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Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #54 : April 2017

Free

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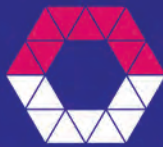
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The Easter hero from 1917

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A dramatic turnaround in Cuckfield

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Spring has most definitely sprung and **Marjorie Chilton**'s cover photo is a fine example of April sunshine over the village. Thanks Marjorie – remember anyone can submit a cover photos – see the website for details (www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk/cover-photos).

I am very grateful to Cuckfield's **Kate Fleming** for researching and writing the article on **page 22**, which showcases a story in **Holy Trinity Church**'s history where disaster was averted – but only just! If you're intrigued, you know where to go next.

We have news spread throughout the magazine, as ever, but we have tried to draw together the **Bolnore Village** items on **page 26**. If you have heard of a great event or news item in either Bolnore or Cuckfield, do please let us know by sending an email to editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk or you can call the office on 01444 884115. Our next copy date is Tuesday 25th April.

With Easter nearly upon us, we have a special letter from **Holy Trinity Church** this month (**page 32**), and the Baptist Church has taken out a larger advert on **page 24**. Do take a look if that's of interest. There's also a fantastic article on **page 16** describing the formation of a charity bringing some relief to refugees. Holy Trinity is once again organising a collection this month for **Samara's Aid**. **Ros Longfield** shares more about its work.

On **page 28** **Wilf Knighton**, Mayor of the Independent State of Cuckfield, continues his quest to highlight various organisations in the village in his monthly column. This time **Cuckfield Stroke Communication Group** is the subject, and there's a challenge set out to all of us as readers too.

With the What's On listing of events in and around the area on **page 42**, your regular dose of Sudoku on **page 41** and Sebastian's fish recipe on **page 34**, there should be plenty to read while you (hopefully) enjoy some more fresh spring sunshine!

More next month – do keep in touch, thanks.

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Cuckfield Life Published by Kipper



 Marjorie Chilton
The perfect view over to
Holy Trinity Church in spring

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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

Gardens history talk

Cuckfield Museum will be hosting a talk this month entitled Historic Gardens of Sussex, given by Jim Stockwell.

It will be taking place on Thursday 4th May at 8pm at the Queen's Hall.

Over the centuries, numerous wonderful gardens were developed in Sussex. Although some have deteriorated, or been lost, many superb examples remain intact and in excellent condition today. Jim Stockwell will take the audience on a journey of their heritage, evolution and conservation.

To reserve a place, please ring Mike Nicholson on 01444 457448 or email events@cuckfieldmuseum.org. More information at www.cuckfieldmuseum.org

Birchanger open

For the 40th year, members of the Worrall family will be opening their Handcross garden for charity.

On Sunday 14th May, the garden will open in aid of St Catherine's Hospice from 2pm until 5.30pm.

Birchanger Gardens is a beautiful seven acre estate with magnificent displays of azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias. There is a grassy avenue, lake, lily pond, pergola, Etruscan-style temple and much more. This lovely garden is only open to the public for a few weekends each year, so make sure you don't miss it.

Entrance is £5 and children go free. Dogs on leads are welcome and car parking is free.

Refreshments with home-made cakes will be available. For more details contact Marian Erritt on 01444 413391. Check St Catherine Hospice's website www.stch.org.uk for details of other gardens that will be opening this year to raise funds.

Garden Fair returns next month

After a successful first year in 2016 in the beautiful grounds of Cuckfield Park, the Garden Fair, organised by the New Horizons Appeal at St Catherine's Hospice, will be returning for a second year on 18th May from 10.30am until 3.30pm.

The Garden Fair has been an annual fixture since 2001, but the organisers were delighted with the reaction of the people of Mid Sussex with the move from Billingshurst last year.

"The prestigious fair has become known as West Sussex's mini 'Chelsea', bringing together wide-ranging, established and well respected traders, selling specialist plants, gardening products and locally produced food," said Suzanne Connor.

"Run by St Catherine's voluntary New Horizon's Appeal Committee, last year's event attracted over 800 visitors, to browse over 50 stalls, and raised over £6,400." She added that the event has become a firm favourite in the local community's calendars, with many visitors and stallholders returning year on year.

"We are so grateful to Mr & Mrs Mayou for allowing us to return in May," said Suzanne. "We have a full day of events, starting with a Bubbly Breakfast (which has to be pre-booked), and an excellent range of plant and local produce stalls as well as other attractions. Home-made cakes, coffee, teas and lunch will all be available from our catering marquee at very reasonable prices, so come and make a day of it! Do please come and visit us and help raise funds for our local hospice."

She added that the day begins at 8.30 am when pre-booked tickets holders arrive for preview shopping and breakfast.

Advance tickets for the Garden and Local Produce Fair, special bubbly breakfast and stall preview, ahead of general public entrance from 9am, are just £12.50. General public entry will be £5 per person, with the fair open from 10.30am. All proceeds from the fair will go directly to St Catherine's Hospice. "What better reason to get out and enjoy some spring sunshine and shopping and raise money for this wonderful local charity," said Suzanne.

For further details, and to book bubbly breakfast tickets, please see the website and Facebook pages www.stch.org.uk/newhorizons and www.facebook.com/NHAppeal or contact the New Horizon's Appeal Co-ordinator, Suzanne Connor, on: 01293 447367 or email newhorizons@stch.org.uk.





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Under 12s win every game!

Congratulations to members of the Haywards Heath under 12 rugby team who recently travelled to the Horsham Festival winning every game, including the final, without conceding a try!

Most of the boys live in Cuckfield and attend Warden Park - even the coach Rob is a former Warden Park student!



A week of celebration!

Dame Vera Lynn, President of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, celebrated her 100th Birthday on 20th March. To celebrate this very special occasion, the Charity held tea parties at the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Centre in Cuckfield and at the beautiful location of Danny House in Hurstpierpoint. At both locations guests were invited to join in the celebrations with entertainment, tea, cake and refreshments.

The tea party in Cuckfield was attended by families, supporters and people from the local community, including Mayor Wilf Knighton dressed in his full regalia. The Charity would like to say a big thank you to 'Perfect Vintage' (Brian and Cherie) for the entertainment, Rapid Relief team who provided the refreshments, Barbara Lloyd and Deborah Hay for their delicious cakes, Izzy's Party shop who provided balloons and bunting and Dave Powell who took the photographs. They all gave up their time free of charge to support the event.

At Danny House members of the Charity were privileged to be able to welcome Dame Vera's family along with so many of their local supporters, as well as

local dignitaries for an afternoon of tea and song (thanks to the Lee Graham Quartet). Thanks also go to Steve Scharman who made a spectacular 100th birthday cake for the occasion and Gill Pike Florist for the beautiful bouquet and flower decorations.

Pilar Cloud, Executive Manager of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, said: "Dame Vera remains a wonderful Ambassador for this Charity, and it is directly thanks

to her efforts that her Charity has been able to help over 500 families from the South East with very young children with cerebral palsy and other motor learning difficulties. 2017 marks a new start for the Charity in a brand new location, Cuckfield, so that we can welcome more families and offer more support and services to them. As Dame Vera worked to ensure that her troops never felt too far from home, her Charity continues to

ensure that her families are not isolated and without support."

