

# Cuckfield Life

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Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #48: Oct/Nov '16

Free



Mayor's Election: You decide!

page 14

Bonfire Night details

page 32

Cuckfield Village Show in pics

page 22



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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

This month features my favourite Cuckfield tradition: **The Independent State of Cuckfield's Mayoral Elections**. The perfectly rigged election which is, when all is said and done, a good laugh and an excellent way to fundraise for local organisations and charities.

2016 is the group's 50th year and the committee has come up trumps and found **50 candidates** who are willing to stand in the election.

**Kate Fleming** has very kindly written all you need to know about the weekend and who you ought to know about on page 14. Plus we've included some FAQs and the full list of every candidate running too.

Get down to **The Talbot** on the evening of 21st October or in the afternoon of the next day to see the procession through the village.

Of course, as ever, we will cover it in the next issue with a full photo round-up of the weekend's events and introduce your new mayor!

Elsewhere **Claire Cooper** goes back to the churchyard at **Holy Trinity** to research another grave which has its own story to tell on page 36. Plus, on the subject of the church, **Rev Michael Maine** shares his letter with us on page 10.

There's a new minister in town too - see page 9, and say Hi to **Will Cockram** who has recently moved to the village to lead **Cuckfield Baptist Church**.

On page 22 we show you a snapshot of the recent **Cuckfield Village Show** - which featured some amazing creative projects as well as some impressive harvest from the gardens and allotments of this village. The organising group needs your help though - do take time to read about it.

Last but not least is another article by our good friend **Kate Fleming**, who took the time to interview **Norma Morgan** (p.28) so that she could tell her story on these pages. Thank you Kate and Norma for sharing and allowing us all to read it.

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

## New pitch opening later this month

Warden Park Academy will formally open its new 3G sports pitch to students and a crowd of selected benefactors on 20th October.

The facility then opens to the community from 1st November, and bookings for sports clubs and groups are being taken now.

The 97 metre by 61 metre synthetic grass surface, with dynamic base and shock pad, can host competitive football up to under 16, plus training and friendly matches for all ages.

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It will be open for community use evenings and weekends in term time, plus all day, evenings and weekends in school holidays. Please contact Howard Collins at the academy for further details and prices for your usage needs: 01444 476551 or [hcollins16@wardenpark.co.uk](mailto:hcollins16@wardenpark.co.uk)

There is also the opportunity for local businesses to sponsor the facility. Any businesses interested in a discussion about a suitable package for your budget should also use the contact details above.



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# Dramatic performances on show at Queen's Hall

Members of Cuckfield Dramatic Society will present Earnest Thompson's multi-awarding winning *On Golden Pond* at Cuckfield's Queen's Hall from Wednesday 26th to Saturday 29th October.

The witty and humorous story, captured on film by Henry Fonda, his daughter Jane and Katherine Hepburn, explores family heartbreak and emotion using the backdrop of life by the lake known as Golden Pond, where the loons return to breed every year and second childhoods and second chances are possible.

Tickets are available from Wealden Stores or Marcus Grimes or via [www.cdsweb.co.uk](http://www.cdsweb.co.uk)

The group has also arranged for a special two course pre-theatre supper at The Talbot for just £17.50 per person, from 5-7pm.



## Bike Ride raises £700 so far

On Sunday 25th September, after two days covering 100 gruelling off-road miles – not to mention two punctures – Rob Harrington arrived in sunny Eastbourne having completed his charity cycle ride along the South Downs Way.

Rob was riding in aid of the Gillian Fabb Memorial Fund – a Cuckfield-based charity which is now in its 40th year. He has currently raised just over £700 for the charity and has been touched by everyone's generosity.

"At times it was rather lonely along the route, occasionally having to avoid the odd farm animal or wayward dog!" said Rob. "However, the scenery was amazing and we are so lucky to have the South Downs on our doorstep. It was a fantastic experience."

If you would like to give a donation, Rob's Virgin Money Giving page is still open at: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/robharrington>



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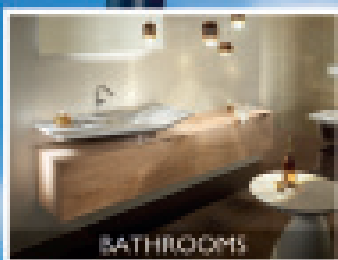
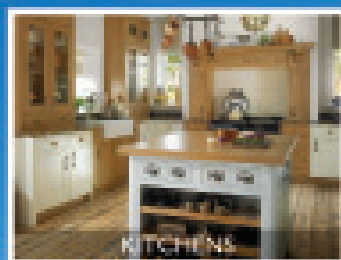
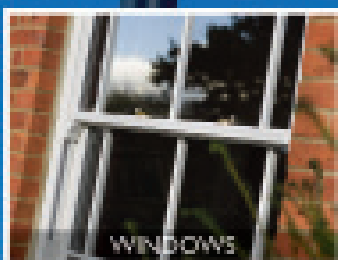
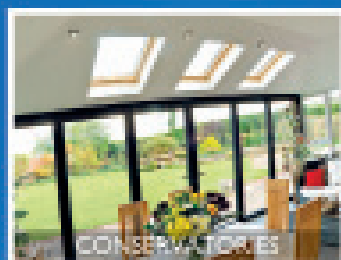
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# High end hair salon comes to Cuckfield

There's a new hair salon coming to the High Street in Cuckfield this month.

Oliver Cunningham will be opening its doors in the shop which was formerly Nicky C Lifestyle. "The visual look of my new salon is going to be classic with an eccentric twist, mixing period features with quirky pieces," Oliver (right) commented. "I want my clients to feel at home in the space; not imposing or intimidating, more like a relaxed private members club or boutique hotel ambience."

Oliver has been running his own salon in an exclusive and private location elsewhere in Sussex for the past three years but has now decided to grow the business and venture on to the High Street.

"I love Cuckfield. It is most definitely one of the prettiest villages in Sussex. I think it's perfect for us. It's very central for all our clients from London and Brighton. I hope to make the village proud and add something a little different to the already beautiful scattering of shops," Oliver said.

All the team of stylists in the Cuckfield salon are London-trained and had long careers at elite salons. The opening times initially will be Monday to Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 9am-5pm.



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## New minister Will

Cuckfield Baptist Church welcomed a new minister to lead the church during the summer.

Will Cockram moved to Cuckfield with his wife, Vicky, and two young children. The church held a service of induction at the end of August.

Will, who used to be a secondary school music teacher before training for the ministry, was born and raised in Sussex but moved here from St Albans. "The most obvious difference is the size," Will explained.

"You can walk anywhere here in the village and I'm really enjoying having everything really local (school, friends, work and church; all within quarter of a mile).

"My office in the new church building gives me a view of the beautiful Sussex Downs. It's great to be near some Sussex countryside again!"

Will is already enjoying getting to know many in the village and looks forward to meeting even more.

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Vicar: Rev Michael Maine More information: [www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

## Memories and the community

Dear Friends,



I always think of this time of year as one when memories play an important part for local communities throughout our nation. We have, of course, Remembrance Sunday in November – a day of solemnity when we recall the sacrifice of those service people who lost their lives in the two world wars, those terrible years whose dates are recorded on our village war memorial in the churchyard. We remember too the conflicts which still afflict humanity.

As well as this, the worldwide church also marks 1st November as All Saints' Day. For me, this is as much a celebration of people who transform others' lives in the here and now as much as the 'Great Cloud of Witnesses', mentioned in the Letter to the Hebrews (12:1) in the Bible. In fact, I would say that we are all called to be saints; not some impossible figures in a stained glass window, but flesh and blood people who transform other people's lives through interaction and goodness. And, yes, saints haven't or don't always get things right!

As well as these remembrances we also celebrate our community in Cuckfield. The 50th Anniversary of the Independent State is something truly to rejoice about. The monies raised through the past half century have enriched the village and its community, and I am struck by the fact that, in spite of the Independent State being initially part protest, it has become part of the 'woven fabric' of our communal life.

