

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #68 : June 2018

Free

Say 'hello' to Sally

page 10

Royal Street Party write-up

page 32

Cuckfield through an age

page 46

Including...

Bolnore
VILLAGE

8 PAGE SECTION



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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

I first met **Luke Mitchell** when he came to our office during his work experience week at school. I had the pleasure of catching up with him again at last month's Cuckoo Fayre – where Luke mentioned a brilliant idea to write about the changes to the village during his lifetime. Read '**Cuckfield through an age**' on **page 46**.

Page 15 is where you can meet our **new assistant editor: Jacqueline Elmore**. I'm really excited to be working with Jacqueline, who is already getting stuck in to the role. When you email editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk it'll probably be her who responds. As ever, do send in your ideas/suggestions.

We also love your **holiday snaps** emailed to us (photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk) and this month **Elaine Goodwin** has kicked off the summer season with a beach pic from Menorca on **page 51**. Slide a copy of CL in your suitcase and grab that selfie please!

I'm grateful to **Jim Hoodless** for helping with content gathering for our **Bolnore pages**, which start on **page 32**. Most notable is a fantastic party for the Royal Wedding last month! Great community effort there. Catch 5 mins with **Becky Coates** on **page 37**, and on **page 38** there's the regular newsletter from Bolnore's managing agents: **Pembroke**.

On **page 22** **Caroline Young** gives us ideas for a fish supper, **page 25** holds Evelyn's regular **Mayor's column** and on **page 48**, recycling guru **Colin McFarlin** shares the revelation that residents of West Sussex CAN put their takeaway coffee cups in their Blue Bins.

Lastly, you know we're all about people? So it's a pleasure to present an article, written by **Joe Wayte**, telling the story of Cuckfield resident and specialist photographer **Sally Nakajima** on **page 10**. Anyone who falls in love with this amazing part of the world is okay by us!

Next stop: the beginning of summer proper!



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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

Cuckfield is great

After the joy of Harry and Megan's wedding nuptials, The Sunday Times magazine celebrated the new turf of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The article was published the weekend following the ceremony, thought to have been watched by around two billion people.

The piece, written by Tim Palmer, he explained: 'It's a heck of a wedding gift — 1,500 sq miles of prime landscape that, perhaps more than anywhere else, captures the essence of southern England.'

It described why Mid Sussex is such a popular part of the region, with its easy proximity to Gatwick and London.

Cuckfield gets a notable mention as one of the pretty surrounding villages around Haywards Heath. Maybe the Duke and Duchess will pop down to see what all the fuss is about!



High Street road works stopped

Following a number of complaints about a recent programme to resurface the High Street in Cuckfield, West Sussex County Council took the decision to stop the works.

A WSCC spokesperson said: "We listened to residents' concerns about disruption during the night-time road resurfacing and stopped the works. We are currently looking to see when they can be done in the daytime instead and will update residents and businesses soon."

"Unfortunately, there will always be a degree of inconvenience during roadworks of this nature but we will try to minimise this as much as possible."

"As a general rule, once we have carried out road resurfacing in an area and the temporary disruption is over, people notice the positive impact the works have made for residents and visitors alike."

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Warden Park's school-leavers say goodbye

By Robbie Atwell, Assistant Head Teacher

Friday 11th May marked a celebration of five brilliant years at Warden Park with our Year 11 cohort. The afternoon started with a BBQ, while students also had the opportunity to take photos and sign yearbooks. There was a lovely atmosphere with many staff taking one of their last chances to come out and spend time with the students, wishing them luck in their exams.

Following this we all attended an amazing celebration assembly including speeches, bagpipes, music and rapping!

Students were finally treated to a farewell video from staff and photos of their time here.

I can genuinely say that staff have been unanimous in their praise of this year group, and in saying how they will be missed. Their attitude and dedication certainly give us all high hopes for the exams, but most of all in knowing that they leave us as well-rounded individuals, ready to make a positive impact on the world.



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Nuclear Bunker open days

You may not know that in 1962, an underground bunker was built near Cuckfield churchyard as part of the Royal Observer Corps Post, established in 1925. It formed part of the Cold War early warning system and was operational until 1991 when the Post was closed.

Mark Russell and Ed Combes have now restored the bunker to how it would have looked at closure.

As in previous years the pair have agreed to open Cuckfield's Royal Observer Corps Nuclear Bunker again over the summer. The dates are:

16th June 11am-4pm

7th July 11am-4pm

8th July 10am-2pm

5th Aug 10am-2pm.

For more information see the following website: <http://thetimechamber.co.uk/beta/sites/roc-posts> or call Phillipa Malins on 01444 452307.



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Style your property for a sale

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The way you style your property not only reflects your lifestyle but can also help you to sell your home. Richard Butler from Mansell McTaggart Cuckfield offers an insight into the rules of decorating your home for a quick and profitable sale.

By Richard Butler

The most important thing to remember when styling to sell is that you need to appeal to as many people as possible, so a fairly neutral colour scheme is ideal. However, complete redecorating should be only considered as a last resort. Often, you can make small changes that will have great impact on the overall look of your home yourself.

The least expensive way to spruce up the décor is a good old thorough clean. From pristine floors and gleaming windows to clean worktops and scrubbed mortar, every surface should be dust free and sparkling. Pay attention to the kitchen and bathroom. If you have a large house, it might be a good idea to hire professional cleaners.

Now is also the ideal time to declutter. If you have lived in the property for many years, the chances are you have accumulated a great variety of things you may no longer need. You can sell your old things online or donate to charity. Decluttering is especially important as potential buyers need to visualise themselves living in your house and they can't do that if it is full of photos, knick-knacks and children's drawings. Keep only a few personalised, carefully selected items neatly displayed to retain that warm, lived-in feel of your house.

A lot of buyers will also take a quick drive past your house prior to booking an appointment to view, often deciding on the spot if it is worth looking inside. This means the front of your property needs to be looking its best. Hanging baskets, a tidy front garden, a clean weed-free path and freshly washed windows and door will make your property look cared for.

After decluttering comes the fun part of styling. Vases of flowers in the hallway and living room will



brighten rooms and add a welcoming touch. In the bathroom, add fluffy white towels to give a luxury feel. Create a master bedroom that will appeal to both men and women. Make a central point of the bed by using crisp white linen and adding colourful cushions to break up the expanse of white. A few books on the bedside table create a relaxed feel. Some toys on show in kids' rooms are acceptable but make sure they are artfully arranged, not strewn all over the place.

Finally, if you have pets, get rid of any lingering odours with scented candles. Hide the litter trays, dog bowls and beds and make sure pets are not around during viewings. Animal lovers will be distracted by your pet and will not be concentrating on your beautiful, newly-styled house, whereas people who are scared of animals, will be distracted for different reasons.

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

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Minibus drivers needed

Do you like driving and have some time on your hands? If so West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and Bluebird Community Transport need you! Both organisations are currently looking to recruit some volunteer drivers.

WSCC have a 'sensory bus' which has been fitted out with toys for babies and children under five years old. It really wants to be able to get this out more to local preschools, nurseries and parent & toddler groups in the area so that more children can benefit from this great resource. There are music mats, 'touchy feely' cushions, fibre optic lights and other sensory toys on board for the children to enjoy.

Bluebird are also looking for drivers to help them run their community bus service (formally known as Dial-a-Ride). All their buses are accessible and are a real lifeline to many people who can't manage on public transport, helping them to be independent and more involved in their local community.

If you have a spare morning or afternoon and would like to help either of these organisations do please get in touch with them. WSCC email: vec.midsussexhub@westsussex.gov.uk or phone 01444 255499. Bluebird email: enquiry@ctsussex.org.uk or phone 01444 471177.





