

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #64 : Feb. 2018

Free

What's on and where

page 46

Bolnore's marathon couple

page 15

Who is Toby Wilson?

page 24

Including...

Bolnore
VILLAGE

6 PAGE SECTION



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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, editor

First job this month is to say thanks to **Millie Hildreth** for the spectacular sunset photo on our cover. If you're a keen photographer and know you have some great shots of the village, then I'd love to see them. Millie will get a **£20 shopping voucher** to spend in Cuckfield for her efforts. Send yours in to photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk as and when you find them please.

There's already lots filling up the 2018 calendar by the look of all the news items we have in this issue. You can read about the **Craft Fair** coming back to Cuckfield on **page 8**, a **professional trumpeter** playing at Holy Trinity Church on **page 6** and the reopening of **Cuckfield Museum** on **page 30**.

Page 28 heralds the welcome return to Cuckfield Life of a regular **recipe page**, thanks to the efforts of local food writer **Caroline Young**. Her links to the village date back to her working with the late **Katie Stewart** – a village treasure. In the coming months Caroline will share her food ideas as well as stories from their adventures together.

Cuckfield resident **Toby Wilson** kindly agreed to **Simon Yeend** telling his story on **page 24**. It's a local tale with a lot of miles involved along the way. Thanks Toby!

Do you know someone who'd make an ace **Village People** candidate? It could be a neighbour, school mum or relative – if they live in Cuckfield or Bolnore we'd love to hear about them. Email editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk with any tip-offs.

Talking of Bolnore, Simon met a couple taking on the **London Marathon** on **page 15**, and **Chris Belton** is looking for volunteers of all ages to take part in a '**village clean up**' on Saturday 10th March – see **page 14**.

And **Holiday Snaps** - we love to be sent them (photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)!

Happy Valentine's Day – if you get involved, of course!



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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

All change for CDS

Cuckfield Dramatic Society have had a change of heart about their spring production.

They were originally planning to put on 84 Charing Cross Road but, after discussion among members, it was felt that this season's play should be a more upbeat production.

They will instead be putting on *If I Were You* by Alan Ayckbourn. It features Mal and Jill Rodale, whose marriage is on rocky ground but when an unexpected event puts them in each other's shoes, they begin to better appreciate each other.

Auditions for the three male and two female roles took place at the beginning of this month and rehearsals begin on 1st March.

The production, which will be directed by Harriet Sheldon, will be shown at The Queen's Hall from 30th May to 2nd June.

There is still time to get your tickets for February Frolics. The event takes place on February 23rd and 24th. This is a dinner and theatre event featuring comedy sketches and a short play – *French Farce*, *Mixed Doubles*. Book now without a booking fee at: www.cdsweb.co.uk

Save the date for next Cuckfield Bookfest

By Sheila Mortimer

We organisers were delighted that Cuckfest 2017 received such a positive response so, after taking a breather, we decided in January to organise another one for 2018. Plans are well underway with lots of ideas being discussed and leads being pursued. Please make a note now of the dates, 5th – 7th October, and we'll be updating everyone throughout the year as plans unfold. The website (www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk) will provide information when we have more to tell. Plus, of course, right here in Cuckfield Life! Watch this space...



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Sporting success for Warden Park

Warden Park's under-15 netball team recorded one of the greatest victories in their history when they knocked out Hurst College 33-27 in the quarter-finals of the Sussex Knockout Cup.

PE teacher Miss Finley said: "Despite injury and illness on the day, the girls played the best netball I have seen from a state school in my 16-year career and, as a squad, pulled off a victory they'll remember for years to come! Hurst are one of the best schools for netball in the South of England, routinely representing the region in National finals.

We go on to face either Roedean or Ardingly College in the semi-finals. Congratulations girls!"

There was also success for Warden Park year 7 student, Aiden (pictured) at the Southern Area British Judo Championships. Aiden travelled to Gillingham and won all four matches by ippon (the maximum score) to secure a gold medal in the under-34kg Boys category.

Aidan is now looking forward to representing the school again at the national British Schools Championship, taking place in Sheffield in March.

Year seven students, Bailey and Heston competed as part of the Under-13s Sussex Squash Squad at the

National County Finals in Nottingham under the watchful eye of captain and brother, Sumner. Bailey and Heston led the Sussex team to victory.... this is the first time this age category has been won by Sussex Under 13s...a truly fantastic achievement.



To top off a fantastic weekend, their brothers, and ex-Warden Park students, Perry and Curtis, captained their teams, boys under 17s and 19s respectively, to victory, too. All four boys did not drop a game.

Last but by no means least, their sister, Torrie in Year 9, reached the quarter-finals in the British under 13s Squash Tournament in Roehampton last month.

Friends of Warden Park are holding a quiz and curry night on Friday 2nd March from 7pm. The fun quiz, held at the school, is a fundraiser for the school. This year, FOWP are raising money for a school minibus, a lighting system for school productions, dance flooring and to provide funding for STEM-enriching projects for pupils. Tickets are £15, which includes a curry supper.

Tickets are available at: www.wardenpark.co.uk and quiz teams are 6-8 people each.

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Sound the trumpet at Holy Trinity Church

Internationally-acclaimed trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins is coming to Cuckfield.

He will be accompanied on the organ by Ian Le Grice for a concert in Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 11th March at 2.30pm.

Steele-Perkins, who trained at the Guildhall School of Music in London, became a member of English National Opera, The Royal Philharmonic and the English Chamber Orchestra.

He has been described by Virtuoso Magazine as 'the world's leading exponent of the Baroque trumpet', and particularly when heard in duet with great singers such as Kiri Te Kanawa, Emma Kirkby and Bryn Terfel.

He has participated in numerous TV and film scores, and his solo recordings extend from Handel to Glen Miller. He features regularly as a concert soloist at The Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall.

Le Grice's musical career embraces all aspects of organ playing, including recitals, concert performances and accompanying church services. For 30 years he was assistant organist at Temple Church in London and has held teaching posts at the Royal College of Music and Trinity College of Music.

In 2003 he played the organ for the world premier of John Tavener's 'Veil of the Temple' conducted by Stephen Layton. Since 2005, Le Grice has collaborated



Crispian Steele-Perkins



Ian Le Grice

with Steele-Perkins in presenting recitals for audiences in informal settings.

Their programme on 11th March, organised by The Friends of Holy Trinity Church, will include works from Handel and Haydn to Howard Goodall and Burt Bacharach.

Tickets, £16 (£18 on the door) under 16s £7, are available from Pepperbox in Cuckfield, Carousel Music in Haywards Heath and FOHTCC@btinternet.com



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*Claxton, G. and Lucas, B. 2015. *Educating Ruby*. Carmarthen, Wales: Crown Publishing.



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Craft Fair comeback

By Marie Dormer

For many years Cuckfield had a monthly Friday Craft Market run by All Things Nice but this came to an end in 2016 and it has been sorely missed. Throughout 2017 no one came forward to take on this successful venture. So Cuckfield Parish Council has stepped in and good news: Cuckfield Craft and Vintage Market returns to The Queen's Hall this spring! The first of five Craft and Vintage Markets in 2018 will be held on 21st April from 9.30am to 1pm.

The Craft and Vintage Markets will have a slightly different style, combining local crafts, with vintage homeware and local produce. We are hoping the plantswoman will return with her wonderful collection of plants. Entry to this event is still free.

Following on from the spring event the next one will be the Summer Craft and Vintage fair on Friday 6th July and then 21st September, 19th October and the last one of the year on 23rd November.

For those who would like a pitch please contact Marie Dormer at Marie.dormer@cuckfield.gov.uk for more details on the markets and a booking form.



Photo: Marjorie Chilton

Wealden Stores closes

Cuckfield lost one of its iconic shops when Wealden Stores closed its doors for the final time last month.

Janine Watts and Dawn Hall have been running the shop for 17 years and held a farewell party for friends and regular customers on Saturday 27th January.

Dawn said: "Yes we've finally retired. We had a fabulous send-off party and it was lovely to see so many friends here."

"Wealden Stores was built around 1880. It was a privilege being custodians of the last surviving village shop in Whitemans Green."