For further information visit www.dvllc.org.uk or contact 01444 473274 or email: info@dvllc.org.uk



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Can you help to breathe new life into our village event?

By Suzanne Reid

Work is already underway towards the 15th Christmas Tree Festival due to be staged in Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield on 8th, 9th and 10th December 2017. Over the years the organising committee has evolved and fluctuated in size. The first committee was comprised of six people, all members of the Pastoral Committee, a subgroup of the Parochial Church Council.

Our aim has always been to reach out to the whole community in Cuckfield. At that first festival, back in 2002, I remember chatting to several villagers who were amazed that the church was still active. They had been fooled by the ugly fibreglass security covering over the beautiful stained glass, into thinking the church must have been boarded up.

As part of a lengthy restoration project, the Church has possibly never been such a beautiful building. Its Grade I listing is thoroughly deserved, but it can only remain at the heart of the wider community if we all 'do our bit'.

Over the years the Christmas Tree Festival has raised a lot of money for the upkeep of the church building and even more for a variety of charities. Cuckfield has a proud history of raising money for good causes, as the rigged voting for our Mayor each year adequately demonstrates.

We, the Christmas Tree Festival Organising Committee, feel it is important to allow the Festival to grow and mature.

Only two of the original committee members still serve and they are nearly fifteen years older than when they began!

We have a committee meeting about once a month from February to December. We all have duties throughout the year, from liaising with the tree growers to making sure our equipment is fit for purpose, legal and safe. On the week before the Festival and for clearing away afterwards we are all on hand to 'do our bit', taking delivery of the trees, welcoming decorators, maintaining a friendly atmosphere during the Festival and giving the church a final sweep when that last tree has left the building.

Along the way we have some serious discussions and a lot of fun. If you feel you can offer your time and skills to the Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival, either by volunteering over the weekend or joining our Committee, please contact Sue Towns (01444 412393) or Michael Maine via the Church Office (01444 456461) and leave a message with Gill.



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Bunker open weekends



Some residents will already know, but many will not, that an underground bunker was built near Cuckfield churchyard in 1962 as part of the Royal Observer Corps Post.

It formed part of the Cold War early warning system and stayed in place until 1991 when the Post was closed.

Mark Russell and Ed Combes have restored the bunker to how it would have looked at closure and have many interesting photos and artefacts which can be

viewed above ground. Every year the pair open the bunker up for public viewing on a number of weekends. This year's dates are: Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 11am - 5pm, Saturday 15th July 11am-5pm, Sunday 16th July 10am till 2pm (Festival of British Archaeology) and Sunday 6th August 11am - 5pm.

For more information see: www.rocreminded.com or contact Mark Russell for any other queries (07789 266243).

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WHY AYURVEDA?

"I first came across Ayurveda 10 years ago when I was studying. We were taught that to be able to heal anyone, we should be healthy and balanced ourselves, so we explored Ayurveda. From that moment, I had always considered Ayurveda as a wellness therapy, something to do if you were just feeling a little out of sorts. It wasn't until my son became ill, and I had exhausted all other routes with him, that **my last resort was Ayurveda.**

Louie had arthritis at the age of 9, he had 27 joints affected when I took him to India to an Ayurvedic hospital. Following an Ayurvedic diet, treatments and herbs, one month later, he had improved so much, he had just 3 joints affected. We continued the progress we had made when we returned and **after just 3 months of dietary changes, herbs and treatments Louie was 100% better.** He has never had a symptom or had any medication or been on a strict diet since. His body is back in balance and he is a very fit and healthy 13 year old boy now. Seeing the miraculous results on my own son, I sought to understanding the Indian healthcare system better. I studied courses in the science and then set up a natural healing centre incorporating Ayurveda to give people another option to restoring health.

Understanding everything I do now, since I have studied and am continuing to study Ayurveda, it is very apparent to me that it is a **very viable healthcare solution to autoimmune and chronic conditions** such as Arthritis, inflammation, eczema, psoriasis, asthma, IBS, Lupus, chronic pain, infertility, anxiety, depression and many more. The way Ayurveda views such conditions is merely as an imbalance of the body that needs balancing. The body has symptoms such as inflammation, chronic pain, skin issues, mental imbalances etc due things we are putting into our bodies, if you do not change what you are doing, you cannot expect different results.



Ayurveda has been around for 5000 years, I believe that is time tested enough to know there are no nasty side effects and that it is an effective healing modality. It is still very widely used in India and is becoming ever more popular in Europe and the US. There are two main reasons for this; it's safe and it works!

"why didn't you try Ayurveda with your son to start with?"

"Why didn't you try Ayurveda with your son to start with?" I was asked this recently, it's a very good question... It comes down to many reasons. The main two being, firstly when you are in that situation, when your child has been diagnosed with a long term deteriorating disease that you are told cannot be cured and he'll be on medication for life, you are scared. You start to believe that this is the truth, as it was constantly reinforced to us, so you start to follow what everyone tells you, you want someone else to give you the answers, to take responsibility, so you do as you're advised. Only for me, that didn't feel right. It was incomprehensible for me to understand how Louie was fit and healthy one day and then had arthritis the next day. There were no warning signs, no symptoms, nothing. So it stood to reason if that were the case, there is no reason whatsoever why that cannot be reversed. So I couldn't believe what I was being told, deep down, it made no sense to me, deep down I **KNEW** Louie could get better.

The second reason was that I **didn't view Ayurveda as a healthcare solution at that time mainly because I didn't understand it or know enough about it.** I now know enough about it to trust the science implicitly. Every disorder is viewed as an imbalance of some description of the body, some disorders are obviously more complicated than others to balance or have been present for longer, thus lengthening the amount of time to remedy, but **all**, with the right guidance and knowledge can be balanced."

Melissa Toleman - Founder of the centre

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School grounds get a tidy up

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL



By Suzanne Mark

The Grounds Team and Parent Teacher Association at Holy Trinity School in Cuckfield are continuing to work hard to improve and develop the site and ensure that the children can make the most of the wonderful school grounds.

Although the weather has not been on their side recently, with two grounds days having to be cancelled firstly due to a downpour and then to snow(!), fortunately the most recent one in March was a great success. Parents and children turned out in force to help to weed, dig, clear brambles, strim, clean up the pond area and repair fences. There was lots of hard work but also lots of fun to be had too – the children had a great time enjoying the woods and toasting marshmallows round the campfire at the end of the afternoon. Parents have also offered their time and skills to help practically with things like building a new wood store for the fire circle area, painting up old cable reels to make some tables for the new 'mud kitchen' area and helping to shifts wheelbarrow loads of woodchip.

With six acres of grounds to maintain there is a lot of work involved but the team are working with the school to increase the opportunities for the children to access the grounds. There are plans to improve the pond area this year, and in the future they hope to get a polytunnel on site too. The next grounds day is arranged for the afternoon of Saturday 6th May and they are keeping fingers crossed for good weather!