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Sally Nakajima

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Sally Nakajima's ambition in life is to always capture the moment. This stemmed from losing her father to cancer at an early age and having little to remember him by.

Her career spans across the UK, Singapore and Hong Kong – where her second daughter was born. Now based in Cuckfield, she spends most of her time photographing newborn babies in beautiful and imaginative ways.



By Joe Wayte

Sally was born in Dartford and grew up in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire where some of her family still lives. She graduated from the University of Birmingham with a degree in Fine Art. Together with her husband and two daughters, Sally fell in love with the village and moved here four years ago.

"I've always loved the UK – I'm a home girl," Sally explained, "and while living in Hong Kong we would visit the UK, staying with friends who lived in Balcombe. I told my husband that I didn't care what the house was like, but we had to live in Cuckfield – I didn't actually see the house till we moved in, fortunately I loved it."

Sally and her husband Phil were childhood sweethearts after meeting at a fete in their home village, Naphill. After the fete the pair met up a few times at local playing fields with their friends, which turned into tennis games, and then led to the pair hanging out just the two of them. They then dated until Sally was 17, at which point the couple embarked on a ten-year break.

"He moved out to Japan and we each dated other people. When he came back to the UK ten years later it was the first time we'd both been in the same country at the same time and single. He asked me to move to Hong Kong with him – we weren't even dating!" Sally exclaimed.

Love won and Sally packed everything up to moved to Hong Kong. During the years to come, the pair lived in the UK and gave birth to their first daughter; went out to Singapore where Sally took on the role of Development Director for the Make-A-Wish Foundation; and journeyed back to Hong Kong where their second daughter was born; before finally settling in Cuckfield.

"This is it now," Sally told me, "I'm going to be buried in Cuckfield. I don't want to go back to Asia." Having experienced the fast-paced Hong Kong twice, with its heavy pollution and industrial atmosphere, the family were desperate for somewhere green and tranquil.

"We went back just before Christmas last year," Sally mentioned, "the complex we lived in had a selection of different playgrounds and I thought it would be nostalgic for my five year old – she didn't remember it at all. I spent days on end watching over her on those playgrounds. I couldn't believe it!"

During her career Sally has worked in creative roles within the marketing, recruitment and charity sectors. While in Hong Kong she found a gap in the market, photographing families, mainly expats. She now runs her own business taking photos of newborn babies and pregnant mums.

"Photography began for me during my time at university," Sally revealed. "I specialised in sculpture and everything had to be photographed. I've since been on various training courses, including with Kelly Brown – the Australian Newborn pro, and completing a Diploma in Professional Photography from The Photography Institute. When I moved to the UK I realised there was something particularly creative about photographing newborns and that's where I decided to focus my attention."

Sally uses her sculpting expertise to create nests by weaving birch or willow, decorating it with fresh flowers, and combining her expert photography skills to perfectly capture the first moments of new life.

"It excites me every time," she told me. "I wish I could go back in time with all of the skills I've developed to be able to take newborn shots of my daughters."

When Sally first arrived in Cuckfield she jumped straight in at the deep end and volunteered to organise a Bollywood night to raise funds for the preschool which saw over £2,000 made for charity that night. Having managed 100 volunteers and associated campaigns while in Singapore, Sally is no stranger to large-scale events. She has also turned her hand to volunteering with the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) to help organise it's annual Teddy Bear's Picnic in Ardingly.

"Working with trusts like NCT is really important to me," Sally explained, "My daughters are older now and I never want to lose touch with issues relevant to new mums. While taking photos of seven day old babies is incredible, it's also a very delicate time, and part of my job is to make the parents feel as comfortable and secure as possible. I don't take that lightly."

Another part of village life that Sally loves is the Cuckfield Working Women's Group, which was started by her neighbour. "It's a fantastic forum and I'd be lost without it," she declared. "We meet monthly and discuss matters from changes in legal policies, to sharing feedback and advice on new products."

Looking to the future, Sally would love to have her own studio. Currently, she visits all of her clients at home, where they're most comfortable and already have everything they need for their precious new additions. However, she never wants to move from her current street.

"I live on a cul-de-sac where all of our children play together, we all know each other, and it's truly special," she shared. "If I'm ill, I can pop my head out the door and a neighbour will gladly take my girls to school. I never want to give that up."

One final love of Sally's about the village of Cuckfield, is its fascination with fancy dress. "I've never seen anything like it," Sally explained, "and people 'go large'. From the preschool's 50th anniversary to events in the Queen's Hall, most invitations I get require a costume. I've seen one woman create a TARDIS and a group of people in full Hi-de-Hi regalia!" Sally and her husband recently dressed up as William and Catherine, and Sally has a party in the diary where all the ladies have been asked to don a fascinator.

You're likely to see Sally in and around the village as well as on the school run. If you do, why not go and say hi? And if you're interested in her photography, you can take a look on Instagram @echo_baby_photography.





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All sorts of fun at Holy Trinity

Den Jordan loves singing. Even on the wettest and windiest of days, when most people are snuggling down in front of the television, you will find Den and her friends trooping down to Monday night rehearsals for The Singing Allsorts.

The Singing Allsorts are an informal community choir based in West Sussex, it has a thriving and dedicated membership of fifty women singers, including Den who has been with the Allsorts since their creation in 2007.

Den remembers: "It all started over ten years ago when Jane Haughton, our musical director moved to Cuckfield. Jane studied at Trinity College London and won a scholarship to study in the USA and Canada. After a busy career singing and teaching, she co-founded The Garden Opera Company and toured in the UK and Holland. She also sang at the Royal Opera House for six years and continues to run various educational workshops and community choirs, including The Singing Allsorts."

Since starting their annual charity concerts in 2011, The Singing Allsorts have raised over £14,000 and hope to surpass their previous efforts at their 2018 Summer Charity Concert that will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th July. The Singing Allsorts will perform well known songs from



musicals, ballads, classics and folk songs in support of WaterAid and Brighton Winter Night Shelter. Tickets this year are £10 and can be bought from the High Street Post Office, Cuckfield or by visiting our website www.singingallsorts.co.uk.

As Den attests: "It's always an exciting, toe-tapping evening with refreshments and a raffle. We have a lot of fun together, and hope this is evident in our performances!" Why not join Den and the rest of The Singing Allsorts next month, great entertainment for a worthy cause...right on your doorstep.



Bard at the Park

Professional touring theatre company The Handlebards are presenting a performance of Romeo and Juliet on Saturday 16th June at 4pm in the gardens of Cuckfield Park.

The company promise 'riotous amounts of energy, a fair old whack of chaos, and a great deal of laughter'.

Theatre-goers are advised to bring picnics, rugs or chairs – gates open at 2.30pm. Wet weather arrangements have been made. Tickets in advance are £15 each (children under 16 - £5) or £18 on the day, from FOHTCC@btinternet.com or 01444 454298. Also from Pepperbox in Cuckfield or Carousel Music in Haywards Heath. The event has been organised by Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield.

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Cuckfield Life appoints new Assistant Editor

By David Tingley

Following a varied career in journalism, from television to local newspapers and from charities to national magazines, Jacqueline Elmore has returned to her roots both creatively and physically and I am excited to announce that she has become the new Assistant Editor at Cuckfield Life.

Jacqueline grew up locally and has lived in Cuckfield since 2013. "I spent some time away in New York, West London and Berkshire but always knew that I would one day return to this area. I even managed to drag my boyfriend (now husband) with me towards his in-laws!", said Jacqueline.

"We adore living in Cuckfield. My husband, a sceptic at first, often comments on how much he enjoys being part of the community and living in such a beautiful village. The fact that everything from local pubs to boutique fashion outlets sit right on our doorstep is an added bonus."

