

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #35 : Sep/Oct '15

Free

A photograph of a street scene in Cuckfield. A woman with blonde hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, patterned trousers, and a dark backpack, is walking past a shop window. She is pushing a black and yellow stroller. A young boy in a blue t-shirt and a blue cap is standing in front of the shop window, looking inside. The shop window is decorated with Union Jack bunting and has a sign that says 'BUSINESS FOR SALE'. The building is made of red brick and white stone.

Amazing shopping in Cuckfield

page 16

Your mayoral candidates

page 10

Plus local news and what's on

page 4

MANSELL McTAGGART

ESTATE AGENTS SINCE 1947

A selection of properties currently for sale in and around the village



CUCKFIELD
5 bed detached house
£1,200,000



WARNINGLID
4 bed detached house
£1,100,000



CUCKFIELD
4 semi detached house
£595,000



CUCKFIELD
3 bed semi-detached
£575,000



CUCKFIELD
4 bed detached house
£499,950



CUCKFIELD
3 bed semi-detached
£499,950



CUCKFIELD
3 bed semi detached
£425,000



ANSTY
2 bed apartment
£227,000



CUCKFIELD
3 bed semi-detached
£315,000

For more information about any of the above properties for sale or to arrange a free valuation please call Richard Butler on 01444 417600 or email us at cf@mansellmctaggart.co.uk

Preferential selling rates for Cuckfield residents.

The Nook, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5JX Tel: 01444 417600
Email: richardbutler@mansellmctaggart.co.uk
17 Branches across Sussex

www.mansellmctaggart.co.uk

Also at 119 Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1 - www.guildproperty.co.uk



EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Hello dear reader! I'm pleased to report this to be a packed issue of Cuckfield Life - with lots to talk about in September.

We take a good hard look at your **mayoral candidates** on **page 10**. This event is a great bit of fun in the annual Cuckfield calendar. If you had no idea that Cuckfield had it's own mayor - our article should go some way to explain the concept, which is 50 years old this year. Well done to **Paul Leppard, Leanne Knapman, Ross Bradshaw, Ken Gregory** and, of course, the outgoing **Rob Helliwell** for all standing for 2015. We look forward to seeing who comes out on top!

I take a trip around the village on **page 16** as I visit the local shops and what they have to offer. The research for this piece was fascinating, and genuinely surprised me as to how much is available right here on **Cuckfield's High Street**. Check out the article and see the listings of some fab shops which follow.

I'm delighted that the former Holy Trinity School secretary **Liz Woods** has been speaking with Claire Cooper about her story. Having been at the school for quarter of a century she knows all about Cuckfield. Read her story on **page 24**.

Don't forget, if you know of other **amazing people** from the village who live on your street, go to your pub or clean your windows, we would love to hear about them. As well as the usual **cover photos** of Cuckfield and any news that you know is coming up. Contact details are below.

I would also ask that when you use the services of advertisers from our pages, that you please **mention Cuckfield Life** at the time. These advertisers make this community conversation happen and so its important for me (and them) that they know customers are finding them right here on our pages.

Have a great month! Until next time...

Issue #35 - Sep/Oct 2015 -
3,500 copies printed

Next magazine copydate:
28th September 2015

Next magazine published:
15th October 2015

Cuckfield Life

The Barn, Hurstwood Grange,
Hurstwood Lane, Haywards
Heath, West Sussex, RH17 7QX
Telephone 01444 884115
www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Editor: David Tingley
Assistant: Claire Cooper
<editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk>
Advertising: David Tingley
<ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk>

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within the magazine are of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the editors. Whilst the editors welcome contributions & photographs, this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to include them and that the item may be edited & that there is no breach of copyright. Neither the editors nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement.

Cuckfield Life
Published by Kipper



David Tingley
A family browsing on the
High Street

norto5 kidz Pre-school Daycare Nursery

Call us today!



For..
-Flexible Booking Arrangements
-Flexible use of Free Entitlement

www.norto5kidz.com
0845 004 5226

Lindfield Cuckfield Burgess Hill
Hickmans Lane Whitemans Green The Brooks

Dave 'G'
Painting & Decorating
Carpentry & Joinery
Gardening
Shed Re-Felting
Tiling and more...

Quality Workmanship
Experienced, Reliable
and Friendly Service
Fully Insured
Free Estimates

Mob: 07719358174
Home: 01444 246538
Email: dgasson3@aol.com

NEWS

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

Where have the thermometers gone?

By Clive Simmonds, fundraising chairman

For the past two years a thermometer has stood outside Holy Trinity church and on the wall of the Talbot showing not temperature but the extent of the debt remaining for the improvements to the church building and the purchase of the curate's house.

Because of the many successful events and the additional giving by our members we have kept up with the required payback period for our loans.

As we no longer need the curate's house it has been sold. The Diocese of Chichester has agreed that we can use the net proceeds to repay our outstanding loan from the Clydesdale Bank.

We set ourselves a target of repaying all our loans by 2017. Our debt reduced dramatically over the summer, leaving us with an outstanding debt of £68k after taking into account other receipts.

We have decided that it is time to signal that the church can move on to address new challenges, so we have removed the two thermometers.

Whilst this is a happy sign of progress, there is still much to be done to repay the remaining loans of £68k. With friends and supporters in the community we will continue to welcome the use of the church building, the largest enclosed space in the village, for a variety of events.

We hope that no one misses the thermometers (there will still be a small version in the church) and that people will share the good news. The debt is not fully off the agenda but it does not now have to be quite so prominent! Watch out for further exciting and enjoyable fundraising events in the coming months.





SUNDAY SPECIAL

4 COURSE MEAL for £11.95 pp

Including any starter any main any side dish any rice or any nan you can choose from the main menu.
(King prawn mixed grill salmon fish £2.50 extra)

Tel: 01444 441 373 or 01444 451 123
Spice Village, 1 Ockenden Lane, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5LD

Open 7 days a week 5.30-10.30pm
www.spicevillagecuckfield.co.uk • Takeaway available •



NHS AUDIOLOGY SERVICES

Using the most advanced digital hearing aids available

Action for Deafness 

For more information, please contact our head office:
☎ 01444 415582 📠 01444 415587 📞 01444 415593
✉ info@actionfordeafness.org.uk
🌐 www.actionfordeafness.org.uk

22 Sussex Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4EA

Charity No. 1122579 Company No. 6205458

MAKING THINGS HAPPEN for Deaf and hard of hearing people







Trust seeks wildlife photos

Sussex Wildlife Trust is looking for beautiful and awe inspiring wildlife and landscape photographs to grace the pages of their 2016 online calendar. The subject matter is entirely your choice, providing it follows the theme 'My Wild Sussex'.

Choose the wild places that are special to you – maybe the Downs, woodlands or a favourite urban nature spot where wildlife thrives.

First prize is £100 cash and the runner-up will receive a set of four Mark Greco mugs. Pictures taken by the 12 finalists will appear in The Trust's 2016 online calendar, and the overall winning image will feature in their members' magazine and on their website.

You can enter up to five images. Once the Trust's judges have selected the 12 finalists, the overall winner will be voted for by the public. Closing date for receipt of entries is 30th September 2015.

Upload your images to: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/photo-competition or post a CD to: Richard Cobden, Photography Competition, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9SD.

ForgetMeNot run / walk

Following the success of last year, a local family are organising the fourth Angus Rowland ForgetMeNot walk starting and finishing at Staplefield Village Hall on 4th October.