"Leaving is always sad but it was the right time for us. We're moving to the Isle of Wight. A beautiful place with a less hurried pace of life."

The shop and premises attached have been bought by a local family and it is understood they want to keep some form of retail outlet going, which is great news for the village.

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Try an instrument at Ensemble Reza's Family Concert

Ensemble Reza will be hosting their Family Concert at The King's Church, Burgess Hill on Saturday 10th March from 2.30-5pm, featuring music and dance from around the world.

The afternoon is ideal for primary school age children and will start with a lively, interactive concert performed by virtuoso musicians Ensemble Reza.

Following the concert there will an opportunity to have a go on a range of string, wind and brass instruments with partners West Sussex Music. For those wanting to try music classes, the Kindermusik programme will be available, focusing on developing musicianship for primary school children.

The Ensemble Reza Family Concerts always prove popular with children, parents and grandparents, offering an opportunity to take part in gigs, reels, tangos and polkas.

Audience feedback from previous Family Concerts:

"The concert was perfectly pitched for young children – my kids said it was 'epic!'"

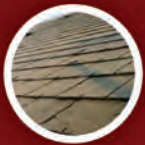
"We really enjoyed the friendly, relaxed family focused nature of the event"



"We loved the beautiful music and humour too!"

Tickets are available from Pepperbox in Cuckfield or The King's Church (Burgess Hill) and online from www.ensemblereza.com

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Ben Harris knew at the age of 17 what he wanted to be when he grew up after he witnessed a chiropractor cure the migraines that had tormented Ben's mum for years.

"I was planning on being a physiotherapist," Ben explains, "until my mother went to see a chiropractor about a shoulder injury, he got rid of that but at the same time with the work he did on her balance and posture he got rid of her migraines as well, which was massive. That kicked off my interest - headaches, migraines they're not just normal and to be endured. A lot of them are to do with what we can do with muscles and joints. I was dumbfounded at how quickly he got rid of them so I went to watch him for the next few weeks seeing how he worked getting rid of migraines as well as all the back pain and neck pain that you'd expect from a chiropractor. I was hooked."

Five years at university followed to become a fully-licensed chiropractor and years later, Ben's love of helping cure people of headaches and a whole host of other aches and pains has not diminished.

"I still love sorting out headaches," he says. "I had one patient who was suffering from migraines three or four times a week and I got it down to one a month. She was chuffed to bits. Some patients have constant headaches which means they can't concentrate or they're too tired. For me to be able to make a difference to how people are behaving, they might have had a tough day at work but they haven't had that headache on top of it, so their stress levels are coming down, that's what I love."

Ben's company, Falcon Health, are expanding their services so they can now offer a fully-qualified

physiotherapist as part of their team, which also includes sports massage therapy and orthotic prescription for tailor-made insoles.

"We want Falcon Health to be an injury and pain management centre and having our own physiotherapist will broaden the services we can offer," says Ben, whose motto is: Live Well, Think Well, Move Well.

Their new physio is Marcin Laska, BSc MCSP, who, like Ben, has been living in Bolnore Village for a number of years.

Marcin has been a physiotherapist for more than a decade and has a keen interest in sports injuries, their treatment and prevention. He was involved with

Burgess Hill rugby club, Ardingly College football and hockey teams and Ben is delighted they have recruited him to join their team at their practice in Burgess Hill.

"His kind, friendly, bubbly nature immediately makes him approachable when putting our patients at ease," said Ben. "Having had training on a wide range of musculoskeletal conditions in both the NHS and private practice, he looked at putting his knowledge and expertise into local sports clubs.

"His passion to become a physiotherapist came after having physiotherapy and rehab treatment care plan himself due to ACL reconstruction after a fracture on his knee. He's got tons of experience, is very professional and we're delighted to get him on board."

During Marcin's introduction to the team, for a limited time Falcon Health are offering a full consultation, diagnostic report & physiotherapy treatment for £40, normal price for all this is £95.



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Cuckoo Choir on tour in Budapest



By Candy Hood

We are the Cuckoo Choir, an over-60s mixed choir, run by our delightful choir mistress Jane Haughton, with the administrative side run by Sarah Cheesemur. We meet every Friday afternoon in term time at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Cuckfield.

We repair to the Talbot pub after singing, to quench our thirst and it was at one of those sessions more than a year ago that Peter Cheesemur asked Marta Lindop (one of our singers who is Hungarian and who arranges small choirs and musicians to sing and play in her native Budapest): "When are you going to take the Cuckoo Choir to Budapest?"

And Marta said: "Whenever you're up for it!"

So, at the beginning of December 2017, around 30 of us, including our 91-year-old piano accompanist, Fiona Fawcett, packed our thermals and boarded a plane to Budapest for a long weekend.

We sang in the Roman Catholic Church of Fot, with their choir, singing carols in Hungarian and English.

We visited the wonderful Christmas Market and the Thermal Baths at the famous Gellart Hotel, where some of us brave souls swam in the outdoor thermal pool, watching the sun go down and the sparkly Christmas lights come up.

Marta arranged sightseeing trips, including one to an amazing marzipan exhibition that had many extraordinary models and statues all made from almond paste.

The last night included a typical Hungarian meal in a beautifully decorated dining room with local musicians entertaining us, and us them, with our singing.

A really fun time which we hope to repeat and to invite the Fot choir to a return visit and hospitality with us in Cuckfield.



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New Director

BOLNORE CIC

By Chris Belton

I am pleased to announce that the Bolnore Village Community Interest Company has a new Director – David Pickering. David lives in Woodcote House in Middle Village and has been a resident for more than 10 years. His appointment fills a gap in our village coverage. I'd like to thank David for volunteering and to welcome him formally to the Company.

I was pointed towards a very interesting announcement from Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. He tells us that he plans for leaseholders to be freed from 'feudal practices' in the property market! His approach is to place a ban on leaseholds on new build houses and will force developers to cut controversial ground rents to zero for all new apartments and houses. Not only that but to compensate those buyers that have been sold properties with onerous ground rent terms. Taylor Woodrow has already put aside £130 million 'just in case'! The scale is quite staggering – there are 4.2 million residential leasehold homes in England and this represents 20% of all properties. Of these 1.4 million are leasehold houses, as opposed to apartments. It remains to be seen what the actual outcome will be but it is surely a step in the right direction.

A meeting was held in early February at The Woodside at which residents were presented with the proposed budgets for 2018 – 2019. The new demands will be distributed shortly. The major undertaking for the coming 12 months will be the internal and external decoration of apartment blocks – a task that was last carried out far too long ago. Prospective bidders for the contract have already been onsite and their bids will be available for Community Interest Company review in the coming weeks.

Here's a date for your diary: **Saturday 10th March** starting at 11am. The Woodside and Town Council are organising a **'LITTER PICKING DAY'** and we require plenty of volunteers to help out.

Anyone for chips?

Residents are being sounded out about a fish and chip van making a regular visit to Bolnore.

Funky Fish 'n Chips serves up Britain's traditional dish and would like to add Bolnore Village to its roster.

With the exception of one or two villagers – who are concerned about possible smells if the van sets up in the Village Square – the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

The preferred venue is the Woodside Car Park, with more than 60 residents saying 'yes please'.

Jools Stone is the man behind Funky Fish 'n Chips and will make a decision shortly on whether to apply for permission to set up in Bolnore.

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Non-runners take on marathon challenge

Bolnore husband and wife team, Chris and Sarah Webb, have taken on a gruelling challenge this year – by offering to both run the London Marathon for charity.

Gruelling, because neither of them are runners!

"We are slow joggers at best," says Chris. "But we've never made it past 13 miles in an event, and for good reason, mostly related to our knees! So, it is both a state of fear and excitement we find ourselves in as we tackle our first (and likely last!) marathon.

"We are however extremely determined to make it over the finish line in April. And the main reason for that is because we are running to raise money for Action for Conservation.

"Action for Conservation (AFC) are working to help inspire the next generation of conservationists across the UK.

"They recognize that today's youth are growing up more disconnected from nature than in any previous generation. Action for Conservation runs school workshops, summer training camps and a youth ambassadors programme to bring the magic of nature

into young people's lives, inspiring a youth movement committed to conservation.