Jacqueline is now fully integrated into Cuckfield Life and is already setting up interviews for next month's edition. She would love to hear from any



local residents, groups or societies who would like to share their stories for our Village People feature or perhaps want to reach out and get their message heard by the community.

Jacqueline's role supports all aspects of editorial content, so do drop her, or me, an email to editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk when you have a suggestion or news item or event to mention. Our strapline is 'local village talk by the village' and, as such, we love to hear from our readers.

Please join me in welcoming Jacqueline to our special magazine.

Join ensemble for a spectacular summer soiree

Ensemble Reza are looking forward to returning to Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield on Saturday 7th July at 7pm for a concert of stunning music. Regular concert-goers will be used to the group's ambitious programming and this concert is no exception balancing the popular Beethoven String Trio in C Minor with two fantastic, but lesser known, pieces including Halvorsen's Passacaglia for Violin and Viola (after Handel) and Dohnany's brilliant String Sextet in B Flat major.

Introduced by the charismatic Pavlos Carvalho this concert will take you eastwards from London to Budapest, with a stop off in Vienna, so join them for an unforgettable journey!

Established in 2013, Ensemble Reza was formed so that players could enjoy performing chamber music closer to home, taking first class music to audiences across the South East. The combination of virtuoso musicians, who are close friends performing together,



results in breathtaking performances which have become the unique sound of Ensemble Reza.

We are very grateful to our concert sponsors including Savills, Ardingly College and Worth School for supporting this event.

Tickets cost: Adults: £15 & under 18 years: £3 and are available from: Carousel Music, Pepperbox & online at www.ensemblereza.com



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LISTEN TO THE LAWYER

If you have a legal question do email editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk and we'll put it to Martyn.

By Martyn Gooch, partner Rohan Solicitors

Question: I am in a dispute over a property boundary. My neighbour has suggested using mediation to try to resolve it. What does this involve?

Answer: Mediation is one form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). ADR is a term that describes several techniques that are used to promote early and cost-effective settlement without the involvement of the courts. Court proceedings are expensive, damaging and stressful- even more so if the dispute is between warring neighbours. Wherever possible, court action should be regarded as the 'last resort', and parties should always try to resolve the dispute amicably.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process using the services of an independent mediator who will help to negotiate an agreed settlement. Typically, a mediation would take place at a neutral venue, however, it is common, in the case of boundary disputes, for it to take place at the property involved. The mediator's role is not to offer opinion on the issues in dispute or impose a decision if agreement cannot be reached, it is to seek common ground between the parties and facilitate a settlement that both are comfortable with. For the process to work effectively both parties must engage with the mediator and be willing to compromise.

Although a mediation can take place at any stage of the dispute, usually mediations undertaken at an early stage have a higher success rate than those conducted later down the line when both parties' positions are entrenched and neither is prepared to be flexible.

Many organisations offer services of trained mediators, and these can be found by searching online. Mediators are often solicitors or barristers and will understand the legal process and the impact disputes have on the individuals involved.

There are a number of advantages of using mediation to resolve a civil dispute instead of using the court system. The costs can be far lower and the procedure is less stressful and time-consuming. The parties can also explore alternative solutions that may not have been previously considered or are not available through the courts. Finally, mediation can reduce the level of animosity between the parties meaning it is often possible to re-establish a positive relationship once the dispute is resolved; this is generally never the case when disputes go to court.

Success rates of mediation are high, often quoted at over 75%. If you do reach agreement on a boundary dispute at mediation and that resolution results in a change to the boundary position, it is important to ensure that professional legal advice is sought when recording that agreement at the Land Registry.

Martyn can be contacted by email on mgooch@rohansolicitors.co.uk or by telephone 01444 450901.



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New candle stand unveiled on Trinity Sunday

By Jonathan Berry

There was a lot of excitement at Holy Trinity Church on 27th May, Trinity Sunday, the annual celebration of the church's dedication hundreds of years ago. This year the day was made special by the dedication of a new tree of light and icon of Christ.

There has been a candle stand in the church for some time now. The sight of several lit candles every day is evidence that people value the church and drop in. Lighting a candle is one way of saying a prayer.

The old candle stand, borrowed from Brighton's Chapel Royal, was functional but a bit utilitarian. Generous donors decided to replace it with something richer in symbolism and more beautiful.



Rev Michael Maine, vicar of Cuckfield, the Venerable Fiona Windsor, Archdeacon of Horsham and Helen McIldowie-Jenkins.

The Tree of Light was made by Christopher Townsend, an artist/sculptor based in rural Oxfordshire. He cheerfully engaged in a prolonged conversation over many months with great kindness and understanding. His skill and artistry have resulted in a really beautiful tree. The Icon of Christ was written by Helen McIldowie-Jenkins, one of the countries foremost icon writers.



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Fishy food ideas

SIMPLY GOOD FOOD



Salmon and Prawns in a White Wine Sauce (Serves 4)

Place 1 finely sliced onion, 2 sliced garlic cloves, a small handful of chopped tarragon and 150ml dry white wine or vermouth into a small pan. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer and cook for a further 10 min. Remove any skin from 4 thick salmon fillets and arrange, skinned side down, in a frypan just large enough to hold them in a single layer. Sprinkle over 250g large cooked and peeled prawns. Strain the wine liquor, discarding the vegetables. Stir in 100ml double cream and season to taste. Spoon over the fish. Over a low heat slowly bring to the boil then reduce to a gentle simmer and cook, covered, for 4-5 min or until fish is cooked through.

Cucumber Raita

Well season 150ml thick Greek yogurt with freshly milled salt and pepper plus black roasted sesame seeds (optional but delicious!). Remove the seeded centre of an unpeeled cucumber, coarsely grate the flesh then stir into the yogurt and serve with the fish. This raita is very good with a curry too.

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By Caroline Young

When the weather turns warmer I want to spend more time outdoors, not in the kitchen and I hanker after less substantial meals. Not casseroles and roasts but lighter foods and this is where fish is the perfect ingredient. Suitable for a wide variety of dishes, it also does not take long to prepare and cook. Served with baby new potatoes – preferably from Cornwall, Suffolk or Norfolk, tossed with a little butter and lots of chopped chives or mint – and some lightly cooked green beans or English asparagus (it was late this year so there may well be some still around) and you have the perfect meal for family and friends.



Baked Cod with a Herbed Crust

(Serves 4)

Preheat the oven 180°. Wrap 4 thick cod fillets in Parma ham and place in a lightly buttered dish just large enough to hold them in a single layer. Using a processor buzz 3 thick slices of bread (sourdough if possible) to rough crumbs. Tip into a bowl and add 50g melted butter, a good handful of finely chopped chives and 75g grated Parmesan cheese. Using a fork, lightly mix together. Spoon evenly over the fish. Bake for 15-20 min or until the fish is cooked through.

Serve with warm Hollandaise sauce. Or whisk together equal quantities of mayonnaise and crème fraiché plus a little wholegrain mustard to taste and gently warm.

Smoked Trout with Spiced Rice

(Serves 4)

Rinse and drain 225g Basmati rice. Thinly slice 2 large sweet onions. Melt 50g butter in a pan, add the onions and cook, stirring, until golden brown. Stir in 1tsp cumin seeds, the rice and 600ml hot vegetable stock. Bring just to the boil, cover and cook over low heat for 20-30 min, stirring once or twice, or until all the stock is absorbed and rice is tender. Gently fluff with a fork to separate the grains.

Using a fork, flake 4 skinned smoked trout fillets and gently fold into the hot rice, cover and leave for a few minutes to warm the fish. Delicious served with mango chutney or Cucumber Raita.