The walk is open to all comers and there will be a choice of two local walks, a 6.5 mile walk on muddy rural footpaths or a one mile walk mainly on roads. Registration will start at Staplefield village hall at 9am for walkers and 10am for runners. Participants can register on the day. A form is attached which can be downloaded and completed in advance, or online at the following link: <http://bit.ly/1Nn0zhN>

We are suggesting a donation of £10 adult & £5 child under 14. This will include a T-shirt. However, if you have one from a previous walk we ask that you bring this along. Dogs are welcome but must be under control as livestock maybe present along the walk. Refreshments will be available throughout the morning in the village hall. So do join us for a quick cuppa if you cannot make the walk. All are welcome.

For further information contact angusfmn@brantridge.co.uk or visit our regularly updated Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AngusRowlandFMNFund

Protect your new bathroom

Keep it clean the easy way.



Enduro Shield

'EnduroShield Home' is a revolutionary invisible coating that repels water, oil, grime and dirt.

- Once only application
- Apply DIY or by professional
- Makes cleaning a breeze
- 3 year guarantee on existing tiles and glazing



WORKS ON GLASS TOO!

Call David on 01444 410738 or 07975 946720 to buy DIY kits or talk about professional applications in your home.

www.spearandshield.co.uk

Permanent Protective Coatings for all Glass (showers, solar panels, windows), Tiles, Grout & Stainless Steel

Murder, mystery and a bit of mayhem

Cuckfield Dramatic Society (CDS) presents an ingenious and comical modern mystery this October. *Silhouette*, by Sussex based master of the whodunit Simon Brett, is a witty and amusing crime story, with his sly humour adding a sharp edge to a death by gunshot!

Sussex resident Brett is a highly respected crime writer, with a prolific output including both the Charles Paris and Feathering novels.

Director Paul Davey said: "I've been a fan of Simon Brett's crime novels and comic writing for some years and am delighted to be bringing this murder mystery to Cuckfield. As well as being an intriguing 'whodunit' the play is also great fun, and the cast are enjoying learning the witty and sharp dialogue. We are all sure that the audience will agree!"

See the CDS Facebook page for details of how to win two free tickets to *Silhouette*.

Silhouette is performed at the Queen's Hall from 28th - 31st October. Note, there is no Saturday evening performance scheduled - just a matinee. Tickets can be bought online or from Mansell McTaggart and Wealden Stores.



Charity Golf Day Report

By Ken Gregory

They say the sun shines for the righteous and it did for me when I held my Charity Golf Day at Haywards Heath Golf Club on the 28th August as it had rained for most of the week.

Twenty eight keen golfers turned out to play, starting with a bacon roll and coffee before enjoying their round in the sunshine and with a lot of good scores at the end.

The winners with a cumulative score of 86 points were Pat Gallagher, Kevin Constable, Paul Turner and Graham Jauns.

Then it was back to the Rose & Crown for a lovely two course meal served up by head chef Simon Dennis. The day finished with an auction and raffle with all prizes donated by local people and businesses, whom I would to thank.

So a very successful day all round, with funds raised which will be announced after the Election.

I finish by thanking Arden Grange Pet Foods in Albourne for sponsoring the day.

Ginkgo
Garden Solutions

Garden Design & MAINTENANCE THROUGHOUT SUSSEX

Plan
Design
Build
Grow

07941 798145
www.ginkgogardensolutions.co.uk
mark@ginkgogardensolutions.co.uk
facebook.com/GinkgoGardenSolutions

Twitter Facebook BNI LinkedIn



10 Pieces Education Project – calling all musicians!

By **Hannah Carter, Ensemble Reza**

We are thrilled to be working with partners West Sussex Music and the Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra on a very exciting education and community project this autumn.

The BBC Ten Pieces programme aims to open up the world of classical music to young people. We plan to develop this initiative by inviting adults to get involved as well!

Working with seven local schools, we will be running composition workshops for students to create their own musical response to the Ten Pieces. These pieces will be performed by students at the Ten Pieces Festival Concert on Thursday 26th November at The King's Church at 7pm.

Together with Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra, we also plan to set up a Ten Pieces Community Orchestra for all ages and abilities. This orchestra will learn some of the Ten Pieces repertoire (arranged for players of all abilities) and perform these pieces at the Festival Concert. Players will benefit from the expertise of Ensemble Reza and have the opportunity to play alongside these professionals as well as members of BHSO. This is a great opportunity to dust off your instrument and perform with your friends and family!

The Community Orchestra rehearsals will take place on Sunday 18th October, Sunday 22nd November (both at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield) and Tuesday 24th November at The King's Church, Burgess Hill.

To take part in this unique project or for further information, please contact hannah.carter@ensemblereza.com. Places will cost: £20 for adults and £10 for children (under the age of 18).



October Food Market

Sat 10th Talbot Courtyard

9:30am-12:30pm

Your village market, run by local volunteers, celebrating great local food

For market updates follow us on Twitter @Cuckfield Local www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com

Hairworks

Hairworkscuckfield.co.uk
01444 417170



Old Talbot House
High Street
West Sussex
Rh175jx

Ladies & Gents
Late Nights
Cut & Finish from £28
Free Parking
Open Mondays

Cuckfield *Life*



**Don't forget:
Tell them you
saw their
advert here!**

Our fabulous advertisers make
your magazine possible

Gardenia Vintage Tea House



1 Broad Street Cuckfield West Sussex RH17 5LJ
07776 772020 E-mail: gardeniateahouse@live.com
Facebook.com/gardeniateahouse

Bringing Back the Charm of Yesteryear Today

Speciality Loose Leaf Teas, Cream Teas,
Homemade Cakes and Scones, Light Lunches
Vegetarian and Pescatarian Menu
Afternoon Tea Licensed Premises
Private Parties, Events and Venue Hire
Vintage Photobooth Vintage Crockery Hire
Secluded Smoke Free Courtyard. Dogs Welcome

**Gardenia Vintage Tea House – ‘The Great
Escape’!**



Richard Allan

Fencing and Landscape Management

All aspects of fencing and fence repairs
post and rail, close board, panels, palisade etc.
Gates, garden clearance, hedge cutting,
animal enclosures, vegetable beds etc.

Fully insured, references available

Call for a FREE estimate 07766 008094
or email: richardallanfencing@outlook.com



**R H
Cuckfield
Pest Control
and
Cuckfield
Mole Control
01444-420031**

Incorporating
Sussex Mole Control & The Wasp Man
Qualified & Insured
Domestic, Commercial, Agricultural
Bee swarm removal by a Beekeeper

01444-420031

A good sign for property
sales in Cuckfield

**marcus
grimes**
estate agents

SOLD



First for sales and lettings in
Cuckfield for the last 25 years

Call one of our team on 01444 451818.
Or visit www.marcusgrimes.co.uk

Goodbye Mayor Rob

ISOC MAYORAL ELECTION



Photo: Nick Judd

Every year the good folk of Cuckfield vote for their Independent State of Cuckfield (ISOC) Mayor in the only way they know how; votes are bought at £1 per vote! Every penny goes to good causes, and the money is distributed by the new Mayor along with the ISOC. This year the 50th Anniversary of Mayoral elections is celebrated.

To help you decide we sent Kate Fleming to meet all five candidates from across the community standing for Mayor, all representing your local pubs and organisations. Who will you support? Your vote will count and help local organisations, groups and charities.

So join in the fun on Friday 16th October at 8pm at The Wheatsheaf in Broad Street and the next day for the Mayoral Procession through the village.

PAUL LEPPARD

Twice lucky for The Wheatsheaf?

Paul Dominic Leppard is The Wheatsheaf candidate for Mayor. He hopes to be the one to receive the robes from his friend and landlord Rob Helliwell for this 50th year.