If you are able to help with gardening/building/fundraising they would love to hear from you (htgrounds@gmail.com).





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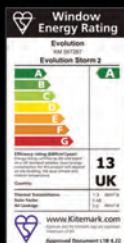
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Doing our bit for refugees

By Ros Longfield

Following on from Michael our vicar's letter in the magazine last month, which highlighted the current appeal for Samara's Aid, I thought readers might like to know a bit more about this charity.

In the autumn of 2014 the news of the disaster unfolding in the Middle East had reached our screens and many, like me, felt helpless in the face of such dreadful horror.

Brighton mother Samara Levy was so moved by the tragedy of the people displaced from their homes and fleeing in the clothes they stood up in that she started to send parcels of good used clothing to a charity in Turkey for distribution in Syria.

The first articulated lorry left the UK in October 2014 for Iraq and to date there have been a further 71 container loads which have ensured clothing for 170,000 internally displaced people.

The lorries or containers are sent through Mission and Relief Logistics, which works with international shipping companies, local haulage companies and agents who have detailed knowledge of the areas to ensure quick and safe arrival. The aid is then received and distributed by trusted NGOs (Non Government Organisations), many of whom are registered in the UK.

A new initiative was thought up to use empty metal 'containers' converted into 'meditainers.' These are

mobile and are converted into sterile centres with operating rooms, intensive care unit and consulting room by local people, at a cost of \$30-35,000. With 85 per cent of the population living in poverty, this supplies valued employment too. The first meditaider has just started treating people in Syria. The vision of the charity is to have 14 more meditaider units up and running by the summer of this year, four of which will be in Aleppo.

Samara's Aid relies 100% on participation of communities like ours in Cuckfield and, since the spring of 2015, our generous and caring community have given enough good used clothing to send nearly 400 boxes to these displaced and inadequately clothed people. In addition we have sent nearly 20 care packs of new items for various needs, for example ones for nursing mothers with tiny babies.

Each appeal may be slightly different and specific, to ease the special requirements of packing for customs. The present appeal is for NEW WINTER clothes for babies, boys and girls, which will run until they are delivered in the autumn for next winter. Should you be moved to donate items, please leave the retail tags on and place in the box supplied in the church tower or leave money donations in the church office with Gill.

Thank you so much. More info from the website www.samarasaidappeal.org

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Cuckfield Annual Parish Meeting

Cuckfield Parish Council will be holding its Annual Parish Meeting later this month.

It is inviting all residents, community groups, associations and other guests to come along and see the work of the Parish Council, and how it invests its finance in projects and programmes designed to enhance the wellbeing of the village and its residents.

This year Katy Bourne will be our guest speaker. Katy is the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex, and will give a presentation on her current priorities, as well as taking questions on any policing issues for the village and district.

Each committee of the Parish Council will be also be showcasing its work, including projects already concluded or those being planned for next year. Some of these include: a new green Open Space we will shortly own, future highways improvements, planning and District Plan & Neighbourhood Plan, monitoring targets, improvements to our community buildings, allotments and environment projects. The museum will be open by special arrangement (free admission) which exhibits the history of the village and its place in the district.

Complimentary wine and soft drinks, along with nibbles, will also be served from 6pm for a 7.30pm meeting start on Thursday 27th April.



Cuckoo Fayre: 1st May

The annual Cuckoo Fayre takes place, as always, on the first Bank Holiday Monday in May - this year 1st May.

The event, which includes stalls from local businesses and organisations, will be held on Cuckfield Recreation Ground (behind Queen's Hall) is run by The Independent State of Cuckfield as one of its flagship community events.

Stalls begin trading from midday, but the Mayor of Cuckfield Wilf Knighton will formally declare the Fayre open at 1pm, as he will be brought to the arena in a chauffeur-driven transport of his choice.

In addition to purchasing opportunities there are plenty of fun prize draws and children's games during the afternoon, with displays and pet shows in the arena.

Its always a fantastic event, which causes just about all of the community to turn out in celebration of this small piece of England!

Milk bottle tops collected

At recent Cuckfield Local Food Markets organisers have been telling residents that they can no longer take milk bottle tops for recycling. This is because Margaret, who has been collecting and sorting the tops, is moving from the village this year and retiring from Cuckfield Local.

However, a lady has stepped into the breach. From now on Sarah will be in receipt of your tops.

Only RED, BLUE and GREEN tops from now on. Drop off at the usual collection point at the Cuckfield Local Food Market on second Saturday of the month at The Talbot, 9.30am- 12.30pm. The next market is on 13th May.

Dahlia growers...

Hello, all you Dahlia growers. On 12th May, Cuckfield Evening Flower Club will be holding a talk by the owners of Withypiits Dahlias at 7.30pm in the Queen's Hall.

Tickets are £4 to include refreshments and can be bought on the night. There will be lots of lovely Dahlias to buy so here's a chance to add loads of colour and zing to your borders.


For further information, contact Sue Spooner on 01444 831602.


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Walking Race on Bank Holiday

Cuckfield residents are limbering up for the annual Independent State of Cuckfield Walking Race and Children's Easter Egg Hunt, which takes place on Easter Monday, 17th April.

Don't be caught out by the change in venue! This year the event starts and finishes at Haywards Heath Rugby Club on Whiteman's Green (not the recreation ground).

The actual course is unchanged, going for approximately five miles via London Road, High Street, Ansty, Deaks Lane and back to the Rugby Club.

There is an entry fee of £2 per person, and walkers must be at least 16 years old to take part. Entrants can register at the Rugby Club from 9.30am, and the first walker leaves at 10am.

There are trophies and medals to be won for the men's and women's handicap race, the fastest man and woman, and the fastest senior walker, which is open to those over 60 years of age. Plus there are the men's and women's team trophies, awarded to the fastest combined time achieved by a team of three walkers.

Walkers are also invited to wear fancy dress, and there are special prizes for the best outfits.

While the walkers are out on the course, children are invited to join the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which starts around 10.30am. For more information, please contact Jim at the White Harte, or phone: 01444 413454, or email: independent_state_of_cuckfield@hotmail.com.

Society's March Golf Day

By Ken Gregory

Another month, another course for the Society as our March Golf Day was held at the Mid Sussex Golf Club, sponsored by P&S Gallagher, who we thank for their continued support.

The weather has been kind to us over the winter months and was once again dry and warm to start, although a strong cold wind came in during the afternoon, with many glad to get back to the nineteenth!

Everyone found the course in good condition, although tricky in places, which reflected in the scoring, but the day belonged to Graeme Coombes who returned with 36pts. The longest drive was won by Tony Bean, nearest the pin in three was Graeme again, and four nearest the pin on par 3s by Jimmy, Tony, Vicky and Ken.



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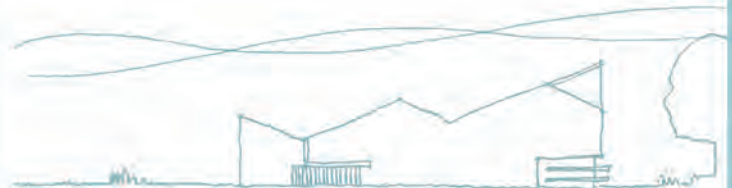
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Ensemble Reza's Community Orchestra is looking forward to its Cuckfield debut on Sunday 7th May from 3-5pm at Warden Park Secondary Academy.

