

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #56: June 2017

Free



Cuckoo Fayre photo round-up

page 20

A new shop for Bolnore?

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Welcome to the June issue!

We have a change in team here, as **Claire Cooper** leaves her work on the magazine. Claire has done sterling work at Cuckfield Life since the beginning – I say goodbye properly and introduce you to Simon Yeend, our new editorial assistant, on **page 8**.

We must also say goodbye and thank you to **Margaret Tyzack-More**, as **page 33** finds her last regular Village Green column. Margaret has served the village well, keeping us all up to date on the work of Cuckfield Local for over three years. Thanks Margaret for all your contributions.

On **page 10 Claire Cooper** goes behind the scenes at New England Wood – and meets **Patrick Letschka** and others who all give their time to improve the natural beauty spot on the doorstep. Unbelievably I don't think we've ever covered the Wood before – so it's good to find out more at last.

Although it feels a little late in coming, **page 20** finds our full coverage of the **Cuckoo Fayre**, which took place at the beginning of May. How many familiar faces can you spot? Thanks to Kate Fleming for putting together the article.

Page 25 is the beginning of the **Annual Report of Cuckfield Parish Council**, written by **Nigel Page**. This gives a comprehensive insight into exactly how many parts of village life a Parish Council is involved in during the year.

In addition to the regular Bolnore Village page (**page 12**) we also have fascinating story on **page 40** – in which Simon talks to **Neil Bass**, who is looking to move his tattoo studio to Bolnore.

Let me give a quick plug to a small item on **page 8**. You may recall that last year we encouraged readers to take their copy of Cuckfield Life away with them on holiday! The idea is that you grab a snap or selfie with it in front of a landmark or destination – wherever in the world it may be. **Jayne Cole** kicks off this year's offerings, so do join in!

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NEWS

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

Name that fish bar!

There's something new coming to the High Street later this summer, but we don't yet know what it will be called!

Mustafa Dilek has taken over the lease of what used to be Flaneur, next to Cuckfield Bathrooms, and plans to open a fish and chip shop there in the next six to eight weeks. However, in an appeal to the community, he has placed a banner outside the shop asking for locals to send in suggestions of a name for the business.

"I've already had a few good ideas emailed in," Mustafa explained, who used a similar idea when he opened one of his other takeaway businesses in East Grinstead. "It was very successful then, with the winning entry having been suggested by a local schoolgirl. I'm already encouraged by the response from Cuckfield."

The shop has been in planning for 14 months already but is now nearing the final stages when the work in the building can take place. It will feature a traditional fish and chips menu and seating out on the terrace in the summer.

If you have a suggestion for the name, email Mustafa at: clockhousefishbar@gmail.com





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BBC favourite on our doorstep

By Simon Yeend

Mid Sussex will finally get a visit from one of Britain's best-loved TV shows this month thanks to a little help from Crawley Town Football Club.

The Antiques Roadshow will be filmed at Nymans Gardens in Handcross on Thursday 8th June after the show's producers were satisfied the delightful venue will be able to accommodate the thousands of visitors expected to turn up for the free show.

With limited car parking at Nymans, Crawley Town has offered its car park as a base for a park-and-ride service to the National Trust property.

The venue has been in the Antique Roadshow's sights for some time and the show's director Simon Brant is delighted they can finally bring the hit BBC1 programme to the area.

"Nymans was identified years ago as a possible venue for us, providing additional parking could be secured," said Brant. "We have achieved that with some overflow field parking and a free park-and-ride service every 15 minutes from nearby Crawley Town FC. It has also been a while since the Roadshow has been in Sussex.

"Nymans has a great story to tell and beautiful gardens for us to film in. All we need now is to book perfect weather conditions for our filming."



Fiona Bruce, who marks her 10th year presenting the programme, said: "If you are a fan of Antiques Roadshow, curious to see behind the scenes or just fancy a day out, I would urge you to dig out your treasures and come along – we'd love to see you."

Doors open at 9.30am and close at 4.30pm. Entry is free. Blue badge car parking spaces available at Nymans.

So, the long wait is almost over. Well, not quite. Those eager to see the programme on the TV will have to be even more patient. The shows are filmed over the summer but not shown until the autumn of the following year.

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Goodbye Claire...

By David Tingley

Claire Cooper has worked with me on Cuckfield Life since its very inception back in November 2012. Her role, as editorial assistant, is such a key one in doing what we do – I have been very fortunate to have had her on the team. But now, after four and a half years, she's decided to step down from the job on this magazine.

Many in the village will have got to know Claire over the years, as she has often been found at the very centre of village events both large and small. From the Mayor's Procession to the annual old people's lunch at Christmas, Claire has forged many links and made contacts in Cuckfield from an absolute standing start at the beginning, when we didn't even have a magazine to show people what we were planning!

I would like to say a big public 'thank you' to Claire for all her enthusiasm and journalistic skills as well as dedication to Cuckfield Life over the years. Although only a part-time job, she has given it her all, which I am incredibly grateful to her for. I wish her all the best and am happy to say that she will continue to work with me on our sister title Lindfield Life.



CL on holiday

Jayne Cole was kind enough to send us the following photo from her holiday in Spain. If you're going away, do take your copy of the magazine with you and send your snaps and selfies to photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk - we'll include entries in coming issues!

... Hello Simon

By David Tingley

Our new editorial assistant takes the form of Simon Yeend, a former sports journalist who has worked on national newspapers for more than 16 years. Simon, who has been a resident of Bolnore Village since 2004, has spent the last two and a half years looking after his youngest daughter and writing his first novel. "I'd been promising myself that I would do it," said Simon, "and the natural break to look after Orla seemed like the right time."

"I love living in Bolnore but I am also a huge fan of Cuckfield where my children go to school and where I walk my boisterous Hungarian Vizsla, Rufus, in the beautiful woods and fields that surround the village."

Simon has got stuck in straightaway with interviews for features in this issue of Cuckfield Life, although he says that people are much quicker to



respond to your phone call when you work for a national daily paper!

He would love to hear from anyone about fascinating residents who might make a great subject of our Village People feature, as well as local groups and societies that are keen to get their message out to the community.

Simon's role is concerned with all aspects of editorial content, so do drop him, or me, an email on editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk when you have a suggestion or news item or event to mention. Our strapline is 'local village talk by the village' and, as such, we love to hear from our readers – many of whom get in touch on a regular basis.

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If you go down to the woods today...

NEW ENGLAND WOOD

Ask any dog owner in Cuckfield for their favourite walk and their likely response is New England Wood. Every day dozens of villagers, and their dogs, enjoy a stroll around 27 acres of woodland – it's a great start to the day and a relaxing way to unwind in early evening. But outside the dog walking community the woodland remains one of Cuckfield's best kept secrets – which has been key to its preservation and unspoilt beauty.

By Claire Cooper

"The woodland belongs to the people of Cuckfield and yet I'm always surprised at how many people have never heard of it," said woodland manager Patrick Letschka. "It's such a lovely surprise when people discover it for the first time."

Patrick took over as woodland manager following several years volunteering with the Cuckfield Woodlanders, the team responsible for carrying out vital conservation work.

"New England Wood is a broadleaf wood of English native woodland trees including ash, beech, oak, sycamore, hazel, lime and chestnut and dates back to medieval times," Patrick explained. "The ancient woodland can be identified by its very big straight oak trees. The secondary, newer woodland is made up of self-seeded trees. The wood has never been used commercially although we believe one area was once an old iron quarry."

The woodland was purchased by the village back in 1980 after being earmarked for development. "Cuckfield residents were outraged and launched a campaign

to raise funds to buy the threatened woodland," said Patrick.

The campaign was successful and the Parish Council became the new owners of the wood. The New England Wood Trust was also formed to 'improve, protect and conserve the wood for the public benefit and as a broad-leaved woodland'.

Since then the Trust has relied on funding from the Forestry Commission, donations and grants, including the Mayor's Fund, and the efforts of volunteers.

Led by Patrick, the Woodlanders aim to ensure that the wood continues to thrive as a beautiful nature reserve. The volunteers meet every Monday from 9am to noon all year round. "It's a great way to spend a morning, exercise and socialise," said Patrick. "It's always amazing how much we get done!"

To prepare for Mondays, Patrick visits the woodland every weekend to inspect and draw up a work plan for the volunteers. "I make notes of any trees or large branches that may have fallen across paths, scrub that is encroaching on to paths and needs cutting back, or broken bridges," said Patrick. "It's my job to make the best judgement for the wood after listening to others."

One priority is to make sure the paths are safe for walkers. "It's really important to keep the paths in good condition, so that walkers can clearly see the route and aren't tempted to wander in the central nature reserve.

"We are very lucky to have a local chap who provides wood chips used for paths and only charges us for delivery."

Certain jobs, like path maintenance, are carried out weekly, but other projects are seasonal.

"We've recently been carrying out coppicing on a hazel grove as part of a seven year cycle," said Patrick. He added that nothing is wasted, as cut pieces are bundled up and sold as pea and bean sticks to allotment holders.