The Village Service will take place on Sunday 23rd October at 9.45am and will be what we do Sunday by Sunday as we gather together. It will be a service of Holy Communion to which all are welcome when we shall give thanks not just for our new mayor (whoever they may be!) but also pray for our beautiful village – rejoicing in our vibrant Community.

With all best wishes,

Michael

### Normal Sunday Services:

- 8am Holy Communion
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist  
(Family Service 1st Sunday)
- (11am Holy Communion with hymns – 1st Sunday)
- 6pm Evensong (Holy Communion 2nd Sunday)

All are welcome at Holy Trinity with excellent provision for all ages!

## WINTER CLOTHING APPEAL

THANKS to all who contributed to our Samara's Aid appeal this year.

An excellent response meant that we have sent a goodly number of boxes out to the Refugee Camps in and surrounding Syria.

## Bishop confirmation

The Bishop of Chichester will be taking a Service of Confirmation for the Cuckfield Deanery on Thursday 10th November at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity. All are welcome to attend to support those being confirmed.



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# Artist discovered for Tree Festival

By Suzanne Reid

Preparations are in full swing for the 14th Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield. This year's Partner Charity is Parkinson's UK, more specifically the local Mid Sussex Branch.

The poster and publicity material have been taken from an original piece of artwork by Pam Maslin, a local branch member, herself living with Parkinson's. She calls her picture Footprints in the Snow.

Pam has always painted, originally painting items with folk art style work to sell at craft fairs. Now diagnosed with Parkinson's this is no longer possible for her and she thought she would have to hang up her brushes to dry. A U3A course introduced her to watercolours and Pam has discovered a new talent, for picture painting.

"When I'm painting I don't seem to shake so much," she stated and her husband adds, "Pam gets lost in the picture and the Parkinson's doesn't seem to be able to follow her there." With 127,000 people affected by Parkinson's in the UK, 20% under 40 years of age, Pam is an inspiration to us all.

You will spot Pam's artwork in the next few months on posters advertising the Festival where 80 trees will be



decorated by local businesses and organisations to support the work of the church and Parkinson's UK, Mid Sussex branch. The festival is open on Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December with live music and refreshments served in The Old School.

Pam's artwork will be in evidence again on the entry brochure.



## Bumper fundraising helps children and young people

A mental health hospital for young people in Haywards Health has received a welcome boost thanks to fundraising by a local group.

Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Cuckfield and Lindfield raised £1,652.50 during a year of fundraising for Chalkhill Hospital, which is run by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

The Inner Wheel is one of the world's largest women's voluntary organisations, working in 104 countries. Any woman who shares the aim of the organisation to improve the lives of others by personal service may join the Inner Wheel.

Chalkhill provides inpatient care and day services for children and young people aged 12-18 years old who have emotional difficulties and mental health problems, including eating disorders. It is on the Princess Royal Hospital site in Haywards Heath.

During her year as President, Sally Dew nominated Chalkhill to benefit from fundraising activities organised by the club. Amongst their many fundraising activities, members organised a fashion show and raffle, with help from local shops in Haywards Heath; entered teams in the Rotary's sponsored Darts Marathon and ran a stall at Lindfield Village Day selling their own handbags, scarves and books, which they donated to the cause.

Sally said: "I'm so happy to give this money to Chalkhill knowing that it will make a real difference to the young people who use its services. The Inner Wheel is all about being part of the community, so during my year

as President I wanted to raise money for a local cause. I spent many years working as a teacher and this, along with the heightened awareness of mental health issues in young people, meant that I wanted to do something to support Chalkhill.

"Recently, together with fellow Inner Wheel member Valerie Clapp, I visited Chalkhill to present our cheque and we had the chance to meet some of the young people there. They were really excited about the things that the money could be used for to help them relax and get the most out of their time there. They also presented me with a lovely thank you card, full of wonderful messages, and I'll be sharing this with our members who worked so hard to raise this money."



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# Fundraising by the 50!

ISOC MAYOR'S ELECTION 2016

By Kate Fleming

The Independent State of Cuckfield has 50 candidates for its 50th anniversary year.

Quite amazing, I agree – but fact.

Election night is a mere week away and things are buzzing. Fundraising is taking off with events happening all over the village. It is difficult to gauge who the favourites are as one never knows what will happen on THE night when the candidate who has raised the most money for local charities and organisations will be elected Mayor. That is part of the excitement. The tension builds and things can change with the drop of a £1 coin.

So frontrunners and outsiders...

Two well-known Cuckfield families need to be considered as you contemplate where your support will lie. The Murphys and the Woods, both stalwarts of the Independent State of Cuckfield, always there to help both at the forefront and behind the scenes. Strength in numbers seems to be the hallmark here with the families joining forces – husband and wives, brothers and sisters, cousins, uncles and aunts working alongside each other. Coffee mornings, quiz nights, dancing to the Buffaloes in the Queen's Hall and free glasses of 'bubbly' at the White Hart have all contributed to the mayoral coffers of these two established families.

A valiant steward from Cuckfield Museum, Evelyn Stenning, is standing independently for Mayor. She has been 'beavering around' fundraising in all kinds of ways. An active member of the Women's Institute, she has organised events with flair and originality. She is selling Independent State inscribed bookmarks, and has set up a treasure hunt designed to find out 'How much you know about Cuckfield' and touched our gambling instinct with a bingo session – BINGO Evelyn?

Not to be overlooked.

What is Chris Bunning up to down at the cricket club? How many centuries are being scored there?

If he has won the toss is he waiting to gauge what the pitch is like on the night before he cries 'Howzat?' as the bell chimes, or is he anxiously padding up in readiness for his innings?

He might depend on the weather!

How great to see our vicar Michael Maine back at work in the village. His mayoral campaign has been truncated by his unexpected time away, but suppers have been prepared and enjoyed and Team Holy Trinity is certainly on track and might even surge at the last minute. Whatever happens they will all be around on Sunday October 23rd for the Village Service to conclude the weekend festivities by celebrating the election of the new Mayor and our village.

Cuckfield Dramatic Society, although busy rehearsing 'On Golden Pond' by Ernest Thompson, is supporting Ross Bradshaw and his dog Pirate. Always anxious about the popularity of the said black eyed canine, Ross thinks he might have the edge to go forward as a couple and become the first Mayor and his dog.



Hairdresser and Elvis impersonator groupie Sue Selby is busy snipping away in her salon in Broad Street, but my informer tells me that the rustle of raffles is getting louder and her colourful campaign gathering speed. A collection of other contestants also appear on the list of 50 to surprise us on THE night, or join up with others after the preliminaries? Jane Swain and Andrew Leask certainly have mayoral potential just waiting to be realised, and we know that Gary Atkinson is quick because he has won the 'Fastest Man' Cup in the Independent State of Cuckfield Easter Monday Walking Race. Go for it Gary!

Luke Bohanna will be appearing with his BPM Dance Academy performers in the Mayor's Procession on the afternoon of Saturday October 22nd or will he? He might be sitting in David Horne's 1966 Carnival Red Sunbeam Alpine and driving around in style as the new Mayor! Stranger things have happened. The odds on that one are even.

Similarly with Lee Sadler, the Sussex Farrier, keeping his cards close to his chest only to be shown ( his cards ) on THE night of October 21st in the Hayloft in The Talbot.

The breaking news, however, could turn the whole event upside down as the landlord of The Talbot, Dean Harding, is standing for Mayor too! A latecomer, but a force to be reckoned with if we adhere to the old adage that 'possession is nine tenths of the law'. Already established at The Talbot, will Dean be able to raise sufficient funds to challenge the other 49? Maybe.

Now the 'ball is in your court' dear Cuckfieldians. Your support will decide which candidate will win the office of Mayor of The Independent State of Cuckfield and take this unique organisation into its next half century.

So come and join in the fun at The Talbot on Friday 21st October at 8pm for the election of the new Mayor and on Saturday 22nd October to watch or take part in the procession through the village supporting the new Mayor. Then on Sunday 23rd October come along to our beautiful Holy Trinity Church at 9.45am for the Village Service. See you there!

