

# Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,  
by the village

Issue #43 : May/June '16

Free



Netball success for school

**page 6**

Cuckoo Fayre in pictures

**page 16**

Nuclear Bunker open weekends


**page 29**





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## EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Following the annual **Cuckoo Fayre** at the beginning of the month we are very pleased to bring you a good selection of photos featuring many of you either working at the Fayre or joining in with the fun. Read the report and find someone you know on **page 16**.

If you want to know **what's happening** in and around the village you can, as ever, head straight for **page 30**. And if you know of anything happening in June and July, then do please email over the details to us: editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk

I know it's a good month when we have lots of **news stories** on our pages - and this issue is no exception! From **Warden Park's netball success** (p.6), the **Tennis Club** (p.4), events at the **Baptist Church** (p.5), Sarah reopening **Sussex Crafts** (p.7) to the Mayor having his **portrait painted** (p.9) - there's plenty to read about!

**Holy Trinity Church** has its usual page with Rev Michael Maine's thought for the month on **page 13**. Then, over the page, there is news of an environmental initiative by a Staplefield farming family who will be introducing **cows into a field** near the church later in the year - see **page 14**.

For more on the environmental topic, **Margaret Tyzack More** writes Cuckfield Local's **Village Green** column on **page 24**. Thanks Margaret!

**Geoffrey Dennis** has kindly put together an article on **page 22** which looks at the facts and issues with running a successful charity today and why that might matter to donors. This Cuckfield resident has plenty of experience in this field, and it makes fascinating reading.

Another interesting read is an account written by the late **Peter Jeeves** who owned and operated an antiques shop in the village in the 70s. This document and photo (on **page 19**) has only just been unearthed and shares his passion as to why he loved Cuckfield.

I guess that's something we'd all concur with though!

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### Cuckfield Life

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Bobby enjoying the  
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## Haywards Heath College new hope...

In the next issue, the Gielgud Academy will be announcing their exciting proposals for a new free school for local children age 5-18 with a specialism in the performing arts and media at the Hub. Their proposals are designed to fully utilise the Hub's state of the art theatre and studio facility at the Central Sussex College campus in Haywards Heath, which has recently announced its closure of the Sixth Form in July 2017.

## Tennis Open Day success

Members of Cuckfield Tennis Club held their annual open day on Bank Holiday Monday to coincide with the Cuckoo Fayre.

The weather could have been kinder but it did not stop families from enjoying themselves.

The day provided a great chance for people to come along and try their hand at tennis, and many took the opportunity of doing so.

"This year, as well as the usual ball machine, we had a service speed machine and short tennis for the younger ones," said Karen Taffe. "All combined with friendly faces and a cup of tea - what could be nicer?"

The club held an open free coaching session the following weekend.

## Pardon Me play on

Members of Cuckfield Dramatic Society will present Pardon Me, Prime Minister at the Queen's Hall from 1st-4th June.

Written by playwright Edward Taylor (who has worked on many classic BBC series including Morecambe and Wise and The Two Ronnies) and John Graham, the play is set in Number 10 Downing Street. On the eve of the budget the Prime Minister and the Chancellor are preparing a puritanical crackdown on vices such as gambling, sex and night clubs. Shocks are in store, however, when exotic dancer Shirley arrives, the result of a post-party conference 'party' many years ago....

The play promises all the elements of a classic farce: poking fun at authority, embarrassing situations, mistaken identities, secret passions, people unaware of others and, of course, various states of undress!

Doors and Bar open at 7.15pm. Curtain-up at 8pm. Tickets cost £7 and £8, or two for £12 on Wednesday and are available from Wealden Stores and Marcus Grimes in Cuckfield or via the website: [www.CuckfieldDramaticSociety.com](http://www.CuckfieldDramaticSociety.com)

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# Evangelist, interviews and puddings!

