

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #58 : August 2017

Free

The first Arts Festival round-up

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

It's a pleasure to have two write-ups from Cuckfield's first **Arts Festival** in this issue. **Simon Yeend** talks to creator **Hannah Carter** on **page 10**, and **Kate Fleming** gives us her unique viewpoint of a very special anniversary concert for the **Singing Allsorts** on **page 11**. If this sounds like your sort of thing, Hannah is wanting to create a team for next year's event.

On **page 12** we highlight what a fantastic event **Holy Trinity School** ran at the end of the summer term – with a terrific amount of money raised. Well done to all involved!

Page 17 is our regular news page for **Bolnore Village** – of which there is plenty. Plus, on **page 34**, we feature a write-up and photos from the **Bolnore Summer Fete** – which, by all accounts, was a great afternoon.

In our Village People feature this month, Simon talks to someone who doesn't live here but teaches residents about art history in the village. **Steve Carroll** explains what got him to this place on **page 24**. Thanks Steve, and if you know someone with a great story, do please drop us a line at editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk, after you've mentioned it to them.

Mayor Wilf Knighton finds himself amidst a Caribbean dream at **Pelham House** this month – see **page 32** for more details! On **page 33** **Rev Michael Maine** shares his regular village letter. And, on **page 39**, **Fiona Evans** is wanting to see the summer sun and talks about glass in her regular interior design column.

When you take your Cuckfield Life on holiday with you for the Sudoku (**page 45**), why not grab a quick snap of you with it – just as the few good people have done on **page 40**.

Talking of going places, the latest edition of the **Cuckfield European Association** newsletter features on **page 42**, the What's On is on **page 46** as ever and, when you want to find that advertiser, the index is on **page 47**.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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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

Students' boot sale success

Warden Park Secondary Academy held a car boot sale on Saturday 8th July to help raise funds for students and staff travelling to Peru with Camps International next summer. The majority of their four-week trip will be spent volunteering, serving communities in rural Peru where more than half the population live below the poverty line. The students will be working on building projects, such as constructing community housing and schools, and environmental projects. At the end of the trip they have a five-day trek to Machu Picchu, the 15th century Inca citadel situated on a mountain ridge 8,000ft above sea level.

Elise Jones, 14, pictured here, from Cuckfield is one of the students heading to South America. She has so far managed to raise half of the £4,300 needed for the trip. As well as selling at car boot sales and fetes, she has some extremely generous sponsors from local companies – Fairfax, Buxted Construction, Hocken Construction, McQuillan Signs and Graphics, Keystone Paving, SE Business Systems, Farrell's Paving, Hardy

Paving, Tishshaws Solicitors, JS Electrical and Brush Painting & Decorating as well as donations from Cuckfield Baptist Church and the Independent State of Cuckfield.



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Georgia's trip to help orphans

By Georgia Bowen

I am a 17 year old student living in Cuckfield and in August I will be travelling to the Kwa Zulu Natal Region of South Africa with the Horsham-based charity, Coco's Foundation. The charity was set up to inspire UK teenagers so they can support and help orphaned children in the poorest areas of South Africa. Their aim is to deliver each child's basic needs: food, water, shelter and emotional support.



I was introduced to the charity last summer when the founder, Chris Connors, presented a film on the work they do and how it has made a real difference to these children, who have been orphaned by Aids. Often there are children as young as ten looking after younger siblings in very poor conditions. I was not only moved by the impact this work had on the children's lives but also the positive effect it had on the volunteers, providing them with a greater understanding of themselves.

During my visit I will be part of a team building two new dwellings for these children as well as teaching arts and crafts in the orphanage and providing food and school uniforms.

This will be an amazing challenge for me and I feel immensely proud to be part of a project that will provide some of these children with a place of safety and security for many years to come. I have raised £1,500 so far towards the cost of my trip by various fundraising initiatives and many kind donations from family, friends and local residents. I have also received a very generous donation towards the cost of the building materials from the Haywards Heath based company Fairfax Properties.

If you would like to support me in this worthwhile project, donations can be made on my Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/georgia-bowen - thank you.

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Do you know your pulse?

By Dr Sarah Stealy

This year the World Heart Rhythm Week (held in June) focused on 'Identifying the Undiagnosed Person'. The aim was to make one million people pulse aware.

The reason?

The most common form of an abnormal heart rhythm is Atrial Fibrillation (AF) and although it rarely causes symptoms it is a major risk factor for stroke. If AF is detected early, and the person affected can begin treatment, the increased risk of stroke can be reduced or even eliminated.



Atrial fibrillation is an irregularly irregular pulse. Our pulse is controlled by an inborn pacemaker in the upper chamber of the heart which stimulates contraction of the muscle. Your pulse is the pressure waveform generated each time it contracts. Sometimes the pacemaker is overridden and as a result of this irregular stimulation the upper heart chambers 'fibrillate', or contract, at irregular times and with varying intensity.

The signals pass through to the lower heart in a haphazard way causing an irregular rhythm of contraction, felt as an irregular pulse. It can mean that the ejection of blood out of the heart is less efficient and blood may collect in the chambers and clot. It is these clots which may shoot off into the brain and cause stroke.

We check your pulse rate and rhythm by feeling for it in the radial artery at the wrist. As medical equipment has progressed, we now often use machines to count the pulse rate. Typically your heart beat will be recorded when your blood pressure is taken and, providing the rate of your heart beat is normal, your rhythm may not be checked. With experience of checking many pulses we are able to detect an irregularity, but the diagnosis of AF would still need to be confirmed by taking an Electrocardiogram (ECG).

In response to the focus on AF, we are pleased to announce that at Cuckfield & The Vale Medical Practice we are getting some new equipment which can record your heart rhythm using a mobile device. This machine will make the process very easy and we are planning to run some pulse check clinics alongside our flu vaccination programme later in the year. In the meantime please ask the doctor or nurse you see to have a feel of your pulse when you are next seen.

Knowledge is power! If we know you have AF we can discuss the best way to monitor you and go through your individual risk of stroke and then take steps to reduce it.