The woodland is also home to a large variety of wildlife including deer, foxes and a huge badger sett. "We are very lucky to have volunteers who are experts on small mammals, insects and wild flowers," said Patrick. "Their advice is invaluable to us."

Last year the volunteers created a bluebell glade and butterfly habitat to encourage a rare butterfly species, spotted in the wood, to breed.

There are dozens of active bird boxes, made and erected by the volunteers. "We recently added an owl box which we hope will attract a breeding pair," said Patrick. "We are keeping a close watch but haven't seen any activity yet."

Members also keep records of plant species and are particularly excited that the wood is home to two types of rare wild orchids – although their locations are kept secret!

Patrick explained how the woodland, which lies behind the recreation ground, remained relatively unscathed during the great storm of 1988. "The wonderful thing about the wood is that it is set in a dip and the wind blows across the top of it," he said. "I believe we lost a few trees but nowhere near as many as other areas."

When trees do fall, they are cut and recycled as edging for the paths. "We are lucky to have one volunteer who is handy with a chainsaw," said Patrick.

"Large fallen trees, known as standing wood, are often left to naturally break down, providing habitats for insects and putting important nutrients back into the soil. It's good for the health of the wood as the fallen trees melt back into the woodland."

Smaller self-seeded trees are often moved and replanted into different areas of woodland. The volunteers recently planted dozens of sweet chestnut trees in an area currently dominated by ash trees. "The idea is that if we were to get Ash dieback we already have whole sections of young trees coming through," said Patrick.

One of the largest oak trees in the wood, known as Trafalgar, marks a clearing in the centre of the wood where the volunteers take a break from work to chat over a cup of coffee and, when it's a member's birthday, a slice of cake!"

Volunteer, trustee and entomologist Tim Newnham explained how he began volunteering in the 1990s. "At that time we were just six old gardeners who came down to the woods and played at conservation!" he recalled. "We were real amateurs, but now we have more experts and real conservationists who know just how to preserve the woods for the wildlife and for the benefit for the community.

"We have a comprehensive survey of the woodland that was carried out many moons ago and our aim is to preserve these species and ensure they don't become endangered."

Fellow trustee Ken Burgess added: "Volunteering is a great way to start the week. It feels good to be doing something positive and giving something back to the community. We aim to connect the wood with the village as lots of people don't know it's here. We encourage them to explore the wood but in a careful way."

Chairman of the trustees, Stephen Holroyd, recalled how the wood enjoyed five minutes of fame on national radio back in the 70s. "A local man, Charlie Mitchell, who lived in Tubbs Cottages, recorded the dawn chorus in the wood which the BBC played on 'pick of the week,'" he said. "The recording also included Charlie's voice and wonderful Sussex accent."

The Woodlanders are always pleased to welcome visitors to the wood. They have included students from the University of Brighton where Patrick, a designer and wood carver, works as area leader for the Wood Department in the School of Art.

The students enjoyed taking part in woodland workshops as part of their BA and MA degrees and their creations, inspired and crafted from New England wood, were exhibited at the village museum.

"We are also going to organise talks about conservation and sustainability here in the wood," said Patrick who represents the Trust at Small Woods Association Conferences.

The Woodlanders are always happy to welcome new volunteers. To find out more visit: www.cuckfieldwoodlanders.com





Bitter-sweet sensation for runners in Bolnore

Bolnore Village showed its best and not so pleasant sides during the Mid Sussex Marathon on Sunday 30th April.

The route took in large chunks of the village, with more than 500 runners taking part in the sixth successive year of the three-race marathon. Marshalls were deployed at road junctions to ensure the safety of the runners and to calm traffic.

Not all motorists welcomed the sporting visitors, though, as one Bolnore resident pointed out:

"Witnessed stupidity this morning," they said. "Drivers were held up for four minutes tops, while the bulk of runners on their first lap were doing a fantastic run and impatient drivers just couldn't wait. I could not believe the abuse the Marshall took. He deserves a medal. Worst of all a driver decided to ignore the Marshall just as a blind runner & his guide approached the crossing. I am so disappointed by the mentality of these drivers. There are alternative routes out of the village and this run was advertised!"

On the plus side, a small group of Bolnore residents positioned themselves at the edge of the village at the top of a hill where the route cut into Ashenground Woods. They were armed with encouraging words and hundreds of jelly babies and Haribo sweets – to provide a much-needed sugar boost for weary runners at the four and eight mile points of the ten mile race. The sweets were a hit. "Best supporters on the route," was the grateful pant from runners after grabbing a jelly baby on the go.



Bolnore Flea Market returns

Bolnore resident Dan Weaver is organising a second Scattered Flea Market in the village, where residents can sell unwanted items from the comfort of a pitch in their front gardens.

Dan is hoping for an even greater number of sellers than the 40-plus who registered last year – and accordingly has decided to spread the event over two days on the first weekend of July.

He said: "After a successful day and by popular request, and to make it more accessible for all, The Scattered Flea Market is back. This time, split over two days... Sat 1st July from the bridge up and Sunday 2nd July from the bridge down."

We need YOU!

Bolnore Village primary school is under-subscribed for school-starters this September.

The school, founded in 2009, has a two-form entry with spaces for 60 children. The under-subscription is not unique to BVPS, with other schools also struggling to fill classes because 2013 was a low birth year in Mid Sussex.

With funding for schools being squeezed, schools are conscious of making the most of the money available to them. As funding is provided per-child, it is vital for the school to maximise their intake of students this September.

More details about the school, which was rated as "continues to be a good school" in the latest Ofsted report, and the admissions policy can be found here: <http://www.bolnorevillage.w-sussex.sch.uk>

Farewell Mr Sears

Bolnore Village Primary School is inviting everyone to say farewell to deputy head Mr Sears with a picnic next month.

Mr Sears is leaving Bolnore after three years to become headteacher at Northlands Wood Primary School.

The school wants to give him a memorable send-off and as Mr Sears is a regular on the turntables at every school disco and major event, the school has gone for a music and movies theme for the picnic at 3.20pm on Thursday 6th July.

The school office said: "Wear a mask of your favourite music or movie star or dress up like them (optional). A celebration of music and moments. All welcome. Please bring your own picnic and a rug. No alcohol please. Refreshments will be available – thank you to our Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School."

Throw another shrimp on the Barbie.

Bolnore Village Scouts will be hosting their AGM fun day featuring a barbeque on Sunday 11th June at the Woodside between 11am and 2pm.

There will be a brief AGM followed by the BBQ and a demonstration of scouting activities, plus a bouncy castle and fun games.

All are invited and the Woodside bar will be open.

For more info, please email Marco, Group Chairman: chair@bolnorescouts.org.uk

The resurfacing work on the entry road to the Woodside has been completed.



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Jeet gets stuck in on the cricket field

CUCKFIELD CRICKET CLUB

By Simon Yeend

Jeet Raval looked up at the bright blue sky over Cuckfield Cricket Club and smiled. Two months earlier he was opening the batting for New Zealand scoring 88 runs against a powerful South African team. Now he was preparing for a match against Preston Nomads the following day, which would draw a crowd of considerably fewer than turned up for his wedding.

Did he strut in as the big-name overseas professional at this modest cricket club with the attitude of a prima donna? Not a chance.

On the day of his chat with Cuckfield Life he'd spent the afternoon helping the groundstaff mow the grass ... in the pouring rain.

And in the evening, he was back to help coach a swarm of under-9s, who descended on the picturesque ground to the south of the village for the All Stars Cricket launch event.

Raval, 28, knows the importance of hard work and the correct attitude required to succeed in this sport. He brings a winning mentality to Cuckfield and hopes it will lead them to triumph in the Sussex Premier Cricket League.

His journey to Cuckfield has been a fascinating one. He grew up in the Indian state of Gujarat which offered a cricketing education unique to the subcontinent.

'In the summer it was 45 degrees, so hot it used to give me a nose bleed,' he said. 'At the age of eight or nine, in the school holidays I would be out of the house at nine in the morning and not come back until seven in the evening, mum would be wondering where the hell has this guy gone. I didn't have shoes so I'd come back with cuts on my feet and bruises everywhere.'

'We used the back wheel of a bicycle as the stumps and played with a rubber ball. You don't realise it at the time, but you pick up a lot of skills playing in the street.'

His skills took him to a cricket academy, where a coach saw his true talent and switched him from a medium-fast bowler to a batsman. In his next innings he scored a century.

In 2004, when Raval was 16, his father took the gamble to seek a better life for his family by emigrating to New Zealand. The culture shock was extreme.

'It was really hard in the beginning,' he said. 'I couldn't speak a word of English. I went to school and the only thing I understood the teacher to be saying was, 'sit down, sit down'. I would have no clue what the teachers were saying, literally I'm blank. You go to the school canteen and all you get for lunch is pies and I'm vegetarian. It's a lot more multicultural now.'