"As someone who has spent my career trying to leave the planet in a better state than I found it (I am currently working for The Nature Conservancy), the charity's mission is one which I am passionate about. And anyone who knows our two girls will also know they are never happier than when exploring the woods behind our house!"

Chris and Sarah have to raise £3,000 over the coming months and as part of that they are hosting a quiz night at the Woodside, with a rather special quizmaster.

Nick Flindall, who has appeared on Mastermind, 15 to 1 and Brain of Britain, will be setting the questions, but has promised to go easy on the night!

The quiz is being held in the Woodside on Saturday 24th March between 7.30pm-10.30pm. Tickets cost £12.50, which includes supper. For tickets email: chriswebb@hotmail.com

To help them financially follow this link to their London Marathon fundraising page: <http://bit.ly/2sdGrvD>



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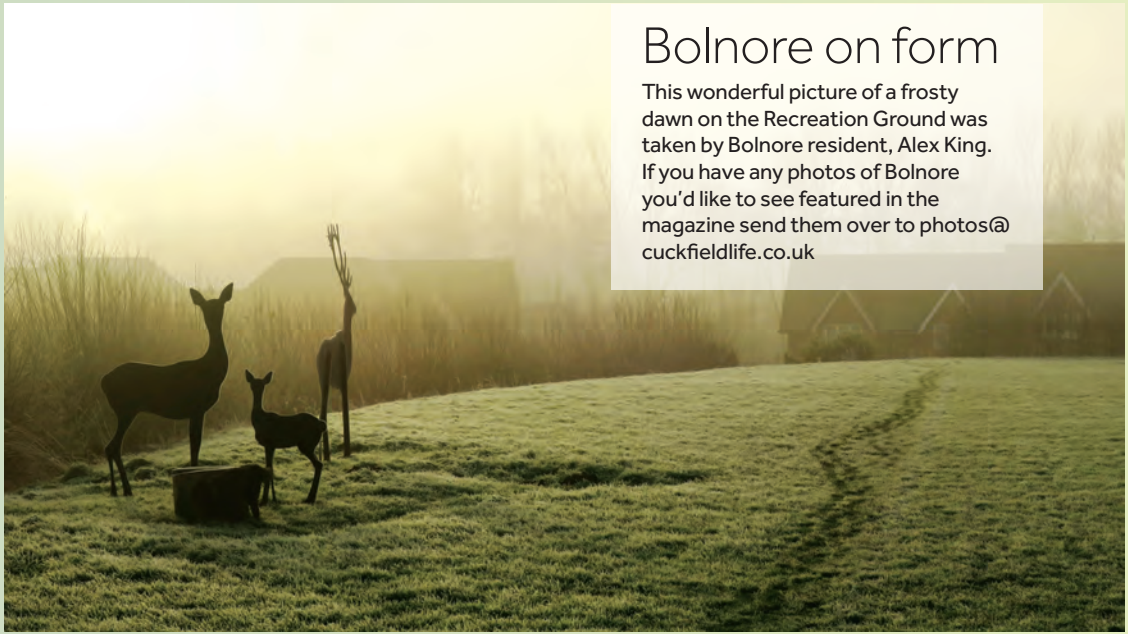
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Bolnore on form

This wonderful picture of a frosty dawn on the Recreation Ground was taken by Bolnore resident, Alex King. If you have any photos of Bolnore you'd like to see featured in the magazine send them over to photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Hair salon to close

Bolnore is about to lose its hairdressing salon as The Style Lounge have announced they will be closing at the beginning of next month.

Salon owner Amy Packer has found it unsustainable to keep the business going, despite a loyal group of customers who have loved having such a useful service in the village.

Amy made the announcement with a post on Facebook: "It is with great sadness and regret that I write this post.

"Having a hair and beauty salon was always a dream of mine and I would like to thank my wonderful staff and all our loyal clients for making my dream come to fruition.

"However, despite being extremely busy, we have been unable to make the salon commercially viable.

"It has been a rollercoaster of an experience and my team and myself are devastated that it has to end. I am so very sorry we will no longer be able to service our



clients and I am sorry there will once again be an empty shop in Bolnore Village.

"Our last day will be the 10th March. We would love for you to pop in and join us in a farewell drink."

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What's happening in the woods?

Work should be completed in the coming days on the drainage pipe from the railway line into Bolnore and Ashenground Woods near the balancing ponds.

Network Rail had hoped to complete the building work, which involves laying a pipe from the tracks around 40 metres into the woods, in a few weeks. The wet weather though, has proved challenging, with even the heavy machinery struggling to operate in the mud, and the project has been ongoing for almost two months.

The new pipe will channel floodwater from the railway line into Pond Meadow. It will then drain slowly away into Foundry Brook and eventually the River Adur.

There has also been significant felling of trees near Bolnore Village Primary School, to allow more light to enter the school classrooms.

Friends of Ashenground and Bolnore Woods are holding their AGM on Sunday 11th March at 2.30pm at Ashenground Community Centre.

FoABW are looking for more Committee members. If you are interested call Lorraine on 07802 162275 or email lorrainemaynard04@gmail.com

After the AGM Michael Blencowe from Sussex Wildlife Trust will give an illustrated talk on nocturnal life in the woods.



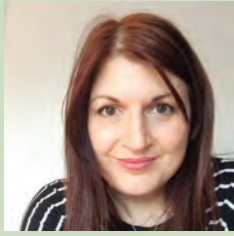
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5 MINUTES WITH...

Gemma Coombes

Gemma is co-owner of The Hub Kids Club, which provides before and after school care for children who attend Bolnore Village Primary School. She's also a trustee of The Bolnore Village Community Partnership and lives with her husband and two young sons.

How long have you lived in Bolnore?

This is our 12th year.

What's the best thing about being here?

In the summer I love the community garden - having an ice cream after school with friends, whilst the kids play.

Favourite ice cream flavour?

Baileys.

How many houses have you lived in?

10 (two in Bolnore) not including Uni.

What would you like to see in Bolnore that isn't here?

Somewhere to buy a cuppa in the square.

Favourite holiday destination?

At this stage in my life, somewhere hot with a quiet pool, fine wine, good restaurants and a great kids club!

Song you play the most?

Golden Slumbers by Elbow

What would you do if you won £1million?

Splurge some and invest some (buy a 'doer upper')

What was the last present you gave someone?

It's been Christmas - too many to list

Strangest thing you've ever eaten?

Chocolate and chilli ice cream

What would you rather give up for a month - TV or music?

TV unless it was Strictly and I'm a Celeb season.

Which App on your phone do you use the most?

All the message ones, I like a group chat.

What's your proudest moment?

Growing a human, twice.

Your advice for life?

Moan less, smile more.

If you would like to provide your own answers for 5 Minutes With, simply email them to editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk along with a photo of yourself, or do please encourage a friend to send their answers in!

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Your car in safe hands

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

When your car needs servicing, how do you decide where to take it? Cuckfield residents, and those in the area, now have a new option and it's right on the doorstep!

Mark Roe, who lives in Bolnore, has always wanted to run his own garage – having worked in the motor trade for over 25 years.

He started his career as an apprentice mechanic working for a garage in East Grinstead, but has since worked in a number of garages in the Haywards Heath area, including a main dealer.

Mark opened MDR Automotive in January and is enjoying the new challenges of being a business owner. "I've always said I'd like to work for myself but it's been hard to take the big step before. Now our kids are older, my wife and I said 'it's time!'" His unit, next to 4 Front Car Sales just off the Cuckfield/Staplefield junction of the A23, has been fully kitted out with all the equipment he's always taken for granted before as an employee. He has also taken on his own apprentice in the form of Reece Andrews – who will learn from Mark's years of experience.

Mark's father has always been a mechanic and when Mark asked for a motocross bike as a teenager his response was a challenge: "He gave me an old motorbike that had totally seized up and told me if I really wanted one, I would get this one up and running," he explained. "That was the start of it all for me," Mark said, "you could say I was a 'petrol-head' from then on!"



MDR Automotive can take on any work on all types of car, including motorhomes (they have a good relationship with their next door neighbour already). Full diagnostics, tyres, servicing, exhausts and clutches – they can even organise MoTs for their customers. But what does Mark enjoy working on? "I must admit I like to get stuck in when changing a timing chain or cam belt; you have to strip the engine right down to get into it usually."