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First festival plays well

CUCKFIELD ARTS FESTIVAL

By Simon Yeend

A throwaway comment from a churchwarden and Cuckfield Arts Festival was born.

Early this year Brian Cutler, churchwarden at Holy Trinity Church, heard Hannah Carter say the church diary was looking full already with summer concerts and said: "Well you best start a festival, then."

So she did.

The result was a raging success with five concerts in the church that took place between 24th June and 8th July and a busking session from young people at the Saturday market in the High Street.

The opening concert was Hannah's pet project, string sextet Ensemble Reza with piano soloist Caroline Tyler. They thrilled the audience with pieces from Mozart, Brahms and an encore of Schubert.

The following Saturday, Leicester-based choral singers, Kingfisher Chorale, also drew an enthusiastic crowd to their concert that celebrated love. Featuring music from across the centuries, Kingfisher Chorale demonstrated their technical finesse as well as their ability to deeply move the audience.

The all-female Singing Allsorts celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a concert – see review opposite – and the church put on an evensong, directed by Richard Jenkinson, as well as a free lunchtime concert featuring Tango 44.

Hannah was thrilled with how the festival went, given the short time she had to prepare it alongside Lindy Elphick and Jane Haughton of the Singing Allsorts and the church's musical director, Richard Jenkinson.

"Everything took place in the church, apart from the busking in the High Street," Hannah said. "It was really lovely to see young people playing in the middle of the market.

"I had 140 in my Reza audience and I couldn't have squeezed any more in.

"It was a huge success, all the acts turned up on time, performed brilliantly, no one forgot their music!

"My only glitch came right before the start of the Reza concert. Tickets had sold slowly, with only 70 sold in advance and I thought if I get 100 in the audience,

then that would be good. Then on the night we had 140 and I thought, crikey, I'm not going to have enough wine during the interval, so we made a mad dash to the Co-op and bought a few more bottles!"



Despite its small size, Hannah had no doubt that Cuckfield would be able to host a festival and could think of no better place to hold it.

"I worship in the Church and it is a beautiful venue. The acoustics are brilliant to play and sing in, what with the high ceilings and the stone floor. The new grand piano in the Church also sounds fantastic.

"There's a regular audience of people coming to events in Cuckfield. It's that feel-good thing, it can really lift the soul."

Hannah is already thinking ahead to a second Arts Festival next year and promising to return bigger and better. Only this time she'd like more help.

"We need to start organising it a lot earlier," she said. "We didn't start until February which was a nightmare, and not enough time to get funding.

"I don't think I can physically run it on my own again. Somebody from Cuckfield should take ownership of it, so this is a call-out to people to come and get involved!

"In September I'd like to hold a public meeting to discuss how to develop the festival, as I knew there were so many things that could be done to make it brilliant, but I just didn't have enough time.

"Ideally at this stage we need to put together a committee. Of course, we would also be interested in meeting anyone who might like to participate in the festival as well!

"It's got so much potential, we just need a team to make it happen! So, please come and help us make next year's festival even better."

For anyone interested contact: Hannah.carter@me.com



The Singing Allsorts' 10th Anniversary

By Kate Fleming

Cuckfield's Choir, The Singing Allsorts, celebrated their 10th anniversary with a splendid concert in Holy Trinity Church on 6th July. The church was full and the evening was warm and balmy; ideal weather for the beautiful sound of singing to be enjoyed by those both inside and outside. The 40 female voices, under the talented baton of Jane Haughton, combined and reached people working on their allotments, stretching in their Pilates class and emerging from the pub, as well as mesmerising their immediate audience inside the church.

It was truly a night which celebrated the joy of singing, and epitomised the power and magic of coming together to sing and share the beauty of song. From all parts of the local community, having multitasked their homes, jobs and families, these women gather together, don their identical scarves and sing as one.

The concert opened with three well known songs, Comedy Tonight, Moon River and Rhythm of Life, which captured their audience not only by their familiarity but by the professional performance which laid the foundations for the high standard of performance for the evening.

Jane Haughton not only leads and trains The Singing Allsorts but is also a professional singer, regularly entertaining local audiences. Andrew Thurgood is a professional violinist and a founder member of Ensemble Reza who perform chamber music across the South East. The next part of the concert was a combination of these two gifted performers, enchanting the audience with traditional Irish songs.

The choir then pursued the Irish theme with Bob Chilcott's Irish Blessing, beautifully harmonised and delivered with gentle simplicity.

Andrew was a member of the London Philharmonic for 12 years and has played with highly respected orchestras throughout his career, so we were prepared for something special, but his violin performance of Largo and Allegro Assai from Solo Sonata in C by JS Bach was amazing. According to George Enescu 'the Himalayas for violinists', Andrew certainly conquered and gave the audience a wonderful recital to remember for a long time.

The first half of the concert concluded with the choir singing Pachelbel's Canon of Peace, with the flautist

Sam Davies playing the beautifully haunting flute descant. Once again a magical moment which must have triggered many an emotional memory in the minds of the audience.

Sam, a highly successful teacher and performer, joined The Singing Allsorts again after the interval. Flying Free by Don Besig also has a flute descant rising above the lovely melody and accompaniment played by the pianist Mandy Pomorski.

Sofka Brown and Lindsay Smith, both talented members of The Singing Allsorts, joined together to sing Till the Stars Fall from the Sky. A touching yet powerful performance which was greatly appreciated by both audience and fellow singers.

For the fourth in a series of gypsy folk music inspired pieces for violin and piano by the Hungarian born Jenő Hubay 'Scene de la Czarda No 4- 'Hejre Kati', Andrew joined forces with Mandy.

Then, with professional versatility, Andrew turned his bow to Misty by Erroll Garner and seduced his audience with its compelling charm and romance and whizzed us back to our teenage years and the carefree days of the late 50s.

