

# Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #27 : JanFeb '15

Free



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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

As is the tradition at this time of year, we present a slimmed down version of Cuckfield Life this month! It's natural that over Christmas we end up with fewer stories to tell. I do hope all of you were busy celebrating the festive season in ways that you enjoyed.

May I thank Suzanne Reid for the write-up of the ever popular **Christmas Tree Festival** at Holy Trinity Church. As a newbie exhibitor to the festival this year, it was great for us at Cuckfield Life to be part of it as we celebrated Village People. Something we love to do all year round, of course!

Now it's 2015 and there is plenty to look forward to and read about in the Cuckfield community.

Claire Cooper recently visited the **Wednesday afternoon knitting group** based in the warm confines of Sussex Crafts. Read about what they get up to and why on **page 12**.

**Cuckfield Baptist Church** is sure to have an exciting year this year with the building of the new church, which started before Christmas. See **page 15** for a story and some of the details of this large project for the modest church with a big vision.

Margaret Tyzack More brings us up to speed with all things **Cuckfield Local** in the **Village Green** feature on **page 18**. I hope you enjoy reading what is already happening and new initiatives planned by the group. There's a very impressive statistic about just how many milk tops have been collected by you all last year. Plus, of course, the **Food Market** makes a welcome return to the High Street on 14th February after its Christmas break. A perfect source of great ingredients for your special romantic meal that evening?

Lastly, we had some great photos sent in over Christmas – but don't feel you can only submit images with festive lights! We love Cuckfield photos the whole year round. Email anything you planned or just caught whilst walking the dog to **photos@cuckfieldlife.co.uk**.

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We'd 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](mailto:editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk)



## The White Harte Inn for sale

Dorset based brewery Hall & Woodhouse have put The White Harte up for sale. The 17th Century building is synonymous with Cuckfield and a landmark when approaching the High Street from the south. A source at the pub chain commented: "We have been trying to sell the building for 18 months and had no serious interest and hence submitted a planning application for change of use. During the course of the planning process interest from the local community has been expressed in the public house and we have therefore decided to withdraw our planning application to provide local residents the opportunity to come forward and make an offer." Open viewing of the White Harte will take place on Tuesday 20th January between 12noon-2pm.

## Free lunchtime concerts for Cuckfield

Holy Trinity Church's FREE lunchtime concert series is set to continue in 2015. The first concert of the year will take place on Friday 6th February from 1pm (with soup from 12.30) with the young soprano and local rising star Becky Milford. The concert on March 6th will also be a very special event welcoming back Nick and Ruth Wetherall for a recital of oboe and piano music.

These concerts are becoming a great social event. With free soup served from 12.30pm there is time to catch up with friends before listening to a wonderful programme of music in the glorious surroundings of the Church. The concerts are free of charge, however there is a collection at the end, which helps to cover the musicians' expenses and the reordering project.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to find out more about these concerts or require any further information please contact: [hannah.carter@me.com](mailto:hannah.carter@me.com)



## Jim Buttress talks to Cuckfield Flower Club

On 13th February at Queens Hall (the regular venue for flower club) Cuckfield Flower Club are having a talk by Jim Buttress. Jim is one of the leading experts on horticulture and was the superintendent of the Royal Parks for 25 years. He holds the Victoria Medal of Honour. He was the head judge for Britain in Bloom for 25 years and was known as 'judge dread'. Recently you may have seen him on the TV judging in The Big Allotment Challenge.

If anyone would like to attend the evening, starting at 7.30pm, tickets are £5 on the night or by contacting Sue Spooner on 01444 831602.

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# Cuckfield residents help to save lives

by Suzanne Reid

A large number of Cuckfield's residents and many from further afield enjoyed the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church on the weekend of 12th-14th December. For the last twelve years committee members, well supported by a small army of other volunteers, have taken time out of their normal lives to bring us the spectacle of a church packed with Christmas trees.