# Quick Questions...

## 1) How do I vote?

Each of the candidates is tasked to fundraise. Either go to an event which they are holding or turn up to The Talbot on the night and put your money in the respective candidates money tin! Remember the elected Mayor is the candidate who raises the most money for The Independent State of Cuckfield.

## 2) What does the Mayor do?

Well, whilst it's not an official position of public office, the Mayor of Cuckfield enjoys a level of stardom for the year - not least opening the Cuckoo Fayre and Bonfire, amongst a host of other 'official' duties. Our monthly Mayor's column gives you a pretty good idea.

## 3) What is on on the Saturday 22nd October?

The Mayor's Procession is a regular part of the election process in Cuckfield. The elected Mayor will parade at the front of the procession, which starts at Warden Park school and travels all around the village, ending up at The Talbot - where the previous Mayor hands over the 'keys' of the village (and usually enjoys a pint!). The procession usually leaves at 2pm and finds its way back to The Talbot at 3pm - where there's a children's entertainer to excite the younger members of the crowd!

# Who will you vote for?

## All 50 Mayoral Candidates:

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Ken Gregory    | Jane Swain            |
| Doreen Gregory | Tina Heath            |
| Simon Bourk    | Gareth Knapman        |
| Matt Buck      | Tina Blackburn        |
| Dave Edwards   | Wilf Knighton         |
| Heather Gover  | Chris Bunning         |
| Leanne Knapman | Jan Atkinson          |
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| Ted Murphy     | Andrew Leask          |
| Annie Rees     | Chris Woods           |
| Dean Harding   | Claire Woods          |
| Mike Schlup    | Vicky Parke           |
| Nick Rowe      | Michael (Mudge) Smith |
| Luke Bohanna   | Jordan Lee            |
| Paul Moores    | Ross Bradshaw         |
| Lee Sadler     | Sherly Mcdonald       |
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# Mid Downs Hospital Radio celebrates 40 years

A community radio station which started life in a hospital room cupboard celebrates its 40th birthday this year.

From its very humble beginnings, with limited studio facilities broadcasting only into hospital wards, Mid Downs Hospital Radio has grown steadily and now broadcasts daily to thousands of the patients, visitors and staff at the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath and to the wider community.

As a registered charity, run entirely by volunteers, Mid Downs Radio (MDR) is dependent on fundraising activities and donations to support its 24 hour/7 days a week broadcasting service.

Today's Mid Downs Radio operates from a modern studio based on the first floor of the Princess Royal Hospital to a listening audience not just in the wards but in the departmental waiting rooms and public spaces throughout the hospital, in the local community via 1350 AM and on the 'Listen Live' link on its website [www.mdr.org.uk](http://www.mdr.org.uk)

Members are currently busy planning 40th anniversary celebrations which includes inviting all current and former members to a party on November 19th at the Red Lion in Lindfield. Wendy Swinton Eagle, MDR Vice Chair, said: "We would like to invite all members, ex members and their partners to the party but don't have contact details for everyone so we're asking people to pass the word round. Anyone who'd like

to come should contact me either through the studio on 01444 441350 or [wendy@mdr.org.uk](mailto:wendy@mdr.org.uk). We'd also love to have some stories about the 'good old days' to put on our website."

The station is also on the lookout for new volunteers wishing to train to be presenters. "We have a good track record of recruiting new members who, without any previous experience in broadcasting, following training, are now hosting their own show," said Wendy.

The group would also welcome new members who can get involved in other activities linked to programme production such as technical/computer issues, request collecting and fundraising.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact Lynda White, MDR Membership Secretary, on [membership@mdr.org.uk](mailto:membership@mdr.org.uk)

There are future plans for MDR which include expanding the listener base into waiting rooms in GP surgeries and other communal areas within the community.

The station is always looking for opportunities to work more closely with the local community and can arrange for speakers to attend meetings of local health and community organisations, societies, schools and other groups to talk about the radio station. To book a speaker contact [chairman@org.uk](mailto:chairman@org.uk)

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## Ageing and pain

### MANAGING PAIN

By Sophia Barlow, registered osteopath

'I don't expect this pain will go away', 'I am getting used to this hurting most of the time' are just some of the worrying thoughts that cross many of my patients' minds when presenting to the clinic. I often hear phrases like 'well I suppose it's just age isn't it?'

And yes, of course, our bodies are ageing. At age 40 I already have an amount of osteoarthritis (often referred to by GPs as wear and tear) in my joints. But I am not in pain, and neither are many people in their 60s, 70s, 80s and over, many with significant osteoarthritis and indeed other musculoskeletal dysfunction including prolapsed discs and other spinal tissue injuries.

So what can someone with pain, who has been given a diagnosis of wear and tear, actually do to relieve their symptoms and work towards becoming pain free?

A lot.

Of course we osteopaths at The Perrymount Clinic would recommend efficient, researched and well executed musculoskeletal therapy, as we believe it forms the foundation to a healthy, well functioning body. But there are plenty of other things, too, which improve outcomes to treatment and support the work we do.

Osteoarthritis is a condition affecting the degeneration of the cartilage in our joints. At this stage there is little that can be done to actually heal osteoarthritic joints, so treatment focuses on improving the range of movement at the joint and helping the body compensate for the injury in other ways. Approaches that can reduce the work going through the joint, create a wider surface area of action at the joint and improve the quality of the tissues at the joint can all help relieve symptoms. Osteopathy works in these areas, but other supporting methods we can advise on include increasing hydration and fluid intake, specific stretches improving range of movement in joints and the supplements glucosamine and chondroitin which have had some positive research studies. Some forms of exercise, with advice, can help increase blood supply and nutrition to osteoarthritic joints and improve range of movement and reduce symptoms.

We have had significant results with hundreds of patients with osteoarthritis, who had started to believe that things could only worsen, and that's why we love what we do. If osteoarthritis is affecting you or one of your relatives the best advice is to get started, the sooner those symptoms are addressed, the sooner life can get back on track.

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19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016: **"In Voice and Verse"**



Actor Lance Pierson, singer Belinda Yates and pianist Heather Chamberlain aim to create concerts which combine music with poetry.

This evening they will mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Both concerts start at 7.45 pm in St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath.

Tickets £12, conc'ns £11, member's discount £3  
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For further information, telephone 01444-456227, or visit:  
[www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk)



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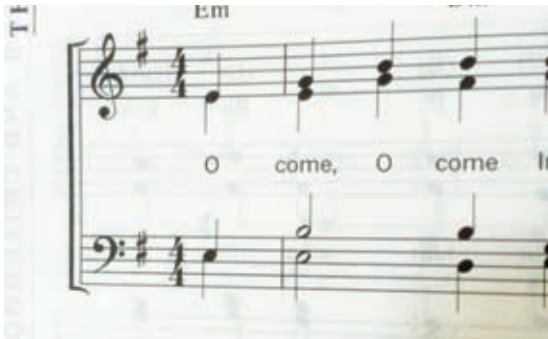


# CUCKFIELD EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## Novemberfest

Just when you thought you have been to a Novemberfest before, think again, this time it is different. Saturday evening 12th November at the Old School for a Curry night and beetle drive. 7.30 pm, entrance fee £16, tickets on sale now from Wealden Stores.



## Christmas

Christmas event on Saturday 17th December at Baptist Chapel in Cuckfield 7.30 for 8pm. Showcase for local talent with carol singing, finger buffet and cash bar. Tickets £18 each on sale at Wealden Stores from 12th November.



## 25 years celebrations

Make a note of 26th-29th May 2017 to celebrate 25 years twinning with our friends in Aumale. They have invited us to join them in Aumale for this special weekend. More details will follow. It would be good to have a large turnout of Cuckfieldians.

## Sounds like fun? Join CEA today....

If you like the sound of what we get up to, why not join us? We'd love to hear from you. Membership is just £10 per year. Contact Janine Watts by email at [janine.watts@gmail.com](mailto:janine.watts@gmail.com) or visit the website: [www.cuckfield.org](http://www.cuckfield.org)



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## Industrial edge

### DESIGN AT HOME

**By Fiona Evans, Cuckfield Interiors**

Concrete, rust and peeling paintwork are no longer ugly but in the right environment are considered beautiful, trendy and downright chic.