The Singing Allsorts often include native music in their programmes, and this concert was no exception with a call and response community song called Ononmotholo from South Africa and Banaha a Congolese folk song. To learn and perfect these unusual rhythms, dynamics and language, the choir sought the expertise of music teachers Carol MacTaggart and Lawrence Hood from local schools thus widening their repertoire and developing important musical relationships with the young community.

The concert ended with three rousing numbers from the past, but firmly established in the musical make-up of all present. It was difficult not to join in with Chattanooga Choo Choo, dream along with A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square or secretly slip on the taps to join Fred Astaire to assist him in Putting on the Ritz.

This was a great evening, not only raising money for Kangaroos, a local charity which helps young people with disabilities, and Mind, a national mental health charity, but also gave pleasure to many in so many different ways.

School summer fair raises over £4,000

By Shona Wells

Holy Trinity School held its summer fair last month and was blessed not only with lovely sunshine but also a visit from Cuckfield mayor Wilf Knighton.

Wilf stayed all afternoon, giving out the raffle prizes to the winners at the end. (There's a picture of him below with Caroline Dawes, the organiser of the fair.)

There was a treasure hunt and bushcraft activities that made excellent use of the wooded grounds at the school.

Other activities included face painting, panning for gold, splat the rat, teddy and bottle tomobolas and robot racing. The smoothie bike was also popular again. The performances in the arena, including Zumba and Perform dance sessions were a huge hit.

The school held a silent auction supported by local businesses - this was a huge success and the school is very grateful to everyone who donated prizes.

There was also a raffle with numerous hampers and a wheelbarrow of wine to be won.

The dads organised a delicious BBQ (see pic !), plus there was a drinks tent with beer, Prosecco, Pimms and soft drinks. There was also a cake stall, ice pops and a candyfloss machine!

Lots of families stayed all afternoon, making the most of the sunshine and activities, which made for a great atmosphere.

As well as being an enjoyable afternoon, the fair raised

almost £4,500 for the school. Given the challenges faced by schools at the moment, these funds are much needed, so a huge thank you to everyone involved and to all those who came on the day. We're already starting to plan next year's event... Watch this space!



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Bookfest is coming to Cuckfield

By Sheila Mortimer

The speakers are booked, the programme is printed and tickets will shortly be available for the first Cuckfield Book Festival. It opens on Friday 6th October with supper at Ockenden Manor, and then over the next two days there is a packed programme of talks, discussions and workshops, plus sessions for children upstairs in the Queen's Hall. The range of authors who have agreed to come is remarkably wide: Adrian Tinniswood talking about The Long Weekend and recounting the tumultuous and scandalous history of English country houses during the years between the two World Wars; Andrew Lownie's biography of Guy Burgess which the Daily Mail called 'a more compelling page-turner than any spy thriller' and Damian Barr who wrote a memoir of his childhood, Maggie and Me, about which JoJo Moyes said: 'it should be required reading'.

We all remember the Great Storm of 1987, and Tamsin Treverton Jones has written a compelling portrait of this extraordinary event which she will be discussing with Sue Cook, the well-known broadcaster. Elly Griffiths, famous for her crime fiction, will be talking about The Chalk Garden, the latest in her bestselling series about Dr Ruth Galloway.

Other writers include Gavin Mortimer, Harry Mount, Anthony Seldon and Anne Sebba. Two young authors will be discussing Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë, both of

them as popular as ever.

The last event on Saturday features the renowned actress Harriet Walter, who will be talking about her book Brutus and Other Heroines, which explains why Dame Harriet has decided to tackle Shakespeare's mature male roles.

Add to the mix, a book about the Impressionist world by Catherine Hewitt, an explanation of the art of ghostwriting from Andrew Crofts, moderators such as Julian Worricker, Sue Stapely, Alan Judd and Howard Leader, and we hope you agree that the programme is full of interest.

Two local children's authors, Sally Symes and Jill Lewis, will run events especially for children upstairs in the Queen's Hall and there will be fascinating sessions for all young dinosaur fans, held in conjunction with Cuckfield Museum.

As with all events in Cuckfield, the success of Bookfest will rely on volunteers, so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact Sheila Chasser at limetrees@hotmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you to lots of events.

PS – Waitrose in Haywards Heath has agreed to make Cuckfield Bookfest part of its Community Matters in August, so do please support Bookfest in that way too.

www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk

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Disco tickets now on sale

Disco Night at The Woodside is back, offering local people a chance to get together for a night out without the kids, and to enjoy a few drinks and a dance while raising funds for the local community.

The event on Saturday 14th October is being organised by Swoove Aid founder Esther Featherstone and Bolnore resident Elaine Goodwin, with all proceeds from this event going to Bolnore Village Primary school.

New this time is DJ Emma Warner, who will be in residence playing classics from the 80s, 90s and today. "The music will be all the latest hits plus a healthy dose of nostalgia," said Elaine.

Tickets £8 - Adults only. To reserve tickets, make contact via Facebook or by email: Esther Featherstone - info@swooveaid.com or Elaine Goodwin - elainegoodwin@live.co.uk

Tattoo Studio approved by MSDC

Mid-Sussex District Council has approved the Planning Application for the vacant shop in the Village Square to become a Tattoo Studio. Tattoo FX are moving from Burgess Hill to the village and expect to be open for business next month. "We look forward to welcoming them here in due course," said the Bolnore Village Community Interest Company.

Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School have announced that during the summer term they raised a 'brilliant' £4,380 for the school. Almost £3,000 of that was made at the Quiz Night and Auction. The money raised will help fund Forest School and music lessons. The group has asked for help and support from Bolnore Residents and support for any ideas for fundraising to ensure the school can continue to offer these activities.

New pizza van

A new mobile pizza van has arrived in Bolnore Village with Fabs Pizzas taking a slot in the Co-operative car park on Tuesdays between 4.30-8.30pm.

The Bolnore Village Management Bulletin Board was launched on 25th July, keeping residents informed of any maintenance and repairs planned by management company Pembroke Property Management Ltd (PPM).