The committee's aim is simple: bring the whole Cuckfield community together and, whilst we are enjoying one another's company, raise some money for charity. For many years now the Independent State, who organise the Street Festival, have liaised with the Christmas Tree Festival committee to give the village a unique start to the festive season.

The 2014 festival raised £5,200 for the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance; the charity that helps to save lives. They decorated their tree with yellow and red helicopters. The Singing Allsorts brought the year's poppy theme to Cuckfield with a stunning display of large poppies. The tree covered in Paddington Bears proved highly popular with the younger visitors and many were highly amused by the Bell Ringers' Bats in the Belfry. Visitors to the bell loft over the weekend didn't complain, so we must assume that the bats in question were kind enough to stay on the tree.

For the committee, a few of whom have served the full twelve years, the organisation of the festival begins in January and culminates in a week of frenzied activity where furniture is moved, trees are installed, decorated and removed and the whole church cleaned and refurbished afterwards.

None of this would be possible without the partner charity, the stewards, the refreshments team, the cleaners and movers, the musicians and the decorators. This year the musicians were unexpectedly augmented by our newly appointed vicar, the Reverend Michael Maine, who sat down at the organ and played Widor's Toccata from memory.

This year 78 local businesses and organisations brought a stunning variety of ideas and cunningly crafted decorations to give the festival its wow factor. One tree had gold sprayed agapanthus heads in place of baubles,



whilst another tree was decorated with handmade pom-poms. This very magazine made its decorations from its 2014 publications, I wonder if this will be used next year . . . and one tree was topped off by an enormous Christmas pudding. The parish flower group decorated mini trees on the windowsills and, with the Partner Charity, this took the total number of trees in the church beyond 90.

As this article went to press, the committee sat down to eat together and chew over the successes and hiccoughs of the 2014 festival. If anyone feels they would like to be more involved with the 2015 festival they should leave a message on the website [www.cuckfieldctf.org.uk](http://www.cuckfieldctf.org.uk). All talents and gifts of time are particularly welcome and updates to the database of decorators are regularly made. You don't have to be a churchgoer to help, this is a Cuckfield village event.

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# Join U3A in the New Year!

People no longer in full time employment have a wealth of talent, knowledge and experience and U3A encourages lifelong learning by using those skills. Haywards Heath U3A was established in 1991 and now has more than 900 members in over 70 groups. Members learn through sharing their collective knowledge. Member Jean Ansell tells how joining the U3A gave her a new lease of life.

**By Jean Ansell**

When my husband died suddenly in 2002 I faced, like so many others, a great change in my life. I have always had a lot of 'go' in me but I was living in a small place on the Kent Coast. I made enquiries about things I might do or join but there were few. The nearest railway station was 18 miles away. How many more years would I be driving? I pondered a great deal and decided to sell up and move to the Haywards Heath area, where I had an old friend living. I was able to sell my lovely bungalow very easily and moved into Cuckfield.

Things did not happen as I expected. My friend, still a good one, is not like I am. Her main interests are her family and shopping, very different from mine. My family do not live near. Then one day I was sitting in the East Grinstead Hospital next to a very smart lady. We chatted and I must have said I needed something to occupy my time. This lady, Pat Newton, told me about U3A and suggested that I join one of the many groups she attended called Wider World. I was on my way.

The second group I joined was Card Making, quickly followed by Local History, Heritage and later Computers. I always go to the General and Group Meetings whenever I am home! At the last count I belong to 10 groups plus Theatre and Holiday. I am also on the Committee! As for the friends I have enjoyed making, they are many and some are very valuable to me. I can say nothing better than what a wonderful time I have being a member of Haywards Heath U3A. Why don't you join me?



## Tickets on sale for Frolics show

Cuckfield Dramatic Society (CDS) is following last year's successful format of a meal separating a comic short play and a selection of sketches for its February Frolics show.