So, if you want a great deal on your TT's tyres, need to get your Mitsubishi through an MoT or just require an annual service for your Astra call Mark on 07584 096406 or look them up on Facebook. It's easy to get to – with the new access road running beside the A23 (set your SatNav to RH17 5JS) or ask Mark about their handy car pick-up/drop-off service!



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The Barn, Haywards Heath RH17 5JS
(Next to 4front Car Sales, off A23)

New bench seats visitors

By Andrew Symonds

Our first visitors from Karlstadt tried out the new Bench they gave to us last year, now sited on London Road at the top of Polestub Lane, next to the quince tree also gifted by them to Cuckfield on a previous occasion.



Kirsty sets sights on laser biz

Cuckfield resident Kirsty Bishopp has moved her laser hair removal business to the village. Kirsty, who you may recognise from her acting roles with Cuckfield Dramatic Society, is a qualified nurse as well as a laser aesthetician and has been working in that field for the last three years.

"I'm delighted to say that I have moved my business (Looking Good Skin) back to my home village. I have had great support from friends and local customers already," Kirsty said.



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By the time you lovely people of Cuckfield are reading this, Cuckfield i wear will be in its new 'forever home' at 2 High Street – just a few doors down from where we were, formerly JoJo Boutique (Jo and her gang have moved across the road almost opposite).

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Classes held in Lindfield and Haywards Heath.



Photo: Dale Reubin

Up, Up and Away

VILLAGE PEOPLE

By Simon Yeend

Toby Wilson boarded the 5.36am train from Balcombe to London one day last winter, looked at the grey faces in the carriage and thought: 'I can't do this any more'.

Hardly surprising that the daily commute felt life-sapping, given the adventures he'd been on – working at the Park Lane Hotel at the age of 16, riding a moped from Cuckfield to the South of France, sailing around the Mediterranean and the Caribbean on super yachts, flying helicopters for the rich and famous and living in America for 35 years before finally coming back to Cuckfield.

So Toby quit his job and has embarked on his latest adventure – dog grooming.

His life story is more colourful than most. Born in Mayfair in the red-light district of Shepherd's Market, he lived there until the age of eight when his parents split and he was sent off to boarding school in Surrey and then later, Great Walstead School in Lindfield.

His mother moved to a cottage in Cleaver's Lane on the edge of Cuckfield and Toby was sent to another boarding school near Petworth... but not for long.

"Like my grandfather and my father, I was being groomed to be an officer in the forces," he said. His father was chief test pilot for the RAF in World War II. He broke the world speed record at the end of the war, crashed 19 times and was shot down three times; twice by the British, and once when he was test-flying German aircraft.

"I was packed off to boarding school where they were still teaching young men how to run the Empire, even though the Empire had long gone. It was brutal and arcane. At my last school I was expelled after a year for poaching the headmaster's trout! We were half starved, the food was horrendous and one day a group of us were walking across muddy fields in our platform shoes after visiting a nearby girls' school when we saw these bubbling pools of hot water. They were full of trout so we dipped our hands in and helped ourselves.

"We were going to take them back to our dorm to cook – they had to be better than the gruel they served up at school so we stuffed them inside our coats. But we hit a trip wire on the way out and the police car was waiting for us.

"We knew we were in big trouble because they beat you for everything so we thought we'd get the cane but they didn't do anything to us – all Sunday night. On Monday we went through classes for half the day and then we were summoned to the





Photo: Dale Reubin

headmaster's study. My father was sitting there and, as he never came to the school, I knew. The headmaster said in the old days we'd have been hanged but he settled for an immediate expulsion.

"So I went to Warden Park for the last two years, and that was great! Mr Trethowan was headmaster and he put the fear of living god into you, but he was an excellent head. He'd walk down the corridor with a long black cape swishing his cane.

"One day I didn't do my homework for his history class so I told him I'd left it at home and he said, 'I'll drive you home at lunchtime and you can get it.' Before lunch I got a 20-minute reprieve in the library and I scribbled out the homework and stuffed it down my trousers. He drove me home I ran upstairs, ripped it out and said 'I've got it'. I bet he knew what I'd done."

After passing his O Levels, Toby was gearing up to join the RAF when he took a summer job in London at the Park Lane hotel and his flying career went on the back burner for several years.

"I'd been working on a local farm in Cuckfield for 35½p per hour. A number of Arab families arrived in city that summer and they appeared to have no concept of money. I'd open a car door and get £10. A tenner in the 70s, wow! I had more money than I knew what to do with. I bought a Triumph Bonneville, way more bike than I could handle. And I thought 'stuff the RAF', I've had enough of regimented discipline."

That summer job ended and a spell at drama school in Liverpool followed before he took a job at Mansell McTaggart – where he would show people around houses, but only if they held a full driving licence because he was still a learner and needed them to accompany him! Next came a job in a plumber's merchant before setting off to work in a hotel in Monte Carlo.

"I sold my Triumph, bought a moped and used the extra cash to finance my trip. I got to Monaco and discovered I couldn't work there without a permit.

A friend of his father put him up after Toby's tent was stolen and he suggested he should work on a yacht. Toby promptly walked up to the biggest yacht in the marina and asked for a job.

"It was owned by a supremely wealthy Mexican woman and I got a job, went from bilge rat to deck hand and sailed that summer all around the Mediterranean."

The next few years in Toby's life were life-changing as he firstly qualified to be a yachtsman and skippered luxury yachts around the Americas, and then, on a trip back home, he spent £50 on a helicopter pilot taster flight. He was hooked, spent every spare minute – and penny – getting the flight hours in and gaining his helicopter licence.

Some of the yachts he skippered were big enough to have helicopter landing pads and carried their own choppers, so he got to indulge two passions at once.

He eventually took a job with Forbes flying helicopters off a yacht and there he did a deal with the jet pilot where he taught him how to fly helicopters and the pilot instructed him in flying jets. Working for Forbes brought him into contact with the rich and famous and one of his jobs involved flying Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev around the world on their money-spinning global talks. He also taught Harrison Ford to fly and the pair became friends. Toby also got married at this time and had two children.

After Forbes he took a job working for Mike Bloomberg – one of the wealthiest men on the planet and soon to become mayor of New York City – following the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers.



Photo: Dale Reubin

"I was in New Jersey at that time and two days after 9/11 Harrison Ford called and asked to meet me. All flights in and out of New York were grounded so he was holed up in a hotel in the city. I rode in on my Harley Davidson. Everywhere was raining ash, and Harrison rode his motorbike with me down to Ground Zero and because he's Harrison Ford, they let us in. It was like Dante's inferno, everything's grey, we're grey, lord knows what we were breathing in. Harrison was upset and wanted to help, and he did help, he gave out food to survivors, he's a modest low-key guy and wanted to do his bit."

Toby spent the next 12 years working for Bloomberg, which involved numerous flights to Bermuda, a tough job, as they say, but someone's gotta do it! Then the itch came again.

"My children were 10 and 11 and going to school in rural New Jersey – you don't have to go too far from New York for it to get very rural very fast, both of our dogs were killed by bears. One time when Georgia was seven and Jack was six, a bear cub started chasing him, and where there's a cub, a mother is not going to be far behind. He ran to the front door, rattling it like crazy shouting 'Let me in! Let me in!'. And Georgia said: 'What's the password?'."

"After 35 years in America something just snapped in me and I wanted to come home.

Their school in New Jersey was closing down so I googled Warden Park just to show them where I went to school and they had a really cool promotional video.

"My mother was still living in Cuckfield, in Church Platt, and my daughter said she wanted to go there. Amazingly they had one place left in Year 8.

"We told her she'd have to go on her own and stay with a nanny and even at 12 she was cool with that. It was tough for us but she said, you've promised me a year on my own in Europe so let me go. She got her act together

and went from average student to excel in everything. We'd come over once a month for a while, but she was essentially away from us for a year."

The following few years saw Toby working a month on in the States and spending a month off in the UK, but it put a huge strain on his relationship and he and his wife separated.