Interiors incorporating Industrial Style using such raw elements can be exciting and inspirational. It's a look born from warehouse and factory life where hard lines, exposed surfaces, function and utility ruled. Stripping the building to its bare bones and leaving nothing to the imagination is the key and philosophy. Hard lines generated from concrete beams and metal posts, reclaimed wooden boards, exposed brickwork juxtaposed with corrugated iron, metal furnishings and salvaged items resurrected from scrapyards create an interior which is fabulous, balanced and atmospheric. Add a neutral backdrop of greys, scraped plaster, exposed brickwork with peeling paintwork and perhaps a few statement punches of colour. A large factory window will illuminate the space with plenty of natural light broken up by shadows created by the window framework. A funky spiral staircase composed of scaffolding and metal steps adds wow factor.

Just by making a few changes we can give our home a trendy industrial edge. An easy way of going about it is to change styles of lighting to incorporate those with metallic detail and decorative low voltage filament light bulbs giving the desired industrial look. An ideal interior to 'industrialise' without a major refit is the kitchen, where there is scope to add industrial features including vintage metal adverts, neon signs and funky pendant lamps. Depending how far you want to take the project lay suitable floor tiles (such as those with a painted wood floor board design) and metro or stylised tiles for the walls. In addition cupboard doors made from vintage stained glass windows or metal panels fit the bill, while metal shelves look great with vintage supports and wire baskets. Fitting a kitchen from scratch could include exposed painted pipes or a polished concrete floor.

In living areas the style incorporates furnishings such as metal cabinets, wire shelves, vintage leather sofas and chairs and cushions with geometric or factory images designs. Worn or faux worn rugs on top of floor boards or concrete. Be creative by using up-cycled objects, for instance a table top made from old parquet or wooden plank flooring, salvaged wood units, leather and chrome seating from old cars and large vintage clocks. Inspirational furnishings that were once only functional like vintage shop drawer units or old work benches added to the design creates a cutting edge interior. Consider adding a mural to a wall in a corner of the space, such as a world map or one with a trompe l'oeil industrial backdrop to add to the ambience. Industrial style adds weight to the already popular trend of up-cycling and crosses all budgets. A lot of fun could be had, re-using and turning something originally considered utilitarian and boring into one of beauty.

Cuckfield Life



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# Prize-winning exhibits

**CUCKFIELD VILLAGE SHOW**

Despite a damp day, Cuckfield donned raincoats to head down to this year's Village Show. They enjoyed the usual fantastic exhibits and got to see who had won what. Fortunately there was no #chutneygate as Jill Archer was not on hand to steal the prize from winner Sally Forth!

After 11 years, the committee feel it is time to pass the organisation on to fresh hands so are looking for fans of the show to step up. To make this a less daunting task, they have been looking at ways to simplify the process and have taken the decision to try a new venue, so the 2017 show will take place on Saturday 9th September at Cuckfield Baptist Church.

Jo Roche, one of the outgoing team, says: "Although we love the traditional feel of a marquee in the beautiful surroundings of Cuckfield Park, it is not without its challenges. Not only are we at the mercy of the weather, but the physical work of setting up & clearing away all the tents and running a kitchen in a field is quite a task. The Baptist Church offers the right amount of space and has great links to the outdoor areas so there will still be room for the band and other elements which we love."

The committee need volunteers to come forward NOW so they can shadow them for a year to learn the ropes, ready to go it alone in 2018. Jo says: "sadly if we do not get anyone to work with us this year, the show will not be able to happen as we need to ensure a hand over is in place."

If you can help please email [jo@pjroche.com](mailto:jo@pjroche.com). The next meeting will be in November when next year's classes will be chosen so it's a great time to start.







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# Belinda gets ready for Christmas

Cuckfield resident Belinda Campopiano is set to organise her Christmas wreath-making courses again.

Belinda is a florist and popular member of the community and recently won first place for her Rio Carnival entry in the Foral Art category at the recent Cuckfield Village Show.

This will be the fifth year that Belinda has run wreath-making courses, where she gives the attendees a hands-on demonstration and they get to make their own. "I provide all tools, aprons and materials for the courses, so all folk need to do is turn up," she comments. "My only advice is: don't get your nails done the day before as it is a messy job! Coffee, tea, mince pies and Nat King Cole are also on hand to add to the enjoyment!"

The wreaths made are completely natural – and they are started from a copper ring, adding foliage and festive decorations to finish it off.

One year Belinda had a client tell her that she discovered Robins nesting in her still intact wreath in March.

"Lots of people have commented that it is the 'start of their Christmas' and really enjoy having a couple of hours out to be creative and get into the festive spirit."

This year Belinda is running three workshops locally. 6th December at Jeremy's Restaurant, 14th December at Plumpton Church Hall and 15th December at The Hayloft, The Talbot, right here in Cuckfield.

For more information contact: [belinda@chezfleur.co.uk](mailto:belinda@chezfleur.co.uk)



Photo by Leigh Clapp

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Hunt Life

# My final letter

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Ken Gregory

The Museum has a new display on the steam railway which I attended at the beginning of September. I was impressed by the many models on display and detailed information of how the railway came about in Sussex and would urge everyone to go along to view.

The Cuckfield Society held its annual show at Cuckfield Park which I was invited to open. It was not a good day weather-wise as the afternoon was showery, but that did not stop the hardy people of Cuckfield turning out to look around all the exhibits on display - fruit, veg, cakes, photographs and handicraft - a wonderful display, and I must not forget the children's section as well.

Carol Grossman won the Katie Stewart cup this year and George Baty the Best in the Show - congratulations to both.

Election fever is gathering pace with all the candidates raising funds for election night on 21st October at the Talbot (8pm start). Come and see who raises most and becomes the village's 50th Mayor of the Independent State of Cuckfield.

As my year as the Mayor comes to an end, and I look back on the many events that I have attended and enjoyed, I do hope whoever is elected enjoys their year as much as I have done. Many thanks to everyone who has supported me throughout the year.



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# Norma Morgan

VILLAGE PEOPLE

"I'm the luckiest person in the world."

Norma Morgan



## By Kate Fleming

In Victoria Square, in the centre of Aberdare, stands a statue of 'Caradog' - Griffith Rhys Jones – conductor of the renowned South Wales Choral Union. It was erected in appreciation of his musical genius in 1920, five years before the birth of Norma Morgan.

A childhood in the musical valleys of South Wales in between the wars was tough for the poor. Food was scarce and entertainment limited and simple. Norma recalls swinging from the lamppost, playing in the top field all day, then on hearing St Elven's clock chiming nine o'clock 'running like hell' down the mountain to get home before the ninth strike!

So different from today, she muses, as we talk on a hot August afternoon in her home in Ansty.

The doctor was the only person to have a car in Aberdare when she was a child, and she can still hear the sound of the miners' hobnailed boots running for the bus to take them to work on the early morning shift. However, in spite of the lack of material goods – now taken for granted – there was a cultural richness in the valleys which for Norma was an integral part of her upbringing and her professional life as an opera singer and still lingers there when she sings with The Cuckoo Choir here in Cuckfield.

The Welsh lilt in her voice remains strong as she recalls singing in the 'big church' at Easter and the significant occasion of her first solo.

World War Two was drawing to a merciful close and to celebrate Mr and Mrs Edwards (the bank manager from down the road) dragged their piano into the street and Norma sang. "You should do something with that voice," Mr Edwards said to Norma's mother and so she did.

Rudimentary singing lessons, learning and practising the scales with one Mrs Alder at sixpence an hour on Saturday mornings began to shape her professional musical career and eventually open the doors to an international world of song which the little girl from Aberdare could never have imagined as she helped her mother clean the little mission church and sang with the Band of Hope.

But if a beautiful voice was going to be recognised anywhere, it was to be in the valleys of South Wales.