In a lively programme from Polkas and Dances to more familiar sound tracks, including the Pirates of the Caribbean, this concert is ideal for all the family.

Originally set up in 2015, the Ensemble Reza Community Orchestra is aimed at players of all ages and abilities. Many have found the orchestra a great opportunity to dust off instruments, perform with friends and family, relax and have fun! Currently there are nine families in the group.

This orchestra is also a unique opportunity to

rehearse and perform alongside professional musicians and project partners The Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra. Rehearsals include expert tutoring from Ensemble Reza players and professional wind and brass players. If you would like to take part in future rehearsals, please contact Hannah.carter@ensemblereza.com.

Tickets for the concert cost: Adults £8 and £3 (under 18s) and are available from: Carousel Music (Haywards Heath), Wealdon Stores (Cuckfield) and online at the website: www.ensemblereza.com

This project is supported by the Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra, Great Walstead School and the Orchards Shopping Centre.

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Alfred Browne: Easter Sunday Hero

LOCAL HISTORY

By Kate Fleming

In order to imagine the setting, I would like you to travel back in time one hundred years to Easter Sunday 1917, and gently place yourself in our beautiful Holy Trinity Church. The people of Cuckfield are gathering for Evensong, as indeed they still do today, but then the times were different. Great Britain was at war, and had been for over two years, the young men had gone to fight for King and Country, and those left behind were under pressure to increase the war effort. There were food shortages, and patriotism was wearing thin. Rev Maddock, officiating at the service, was recently back from the front and the congregation, in a world deprived of immediate first-hand news (unlike today), was keen to hear about how its boys were faring in the seemingly distant world of mud filled trenches and lethal flying bullets. Mothers, wives, sweethearts, daughters and sons of men at the front have gathered to worship and pray for peace in the world, their thoughts and desires busily weaving through their minds.

Also busy about the church was the Verger, Alfred Browne. Having already prepared the church for Easter with festival white altar cloths and hangings in place of the sombre violet of Lent, he had one more task to fulfil before he supposedly joined the established congregation. As compiled meticulously by him in the Verger's List of Duties, he needed to strike the Union Jack flag at sunset, and, as this was already underway and darkness imminent, he had to make haste. He must have crept silently up the staircase to the battlements so as not to disturb the start of Evensong, and carefully opened the door. When... Shock! Horror! Flames sprang from the door accompanied by fumes which could

only mean that the spire and maybe the church full of worshippers were in grave danger. Alfred Browne needed immediate help to avoid a major disaster.

Alan Miller, in 'A Small Town at War: 1917 in Mid Sussex', assures us that Alfred Browne summoned help and that Evensong continued without disturbance. Quite a challenge for Alfred Browne, as summoning help is in itself a noisy activity....HELP! FIRE.....!

One is entitled to imagine that he scurried down the staircase and grabbed the unsuspecting churchwarden, Mr W.E.Mitchell, who in turn gathered together, silently, a male fire fighting group who eventually extinguished the flames, while the ladies and children continued to sing lustily totally unaware of the battlement drama.

In recognition of his prompt and effective action at the outbreak of fire in Holy Trinity Church during Evensong on Easter Sunday 1917, members of the congregation awarded Alfred Browne a gold commemorative pocket watch. This now belongs to his step great-granddaughter, Vee Willis, and can be seen on display in Cuckfield Museum.

So who was this man who leapt into action to save the church spire one hundred years ago? How did he come to Cuckfield? With whom did he live and work until he was buried in Cuckfield churchyard in an unmarked grave on December 23rd 1919?

I am indebted to Vee Willis for the extensive and



persistent research she has conducted on Alfred Browne which has enabled me to answer these questions, albeit, inevitably, some remain unanswered.

Often, when one thinks about the past demographics of the British Isles, we tend to presume that the population was static, and while that was so in many cases, Alfred Browne's journey was varied.

Born in Coventry in 1858 to ribbon manufacturer Henry Brown and his wife Emma, he was described as an orphan in the 1861 census. His mother had died from heart problems soon after his birth, and he was given a home with John and Catherine Coney and their family in Warwick. Here he stayed until he was at least twelve years old. John Coney had been a schoolmaster and must have ensured that Alfred was educated, thus enabling him to work as a telegraph clerk in Derby, then, a decade later, as a clerk in London and at the turn of the twentieth century to arrive in Brighton to undertake posts as solicitor's clerk, commercial clerk and accountant. It is here that history reveals his connection with Cuckfield. By 1911 he was living in Wheatsheaf Cottage, Broad Street with his wife Alice and her daughter Winifred. They later moved to Hatchgate Lane. Alfred worked as a jobbing gardener and as both parish clerk and verger at Holy Trinity Church until his death in 1919.

Alfred Browne was, undoubtedly, a valued member of the Cuckfield community before, during and immediately after World War I. Not only did he save the church from being destroyed by fire, but he worked tirelessly to nurture the village at a time of social and cultural change emerging from the upheaval of war. Privileged to read his 'List of Duties for the Church Verger' one is impressed by not just his amazing handwriting but his devotion to his tireless work for his church.

His final instructions after the week's annual cleaning of the church reads as follows:

'Saturday. Finish laying carpets, matting to go down. Books back in seats, and service books in their proper place.

Put all ornaments on altars and all the colours and see that all is straight for the 6pm service:

Somehow one feels confident that with Alfred Browne 'all would have been straight'. What a pity he wasn't around in 1980 when the spire toppled off as the result of a very fast acting blaze at the church.

Opening hours for Cuckfield Museum Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-12.30pm, Saturday 10am-3pm. More information from www.cuckfieldmuseum.org

(Access to the List of Duties for the Church Verger by courtesy of West Sussex Record Office.)

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10:30am at Cuckfield Baptist Church, down Polestub Lane.

The service will last about an hour, and a creche and children's activity will run alongside most of the service. There will be ample parking, and the service will be followed by refreshments.

We'd love to see you there.

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A dramatic turnaround

CUCKFIELD DRAMATIC SOCIETY

By Paul Ruse

After Cuckfield Dramatic Society (CDS) had enjoyed many years of success since its inception some 20 years ago, a gradual decline in membership and audience numbers meant that the society almost disbanded in 2013.

As with many amateur dramatic societies and other various clubs around the country, there is usually just a small band of dedicated members who perform all the administrative and back office duties required to keep the society or club ticking over – very often with minimal funds. When any number of that small team moves on, the remaining members are faced with an increasingly difficult task to keep things going.

In 2013 an Extraordinary General Meeting was called with the view to closing CDS down. It was decided at that meeting that drastic action was required, and, as a last-ditch effort, a rapid recruitment drive by the chairman resulted in some fresh faces being drafted on to the committee.

Determined to keep the club afloat, the new committee members brought some much-needed enthusiasm and a fresh impetus to the society and the good news is that CDS is now staging four regular performances a year at its traditional base, The Queen's Hall, Cuckfield.