Toby's desire to come back to Cuckfield was great and Bloomberg offered him a job in London, which he took and returned to the UK.

"I commuted in on a motorbike which was fine for six months when the weather was good, but it got dark, and cold and icy and it was miserable."

Which brings us back to the 5.36 to London.

"I got a season ticket for the train from Balcombe during the strikes – it was like being with the 'Living Dead', you're just slowly dying, everybody's grey, ashen, not talking and it's like waiting to die.

"After eight months I was offered a pay-out and I seized it. I was going to go back to flying but they don't recognise my American qualifications here, so I'd have to have started again. Which I did, but quickly realised I wouldn't be able to earn any money for a year and even after that I'd only be making about a third of what I was making in the States. So I went for a new career."

Toby needed a groomer for his rescue dog and found it really difficult to find one. A lightbulb went on. Within weeks he was enrolled in dog grooming classes in London and late last year he bought a state-of-the-art grooming van and launched his business: Toby&Fly.

"I thought if I can deal with moody millionaires I can deal with dogs. It's harder to start a business from scratch than I thought, but I love it!"

Toby is now settled here with Hanna and his two-month old son, Henry. He isn't planning on flying off any time soon!




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SIMPLY GOOD FOOD

Spiced Parsnip Soup

Combine 1 finely chopped medium onion, 1tbs oil, a crushed garlic clove and 1tbs grated fresh ginger root in a large pan. Cook, stirring, until just soft. Stir in 375g peeled and thinly sliced parsnips, a large baking potato, 1tbs curry paste (or powder) and 600ml hot vegetable stock. Cover and cook until vegetables are very soft. Cool slightly, tip into the processor, add 2tbs dried milk powder (or double cream) and buzz until smooth. Return to the pan and heat gently to serving temperature – do not allow to boil.

Golden Leek and Potato Chowder

Thinly slice 2 leeks and tip into a pan with a generous knob of butter or oil, a handful of thinly sliced celery and some crushed garlic. Cover and cook over gentle heat until soft. Stir in 2-3 tsp turmeric, 150g thinly sliced (or diced) baby (new/salad) potatoes and 450ml hot stock. Cover and cook until potatoes are just soft. Stir in 410g can low-fat evaporated milk and heat to serving temperature – do not allow to boil.



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By Caroline Young

Hello...my name is Caroline Young. Whilst I am not a chef, my home economics background has been writing for women's magazines, both here and in the USA, teaching adults and working with food and appliance companies. I live locally and for many years I worked with Cuckfield's own well-known cookery writer and resident, Katie Stewart, on Woman's Journal magazine until the publishers decided they would rather have a chef's recipes than ours. Ironically the magazine ceased publication not long after that!



I am not a lover of complicated recipes with long lists of ingredients but do enjoy seasonal cooking with the emphasis on food that has not travelled thousands of miles. You will never find Peruvian asparagus in my kitchen! Food writing has changed so much since Kate and I began our careers – long past are the long lists of ingredients, step-by-step instructions and, of course now we have different cooking appliances in our kitchens.

I am not very good at keeping New Year resolutions but this month I am replacing all my ancient bottles of dried herbs and spices with new ones and resolving to use them more often in my cookery. Winter dishes especially benefit from a boost in flavour from spices, try these favourites of mine first. Both serve 4-6. I hope you will enjoy my recipes, please write to me if there is anything special you would like to make.

To add crunch.....

Crush 7 cardoman pods and add the seeds (discard pods) and some crushed garlic to 25g melted butter in a bowl. Stir in 115g coarse breadcrumbs (I think sourdough bread makes the best crumbs) and 50g roughly chopped salted peanuts. Tip into a hot frypan and cook, stirring constantly, until a rich golden brown. Spread on kitchen foil to cool then keep in a airtight container.

Or fry 100g diced bacon or pancetta until crisp. Tip on to a plate and add 2 large mugfulls of soft breadcrumbs into the remaining fat (add a little extra oil if needed) and cook over high heat, stirring constantly, until a rich golden brown. Stir in the bacon bits and use while hot. Good with the Leek and Potato Chowder.

Enjoy!

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Museum digs up the criminal past

CUCKFIELD HISTORY

By Sue Burgess

Cuckfield Museum re-opens after the annual winter break on Saturday 17th February.

Our main display will be Law & Order, featuring a very rare original Victorian poster, donated by a recent visitor to the museum. It offers a reward for the capture of members of the notorious Frimley Gang who had "burglariously entered the dwelling house of Elizabeth Kennard" in Haywards Heath on the night of 16th July 1850.

We know the Kennards' house was near the station and there is a possibility it was The Yews at the top of Boltro Road. It would have been a terrifying ordeal for the two ladies, their servants and others in the household, to be held captive and threatened by four violent men during the robbery.

As gang member James Hamilton later admitted in court, referring to the Kennards' house, "we stole a large quantity of property" and the extraordinary details of what they stole may be seen on the poster.

The Frimley Gang, operating over a wide area in Surrey, Sussex and Kent for two years, specialised in burglary with violence and had an extensive network of accomplices to dispose of the stolen goods.

Eventually 12 gang members were brought to trial and 11 convicted, one being hanged for murder and at least two sentenced to transportation for life.

The Kennard sisters not only survived their ordeal but went on to live to a good age, especially in the case of Ann, who was 101 when she died in 1894. Both sisters are buried in Cuckfield churchyard.

We also show the museum's brutal man trap from Horsgate. We don't know if it was actually used on the estate to deter poachers but it's only too easy to imagine the effect if the trap were to be sprung. Other

related items from our collection and some on loan from the Old Police Cells Museum in Brighton all serve as a reminder of how suspects, those on remand or convicted criminals would have been dealt with here in Cuckfield when the village policeman's house ("Peelers" in Church Street) contained a prison cell and the local magistrates' court was held in the upper room of The Talbot.

Drawings from our collection show the Balcombe Tunnel murderer Percy Lefroy Mapleton's appearance before magistrates here in July 1881. He was subsequently tried at Maidstone Assizes and, found guilty of murder, executed at Lewes Prison on November 29th 1881 with no less than fourteen newspaper reporters as witnesses.

Last summer curators at Cuckfield Museum were delighted to receive an email from a resident of Orlando, Florida offering to donate an antique model of the London to Brighton 'Comet' coach with four hand-carved horses. It had been made here in England and our donors didn't know when or why it had been taken to America, they just liked the idea of it 'coming home'. From photos we were shown, it was obviously not in perfect condition and seemed to be the wrong colour but we agreed that this was an exciting opportunity to enhance our permanent display and we would assess the necessary repairs when it arrived.

Unfortunately, the air freight handling process caused even more damage and the renovation task was quite considerable. However, we are very grateful to local resident Ken Burgess who has painstakingly cleaned and restored the whole model to museum standards, with the horses' legs needing particular attention as they had suffered most in transit. Re-harnessed, and with the addition of a coachman, guard, passengers and



luggage, our model now represents Cuckfield's one-time importance as a busy staging post on the Brighton Road and the amount of horse-drawn traffic that passed through each day.

To coincide with the new installation we have imagined ourselves 200 years ago and created a journey in sound from the toll gate at Brook Street/ Whiteman's Green down the hill through Cuckfield to a change of horses at The Talbot or the King's Head before setting off again towards Ansty. We have been helped in this by kind collaboration from Ardingly College Music and IT departments who recorded the different post horn calls and from Matthew Hodson who created the finished CD.

Do have a listen next time you are in the museum!

With thanks to Andy Revell for research on our behalf in the British Press Archive.

BURGLARY.