'I didn't have family around me or my friends. And I wondered if it was the right decision to move. But I got through it. My family said there is light at the end of the tunnel – we might have to do hard yards for five or six years – and so I stuck at it.'

He found a way to make himself understood without language – with the cricket bat. Cricket was his lifeline. And he grabbed it.

'I started playing cricket for my school and doing well so there are pathways for you to excel. I'm fortunate that I've been able to repay the sacrifices that my parents made over the years for me.'

He climbed the rungs of the cricketing ladder and by 2008 was playing for Auckland Aces. After scoring heavily for Auckland last year he got the ultimate honour – a Test call up for his adopted country.

Only one snag – it came during his honeymoon.

Raval takes up the story: 'My wife Surabhi's family is also originally from Gujarat so we did the Big Fat Indian Wedding there. There were 500-plus people at the wedding and the celebrations lasted for a week. I hadn't been back to India for 12 years since I left for New

Zealand so it was good to reconnect with all my family.

"For the honeymoon, I promised my wife we will go to UK, I'll play some cricket but we'll get some time to escape to Europe and see some fantastic sights. We had one week in Santorini, which was awesome. But I got called up by New Zealand for the tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe so I had to cut our dream trip short."

It was the Ravels first wedding anniversary last month – a perfect opportunity then to make it up to Surabhi? Well not quite.

"Our anniversary was on the Tuesday and that is training night at Cuckfield, so But the next day we went to London, did all the sights and had a romantic dinner in a restaurant. The highlight was visiting the Tower of London and then taking a cruise from Tower Bridge down the river to Westminster. It was 5.30 and the sun was shining, the only time the sun has been seen in London this month!

"Now we are back in Europe again so hopefully this summer we might get away. We have Paris, Rome and Barcelona in our sights so we'll see what happens."

Ravel has settled in well to life in Sussex. He's living in Haywards Heath with Surabhi, staying at the house of the cricket club manager, Dave Reid.

And in his first game he scored 149 in a victory over Ansty. A perfect start.

'It's a great club and a great social club. They've got a good family culture going on here and all the guys playing are mates so that makes it much easier. But apart from

the weather, it's been really good and we've settled in nicely and we're looking forward to the challenges ahead."

One of those challenges, he hopes, is putting England's bowlers to the sword when they tour New Zealand early next year. Two of Cuckfield's recent overseas players, Keshav Maharaj and Roston Chase returned to their countries in blistering form after their spells in Sussex, so the precedent has been set.

"I jumped at the chance to come here," he said. "The league sounded really promising and I've loved it so far. Hopefully, this summer I'll score a lot of runs for Cuckfield and when I go back home I hope to get selected in November for the Tests against South Africa and then England."

Cuckfield Cricket Club have been delighted by the response from local youngsters to the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) new All Stars Cricket Launch.

The ECB launched the eight-week initiative of weekly one-hour sessions starting in May to give boys and girls aged five to eight the best first experience of the game.

More than 60 youngsters have signed up at Cuckfield Cricket Club – the largest number of any club in the area.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pupils in Year 9 and 10 at Warden Park Academy raised £1,400 at their Spring Fair recently to help fund their trip to Peru for a month in the summer of 2018. Each pupil is tasked with raising £4,290 to cover their travel, food and accommodation expenses - the money they raise will also go towards purchasing materials they will use to help build schools, toilets and irrigation tracks in Peru.

The next fundraising venture by the pupils will be a Car Boot Sale at the school on Saturday 8th July.

Professional theatre company Rain or Shine are set to delight Cuckfield residents again on Thursday 27th July at 7.30pm with their production of Shakespeare's comedy Twelfth Night. The performance will be at Cuckfield Recreation Ground. Tickets available by calling 01444 454276, or directly from Rain or Shine on 0330 660 0541 or go online via www.rainorshine.co.uk

Cuckfield Museum will be unveiling a new display on 17th June highlighting the changing face of Cuckfield's High Street shops. Images from their photo archive will show how some premises are instantly recognisable despite their dramatic change of use.

Warden Park Secondary Academy has appointed Dominic Kenrick as its new headteacher following Jonathan Morris's appointment as CEO for the Sussex Learning Trust. Kenrick, pictured, deputy head at Steyning Grammar School, will begin the role in September.



The Singing Allsorts, the local amateur 50-voice choir, will hold its summer charity concert on Thursday 6th July at 7:30pm in Holy Trinity Church. It's Raising funds for MIND and KANGAROOS. Tickets £8 from Cuckfield Post Office and Wealden Stores.

The Wealden Stores in Cuckfield has been put up for sale – for £695,000. The estate agents say the shop could continue as a going concern but add: "It could provide one very large home or possibly flats, subject to necessary consents."

Tinkerbells Music Group, which has been running in Cuckfield for 20 years, has been saved at the last-minute.

Owner Sarah Creedy had almost lost hope of finding a buyer for the business, which offers singing and music to pre-schoolers. But Sarah announced on Facebook: "Tinkerbells has a new owner! Gemmell takes over next half term and is going to be amazing!"

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Don't let this fantastic event die

CUCKOO FAYRE

By Kate Fleming

The Independent State of Cuckfield's Cuckoo Fayre took place again on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May, as it has done for the last 50 years.

Volunteers from The Independent State gathered in the early morning to prepare the Recreation Ground for the stalls and events that make this Fayre unique and community-centred.

With bacon rolls and hot drinks to power them on under ominous grey skies, the volunteers transformed the Rec into a thriving fayre where local charities and organisations could promote their good causes and sell their produce.

Most of these have been at the Fayre for years and are very much part of the scene, but this year new ones appeared. Dame Vera Lynn Charity for Children was there and the Tennis Club stall proudly revealed its refurbished courts.

The central arena was roped off and ready for the best of local entertainment and the great folk music of the Village Band. Children's entertainer Tomfoolery also used this space to captivate large numbers of children and their parents, with his magic and fun inviting and encouraging participation, generating riveting excitement.

Despite the bad weather forecast, the predicted rain mostly held off. And when Wilf Knighton, Mayor of The Independent State of Cuckfield, arrived in a classy 1934 Alvis Firefly the sun even made an appearance, prompting his female chauffeur to declare: "The sun shines on the righteous."

The mayor declared the Fayre open and spoke fervently about the way in which money raised was spent and how this was so beneficial to the life of the village.

The Scouts did brisk trade with their burgers, barbequed on charcoal sourced from a local wood.

While the dog show organised by the Mewes Vets proved as popular as ever. This was judged by Dr. Julia Mewes, and organised by her team of volunteers from

the vet practice in Haywards Heath. There were two new events this year, the Irish Brace, in which dog owners were encouraged to pair up and show off what they had in common, and the Best Six Legs.

Julia said: "We had a great time, as always at the Cuckoo Fayre. The people of Cuckfield are always so happy to get involved giving the Show a great atmosphere."

Cooper, black Labrador took the prize for Best Pedigree Dog, while Jack and Hungarian Vizsla, Jack, dressed as a thoroughbred racehorse, won both Best Fancy Dress and Best in Show.

The Mewes vets are offering the pet portraits that were taken on the day for sale in aid of charity. Photos are available from just £2.50 with next day delivery from themewesvets.co.uk/gallery.

During the busy fun-filled afternoon a flyer was distributed warning us the Cuckoo Fayre might not be able to continue due to lack of people willing to take over the responsibility of organising and running the Fayre. A number of the long serving members are retiring and wish to hand the baton to the new generation. This has been a planned process and has revealed a new and exciting influx of 21st-century committee members and volunteers, but The Cuckoo Fayre remains shaky, in need of energy and organisational skills to sustain and develop this delightful and valuable village Springtime event.

We don't want, in inevitable moments of retrospection in the years to come, to be yearning for The Cuckoo Fayre and wishing that on that first Bank Holiday Monday we could go to listen to the Village Band, eat a burger and celebrate Alfie winning a rosette for the waggiest tail in the dog show.

Julia added: "This event will not happen again unless more stewards volunteer for 2018, so I am really hoping more will be found. It is such a super community event and must not be allowed to disappear."

So now is the time: The Cuckoo Fayre needs YOU!



Photo: Woody's Pet Portraits



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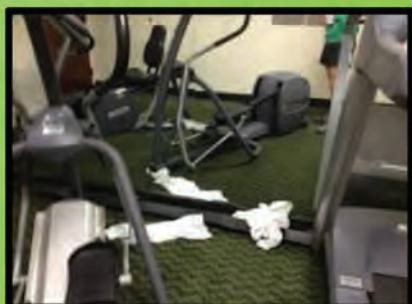
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Schools hoop champs

Warden Park has a trio of heroes in their ranks after three of the school's students helped their teams become national champions at Basketball's play-off finals in April.

Lewis Lee and Luke Wood were in the Under-16s Worthing Thunder squad that beat Haringey Hawks 80-68 in the final in Manchester after a 27-point blitz late in the game.

While Emily Brannigan, 12, also became a national champion after helping her team, Sevenoaks Suns, beat local favourites Manchester Mystic 75-68 in the final.