As well as February Frolics (which is a platform for trialling new actors, directors, producers, technical and stagehands) and the established spring and autumn plays, CDS has now introduced the popular 'Cuckfield Christmas Cabaret'. Christmas Cabaret showcases talented singers and dancers from around the Mid Sussex area and is staged at The Queen's Hall within a cabaret club atmosphere during the week of the traditional village Christmas street event.

Four events a year might not sound too onerous, but the amount of time and effort that goes into each production is enormous for an amateur society. Without the efforts of the committee members, society members and volunteers, and, of course, the support of the local community, this simply would not be possible.

CDS has also recently performed a murder mystery

evening, raising over £1,800 jointly with the Rotary Club of Cuckfield and Lindfield, and a second is also being planned soon at Hassocks in aid of Cancer Research. CDS also raised more than £4,000 for Holy Trinity Church in Cuckfield by staging a play there. CDS actors also appear in other local dramatic society productions.



CDS also holds regular social evenings for both members and non-members. These social evenings vary in content from quiz nights, improvisation evenings, play and poetry readings to discussing and learning techniques in acting, directing, producing and technical activities.

Last summer, for the first time CDS facilitated an acting course with a local professional actor. Open to all, and run over six weeks, this proved to be extremely popular, and a repeat course is being considered. CDS is also running a technical, hands-on workshop in April, for both members and non-members to gain some practical experience of how to configure and build lighting sets. Similar training for audio will follow soon afterwards. The aim of the society is to involve, educate and entertain the local community - and to have fun doing it!

Since 2014 CDS membership has increased from 45 to around 70 full members, with some 180 people who have opted in to the CDS Newsletter in order to be kept informed about events and news.

With the support from many areas of the local community, such as Cuckfield Parish Council, the Independent State of Cuckfield, the White Harte and the Talbot public houses, CDS is becoming recognised as an important part of the Cuckfield community and is attracting local interest once again. Long may it continue.

For more information please visit the CDS website at: www.cdsweb.co.uk



Planning for The Barn

Ever since The Barn, on The Parkway, had ceased to be used as a Sales Office for Bolnore Village the residents have wanted it to be used for good in the community. In the last month or so planning has been applied for to change its use to that which could house a children's nursery. The planning process is now closed and the residents of Bolnore will have to wait and see what Mid Sussex District Council decide.

Chris Belton, chair of Bolnore Village Community Interest Company, explained their point of view: "The BVCIC along with the Community Partnership want to see The Barn being used for the benefit of the Village and on the surface, a nursery might seem to fit the bill. However both groups objected on the grounds of a significant increase in traffic and all that this would entail.

"It should be stressed that if the issues of traffic, noise, poor road layout and parking for the nursery could be resolved we would support a new application."

A decision is expected on 24th April.

Marquee for hire

The Bolnore Village Scout Group has its own marquee which is now available to hire for members of the public. Rates are £250 per day or £400 overnight (two days) which includes putting it up and taking it down, carried out by adult volunteers.



The marquee dimensions are: 8 x 6m (approx 26 x 20ft). It opens at both ends (ground to roof) and at sides (two central windows, ground to roof).

Contact marquee@bolnorescouts.org.uk for all booking enquiries.

Easter Sunday service at Woodside

On Easter Day (Sunday 16th April) there is a special all-age Easter service being held at Woodside by Grace Church at 10.30am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

All are welcome to join in the fun and celebrations.



Woodside car park closed

Residents and users of Woodside are kindly reminded that the Woodside car park is currently closed until the beginning of May while it is being resurfaced.

Quiz Nights at Woodside

The popular Woodside Quiz Nights continue monthly with the next two events taking place on 29th April and 27th May. Doors open at 7.30pm. Teams of up to six can enter at a cost of just £2 per person. There's a bar and prizes for the winning team. Book by email: events@bolnore.org.uk

Save the date: Bolnore Village Summer Fete 2017

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Stroke group welcomes tech

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Wilf Knighton

Whilst we are accustomed to wifi in our homes, the installation in our Queen's Hall will be a great benefit to the Stroke Association Communication Group which meets in the main hall every Wednesday morning from 10am-12noon.

The Stroke Group, which used to be fully funded, is run by two enthusiastic volunteers, Carolyn Dodd and Sandy Varley, together with their invaluable band of volunteers. They help those who have survived their stroke but been left with aphasia, which is a general term for all sorts of language problems which can manifest in different ways, i.e. complete loss of speech, inability to find the right words and a loss of literacy and/or numeracy skills and very low self-confidence. One third of all stroke survivors are left with aphasia, and this can combine depression with a feeling of total isolation and has a devastating effect on daily and family life.

With wifi in the hall, they hope to do more to help their members by the use of iPads/tablets with special apps suitable for those who have sadly lost their voices and lack confidence. It should help the volunteers learn more of what each member needs (as all are very different) as well as helping hand/eye co-ordination.

Funds are needed for this project, and I welcomed the opportunity to present Carolyn and Sandy with a cheque for £500, to the registered Stroke Association charity, from the Mayor's Fund to start the ball rolling.

We are lucky to have the only communication group in the area which offers long-term support here in Cuckfield. I, accompanied by my wife, was delighted to visit the group and was very impressed with the dedication of the volunteers. It was obvious how much the members enjoyed being in such a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Sessions have included interactive mornings with a percussionist (using drumming, tambourines and bells), spoon playing, singing and indoor games (including golf, curling, skittles, darts and table tennis). Some members do well from their wheelchairs or in action with their non dominant hand (luckily the darts are magnetic!).

So how about it, Cuckfield? Here is a chance to make a significant contribution to a project which means a lot to those less fortunate than ourselves. Any donation, however small, will be very welcome, and why not visit the group one Wednesday. Like me, you will be made very welcome, and I am certain that you will be impressed by whatever activity is taking place.

For more information contact: Carolyn Dodd (01403 266173) or Sandy Varley (01444 414333).

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Less is More

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

Declutter for Spring, or declutter to embark on a new style for your home?

Simple styling with clean lines and solid surfaces embrace the minimal aesthetic for a clutter free, no frills future. Sleek, shiny and pared back, the secret of a successful minimal interior lies in very clever storage and space saving built in furniture.

A prominent design movement of the 20th and early 21st centuries, minimalism is really more of a principal than a visual design ethos.

'Less is more' stated architect Ludvig Mies van der Rohe, who used readily available modern building materials such as glass and steel in the 1920s, designing buildings with a minimal framework and spacious interiors. The term 'minimalism' came into use in the 1960s at first describing geometric sculptures by Robert Morris and Donald Judd based on simple shapes. 1960s minimalism included natural oriental shapes in interiors, particularly those of classic Japanese style. Japanese minimalism, encouraged by Zen Buddhism, starts with powerful decluttering so that the individual hangs on to only the necessities to simplify life, resulting in the smallest amount of furnishings and possessions.