£20 REWARD

Whereas about half-past 12 on the night of Tuesday, the 16th of July 1850, the Dwelling House of the Misses Kenwards at Haywards Heath, in the Parish of Cuckfield, was broken into by four Men, and the following property stolen viz. 1 flat repeater gold Watch having a Foreign movement, with horizontal escapement in an English gold "dome case" engraved Dal no makers name or number; 1 gold engine turned Watch, gold dial; 5 silver Watches; 4 silver Table-spoons, one marked K, date on back, 1777; 1 marked T. K.; 12 silver Teaspoons, 6 marked K. A. and 6 marked A. K., with, what about all the handle of the same; 2 gold Rings; a gold watch Chain and Key; 2 silver scent Boxes; 2 ditto urn shape, with chains; 1 ditto shell shape; 2 diamond Rings; 2 mourning ditto; 2 garnet ditto; 1 coral Brooch; 1 garnet ditto; 1 Turquoise ditto; 1 pair of gold Ear-rings set with Diamonds; 2 pair of black ditto, and several other articles of Jewellery; 12 Guineas, about £4, in silver; 20 Sovereigns; 1 large shawl, full pattern; 2 silver punch Ladies, 1 with wooden turned handle, and 1 with twisted black bone handle; a silver cream Jug, 1 pair silver sugar Tongs, 2 silver fruit Knives, with pearl handles, one with silver Diamonds upon the handle; a double-barred pocket-stone Gun, makers name "Woolen, Leaver"; a black silk skirt; a red knitted Purse, with steel clasp; 1 pair of drab cloth Trowsers; 1 pair of black ditto, with blue stripes; 2 calico Shirts, with linen collars and fronts nearly new, and a brown Holland Frock.

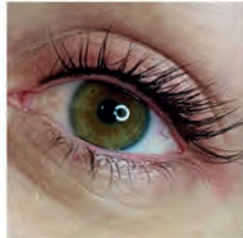
The above Reward will be paid to any one giving such information as will lead to the apprehension of the parties who committed the above Burglary, and recovery of the property, and a proportion thereof to be given to the person who gives the information.

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY'S Free Pardon,

Information is given to Inspector James Hanagan, Cuckfield; Superintendent Holmes, Cuckfield; the Chief Constables, Offices, Lewes; or in 17, George Kitchenham, Linstead.

Cuckfield Notice, July 18th, 1850.

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Amy Packer Permanent Makeup

Lifesaving knowledge

Where's your nearest defibrillator?

We last ran this article at the beginning of 2017 - and we vowed to run it on a semi-regular basis for the good of the community.

At Cuckfield Life we'd like to encourage everyone living and working in the village to familiarise themselves with the sites of the lifesaving defibrillator machines and learn how to use them.

Cuckfield village has five machines – on the High Street outside Mansell McTaggart Estate Agents, inside the Queen's Hall, at Whitemans Green and one in both schools – Holy Trinity and Warden Park.

There are also two machines in Bolnore Village – at The Woodside and at the Primary School, both of which are publicly accessible.

Several of the machines have been provided by the Sussex Heart Charity and have been bought following fundraising efforts from residents, such as Team Hagan, the Greater Haywards Heath Bike Ride and local businesses and groups including the Lions Club. The Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School raised the

money to pay for their school unit with the help of some of the mums!

All of the machines are portable and contain full instructions but why not give yourself a head start with an online tutorial?

Cuckfield resident Wendy Tracey-Roberts-Macrae needed to make use of the Whitemans Green machine when her neighbour collapsed. Unfortunately nobody on the scene knew where to locate this, so Wendy now strongly recommends we all get to know where our machines are and to have a go at the Lifesaver app, which is free to download onto an iPad or any smart phone. The app is also recommended by the Resuscitation Council. "Anyone, regardless of age or ability, can learn how to help," says Wendy.

"Please give it a go. With our emergency services so overworked, we as communities can get better at helping ourselves, and it really does make a difference."

To download the app, visit www.resus.org.uk/apps/lifesaver



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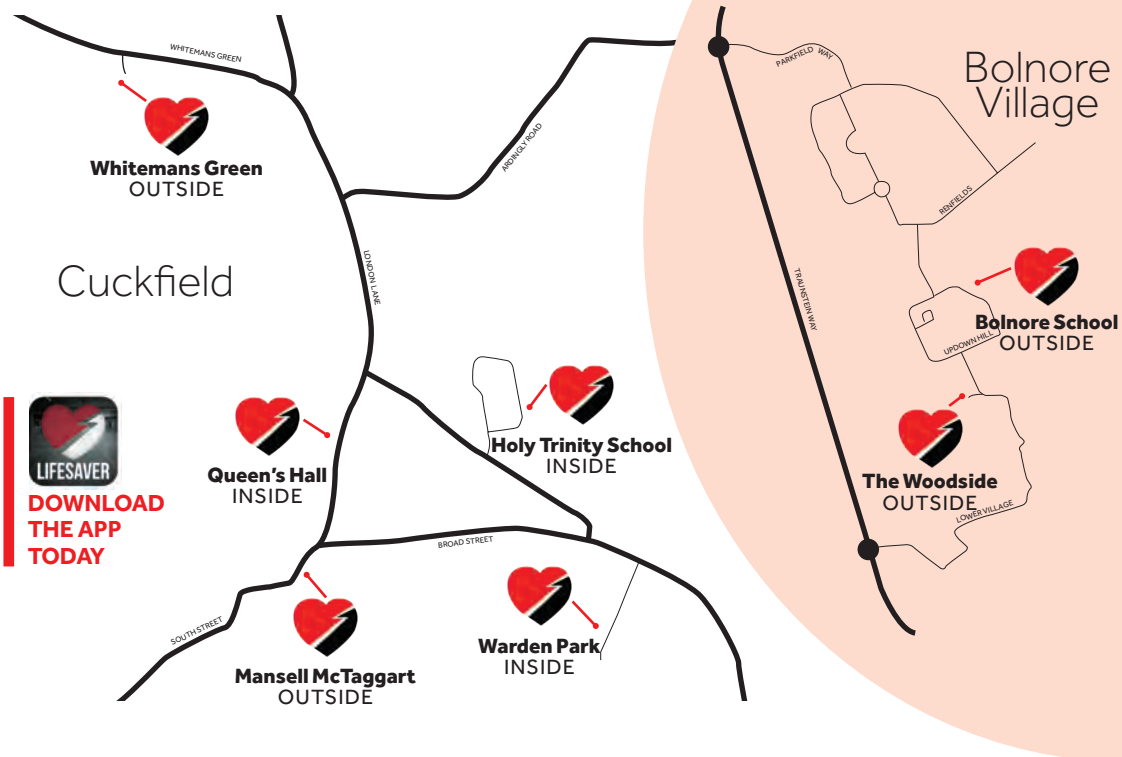
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Vicar: Rev Michael Maine More information: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

'I'm all for scattering sunshine as we pass. As Stevenson says, we shall pass this way but once - and I devoutly hope he's right!'

Lord Peter Wimsey - *The Nine Tailors*



Dear friends,

I am an admirer of the writer Dorothy L Sayers, whose character Lord Peter Wimsey is regarded by many as a very distinctive figure in detective fiction. One of the most vivid of the series of books in which Wimsey appears is *The Nine Tailors*, in which Sayers conjures up the great medieval churches of East Anglia, church bells forming part of the mystery to be solved.

Sayers was a formidable scholar, translating amongst others - Dante's *Divine Comedy* - her edition (highly regarded by many, including Umberto Eco) is still in print. She was also variously a poet, worked in the advertising industry (originating the phrase, 'It pays to advertise') and was also commentator and theologian. Her series of radio plays: 'The Man born to be King,' first heard during the Second World War, caused a furore at the time. Atheists regarded the series as propaganda, whilst many Christian groups deplored depicting Biblical characters as flesh-and-blood people. Some blamed the broadcasts for the fall of Singapore to the Japanese!

Sayers, like most of us, was a highly complex person, yet produced work which can lift the reader to consider life in its broadest sense. In this she used her creative skill to enrich other people's lives. The fantastic thing is that we are all capable of doing the same, each in our own way.

All best wishes,

Michael (Vicar)

Lent @ Holy Trinity Inspiring Vision

A Lent Course exploring prayer through art and featuring podcasts from people including Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Patricia Routledge, the actress. Every **Wednesday evening** from **21st February - 28th March** in the **Old School @ 8pm**, repeated on **Fridays at 3.15pm** in the church. All welcome - no charge!

Check out our website for other events and services

SUNDAYS

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

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

WEEKDAYS

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

76th Season. Saturday 24th March 2018

St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath at 7.45pm



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Cuckfield waves the chequered flag

By Kate Fleming

Cuckfield has a wealth of visitors and rightly so. It's a picturesque village, with a beautiful church, and a range of excellent hostellers that attracts all kinds of people. Occasionally however, one stands out. Georgia Shiels certainly does that. She defies all the rules of gender inequality, still doggedly obeyed by many, as she drives round motor racing circuits at 135mph in her RX150 Buggy.