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Still out and about

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Evelyn Stenning

What a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend I had! Some of my family from Somerset came up and we enjoyed the Staplefield Fun Day and on Tuesday went to Brighton and took a flight on the i360, seeing the views of Sussex.

I would like to carry on from where I left off from last month, with me recently having met the Cuckfield Beavers, Scout and Cubs up at their hut in Stockland Close. The Beavers had made a wonderful banner painted with 'Welcome Mayor Evelyn' on it. With the Scouts I tried my hand at some knot tying and making a structure, and the Cubs presented me with a framed picture with the Cuckfield Cubs on it. We also found out which knots you used to join other pieces of string together. I told them how I became Mayor and what I do. So thank you all for such interesting times which brought back memories of being in Brownies and Girl Guides back in the day.

I visited the Stroke Club in the Queen's Hall again and they talked about marmalade and jam making by Auntie Val's Ability Centre in Storrington.

The Cuckoo Fayre was one of the highlights of the year, when I was driven from home to the Recreation Ground in a lovely green 1934 Alvis Firefly car, owned by Chris Swinerd. I enjoyed opening the Fayre. It was a hot day so I was glad to take off my robes and enjoy the rest of the time in my summer clothes. I was sketched my Cameron Bennett in my mayoral robes and it is now framed and hangs on my lounge wall. Of course, the Fayre was reported in last month's Cuckfield Life, but thanks should go to the new committee members and helpers who made it possible.

On Sunday 13th May the 'Sunday's Cool' group made me most welcome and I was able to see what the children do, such as bible study, painting bible stories and pray in relation to the Sunday service. Before they joined their parents in church for a blessing, I was presented with a special leaflet from the children. The following Sunday was Pentecost and I was included in the blowing bubble time at the end of the service.

On Sunday 27th May I was invited by the Museum to meet the evacuees from London that make a yearly visit to Cuckfield, to meet up and reminisce of their life during their time in our village. I had a lovely conversation with Tommy, who was billeted at Mill Hall where my Grandfather was the gardener, and also June, who was in Ansty. We were able to continue the conversations, taking them over to the Wheatsheaf for our Sunday lunch!

Golden Years



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Book Festival set to return

By Sheila Mortimer

It's already eight months since the first Cuckfield Book Festival so only four months until the next! The programme is almost complete and there are a couple of things to say; first of all, make sure the dates are in your diary – Thursday 4th October until Sunday 7th October. Something new this year will be a literary quiz on the Thursday night, organised by a team of Cuckfield people who are quiz experts and have been beavering away on the questions which will test your literary knowledge and provide plenty of fun. It will be held in the Talbot – that's where we came up with the idea of a book festival so it's particularly apt to have an event there.

The Saturday at the Baptist Church in Polestub Lane will be the place to head for a day of activities for children and young people. Thanks to a grant from West Sussex Community Initiative Fund, we have been able to expand this side of things and there will be something for little ones up to teenagers. And there will be a competition to design a poster.

For the adults, there will be a packed programme with an eclectic mix of authors – and, of course, the supper on Friday night at Ockenden Manor again.

Full details of all events and information on how to purchase tickets will be available when the programme is published in August. But meantime, keep checking on the website (www.cuckfieldbookfest.co.uk) where



we will be providing more news as the weeks go on. Volunteers are still required and details of the volunteer co-ordinators will shortly be available.

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The finest contemporary silver and jewellery on show in June

SUMMER EXHIBITION



Necklace by Jane Adam

Showing new work from many of the UK's leading silversmiths and enamellers, and with over 250 fabulous pieces of contemporary jewellery on show, John Higgins – founder of the Contemporary Silver Gallery – gets his ninth Summer Exhibition in nearby Lindfield underway when it opens on 21st June.

Event organiser John Higgins explained: "It's such a pleasure and privilege for us to be able to show such a wonderful and diverse range of contemporary silver and jewellery, from every part of the UK, by the very best designer/makers and to see those key pieces which we commissioned for this exhibition in 2016/2017 finally come to fruition.

"We have commissioned new work from five fantastic silversmiths specifically for this exhibition, including several enamelled pieces from Jane Short," John explains, "and we are particularly pleased to welcome back Kevin Grey, who first exhibited here in 2010 and has subsequently gone on to win no less than three prestigious Goldsmiths' Company Awards since then. Kevin's groundbreaking and exciting modernist work combines cutting edge modern technology with traditional silversmithing techniques and is always quite exceptional."

Over 30 silversmiths will show their work at this year's exhibition.

"Whilst we initially focused just on contemporary silver," says John, "the inclusion of contemporary jewellery into the exhibition since 2013 has proved more and more popular every year. This year we are welcoming back seven of our favourite Jewellery Designer/Makers who have exhibited with us before, including Jane Adam, Kayo Saito, Jane Macintosh and Lucy Martin, and whose work is just beautiful and very popular with our customers, and a further three Designer/Makers, Gerlinde Huth, Rosina Beech and Adele Brereton who will be exhibiting with us for the first time and who produce really exciting jewellery.

In preparing this Exhibition, John has been working closely with Contemporary British Silversmiths (CBS), the leading association in the UK for contemporary silver. CBS promotes excellence in design and craftsmanship, and the association gives voice to a new generation of silversmiths, many of whom will be exhibiting in Lindfield. John comments: "Part of our support towards CBS is to provide exhibition space to silversmiths still in the early stages of their career, where they can exhibit and sell their work. I urge you to look at the pieces they have produced - you will be amazed!"

"Everybody is very welcome to come to the Exhibition," says John, "but we do ask that you give us a call or email beforehand so we know when you are coming."

Telephone 01444 483782 or 07715 491686 or email: john@thecontemporarysilvergallery.co.uk for a personal invitation, or visit the website: www.thecontemporarysilvergallery.co.uk/exhibitions for detailed information.

This spectacular selling exhibition is not to be missed!



Beautiful beakers by Jane Short

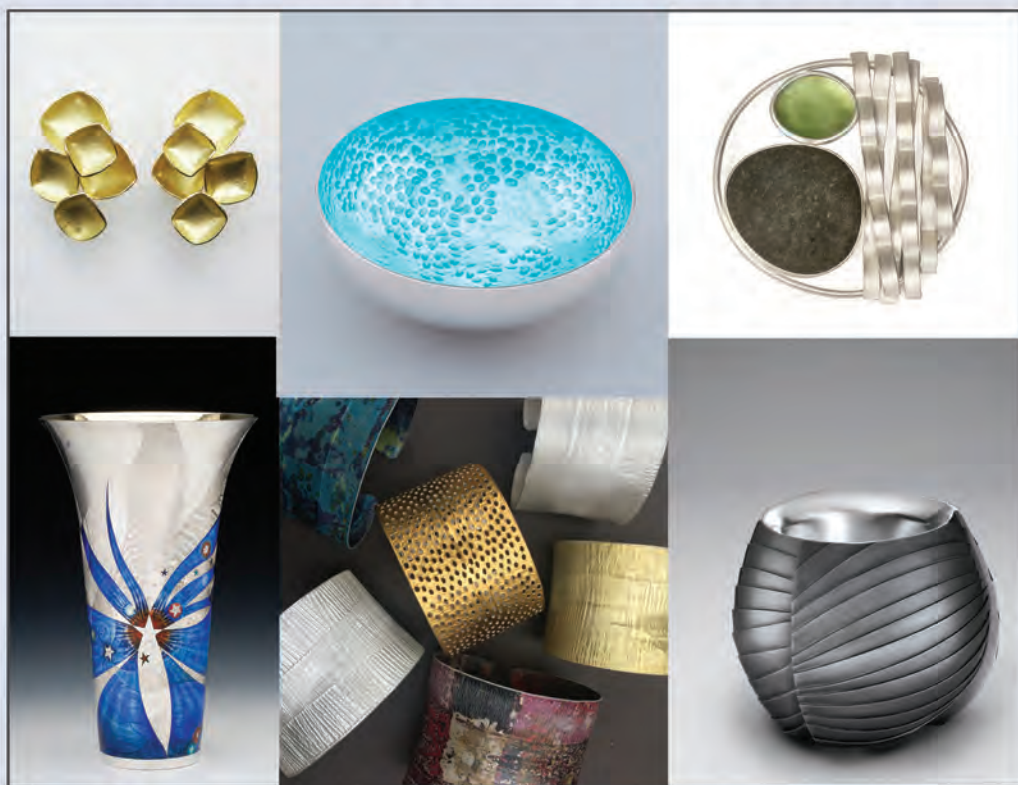
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Science Festival at Wakehurst

Science is set to come alive at Wakehurst, in Ardingly, with a wild weekend of workshops, hands-on experiments, shows and more on 21st/22nd July.