After the sold out 2014 show, the society are performing on both Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February at Queen's Hall. Food is included; tickets are priced £12 (Friday) and £15 (Saturday - with a more substantial meal).

The theme of this year's show is Clubs, with a

wide range of social organisations represented from Brownies to Bookclubs. The Society is also hoping to have a short reprise of some of the characters from Rebecca Bond's very well received short play 'Agony and the Avuncular' which it presented last year.

The popular November production of Racing Demon raised nearly £4,500 for Holy Trinity Church's reordering fund.

Tickets for February Frolics are on sale now from Mansell McTaggart or online at <http://bit.ly/14tIGLk>

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## Hooked on crochet!

**Are you looking to pick up a new hobby this year? How about something creative, that you can start straight away, is probably within walking distance of your home and has no expensive set up costs? Want to find out more? Claire Cooper visited Sussex Crafts to find out why villagers are getting hooked on crochet and knitting.**

### By Claire Cooper

Stepping into the little craft shop on the High Street is like entering an Aladdin's cave with walls crammed floor to ceiling with colourful craft materials and knitted and crocheted treasures!

Venture further inside and it's soon clear why dozens of customers look forward to their weekly (sometimes daily!) visits here. Sitting around a large table in a bright and cosy workroom are a group of knitters each beaver away on their own creations while catching up on each other's news over a cup of tea and a biscuit. Overseeing the happy group, and ready to step in and help with any hitches, are shop owners Philip and Sebastian.

The pair have run the shop for 10 years and during that time have expanded the business to create a haven for knitting, crochet and other arts and crafts.

For French-born Sebastian, who worked as a hotel Maître d', and Phillip, who ran the Kitchen D'or catering business in Burgess Hill for 15 years, opening the shop fulfilled a lifelong ambition. "I've always been creative and made my own cards, but had always wanted to open a craft shop," Philip recalled. "I was looking at premises in Brighton when a friend told me there was a business for sale in Cuckfield. I came here and it was perfect!"

Surprisingly, Philip didn't know how to crochet until he started running the shop. "I had a telephone call from a former Cuckfield resident who had written a book explaining how to crochet and asked if I would stock it."

Not only did Philip say yes, he decided to try the book for himself and learn to crochet. Once he started, he couldn't stop. "I was hooked!" he said.

"It's a great little book with full instructions for both right and left handed people. I must have sold over 300 copies." He added that the book, a crochet hook and ball of wool costs under £10, making an affordable way to get started.

Philip soon began to share his new found hobby with customers and with partner Sebastian. "My mum has always been keen on knitting and crochet but I never learnt as a child. It's not something boys learn in France – thankfully it's different here."

The shop now has several male customers including a London office worker who runs a craft group at his workplace and visits the shop for new ideas and materials. "Then we have Colin who knits his own socks and 24 year old Tom who has learnt to crochet and loves it," said Sebastian.

The knitting groups are very informal and welcoming. "People can bring in whatever they like and, if they are new, we help them get started," said Philip. "We've seen everything from scarves and sweaters to knitted food made for one of our customer's granddaughters play kitchen!"

Ruth Marchant was one of the first members of the knitting group and has been a regular visitor for more than 10 years. When I visited, Ruth was busy making a





'onesie' for a friend's teddy bear who had sadly lost all its fur over its 70 years as a much loved toy.

"I came in for wool soon after the shop opened," Ruth recalled. "Philip told me he was interested in starting a new knitting and crochet group and asked if I was interested. I came to the first meeting and have been coming ever since!"

"I learnt how to knit and crochet when I was around 5 years old I've loved it ever since."

Ruth's also attended a beading class at the shop, making earrings and a necklace. "I love coming here," she said. "It's the friendliness and helpfulness. We all get on well and laugh together, although you do get your leg pulled!"

"Nothing's too much trouble for Philip and Sebastian, They are always happy to help us out."