In a minimal interior, kitchen units and cupboards boast smooth tactile surfaces with frameless doors. Some doors might stretch up to the ceiling, all hanging on hidden hinges or clever concealed pivots, adding to the seamless flow of frameless cupboards disguised as panelling. Alternatively, pocket doors slide effortlessly within the wall to emerge filling the door space and so releasing wall space usually occupied by a swinging door. Glossy streamlined surfaces reflect light in smaller areas, all edged with clean sharp lines and no detail. All kitchen utensils, food items and crockery are hidden away for a clipped back lifestyle and a tidy mind. Clothing hides behind hidden wardrobes and almost invisible drawers. The TV sits on a sleek, snazzy TV stand with hidden drawers or behind a sliding panel. Where possible windows are frameless and undressed, unless privacy is required, and then a blind would be a good choice hidden behind a plain painted pelmet when pulled up. Refusing curtains allows the architectural shapes of the windows to add to the seamless flow of wall where pictures once hung. Simplicity extends to the stairs which are plain wood or glass, may not have banisters or handrails and ascend 'quietly' to the next floor.

Decoration is neutral with white walls and black or neutral furnishings, perhaps a pop of colour here and there, usually red in the form of a red cushion or vase, amongst neutral leather furnishings. Fitted furniture or free-standing low level sofas and chairs stay within the clean lines. Furnishings sit on top of gleaming stone tiles, sleek wooden flooring, including parquet flooring, or vinyl, adding to the look of a flowing spacious interior.

Lighting is without frills being on the industrial side of design with metal shades, glass or bent wire designs, and function is split between task and accent lighting.



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Riding high for 40 years

LOCAL CHARITY

Jubilee Photos: Jeannie Knight

This year Court Meadow Group Riding for the Disabled Association celebrates 40 years since it was founded in Cuckfield. It all began in 1977 when a note was published in the local paper asking if anyone would like to start up a Riding for the Disabled Group in the area. This was seen by Jean Musson, Carolyn Steel, Angie Peel Cross, Liz Courtly, Angela Urridge and others, who decided to take on this challenge with an initial donation of £30!

Audrey West, from Balcombe Stables, offered her premises and ponies, and before long the first pupils from Court Meadow School in Cuckfield were enjoying riding lessons.

The group quickly grew, with more volunteers and more pupils wanting to have riding therapy, and a move to the indoor riding school at Ditchling Stud. This meant sessions could go ahead all year round during term time, regardless of the weather.

Smaller ponies were also taken to Court Meadow school once a week for the smallest nursery children to ride, while another special needs group visited Hill House Farm near Lindfield, courtesy of Ester Goodwin, who loaned her pony and premises for riding sessions.

From these small beginnings, the volunteers of Court Meadow RDA have continued to work tirelessly, providing three sessions of riding weekly throughout the school term - initially for pupils from Court Meadow School in Cuckfield but in more recent years with pupils from Newick House School in Burgess Hill.

These schools provide education for pupils with moderate to severe learning difficulties and have now become one school known as Woodlands Meed School. Pupils from other schools in Mid Sussex and the LVS School in Sayers Common also form part of the group.

In September 2004 the Group had the pleasure of welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to a ceremony to mark the granting of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service. The Group was honoured to be selected as one of only 100 recipients nationally.

The Group was also very proud when several of its riders qualified for entry in the Special Olympics in 2005 and 2010. On both occasions Gold, Silver and Bronze



medals were proudly brought back to Mid Sussex.

Current riding sessions include a Wednesday class for younger pupils who are slowly introduced to the sensation of sitting on a pony and its movement. The aim is to ensure that their riding experience is an exciting and joyful event and helps to develop the child's sensory skills through touching the pony and feeling its movement.

Thursday morning sessions are for more advanced riders, when a large number of volunteers are needed to help encourage the children to gain confidence and achieve their own personal goals. There are also classroom sessions when students learn about horse management and tack care.

Each sessions includes up to six pupils and a large number of volunteers. Each pony has a leader and two side walkers.

Pupils learn the basic riding skills through a variety of exercises and activities and also enjoy fun events such as a visit from the 'Easter Bunny' and 'Father Christmas'.





These special visits follow fun gymkhana sessions, where the parents are invited along to see their children in action.

There are three volunteer instructors, who have to undergo training and annual inspections. Other volunteers are needed each week to put out equipment, mounting blocks and to help the children dress. The group provides jodhpurs, boots, fleeces and riding hats for all of the children.

Some children enjoy taking part in local and national shows, and a regional Fun Day for RDA groups takes place each year in May at Felbridge. There's also a four day Summer Camp.

In previous years a number of children have qualified for the National Championships held each year at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire. This involves the children travelling down with their parents, volunteers transporting themselves at their own expense and the ponies being transported and staying at least one night at the college. The children have been very successful, and several have won the South East Region part of the competition as well as picking up lots of individual rosettes and trophies.

The group has also taken part in local celebrations such as Lindfield Village Day parades and The Mayor's Procession in Cuckfield.

The group is always on the lookout for fundraising opportunities to help cover the cost of hiring the venue and ponies. Equipment also needs to be updated regularly and RDA fees paid, as well as the cost of entering shows and transporting ponies around the country. This costs around £15,000 per year.

New volunteers are always welcome – working with the ponies and with the pupils both in and out of the riding sessions.

For more information, visit the website: www.courtmeadow-rda.org.uk

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Vicar: Rev Michael Maine More information: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Rejoice, O Earth, in the radiance of this brightness



Dear Friends,

St Mary's Church, Iffley, on the edge of Oxford, contains two gems in stained glass in its baptistry. Both are called the Tree of Life. The first, by John Piper, installed in 1995, features animals announcing the birth of Jesus. A cockerel at the top of the windows has a speech bubble with the words 'Christus Natus est', the same rhythm as cock-a-doodle-doo! There is a lamb, goose and owl, and the whole is full of movement and a sense of fun.

The second window dates from 2010 and was designed by Roger Wagner. The figure of Jesus, as on the cross, has his arms open wide. He is surrounded by a flowering tree which almost seems to be on fire with blossom. Sheep rest at the foot of the tree and a river flows towards the viewer. It is an image that needs no words because it seems so full of life.

Christians all over the world celebrate Easter as the greatest of all Festivals, a day of transformation for humanity. The words at the head of this letter come from an ancient Christian hymn celebrating the moment when a single candle is lit on Easter Eve and brought into a darkened church. From it the people present light candles until the darkness is dispelled and the shared Light of Christ shines forth, a reminder of God's love for all.

We welcome you to join us on the Easter journey – and every Sunday is an Easter Day – a Day of the knowledge of God's Love revealed through Jesus, and where the River of Life never stops flowing for each of us.