Wriggle into a crisp white lab coat and pop on some protective specs as you prepare to take part in the second Kew Science Festival at Wakehurst!

This year's scientific extravaganza will not only focus on the vital importance of conserving the world's plant biodiversity, but will bring to life, for all ages, the crucial value of plant and fungal science.

The two-day festival is a rare chance to experience vital plant and fungal science first hand and find out what Kew scientists are doing to protect rare and threatened species.

Set around the world-renowned Millennium Seed Bank, the festival will feature marquees on the lawns and will house an extensive programme with something to intrigue everyone including The Science of Chocolate Show, TV presenter Simon Watt and a behind the scenes tour of the seed bank vault.

Find out more at: www.kew.org/wakehurst



Photo: Peter Lovett

Spotted in Cuckfield

Resident and nature photographer Peter Lovett managed to capture this pair of large red damselflies in their 'mating wheel', on display in his Cuckfield garden.

You can see more on his blog at:

<https://sussexrambler.blogspot.com>

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A royally fun day out

By Jim Hoodless

On Saturday 19th May the sun was shining and the streets of London were lined with supporters of the new Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Further afield, residents of Bolnore made their way to The Woodside for a classic British Street Party.

As soon as the wedding was announced, plans were being made by the Bolnore Village Events Team to bring everyone together and raise money for charity. WellChild, the National Charity for Sick Children makes a big difference in people's lives and, with Prince Harry as a supporter, seemed the perfect choice.

Guests started arriving from 2pm to be greeted by the happy couple, or at least life-sized cardboard cutouts. Welcomed with afternoon tea including an array of sandwiches, cupcakes and scones with jam and cream, adults and children alike were treated to a taste of British tradition. Music and games were provided by Jojo's disco keeping the kids entertained while some of the grown-ups relaxed with a cold beer or prosecco for the main event. To add to the atmosphere, Tiaras and Top Hats were the theme of the day and there were some great, and some comedy, efforts on show.

It was a really fun day and night that wouldn't have been possible without the support of local businesses including W J Armstrong Ltd, The Bay Tree, Collingwood Batchelor and many more. They, as well as residents, put in time and effort and donated raffle prizes, some of which are still to be claimed. Not least Yellow 317 who have a box of Moët waiting for them on Friday or Saturday night.

More than £700 has been raised for WellChild so far. You can still boost that total. Just visit www.wellchild.org.uk and, when asked why you're donating, please put something like 'donating on behalf of the Bolnore Village Royal Wedding Street Party - celebrating Harry and Megan's nuptials as well as raising funds for a very worthy cause.'

Thank you to everyone who supported the event, took part, made the most of a wonderful day and raised awareness for Wellchild. We'll find an excuse to do it again soon.

If you want to find out what else is happening at the Woodside, follow us on Facebook. If you're interested in getting involved in the events run by the Bolnore Village Events team, please email Alison Armstrong on alison.events@bolnore.org.uk.





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Support grows for nursery at the Bolnore Barn

After having an initial planning application to open a children's nursery at The Barn turned down, Perfect Start Nurseries have since purchased the Barn, the car park and additional land from Crest Nicholson and have met with residents to discuss their proposals for a revised approach which they intend to submit shortly. This has been much better received.

One of the main concerns originally raised was that of traffic and parking. The new proposal will provide a larger car park with space for up to 25 cars and an exit and entrance to the car park instead of the single entrance/exit. Perfect Start is also committed to supporting the completion of work to reinstate a narrower junction which Crest Nicholson is supposed to complete as soon as it finishes construction work. It is hoped that this will reduce the problems of speeding and parking on this junction. Unlike schools, being open from 07.30am to 6.30pm every day means there are no set drop-off and pick-up times, so congestion should be kept to a minimum.

While there are wonderful options in the village already, including Bolnore Village Preschool and The Hub Kids Club, some working parents still struggle with timing. As one resident pointed out on Facebook: 'Other choices or childminders further away, with longer opening hours, can result in having to walk through the woods. In the dark that can be scary for adults let alone babies and toddlers. Hopefully, having quality childcare



at the top of the village will save a lot of tears and tantrums'.

As it stands there is no planned opposition from the Bolnore Village CIC and the response from residents has broadly been a positive one.

If approved, Perfect Start say they hope to be ready to open in early 2019.

For more details on the plans and services provided, contact: Paul.Evans@perfectstartnurseries.co.uk



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A further update on food vans

By Jim Hoodless

As the debate continues on how best to bring the food vans back to Bolnore Village without noisy generators and oily patches upsetting residents, some progress is being made. Initially three alternatives to the Village Square were considered – the school car park, the community garden and The Woodside. Understandably, the school was ruled out as pizza or fish and chips don't really fit with their healthy eating ethos. The community garden faced the same issues as the square due to the lack of a power source, creating the need for a generator and proximity to residential property causing a disturbance.

Why The Woodside is the best bet...

The two food vans that have previously visited Bolnore run pitches in other local villages where they are a normal and welcome feature, often on car parks, which like the Woodside's, are owned by Mid Sussex District Council.

The BVCP, which manages the Woodside and car park under a lease agreement with MSDC is currently prohibited from using the car park for anything other than car parking, even though MSDC car parks elsewhere are used differently. The Woodside trustees are not actively seeking the regular presence of food vans in the car park, but simply want to be able to manage its facilities in the same way as other community centres are managed locally.

Unlike other locations where vans will typically use generators, the trustees are very aware of the need to minimise noise and will only allow such vans to set up if they use electricity provided by the Woodside, operate quietly and ensure no litter is left behind. Discussions have taken place with MSDC's property team over changes to the lease and trustees are hopeful that changes can be made at little, or no, expense to The Woodside. While the centre would not seek to profit from the use of the car park, any expense to The Woodside would be passed on to the traders. If approved, the Woodside will invite food vans to use its car park on a four-week trial without a single generator in sight. It is hoped that this will get the go ahead soon and Bolnore residents can enjoy picking up a takeaway again.

Bolnore Scouts have two great days...

Box Cart Race

In April Bolnore Village Scout Group organised the first ever Sussex Supreme Box kart race at Warden Park secondary school.

The day started early for our group with building the track and setting up the PA system whilst also getting our two teams ready to race.

Racing started at 10.30am and attendance was high with 11 different Scout groups attending, some for their first ever box kart race.

Breakfast snacks were available for all spectators and competitors alike by the farmyard kitchen.

The children had a great day out with some of the racing becoming very competitive.

The final race for first place was between one of the host teams and Purley cub pack, and was won on the line by Bolnore Cubs.

All in all this was a fabulous day for spectators and cubs alike with many teams asking to make this a yearly event.

This would not have been possible without the help and donations of Haywards Heath Lions Club and Dragon Event Services so thank you for helping us organise and have such a fun day.