Emily's rise to the top is remarkable, as she only took up basketball a little over 18 months ago. Warden Park's Head of PE Mr Gentry asked Emily to play for the school team when she started at the school and she took to it like a natural.

Early this year Emily started playing for Sevenoaks Suns, one of the leading clubs in the South of England, and again she blossomed there, in her position as a forward. Her new-found success has surprised her.

"I never imagined being an English Champion," she said. "But after meeting the team and starting the intense training, I did. I work hard on all my skills, especially dribbling and cross overs.

"I played in the final against Manchester and it was amazing to win. It felt surreal immediately after the



match at what we had achieved. I felt rewarded for all the training outside of school that I have to do."

Emily has set her sights high to go on from this success. "I will definitely carry on playing basketball and my dream is to become a pro basketballer."

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Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

By Nigel Page, Chairman

Introduction

I am pleased to submit my Chairman's report for this year as we complete our 2nd year of a 4-year term. As you would expect being half way through this term, we have completed some projects and started new ones as part of our business plan.

The Parish Council is formed of ten locally elected residents (non-political) who give their time voluntarily to ensure we can run a Parish Council and the Committees which enact our statutory responsibilities as the first tier of local government. I mention this for clarity and understanding of responsibility, as sometimes this leads to confusion with the community for responsibility to make changes or how decisions have been made. It has been particularly relevant for some of our Planning and Highways issues for this year.

Central Government define National Policies and

statutory law, which are cascaded down to the County Council, District Council and lastly the Parish Council.

West Sussex Council are responsible for services such as Education, Highways, Social and Healthcare services. Your current elected representative is Peter Bradbury, at time of writing West Sussex Elections will be held on 4th May 2017.

The 2nd tier of government is Mid Sussex District Council with whom we work closely, along with the three Town Councils and other Parishes which form the District. They are responsible for planning decisions, housing provision and local amenities such as parks and recreation. Robert Salisbury and Pete Bradbury are the elected Ward councillors representing Cuckfield in Mid Sussex.

This report will be shared at the Annual Parish meeting on Thursday 27th April and in our regular newsletter which is published in Cuckfield Life.

This Annual Report and the Annual Parish Meeting are our annual opportunity to share the work for the previous year and to look forward to the following year. We have worked to make the Annual Parish Meeting bigger and better this year with guest speakers who reflect the interest and feedback we have received during the year.

I will summarise each committee shortly, but the focus has been on Highways safety improvements, running both the Queen's and Village Halls and ensuring we provide services for burials in the Churchyard and weddings, including civil ceremonies in the Queen's Hall.

I would like to welcome Frances Laing and Jo Notaras, who are our newest Parish Councillors. You can find a list and contact details of Councillors on the Parish website www.cuckfield.gov.uk and in the regular newsletter.

Please do get in touch with any comments or thoughts you may have. Our committee meetings are also published on www.cuckfield.gov.uk and are open to the public.

Summary of Committees

I am pleased to summarise the activities of our committees for 2016-2017.

Planning Committee

The Planning stand has outcomes for year 16/17 highlighted so please visit the stand to take a look. In general, we are doing well against the targets, with 20 new dwellings completed in the year.

Policy

A decade on now and Mid Sussex District Council continues to struggle on its District Plan delivery, and further delays mean that the area still cannot demonstrate the all important five year housing supply, against figures which are still to be examined.

The Plan is currently at Examination, but the examiner has determined that Mid Sussex should take Crawley's 'unmet need' and therefore the housing target needs to rise another 30% from 800 additional dwellings per year to around 1,050. Considering that Mid Sussex started this process several years ago at around 500 per year, recent numbers are now double this. MSDC is now being forced to look again at Neighbourhood Plan contributions – even those that have been examined and 'made', and we await to see the outcome of that.

New Developments

The Parish Council regrets the new development along Broad Street – the first four currently in construction with an additional three in the grounds of Riseholme at the end of the bypass with approval. This area was the last gap in the parish along the road between the village and Haywards Heath. Unfortunately, our comments and

our Neighbourhood Plan policies carried no weight at the Appeal compared to the Mid Sussex's continued lack of five year housing supply.

The public open spaces accompanying the two developments at Horsefield Green and Buttinghill have taken considerable efforts to progress towards completion this year.

At Horsefield Green, we are awaiting the freehold transfer to the parish council ownership. This is taking some time. We will then be undertaking some landscape works to complement that undertaken by the developer.

At Buttinghill Drive, a number of discussions between the developer, Mid Sussex and residents over the drainage pond that has been in a failed state for three years, has started to gain some traction. We are hopeful that MSDC will finally (and after numerous false starts) issue the planning Enforcement Notice. Taylor Wimpey assures us that they wish to now see the issue resolved. The date for the land transfer of this open space is three years after final occupation, which means Summer 2018.

We are now seeing the commencement of the Penland Farm development at the end of Hanyle Lane. We await to see the traffic and lorry movement impact on Cuckfield from this major extension to Haywards Heath. There is no mitigation required by the planners.

Extensions

The number of applications for conversions and extensions has dropped off a little this year, to 41 (last year was 44) as highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan monitoring. Those we see are generally of good quality, design and construction and aim to retain the character and distinctiveness of the village.

Planning Decisions and Appeals

Whilst the number of applications has reduced a little, the parish planning committee recommendations have differed from the final decision made by Mid Sussex planning authority by an increased amount (12, against four last year). We need to discuss this increased difference of opinion to see if there are any themes.

As mentioned, the outcomes of the Broad Street appeal were not as we hoped. Given the application went against a large number of the Neighbourhood Plan policies, this means that the policies no longer have the weight expected, and won't do until Mid Sussex finally get their District Plan adopted

The Courtmead Road development continues to be embroiled in legal issues, with Mid Sussex losing the Judicial Review but continuing to proceed with the development. Another High Court case is expected shortly.

Consultations

CPC has also responded with feedback on numerous occasions to the District Plan and several other Neighbourhood Plans in the District.

Roads and Traffic Committee

Highways are always a source of public concern and generate the majority of comments to the Parish Council and one we take very seriously. The majority of the issues are the responsibility of West Sussex Highways whom we work very closely with, but we do own and influence certain projects which we prioritise.



High Street Pavement

The pavement work in the High Street outside of Cuckfield House is now complete, the installation of the bollards has relieved the major problem we had with cars parking along it and causing damage to the pavement and making it dangerous for pedestrians. We have also installed a couple of planters which will be planted out for the summer. The overall effect of the work has been to provide a safe area for pedestrians and an improved look for the High Street.



Whitemans Green

The work to improve the layout of the Whitemans Green roundabout is now complete. The purpose of the realignment was to reduce the speed of traffic approaching the roundabout and to improve the safety of the crossing points for pedestrians. This involved enlarging the size of the central refuges as the original ones were not large enough to accommodate a pedestrian with a pushchair.

The width of the carriageway has been reduced to funnel traffic into a single lane to encourage a reduction in traffic speed. A final safety audit is still to be carried out.

Motor Cycle Bay

Another addition for this year is the provision of a motor cycle bay in the Broad Street car park.

London Lane

A scheme for London Lane improvements was presented at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. As this was not supported by the community, we are working with West Sussex Highways to provide a new scheme and would value suggestions from residents.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

We have purchased a portable Speed Indicator Device (SID) which records the number of vehicles, type and speed. The unit will be used on all the roads in and out of the village and will be moved around on a regular basis. We will use the data to plan future traffic improvement schemes. In particular, we want to determine if a 20mph speed limit throughout the village would be appropriate; again we would ask residents to give us their views on this proposal.

Street Lighting

The street lighting is now complete and we have managed to maintain the heritage style columns and brackets within the conservation area. This included heritage style lamps in the High Street to replace the original style lamps which were modern in design and not in keeping. This was funded as part of the Highways S106 monies from developments throughout the village. We now have a street lighting scheme which will last a generation and is consistent in style and design to reflect the character of the village.



Community Buildings Committee



Village Hall

The Village Hall is proving to be a very popular venue. The smart new kitchen, courtesy of a Heritage Lottery grant, and redecorated north hall are ideal for children's parties and other events. The Pre-School Playgroup continues to operate there and we hope to attract more regular hirers in the evenings.



Queen’s Hall

An exciting refurbishment programme has just been completed at the Queen’s Hall. The exterior has been cleaned and painted, rotten windows replaced, the moss etc. on the roof has been cleared and the hall floor has been completely replaced with new oak flooring, which we are assured will last for many years. Our hot water system has also been updated with new automatic water boilers replacing an antiquated hot water system, a relic of our Victorian heritage! All this work meant the closure of the hall for two weeks over Easter and we are grateful for the forbearance of our regular hirers during this time. The kitchen also had a facelift in January and we have plans to improve the garden over the coming year. We hope that the addition of a gazebo and colourful planting will make it even more attractive for weddings and parties.

We are investing in a new system for online bookings for both halls and we hope that this will make it easier for both the hirers and the office staff. Free public Wi-Fi is also now available.

