowing Bloomers Valley meadows (image above); enjoy a glass of local cider watching experts keep traditional skills alive in a Scything and Cider weekend; see how hay was traditionally harvested in a Bringing in the Hay weekend; and see barn owls, hawks, falcons and other birds of prey at close range and learn why meadows and pastures are so important to their survival.

Entry to all events is included in admission to Wakehurst, accompanied under 17s are admitted free.



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	NEWICK	NEWICK VILLAGE HALL	9:30-10:30
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
FRIDAYS	HAYWARDS HEATH	NORTHLANDS WOOD SCHOOL	19:00-20:00

All classes £5 / limited number of yoga mats provided so please feel free to bring your own.

Contact Costica de Larrabeti on 07568 338 939 email - costicadel@hotmail.co.uk

All classes are drop in / no booking required

All classes are open now to attend!

Classes
restart
22nd May

What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

May

16th **Cuckfield Crafts & Market** 9.30am–1pm
selling all manner of local goodies

28th **Cuckfield Dramatic Society** 8pm

–31st 'Anyone for Breakfast' a comedy by Derek Benfield
(www.cuckfielddramaticsociety.com)

June

6th **Cuckfield Crafts and Market** 9.30am–1pm

13th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** 7.30 for 7.45pm
Demonstator Lucinda Knapman: 'Summer Delights'. New members and visitors always welcome

British Flowers on show

BBC TV series Great British Garden Revival, which was screened earlier this year, has inspired Cuckfield resident and florist Belinda Campopiano to create an event which will celebrate British flowers.

Belinda, who is also a member of the florists organisation The British Flower Collective, is planning the display which will be entitled 'In England's green and pleasant land' with all the designs made up around music. "Think Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Sunny Side of the Street etc. It's going to be a fantastic showcase of British flowers, which I'm very excited about!"

The British Flower Festival is taking place at Hurstpierpoint College Chapel on Saturday 14th June, open between 10am–5pm.

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Holy Trinity Primary School Summer Fair

Saturday 12th July 2014

12–3pm

Glebe Road
Cuckfield

Food, drink, stalls, miniature train rides & car show

AND ELSEWHERE

May

17th **Holy Trinity Primary School Grounds Committee Community 2.7 mile charity walk**
Registration at Holy Trinity Primary School between 9am and 2.30pm to sign in and collect a map (±1.5 hours to complete the walk). Sponsor forms from school, Wealden stores & Sussex Crafts or email htgrounds@hotmail.co.uk

18th **The Greater Haywards Heath Bike Ride**
4 different bike routes around Mid Sussex
(www.hhbikeride.co.uk)

18th **St Catherine's Hospice Open Gardens 2014**
Colwood House, Cuckfield Lane, Warninglid, RH17 5SP 2–5pm. Twelve acres of garden, disabled access, dogs welcome, refreshments available. £5, children free (Mrs Brenan, 01444 461831)

20th **Cuckfield Evening WI**
The Old School 8pm Resolution Meeting

21st **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society Lecture** – Clair Hall 10.15 for 10.45am

28th **The Royal British Legion Women's Section**
The Old School 2.30pm. Cookery with Niall Smith

June

5th–7th **The South of England Show**, Ardingly 9am
www.seas.org.uk/summer-show

7th–8th **Scarecrow Festival** – Holy Trinity Primary School
Cuckfield 9am–4pm. See page 7 for details

7th **Cuckfield Nature Village: Wild About Wildlife?**
Holy Trinity School (alongside the Scarecrow Trail). CNV and NSPCC will be selling plants for wildlife to support the NSPCC

14th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** 9.30am – 12.30pm
Temporary venue: courtyard behind Mansell McTaggart

15th **Open Gardens for St Catherine's Hospice**
Crofton & Garth Cottages, Broad Street 2–4.30pm
Sally Williams, one of the garden owners, has over 30 flower beds and utilizes natural wild flowers in place of spraying pesticides

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

22nd **St Catherine's Hospice Open Gardens 2014**
Krawden, Victoria Road, Balcombe, RH17 6LJ
1pm–5pm (Annie Bryant); Winterfield, Oldlands Avenue, Balcombe, RH17 6LP 1pm–5pm (Sue Howe, 01444 811380). £5, children free

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