By Andrew Dutton

You are invited to come and hear the well known evangelist Roger Carswell on Friday evening 17th June at 7.30pm. The evening (at Cuckfield Baptist Church) will include an interview with Brigadier Ian Dobbie OBE and will be interspersed with delicious puddings to be enjoyed.



Roger will also be speaking at our 3pm tea and cake event on Sunday 19th June to which you are also invited. This time he will be interviewing two members of the church. For more details please see the two adverts on page 7 and 18 of this issue.

# Leanne organises Ladies Night Out

Mayoral candidate Leanne Knapman is hoping to boost her fundraising campaign with a Ladies Night Out at the Queen's Hall on 27th May.

The event, from 7.30-11.30pm, will offer a range of stalls and services from manicures, massages and henna tattoos, to handbags, scarves, and handmade cards.

Brands will include Stella and Dot, Forever Living, Body Shop, Usborne Books and Tropic skincare, and gift ideas range from memory bears, bracelets and tooth fairy pillows to hand painted glasses.

Refreshments will include a 'flavoured vodka bar'.

Tickets, costing £5, are available from the White Harte or on the door. All proceeds will go to the Independent State of Cuckfield funds.



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## U3A group celebrates

Members of the Haywards Heath & District U3A have two special reasons to celebrate this year.

The group is celebrating its 25th anniversary and has also welcomed it's 1,00th member!

At the recent AGM, the Chairman of Haywards Heath & District U3A, John Kinchington announced that the membership of the organisation has now reached 1,007!

The group, which also covers Lindfield, Cuckfield and Balcombe and was started in 1991, offers more than 85 special interest groups with topics ranging from Art to Yoga. Some groups are small and meet in members' houses, including board games and language groups. Other larger groups meet in local halls, for example the Gardens and Heritage groups.

The HHU3A also has groups which do not have meetings but see members getting together for walking or bird watching, exploring London or going to the theatre.

Anybody not in full time employment can join the U3A by either downloading an application form from [www.haywardsheathu3a.org.uk](http://www.haywardsheathu3a.org.uk) or by phoning the membership secretary on 01444 440452.

## Warden Park net sporting wins

Netball players from Warden Park Academy are celebrating one of the most successful years ever with teams from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 winning more trophies and titles than ever before.

The Year 8 team became North and Mid Sussex netball tournament champions, North and Mid Sussex League champions and County Cup quarter finalists, also gaining 3rd place in the Lancing competition.

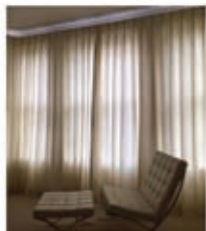
Fellow students in the Year 9 team became North and Mid Sussex netball tournament champions, U14 versatility champions and were also County Cup quarter finalists.

The Year 10 team became North and Mid Sussex League champions, U15 versatility champions, County Cup quarter finalists and reached 4th place at the Hurst Tournament.

And the success continued with the Year 11 team becoming North and Mid Sussex netball tournament champions. A fantastic achievement by all involved!

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## Sussex Crafts reopens

Villagers have given a warm welcome to Cuckfield's newest trader Sarah Freeman who recently took over Sussex Crafts in the High Street.

"I think nearly everyone in the village has popped in to say hello, and it's been really lovely meeting everyone," said Sarah, who is already putting her stamp on the popular village shop following the departure of Philip and Sebastian who have left the village to start a new life in France.

The shop was closed for ten days while Sarah painted the walls, changed the layout, ordered new stock and prepared for the official opening day.

"The opening day was really busy as it was also market day," said Sarah. "It was great to meet regular customers and lots of new faces. I don't think I sat down all day!"

A keen knitter, Sarah will continue to run the popular Knit & Natter and Chat & Crochet sessions, but also plans to introduce new crafts such as quilting, creative sewing machine stitching and sugar paste cup cake decorating.

"At heart I'm a knitter, but I also like to sew and can crochet a bit, and am happy to have a go at anything," said Sarah, who will be bringing in tutors to teach new crafts.