The bulletin board is now available at www.pembrokepm.co.uk/bolnore

PPM have agreed to remove 300 square metres of infested hedges this month. The hedgerows are infested with vine weevil. During the summer the adult weevils eat the leaves of the hedges, and in the winter, the larvae attack the roots. New hedges will be planted in the autumn.

PPM will also be looking to address several problem trees around the Village.

Some trees, like the one pictured, have grown too large for their location and are also damaging the pavement. The tree is likely to be removed.



Want to join a local book group?

Bolnore Book Club is looking for new members. It meets at the Woodside on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm for light-hearted chat about a pre agreed novel. At its next get-together on 1st September The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes will be discussed.

Bolnore Village School said goodbye to its Year 6 students with a Farewell Assembly attended by parents on Thursday 20th July. This is the third group of children to leave the school, but the first to have spent their entire primary school years at the site in Bolnore. There wasn't a dry eye in the main hall as the students recited their favourite memories from their time at the school and their hopes for the future, with a backdrop of music, videos and photos.

Nicholas Soames, MP for Mid Sussex, made a flying visit to Bolnore on 30th June when he attended the launch of a baby and toddler group's national fundraising campaign. Sir Nicholas is the patron of the Haywards Heath-based Group B Strep Support charity and came to their Bake Sale at the Woodside. The launch was hosted by baby and toddler group Saplings and he said: "I was delighted to join the wonderful Group B Strep Support with Saplings mums and their beautifully behaved children.

"Awareness of group B strep is vital for babies' lives to be saved – I am proud to support the charity and its outstanding and invaluable work."

Village Show to enter new home

By Emma Gosling

The Cuckfield Village Show will take place next month but in a new home. No longer at the mercy of the unpredictable September weather, the show is moving indoors to Cuckfield Baptist Church in Polestub Lane, where we hope it will be as successful as in previous years. The show is open to all ages and all abilities; it is not just for horticulturists! We want to attract participants who grow fruit and vegetables to eat; flowers to make their homes and gardens look attractive; who bake for pleasure; who enjoy flower arranging, photography, painting and handicrafts.

Entertainment will be provided by The Mid Sussex Brass Band. The schedule is available from Wealdon Stores, Whiteman's Green and Cuckfield Candy Store, High St.

Rivalry is sure to be as friendly, but intense as ever. Last year George Baty won the 'Best in Show' title for the third year in a row. He triumphed in a number of categories including four white potatoes, four coloured potatoes, two beefsteak tomatoes, cabbage, six shallots and best selection of home-grown vegetables. George even scooped a prize for best portrait in the art and photography category.

And the call is out for all potato and pumpkin growers. Last year there were no entries for heaviest potato or pumpkin, so the award is there for the taking!



Please note the new location (parking available) as well as the later finishing time of 5pm. Good luck to all our exhibitors. We hope you come along and enjoy the fun!

Cuckfield Village Show, organised and run by the Cuckfield Society, takes place on Saturday 9th September between 2pm -5pm. Admission is £1.50 adults and children go free.

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Military history events for the Autumn

'Education, not Glorification' - Remembering the People & Places of Mid Sussex

By Matt Taylor

We are a volunteer community group promoting Mid Sussex Military History & Education for residents of all ages. The Mid Sussex RED Military History Event 2017 has been designed to Remember, Educate and Develop knowledge and understanding of the roles people and places in Mid Sussex performed in World Wars I & II. The will be an exhibition, a museum and presentations.

- The Somme 1916 – Remembering Mid Sussex
- The Centenary of Passchendaele 1917-2017 – 'Mud, Blood & Devastation'
- (1940) The Battle of Britain, The Blitz and Evacuee Story
- (1942) El Alamein - 75th Anniversary – Life in Mid Sussex
- Numerous Exhibitors, Mini Museum of Genuine Artefacts
- Guest speaker presentations on WWI and WWII topics

We will deliver our event on six occasions between September and November. Three of these events are for the public to attend. There will also be three SCHOOLS ONLY events (on separate days), for over 1,500 Mid Sussex school children to attend.

Across the six events there will be more than 25 different charity, educational, museums and community

groups displaying artefacts, exhibiting, delivering 20-45 minute presentations relating to the topics.

Please check our website - www.midsussexred.co.uk - for details of confirmed exhibitors and presentations for each event.

All events are open between 10am and 4pm (£2 adults, children will be free). The first event will be on Friday 15th September at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath. The other events take place on Friday 20th October at Jubilee Community Centre, East Grinstead, and on Friday 3rd November at Martlets Hall in Burgess Hill.

The delivery of these events has been made possible due to funding received from Mid Sussex District Council and Haywards Heath Town Council.



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Steve the art historian

VILLAGE PEOPLE



By Simon Yeend

When Steve Carroll was seven, his mother brought home a book one day. A book that would shape Steve's life.

A book that brings Steve – and his splendid handlebar moustache – to Cuckfield on Thursdays to share the magic he discovered all those years ago.

"It was a book on artists, and I sat there with her looking at each page," said Steve. "I was from a working-class background and we didn't do art. This was a magical window into another world and I was captivated from that moment."

Like most seven year olds he was interested in the pictures. Unlike most seven year olds he wanted to know more, about the people who'd painted them and why.

"The painting I most remember from that book was the Martyrdom of St Sebastian by Mantegna. He was full of arrows, it's a very odd image to present to a seven-year-old kid. My parents weren't religious, so this religious imagery was so strange but I wanted to know what this picture was all about, why was it painted? Why is it important?"

"My grandfather and father were both shop stewards, so there was a family tradition of challenging stuff – like what right have those people to have that land, or to talk to those people like that. You found yourself asking questions.

"I grew up in a village, Old Windsor, and it was like something out of a Thomas Hardy novel. It had a good

end and a bad end, a posh pub and a poor pub. You were aware the class structure still existed and there was always that feeling of it's not fair, they're only there because they were born at that end of the village. That probably explains why I question things and why I love to find out every detail about an artist's life."

Steve's artistic side was released and he's yet to tame it.