He has been a Cuckfield resident for most of his 53 years. As a toddler he lived above what is now Lloyds Chemist in the High Street, where his Father ran the pharmacy.

He has been involved in supporting previous campaigns, not least the one of the current Mayor, so he knows the eccentricities of mayoral voting!

He volunteered to stand as The Wheatsheaf candidate in order to increase the number of available choices for people to place their 'financial' votes.

His mission, if elected, will be focused on the wellbeing of village life and the continuation of the many events, organisations and groups that enhance our lives and make Cuckfield so special.

Think about his campaign message: 'Vote for somebody rather than nobody, as the money raised goes to very worthy causes. Also, there's always an alternative- you know it still makes sense!'



ROB HELLIWELL

Mayor of Cuckfield prepares to hand over

Mayor Helliwell, Rob, Landlord of The Wheatsheaf pub in Broad Street, was elected last October and has worn the robes with charm, humour and pride. He now prepares to hand over his mayoralship.

He has officiated at various occasions; opening the Cuckoo Fayre, lighting the bonfire and enjoying Christmas fare with the pensioners are just some of the events that have been graced by his presence. At the Walking Race on Easter Monday, not only did he participate, collecting a decent time, but also donned the claret cloak to present the trophies. He welcomed Penelope Keith to The Wheatsheaf during the filming of Cuckfield in the More4 series 'Penelope Keith's Secret Villages'.

He raised a substantial amount of money to become Mayor and donated generously to his charities.

On Friday 16th October he will host the election evening at The Wheatsheaf and hand the robes over to the new Mayor for the 50th anniversary year.



LEANNE KNAPMAN

Young mother. Cuckfield born and bred.

Leanne Knapman is the busy working mother of Declan, Mollie and Cady who, amazingly, finds the time to contribute to and support village life. She has stood for Mayor for The White Hart on many occasions but this 50th year is clearly in her sights. She wants those robes!



Born and brought up in Cuckfield, she is a member of the Murphy dynasty. If you look on the Mayor's Board in the Queen's Hall you will see the names of her Grandad, Dad, Mum, Uncle and Cousin all gilded there across time, and Leanne wants to join that impressive mayoral family list.

By her own admission she loves raising money to help local groups, especially those that rely on donations from organisations such as The Independent State of Cuckfield. So she is working hard to think up ways in which to encourage people to contribute to her campaign to become Mayor of Cuckfield.

As Mayor she would continue to play an energetic role in village activities for all members of the community and strive to strengthen and promote the work of voluntary organisations and groups.

Leanne loves a party too, and for her the Mayor's Election weekend, 16th-18th October, is one of the highlights of the year. It is one long celebration when the village goes 'en fete' and Leanne Knapman would love to be right at the centre of these unique events.

KEN GREGORY

Double celebration?

Ken Gregory is going for his fourth campaign for Mayor. Successful three times he knows that this one is truly special.

In July 1966, 50 years ago, Ken Gregory arrived in Cuckfield and in October 1966, 50 years ago, The Independent State of Cuckfield was born and Joe Mitchell was elected the first mayor.



So 2015-2016 he feels belongs to him.

He has used the 3 years of his retirement from Southern Water to contribute to village life as both a member of the Parish Council and currently the meticulous treasurer of The Independent State of Cuckfield committee.

He belongs to Cuckfield; always supportive and the first to volunteer to help whoever calls and whatever needs to be done.

His mission, if elected, is to preserve the unique nature of the village. He will continue to fight against the constant stream of lorries damaging roads, pavements and historic buildings, and help to develop the thriving growing community that is Cuckfield 2016 – 50 years on!

A keen golfer and member of the Cuckfield Golf Society, his charity Golf Day is a rewarding fundraiser and an important event in the calendar.

He is standing for The Rose and Crown, who are enthusiastically active and proud of their experienced candidate.

A grandfather three times and married to Doreen for 44 years, he has to be in the running for the Mayor of The Independent State of Cuckfield in this its 50th year.

ROSS BRADSHAW

Curtain up Ross

The question that hovers around Ross Bradshaw as candidate for Mayor is "Who is Standing? Ross or his lovely retired racing greyhound Pirate?"

They're often seen together (see photograph taken at the Cuckoo Fayre Dog Show 2015) striding through the village or cosily installed in one of the local hostelries, Pirate on the sofa and Ross by the bar!



In comparison with the other candidates Ross is a newcomer to the village.

He works from home and lives on the High Street, so is 'on site' 24/7! He is standing for the Cuckfield Dramatic Society, having been a keen amateur thespian since he arrived in Cuckfield five years ago. He is always there; on stage, back stage, front of house, you will find him full of enthusiasm and energy.

He is busy raising funds to support his campaign, so if he sounds like your mayor then nourish his collection boxes in the village pubs.

If elected he will continue to preserve the charm of the village by fighting the traffic problems: parking, HGVs, damaged roads and eruped pavements.

He will also pursue, on behalf of Pirate, 'Dog Gates' which enable large dogs to pass, unaided, into the Sussex meadows and woods that surround our beautiful village.

So come on Dog Lovers, Theatregoers and High Street residents, this is looking like your mayor!

Key Dates:

Fri 16th Oct – Mayor's Election Night

8pm, The Wheatsheaf Inn

Sat 17th Oct – Mayor's Procession

2pm, High Street, starting from Warden Park Academy

What's in the water?

VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Sitting by my little pond one sunny Sunday recently, cuppa nearby and biscuit in hand, I was idly watching the fish swimming in the clear water. Something surprising caught my eye around the pond weed. Taking a closer look I saw a tiny fish, a couple of centimetres long, closely followed by two more. A shoal of fishlets! Schubert, Orpheus, Gracie, Shadow and Jack Flash have been with me for several years but never before has there been offspring. What was different this year? Could it be because 'my' frogs are no more, having succumbed to the renavirus wiping out frogs, toads and newts in some parts of the UK? I had noticed that Gracie the goldfish had been chasing Schubert the shubunkin around but thought little of it. Whoops! The sex of the fish had not counted when I named them. This just shows that you can't judge a fish by its scales. I had thought cross-breeding in this way was not possible but found that shubunkins are calico goldfish, so that accounts for the babies.

It makes a change to be writing around water. Air is crucial to us and to the bees and pollinators that we support with our Bee Friendly to Pollinators Campaign. Our wild flower bed in the Recreation Ground has been magnificent this summer and has been a good place to do the Great British Butterfly Count. My garden has hosted a small number this year and now I can distinguish a painted lady from a small tortoiseshell and several more besides. Never too late to learn something new.

Moving on to earth, it is concerning to learn from the Soil Association that the maize crop is causing widespread environmental damage. Maize is grown for animal food and fuel through anaerobic digestion and is usually harvested late in the year when soils are wet. Heavy rain water running off the surface of compacted, damaged fields pollutes waterways with pesticide and nutrients and causes floods.

Earth, air, fire and water, where would we be without them? We wouldn't, would we? All the more reason to honour, respect and cherish the natural world. An old proverb says 'a farmer should live as though he were going to die tomorrow but farm as though he were going to live for ever'. Everything we do leaves an impact and a legacy. What's yours?

Visitors to the August Cuckfield Local Food Market will have noticed that some of our regular stall holders were absent. Game is out of season for a while and summer holidays accounted for the others. Don't despair. All your favourites will be back with us on 10th October in the courtyard of The Talbot. The Market runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Good news! Buyers of Lesley's yummy jams and marmalade will be pleased to know that she will give you a 25p refund on your returned clean jam jars if you bring them to her stall.



InsideOut
home and garden improvements Ltd
Your vision. Our project. Your future.

At InsideOut we offer a range of services for both the Garden & Home & take personal pride in all our projects - All of which are executed with exceptional care & precision.