Norma began to widen her horizon, taking part and winning an Opportunity Knocks talent competition in Cardiff and singing in sacred operas produced by the music teacher from the local boys' secondary school. These were often supported by professional singers from London and so, inevitably and eventually, Norma takes the mighty step up to the metropolis to 'find her fortune' and become a professional singer. She was funded by the people of Aberdare with the princely sum of £5 a month paid into the Co-op Bank.

She recognised her contact at Paddington Station by a carnation buttonhole, and so began a period of time 'keeping the wolf from the door' by working at the Cardoma Coffee House, relying on friends of friends, and waiting for a break.

At one time she was sharing a bed with a London taxi driver – she slept at night, he during the day. She continued to sing as and where she could, at the Aldeburgh Festival, going on tour in Scotland with Opera for All, and then, one Friday, she was invited to audition for the Royal Opera Company at Covent Garden.

"It was Friday lunchtime at 12.30pm," she remembers

so vividly. "That was the busiest time of the week at the cafe but I was allowed to go and, unprecedented, took a taxi from Piccadilly to Covent Garden to arrive at the Audition Room opposite the Stage Door."

The audition, however, was not without complications. True to form they were running late. "But I have to be back at work," Norma firmly announced. At long last, awash with nerves the girl from Aberdare sang Mimi's Farewell from Puccini's *La Boheme* on the stage at Covent Garden! Although she was worrying throughout as to whether she would lose her job at the coffee house.

From the back of the room came the unexpected request to sing something else. Horrified at this Norma had to admit that she hadn't brought anything else. The beauty of her voice was recognised, the conductor of the chorus saying later: "That was the most beautiful rendering of Mimi's Farewell I have ever heard." So she was given a place in the Royal Opera chorus and began her thirty years with this internationally famous and highly prestigious opera company.

Covent Garden was different from the one many of us know today. It was a fruit and vegetable market and the Opera House was a valued part of this busy commercial environment.

Norma remembers the need to pick up the hems of long dresses to avoid the mud, and the porters tendency to sing along with them often revealing fine bass baritone and tenor voices. Once, during a rehearsal for Arnold Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*, they threw cabbages through the windows to indicate their dislike of this complex modern unfinished masterpiece!

She became a strong and highly respected member of the chorus. She was their Union Rep, a force to be reckoned with with a fiery tongue and a sharp wit, standing up for the rights and well-being of her chorus colleagues.

Norma sang with the great and famous and had her favourites.

Luciano Pavarotti brings a twinkle to her eyes as she recalls his love of football and his refusal to rehearse on Saturday mornings because it was then that he played for the Covent Garden football team.

I, too, am reminded of the King of the High C's singing *Nessum Dorma* at the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy. Her laughter is almost uncontrollable as she tells me about her wig disaster. Playing Suzuki, the handmaiden in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, at a crucial moment in the performance her traditional Japanese wig fell off and landed on the floor. Norma thought this was the end, but quick as a flash she bent down, stuck her head in the wig and the show went on.

Norma remembers Maria Callas with great love, affection and respect. In her famous role as Violetta in *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, Norma played the handmaiden who hands her the letter and so heard the reading of the letter many times. With genuine sadness and pain she describes her isolated and tragic death in Paris, almost making one think that Norma herself should have been there to comfort and befriend that amazing opera singer. She was, however, on stage the night Kathleen Ferrier collapsed during a performance of

At a crucial moment her wig fell off and landed on the floor. Quick as a flash Norma bent down, stuck her head in the wig and the show went on!

*Orpheus* from which she recovered sufficiently to finish her performance but died later in 1953 at the tragically early age of 41.

It is with ease and fondness that Norma talks about the musical stars of my life. Sir John Barbirolli, Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, George Solti, Sir Thomas Beecham trip off that Welsh tongue and show me what an extraordinary life she has led, travelling the world and performing alongside the finest musical artists of the 20th century in the most spectacular venues.

"More jewellery in the audience than on stage," she reflects, still with the joy, wonder and excitement that she must have felt when she first walked on to the stage at Covent Garden and heard the swish of the grand velvet curtains and the orchestra tuning up, thinking to herself 'I have arrived'.

I, however, am blessed with a more recent Cuckoo Choir memory to match her wealth of memories, as I can still hear Norma in her ninth decade singing the solo in Handel's *Lascia ch'io Pianga* one Friday afternoon at The Old School in Cuckfield... 'When the night is over the sun will rise again...'

So she graciously and positively answers the American poet Karle Wilson Baker's poignant question: 'Why may not I... Grow lovely growing old?' It is a privilege to know this charming talented lady and to have listened to the story of her extraordinary life.

Da iawn (well done) Norma Morgan.

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# We are very fortunate

## VILLAGE GREEN

**By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local**

That afternoon I walked in bliss – Nymans woods to be precise. It was one of those late September days when all is still and the sun is gentle, a golden bath of healing warmth. How blessed to be able to join with the happy, silver haired couples enjoying the beautiful gardens and the great vistas towards the Downs in the far distance. I took myself into the woods across the road where, in spring, all types and colours of azaleas and rhododendrons drown us in their perfume and in wonder at the perfected beauty of their blooms.

On this particular day the trees and vegetation were unmoving and quiet, not a breath of breeze. One could imagine deer in the undergrowth, squirrels around the trees in the dappled shade, birds singing but no, the green page was blank, keeping all its secrets.

Walking along the cleared ride in the stillness I became still too, thoughts silent, until the sense of being in another world, another place, a different dream allowed the pure joy of being to take hold.

Returning to the garden the quintessentially English flower borders overwhelmed the senses with a riot of bright colour of every hue delighting the eye and contrasting with the woodland green. Did I see a flash of red by the mossy stone fountain? A robin leaving his perch on the fountain edge to fossick under the hedge.

Sitting on a bench, much appreciated by the silver haired wrinkly that I am, it came to me just how important these moments in the natural world are. Studies have found that eco-consciousness, being aware of the natural world, walking, gardening, plays a part in alleviating mental health problems, depression being one of them.

Environmental Grief as we see pictures of the great whales dying stranded on the shore, hear about the massive destruction of flora, fauna and people by the extraction of shale oil in the pristine boreal forests of Alaska and the thought of fracking in our beautiful Sussex is somewhat eased too. In this great area with countryside all around we are very fortunate. If you can, take a walk and store up memories to last through the short winter days until spring bursts afresh in all its joy.

Fortunate, too, in the abundant harvest of local produce. Good news to share. One of the regulars at the Monthly Market, Michelle, has won two Great Taste Awards 2016 for her GAME ON range of savoury jellies celebrating the seasons and what the countryside has to offer.

Orange Jelly with Chilli and Cardamom sounds pretty tasty as does Red Wine Jelly with Thyme and Juniper Berries. Being vegetarian I shall sample with cheese rather than pheasant.

The next Cuckfield Local Food Market is on Saturday 12th November from 9.30am to 12.30pm in The Talbot courtyard.

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# 30 Years of Cuckfield Bonfire and Fireworks

## CUCKFIELD BONFIRE



By Steve Wilcock

There's been an additional buzz in the air during The Cuckfield Bonfire and Fireworks Committee meetings this year.

It's 30 years since the first Cuckfield Bonfire and Fireworks event (in its current form) was held – which makes this year's celebrations very special.

It may not be the oldest of bonfire celebrations, but the fact that many of today's committee members were there at the very beginning, means they can reflect on the rise in popularity of the Cuckfield event.

It is written into the constitution of the committee that all funds raised, after costs, go to young people in education. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of pounds have been raised for beneficiaries including Holy Trinity Primary School, Woodlands Meed (formerly Court Meadow and Newick House School), Kangaroos, Cuckfield Playgroup and the Cuckfield Museum.

The event now hosts more than 6,000 people at its beautiful Cuckfield Park location, courtesy of the Mayou family, and is one of the few local bonfire events to choreograph its fireworks to music.

There is, however, evidence unearthed by Cuckfield resident and local historian Andy Revell that bonfire celebrations on a grand scale have been hosted in Cuckfield since the 19th Century.