"There was an option to do an O-Level in art history and the first essay I did, on Leonardo da Vinci, I got 10 out of 10. I just soaked it up," he said.

"We had a fantastic teacher called Dave Dibb, and when I was 15, I was painting in black, he leaned over me and said: 'Don't do just black, do dark blue, dark red, dark green and purple'. So I did, and my painting looked more interesting. It was a lightbulb moment and Impressionism clicked with me.

"Then I fell in love with modern art and expressionism – it's great for teenagers because feelings dominate rather than the actual pictorial depiction. But I don't think the A-Level examining board were ready for that – so I just scraped through with a pass. Fortunately that was enough to get me into Berkshire College of Art and Design.

"The idea of going to university and doing a degree in Art History, you just didn't do that. I went to a Secondary Modern, and you had to have a vocation. So I studied graphic design."

When he left college, Steve worked as a graphic

designer in publishing houses and advertising agencies. But the scratch wouldn't go away. He wanted to share his passion of art history and ideally spread the love of art widely.

"In my early 20s I decided to put on a talk at my church. I went around the London galleries and bought £10 worth of slides and borrowed a projector and put forward a presentation. It was very basic. Some people said it was boring, some people said they'd never seen it like that before, and they were the ones who inspired me to carry on."

By his 40s, Steve decided he wanted to do more lecturing. He moved to Sussex, got a teaching qualification and now lectures at Northbrook College in Worthing. "My courses fill up in the first hour they are released," he said. "It's easier to get Radiohead tickets than it is to get on my art history course!"

West Sussex Adult Community Learning offered Steve some work and that is how he came to teach in Cuckfield. He no longer works for them, but has been drawn back to Cuckfield to teach privately. It can often be an hour's drive from his home in Worthing, but he relishes his time in the village.

"I get on really well with Peter, the manager of the Old School, and the vicar, Michael, and they are really lovely people," he said. "They have made it a very nice venue for us. I love the place. As soon as I see the sunlight on the wall of that schoolhouse it cheers me up, this is a wonderful place to teach.

"It's a lovely village and somewhere I like coming to. It stimulates because it's so beautiful and gets you in a good mood for art. I've taught in Crawley and that wasn't very conducive.

"The people who come to my classes in Cuckfield are all enthusiastic. Some people know very little, every artist is new but they are so keen to learn, while others love the subject and are really knowledgeable. I like it when someone says they went to an exhibition, and they can add some details I didn't know about. No one has a monopoly on information."

With his soothing voice, avuncular manner, broad knowledge and unbridled passion for the subject, Steve is a natural teacher.

Even in a general conversation about his life he sprinkles in facts about artists or famous paintings that make you look at art in a totally new – and deeper – way. Like why Dutch painters have a fascination with insects, how technological developments like bristle brushes, collapsible easels and black overalls helped found the Impressionist movement. And, best of all, how Michaelangelo was tricked into painting the Sistine Chapel.

"Michaelangelo originally wanted to do a sculpture for the Pope Julius II," he said. "He even ordered the marble and it was delivered to St Peter's Square. But Michaelangelo was so famous and a bit cocky that rivals were jealous of him. They went to the Pope and said you ought to get him to do a fresco, knowing he'd never done one before and they wanted to see him fall on his face. I tell children this sometimes, you think when you're good at something, people are going to admire you. Actually,



they may hate you and try to trip you up. It's a good lesson in life."

What pleasure does he get from passing on all this knowledge?

"It's immense, it's why I do it. I think art is a gift to humanity. Art history is like looking at someone else's world view and appreciating what somebody else went through.

"I have students who've taken one of my courses and been so enthused they have gone on to do a degree or become full-time artists. That is so satisfying."

Is that the end game?

"The end game," he said. "Is to put myself out of a job, so they eventually go and research it themselves and know more than I do."

Steve's classes in modern art start at the Old School, Cuckfield next month and span the three school terms. For details contact Steve: stevecarroll3@me.com

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Holby City star at Gielgud's performance

Former Holby City star Sharon Maughan, known to many as the infamous Nescafe 'Gold Blend' actress, attended the Gielgud Academy of Performing Arts' (GAPA) final end of year performance at The Hub in Haywards Heath last month.

'GAPA Land', inspired by this year's hit movie LALA Land, featured an homage medley to the Oscar winning film danced to the live music of the GAPA Band, as well as a Cole Porter medley and a new ballet 'Imperial Concerto'. After the performance, which showcased the talents of a selection of GAPA pupils ranging from age five through to 18, Sharon Maughan and Republica pop star Saffron handed out medals for achievement and progress during the annual prize giving ceremony. Sharon congratulated the pupils telling them: 'Wow! You are all absolutely beautiful'.

Suzanne Gielgud explains: "Having Sharon at the performance helped to make it an exciting experience rather than the sad occasion that we'd envisioned it might be. With the Central Sussex College now closing

the Haywards Heath campus, this performance was its swansong.

"The Hub is now shut for at least six months while building works are completed. Meanwhile, GAPA is relocating to Great Walstead School with its wonderful performing arts facilities.

"We still intend to fight for the site and resubmit our bid to the Department For Education to run a free school at the site, but, due to the recent General Election, the submission deadline was postponed. Regardless of whether the free school does happen and whether or not we return to the Hub, GAPA will continue to thrive and produce a new generation of performers for the profession."

Gilli Church, from Cuckfield, whose 12 year old daughter, Anna, performed in the show, said: "I loved the show! It was clear that the staff and pupils had put their heart and soul into the choreography, costumes, production and rehearsals, which resulted in a professional and polished performance from all."

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History author holds book signing event

By Phillipa Malins

Colin Manton, local historian and former curator at the Museum of London, recently came to Cuckfield Museum to sign copies of his latest book Victorian London Through Time. The book is a fascinating selection of photographs and illustrations showing ways London has changed and developed since Victorian times and we were very grateful to Colin for visiting us at the Museum.