Another regular is Liz Graydon, who has knitted dozens of yellow ducks for The Little Yellow Duck Project. "The scheme was started to raise awareness of and support transplants and organ donation," said Liz. "The idea is that you knit a duck, give it a name and hide it somewhere. The person who finds it is asked to log it onto the charity website to create a map of little yellow ducks all over the world.

"Some keep them, some hide them again. It doesn't matter, there's no money involved, just awareness raising and fun!"

So far, Liz's ducks have travelled as far as Virginia, Seattle and Idaho.

Philip left one in the Tate Modern and Sebastian took some on holiday in France dropping one off in St Tropez!

"We gave them French names such as Charles Aznavour and Jacques Cousteau!" said Sebastian.

He added that the group has also supported other charities. Last winter members crocheted around 250 cup warmers sold in the Bay Tree in Haywards Heath for charity, made dozens of woolly hats for the Innocent smoothie bottles and recently enjoyed making crochet poppies for the Royal British Legion.

And when Philip and Sebastian celebrated their civil partnership in 2012, the knitting club members surprised them with a crocheted wedding cake!

Keen knitter Frances Smith, who is blind, travels to the group from her home in Hurstpierpoint. "It's a lovely friendly group and Philip is really helpful," she says. "I've knitted a jumper, blanket and cardigans since coming here."

Pauline Box is just getting back into knitting. She drives to Cuckfield from her home in Crawley after discovering the shop website.

"It's so wonderful that Philip and Sebastian have opened up their shop like this to help people," she said. "It's got a nice feeling about it. There's lots of chatting but you don't have to join in the conversation. I come here to enjoy a cup of tea, a couple of hours knitting and a massive sense of achievement when I get it right!"

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## New building for the Baptist Church

Although initial appearances can be deceptive, the modest Baptist Chapel on Polestub Lane was built nearly 250 years ago. Set back from the main road, it can be somewhat forgotten by villagers in their to and fro of life. However, although the building was recently sold, the church community is far from closing its doors; quite the reverse.

It was in 2003 that the congregation of Cuckfield Baptist Church agreed to investigate the possibility of creating a new building in the area that was their car park. It has taken 12 years, three architects and two planning appeals to get where they are today, which is well into the construction of a brand new and modern church building.

David Sprouse, pastor of the church, explained: "It [the building] has been part of our plan for a long time. Our church has been steadily growing over recent years and we now have very real needs for more space." With around 100 attending the Sunday morning service, the small chapel is at maximum capacity, especially with fixed pews seating. The church hosts two youth clubs on a Friday night, regularly attracting over 40 young people, which is a practical challenge in the London Lane building.

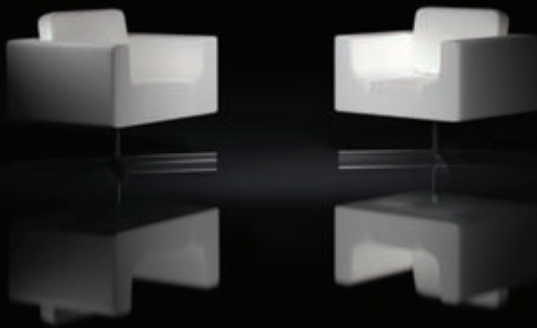
The new building will comprise of an open central welcome area, two large halls (one with facilities as main space for Sunday meetings), three offices, a kitchen and two smaller meeting rooms. The site will also have the enviable benefit of 29 parking spaces plus a designated overflow area.

"Whilst we have some plans, we don't yet fully know what we will use the building for. Our primary purpose in building is to help us share the message of Jesus Christ with others around us." The church hopes it won't be too long before they employ another full-time member of staff, although the role may change depending on what possibilities the new building provides.

The total cost of the project is estimated at £1.25m, with a significant amount of that coming from the sale of the chapel, which is to be converted into a four bedroom house. However, the church leadership were delighted when they learned that the new owner offered to rent the chapel back to them for the duration of the build. Andrew Symonds, one of the Building Project Committee, commented: "It is a very generous offer and we are extremely grateful to them. Although we had a provisional plan kindly agreed in principle with Warden Park School, this is clearly much easier for us."