Inside:	Out:
Internal Reconfigurations	Driveway & Patios
Kitchens & Bathrooms	Fencing & Trellising
Garage Conversion	Decking & Lawns
Property Maintenance	Garden Clearance
Decorating	Landscape Design

Call Paul Greenyer today
on 07949 671951
or 01444 456831

 
www.homegardendesign.co.uk
www.facebook.com/InsideoutHomeandGardens

SUSSEX WEALTH MANAGEMENT LIMITED
WEALTH MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS



A wealth of expertise on your doorstep

We provide an experienced wealth management service and offer specialist advice in a wide range of areas including:

- Investment planning
- Retirement planning
- Inheritance Tax planning

For further details contact Michele or Ross on:

Tel: 01444 458197
Michele Mobile: 07984 448526
Ross Mobile: 07985 911364

Email: sussexwm@sjpp.co.uk
Website: www.sussexwealthmanagement.com

Introducing...



A dedicated and specialised
Pre-school for 3-5 year old
children based in Cuckfield.

Come and see us!!

0845 004 5226
www.norto5kidz.com/acf





Bolnore enjoys a charity Cream Tea

On Friday 6th August tables at the Woodside were beautifully laid with pretty tablecloths, flowers and 'vintage' china for a fundraising cream tea. Doreen Pedder and Alison Armstrong had arranged Cream Teas in a Box from Horsham-based charity Action Medical Research for Children. Medical research to help children is poorly funded in the UK, so Action Medical Research has a critical job to do in helping fill this gap to protect children. The very tasty afternoon helped to raise around £100 for the charity.

Style Lounge host the biggest coffee morning!

On Friday 25th September at 10.30am Bolnore hair and beauty venue The Style Lounge will be joining in with the Biggest Coffee Morning charity event for Macmillan. There will be tea, coffee and homemade cakes available. Tickets are £2 each and will automatically enter you into our prize draw. All proceeds will be going to Macmillan. So come on ladies and gentlemen, grab your cake and eat it!



Odd jobs for Emily

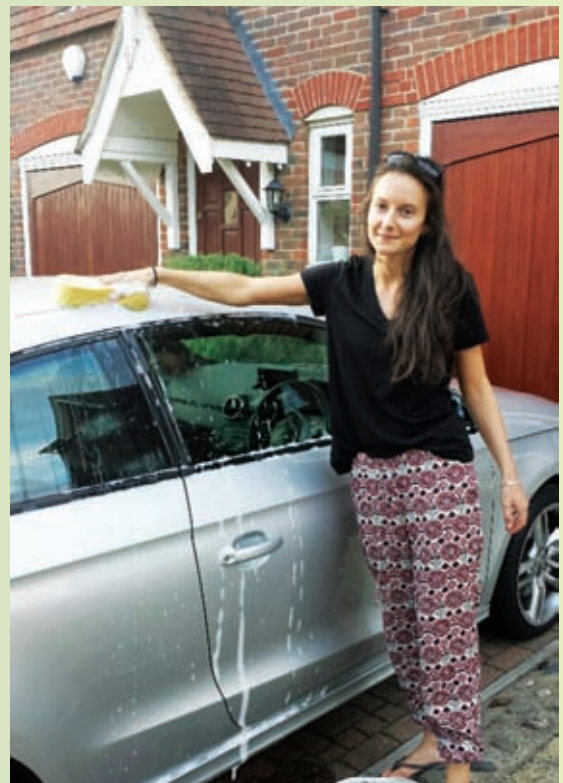
Bolnore Village resident Emily Greenland has left her London job after being inspired to make a difference in rural Africa later this year.

She is swapping the world of fashion for the developing world as she heads for Zambia in November with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). Emily commented: "I wanted to help people. I've done a lot to help myself but, if I'm totally honest, not much for others." She will be working on an HIV/Aids prevention programme helping to get target groups affected by the disease to access improved health care services.

Emily is very excited about the opportunity with VSO and is looking forward to getting over there. In the meantime she has to raise £1,500 for the charity, not to pay for her trip, but to help fund 7,000 more volunteer places every year to go out and help disadvantaged communities worldwide.

"I am willing to do various chores & jobs in exchange for donations in Cuckfield, Bolnore & surrounding areas, including: babysitting (CRB checked), car washing, food shopping, ironing etc. Please email me at emilygreenland@hotmail.com or call/text: 07889907800 to book."

To make a one-off donation or for more information go to www.justgiving.com/emilygreenland. Or text the code: EMGR69 + the amount (£1,2,3,4,5 or 10) to 70070.



Bountiful Botanics

Get to
KNOW...
Get to
GROW...
Wakehurst



A fun-filled weekend
for garden enthusiasts
and families
celebrating
nature's bounty
at Wakehurst

50
years at
Wakehurst

SAT 26 & SUN 27 SEP
www.kew.org/wakehurst

Kew
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Wakehurst is on the B2028 just south of Turners Hill and north of Ardingly
(6 miles from Haywards Heath)



The benefits of shopping on your doorstep

HIGH STREET FEATURE

By David Tingley

The High Street here in Cuckfield has been passed through and enjoyed for well over 200 years. In the early 19th Century it was terribly fashionable to enjoy a trip to the seaside and the London to Brighton Stagecoach route passed right through Cuckfield's High Street, stopping at The King's Head providing sustenance for passengers and respite for the horses. The Prince Regent used the route many times during this period in his travel to and from his coastal residence at the Brighton Pavilion.

As is well documented in the annals of local history, with the opening of the railway in the 1840s came much reduced stagecoach traffic through Cuckfield. However, the village continued to thrive after this time with a number of significant homes being built in this era.

The twisting and turning High Street is one of the village's great charms enjoyed by visitors and residents alike ever since those days.



Of course some will recall the shops and facilities of days gone by with great longing. The photo above, from 1852, shows a road with a lone horse tied up in the distance and a few locals going about their day either side of a wide, and empty, carriageway. Whilst this represents a moment in time for Cuckfield, there is much to be grateful for, and even excited about, on the High Street in 2015!

The economy of the country is changing and the way we spend money is too. According to a survey carried out last year by The Local Data Company more stores closed on the UK's High Streets than opened; a total number of closures that was three times larger than the year before that. However, despite the rather gloomy picture nationally, Cuckfield enjoys a staggering number of businesses all vying for position and visibility in the village. The High Street may not be what it once was in

terms of footfall, but where is this the case? Instead we have a wonderfully colourful selection of retailers which would be the envy of many communities of this size, and larger. One shopper recently claimed that there are more independent shops in Cuckfield than there are in Hove!

What follows is what I discovered when I took a pleasant meander through Cuckfield to really get a glimpse of just how much is available on the doorstep. In preparation for this article I also gave all High Street businesses the opportunity to place a listing on the pages that follow too. I'm also grateful to some residents who all love shopping right here and have told us why.

Some consider that the core function of a shop in a village is for the most basic of needs. Cuckfield does especially well on this score with one **Co-operative Food** supermarket at either end and an **Esso** petrol station at Whitemans Green. Add into this mix the much fought for **Wealden Stores** with its selection of flowers and plants outside, a popular Cook outlet store and Post Office inside too! Plus there is another **Post Office** at the bottom of the High Street, featuring all the necessities of a PO alongside many cards and wrapping options.

Another service the village is renowned for locally is dentists! It is home to **The Old Clockmakers** dental surgery tucked away at the bottom of the High Street, **The Gallery Dental Practice** in the former Congregational chapel on Broad Street and the **Cuckfield Dental Practice** as you turn up the High Street.