Volunteering opportunities

Cuckfield Museum needs an E-commerce Coordinator to help with the museum's aim to expand its sales income by selling some of its stock of books and other items on Amazon and ebay. This post would suit someone happy with online selling with admin and IT skills. The museum also needs a Loan Box Coordinator to take on the administration of its 11 loan boxes, this includes taking bookings, raising invoices, arranging for collection and drop off, ensuring payment etc.

You would need regular access to email and ability to use Microsoft Word.

If you're not into IT, how would you like to help at Cuckfield Stroke Communication Group for people who have had a stroke?

The group are looking for volunteers with patience and good listening skills who are able to attend on a regular basis. An ability to push a wheelchair is an advantage but not essential.

Find out more details of these and other volunteering opportunities by contacting Horsham and Mid Sussex Voluntary Action, tel. 01444 258102, email VolunteerCentre@hamsva.org.uk or go to www.hamsva.org.uk

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Bedlam has one of its new T Shirts and a case of 12 bottles of Pale Ale to give away to one lucky Cuckfield Life reader. All you have to do is answer the following question and email your answer, along with your name and address, to competition@cuckfieldlife.co.uk before 29th August - and one correct answer will be selected at random.

The question is: 'What is the definition of SMASH?'



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FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE



By Wilf Knighton

This month Pamela and myself joined in the fun at the Pelham House Caribbean BBQ.

The weather was not what one would expect from the Caribbean, but there were many happy smiley faces inside. A great entertainer had people swinging to the tunes of the 50s and 60s which clearly brought back memories for many.

I guess many know that Pelham House is a residential nursing home on London Road, but what struck me was the wide age range starting with the oldest at 102. I am not sure of the youngest but I believe they were around 65.

I had a good chat with a 93 year old former pilot who had clocked up some 11,000 flying hours during his career. He had flown many planes, including the rare Stinson and Catalina.

A lovely atmosphere permeated the afternoon, no doubt helped along by the cheerful way in which the staff went about their duties, led by the manager Amanda Brown.

Amanda commented: "We are all incredibly proud of our Home and our residents. As a team we all endeavour to give our residents the best possible entertainment and strive to deliver 'Excellence in Care'. We had exotic music playing and we finished the afternoon with refreshing cocktails and fruit – worthy of the Caribbean I think!"

It may have been wet outside but there were lots of sunny smiles inside!



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Many will be aware that the outside appearance of the church is notable for its great tower dating from the 1250s, together with the spire and great sweeping roof of Horsham stone. The latter is one of the largest such roofs in Sussex. More than 100 tons of stone, ranging from large slabs at the base, rise in ever-decreasing size towards the ridge.

The roof was last 'reheald' (relaid) in the 1920s – a plaque in the vestry stating that it cost the princely sum of £2,000! We are now faced with a similar task as the roof is starting to fail. Patching is proving of short term benefit because of the fragility of the whole, so the church has commissioned an exploration for renewal. As you will imagine, this will be very costly – a sum approaching £1 million has been mentioned.

The church hopes to seek national funding, although a proportion will have to be raised locally. We'll keep you posted!

With all good wishes,
Michael (vicar)

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Summer fun in Bolnore

BOLNORE SUMMER FETE 2017



By Gemma Coombes

A huge effort from a small team went into the planning of this event, and it was great to see the hard work pay off. We welcomed lots of visitors from within the village and further afield, all enjoying the entertainment and delicious food and drinks whilst visiting our many and varied stall holders.

Community groups from within Bolnore, such as the Preschool, Scout Group and Primary School, all reported excellent fundraising totals which is great to hear.

BPM Dance Academy students turned out in force and showed off some wonderfully choreographed routines.

The dog show, run by Mewes Vets, was as popular as ever, with three-month-old Frankie, an old English Sheepdog, taking the prize of Best Pedigree. And the mini steam train rides were hugely popular.

AFC Bolnore ran a beat-the-keeper challenge with a penalty shoot-out competition and raised £200, which will go towards their pre-season training kit.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers that helped in all aspects of the Fete, from putting up the marquees, delivering leaflets, raking the grass, serving the teas and manning the stalls to clearing up afterwards. This combined effort made this year's fete a resounding success. We look forward to doing it all again next year on Saturday 14th July 2018!







Meg Fuller with Pilar Cloud from the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity with the fundraising dessert

Dessert brings hope and glory to charity

Destination diner Billy's on the Road has long been a supporter of the Cuckfield-based Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity – and now they are donating part of the income from one of their best-selling desserts.

Located just north of Billingshurst, the independently-owned café will give 25p from every sale of their 'Meringue of Hope & Glory' puddings – inspired by the famous Dame Vera song.

The delicious desserts are based on an 'Eton Mess' with a bed of meringue topped with fresh fruit and finished with a drizzle of coulis and a mint leaf.

"The Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a cause very close to our hearts," says chef/owner Vicky Willison (Billy). "We are always delighted to support their amazing work in any way we can."

Local girl creates Wonderland at Borde Hill

A local schoolgirl has added to the scene of fun and adventure for children at Borde Hill this summer by creating an Alice in Wonderland Trail. Gabriella FitzGerald, 16, who lives near Borde Hill, devised the Trail around the stunning garden and wrote the riddles to be solved as part of her work towards a silver level Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Running throughout August, the Alice in Wonderland Trail complements specific activities on offer, such as a Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Friday 11th August. In addition there are outdoor games on the lawn, including Giant Jenga and Badminton, and an Alice in Wonderland reading room inside the marquee.



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Glass rooms

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

For me summer creates a feel-good factor not only from the sunshine (hopefully) but because of the long daylight hours and the abundance of colour in gardens and parks. How lovely to extend that feeling by bringing summer inside by creating a light and airy space. There are ideas for all budgets with the simplest one being de-cluttering the interior and adding summer accessories. Cushions and a throw with colourful floral or leafy designs on a plain sofa is a step in the right direction for a small budget. Cushions can be considered as pieces of art for your sofa and will also add depth and texture to the interior. A step further would include a white sofa, pale sheer curtains that would billow gently in the summer breeze, soft neutrals or pastel colours on the walls to create a gentle hazy palette for a tranquil interior. A mirror opposite a window will reflect summer daylight and garden views. Doors leading out to a garden or patio will stretch the sunny interior outside, aided by using the same accessories or colours on the garden furniture. Floor tiles that can be used inside and out will further stretch the interior.