Scouts visit CAE Burgess Hill



As part of an aviation experience day Bolnore Village Scout Troop visited the flight simulator centre at Burgess Hill.

CAE's Burgess Hill training centre caters to the needs of business and airline pilots, as well as aviation technicians. CAE instructors train customers on various aircraft including Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Cessna, Dassault, Embraer, and Gulfstream platforms; for various long-standing airline customers among others, easyJet and Virgin Atlantic.

Our scout troop were shown around the training facilities and as a special amazing treat all had a little try of flying an actual private jet simulator.

A truly amazing and unforgettable experience for all our scouts which the group is very grateful for the opportunity. Organisers especially wanted to thank CAE Technical Services Manager, Franco Petrazzuolo and Jane Goodchild, Customer Services Manager.

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Summer Fete 7th July

Following the success of previous years', Bolnore will be hoping for good weather on 7th July as the Summer Fete returns to The Woodside. With food and shopping stalls supporting community projects, an evening disco and, of course, a beer tent it's a fun day out for the whole family.

From dancing to a dog show, the tug-of-war to Tom Foolery Shows there's entertainment for all ages throughout the day.

Cuckfield Life will have a stall giving visitors the chance of a photo in its 'Bolnore frame'.

Do join in from 12pm-4.30pm.



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5 MINUTES WITH...

Becky Coates

Becky runs her own beauty salon business from her home in Bolnore. She loves travelling and in her spare time, enjoys long distance running.

How long have you lived in Bolnore? Five years.

What's the best thing about being here?

The community spirit and everyone helping each other out.

Favourite ice cream flavour? Pistachio.

How many houses have you lived in? 11

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

Would love to see a cafe again in Bolnore.

Favorite holiday destination?

USA. I lived in New York after leaving school and would visit the states twice a month with a previous job. I love the diversity and different cultures.

Song you play the most?

This Is Me (Greatest Showman Soundtrack)

What would you do if you won £1million?

Pay off the mortgage and take the family on a round-the-world trip.

What was the last present you gave someone?

Tickets to see Phil Collins.

Strangest thing you've ever eaten?

Kangaroo.

Which would you rather give up for a month – TV or music?

TV.

Which App on your phone do you use the most?

My Facebook business page manager.

What's your proudest moment?

When both my children were born.

Your advice for life?

Wake up every morning and feel grateful for what you have.

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!

**Pembroke Property Management Ltd:
Managing agent
for Bolnore Village
Community Interest
Company Limited**

Contact us:

South East Office:
Pembroke Property
Management Ltd
Foundation House
Coach and Horses Passage
Tunbridge Wells
TN2 5NP

Tel: 0333 3442 100

Email:
support@pembrokepm.co.uk

Out of hours emergency:
0345 600 5672

Need something done?

If you would like to raise any maintenance issues with regards the communal areas, please send an email to support@pembrokepm.co.uk

Bulletin Board

The bulletin board for Bolnore is available at www.pembrokepm.co.uk/bolnore. Here you will find the latest management news from Pembroke. We will update this weekly on a Tuesday. It will include information regarding landscape maintenance and a list of ongoing repairs.

Major decorations project in 2018

There are 27 blocks of flats to decorate in Bolnore this summer. The surveyors have completed the tendering process and they are at the stage where they are ready to appoint the contractor. Decorating will commence this month and it will take four months to complete.

The decorating will include the painting of the lampposts and street furniture in the car park at the shops.

We will publish a schedule of when the blocks are going to be decorated once the contractor has planned the works. We will also be communicating with the residents when contractors are on site.

Access to some areas of the blocks are restricted because the buildings back onto house owners' gardens. Where this is the case we will ask for permission to use the garden to erect scaffolding or work off ladders.

Gardens and Landscaping

The grass cutting season was slow to begin with because there were a lot of lawns very wet with surface water on them. The plan for hedge cutting will be published on the bulletin board. The hedges are growing very quickly with all the sun and rain we are experiencing. The contractors are currently in the process of cutting the hedges throughout Bolnore.

With regards weed spraying of footpaths, the areas for which BVCIC is responsible will be sprayed by one contractor this year. A plan of the areas to be sprayed is on the Bulletin Board.

Playgrounds

Mid Sussex Council are responsible for the maintenance of the playgrounds. Please contact the Landscapes Department for maintenance of the equipment, fencing, seats and bins. Email parksopenspaces@midsex.gov.uk or Telephone 01444 477439

Contact the rangers about antisocial behavior or problems relating to dogs in playgrounds.

Email rangers@midsex.gov.uk or Telephone 01444 477561.

Communal TV System

The contractor who maintains the communal TV system has carried out a survey of all the components used. Some of the components are obsolete and therefore we are going to replace them now instead of waiting for the obsolete components to fail. We are also going to keep stock of each component which makes up the TV System. If the TV system goes down, the contractor will be in a better position to bring it up on the same day because he will have all the parts in stock.

Health and Safety

Please do not leave any items in the communal areas of the blocks of flats. When walking your dog, always clean up after them. Residents in houses and flats are responsible for the removal of their own bulky waste.

GDPR

In accordance with the new General Data Protection Regulations, Pembroke has published a Privacy Notice on its website. This sets out lots of information, including our legal basis for collecting and processing data on behalf of BVCIC, and procedures for keeping personal information secure.

Please see further at www.pembrokepm.co.uk/privacy-policy

If you would like to raise any maintenance issues with regards the communal areas, please send an email to support@pembrokepm.co.uk

Kind regards, **Pembroke PM Support**

For and on behalf of Pembroke Property Management Ltd, Managing Agent for Bolnore Village Community Interest Company Limited

The fifth wall

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

Gazing at the beautiful ceiling in our own Holy Trinity Church (artist Kempe) the other Sunday made me think about how generally ceilings in our homes are much ignored spaces.

Considered to be the fifth wall, in an attempt to add lift and generate brightness the ceiling is usually painted white. An all white interior with bursts of colour is attractive but by being a bit adventurous there are some simple ideas that would set your interior apart if you dare to have a go. I don't mean try to emulate Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel but paint can be used in a number of ways to change the height and shape of an interior by moving away from bright white for a more seamless look.

Here are a few ideas:

To make a high ceiling look lower, paint the ceiling white and use a dark colour on the walls.

To make the ceiling look higher use a paler tone of the wall colour on the ceiling.

To make the interior look larger, calming and cosy use the same colour on the ceiling as the walls.

Gloss paint on the ceiling bounces light around the space.

Wallpapering the walls and ceiling in the same snazzy design or a shiny metallic is a brave move but can look absolutely stunning. Wooden panelling is a more robust alternative, either narrow planks or geometrical shapes which when painted add depth and dimension and will lend themselves to different styles.

Sometimes decorating a ceiling is out of necessity if there are a few cracks; small ceiling cracks can be hidden using textured paint, repair tape or sealant but large cracks might indicate structural damage and should be checked by a professional.

Companies such as 'Stretch Ceilings' supply suspended ceiling panels made of light weight fabric which diffuse light and offer a huge range of lighting possibilities to shine through the Stretch Ceiling panels adding depth and dimension.

Beware of old polystyrene tiles dating way back which were used to hide cracks and to insulate, unlike modern versions they do not contain a fire retardant so are dangerous and a horrible job to remove. Professional help is needed to remove Artex especially if it pre-dates the mid 1980s as it contains white asbestos, skimming the artex surface with plaster is safer.

Acoustic panels are available for ceilings where noisy neighbours above or teenagers with drum kits in their bedrooms disturb the peace.

Stencilled, painted, wallpapered, panelled, tiled, finished with decorative plaster or adorned in fabric there are many options for a ceiling in need of a facelift. Fantastic ceilings around the world through periods of history and different cultures are inspirational. Have fun in children's bedrooms bringing ceilings to life with clouds, stars, rainbows, spaceships or a super hero or two.