Both **Marcus Grimes** and **Mansell McTaggart** are very proud of their history of selling property in the village, with their two well-stocked windows almost opposite each other. Another practical shop is **Lloyds Pharmacy** for all the usual prescription and remedies for many ailments. There is even a funeral directors sitting in what must be the village's smallest unit for **J&R Matthews** at No. 1 Old Talbot House.

If it's eating and drinking that takes your fancy, you aren't short of options. Restaurants like the **Rose & Crown**, **Good Evening Thai** and **The Talbot** do a mean weekend breakfast, **Spice Village** for Indian cuisine and **The White Harte** serves traditional pub lunches on certain days of the week. For lighter bites, or perhaps a coffee, you can sit in **Cuckfield Corner House** watching the world go round the roundabout, in the raised courtyard of **Gardenia**, amongst the urban interiors in **Tom's Food** or looking at the art and other gifts in



"The High Street is a good place to meet for a coffee and a chat."

Ken

"Today's traders have brought their own energy and enthusiasm to the village."

Sue



Cuckfield Pantry and Tea Room run by Sue Heywood and her daughter Aimee.

Sometimes a little 'me time' is required and a number of businesses will cater for you in various ways. **Beauty Within** can provide skin and body treatments to clients or you could pop over to **Ockenden Manor Hotel and Spa** for a little pampering there too. For all your hairdressing needs you have **Hairsmiths** on Broad Street, the recently refitted **Hairworks** or, for a traditional gents' hair experience, **The Old Barber Shop** - all of whom will give you excellent service.

There are a number of shops which can really inspire any house-proud resident. **Cuckfield Bathrooms** owner Jim Henning claims that the beautiful polished nickel French Bateau bath which sits in his window is a local celebrity in its own right! Other influences for your home can come from **Balcombe Flooring**, **Nicky C Lifestyle**, **Pepperbox** and, of course, the antiques adorning **David Ford-Brown's** window.

Cuckfield can even help you upgrade what's sitting on your drive courtesy of **Cuckfield Motor Company!**

For smaller gifts **Sussex Crafts** has a huge range of activities to keep you busy, **Penfolds** is a traditional country store stocking outdoor wear and more, **Cottage Flowers** does what it says on the tin and **Cuckfield**

Candy Store contains jars of traditional sweets as well as classic wooden toys in the window. It is also a registered drop-off point for UPS packages.

The fashion-conscious shopper won't be disappointed either. **Cuckfield iWear** has a fab range of frames in its newly relocated position on the High Street. **Edit Secondhand** tempts customers in with its pre-enjoyed Prada heels in the window and stacks of the ultra-cool Vogue magazines. **Neilson's** understated window gives a glimpse of the high-end fashion of MiH jeans and Isabel Marant Etoile and, over the road, **JoJo Boutique** offers local customers the chance to get desirable brands at reasonable prices. And, lastly, there is provision for newborn to five years children's clothes with the autumn collection now in the window of **Willow**.

There it is, a High Street packed with many names, services and products. And it's a changing feast too; with an interior design shop set to open this month and at least one other vacant property, you never know what else will get added to the list. I encourage you to explore your High Street at the next available opportunity. Be it a friend's birthday, a change for your home or just a loaf of bread, there's an army of dedicated shopkeepers who are all waiting to serve you!

Sussex Crafts



An Aladdin's cave of wool and craft supplies.

45 High Street
01444 455 611 | www.sussexcraftsltd.co.uk

"With twins of 16 months old it is extremely convenient for everyday shopping. I really love the clothes and buy quite a lot in the village boutiques."

Joy

Marcus Grimes



Residential sales and lettings in and around Cuckfield since 1989.

High Street
01444 451 818 | www.marcusgrimes.co.uk

Cuckfield Pantry and Tearoom



Quirky tearoom serving traditional cream teas and homemade treats, plus much more.

Oddynes, High Street
07753 164 070

Penfolds Saddlery



Saddlery and Equestrian clothing store, everything for horse and rider.

Old Talbot House, High Street
01444 454 164

Wealden Stores



General stores for good quality local produce with Post Office and newsagents.

Whitemans Green
01444 454 013

Hairworks



Stylish modern salon offering all salon services.

Old Talbot House, High Street
01444 417 170 | www.hairworkscuckfield.co.uk

Cuckfield Bathrooms



Designing and supplying quality bathrooms in Sussex and London.

The Clockhouse, High Street
01444 414 888 | www.cuckfieldbathrooms.co.uk

Cuckfield Cards and Stationery



Cards, stationery, postal services, stamps, cash withdrawals, currencies, bill payments.

Post Office, High Street
01444 441 613 | www.cuckfieldpo.co.uk

Mansell McTaggart



Specialising in village & rural property sales. Preferential rates for Cuckfield residents.

The Nook, High Street
01444 417 600 | www.mansellmctaggart.co.uk

"A present I've forgotten to buy; an unexpected invitation and nothing to wear, or just an extra pint of milk - Cuckfield shops are hidden gems and nearly always solve my problems."

Sheila

Cuckfield Cornerhouse



Traditional café/coffee shop. Open 7 days a week.

High Street
01444 454 407

Balcombe Flooring



Your local flooring & rug supplier. Carpets, Wood, Amtico supplied & installed.

Balcombe House, High Street
01444 473 245 | www.balcombeflooring.co.uk

Tom's Food



Serving brunch and lunch with superb coffees. Private dining in the evenings.

High Street
01444 473384 | www.tomsfood.com

NickyC



An eclectic shop selling womenswear, accessories and things for the home.

High Street
07889 488800 | www.nickyc.co.uk

"The real added value is that lovely chance encounter in the shops or in the street with neighbours and friends I haven't seen for a while."

Bridget

Cuckfield Candy Store and more



Sweets, toys, lovely chocolates, party bags, ice cream & more.

High Street
01444 474936

Gardenia Vintage Tea House



Serving a slice of yesteryear today. More than just tea and cake.

1 Broad Street
07776 772020 | Facebook: [gardeniateahouse](https://www.facebook.com/gardeniateahouse)



BURGESS HILL GIRLS. TUNED IN

OPEN DAY SAT 19 SEPT
9.30AM—1.00PM

burgesshillgirls.com



BURGESS HILL
— GIRLS —

Excellence in Education Since 1906



GRAY HOOPER HOLT LLP

SOLICITORS

For all your legal needs
-Haywards Heath and Redhill offices -
Call 01444 411333 or visit
www.grayhooperholt.co.uk
info@grayhooperholt.co.uk

the
Style Lounge
hair-n-beauty



Your hair and beauty salon based in Bolnore Village

At The Style Lounge we offer a wide range of top services, from hair cutting and colouring to elemis facials, waxing and even permanent makeup!

So whether your after a complete restyle, heavenly pampering or a new set of smudge-free perfect brows we have the right treatment for you. There's even a free car park right outside!

Call 01444 410576 to book your appointment today!

The Style Lounge
Unit 1, 20 Middle Village
Bolnore Village,
Haywards Heath RH16 4GH

Call today...

01444 410576
www.hair-n-beauty.co.uk



Fitted with style

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

This month one shop on the High Street is celebrating being open in the village for seven years. JoJo Boutique, owned by Cuckfield resident Jo Dennis, is an on-trend fashion retailer that is right on your doorstep.

It seems appropriate for a clothing retailer that the gift to buy for a seventh wedding anniversary is wool, as JoJo stocks such a wonderful range of knitwear! JoJo's own brand Ava and Ava Cashmere sits beautifully alongside other brands supplying cashmere and wool cardigans, jumpers, scarfs, gloves and even slippers!