To access as much daylight as possible, what could be better than a glass room, to be totally surrounded in glass? Older conservatoires do a good job in letting in summer light but can get sizzling hot in summer months, particularly if south facing, but there are choices in glass now which will lower solar gain and blinds which absorb heat.

A sun room, verandah, conservatory or orangery could be considered, with larger glass windows to let in more light all year round and to increase the sense of well-being. There are many choices of glass room designs from reputable companies.

Orangeries originally date back to 17th century Italy, built to protect citrus trees in the winter and constructed by wealthy landowners. Introduced to Britain they were grand, elegant south facing structures attached to mansions and had decorated interiors protecting fragile citrus trees. They were a symbol of wealth, an attractive addition for Society Britain. Yet overall they only had a small amount of glass and so the orangeries were heated by stoves, the fumes from which unfortunately sometimes killed the citrus plants that were being protected.

Modern orangeries and conservatories are built to embrace daylight and to bring in summer, breaking down the boundaries between house and garden. Insulated tiled roofs can replace glass or polycarbonate roofs on older conservatories if the structure can carry the weight and are supplied by professional companies, resulting in bright and airy garden rooms which shouldn't get too hot. There are many choices in glass room design. Orangeries differ from conservatories in that they have brick frameworks and insulated plastered flat roofs which have a beautiful raised glazed lantern window in the middle. Artificial lighting is fitted into the plasterwork.

History bits from: www.orangeries-UK.co.uk



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More holiday fun from readers...

When you go away, don't forget your copy of Cuckfield Life and grab a selfie wherever you end up. We'd love to

see the magazine reach new places! Email your photo to photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk - thank you.



Andrew Symonds & Rene Deblangy in Aumale, France



Jade Cole in Corfu

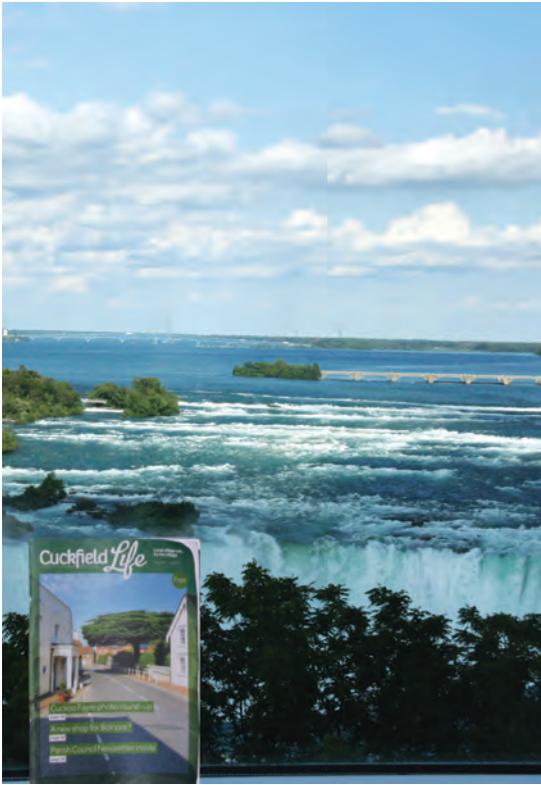
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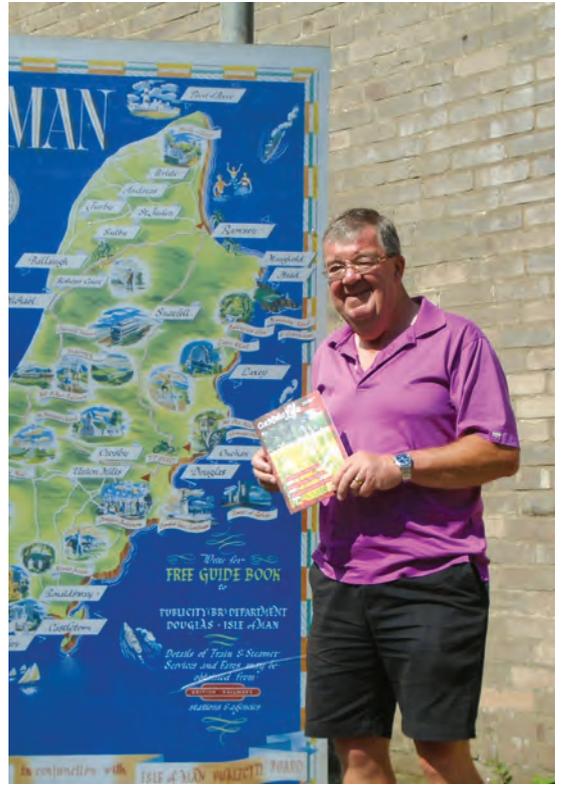
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www.cuckfield.org

Aug. 2017



CUCKFIELD EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The visit to Aumale

Twenty five years on and the Entente Cordiale is alive and existing between Cuckfield and Aumale. Six members spent a wonderful long weekend where we were most hospitably received.

As foot passengers we were met at Dieppe on Thursday afternoon and taken straight away to a champagne reception in the Mairie. Speeches were made and gifts exchanged. That evening the traditional event was laid on and organised by the local Sapeur-pompier, those magnificent men (and women) in their blue and red uniforms and shiny tin hats. It was sausages and chips on a barbecue with beers and drinks, enjoyed by all ages.

Friday 14th July is the big day! It started with a procession from the Mairie to the war memorial, led by the local band, to lay wreaths, Andrew included, observe the minute silence and then hand out medals, all to martial music and national anthems. This was followed

by the "vin d'honneur" in the Buttermarket. Remember the giant Duchess Marie? She also lives here. The day finished with a grand meal and fireworks.