With all best wishes,
Michael (Vicar)

Holy Week and Easter at Holy Trinity

Maudy Thursday

8pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and watch until 10.00pm

Holy Saturday

8pm Service of Light and First Eucharist of Easter (followed by a party)

Good Friday

10am Children's Worship (followed by hot cross buns)
12noon Devotion
2pm The Liturgy of the Day

Easter Day

8am Holy Communion
9.45am Parish Eucharist
6pm Evensong

Special Preacher for our Holy Week services:
The Bishop of Horsham, The Rt. Rev. Mark Sowerby

SUNDAYS

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

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

WEEKDAYS

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

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Fillet of Turbot with Avocado and Mango Salad

FISH OF THE DAY

Serves 2

Things To Grab

2 x 6oz portions of turbot fillet, skinned
salt and freshly ground black pepper
flour, for dusting
large knob of butter

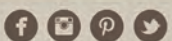
For the salad

1 small avocado
1 lime, juice only
1 small mango
1 red chilli, deseeded and finely diced
2 spring onions, finely chopped
1 heaped tbsp chopped coriander leaves
2 tbsp olive oil

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Sat 13th 09:30 - 12:30
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www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com

By Sebastian Candelon

Sebastian Candelon has owned the well-established Fresh Fish Shop on Commercial Square, Haywards Heath, for nearly ten years now. His passion for food and seafood can be seen with his broad selection of quality fish in the shop and also his carefully selected and locally sourced range of products to complement fish. His recipes are mainly inspired by the cooking demonstrations held at the shop regularly.

Have you ever cooked turbot? If not, why not have a go, Sebastian explains how...



- 1) To make the salad, halve the avocados, remove the stone and peel away the skin.
- 2) Roughly cut the flesh into 1cm (0.5in) dice, and place in a large bowl.
- 3) Squeeze the juice of 1 lime over the avocados, and stir gently.
- 4) Peel the mango and dice the flesh off the stone.
- 5) Place all of the salad ingredients in a bowl, stir them together and season with sea salt before adding the avocado and mango.
- 6) Season the fish with salt, lightly dusting the filleted side with flour.
- 7) Melt the butter in a frying pan. Once bubbling, place the fillets in the pan floured side down. Season skin with pepper.
- 8) Fry gently for 4-5 minutes, then turn fish in the pan and remove from heat. Leave to stand for a further 2-3 minutes.
- 9) Place salad on a plate and serve fish alongside.
- 10) Drizzle any remaining butter in the pan over the fish.

Sebastian's Serving Suggestions

Fantastic served with a warm herby cous cous...Yummy!



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Could you work for Cuckfield Life?

By David Tingley

Are you passionate about Cuckfield, the village and its people? Would you like to make a positive impact in this community? Can you write fantastic copy and do you enjoy meeting new people?

If you have some spare time and have answered the above questions with a 'yes', then we'd like to talk to you.

We have a part-time vacancy for an editorial assistant at our humble magazine - so I am looking to talk to anyone who thinks they might fit the bill. The role basically involves writing, sub-editing other people's copy and some admin/communication tasks. It won't take more than 25 hours per month.

If you believe it suits you, or know someone who it sounds perfect for, do please look at the full job spec and application process on www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk/jobs before 20th April 2017.



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Easter Holiday fun at National Cat Centre

The Easter Bunny will be hopping his way to Cats Protection's National Cat Centre to set up a springtime egg hunt next month.

The charity will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt at its centre in Lewes Road, Chelwood Gate, every day from 10th to 21st April from 10am to 3pm.

For children aged from four to 12, the youngsters can follow clues and work their way around the scenic nature trail. Admission is £2.50 per child, which includes a prize.

Children will need adult supervision and should wear suitable outdoor clothing and wellies as the trail can become muddy.

Visitor Centre Manager Dee McDonald said: "Our nature trail is particularly beautiful in the springtime, and children will have great fun finding our secret fairy

ring and spotting an abundance of wildlife and creepy-crawlies. If you're lucky you may even catch a glimpse of the deer that roam the surrounding Ashdown Forest.

"We also have three lovely donkeys living on our site, and, of course, no visit would be complete without popping in to say hello to the cats currently in our care while they wait to find new homes.

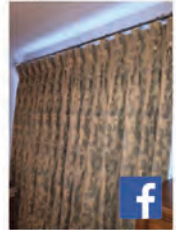
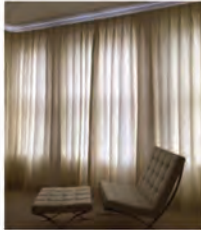
"The great outdoors, chocolate, cats and donkeys – what better way to spend a day out in the Easter Holidays!"

Cats Protection's National Cat Centre is the perfect day out for all the family all year round and is open every day from 10am-4pm.

As well as the nature trail, there is also a café, children's play area and shop.

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Lady Adelaide Georgiana Fitzclarence

STORIES FROM THE GRAVES

This month's 'Stories from the Graves' subject – Lady Adelaide Georgiana Fitzclarence – is a short but fascinating tale of a young woman with Royal connections.

One of Adelaide's grandfathers was an Earl – the other was King William IV.

Although officially a granddaughter to the King, Adelaide could never use her birthright and take her rightful place in society, as her father was one of several illegitimate children.

By Claire Cooper

Lady Adelaide Georgiana Fitzclarence was born on 28th August 1820 and was the granddaughter of George O'Brien Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont, who owned Petworth for 74 years.

Her father was George Fitzclarence, Earl of Munster, eldest illegitimate son of King William IV (his mother was an actress whose stage name was Dorothy Jordan).

Adelaide's mother was Mary Wyndham, youngest daughter of the 3rd Earl and Elizabeth Fox, a mistress, firstly of the Earl of Egremont and then the Prince of Wales, later George IV, among others. Adelaide was one of seven children born to George Fitzclarence and Mary Wyndham.

George FitzClarence committed suicide at the age of 48 in London. He shot himself with a pistol presented to him by King George IV when Prince of Wales. His suicide came as no surprise to his family who had long been concerned about his mental condition.

Mary, his wife, was allegedly 'eccentric to the point of madness.' Queen Victoria records in her diary (27th March 1838): 'Spoke of Lady Munster, her being such a strange woman; he [Lord Melbourne] said that there was

a good deal of madness in the Wyndham family'.

In a concerted attempt to make the royal family appear more moral, Queen Victoria did as much as she could to distance herself from the illegitimate progeny of her uncle, King William IV, and the Earl of Egremont.

Adelaide never married, and the 1851 census shows her living in Portsmouth with an uncle indicated as a Major General Fitzclarence, along with several other nieces.

She also lodged for a time in the High Street at Broadwater, Worthing (1871) and by 1881 was living with her brother at Palmeira Square in Hove. Adelaide also spent some time in residence at the Kings Head Hotel in Cuckfield. The Prince of Wales is also thought to have spent time at the Kings Head on his way to Brighton and was friendly with the hotel landlord.

Adelaide died on 11th October 1883 and was buried at Holy Trinity churchyard on 16th October.

Research suggests that the link between Cuckfield and the burial vault lies with Sir Charles Merrick Burrell, 3rd Baronet, who was the 3rd Earl of Egremont's son-in-law. Burrell owned Knepp Castle and was Cuckfield's local landlord. In the Burrell archives, held at the West Sussex Records Office, there is the following document:

List of settlements in favour of Lady Munster and her children. Burrell/Acc 5927/1/11/7, 7 June 1837

Lady Munster is Adelaide's mother, Mary FitzClarence/nee Wyndham, Countess of Munster. The exact settlement is unknown, but is likely to have been a property in the village, or simply a vault in the churchyard.