Despite the longevity of JoJo's in Cuckfield, Jo says she's aware that some people simply don't know they exist at their central location next to Corner House Cafe. "Only last week a lovely lady was telling me 'What Cuckfield needs is a good shoe boutique'. I was able to tell her that we already had one!" In store, JoJo is home to a wonderful range of ladies shoes in sizes 2.5 to 8, including the brands HOGGL, Paul Green and Alpe.

JoJo Boutique attracts customers from all over the local area. Its wide range of stock and great location in such a pretty village make it a destination shop for many. Customers often comment that the parking is much easier in Cuckfield than other nearby towns and villages.

The shop also caters for those further afield via its website. "Local ladies use the site to browse," Jo said, "but we have web customers from all over the world, including USA and Australia." The prices online (and in the shop) are checked regularly to ensure they are matching, if not undercutting, other retailers. Jo recently received a call from Amazon when the global retailer asked her to list her products on their website as the prices were so good!

JoJo doesn't only stock big names but also supports up and coming designers. "For example, Elif, from Brighton, make the most beautiful buttery soft leather jackets. They're made to order in a colour of your own choice, so customers can get exactly what they want." Also now stocked is ELVI, a new fashion brand from London that specialises in clothing for tall and/or curvaceous women.

Jo Dennis, having lived in India for more than four years, has a passion for not only fantastic quality but ethically sourced and produced cashmere and silk products. She regularly brings new products back to the UK at the very best prices for her customers.

Over the last seven years the business has also been responsible for raising over £20k for various causes, including NSPCC, local schools and cancer charities. This is in addition to funding full-time education for 75 girls in India via a partnership scheme with Care International.

As a resident of the village though, it's unsurprising that Jo's heart is very much in Cuckfield. She describes it as 'a kind of Regency shopping village'. "All the retailers work well to support and complement each other here," she says, "which is really quite special. Why would anyone want to spend time going round the M25 to Bluewater when we have many great brands right here on the High Street?"

Jo then cites the popular book *The Alchemist* (by Paulo Coelho), in which the shepherd boy goes to far off places to find treasure, only to discover it was right where he started.

Jo and her team have searched long and hard to find the very best premium fashion of exceptional quality and fit. JoJo's philosophy is to provide a service that helps customers to find interesting and beautiful clothes to suit each and every individual.

JoJo Boutique is open Monday - Saturday 10am-5pm and 24/7 online at www.jojoboutique.co.uk. As well as affordable fashion it also offers a free style consultation. The clothes stocked range from size 8 to 20, there's new stock delivered every week, and brands such as Sandwich, Oui, Noa Noa and Nancy Mac. For its birthday, Jo is introducing a few more beautiful brands to the boutique such as Oilly, IKKS, AXARA, InWear and ELVI.



Liz Woods

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Claire Cooper

Staff and pupils at Holy Trinity Primary School marked the end of an era last term when school secretary Liz Woods retired after almost a quarter of a century.

Referred to by her Head Teacher in her leaving speech as 'the Oracle', due to her vast knowledge of the village and its residents, Liz has been at the heart of school life for the past 25 years. She's the friendly voice on the end of the phone, a former minute taker at Governors' meetings, decorator of the school Christmas tree and 'chief cook and bottle washer' on dozens of school trips.

She's seen a whole generation of youngsters pass through Holy Trinity, including her own two children Claire and Chris, and watched the school almost double in size. She's also worked for eight Heads and deputies, organised school and charity events, and still found time to participate in village life, including becoming Mayor in 1995!

Born in Cuckfield Hospital, Liz grew up at Stonehall Farm on the Balcombe estate where her father worked as farm manager. "He was there for 40 years, so I guess staying in jobs tends to run in the family!" said Liz. Her father is now in his nineties and still living in Balcombe.

She met her husband Richard at the Young Farmers Club. "At that time Cuckfield had its own Young Farmers Club," Liz recalled.

"Richard's grandfather cycled all the way from Portsmouth to get a job with local builder Stephen Knight," she added. "When we got married we moved into a family cottage at Whitemans Green and we've lived there ever since – for 42 years!"

Liz joined the staff at Holy Trinity shortly after the new school opened in 1992, having moved from the old village school next to the church. She was originally employed

as a teaching assistant. "I had only been at the school for a term when they decided to create separate roles for school secretary and bursar," said Liz. "As I had previously worked as a PA, the Head Teacher asked me if I would like the job of school secretary (I think he may have had this in mind when he employed me!)."

"My first thought was that I didn't want to stop working with the children. But when I was assured that the job also included time in the classrooms, I decided to accept."

At that time the school had five classes and 150 pupils.

"I remember being given an old typewriter which came from Mill Hall School," said Liz. "When computers came in I had to learn on the job – there was no official training!"

Liz says the best part of being school secretary has been the variety. "I loved Monday mornings when the whole school worshipped together and I'll miss decorating the Christmas tree and doing shopping for staff who were leaving," said Liz. "I've changed the seat in the boys' toilets and cleared up everything you can imagine!"

"When French was introduced into school I did the afternoon registers in French with Years 1 and 2," she added. "I also helped organise exchange trips to France when Cuckfield twinned with Aumale and the children all stayed with French families."

Closer to home, Liz has been a valuable addition to many school trips. "I enjoyed going with the Year 5s on the annual expedition to the youth hostel in Alfriston, to study the Cuckmere," said Liz. "We often got terrible wet weather. One year we had torrential rain and I remember seeing soap bubbles appearing from one girl's trainers – her mother had washed them before the trip!"

Another memorable trip ended abruptly when the party was struck down with a sickness bug. "We were sending the children home as fast as their parents could arrive to pick them up!"

Equally memorable were the Year 6 camping trips to Lodge Hill in Pulborough, when Liz became an expert at shopping for 40 children and cooking everything outdoors. "It was a quite exhausting week but really good fun and great for team building."

As the school grew, the office work took priority. "The school now has 12 classes and around 330 children, and more children means more paperwork!" said Liz.

"Standards are so much higher now and the children have more opportunities," she added. The school has also embraced new initiatives such as becoming eco-friendly, winning awards for its beautiful grounds.

Away from the school, Liz plays an active role in village life. A long-standing member of the Independent State of Cuckfield, Liz was elected as Mayor in 2005, donating £2,000 to the school during her year in office. Her husband is also a former Mayor.

More recently she has focused her efforts into fundraising for charity, after a shock diagnosis of breast cancer in 2013. "It came completely out of the blue as I had no lump or other symptoms," said Liz who, after two operations and a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, is currently in remission.

"My daughter got married while I was having chemo, so it was a real shame that I wasn't at my best," said Liz. "It was a tiring but lovely day and when I saw the photos I was pleased I didn't look like I was ill. I think my wig, which was cut and styled by Trevor Sorbie in Brighton, must have helped!"

The treatment meant Liz was off work for ten months. "The Head Teacher Jo was fantastically supportive - I couldn't have wished for a better Head."

Whilst Liz was undergoing treatment, a colleague and keen runner, Wendy, decided that staff at the school would raise money for cancer charities and 'Race for Liz' was born.

The event, a three mile run around Cuckfield village, with Liz providing water and jelly babies for participants at Whiteman's Green, was so successful that it has become an annual event. "We've raised more than £1,000 for MacMillan nurses and the new Cancer Unit at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton," said Liz, who is already planning next year's event.

Retirement for Liz means spending time with her grandchildren – Erin, 7, Sebastian, 3, Isabelle, 5 and Alexander, 1 and the family is already looking forward to trips to Center Parks and Disneyland Paris.

She's also planning a trip touring the west coast of America with husband Richard. "I'm looking forward to being able to take a holiday in term time!" said Liz, who has also signed up for pilates classes and taken up crochet. "I also plan to do some porcelain painting with my friend Elaine."