Environment Committee

The Environment Committee is focused on the wellbeing of the Parish. It looks after key assets such as the churchyard, public toilets in Broad Street, allotments, skateboard park and organises events throughout the year.



The allotments are an important asset to our village and need constant upkeep, water supply, perimeter fences and main pathways to be cut. It has become apparent that a major exercise to clear unused and

abandoned allotments is now necessary. Not all past tenants have left their plots in good condition and we are currently obtaining quotes from contractors to go in and completely clear overgrown plots. The current terms and conditions of the allotment tenancy agreement are on the Cuckfield Parish Council website. Although there are three allotment sites in Cuckfield, the Parish Council only owns two of these. Cuckfield Parish Council has asked MSDC for permission to take over the management of the site in Glebe Road but so far they have declined our request.

The Christmas Street Festival took three months of organising and was a great success. Keeping us safe on the night were the Burgess Hill Bonfire Society along with Shaun Simmons. The snow machine and lighting throughout the village gave it a magical feel, along with Father Christmas.

We have recently appointed a new Lead Grounds Person who will work alongside our existing part-time Grounds Person, maintaining the grass and other general duties within the cemetery. In addition to this, they will work to organise and maintain our floral displays throughout the village, including the new planters outside Cuckfield House.

This winter the Skate Park bowl had large cracks and required major work to repair the surface to ensure it was safe for use. This did put the skate park out of action for a few weeks but it was necessary to have the right contractors for the job, and the weather also had an impact on when the work could be completed.

Going forwards, the Environment Committee will continue to support our green spaces within the village and maintain the look of the village so that it is in keeping with the Neighbourhood Plan.



Estates Committee

The Estates committee will oversee the transfer into Parish Council ownership of two large pieces of land at Ardingly Road and Buttinghill Drive (at the end of Bylanes Close). Both will be transferred to the Parish as part of the agreement arising from the Developer S106 agreement as part of two new developments adjacent to these pieces of land. Both will be designated as Public Open Spaces once transferred and become assets for the community.

Ardingly Road will be transferred in the next few weeks and Buttinghill towards the end of the year, once the developer has undertaken some additional drainage works on the land.



The developer of the Buttinghill estate has struggled to deliver a surface water drainage scheme that complies with the terms of their planning permission. There have been difficulties with land slippage on the perimeter of the receiving pond, which sits in the land which is due for transfer.

The Parish Council has been the primary player in the resolution of this problem, working with Mid Sussex District Council, the developer Taylor Wimpey and the residents of Buttinghill. We have been able to secure an undertaking from the developer that they will resolve the difficulties prior to the Parish being offered the land. The remedial works will be costly and the situation must be satisfactorily completed for the Parish Council to be able to accept the land.

The Parish has developed land management plans for each land parcel which will involve local ecology and interest groups

Finance and General Purpose Committee

The provisional result for the year shows a surplus of £6,000, with revenue of £267,000 and expenses of £261,000. This is despite several unbudgeted projects such as our new website at £6,000, the Speed Indicator Device at £3,000 and Street Furniture at £3,000.

Wedding bookings in the year were also down by £5,000.

We have reserves of £110,000 of which £32,000 is allocated against specific projects, the Queens Hall floor and £78,000 as a General Reserve.

Getting Involved

We are always grateful for involvement in our projects and it is a great way to be more involved in your community. We are always looking for people to get involved, everyone has a skill we can use and we would love to hear from you. For example, the Christmas Street Festival was only possible due to volunteers coming forward to run the event. Please do get in touch if you would like to see what you can get involved in.

I hope this report is helpful to you to summarise the work of the Parish Council and wish you all a good summer and remainder of this year.



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Parish Council Office opening hours:
Monday – Friday 10am – 3pm

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Appendix: -Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Target

	No Objection/Approved	Object/Refused	CPC Object/Approved	CPC No Objection/Refused
1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017				
Residential Extensions	17		9	2
Detached Outbuildings/Garages	13		1	0
New House on Existing Plot	1	1 CPC Object-withdrawn		0
Totals	31	1	10	2
Total Applications with Same Recommendation	31			
Total Applications with Different Recommendation	12			
1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016				
Residential Extensions	26	2	1	1
Detached Outbuildings/Garages	8	0	2	0
New House on Existing Plot	2	2	1	0
Totals	36	4	4	1
Total Applications with Same Recommendation		40		
Total Applications with Different Recommendation		4		
1st April 2014 - 31st March 2015				
Residential Extensions	39	1	9	1
Detached Outbuildings/Garages	10	0	0	0
New House on Existing Plot	3	3	2	0
Totals	52	4	11	1
Total Applications with Same Recommendation		56		
Total Applications with Different Recommendation		12		

Cuckfield Housing Trajectory (Neighbourhood Plan)

Housing Supply	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2021	2022/2031	Total
Private Market	20	16	23	24	4	13	17	117
Affordable	7	6	10	7	0	5	3	38
Total	27	22	33	31	4	18	20	155

Cuckfield Housing Data (Updated November 2015)

Housing Supply	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2021	2022/2031	Total
Private Market	20	23	3	12	28	24	24	134
Affordable	13	0	0	17	0	10	4	44
Total	33	23	3	29	28	34	28	178

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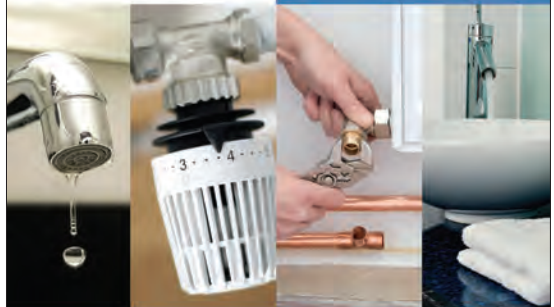
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Cuckoo Fayre

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Wilf Knighton

On Monday 1st May all roads led to the Cuckoo Fayre. As usual it provided an opportunity for local good causes and charities to promote themselves. In addition, it is the annual event which brings the whole community together in a festival of fun. The day needs good weather and fortunately it was kind to us once again.

My first task is to thank Tony and his team of hard-working volunteers who gave their time freely so that we could meet and greet old friends and neighbours. I am sure you would agree they did a wonderful job.

The tradition continues with the Mayor being paraded in an open top vintage car and thus it was that Harriet turned up, fortunately the day before, with a splendid Coventry-made 1935 Alvis Firebird, intended for racing and thus no doors. This proved quite a challenge as, with my recent knee replacement, I needed a ladder to climb in. Arrangements were made for someone to run behind with the ladder so that I could make a rather ungainly exit in the Park. Probably not quite what the good Citizens of Cuckfield would expect.

Harriet's Mum saved the day by instead supplying me with an excellent example of a 1934 Alvis Firefly with running boards and – thankfully – doors. Many thanks to them both.

The Coventry connection was rather poignant as it brought back memories of my childhood in the Coventry blitz when the skies were lit up with what looked like a giant firework display. When the air raid was over we came out of the shelter to discover our house had been destroyed by an enemy bomb, so my two brothers and I were evacuated.

Back to the present day, and, as usual, there was a good attendance for the Fayre and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves. The Village band provided lively entertainment throughout the day and as ever the dog show, judged by Julia Mewes, was very popular.

Together with my wife, Pamela, we visited many stalls including the newest charity to relocate to Cuckfield, the Dame Vera Lynn Charity for children with Cerebral Palsy. Full details are available on its website and currently it is seeking funds for a Magic Carpet project.

Finally, it was time to cut the ribbon for christening of the refurbished tennis courts. We now have a most valuable attraction in Cuckfield which I hope will be well used by many members both old and new. If your skill set is not quite where you want it to be, coaching is also available.

Well it would be good to say that I am looking forward to seeing you next year, but sadly this may not be possible unless a new team of organisers and volunteers come forward to make it happen. Let's face it, events like this help to make Cuckfield the wonderful place it is in which we live.



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Another thing about trees

VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret J Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Some words had been floating in my head pushing open the door at the back of my mind. Google tells me they are by an American poet, Joyce Kilmer.

'I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.'

Poet I certainly am not, but it did get me musing about trees. Last month saw Village Green looking at catastrophic flooding and what to do about it. Seven years ago Hurricane Alex tore through Monterrey, Mexico's industrial hub, killing six people and leaving the city 'beyond recognition.' There was no such problem 22 years before when stronger Hurricane Gilbert hit. Why the difference? It seems that clearance for agriculture and real estate in the upper watershed laid waste to trees and plants that absorbed much of the storm water.

The Nature Conservancy are promoting the replanting of trees not only to soak up rain but to filter water into the aquifers, improve air quality, stabilise soil and absorb carbon emissions. A cost-effective solution. Who finances it? Not the government! Funding is coming from corporations such as Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Heineken, who see the sense in maintaining aquifers. Without water FEMSA, the world's largest Coca-Cola bottler, will have nothing to bottle. Win, win for Monterrey. New problems, new solutions – or are they? Not the old way of building more dams at vast expense but getting back to Nature and how we can walk in her footsteps.