On 7th November 1890 the Agricultural Express reported:

*CUCKFIELD GUY FAWKES DAY. Guy Fawkes Day was not by any means forgotten, the Cuckfield Bonfire Society carrying out a very successful demonstration.*

*Shortly after seven the first procession was formed at the Rose and Crown. Headed by the Burgess Hill Fire Brigade and the Cuckfield Town Band the processionists, completely disguised in the most fanciful of costumes, carrying torches and accompanied by blazing tar-barrels, paraded the streets.*

*The costumes were of the most varied character—policemen, soldiers and sailors, Highlanders, Zulus, His Satanic Majesty, King Charles, Henry Vllls and other*

**Saturday 5th November 2016**

**Gates open 6pm**

**Bonfire lit 6.45pm**

**Fireworks to music 7.30pm**

*monarchs by the score, highwaymen, and many others.*

*A car contained Stanley (Mr. G. Elliott) and Emin Pasha (Mr. Lelligo), and a number of African followers. The car was decorated to represent a jungle scene. The procession marched to the King's Head Hotel and the White Hart Inn, and after brief rest, retraced its way back to the Rose and Crown. In a meadow close by the head quarters a bonfire was lit, and amid general rejoicing, much cheering, and display of fireworks, Guy Fawkes was consigned to the flames.*

While the procession no longer happens, the celebrations still begin with the burning an effigy of the great traitor, Guy Fawkes. In fact, several Guys, created by children of Holy Trinity Primary School are burned.

This year, visitors can expect the More FM roadshow to get things underway before the usual HUGE bonfire is lit. The sensational fireworks to music have been designed by PYRO 1, one of the UK's leading special effects companies, and are sure to fill the sky with spectacular colours, bangs, fizzes and whistles in time to music.

A whole host of charity food and drink stalls combine to make the Cuckfield Bonfire and Fireworks celebration a wonderful evening for the whole family.

For full and up to date details visit the website [www.cuckfieldbonfire.co.uk](http://www.cuckfieldbonfire.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook.





## Nine things you never knew about Guy Fawkes:

### 1. Guy Fawkes did not die from being hung, drawn and quartered

As he awaited his grisly punishment on the gallows, Fawkes leapt to his death. He actually died from a broken neck, although his body was subsequently quartered and his remains were sent to 'the four corners of the kingdom' as a warning to others.

### 2. Guy Fawkes was not the Gunpowder Plot's ringleader

There were 13 conspirators in the plot, which was masterminded by Robert Catesby. But it was Fawkes who was caught red-handed with 36 barrels of gunpowder, and for two days he was the only conspirator who the King's men had captured.

### 3. Guy Fawkes won the unlikely admiration of King James I

Even under torture, Guy Fawkes remained defiant. He withstood two full days of torture before he confessed to plotting to blow up Parliament.

His steadfast manner earned him the praise of King James, who described Fawkes as possessing 'a Roman resolution'.

### 4. Guy Fawkes was actually Protestant by birth

Despite becoming the greatest enemy of the Protestant establishment, Fawkes was, in fact, born into the faith. However, his maternal grandparents were recusant Catholics, who refused to attend Protestant services.

### 5. Guy Fawkes has an island named after him

To the north-west of Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands, a collection of two uninhabited, crescent-shaped islands is named Isla Guy Fawkes, or Guy Fawkes Island.

### 6. Guy Fawkes liked to be called by an Italian nickname

While he was abroad, he adopted the Italian variant of his name, becoming known as 'Guido'. This was thought to be an attempt to sound more continental and therefore more serious about his Catholic faith.

### 7. The Houses of Parliament are still searched once a year to make sure there are no conspirators hiding with explosives

Before the annual State Opening of Parliament, the Yeomen of the Guard search the Houses of Parliament to make sure there are no would-be conspirators hiding in the cellars.

### 8. The cellar that Fawkes tried to blow up no longer exists

It was destroyed in a fire in 1834 that devastated the medieval Houses of Parliament.

### 9. The gunpowder would have done little damage to Parliament

Some experts now claim that the 36 barrels of gunpowder had 'decayed', and would not have properly exploded even if ignited.



# November Food Market

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

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## This is your page

We love to include content which is specifically relevant to Bolnore Village.

If you know of someone who's done something worth shouting about, or want to promote an event to a wider community - do please email [editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk) before 28th October. We'd love to hear from you.

## Drinks at Woodies

Woodies Bar will be open as usual every Friday and Saturday evenings, 7-11pm.

The next Quiz Night is 22nd October (bar open at 7pm, quiz from 8pm).

## School parents run for a life-saver

Bolnore Village Primary School wanted to have the safety of a life saving defibrillator on site and so asked the parents group – Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School (FOBVPS) if they could raise the funds.

Co-chair Amie Cheverst said: "We thought it was a great thing to get involved in direct fundraising for, and this time we felt we could appeal to the parents and community."

Earlier in the month ten mums from the school competed in mud & obstacle events, crawling through the mud under barbed wire and wading through stench trenches up to our shoulders

The team event has so far raised £885! The fundraising is still open and all additional money is to go to first aid training for parents and carers and defib extras if we raise enough! [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Bolnoreschooldefib](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Bolnoreschooldefib)

Amie commented: "We hope that no one at our school or community needs to use the defibrillator, but we can all feel better knowing that we will have this amazing life saving equipment in our school soon."

Above left: The team of mums from left to right: Anna Rich, Hayley Sherrell, Roxie Grant, Amie Cheverst (FOBVPS co Chair), Maria Smith, Lisa Pendred, Victoria Young, Gili Brazier (Royal British legion - Major Series)  
Above right: Jo Roberts (FOBVPS Co Chair) and Caroline Avery (both did the warrior 7k)

## Outstanding Pre-School here

A Pre-School in Bolnore has recently been pleased to receive an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted.

Bolnore Village Pre-School started life in rented space within the primary school five years ago after owner Holly Armstrong decided to start her own Early Years education and childcare business. Together with Manager & teacher Fay Flude, the pair have seen the Pre-School grow, the staff team expand accordingly and a constant high demand for spaces for local two, three and four year olds.

Now situated in community premises at The Woodside Pavilion, the Pre-School has seen its Ofsted grading increase from 'Good' in its previous location, to 'Outstanding' in all four areas – Effectiveness of Leadership & Management; Quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare, and outcomes for children.

Holly commented: "The success of our Pre-School is not only down to management but also dependant upon the dedicated and enthusiastic staff team of eight who are loyal to the Pre-School and so generous with their time."

Given that the inspection took place at the very beginning of a new academic year, with lots of new children and families starting at the Pre-School, Holly, Fay and the entire staff team were overwhelmed by the result of the inspection and plan to celebrate in style!

Comments of congratulations and immense support from parents and carers have been flooding in since the report was published and simply confirmed families' views that the village has 'something very special on its doorstep'.

# Tommy Cook

## STORIES FROM THE GRAVES



In the second of our 'Stories from the Graves' features we follow the career of one of the county's finest sportsmen - Tommy Cook.

The first Brighton & Hove Albion player to win an England cap, Tommy also represented Sussex at cricket where he was described as a 'brilliant all-rounder'. Sadly, his life came to a tragic end just days before his 49th birthday.

With help from Cuckfield resident and Museum committee member Richard Constable we tell Tommy's story.

### By Claire Cooper

Thomas Edwin Reed Cook was born on 4th January 1901 at 30 South Street, Cuckfield, a son for Alfred and Eliza who ran the village sweet shop. He was educated at the village school, moving to York Place School in Brighton before studying at the Crystal Palace School of Engineering.

A natural sportsman, Tommy was fond of all ball games but especially tennis, cricket and football. At 12 years old he joined Cuckfield Football Club, playing regularly until war broke out and he joined the Royal Navy, aged just 16. During his time in the Navy, aboard HMS Glowworm, Tommy is said to have been awarded a gallantry medal for rescuing a shipmate from the waters off Archangel Harbour in northern Russia.

On returning to civilian life, Tommy became a structural engineer and fitter, and in August 1921 he joined Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club as an amateur. Tommy started off as a half back, but when he began to show signs of goal scoring prowess he switched to inside left, making his debut against Queens Park Rangers in September 1922.