Retirement

My work at school has come to an end
'Tho I felt at times I'd go round the bend!
I've seen so much, and done even more
Unlike any job I'd done before.

The camping trips come rain or shine,
Without a doubt we had a great time.
From Summer Fair to Christmas tree
The memories will stay with me.

In 24 years Heads came and went,
You just had to take what the Governors sent!
From bad to good we've come a long way
Let's hope that Jo is here to stay.

I'll miss you all and children too
And tho' I'm off to pastures new
I'll keep in touch with all my mates
Just hear that buzz – I'm at the gates!

Leaving the school was always going to be emotional for Liz, who summed up her feelings in a poem which she read as her farewell speech. Staff presented her with a silver Pandora bracelet, complete with charms, while the children made a book of memories and a painted wooden collage.

"Working at Holy Trinity is like being part of a family," said Liz. "The staff aren't just colleagues, they're friends. I'll miss their companionship and of course I'll miss the children."

And Cuckfield parents will have to get used to a new voice on the school phone. "Both my children have admitted to phoning the school on my last day just to hear me say: "Good morning, Holy Trinity School, can I help you?" laughed Liz.

"Unfortunately they were out of luck – at the time I was down at the church!"

LOOKING TO LOSE WEIGHT? **THIS IS FOR YOU!**

START YOUR
**12 WEEK
CLEAN &
LEAN**

WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAMME

We are looking for 18 local residents who want to lose weight, transform their body and learn to love how they feel in 2015! With a personalised plan that is 100% tailored to your lifestyle!

POTENTIAL
PERSONAL TRAINING

HURRY!!

This is an amazing opportunity to achieve the body and health that you have always dreamed off... but spaces are filling up fast!

Learn more about how you can apply to take part in this 12 week clean and lean weight loss programme that will change your life!

Start your application >> www.potentialpersonaltraining.com/clean-and-lean
or call us today on 01444 484129

Local Builders in Mid Sussex



Telephone 01444 454776

www.helmeandhallett.co.uk

Constructing solutions for our clients with care



Members of the National Federation
of Builders

Helme & Hallett Ltd

We specialise in the alteration, refurbishment and extension of domestic properties of a mature age, matching materials and style of 50 - 500 years.

SIX PHYSIO DON'T TREAT, CURE

LONDON'S FINEST FOR

PHYSIO...

SPORTS MASSAGE...

CLINICAL PILATES...

WOMEN'S HEALTH

PHYSIO...

We are meeting demand..

With a bigger space and more physios on our team, we now have more availability for you.

AT

44b High St
LINDFIELD RH16

T. 01444 587587

E. lindfield@sixphysio.com

sixphysio.com

Amazing walls

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

Bored with grey walls? Does your home need an uplift? If you fancy a change away from the ubiquitous grey, white or cream décor that grace many a fashionable interior, there are some amazing alternatives that can cleverly add value to your room in the hidden technology within the material.

Take the kitchen for example. How about an area of wall given over to blackboard paint, useful for lists, menus and reminders or bits of crazy colourful chalk based art that change with your mood. Guaranteed to occupy the kids when you're cooking. A layer of magnetic paint beneath the blackboard surface will add to the usefulness and creativity.

Do you have a noisy neighbour? Is there a drummer in the family? Musicians might welcome an acoustic wall, look at Selina Rose's fantastic cut and fold acoustic felt panels adding pattern, softness and at the same time absorbing sound while creating a focal point (see website).

Your home office might benefit from an area of magnetic paint or dry erase paint so ideas can be jotted on the wall and rubbed off later.

Alternatively go Eco.! Reduce your carbon footprint by insulating a wall creatively. Warm oak panels or a recycled alternative which can be painted using an eco paint will insulate, add cosiness and statement to an interior. Depending on your style, tongue and groove panelling works well or panels based on an historical design such as Elizabethan or Victorian. Up-cycled panels created from old wooden boxes, old wooden floor boards and suchlike create a unique interior.

Alternatively, use an insulating lining paper beneath a wallpaper that has been made from recycled paper (there are 3D versions of recycled wallpaper), an eco friendly way to keep the chills out.

Consider cork, a renewable and sustainable product from the bark of the cork oak tree. It will introduce a warm, soft texture which also insulates. Cork is available in tiles or on a roll, waxed or natural and can also be painted.

Leather or fabric panels are always a fantastic choice to perk up a painted wall and panels infilled with a lovely fabric adds drama and original styling. Leather panels are very chic, sophisticated and add a masculine tone.

Unusual lighting will uplift a plain wall; a string of LEDs shining up from floor level or down from the ceiling. White LEDs or RGB (red, green and blue) that cycle through the colours creating a shock against the neutral wall, great for the party animal!

A large mirror on a wall or a completely mirrored wall in a small space, placed opposite a window, will make the interior look much bigger and bounce light around the space.

To simply add fun and/or colour to one grey wall, there is a fantastic selection of murals to choose from, made bespoke to fit your wall space, such as world maps, dessert island beaches, Roman columns – a lot of fun!



Local band builds following

By Claire Cooper

Cuckfield friends Harry White and Alex Hawkes are climbing the road to success after securing a string of gigs for their band – These Thousand Hills.

Singer Harry, 19, and rhythm guitar player Alex, 17, both from Glebe Road, formed the modern rock and metal band a year ago along with fellow musicians Sam Oosterbaan, Alex Langer and Fian Matkin.

After a year of rehearsing and song writing, the band is now performing regularly in Sussex and attracting a following of fans.

It's an exciting time for Harry and Alex who have been friends since childhood, both attending the village Playgroup, Holy Trinity Primary School and Warden Park.

"We've all been in bands before but this line-up works really well," said Harry, who last year completed a foundation degree in performing arts at Central Sussex College.

"We got together in March 2014 but, as we all have very diverse tastes in music, needed to spend some time finding out what worked for us." He added that the group has taken inspiration from bands including A Day to Remember, Rise Against and The Used.

During that time the band also had a change of name. "Originally we were called 'Only the Brave' but we dropped that when we found out it was also a fragrance!" said Harry. "We were struggling to think of another name, so used a trick popular with other bands where you search on Wikipedia for 'random article' and see what comes up.

"The first name that came up was These Thousand Hills. It's actually the name of a Western film from 1959!"

The band members have also been busy writing their own material and are eagerly awaiting the release of their first EP. Their first song, Broken Chains, was written by Alex for his GCSE music exam!

Alex is currently studying music, media and business at Central Sussex College and works part-time as a recreation assistant at the Dolphin Leisure Centre, along with fellow band member Alex Langer.

The band performed its first gig earlier this year at Danehill Social Club. "We had an audience of around 80 and atmosphere was fantastic," said Harry. "The club provided great lighting and even some basic pyrotechnics."

The performance led to a string of bookings at the Black Dog in Crawley and, after persistent emailing from Harry, the band has secured a gig at The Haunt in Brighton.

"The Haunt has a reputation for attracting some really big bands, so it will be amazing to play on the same stage as some of the bands who have inspired us," said Harry.

"There aren't any local venues for rock band, the nearest are in Crawley or Brighton, so we are limited as to where we can play," added Alex, "but we'd love to perform in Cuckfield one day!"

Away from the band, Alex and Harry can be found volunteering at the InSpire youth club in the village. "We're there from around 6pm setting up the pool and table tennis tables and the tuck shop and then helping run the two sessions," said Harry.

"The youth club was a big part of our lives when we were growing up in the village, so it's nice to be giving something back."

Earlier this year Harry was presented with a Community Award from the Rotary Club in recognition of his youth club work.