In England, awareness of clear benefits from planting trees for another result is growing. Agroforestry, 'the practice of including productive trees in an agricultural system.' So many plus points here; soil health, increased fertility, water filtering and biodiversity from tiny crawlies in the soil to birds, bees and butterflies. A beautiful way to make wildlife corridors through hostile landscapes. Sheep grazing in orchards, alleys of walnut, chestnut, apple and pear interplanted with vegetables and other crops giving the farmer an added source of income. Wood fuels and timber, too. The research is ongoing and exciting with the potential to change the farming landscape.

Timber is close to my heart in lots of ways. Years ago I lived in a converted 16th-century barn just over the border in East Sussex. There were strange notches and mortices in much of the wood of no particular use in the barn structure as far as I could see. Many years later I was reminded that oak trees were needed to build ships of the line. These galleons were broken up when no longer fit for purpose and the timbers brought up the River Ouse from New Haven to build houses and barns up and down the Ouse Valley. The Barn was one such, hence the mortices in unexpected places. There is at least one farmhouse that I know of, close to Cuckfield, built from these ship's timbers. Early recycling. Love it!

Don't forget the next Cuckfield Local Food Market on 8th July at the Talbot 9:30 – 12:30. Yummy things to buy for weekend treats.

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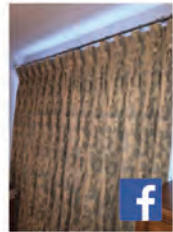


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Agents support fundraising pupils



Marcus Grimes Estate Agents are thrilled to be helping two students from Warden Park School with their fundraising efforts for the forthcoming trip to Peru in South America.

Megan TRM and Georgia Heath will be taking part in a once in a lifetime expedition to alleviate some of the day to day problems encountered by people for which 50% of the population live below the poverty line. The Warden Park team will be part of a Camps International initiative that involves the students working to help provide better sanitation, erecting and refurbishing school buildings, food and water security including building greenhouses for year round fruit and vegetables and environmental planting for sustaining better food and animal supplies as well as combating deforestation.

The girls will each be required to raise at least £4,000 each between now and when they depart in June 2018. They have a number of other fundraising activities planned over the next few months including creating a calendar for next year and a quiz night.

Clearly they need as much local support as possible and are promising their sponsors plenty of coverage across their social media accounts, so if you are interested in helping them get there contact either Georgia (13gheath@wardenparkradio.net) or Megan (13mtracey@wardenparkradio.net).

"Megan TRM and Georgia Heath will be taking part in a once in a lifetime expedition to alleviate some of the day to day problems encountered by people for which 50% of the population live below the poverty line."

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By Simon Yeend

The To-Do list is an exceptional one: Buy 600 pairs of trousers, Buy 600 tops and T-shirts. Scour the shops and the internet for a similar number of accessories. Label them all. Think of a theme and conjure up 35 dance routines of varying complexity for students aged five to 17. Find dozens of music tracks to accompany those routines and ideas on how to light them on stage. And, of course, drill those 35 dances into 220 students so they know them in their sleep.

Welcome to the behind-the-scenes preparation that goes into the annual BPM show at the Hawth Theatre, Crawley.

It's the fifth year of the annual BPM show but it doesn't get any easier for Company Directors and choreographers Kat Chase and Luke Bohanna. And their nerves are again being put through the mincer.

"People say it will be alright on the night and we know it will," said Kat, "but with a month to go we're thinking 'No! Not this year, it won't.'"

The Cuckfield duo are hoping their experience will pull them through once again.

"We'll have happy days 'Oh we're really good'," said Luke, "and then we'll have a day where we are so angry and say 'COME ON, how do you not know this routine?' And the kids know, because they're used to us now and they'll bring it back and it all comes together."

The question of quite why they need so many outfits and how they go about finding them brought a big sigh and lips rattling from Kat.

"For every number we have a different outfit," she

said. "We have 30 dances and an average of 20 kids in each, so ..."

"We have to start buying them in January and it's a constant battle. If we have 27 kids in one dance, even the big Primark stores in Brighton or Crawley don't carry that much stock."

Then there's the issue of cost. Kat and Luke budget £15 per child per outfit. That is becoming more and more difficult to manage.

"Clothes have gone up a lot," said Luke. "We used to get kids jeans from Primark for £5, now they are £9. One of the numbers is X Men and we want tracksuits for it. But tracksuits are £30. Last year we tried to save money and order basketball tops from France. What a fiasco that was."

"They didn't arrive until the day before the show. And then they were all too small, and we couldn't return them, so we lost £600. Plus, my bank thought my card must be being used fraudulently, because who would order 25 basketball tops from France, so they cancelled my card."

This year's show is called Sketch, drawing on themes from comic books and animation, anything drawn, there's even a Where's Wally dance. Kat takes pride in putting on a spectacular show and finding the right costumes for each dance.

"We don't want to be this dance company that says: 'oh just wear this'. We think about every single number, it's not thrown together at the last minute," she said.

"The kids understand people are coming to watch a show. Our ethos is we're selling tickets and people want





to be entertained, that's why we push for costumes and ideas.

"We also number every costume. We rope in my mum, too, to help. There's a production line going on at my mum's house and we have three rooms there full of clothes."

So, what have been the worst moments of the past five years?

"Two years ago, the lighting rigs broke and we ended up lighting only five of the numbers in the rehearsal," said Luke. "We had to go in the next day and light it and Kat was still trying to do it ten minutes before the show began."

"We were thinking the show is not going to happen," said Kat. "I was a mess. Me and Luke literally couldn't even talk to each other."

For Luke, he had his own technical gremlin at one of the early shows.

"The projector failed and my laptop just froze during the show. So we turned the lights out and started again and the audience saw my laptop screen come up on the

back wall and my cursor move along and double click the video to start again. The audience found it hilarious."

"The curtains," said Kat, recalling another 'what-do-we-do-now?' moment. "To open and close the curtains you need someone at the top flying them and we never said to the theatre we want curtains. During the show we said 'close the curtains' and the stage manager said, 'There's no one there to do it.' And we were like, 'What!! We have 200 children on stage, how are we going to get them off without the audience seeing?' And he said, 'You can't.' So the lights just dimmed and we were gesturing silently 'come off!' and 200 kids just walked off laughing."

And after the show is over, what feelings then?

"It's a weird mix of emotions," said Luke. "You've put all this effort in and then, just like that, it's all over, so there's a sense of deflation. But it's a massive weight off your shoulders. Then a few days later I hear I track on the radio and I go, Kat, I've had an idea ..."

Sketch is on at the Hawth on Friday 23rd June at 7pm, and Saturday 24th June at 2pm and 7pm.



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Managing the Stress of Redundancy...

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"Oh no! Poor you! That's such a shame, what are you going to do? And it won't be easy, will it? What are your plans?"

Anyone who has gone through redundancy will likely have been met with such sentiment and whilst friends and family mean well, their comments seem only to enhance that sense of doom. Yes, they want to offer you support and understanding and their assumption is that you will be miserable and fearful and whilst this may be the case initially, don't allow their condolences to define your mood in the longer term.

No one is saying that redundancy is easy but it could be a wonderful opportunity for something new; set your intention, be positive, forward-thinking and get creative.

- Don't be defined by the words and sentiment of others

Firstly, be fair to yourself...you didn't 'lose' your job, this is one of the biggest fallacies of the process; someone took your job away! 'I lost my job' implies it's your fault, you're to blame, you misplaced it, you didn't pay attention to where you left it, ...it's complete nonsense. Find a new terminology, 'my position was made redundant' is infinitely better, after all it's the role that is redundant, not you!

The language we use to describe redundancy, may appear trivial but its impact is huge...reframe the situation, be fair and acknowledge that the decision was taken by the organisation to reduce cost, cut headcount, rationalise... whatever the reason, it has nothing to do with you as a person. Make the mental shift from 'losing my job' to 'being made redundant' to 'the position was made redundant'; this will let you see the situation for what it truly is.

- Use different language: only 'the position was made redundant'

Be ready for the perceived loss of identity. Spending eight or more hours a day at work, without realising it we become defined by what we do, the position we hold, the team we belong to, our routine and even our desk. Colleagues are often friends, we share coffee breaks and lunch, discuss all manner of things, share confidences, laugh and may have worked together for many years. All of this, along with the job itself, is taken away over-night and you will need time to adjust.

- Your sense of identity is bound to change

And don't be surprised if your work friends disappear, this is normal. There may be tears and promises of lunch and nights out as you leave, but, in all honesty, they may not happen and it's important not to take this personally. Life goes on. Their world has not been disrupted, they continue in their role and routine. I liken this to their survival instinct and you can't blame them; they need to regroup, deliver the same product or service with fewer resources, keep spirits up, keep motivated and keep going.