Children will also be well catered for as former primary school teacher Sarah is planning to run after school and holiday clubs offering a variety of crafts, including polymer clay, knitting and origami. "My favourite part of teaching was showing children a new skill and watching them learn, so I'm looking forward to welcoming them into the shop," said Sarah. "I'll also be offering birthday parties tailored to a child's age and interests."

She also plans to get involved with village events and has already been signed up to judge the crafts at the annual Cuckfield Show. Sarah is keen to hear from any local craft tutors who are interested in running courses at Sussex crafts.

# Heaven on a plate pudding night



**Friday 17th June 2016**  
7.30 - 9.30 pm

*at CBC's new building*

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Brigadier Ian Dobbie OBE on a  
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or Wendy on 01444 413106 with any  
dietary requirements



# Open Gardens return in nearby Warninglid

Gardens in Warninglid will once again open to the public in June as part of the National Gardens Scheme.

This year the opening, on Sunday 26th June, will mark the fifth anniversary for the Warninglid gardeners, who have raised more than £12,000 for charities sponsored by the NGS.

Seven gardens will be on show this year, from small cottage gardens to a woodland garden of several acres, each providing visitors with the opportunity to take home ideas for their own gardens.

The entrance charge remains at £5 which includes all gardens. There is no charge for children and parking is free. Teas and cakes will be on sale at the village cricket pavilion and there will also be a plant sales table.

The event is supported by the efforts of around 30 volunteers from the village. To thank the villagers for their support, last autumn the grateful gardeners planted seven ornamental cherry trees and 5,000 daffodil bulbs, which have enhanced the appearance of the village.

The gardeners are looking forward to meeting and greeting their neighbours from Cuckfield and showing them around the gardens.



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# Artist paints Mayor in a good light

Cuckfield artist Cameron Bennett has created his own piece of history by painting the first ever portrait of a village Mayor.

The oil painting, of current Mayor Ken Gregory, was officially unveiled at the Cuckoo Fayre - a gift to the village from Cameron to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Independent State of Cuckfield.

Cameron, who lives with his family in Glebe Road, approached current Mayor Ken, after spotting him in the village and meeting him at a function at Christmas, and offered to paint his portrait.

"I thought Ken would be a really interesting subject to paint," he said.

The portrait was painted from photographs and life drawings. "I spent around half an hour sketching Ken so I could get used to his features and chatting so I could get to know him," said Cameron.

The portrait sees Ken standing by the 'Queen's Mantle' upstairs in the Queen's Hall holding an ISOC passport along with the Mayor's mace. "The setting gives the painting a historical feel, while capturing Ken performing his duties and promoting the village," said Cameron.

The painting took Cameron around 15 hours. "That's pretty quick for me," he said, "but Ken was such a good subject that the painting just 'fell off the end of the brush'! I enjoyed every minute of it!"

Ken, who is enjoying a fourth term as Mayor of Cuckfield, was delighted with the end result. "I think Cameron has done an absolutely wonderful job," he said. "His attention to detail is quite remarkable, and I can't thank him enough!"

For those who missed it at the Cuckoo Fayre, the portrait will go on display in the Queen's Hall for the remainder of Ken's term of office.



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# Ginny Rogers

VILLAGE PEOPLE



**Being diagnosed with breast cancer is something every woman fears.**

It's a journey into the unknown and, while friends and family are a huge comfort, having someone to turn to who knows what you are going through is invaluable. As the number of women being diagnosed with and undergoing treatment for breast cancer is increasing, support groups for patients are providing a vital service.

That's why Cuckfield's Ginny Rogers stepped into the limelight after her local support group for breast cancer patients was faced with closure.

Ginny explains why she couldn't stand by and see the support group close, and why she feels passionately that sharing experiences of breast cancer can help to boost recovery.

## By Claire Cooper

Ginny was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 while living in France with her husband Stuart. "We had moved to France as a bit of an adventure when all our three children grew up and left home," said Ginny. "We had a holiday home in Normandy which we sold to buy a house near the coast in the Languedoc region of France where the weather was much warmer and sunnier."