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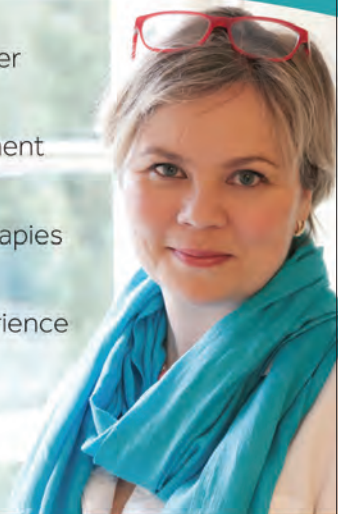
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Vicar: Rev Michael Maine More information: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

A view on the world

Dear Friends,

It is very often striking to experience the reaction of people entering Holy Trinity for the time. Because we are used to the building, we forget how it can move people, both with a sense of its beauty but also that indefinable sense of 'otherness' such spaces hold.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the interior is the great roof covering the nave and chancel – the central section of the church. All the woodwork you see (other than Kempe's angels) including ribs and bosses and the great tie-beams dates from the mid-1400s. It is unusually grand for a Sussex church and was probably the gift of the Nevill family – many of the bosses bear the family badges: the rose, the chained bull, the crossed staples and the crowned portcullis – medieval product naming!

Charles Eamer Kempe repainted the woodwork (perhaps recreating the original colouring) and also painted the panels in between in the 1860s and 80s which give the roof such a striking appearance. This beauty by inclusion seems to create a rich tabernacle. This might create the impression that the church family gather together on a Sunday to stay put. Yet the real reason any church community gathers on a Sunday is to worship God, but then to be sent out into the world to reveal faith in word and action.

Last year we cleared the south porch of the things that had turned it into a bit of a store, and now open the doors when the weather is fine. When we do this, again, the effect on people is amazing, because the light floods in. You can see the churchyard, the war memorial and Downs – outside come in, complete (at this time of the year) with the wonderful smells of new-mown grass, lilac blossom and the like.

The Friends of Holy Trinity have generously given money to allow us to install glass doors like those on the north side, which we shall dedicate to the memory of those Cuckfield men who gave their lives during the First World War. This will enable us to open the south door more often – a tangible reminder of both the past and our call to the world here and now.

With all best wishes,
Michael (Vicar)



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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

Catherine is a Girlguiding 'inspirational leader'

By Joe Wayte

A belated congratulations to Catherine Snashall, who at the end of last year was awarded a Mid Sussex District Council Community Service Award.

The ceremony took place at the South of England Showground and was hosted by Chairman of the Council, Bruce Forbes, alongside the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard (pictured).

Catherine was nominated by Councillor Robert Salisbury, who submitted the following: "Catherine has been an inspirational leader of the Brownies in Cuckfield for 33 years and performs the important role of 'Brown Owl' for both Second and Third Cuckfield Brownie groups. Apart from that significant undertaking, she has also found time to help organise a 'Little Ones' service regularly at Holy Trinity."

Alongside her fellow leader, Judith Trappitt, who has been a leader with Girlguiding for a mere 30 years, the ladies have coached and nurtured huge numbers of Cuckfield's young ladies.

"I was wearing some of the new leader's uniform to work and Judith spotted it and we got chatting," said Catherine. "I said I could do with an assistant and she's been with me ever since and that was back in 1991. I've been a leader for 33 years – so that's more than 60 years between us."

The Brownies have been a part of British life for more than a century and the principles that helped found the Girlguiding movement back in 1910 are still at the core today and still as relevant.

Girls go along to pack holidays, day trips and sleepovers. They get together with their friends at regular meetings where they learn new hobbies,



play music, explore other cultures and have outdoor adventures. As well as following the Brownie Adventure programme, girls can choose to earn interest badges related to things they want to know more about or skills they want to develop.

Girls in Brownies are part of a small group called a Six, led by a girl called a Sixer. They make their own decisions about what badges and activities to do next. They work together, as well as individually, to explore their place within their local community and the world around them too.

Cuckfield Brownies meet on Monday and Tuesday nights at the Old School in Cuckfield. There is no waiting list to join at the moment and the Unit is open to any girls aged seven or older. "If there are any girls in the village that want to join the Brownies, they're more than welcome to come along," said Catherine, who can be contacted on 07775 932823.



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Cuckfield through an age

By Luke Mitchell

Local history has always been fascinating to me, and I thoroughly enjoy picking through Cuckfield Life for nuggets of information about where I live, delving deep into the past. One of my earliest memories is going to Whitemans Green and sitting atop the rock, listening to my father tell me about Gideon Mantell's dinosaur discovery. Later, in primary school, our Year 4 topic turned to the Second World War, and visits to the shelter near Ansty wowed me again. Cuckfield is packed with history – represented in its people and places. Alongside this I consider that there is even 'history' packed into my living memory here – and at the lofty height of twenty years old I can trace some of this.

One of the most exciting aspects of this micro-history is the level of growth that I've seen. More people continue to come to our pleasant village and it has changed shape accordingly. The GP surgery where I winced at my injections now enjoys two floors and better facilities where it was formally on one. The hall where I went to Playgroup on London Road is now fit for a new generation, having undergone a welcome overhaul. Holy Trinity Primary School, where I spent my formative years, enjoyed new playground equipment and grounds throughout my time there – and now has a fit for purpose new building. When I left Warden Park, plans were in place for a state of the art 3G Astro pitch – now long-completed.

Business has bloomed too; playing golf as a child was an experience made even more pleasant when Cuckfield Golf Centre built its new club house. The village's pubs have increased their quality year by year and I can seldom refuse the suggestion of a curry from Spice Village.

An integral part of my childhood, at the root of it, was my time at Playgroup (now Cuckfield PreSchool Playgroup) on London Lane which has this year celebrated its 50th anniversary. It must be said that as a little one I was reluctant to go along; but soon found it a joy once I got used to the routine. I spoke to Jane Lynch, who is soon to be retiring from her role at the preschool. She remembers me back in those days, carrying a Rugsrats magazine with me as a matter of utmost importance! The building itself has developed since my time there, thanks to a Parish Council redevelopment. "You'd notice as you went in now that it's much more open and bright," Jane explained. "In terms of changes it's more functional and open... we come out to a lovely garden space as well." The preschool certainly played a key role in my development and continues to do so for many of the village's children. I distinctly remember an intuitive

environment that gave me room to pursue what I found interesting; story time at the end of the day was always my favourite – perhaps laying the foundation for my love of literature. Regarding the children's time there, Jane said: "We give them that freedom, that element of choice, that chance to explore all sorts of things, from bug hunting to den building, painting to clay modelling."

One of the most significant developments as a child was when the skatepark was opened in 2010. 'The Bowl', as it came to be known, was exciting in two respects. Formerly, people who wanted to skateboard would have to travel out to Haywards Heath or Burgess Hill to use the parks there – accessibility was no longer a problem once the area on Whitemans Green was built. Also, the park is of a completely different style, adopting a form that simulates a drained swimming pool, taking after the American tradition established in the early days of skateboarding as a model. Christian Stevenson, the skatepark's founder, explained the idea behind the design: "I've travelled the world, I've seen good parks, I've seen terrible parks," "I saw what people were doing in Oregon, Colorado, Idaho and what the possibilities were but also within the confines of a budget." Regarding the uniqueness of the park, Christian said: "It's a loaf of bread, or a keyhole if you look at it from above. A lot of people claim it's one of their favourite parks."