- Give yourself time, redundancy is like a grieving process

Changing the personal narrative is key to making progress...it's essential to move from being the victim, to being the Creator. This is a process and takes time. It could be described as grief. This sounds exaggerated but you may need to give yourself some time to adjust and make the shift. This change in identity is incredibly important and has a significant bearing on how you move forward. It's necessary to move on, to go from Manager, Team Lead, Supervisor and Colleague to Job Hunter, Employee or Self Employed or Own Boss. Once made however, the only way is up...you become able, driven, motivated, curious and excited about 'what next'. You may go from feeling rather lost to being a driving force and being the Creator of your future.

- Change your perception and move from being victim to being Creator

Such significant change isn't necessarily easy, it can be emotional...but it is doable!

There are a number of effective stress management techniques, whilst career and transition coaching are both excellent means to navigate the process, to allow you embrace and explore the 'what's next' phase. 'Lindsey really helped me sort the wood from the trees, it was a safe environment for me work through my situation and come out of it feeling positive about my skills, options and the routes open to me' (G.R., Walton-on-Thames Feb 2017).

For support in managing stress and redundancy, career coaching and transition coaching contact Lindsey at The NineDot Partnership Ltd on 07704 681 332 or info@ninedotpartnership.com, or online at: www.ninedotpartnership.com

Grins and needles

By Simon Yeend

"Ridiculous. Time to move!" That was the horrified reaction from one Bolnore resident when he heard that the empty shop in the Village Square may become a tattoo studio. There were many more welcoming messages for the new business when news broke that the shop, which has stood empty for years, may finally be occupied.

Neil Bass, owner of award-winning Tattoo FX studio in Burgess Hill, is the prospective newcomer and his response to the reaction was measured. He even invited residents with concerns to pop into the company's current premises for a cuppa to cast aside the myths that still perpetuate about tattoos and the kind of people that get them. Cuckfield Life took him up on the offer to find out what the owner of Tattoo FX is all about.

Neil grew up in Haywards Heath and went to Northbrook College to study Foundation in Art followed by further qualifications in Graphic Design. He then set off on a world tour, to remote spots in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Nepal.

It was on his travels that inspiration struck.

"I was first influenced to tattoo by a friend called Sophie, who saw the skills I had would be beneficial to the trade," said Neil. "She gave me knowledge of the art form, taught me the trade and I ran with it. I met a guy called Croc in India and he inspired me further to extend my knowledge.

"It was in India that I got my first tattoo at the age of 27, a Tribal design. I've been tattooing for 18 years and my inspirations are the history of tribal and ethnic culture."

Bass and his team have been in Burgess Hill for the past 13 years and built up a loyal client base. With their premises on Lower Church Road up for sale, the relocation hunt began and the former Lloyds Pharmacy in Bolnore appealed.

"I grew up very near Bolnore Village and want to stay close to my roots and to the area we have always traded in," said Neil. "The size of the premises sold it to me. There is a treatment room for medical tattoo work – or for privacy if working in a 'sensitive' area.

"The shops on high streets aren't big enough for us. We need, because of environmental health rules, separate areas to clean and sterilise our equipment.

"We prefer quiet areas, we aren't noisy and are quietly spoken and gentle folk. We help to keep up the neighbourhood sense of community. Ness will make hot chocolate for neighbours if they are low or unwell, for instance, as well as doing charity work for children."

Neil and his team are awaiting planning permission for a change of use on the shop with a decision expected in early July. And for Bolnore residents worried motorbike gangs will invade the village or that Neil and his team will



Left is Neil, then Ness, then Warren. And then we have our favourite guest Croc, and his wife Ani.

be luring people into their shop, he had this to say: "None of us use motorbikes. I'm a keen mountain biker, though. We aren't a 'street shop', we work almost exclusively on custom designs rather than walk-ins. I have a crazy waiting list so I cannot do walk-in work at all.

"We know our arrival may be controversial, we understand people's concerns, which is why we've invited everyone to come and see our work and the artwork we have displayed and chat to us directly.

"The shop, if given permission, will have frosted windows so that folks, kids, whoever, can't look in unless they want to. Long gone are the days of grumpy bikers doing tattoos. All I can say is, we promise the place will not stick out like a sore thumb, we are planning something bright, arty, and, more importantly, something classy."

The Tattoo FX team introduced by Neil:

"Warren. He came to us five years ago and was an instant 'fit' for us. His life is art and he is interested in Tribal work as well as symbols from the Aztecs and Egypt. He, too, has fine art qualifications.

"Ness has been with us for seven years and runs the day-to-day stuff as well as tattooing part-time. She completed a degree in Art & Design in 1997. She is also studying for a qualification in post-tattoo care and specialises in medical tattoos.

"Jackie is my wife and can be found on reception and making her mosaics."

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Blooming Success for Garden and Local Produce Fair

Green-fingered enthusiasts enjoyed browsing high-quality stalls at The New Horizons Appeal Garden and Local Produce Fair in aid of St Catherine's Hospice last month.

Held in the exclusive grounds of Cuckfield Park, and supported by Thakeham Homes and Strutt and Parker, the Fair, which has become known as West Sussex's mini Chelsea, was officially opened by Sir Nicholas Soames MP, and Mr and Mrs Mayou, owners of Cuckfield Park.

People enjoyed a special bubbly breakfast and took the chance to have a sneak preview of stalls ahead of general public entrance. An artisan ice cream bike proved popular, and people also took the chance to chat with gardening expert Pippa Greenwood and Jean Griffin from BBC Sussex Radio.

Suzanne Connor, New Horizons Appeal Co-ordinator at St Catherine's, said: "It was fantastic to see so many

people enjoying the spring sunshine and browsing the brilliant stalls that were on offer. The Fair was another great success, and we'd like to thank all the stall holders and the New Horizons Appeal Committee for their amazing, continuing support of St Catherine's. Their generosity makes a real difference to the people we care for at one of the hardest times of their lives."

The New Horizons Appeal has supported St Catherine's since 1989. During this time, the voluntary committee has raised more than £2 million for the local hospice with the support of people who attend their events, which also include a lunch club, charity golf day and Autumn Gift Fair.

For more details of future events please visit: www.stch.org.uk, contact Suzanne Connor, New Horizons Appeal Co-ordinator on: 01293 447367 or email newhorizons@stch.org.uk.



Free Room Hire for Functions at Haywards Heath Golf Club*

From Birthday parties to Christenings, Anniversaries or Wakes, Haywards Heath Golf Club offers the very best function facilities in the Mid Sussex area.

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**Free room hire is based on a minimum spend of £250 on catering for each function.*

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Mid Sussex unite with Alzheimer's Society

Alzheimer's Society has been working with three schools across Mid Sussex in a bid to raise awareness of dementia and the impact it can have on students.

Warden Park Academy in Cuckfield, Ardingly College and Burgess Hill Academy have all hosted members of the charity's Mid Sussex Dementia Forum – a group of people with dementia – for regular talks discussing dementia, as well as holding Dementia Friends sessions for students and staff.

Because public understanding is so poor, people with dementia often feel – and can be – misunderstood, marginalised and isolated but with the right support and understanding they can continue to live fulfilling lives and make a contribution to their communities.

Tim Wilkins, Alzheimer's Society Service User Involvement Officer, said: "We're proud to be working with the schools to help educate the future generation about dementia. It's not just the schools that are taking part in Dementia Friends sessions; organisations such as Cuckfield's Cuckoo Choir are now all Dementia Friends too.

"Dementia doesn't care who you are; it could affect us all. It's set to be the 21st century's biggest killer, with someone developing it every three minutes, and so many people are facing it alone."



There are more than 2,150 people living with dementia in the Mid Sussex area, and now the charity wants people to forget their differences and come together to urgently find a cure, improve care and offer help and understanding across the county to show their support.

For information and support about dementia, call Alzheimer's Society Sussex Helpline on 01403 213017.

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

What is the Mothers' Union?

We were the ladies who fed you when you came to Marriage Preparation, and who welcomed you when your child was baptised

By Ros Thunder, Cuckfield Mothers' Union Branch Leader

Cuckfield Mothers' Union Branch is part of part of a 140 year old charity with 4 million members worldwide involved in 'Care for Families'. MU moves with the times and has held meetings in Cuckfield for over 100 years:

- In November, we are part of the UN's world campaign to raise awareness for the '16 days against gender-based violence', and we support women's refugees
- We support refugees and provide clothing for the Gatwick Detainees
- We support and run Diocese-wide projects:
 - The Eastbourne Contact Centre (with fully accredited trained staff who facilitate visits for children with estranged parents)
 - MU members volunteer in the Visitor Centre creches at Lewes and Ford prisons
 - The 'Away from it All' (AfiA) project provides and maintains two caravans at Winchelsea and Selsey for family holidays
 - More recent is the Ministry of Cake, where MU members, trained as Chaplaincy Volunteers, visit with cake and savoury goodies and chat with parents in the Special Baby Care units in Hastings, Haywards Heath, Brighton and Worthing Hospitals
 - The Fiddling Ministry is our latest project, started by a Cuckfield MU member: members and others make muffs, quilts, aprons and assemble boards of bolts and switches - all designed to still and occupy the restless hands, from which many dementia patients suffer, as their brains seek to make sense of their surroundings. The boards have switches and levers for men to fiddle with; and recent additions to the repertoire are football-themed muffs in team colours, with a hidden goalie in a pocket!