Bass player Sam Oosterbaan, 19, is also a former volunteer at InSpire and now works at the Pioneers children's club based at the Albemarle Centre in Haywards Heath.

Alex and Harry also help to run the miniature railway at the annual Cuckoo Fair.

Looking to the future, the friends are hoping to build on their current success. "It would be a dream to be able to earn a living doing what we love," said Harry. "And I'd love to see people wearing our merchandise," added Alex.

To find out more about the band and listen to their music, visit www.facebook.com/thesethousandhillsuk

Cuckfield Classified

If you have anything to list in either **WANTED, FOR SALE, GIVEAWAY** or **JOBS** - you can email it through to classified@cuckfieldlife.co.uk. Include all the details and a photo if you have one. Listings to Cuckfield Classified are **FREE OF CHARGE**.

FOR SALE:

Apple iPod – 4th Generation (white). Well used but perfectly functional iPod. £15. Call David 07973 762955.
Large Dog Crate – mobile cage for a dog. Brown metal frame with plastic tray. £20. Call David 07973 762955.

WANTED:

5kg Medicine Ball and **Exercise Trampoline** for office gym. Speak to Melanie 01444 473999.

JOBS:

Labourers wanted by reputable Mid Sussex building firm. Call the office on 01444 243474 for details.



LETTING FOR YOU

a good place to be

t 0843 8861 861
e penny.wadsworth@lettingforyou.co.uk
w www.lettingforyou.co.uk

Letting For You Limited is a new local independent firm specialising in Residential Letting and Property Management. Our most important consideration is providing the best possible service. As a new company we are eager for your business and since we are a small we are able to offer a highly personal service – we aim to bring a fresh approach.

- Competitive fee structure and NO VAT
- Efficient on-going management, for complete peace of mind
- A highly professional yet caring service

If you are a landlord, call Penny today to discuss your property on 0843 8861 861

Registered in England No. 09332632

CIDER & PORK

evening

Demonstration from local butcher and talk by Glen Scrivener on "The greatest combination."

8-10pm
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
Saturday 3 October 2015
£5 (including cider & nibbles)

Book through Clair Hall - 01444 455440
www.clairhall.org

JUST CONSIDER
CHRISTIAN EVENTS TO CHEW ON

Hosted by All Saint's Lindfield
Grace Church, Christ Church,
& Cuckfield Baptist Church

SUSSEX GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP - HAYWARDS HEATH

What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

AND ELSEWHERE

Regular weekly classes (many are drop-in classes):

Monday

- 9.30am **Fluid Physio (Pilates)**
11am **Weigh In – Work Out**
7.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society – Dog Training**

Tuesday

- 9am **Tiny Soccerstars** for 18 months to 5 years
9.30am **Tinkerbells** - music classes for children
3pm **Codanza**
6.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society**
7pm **Pilates**

Wednesday

- 9.30am **Tinkerbells**
10am **Stroke Communications Group**
12.30pm **Zumba Dance Fitness®** (Live Wire)
1.30pm **Modern Line Dancing**
4pm **Codanza**
8pm **Best of Ballroom Cuckfield Dance Club**

Thursday

- 9am **Tumbletots**
9.30am **Tinkerbells**
10am **Pilates**
7.30pm **Social Ballroom and Latin American Dance**

Friday

- 7.30pm **Evening Flower Club**
(second Friday of the month)
7.30pm **Historic Vehicles Preservation Trust** – first Friday in the month October to May each year

There is now a list of regular activities and classes on the Notice Board that includes contact details.

October

- 3rd **Cuckfield Pre-school Playgroup Jumble Sale**
10am-noon
9th **Cuckfield Flower Club meeting** – Seasonal Delights by Elsie Chaplin
15th **Cuckfield Museum talk** – 8pm
'Longcase Clocks of Sussex' by Stephen Doerr, Antiquarian Horologist
(Tickets: 01444 457448)
30th/
31st **Cuckfield Dramatic Society 'Silhouette'**

September

- 15th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 8pm, The Old School
'Across America with a Wheelchair' Anne Chance
23rd **The Royal British Legion Women's Section**
Meeting – 10.30am-12noon, The Old School
'Spinning' Daphne Stuart
26th **Bring and Share Harvest Supper and Barn Dance**
6-9.30pm, Holy Trinity Church
Bring and Share Supper. Drinks will be available.
(Tickets from church office (456461) or Wealden Stores - Family £20, Adult £6, Concs £5, under 3s free)

October

- 2nd **Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society** – Redwood Centre, Haywards Heath, 7.30 for 8pm
Illustrated talk by Roy Starkey: 'The Cairngorms; so you think you want to write a book...?'
All welcome, free admission. www.smls.org.uk
4th **Tocatta - Organ Recital** by Rev Michael Maine
Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield, 2.30pm
(Tickets £10, under 18s £6 from: Wealden Stores, Pepperbox, Carousel Music and FOHTCC@btinternet.com)
5th **Haywards Heath and District U3A Open Meeting** – Clair Hall, 2-4.30pm
We will be entertained by the Perdido Players swing band playing music from the 30s and 40s
6th **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – Franklands Village Hall 10.15am. 'Foundling Hospital' by Jane King
8th **Mid Sussex Association of the National Trust** – Clair Hall, 7.30pm. Dark Age Sussex and the Search for King Arthur by Mark Perry Nash
10th **Open Tower** – Holy Trinity Church, 10am-12noon
To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the re-casting of the bells, the tower will be open to all visitors. Do join us to discover this unique part of the church, its history and the bells.
21st-
24th **The Weald of Sussex Art Club Annual Exhibition**
The Martlets Hall, Burgess Hill, 10am-5.30pm

New TV show date:

Broadcaster More4 changed the date which the episode of Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages (which features Cuckfield) will be aired. It is expected that it will be now show episode number four in the series on Tuesday 22nd September.

Our advertisers

CALL THEM!

Services

Mansell McTaggart (estate agents)	2
Dave G (decorators).....	3
Spears & Shield (cleaning products).....	5
Ginkgo Garden Solutions	6
Richard Allan (fencing)	8
Cuckfield Pest Control.....	8
Marcus Grimes (estate agents)	9
InsideOut (garden/home)	12
Sussex Wealth Management.....	12
Gray Hooper Holt (solicitors)	22
Helme & Hallett (builders)	26
Letting for You (letting agents)	29
Farrells Paving (brickwork)	31
Flint & Co (estate agents).....	B

Retail

Cuckfield Local Food Market.....	7
----------------------------------	---

Out & About

Spice Village	4
Gardenia Vintage Tea House.....	8
Wakehurst Place	15
Sussex Gospel Partnership	29

Education/Childcare

Norto5 Kidz (childcare).....	3
Norto5 Kidz (pre-school).....	13
Burgess Hill School for Girls	21

Health/Lifestyle

Action for Deafness.....	4
Hairworks	7
The Style Lounge	22
Potential Personal Training.....	26
Six Physio.....	27

Promote your business
here every month...

Be in front of thousands of local readers as
they find out more about their community

Cuckfield Life

Call David or Karishma
today on 01444 884115
ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk

www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Brickwork contractor for all sizes of job.



Call Steve Farrell today on 01444 450103 or 07713 062617
Email: farrellspaving@tiscali.co.uk | www.farrellspaving.co.uk

Checkatrade.com
Member since 2011



flint&co

INDEPENDENT LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS






We've got
people talking...



Jane Todd
Managing Director

... and now the majority of all
valuations come directly from
personal recommendations.

 www.flintandcompany.co.uk  01444 62 77 62

 sales@flintandcompany.co.uk

113 South Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 4LR