We would like to thank Richard Constable and Cuckfield Museum for their continued support and help in researching our 'Stories from the Graves'.



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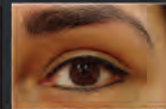
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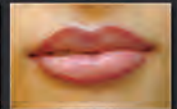
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Swimmers celebrate Club's 40 years

Swimmers from the Dolphin Ladies Swimming Club will be making a splash to celebrate the group's 40th anniversary.

Members will be performing 40 water skills of their choice during their lessons in the pool at the Dolphin Leisure Centre on Tuesday 25th April from 9am to midday.

A celebration cake, made by Margaret Carter, will be cut on poolside by one of the club's longest serving teachers, Wendy Dumbleton, who has taught for 31 years, before being taken to the foyer and served, along with over 100 cup cakes, to club members and guests from the Leisure Centre.

A display board showing the club's history from April 1977 to the current day will also be on show.

The Dolphin Ladies Swimming Club runs lessons for swimmers of all ages and abilities at The Dolphin Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings and Ardingly College on Friday mornings. New members are always welcome.

For more information contact Margaret Carter at dolphinladies@gmail.com



Plants for sale 13th May

Cuckfield Branch of the NSPCC will be holding its annual plant sale on Saturday 13th May.

The event takes place at Brinkley Lodge, London Road, Cuckfield between 10am-1pm.

There will be a wide variety of plants, flowers and veggies – all excellent value, so do come and stock your garden for the summer. Also, there will be coffee and home-made cakes and an attractive garden to wander around. Entry is free.

If you have any plants to sell they would be very welcome. For further information please ring 01444 459579.

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Sudoku #10

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

Find the solution to #10 in next month's magazine

#9 Solution

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

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)
1.30pm **Dance Classes for Children**
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**
7.30pm **Dog Training** (obedience)

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

- 9am **Balance Class for Children**
7.30pm **Wedding Dance Class**
7.30pm **Yoga**

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.

April

- 27th **Annual Parish Meeting** – 6pm, 7.30pm start
A chance to see and hear the work of the Cuckfield Parish Council - with Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne as guest speaker.
- 28th **Free Coffee Morning** – 10am-12noon
To talk/answer questions about Wills, LPAs, Inheritance Tax, Retirement Planning, Equity Release. (To reserve your place call Sue on 01444 450 901 or email sbrakell@rohansolicitors.co.uk)

May

- 4th **Polling Station**
- 12th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** – 7.30pm
Talk and Dahlia flower sale (£4 tickets)

AND ELSEWHERE

April

- 14th **Good Friday Children's Worship** – 10am
Holy Trinity Church. Followed by Hot Cross Buns.
- 14th **Good Friday service** – 10.30am
Cuckfield Baptist Church
- 15th **Murder on Air** - 7pm
The Hassocks Hotel, Hassocks
Cuckfield Dramatic Soc. present (07809 770453)
- 16th **All Age Easter service** – 10.30am
The Woodside, Bolnore. Grace Church hosts an All Age Easter service on Easter Day followed by an Easter Egg hunt.
- 16th **Easter Family Service** – 10.30am
Cuckfield Baptist Church
- 18th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Baptist Church - Birthday Dinner
- 19th **Mid Sussex Decorative & Fine Arts Society** – 10.15am
Clair Hall 'Faber and Faber - its Designs and History' lecture by Toby Faber, grandson of the founder. Non members welcome: £7 on the door
- 26th **RBL Women's Section** – 2.30pm
The Old School 'Members' thoughts'
- 27th **Ardingly Gardening Club** – 7.30pm
Ardingly Village Hall. Illustrated talk and demo; how to grow, enjoy, propagate, eat by Richard Ramsey of Withypitts Dahlias, Turners Hill. All welcome.

May

- 1st **Cuckoo Fayre** – 12noon-5pm
Mayor opens officially at 1pm: Stalls, shows, games and lots of family fun
- 2nd **Lindfield Afternoon WI** – 2.15pm
King Edward Hall, Lindfield
- 4th **Mid Sussex Ass. National Trust** – 7.30pm
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath. Timber-framed houses in the Weald by Brian Braby
- 6th **Plant Sale** – 10.30am-12.30pm
Ansty Village Hall, Deaks Lane. Teas and home-made cakes plus tombola and garden related items. In aid of Village Hall charity
- 6th **Birchanger Open Gardens** – 2-5.30pm
Charity fundraiser for Macmillan, who will be providing teas and cakes for visitors. (RH17 6JY)
- 13th **Plant Sale** – 10am-1pm
Brinkley Lodge, London Road, Cuckfield

Queen's Hall closed for regular activities

The hall will be closed for classes and all other activities regular and ad-hoc from Monday 10th to Monday 24th April due to the wooden floor being refurbished.

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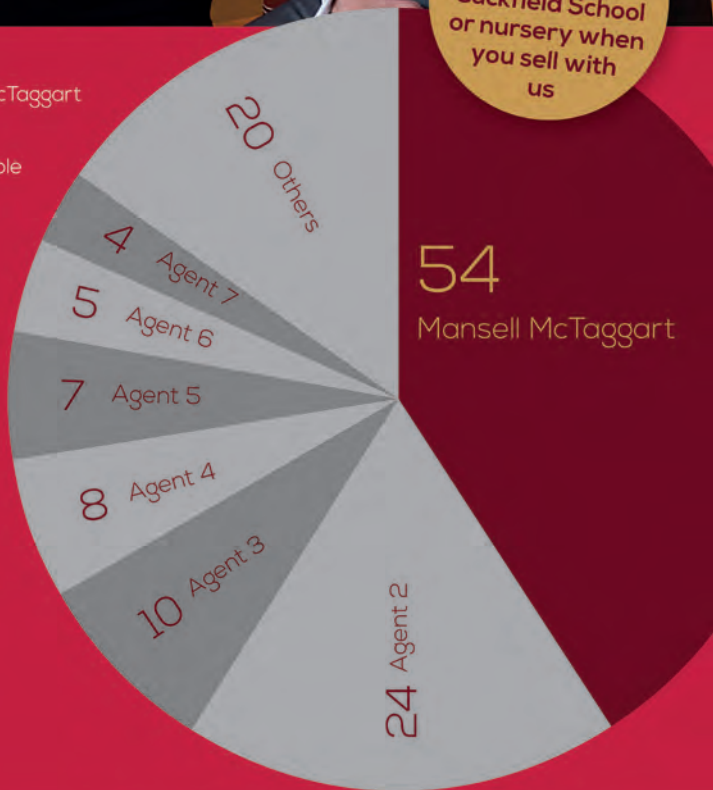
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People also like us because each office is owned by the people who work there day-to-day – giving that level of service and attention that you only get from a company's owners.

So if you're thinking about selling – whether seriously or just mulling it over – please call us for a no-pressure discussion about your property and how we can help.

Richard, Mike and Sharon

*Source: rightmove.co.uk, all residential sales agreed in RH17_5 in the year to 28 Feb 2017



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