Georgia Shiels is a racing driver. You wouldn't think that were you to meet her around the village. Petite, trim and trendy she bursts with energy and enthusiasm, especially talking about motor racing when she draws you magically into her world of speed, thrills and fear.

Georgia is a full-time student at the University of Bolton where she is in the second year of her BEng in Automotive Performance Engineering. Fast and efficient, outside and inside - rare skills?

This would all be explained if Georgia came from a motor racing family, born in the pits, bottle-fed petrol, and played with spark plugs from the age of two but this is not the case at all. A chance meeting at a motor show led to a ten minute driving lesson at the age of 15 and the rest, as they say, is history!

"I love Cuckfield," Georgia says. "It has become my home from home. I have made friends for life here and the locals are always making me feel welcome in their lovely village." She's a particular fan of the vegetarian dishes in The Talbot!

Georgia's career in Rallycross is beginning to take off, she is becoming known in the sport, getting closer to victory and to fulfilling her dream of becoming the first ever female world rally champion. As with any kind of success however comes responsibility, and as a woman in a male-orientated sport this is no exception or less demanding. Consequently running in parallel to her acceptance in this volatile environment Georgia as a role model for young girls increases in intensity.



In 2015 Georgia, selected out of thousands, was awarded the Jack Wills Young Brit Award in the endurance category. She is also a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) First Ambassador, encouraging young girls into engineering and motorsport, and giving them the confidence to compete and win.

'Be revolutionary' is her mantra, and although that may well be beyond the majority of young women it encapsulates the kind of strength and sangfroid to break new ground and open up opportunities hitherto firmly sealed.

Over the ages it has taken the determination of women like Georgia Shiels to bang on the doors of the establishment, question the rules and enable we lesser female mortals to enjoy, at least here in our developed country, the freedom of choice.

So let's be proud that she is a special visitor to our village. Wish her success if you are fortunate to meet up with her, or visit her website and, if you are fast enough, follow her drive to fame. Follow her story more at: www.georgiashiels.co.uk

If you know a Cuckfield visitor who loves Cuckfield as much as you, do get in touch (editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)

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Make a tulip fishbowl

FLOWER TIPS

We are introducing a flower arranging tips and ideas feature by Cuckfield resident **Belinda Campopiano**. This month, she shows us how to make a delightful seasonal tulip fishbowl – a great Mother's Day gift!

By **Belinda Campopiano, Chez Fleur**

British tulips are in season now and are readily available from supermarkets everywhere. They provide a lovely splash of colour and last a good week so they are great value! Did you know that tulips keep on growing after they are cut? Many people think that once the tulips 'flop' over that they have passed their best but if you recut the stems and refresh the water they will soon be standing up again. Here's a great idea for a fabulous Mother's Day gift using a glass fishbowl:

What you will need:

Glass fishbowl

One bunch British tulips – choose your favourite colour!

20cm round mirror - optional

Scissors – I recommend carbon blade florist scissors

Method:

- Unwrap the tulips and allow them to go floppy for an hour or so. This is essential otherwise the stems will snap when you curl them inside the bowl.
- Cut the tulips at an angle, remove the outer leaves and dust off any sand particles.
- Add approximately 350ml water to the bowl taking care not to splash the sides of the bowl.
- Take one tulip and place the stem in the water and gently wrap the tulip inside the bowl.
- Repeat with the remaining tulips spacing them evenly around the bowl and ensuring the stems are in the water.
- Place the bowl on a 20cm mirror to protect your table surface and give the design interest with added reflection.
- Tulips do not need flower food but you may need to top up the stems with fresh water.

If you need more help with this or supplies you can get in touch with **Chez Fleur**. She'll also be selling flowers for the Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal at the Cuckfield Local Market on Saturday 10th March.



Photo Quiz

It's just a bit of fun, but how many of these locations near the village centre can you identify from these close up photos? Answers are printed on page 47, or you can see the full photos on the website at: www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk/cuckfield-blog



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



A sad goodbye

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Evelyn Stenning, mayor

Many of you may be aware my Christmas and New Year did not start very well, as unfortunately I was admitted to the Royal Sussex County Hospital for major abdominal surgery. I was later transferred to Newhaven Rehabilitation Centre to continue treatment and recuperate.

I came home on Saturday 13th January and I am progressing well and taking life slowly. My sister Joyce has come up from Somerset to be with me and is a good companion.

A few of my special friends, Giano, Jenny, Carol, Doreen and Jan have made my welcome home a lot easier, as they tidied up the house and also were there when my new carpet for the hall and stairs was fitted. They have continued to help as I recuperate and so I'd like to say a BIG THANK YOU TO THEM.

I would also like to thank everyone who has sent cards, flowers, messages and for those that came to visit me in hospital or since I returned home.

Hopefully by the end of this month I will be able commence normal mayoral duties and attend any functions that I will be invited to.

I will visit the Brownies and the Next Step Nursery as promised after half term.

The last Saturday in January was a very sad day for the village as Wealden Stores at Whitemans Green closed its doors for the final time. Janine and Dawn have been serving villagers in the store for the past 17 years and they will be sorely missed by the community for what they have done for us. Best wishes to them for their retirement and their move to the Isle of Wight. I was able to go across to the leaving party and wish them well on behalf of the Cuckfield community.

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Fearless February!

Staplefield-based Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity are looking for people to conquer their fears this year and take on a challenge in their Fearless Feb campaign to help the charity.

Tina Fox, whose son Daniel attends sessions at the Charity, is taking part in a tandem skydive and said: "Daniel started his first session at Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity on his second birthday. He has been every week since and has also loved attending his swimming lessons.

"He has changed from a child who wouldn't sit up to a cheeky little boy who has just started taking a few independent steps. I wanted to give something back and decided to take on the challenge of a tandem skydive to raise funds so more families can benefit from the services of this amazing charity."

Tina is joined by Glenys, Ellie and James, who have also signed up for tandem skydives. The fundraising team are also taking on their own challenge by scaling the O2 in London.

The Charity would love you to join them in your own challenge for Fearless February. For inspiration visit <https://dvfcc.org.uk/news/for-fearless-feb> or contact Marielle Birks for further information and how to sign-up for your challenge – 01444 473274 or email: marielle.birks@dvfcc.org.uk

Cuckfield Flower Club relocates

By Sue Spooner, chairman

Due to unforeseen circumstances, and with great regret, the flower club will no longer hold its evening meetings in the Queen's Hall after March. We are re-locating to the Methodist Church in Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, where there is ample parking. We will meet at the same time, 7.30pm, and on the second Friday of the month as before.

After more than 30 years, we could say it's the end of an era, but instead, we are saying it's a new beginning. We hope to encourage new members from Haywards Heath, and with them, new ideas. Our first demonstration in the new venue will be on 9th March. Gill Horner will help us celebrate our new start. Please bring your friends along and join us for an evening of beautiful flowers, great expectations for the future and even a piece of cake. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information please contact Sue Spooner on 01444 831602.

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Sudoku #20

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

Find the solution to #20 in next month's magazine

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

#19 Solution

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



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Mirrors

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

It's amazing that some household items that we take for granted have existed in one form or another for thousands of years. Mirrors are one such example, the first mirrors were probably humble pools of water or streams. The earliest mirrors to be discovered were made of black volcanic glass called obsidian or polished stone, created around 6000 BC and found in Anatolia, Turkey. Later in history civilisations such as the ancient Egyptians made mirrors from polished metal such as copper and the very first glass mirrors were made by the Romans in 1AD (www.mirrorhistory.com).

These days we have a wealth of mirrors to choose from in terms of style, shape and size which share a multitude of uses and will generate impact, luxury and sparkle. Examples include: antique, shabby antique with damaged silvering, Art Deco in geometric shapes, industrial or classic, and large framed mirrors can add a touch of indulgence. Whatever your style, there is a mirror to suit, as being simply decorative or fulfilling a function in your home.