Ginny worked as a Real Estate Agent for an Anglo French Search Company and settled down to a happy and contented future, until the day she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I'd always been fit and healthy, so being diagnosed with cancer was a huge shock," said Ginny, who was treated in Montpellier Hospital, one of France's biggest teaching hospitals.

Ginny recovered well and returned to England to take part in the Race for Life in Richmond with her daughter Victoria and granddaughter Ella, and raised more than £1,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Inspired by the event, Ginny came up with the idea of organising a sponsored walk to support Ex-pats living in the Languedoc region of France who had been affected by cancer. With help from a former Macmillan employee, Ginny set up the 'Walk for Life' - a 5km, 10km or 20 km walk, followed by a barbeque! "The first year we raised 8,000 euros and the event has since grown to become one of the biggest cancer fund raising events in the Languedoc in France," said Ginny. "That's my legacy!"

Sadly, in 2011, Ginny's cancer returned and, following more treatment in France, she decided to return to England. "The main reason for returning was that, since we moved to France, the number of our grandchildren went from one to nine!" said Ginny. "I couldn't stay away!"

Two of Ginny's children and their families live near London and the other in Chichester. "So we decided to settle in Cuckfield as it was a central point between the two."



When registering at the village doctor's surgery, one of the nurses told Ginny about the Mid Sussex Breast Cancer Support Group', which was run by Macmillan on behalf of the NHS.

"I was still having treatment and didn't know many people in the area so I decided to join," she said. It turned out to be one the best decisions she could have made. "It was lovely to talk to other women with experience of breast cancer, to share our stories and support one another," she said. "I quickly made lots of lovely friends."

But at a meeting nine months ago, members received bad news. "We were told that the NHS would no longer be able to fund the group," said Ginny. "We were faced with two choices - fold or find someone to carry it on. My hand went up like a shot and I said to the others 'Let's do it.' That was the start of Bosom Buddies."

A committee was formed with Ginny as chairperson supported by two treasurers, two secretaries and a marketing officer. "We worked with a Macmillan co-ordinator who helped us to set the group and secure a grant of nearly £3,000 – amazing!

"We also received a generous donation from the local Lions Club in Haywards Heath and with another donation coming from a local band, funds quickly started to build up and membership began to grow.

"The money is used to help members without transport get to and from the meetings," said Ginny. "Although we meet in The Old School in Cuckfield, the group covers the whole of Mid Sussex which includes many outlying villages."

The group meets on the second Monday of every month. "The first hour, from 1pm to 2pm is for newly diagnosed ladies who meet with a Macmillan breast care nurse," said Ginny. "These ladies then have the opportunity to join our group which meets from 2pm to 4pm."

Bosom Buddies currently has 30 members and that number is steadily growing as more women are diagnosed. "Sadly we are seeing lots of younger women joining," said Ginny. "We also have older members who have been through the treatment including one mature lady who had breast cancer 20 years ago!"

"No two cancers are the same, but some are similar and it helps to find other ladies who share the same experiences and can help with advice and suggestions.

"We are all like-minded people. We have been through breast cancer and we know what it's like," said Ginny.

"A lot of ladies find they can't discuss things to the same extent at home. We can talk openly about anything. There are tears, laughter and lots of fun!"

In addition to the monthly meetings, which often include talks from therapists, oncologists and other breast cancer specialists, the group has a busy social calendar with pub lunches, afternoon teas and other events. One of the highlights is the annual breast cancer fashion show run by Breast Cancer Care UK.

"Last year's event was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London, where we enjoyed a fabulous champagne reception, an afternoon tea and a wonderful glitzy fashion show where all the models were breast cancer patients," said Ginny. "We will soon be booking our tickets to this year's event which will be at a different venue in London and will include a two course lunch instead of an afternoon tea, and promises to be a great day out. The tickets cost £70 but our funds will pay half the cost for any members wanting to go. It's a really wonderful day out!" Ginny will soon be emailing members with the details.