Saturday was spent in Amiens. One highlight of the day was a boat trip around the Hortillonages. This is former marshland bisected by canals, forming islands which were market gardens producing vegetables etc for the city. Now privately owned as allotments or weekend retreats only accessible by boat. After a splendid al fresco lunch, a rest and some retail therapy, we stayed for the magnificent son et lumiere exhibition on the west facade of the cathedral. Returned home by 1am the next morning, exhausted but happy.

Most managed to appear by 10am for the return Boules match, which we won last year (no comment on this year!). A stroll around the town and church preceded another splendid lunch and then time to go home.

Superb lunches and dinners, perfect weather, interesting visits and friends new and old. A vintage twinning visit! JH



A group of visitors and hosts

Andrew Symonds presents a specially made bowl to the mayor of Aumale, Madame Virginie Lucot-Avril



The Giant Duchess Marie is permanently resident in the Butter market in Aumale.



Programme for the rest of 2017

September

21st -25th Visit to Karlstadt. 26 members are currently going to celebrate 20 years of twinning with our friends there.

October

14th Annual Boules competition at Marshalls 11am with ploughman's lunch and cash bar. £5 per head pay on the day but please indicate if you intend to come so numbers and competition can be organised. Andrew.ajims@gmail.com

December

16th Christmas event at the Old School, 7.30pm. £18 per head, finger buffet, cash bar and silent auction. First drink free.

The future of the Association

At the AGM in June the committee recommended with regret, and the membership accepted unanimously, that the Association will terminate on 31st December 2017. The main reason being the lack of new blood to come on to the committee to ensure the Association functions effectively.

We decided to go out with a bang and not a whimper, so this year will see official visits to Aumale and Karlstadt, with whom we celebrate 25 and 20 years of twinning respectively. Our twin towns are aware of this and suffer similar problems. None of this is Brexit after effects!

We will organise a final party in the new year for members when a subsidised meal will consume the remaining funds.



Deaks Lane, Cuckfield



Connections Directory out now

Mid Sussex District Council has published a new edition of the Community Connections Directory to help older residents get access to vital support services.

The new Directory contains extensive contact information for the many local organisations that offer help to older people, with issues like managing their money, maintaining their independence, finding local social activities or getting support with housing issues.

The online edition of the Community Connections Directory of Services for Older People (50+) in Mid Sussex is also now available for the first time at www.community-connections.org.uk/

For more information about the Community Connections Directory, or any other Mid Sussex Wellbeing service, call 01444 477191, email wellbeing@midsussex.gov.uk or visit the Wellbeing website at www.midsussexwellbeing.org.uk

Museum wants Great Storm memories

Cuckfield Museum's Autumn display will remember those dramatic days from 30 years ago when the 'Great Storm' hit in 1987. Do you have memories or photos? They would love to see them if so! Please contact Philippa Malins 01444 452307 or Sue Burgess 01444 454104.



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Holy Trinity Church Office, The Old School, Cuckfield
 Wealden Stores, Whitemans Green, Cuckfield

P & S Gallagher - Triangle Road, Haywards Heath, 01444 451166
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					6			
					7		8	
		3			9	7		4
								3
5			3	7	2			9
1			6					8
6	1	2						
	7		4					1
9	4				5			

Find the solution to #14 in next month's magazine

#13 Solution

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

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, especially during the summer – when some events don't take place. Please note contact details for all regular classes/activities are available on the Notice Board at the Queen's Hall.

August

- 10th **Cuckfield Parish Council Meeting**
7.30pm: Planning, 8.15pm: Environment
31st **Cuckfield Parish Council Meeting**
7.30pm: Planning, 8.15pm: Roads & Traffic

September

- 6th **Cuckfield Museum Talk** – 2.30pm
Council Chamber
'Dinosaur Discoverers' by John Cooper, from the Booth Museum, Brighton. Sussex and the wider Weald area were at the forefront of a new world in the discovery of giant extinct creatures whose fossils began to appear in the early 19th century. John tells how this unfolded through the discoveries of Gideon Mantell and George Bax Holmes, and especially through their relationship with Richard Owen, famed first President of London's Natural History Museum. (To book a place, please ring Mike Nicholson on 01444 457448)

AND ELSEWHERE

September

- 5th **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – 10.15am
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath
'45 years in Aviation' talk by Peter Griffiths
- 5th **Lindfield Afternoon WI** – 2.15pm
King Edward Hall, Lindfield
(Contact Jacquie on 01444 454816)
- 8th-10th **Lindfield Arts Festival**
Various events taking place in nearby Lindfield over the weekend (www.lindfieldartsfestival.com)
- 9th **Food Market** – 9.30am
Cuckfield High Street
Your village market open for business until 12.30pm
- 10th **Glydebourne Open Gardens** – 11am-4pm
Glydebourne, LEWES (BN8 5UU)
A chance to explore the extensive grounds, take a stroll around the lake, enjoy a picnic on the lawns and peek inside the 1,200 seat auditorium where all the onstage action happens. An outdoor sculpture trail to spot works by Henry Moore, Nick Hornby, Rachel Kneebone and Nic Fiddian Green, and the Glydebourne gardening team who will host drop-in gardeners' questions sessions. (Tickets £10: 01273 815000)
- 20th **The Arts Society Mid Sussex** – 10.15 am for 10.45 am (formerly known as Mid-Sussex Decorative & Fine Arts Society)
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
'Joseph Wright of Derby and the Men and Art of the Lunar Society' Lecture by Leslie Primo
Non members welcome: £7 on the door
- 20th **Mid Sussex Franco-British Society** – 8pm
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
Retrouvailles, vin et tombola – AGM
- 21st **Mid Sussex Association National Trust** – 2.30pm
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath
'Resorting to the Coast-Sussex Seaside History' talk by Dr Geoffrey Mead
- 30th **Barn Dance** – 7pm
Cuckfield Baptist Church
Barn dancing, Fish 'n' Chips and a short Christian talk (Tickets from the church or 01444 473531)

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