The members of the church are very excited at the prospect of their new building, which promises to be more open, full of light and flexible. "As the congregation has given sacrificially to the project everyone is really looking forward to it becoming reality," Andrew said. "We would also like to thank the village, and especially our immediate neighbours, for all their support." Andrew is joined on the committee by Jon Broome and David Guthrie. The building is expected to be completed towards the end of this year.





# REAL LIVES

## Lives Changed by **Jesus Christ**

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## Happy New Year!

### FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE

By Rob Helliwell

Here's to 2015 from The Mayor's Table!

I hope everything was great for all of you and that now life is getting back to normal. We had a good time at 'The Wheatsheaf' enjoying the festive season and then welcoming in the New Year with our families, friends and customers old and new.

My year as Mayor is now well underway, so I thought that as January unfolds it would be appropriate to share with you how the money that we raised, for the most part as a result of your generosity, has been distributed and will make a difference in 2015 to local organisations and charities.

For me, one of the many opportunities associated with being Mayor of The Independent State of Cuckfield is that I, and the other mayoral candidates, Leanne Knapman and Ross Bradshaw, can choose where some of the money goes. Altogether this year we raised £6,511.85, and I have been allocated £1,800 for my nominated organisation. I am still working on this and hope to share with you next month where my money will go and how it will be spent. Leanne, a mother of three children has, understandably, donated £580 to Cuckfield Playgroup and £200 to Cuckfield Woodcraft Folk. Ross, a keen member of Cuckfield Dramatic Society, gives £450 to this lively local organisation.

All 23 of the groups who entered floats for the Mayor's procession last October received £100 each. However, the winners of the best float competition, Singing Allsorts, Orchard House, BPM Dance Academy and Cuckfield Women's Institute, added extra prize money to their £100. So well worth entering your float and even better to win the competition! Remember that next October!

In addition to all of this, many other organisations benefit from this fundraising. Both of our local hospices, St Catherine's and St Peter and St James, Cuckfield Local, the Museum and the Cuckoo Choir are among at least a dozen more local groups receiving money to help them to flourish and continue to support and contribute to the life and well-being of our village. We also remembered Katie Stewart by donating to Kids' Cooking School and sponsored the Warden Park Academy Ghana expedition.

So, money well spent I think you will agree. I look forward to sharing my mayoral thoughts with you again next month, when I will also be encouraging you to get your walking boots out in readiness for the Walking Race on Easter Monday. I hear on the grapevine that there might be a new trophy in the offing. Watch this space!

Happy, healthy, and rewarding New Year to you all!

# New shoots

## VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Welcome to our Village Green! Welcome to the clean sheet of the year to come! What stories shall we write upon it? One story from last year is that of our own Cuckfield Local collection of plastic tops and lids that so many of you bring with a smile to our table at the Monthly Market. What a great story this is - know that between us in the six months from June we have recycled 34.7 kilos of milk bottle tops and 46.4 kilos of hard plastic lids. That's 5st 7lbs of tops and 7st 4lbs of lids to mature elders like me. Congratulations to everyone, including Lindy Elphick and Sussex Crafts who are feature players in the story too.

Not quite so successful recently has been our wild flower bed in the Recreation Ground. The original intention was for wild flowers to bloom from early spring to late autumn providing nectar for our bees and pollinators. Great the first year but last season it became apparent that we had sown an inappropriate seed mix and much of the bed had been taken over by tall, spreading perennials which were difficult to dig out. One day in autumn, all the Cuckfield Local gang gathered one Sunday morning armed with spades, forks and wheelbarrows to clear the bed and tidy up ready for a March sowing of wild flower seeds. Sadly, before we had finished the heavens opened and we were seriously rained off.