Next Meetings – Visitors always Welcome

Monday 11th September	Outing to Salisbury Cathedral
Tuesday 10th October	'Meditation' with The Revd Jean Sedgley Old School Committee Room
Tuesday 14th November	'Points of Contact' Old School Committee Room
Saturday 2nd December	Service of Light in Church followed by Advent Breakfast in the Old School

Details in the Church Porch or Ros Thunder (Tel: 01444 417103)

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Saturday 24 June – Saturday 8 July
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Caroline Tyler

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Stores, Pepperbox, at
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on the door.

Saturday 1 July
7.30pm



Tickets £10 and £3 for
under 18s, from Carousel
Music, The Wealden
Stores, Pepperbox
and on the door.

Thursday 6 July
7.30pm



10th Anniversary
Charity Concert

Tickets £8, available
from The Wealden
Stores, Cuckfield High
Street Post Office.

Other events taking place during this time:

Sunday 2 July, 6pm – Festival Evensong at Holy Trinity Church Choir,
directed by Richard Jenkinson.

Friday 7 July, 12.30pm for 1pm start – FREE Lunchtime Concert featuring
Tango 44 with Jonathan Truscott (violin), Pavlos Carvalho (cello),
Mark Troop (piano) and Corina Piatti (vocals).

Saturday 8 July, 10–11.30am, Cuckfield High Street
Busking at the Cuckfield Local Market featuring local musicians.

For more information contact Hannah.carter@me.com
Follow us on Facebook @CuckfieldArtsFestival

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Wall Panelling

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Cuckfield Interiors

If you are planning a refurb and fancy a change in style, a feature worth considering is wall panelling, either the real thing or wallpaper with a panelled design. Here are some ideas.

Wooden panels are available in a number of historical designs, carved or plain and add warmth, depth and style to an interior while at the same time increase insulation. Choices are in natural wood such as oak or pine and also moisture resistant mdf. Stained, colour washed or painted in silky eggshell they exude style and finish.

The earliest wainscot oak panels date from 1352 and generated style and warmer interiors for ancient homes. Historically 16th-17th century oak panels have a wonderful creaky appeal and warm richness adding grandness to the interior, replicas of which will uplift your home. Carved linenfold (carved shapes of folded linen) oak panels are for the more formal design, suiting a grand old house or hotel, while the plain square or rectangular panels suit modest homes. Some of our local Turner houses have lovely oak panels. The humble tongue and groove panels in simple moisture resistant mdf or pine, painted, add a touch of cosiness to bathrooms and kitchens.

Lincrusta plaster dado panels for Victorian and Edwardian homes offer an alternative panel with an embossed finish. They are beautiful wall coverings, the panels display graceful, floral historical patterns. The company dates back to 1877 and their stunning designs look fantastic painted and hung beneath dado rails in Victorian, Edwardian, Art Nouveau interiors.

As an accent wall or running above the skirting of an entire room, panels can add elegance and character depending on the style of the interior. In a Victorian dwelling folding solid window shutters could sit along side rectangular square or tongue and groove panels, painted in a gentle eggshell for a soft architectural look. In a modern minimal interior, large panels available in a multitude of designs, could unite with kitchen cupboards or wardrobes composed in the same or contrasting material. There is a vast range of flat panels to choose from with images and textures of wood, stone, fantastic colours and glass etc, which can also be used in the bathroom to generate flow between the floor and walls.

Depth could be added to the interior by hanging mirrors (which are a bit wider than the individual panels) or art work across them. Radiator cabinets painted in the same colour will blend and vanish into the wall. Small areas of panels could be used to form a head board in a bedroom or a feature wall.

Wall panels can also be functional as well as decorative, such as acoustic panels installed for soaking up noise made by noisy neighbours, music rooms or home cinemas. There are small panels which as well as noise absorbing can be placed together like a jigsaw to hang on the wall as artistic geometric works of art. There are many choices.



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Sudoku #12

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

Find the solution to #12 in next month's magazine

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

#11 Solution

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

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What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

Monday

- 9.30am **Pilates** (07976 607393)
9.45am **Yoga** (07876 777030)
10.30am **Pilates** (07976 607393)
1.30pm **Dance classes for children** (01444 415296)
3.45pm **Dance classes for children** (01444 415296)
7.30pm **Dog Training** (01444 241013)

Tuesday

- 9.30am **Children's music** (07740 177791)
9.30am **Pre-school football** (07940 712046)
10.30am **Children's music** (07740 177791)
1.30pm **Yoga** (07812 244272)
3.45pm **Dance classes for children** (01444 415296)
7.30pm **Dog Training** (01444 241013)

Wednesday

- 9.30am **Children's music** (07740 177791)
10am **Stroke Club** (01444 414333)
10.30am **Children's music** (07740 177791)
12.30pm **Zumba** (01273 562996)
1.30pm **Line Dancing class** (01273 562996)
4pm **Dance classes for children** (01444 415296)
7.45pm **Ballroom Dancing** (07743 955382)

Thursday

- 9.15am **Yoga** (07876 777030)
10.30am **Kids Spanish class** (07786 161771)
6pm **Contemporary Dance** (07941 122204)
7.30pm **Wedding Dance class** (01273 562996)
7.30pm **Yoga** (07876 777030)

Friday

- 9.30am **Children's music** (07740 177791)
7pm **Cuckfield Flower Club** (2nd Friday - 01273 494719)
7.30pm **Historic Vehicles Preservation Trust** (1st Friday - 01444 440873)

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

AND ELSEWHERE

June

- 21st **Mid-Sussex Decorative & Fine Arts Society** – 10.15am
Clair Hall – 'The Magic of Vermeer' lecture by Eveline Eaton
Non members welcome (£7 on the door)
- 24th June – 8th July
Cuckfield Arts Festival – details p.46
- 24th **Summer Coffee Morning** – 10.30am
Ansty Village Hall, Deaks Lane, Ansty, RH17 5AS.
Ansty Garden Club will be holding a Summer Coffee morning and plant sale
- 24th **Virtuoso Concert** – 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church
Virtuoso musicians with Ensemble Reza and pianist Caroline Tyler (p.46)

July

- 1st **Holy Trinity PTA Summer Fair**
- 1st **Kingfisher Chorale Concert** – 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church (p.46)
- 6th **Summer Charity Concert** – 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church. The Singing Allsorts fundraising concert in aid of MIND and KANGAROO (Tickets £8 from Cuckfield Post Office and Wealden Stores)
- 8th **Car Boot Sale** – TBC
Warden Park School
- 8th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm
The Talbot courtyard, High Street
- 8th **'Sully' Film Show** – 7pm
Ashenground Community Centre
(Tickets on 01444 447050, ashengroundcc@talktalk.net)
- 27th **Twelfth Night** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Recreation Ground - Rain or Shine Theatre Company (www.rainorshine.co.uk)

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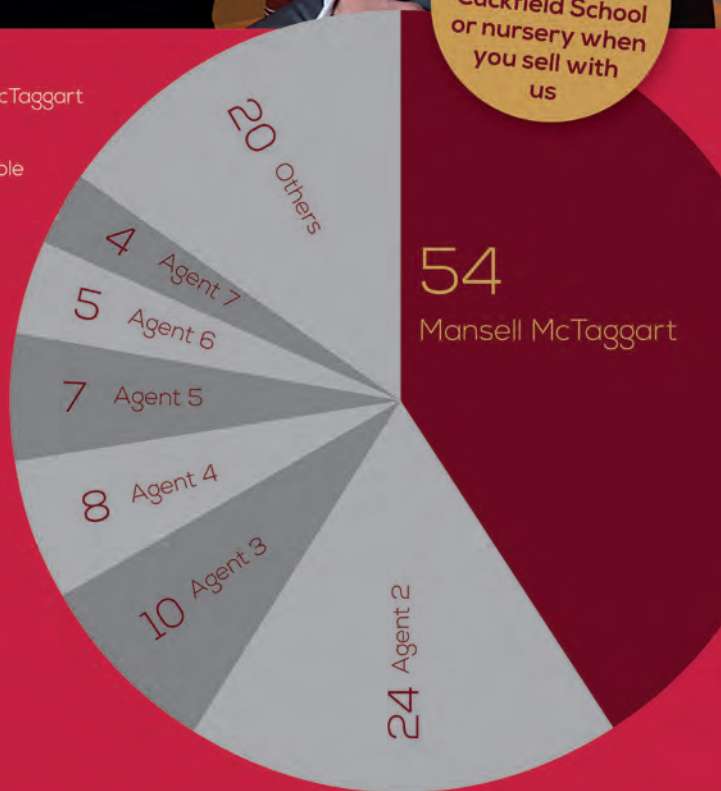
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