A further move to centre forward showed Tommy's true potential and elevated him to the club's star player.

Tommy went on to make 209 appearances for the Albion, scoring 114 league goals including eight hat-tricks and still holds the club record. His exploits won him

an England cap against Wales in 1925, unheard of for a player outside the First Division. He was top scorer in the league in 1923/24, 1924/25 and 1927/28.

In 1929, after a series of injuries, Tommy left England to coach cricket in South Africa. He spent a year there before returning to England to play for Northfleet in the Southern League, before joining Bristol Rovers, scoring 21 goals in 42 games.

During the winter, keen to keep fit and to supplement his modest club wages, Tommy accepted a trial with Sussex County Cricket Club. Captain Arthur Gilligan commented that Cook had only one game for Cuckfield 2nd Eleven and the following week he was playing for his county! In Tommy's own words: "The Secretary of the Sussex County Cricket Club agreed to give me a trial at the county ground and after watching me for two hours, signed me on as a professional. Five weeks later I was included in the Sussex XI against Leicester."

Tommy's record shows what a fine cricketer he was. He played for Sussex for 16 seasons, scoring 20,000 runs with 32 centuries and was very unlucky not to have played for England.

Tommy Cook preferred cricket to football and said that he would play all the year round if possible. He explained the team feeling which had grown up in the Sussex side and wrote: "We of Sussex, all Sussex born

and bred, seem to have a county spirit that can never be quite so strong in teams of mixed counties and nationalities. This county spirit seems to give us a will to win stronger than the incentive of the £2 bonus."

Tommy was proud to score his first century at the 'home' of cricket, the Lord's ground. The highest score of his career was 278 runs made against Hampshire. On this occasion the Rev. F.L. Staples of Brighton wrote: 'I noticed that Tommy Cook wore his sweater whilst scoring the first 241 runs of his innings v. Hampshire, and this on a moderately warm day! Surely this is at least a Cricket Curiosity if not a record'. Another memorable moment of Tommy's career was scoring his 1,000th run in a season when playing against the Aussies in Hove.

Tommy's mother Eliza was his greatest supporter. Once, when he made a spectacular catch, she jumped up and shouted at the top of her voice: "I'm his mother!"

In 1925 Cook married Ivy Pratt in Cuckfield and the couple went on to have a son. However, the marriage fell apart following Cook's infidelity. The Daily Mail reported at the time: 'In the Divorce Court today Mrs Ivy Ethel Cook, of Ockley, was granted a decree nisi on the ground of the misconduct of her husband, Thomas Edwin Reed Cook, a professional cricketer and footballer, while he was engaged as a cricket coach in South Africa. The case was not defended, and Mrs Cook was granted the custody of the child of the marriage. Mrs Cook's case was that her husband went to South Africa in September, 1929, and on returning in the following April he confessed that he had lived with another woman during almost the whole time he had been there'.

The couple were divorced 30th April 1931. Later that year Cook married Gwendoline Smith.

In 1937, at the age of 36, Tommy decided not to continue with his sporting career and to pursue business interests in South Africa. His final game was against Lewes Priory playing alongside sporting stars such as Maurice Tate, Jim and Harry Parks and John and James Langridge.

In South Africa he combined coaching duties with running the Prince Alfred Hotel in Simonstown near Cape Town. He recalls fielding at a match at Worcester, South Africa, chasing a ball which was hit for six into the bush and confronting a huge cobra! Needless to say, the ball was recovered at a later date!

When the Second World War broke out Tommy joined the South Africa Air Force, and in 1943 he was involved in a tragic plane crash at an air school where several of his friends were killed. Tommy was badly injured and spent six months in hospital.

After the war, Tommy returned to England and became manager of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, taking over team affairs from Charlie Webb who became General Manager, for the season 1947-48. The Handbook for the 1947-48 season says: 'His appointment is a popular one and we were delighted to secure his services, feeling confident he will prove a real acquisition to our Club'. Sadly, Tommy could not recapture the success of his playing days and the club struggled near the foot of the table.

The final straw for the fans was a fourth successive

defeat without scoring a goal, 4-0 to Walsall at The Goldstone.

After the match, an angry crowd of around 500 demonstrated on the pitch in front of the West Stand. Defeat at Leyton Orient the following Saturday sealed Tommy's fate and marked the end of his long association with the club. Tommy was replaced by former England International Don Welsh.

At the same time, Tommy's health began to deteriorate and he went into a deep depression. On 11th January 1950, he took an overdose of sleeping tablets at his home in Cuckfield and died in the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton the following day – just days after his 49th birthday.

His death certificate reads: 'Poisoning by barbituric acid derivatives, self-administered while the balance of his mind was disturbed'.

The Sussex Daily News reported: 'He was laid to rest in a grave at Cuckfield Parish Church, where as a boy he sang in the choir. The funeral was attended by boyhood friends and those who knew him and played with him in his prime as a sportsman'.

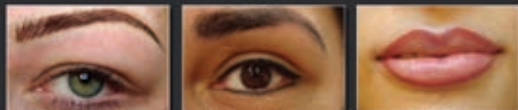
Following the inquest, the Daily News reported The Tommy had taken an overdose of sleeping tablets and was found unconscious in bed by his mother. He had also been suffering from chronic bronchitis and heart trouble and had been prescribed sleeping tablets after suffering from insomnia.

A reporter from The Cricket Society later wrote: 'On hearing that Tommy Cook is buried in Cuckfield churchyard with his father, I went there one day and thought how right it was that a fine Sussex cricketer should lie in the heart of the Sussex Weald, with the South Downs gazing across at him'. He added: 'In the winter of 1974-75, when England's batsmen were falling before Lillee and Thomson, Cook's son Roger had been to look for his father's grave and an old gardener had asked if he could help. On being told who Roger's father was, he said, 'Gor! Couldn't we do with him in Australia now! If Tommy Cook could have heard, how pleased he would have been'.

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## Tom Mitchell: Star of Rugby's World Sevens

By David Mortimer

We knew from last month's issue of Cuckfield Life that we were rooting for Cuckfield-born Tom Mitchell and the GB Rugby Sevens team in the Olympics, but could only keep our fingers crossed. Well, as we now know, Tom led them to a magnificent achievement, beating New Zealand, Argentina and South Africa among others en route to the final and a silver medal. Sevens is a new sport in the Olympic roster but proved itself a fast and thrilling one that will undoubtedly boost its already considerable worldwide following.

It would be nice to claim Tom as our very own Olympic hero, but the family moved soon after he was born in the old hospital and he played his first rugby at East Grinstead and then Worth School. No matter. Why should we not bask in reflected glory, and in any case he tells me his sister lives in Cuckfield, so we still have links!

At Bristol University and Oxford he played mainly 15-a-side rugby, and indeed scored the 3rd and decisive try that beat Cambridge in the 2011 Varsity match. But like many 15s players he enjoyed a game of sevens on the side and - as he told me when we chatted on the phone from Nice airport on his way home from a well-deserved holiday - in one such game he was talent-spotted. Out of the blue he was given his first opportunity to step on to the ladder of professional rugby by way of the Performance Squad, an intense but invaluable means of climbing up it, if you're good enough and learn quickly

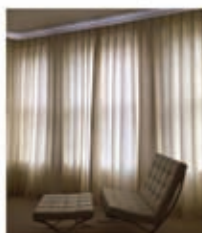
England's Rugby Sevens squad of 22 is contracted to the RFU and trains together throughout the year. Tom's first England call-up came in early 2012, and just two years later he was made skipper having, in the 2013-14 World Series, scored 358 points, almost a hundred more than Fiji's Viriviri.

The growth of international Sevens in the past few years has been astonishing. The 2016-17 World Series involves ten tournaments in a six-month period from December to May, starting in Dubai, finishing in London and taking in South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, the USA and France. Phew! As Tom says, this is 'incredibly taxing and takes a huge toll in one of the toughest sports in the world'. There is jet lag to cope with, not to mention injury (he broke his ankle in a game last year). Perhaps most of all there is the mental challenge of building up to two days of competition with three 20-minute, high-speed games on each day in which the slightest lapse in concentration can cost you the crucial score or even the series.