On the subject of sowing seeds, new shoots come to mind as one looks forward to the first snowdrops playing an overture to the spring to come. New shoots? What shall we grow in the gardens of our unfolding story? Plants and flowers for butterflies, bees and insects to feed the birds? Night scented flowers for the insects that bats love? Fruit and vegetables for us? All this goes to make our village a green and beautiful haven for wildlife refugees displaced by new housing developments. Do we care? Let's hope so.

Just what does 'green' mean to us? Something different for each one I suspect. The many shades of green that is our countryside of course. The growth of players in the party political arena. In the eastern traditions emerald green is the colour of the heart centre. Cuckfield, in the heart of Sussex, shows the way of kindness, community and care for each other and for all of creation.

Our next Market is at the Talbot on 14th February from 9.30am to 12.30pm, selling all the local food that we love. Local food too at the new look Wealden Stores. Why not pop along, have a look around and treat yourself to one of the delicious dishes from the Cook range of frozen meals from the newly installed freezers? Vegetarian options too.

To connect with Cuckfield Local initiatives email Sheila Harris [sheila.harris@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.harris@gmail.com) or Margaret [makaet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:makaet@yahoo.co.uk)

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# Creative storage

## DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Limited Editions

Wondering where to store your summer clothes now that winter has arrived? Perhaps the kids' toys are overflowing into the quiet zone or your teenager's wardrobe is becoming a 'floordrobe'. No matter how much de-cluttering and reorganising you do, you feel that you definitely need more storage. There are many clever furnishing and accessory ideas on offer but how do you choose the best options for your home?

Obvious solutions include; use tiered hangers, utilise hidden spaces such as the space under the bed with drawers on wheels to store your clothes within vacuum packaging, build fitted bespoke furniture to maximise available space in alcoves. Coats and shoes can find a home in the cupboard under the stairs using hooks, shoe racks and drawers or a more expensive but clever option is to have drawers built directly into the stairs, each step having a drawer fitted into it.

Firstly, de-clutter and de-clutter again, re-organizing unused spaces within existing drawers and cupboards by adding dividers or a shelving system. If storage space is limited in your living area, consider replacing the coffee table with an Ottoman or blanket box.

After de-cluttering you're left with the essentials and things you don't need but want to keep, so luckily there is another way to release essential storage space and that is by displaying some of the things you have hidden away. Don't hide them but celebrate some of the objects you have stored in drawers by displaying them as a collection. There are ingenious ways to display items which will become a focal point and open up many possibilities in alternative storage. A collection of stamps, colourful ties, vintage scarves, crazy buttons, old cds or vinyls, all matter of memorabilia taking up valuable space can be displayed framed on the wall and potentially theme a room style. Attractive shoes or bags could be arranged in a vintage glass front cabinet. Open shelves offer countless inspirational display options for useful or beautiful items, releasing valuable cupboard space. For example, in the kitchen, attractively laid out displays of crockery or glass set on shelves could enrich an empty corner or, more usefully, filled storage jars along shelves against bare walls suggests a cafe feel, adding character to the interior. Cooking utensils hanging in the kitchen liberate cupboard space for food storage.

In the bedroom, clothes hanging on a rail on wheels provides mobile storage, using identical hangers and placing clothes within colour groups looks great, adds character and could be a solution for storing summer clothes. Bags could be showed off suspended from a painted hat stand, while hoarders of magazines could use piles of stacked magazines as bedside tables.

Creating storage as pieces of art from stuff you normally store away is a satisfying challenge and could be one such challenge for 2015.



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**NEXT CONCERTS**

21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2015: **Janet Canetty-Clarke**  
*Northern Lights: Greig and Sibelius*

Well-known local conductor, pianist and lecturer Janet Canetty-Clarke will present another of her popular illustrated talks in Haywards Heath Methodist Church at 7.45 pm. She will discuss how the Scandinavian environment influenced the lives and music of these two composers.