The Bowl gave the template for hours of fun in the summer months during my time at secondary school. When I have spare time, I still occasionally dust the wheels off and head up there for a quick session. The Bowl provides a timeless thrill, which was one of Christian's main aims in its establishment: "You have a park for three to sixty-year olds. That was my goal: to bring more ages there to have a good time."

Warden Park went through some instrumental changes under the tenure of ex-headteacher Steve Johnson, lasting from 2003-2013. Two key developments were: the awarding of specialist school status in languages and ICT and more recently the conversion to Academy status. A great deal of my school life was in Mr Johnson's good care and I distinctly remember revering his appearance and tone in the opening assemblies. He had the air of a traditional schoolmaster, while retaining approachableness; his moving on from the school made its own history with it.

Soon to be retiring Head of School, Rob Stoneley, commented on his legacy: "Mr Johnson was instrumental in moving the school forward and equipping it for the 21st century. During his tenure the school continued to be oversubscribed and examination results were among the best in the County and nationally."

Going from the built to the grown, changes can be observed in Cuckfield's surrounding woodland too. The sanctuary that is New England Wood has seen new bark paths and conservation measures to keep everything as nature intends. One of my favourite dog walks cuts through the wood, going all the way to Ansty following Deaks Lane! I've always appreciated how New England Wood is situated; that one can trace the curvature of the village, starting from the top and finishing with a coffee somewhere down at the bottom.

Delight comes also with the seasonal changes in these woods. It's always nice to see Facebook and Instagram turn purple at the turn of the season from winter to spring.

In all these cases, the people do really make the places. These changes and developments in the village all hold the commonality of having great people behind them with creative and dedicated minds. As Cuckfield looks to its future, and I look to my own future, I like to think that the place that played a part in crafting me and will continue to do so in such a fashion for generations to come.



RECYCLE THIS...

WSSC Recycling Ambassador Colin McFarlin sheds some light on what can and can't be recycled in our domestic blue bins. If you have a question for him, email: editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk

What a great response to my article in the May edition. By the time you read this I will have replied individually to all your emails to the editor on recycling. Keep the questions coming...

MILK BOTTLE TOPS

Thanks to Lucy and Sue for telling us Hurstwood Park Neurological Unit collects these. The Collection box is inside the entrance to the unit. Thanks to Jean for letting us know there is also a collection point at St Augustine's Church, Scaynes Hill.

There is some friendly rivalry at PRH, as Peter tells us the 'Friends of PRH' also collects these, and there is a collection bin just past the reception desk. There is also a drop off point in 'The Bay Tree' in the Orchards.

Also thanks to Donna for telling us the Cats Protection Centre at Chelwood Gate collects these, as disposable toys for cats. They also collect newspapers, old towels and blankets, cardboard tubes, egg boxes and drinking straws.

Do collect your plastic milk bottle tops and drop them off at one of these points.

Thank you for sending in your specific questions on recycling. Here are two you have asked about that I have picked out. Keep them coming

YES to Pringle Tubes and lids. These can be recycled. Separate the plastic top from the cardboard tube. Do not worry about the metal base as our clever machinery can separate these.

What about Ben & Jerry's pots and coffee cups? We are fortunate in West Sussex to have state of the art machinery that CAN recycle ALL of these, and the plastic lids. YES we can recycle coffee cups in your blue top recycling bin. We can recycle everything – except the coffee! The lids are big enough not to contaminate the glass (see last month).

Would you like me to give a talk to your local group on recycling? There is no charge for this service. Would you be interested in collecting items that can be recycled to raise funds for your favourite charity? I will be happy to guide you through this process. Look forward to hearing from you.



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New Wakehurst experience

This summer Wakehurst, in Ardingly, is hosting a brand-new evening interactive arts experience throughout its 500 acres of stunning gardens and woodlands.

During your two-mile journey you will explore the evolving and complex relationships with nature – from the elements and soil, to flora and fauna.

Unfolding into the landscape you will encounter soundscapes, sculptures and art installations, inspired by Wakehurst's botanic plants and the work of Kew's scientists in the Millennium Seed Bank, and across its global network.

This unique evening will deepen your connection to the landscape, enliven your senses, and enable you to become more mindful of the intricate relationships within nature.

The Wonder Project takes place between 26th-29th July and 2nd-5th August (7-9.30pm). For more information see: www.kew.org/wakehurst



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ardinglyactivitycentre.co.uk 01444 892549

Universal Credit roll out arrives in Mid Sussex

At Mid Sussex District (MSDC) we are part of the latest area to join the Government's flagship Universal Credit scheme. This system of online application for the new Universal Credit came into place on Wednesday 6th June.

Universal Credit (UC) is new financial assistance for people of working age on a low income, including those in work, and is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). It is a single monthly payment which will eventually replace Income Support, Income Related Job Seeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Anyone receiving existing benefits will see no change, but will gradually be moved over to the UC system over time. If your situation changes you will, in most circumstances, be moved over to the new Universal Credit and use that system from then on.

All new claimants will need to apply online at: www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit.

Holiday snaps

As ever, Cuckfield residents have taken their copy of the magazine away with them. Do send yours in to photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk



Elaine Goodwin sends greetings from Menorca

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

Find the solution to #24 in next month's magazine

#23 Solution

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

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



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What's on this month

ELSEWHERE

June

- 16th **Romeo & Juliet** – 4.30pm
Cuckfield Park – Bring picnics, rugs or chairs – gates open 2.30pm (Tickets £15/£5 from Pepperbox or 01444 454298)
- 16th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Baptist Church - History of Silver by Barbara Ehlers
- 23rd **Sussex Chorus** – 7.30pm
Hurstpierpoint College Chapel - ROSSINI, Petite Messe, Solennelle (Tickets £15/£5 www.WeGotTickets.com or Carousel Music)
- 27th **Royal British Legion Women** – 2.30pm
Old School, Cuckfield - Cream Tea; Mayoral Life by Evelyn Stenning
- 27th **Stained Glass Talk** – 8pm
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield - 'Stained Glass Windows, an Illuminating View'
Martin Knott looks at the history of stained glass and the work of C E Kempe whose beautiful windows are a particular feature of Holy Trinity. To book a place, phone David Jamieson on 01444 440395 or email events@cuckfieldmuseum.org

July

- 3rd **Mid Sussex NHS Retirement Fellowship** – 10.15am
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath
Victoria Cross Beneath the Waves, Tony Gledhill
- 11th **The Singing Allsorts Charity Concert** – 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield
Local female, amateur singers performing songs from musicals, ballads, classics, folk songs etc.
- 17th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 7.30pm
Cuckfield Baptist Church - Growing up at Nymans by Sue Etheridge
- 25th **Royal British Legion Women** – 12noon
Old School, Cuckfield - Lunch, Camelia Botnar

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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.

June

- 29th **Parish Council Meetings**
 - 7.30pm: Planning
 - 8.15pm: Community Buildings

July

- 13th **Parish Council Meeting** – 7.30pm
- 20th **Parish Council Meetings**
 - 7.30pm: Planning
 - 8.15pm: Estates

AT WOODSIDE

Monday

- 9.45am **Sing & Sign (3 sessions)**
- 4.30pm **Hayley Beeson School of Dance**
- 7pm **DDMX Dance Fitness**
- 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**
- 8.15pm **Bounce & Burn**

Friday

- 9.30am **Saplings**
- 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**
- 4pm **Grace Church**
- 4pm **Messy Church** (last Sunday/month)
- 4pm **Woodside Netball Club**
- 7.30pm **Zumba**

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).

July

- 7th **Bolnore Summer Fete** – 12noon
 - Stalls, beer tent, a dog show, tug-of-war and Tom Foolery shows for kids throughout the day.
 - Cuckfield Life will be there with a Bolnore photo frame – so come and grab your selfies. Plus there's an evening disco too!

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