Mirrors are often used to make an interior look bigger by bouncing light and reflections around a space. Large floor to ceiling mirrors will magnify a small room as will mirrors placed in halls and narrow spaces working particularly well if placed opposite windows to reflect light. A fabulous framed mirror propped against a wall or a frameless mirror attached to a wall will reflect the illusion of space. In the same way add texture and pattern by reflecting textured or patterned walls.

Bring Spring into your home if you have a colourful garden by placing a mirror opposite a window to create a 'mirror window' producing a shimmering melting pot of spring flowers and green textures for impact.

Some TVs are disguised as mirrors! Pretending to be a mirror hanging on the wall and then, at the flick of a switch, they reveal their true identity.

Whatever your style, mirrors can work effectively in your home to create a focal point, to add drama to the room or create an illusion of a larger space. Objects placed directly in front of the mirror such as lit candles will add depth and structure. Well lit mirrors assigned a task such as to watch yourself brushing your teeth, applying make up or checking your hair-do, can add to the creativity of the interior. Some bathroom mirrors have magnifying properties (which you may or may not want!). Mirror tiles can look great.

To some people mirrors are steeped in superstition such as breaking a mirror means seven years bad luck. This myth goes back to Ancient Rome when people seeing their reflections thought that they were looking at their soul and to break a mirror meant it would take that length of time for the living soul to be renewed. The only way to remove the seven years bad luck was to bury the broken pieces (www.mirrorhistory.com).

All in all, mirrors add sparkle and life to an interior.

Is everything sorted?



A single red rose



Chocolates



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What's on this month

ELSEWHERE

February

- 20th **Cuckfield Evening Women's Institute** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane – 'Made and Making' by Sarah and Rachel
- 21st **Arts Society Lecture** – 10.45am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath – Arts Society Mid Sussex present: 'Belonging and not belonging: the immigrant experience in Modern British Art', a lecture by Monica Bohm-Duchen
- 27th **Memory Moments Café** – 2.30pm-4.30pm.
St Richards Church, Sydney Road, Haywards Heath. An informal café, in conjunction with the charity Know Dementia, for people suffering memory loss and their carers. Refreshments with craft activities, music & singing.
- 28th **Royal British Legion (Women's Section)** – 2.30pm
Old School, Cuckfield – Editor of Cuckfield Life, David Tingley, gives his views on all things Cuckfield

March

- 3rd **Cuckfield Preschool Jumble Sale** – 10.30am-12noon. Cuckfield Village Hall. Jumble accepted at the venue from 8.30-9.30am on the day. (Any queries, please call 07734 112158)
- 6th **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – 10.15am
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath - Revival Arts & Craft Garden at Standen (Free entry)
- 8th **HH Ceramics Group** – 10am
Clair Hall - 'Early Dr Wall Worcester Teapot' by Paul Crane (Tickets £8 call: 01444 483372)
- 10th **Charity Exhibition Launch Night** – Time TBC
The Green Tree Gallery, Borde Hill - Chestnut Tree House Charity Launch at 'Through the Eyes of a Child' Exhibition. (www.greentreegallery.co.uk)
- 17th **Mozart Requiem** – 7.15pm
St Mary's Church, Balcombe - Coro Nuovo are performing Mozart Requiem by candlelight with celebrity soloists (07740 946276)
- 17th **Brahms Requiem** – 7.30pm
King's Church, Burgess Hill – Sussex Chorus featuring soloists Helen Lacey, Jack Holton, Kent Sinfonia, conductor Alan Vincent (01444 412579)
- 20th **Cuckfield Evening Women's Institute** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane – 'Women in Medicine' talk by Carol Andrews
- 21st **Arts Society Lecture** – 10.45am
Clair Hall, Haywards Heath – Arts Society Mid Sussex present: 'Celebrating the Royal Academy of Arts: its 250th Anniversary 1768-2018'
- 28th **RBL (Women's Section)** – 2.30pm
The Old School – 'A Boyhood Dream' by David Spear

What's on this month

AT THE QUEEN'S HALL

Monday

- 9.30am **Pilates** (intermediate)
- 9.45am **Yoga Boutique** (Term time only)
- 11.15am **Yoga Boutique** (Term time only)
- 10.30am **Pilates** (beginners)
- 1.30pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 3.45pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Dog Training**

Tuesday

- 9.30am **Pre-school Football**
- 1.30pm **Yoga**
- 3.45pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Dog Training**

Wednesday

- 10.30am **Pre-school Singing**
- 10am **Stroke Support Activities**
- 12.30pm **Zumba Dance Class**
- 1.30pm **Line Dancing Class**
- 3.30pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Yoga**
- 7.45pm **Ballroom Dance Club**

Thursday

- 9.15am **Yoga**
- 9.30am **Pre-school Dance Class**
- 6pm **Dance Classes for Children**
- 7.30pm **Wedding Dance Class**

Friday

- 9.30am **Pre-school Singing**
- 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.

March

- 2nd **Cuckfield NSPPC Quiz Night** – 7.30pm
Teams of 6. Tickets £12 per person to include a cold platter and delicious homemade puds. A bar and a raffle. Tickets from Hairsmith, Broad Street, Cuckfield (opposite the car park). Payment preferably by cheque. (For further information please ring 01444 459579 / 450497)
- 6th **New England Wood Trust** – 8.15pm
Annual Public Meeting. An opportunity for the people of Cuckfield to meet the Trustees and hear the Chairman's report on the management of the wood. All welcome.

AT WOODSIDE

Monday

- 9.30am **Sing & Sign**
- 4.30pm **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 7pm **DDMX Dance Fitness**
- 7pm **Pregnancy Yoga**
- 8pm **Kickboxing**

Tuesday

- 9.30am **Pilates**
- 5pm **Beavers/Cubs**
- 7pm **Pole Fit**

Wednesday

- 9am **Falcon Health Chiropractors**
- 9.45am **Yoga**
- 5pm **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 7.15pm **Scouts**

Thursday

- 10.30am **Creation Station**
- 5pm **Beavers**
- 7pm **Bounce & Burn**

Friday

- 9.30am **Saplings**
- 9.30am **Stay and Play** (2nd Friday)
- 3.45pm **Happy Souls Yoga**
- 7pm **Woodies Bar** (subject to private hire)
- 7pm **Pole Fit**

Saturday

- 9am **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 2pm **AFC Bolnore**
- 4pm **Post-football Bar** (matchdays)

Sunday

- 9.30am **Happy Souls Yoga**
- 3pm **Messy Church** (last Sunday/month)
- 4pm **Grace Church**
- 4pm **Woodside Netball Club**

Note: The Hub (out of school club) runs every weekday between 7.30-9am and 3.30-6.30pm. Bolnore Village Preschool is open every weekday starting at 9am (term time only).

February

- 24th **Quiz Night**

March

- 17th **Comedy Night** – 7.30pm
Featuring comedians: Aaron Simmonds, The Monks & Gary Michaels, plus Tom Balmont will MC the evening. Tickets £25 per person - two course meal included. (Book by email Alison.events@bolnore.org.uk)

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White & Sons (roofing)	9

Retail

Cuckfield i Wear	22
Foxy Feet Shoe Boutique	5

Out & About

Cuckfield Baptist Church	29
Haywards Heath Music Society	35
Spice Village	12

Education/Childcare

Ardingly College	41
Gielgud Academy	23
Great Walstead School	7
Norto5 Kidz (daycare)	3
Sussex Tuition Centre	27

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Amy Packer Permanent Makeup	31
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deadline:*

**27th
Feb**

CuckfieldLife

Call Emily today on 01444 884115 or email your name,
address and phone number to ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Photo Quiz Answers: 1) The Talbot, 2) Sign above Edit, 3) 1-6 Northern Beach, 4) Clock face on Tom's Food, 5) The Sanctuary, High Street, 6) The White Hart, 7) Cuckfield Sign, 8) The Kings Mews, 9) David Ford-Brown Antiques sign, 10) The Rose and Crown pub, 11) Cuckfield Baptist Church, 12) 22 South Street, 13) A property at Bevan Bank, off London Road, 14) Horse Trough, South Street, 15) Cuckfield Motor Company, 16) What was Wealden Stores, London Road.



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

Richard and Mike

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