*Tickets £12, conc'ns £11, member's discount £3*  
*Family rate: 2 adults half price with under-18 (£3)*

14<sup>th</sup> Mar 2015: **Young Musicians' Showcase**



Come and hear some of the best young musical talent in the district, starting at 2.30 pm in St Wilfrid's Church.

*Tickets £3 adults, £1.50 children*

For further information, telephone 01444-456227, or visit:  
[www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.haywardsheathmusicsociety.org.uk)

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# What's on this month

## AT QUEEN'S HALL

## AND ELSEWHERE

Regular weekly classes (many are drop-in classes):

### Monday

- 9.10am **Stretch Tone**  
11am **Weigh In – Weigh Out**  
4pm **Irish Dance**  
7.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society – Dog Training**

### Tuesday

- 9am **Tiny Soccerstars** for 18 months to 5 years  
9.30am **Tinkerbells** - music classes for 6 months to 4 years  
3pm **Codanza**  
6.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society – Dog Training**  
7pm **Pilates**

### Wednesday

- 9.30am **Tinkerbells** - music classes for 6 months to 4 years  
10am **Stroke Communications Group**  
12.30pm **Zumba Dance Fitness®** (Live Wire School of Dance)  
1.30pm **Modern Line Dancing** (Live Wire School of Dance)  
4pm **Codanza**  
8pm **Best of Ballroom Cuckfield Dance Club**

### Thursday

- 9am **Tumbletots**  
9.30am **Tinkerbells** - music classes for 6 months to 4 years  
10am **Pilates**  
7.30pm **Social Ballroom and Latin American Dance** (Live Wire School of Dance)

### Friday

- 7.30pm **Evening Flower Club**  
(second Friday of the month)

### January

- 30th **NSPCC Annual Quiz Night**  
7.30pm - Tables of six people. Bar and raffle. Tickets, available from Wealden Stores, are £12 a person to include a hot supper and delicious homemade puddings. (For further info: 01444 459579)

### February

- 13th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club**  
7.30 for 7.45pm. Talk by Jim Buttress: 60 years of horticulture – see page 4 for more information. Tickets are £5 (more details from Sue Spooner on 01444 831602)

### January

- 20th **Open House at the White Harte**  
Between 12noon and 2pm. Open house for local residents who are interested in acquiring the White Harte and retaining it as a pub.
- 20th **USA Open Meeting**, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath 2– 4.30pm.  
A talk on THE CAMELIA BOTANICAL FOUNDATION that provides training and work experience to young people in need to help them to embark on a useful career path
- 20th **Cuckfield Evening WI**  
The Old School, Cuckfield 8pm. Recycle, Renew by Jackie Fry
- 24th **Burns Night Celebration**  
Cottesmore Golf and Country Club Horsham. You are welcome to join this traditional event, organised by the Mid Sussex Caledonian Society, for a dinner of usual Scottish fare (neeps and tatties and haggis, and a tot!). There will also be some speeches, humorous as well as serious, ending with easy Scottish dances, which you can either sit and watch, or join in. A great evening for one and all (contact Secretary for details and tickets 01403 713719)
- 28th **Royal British Legion Women's section**  
The Old School Cuckfield 2.30pm. 'Tour of Britain' Evelyn Stenning

### February

- 3rd **NHS Retirement Fellowship**  
Franklands Village Hall, Haywards Heath, 10.15am. 'Return to the Persian Odyssey' by Christopher Rudd
- 14th **Cuckfield Local Food Market**  
The Talbot Courtyard 9.30am-12.30pm
- 18th **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society Lecture** - "The Medieval Art of Love and Life" by Patricia Wright. Clair Hall, Haywards Heath 10.15 for 10.45am ([www.mid-sussexdfas.org.uk](http://www.mid-sussexdfas.org.uk))



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**February Food Market**  
**Sat February 14th**  
**09:30 - 12:30 Talbot Courtyard**

*We are back for our first market in 2015. See you there!*

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