If you can stand the mental and physical pace I guess you could say it's a good way to see the world. In Tom's case it's led to a list of achievements that's already mighty impressive and played a big part in establishing Sevens as one of the most rapidly growing sports worldwide. So why shouldn't Cuckfield warm itself in a smidgeon of that reflected glory!

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# Museum to host WWI talk

Sussex during World War I is the title of a talk which takes place on Thursday 10th November at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Queen's Hall, Cuckfield.

Hosted by Cuckfield Museum, the illustrated talk is by historian Ian Everest. Using period photographs Ian looks at daily life in 'front line' Sussex at a time when the county became a welfare supply depot for the Western Front.

To reserve a place phone Mike Nicholson  
01444 457448.

Cuckfield Museum's latest exhibition, 'Full Steam Ahead!', celebrating the arrival of the railway in Haywards Heath 175 years ago, will continue until the Museum closes for its winter break on 10th December at 12.30pm.

The museum's opening hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-12.30pm and Saturday 10-3pm.

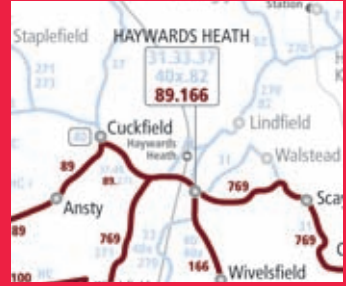
# Sale of "theSussexBus" routes to Compass Travel

Compass Travel (Sussex) Limited, one of the UK's leading independent bus operators, is pleased to announce that it has signed an agreement to take over the routes currently operated by theSussexBus in Mid Sussex.

theSussexBus felt it was the right time to make this decision, following the loss of its premises at Burgess Hill for housing development and the decision of a Senior Advisor to retire. It was thought that Compass, as an established operator in the area, would be best placed to secure the future of the services.

Chris Chatfield, Managing Director of Compass Travel said: "I am delighted to have reached a mutual agreement with theSussexBus to continue these routes as part of our expanding network."

All theSussexBus routes have been taken over with effect from Saturday 1st October 2016. Apart from just one change to Route 33 Saturdays, routes and timetables will be unchanged. Monthly/weekly tickets issued by theSussexBus will be accepted by Compass until expiry.



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# Help needed please to continue free concerts

By Hannah Carter

I have been running the free lunchtime concert series at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield for over three years. These concerts are always very popular and attract a varied audience including local pre-schoolers (and their dog) to the retired! Concerts feature young professional musicians and local players and have recently included Alex Rider (harp), Paul Gregory (guitar) and Pavlos Carvalho (cello) to name a few.

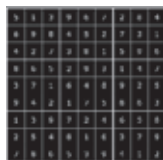
With a busy family life to juggle and other work commitments I really need help to keep this important series of concerts going. Please do contact me or Holy Trinity Church Office if you can help with designing posters, distributing posters, writing press releases and serving refreshments. With concerts only taking place once a month this is not a massive commitment.

Please let me know if you can help. My email is: hannah.carter@me.com

By the way, the next free lunchtime concert is on Friday 4th November, at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield with pianist Nancy Cooley. Soup served from 12.30pm and concert starts at 1pm.

## Sudoku #4

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



<< #3 Solution

Find the solution to #4 in next month's magazine

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

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# What's on this month

## AT QUEEN'S HALL

### Monday

- 9.30am **Pilates** (intermediate)  
10.30am **Pilates** (beginners)  
11am **Diet & Fitness Class**  
7.30pm **Dog Training** (ring craft)

### Tuesday

- 9.15am **Pre-School Football**  
9.30am **Music Class for Children**  
1.30pm **Yoga**  
3.45pm **Dance Classes for Children**  
6.30pm **Dog Training** (obedience)  
7pm **Pregnancy Relaxation Class**

### Wednesday

- 9.30am **Music Class for Children**  
10am **Stroke Support Activities**  
12.30pm **Zumba Dance Class**  
1.30pm **Line Dancing Class**  
4pm **Dance Classes for Children**  
8pm **Ballroom Dance Club**

### Thursday

- 9.30am **Balance Class for Children**  
7pm **Dance Class**

### Friday

- 9.30am **Music Class for Children**  
7pm **Evening Flower Club** (2nd Friday/month)  
7.30pm **Historic Vehicle Trust** (1st Friday/month)

Changes may occur to the above details. Please note contact details for all regular classes/activities are available on the Notice Board at the Queen's Hall.

### October

- 22nd **NSPCC Autumn Fair** – 10am-12.30pm  
Variety of stalls, coffee, free entry
- 26th- **On Golden Pond production** – 8pm
- 29th A modern classic of American theatre by Ernest Thompson, performed by Cuckfield Dramatic Society. It is brilliantly witty and humorous while an undercurrent of heartbreak and suppressed emotion lies beneath. (Tickets available from Marcus Grimes or Wealden Stores)

### November

- 10th **Cuckfield Museum Talk** – 2.30pm  
'Sussex during the WWI' – an illustrated talk by historian Ian Everest. Using period photographs Ian looks at daily life in front line Sussex at a time when the county became a welfare supply depot for the Western Front.  
(Please book a place via Mike Nicholson, 01444 457448 or events@cuckfieldmuseum.org)
- 11th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** – 7.30pm  
Flowers for Fun

## AND ELSEWHERE

### October

- 18th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm  
Baptist Church, Polestub Lane. AGM
- 19th **Mid Sussex Decorative & Fine Arts Soc.** – 10.15am  
The Corked Conjuror: Comedy, Contempt and Credulity in Georgian England. Lecture by Ian Keable. Non members welcome, £7 on the door
- 19th- **The Weald of Sussex Art Club Annual Exhibition**  
22nd The Martlets Hall, Burgess Hill
- 21st **ISOC Mayor's Election Night** – 8pm  
The Talbot
- 22nd **Mayor's Procession** – leaves at 2pm  
Throughout the village
- 23rd **ISOC Village Service** – 9.45am  
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield
- 26th **Royal British Legion Women's Section** – 2.30pm  
The Old School, Cuckfield. AGM
- 29th **Coffee Morning** – 10.30am-12.30pm  
Ansty Village Hall: Teas, coffees, cakes, tombola, gifts, jewellery - all sold in aid of the Village Hall rebuild (01444 413061)

### November

- 1st **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – 10.15am  
Franklands Village Hall  
Heads and Tails by Derrik Hughes
- 4th **Lunchtime Concert** – 1pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield  
Free concert with pianist Nancy Cooley  
Soup served from 12.30pm
- 4th **Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Soc.** – 8pm  
Illustrated monthly talk: Hawaiian Volcanoes by Peter Moore (admission free 01444 483041)
- 5th **Cuckfield Bonfire** – 5.30pm  
Cuckfield Park: Fireworks to music  
(Tickets: £7, U16s £5, parking £2)
- 12th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm  
The Talbot Courtyard
- 12th **The Mineral Show** – 10am-4.30pm  
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath  
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Sew Beautiful .....	39
C&G Plumbers.....	40
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Cuckfield Golf Centre .....	16
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Book-A-Gift.....	40

## Out & About

Spice Village .....	9
Ardingly Choral Society .....	18
Haywards Heath Music Society .....	19
Orion Cinema .....	25
Haywards Heath Golf Club .....	26
Wakehurst Place .....	27
Cuckfield Baptist Church.....	27
Cuckfield Local Food Market.....	34

## Education/Childcare

Gielgud Academy.....	2
Norto5 Kidz (daycare) .....	3
Kiddi Caru (day nursery) .....	4
Tinkerbells Music .....	5
Codanza (dance) .....	19
Gracie Grooves (dance studio) .....	21

## Health/Lifestyle

The Alternative Healthcare.....	6
Action for Deafness.....	15
Talk for Change (therapy) .....	31
The Pennington Clinic.....	38
The Style Lounge .....	41

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