On Bank Holiday Monday the Bosom Buddies were out in force running a stall at the Cuckoo Fayre where they were delighted to raise nearly £800. "Everything handmade on the stall was made by members and we were thrilled with the support we received from the people of Cuckfield," said Ginny. "We had a raffle, a tombola and other fun events including 'Guess the weight of the cake."

"Another highlight is the Christmas lunch and party where we have a wonderful festive lunch with a Secret Santa! Again we are hoping that our raised funds will help pay for this lovely event."

The next event is the monthly meeting on 13th June.

For more details about Bosom Buddies contact Ginny on 07794 068468 or email [ginny.groome@imscadglobal.com](mailto:ginny.groome@imscadglobal.com)

Donations can be made by cheque, made out to Bosom Buddies.



# June Food Market

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> 09:30 - 12:30  
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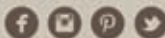
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## Giving thanks

Dear friends,

It struck me the other day that very often we fail to see the positive in life, particularly when most of us are so fortunate - certainly in material terms. Perhaps it's something to do with that old proposal 'Is your cup half full or half empty?'. Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

When you think of those different situations around the world which seem so intractable - the collapse of so many countries into civil war, communities controlled by brutal dictatorship, or the desperate poverty of so many millions of people, then truly we have not much to complain about.

That may be a broad brush approach to life, but nevertheless I was speaking to a parishioner the other day who would have had every right to sink into a slough of despond, yet who revealed such a sense of proportion that I felt truly humbled. For people of faith, we are aware that we are never alone even in the darkest times, and the knowledge of this is made known to us through Jesus and his own journey.

I want to share with you three pieces of news for which Holy Trinity is giving thanks:

The Samara's Aid Appeal produced an excellent response from the people within our community, and we were able to send a large number of supplies to be distributed in the refugee camps of the Middle East. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

We have a new church piano which will enhance the musical life of the church and community. Two parishioners generously covered the total cost through donation and we are most grateful to them.

When I was appointed last year, the church community still remained in debt for the reordering of Holy Trinity which stood at over £170,000. This, I know, has weighed heavily on people's minds, even though the church had careful plans to deal with repayment. We saw the sum reduce and then, following an anonymous donation from a parishioner of £20,000, we have now cleared the debt!

For all of this I give thanks to God, from whom all good things flow.  
With all best wishes, Michael (Vicar)



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#### TRINITY SUNDAY (22nd May)

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 8am    | Holy Communion  |
| 9.45am | Parish Eucharist –<br>Preacher: Canon Dr. Rosemarie Mallett (Public<br>Policy Advisor to the Bishop of Southwark &<br>Chair of Affirming Catholicism) |
| 6pm    | Festival Choral Evensong  |

**A date for the diary: The Bishop of Horsham will be presiding and preaching at the 9.45am Parish Eucharist on Sunday 19th June**



# Cattle to graze in Cuckfield

## ENVIRONMENT

By Claire Cooper

Cattle will soon be returning to a dormant field in the heart of Cuckfield village as part of an exciting national biodiversity scheme.

The 'Old Golf Course', at the back of Warden Park Academy, has been included in a Defra Agri-Environment scheme which uses grazing to encourage native wild flowers and grasses to flourish on farmland and allow insects, birds and other wildlife to return.

Farmer Kaye Baker is working with Defra's stewardship officers to develop the low impact grazing scheme which is designed to enhance the landscape.

"The field is absolutely stunning but if you look closely at the grass you will see that it's actually very dense and contains nothing of real interest," explained Kaye. "However, underneath the grass there are millions of tiny seeds just waiting for the chance to grow.

"By introducing grazing cattle we can control the current grass and allow many varieties of grasses and wild flowers to grow. It will take some time, but I would hope that in a couple of years we will see a landscape which has a far greater environmental value."

The Baker family, from Home Farm in Staplefield, has owned the 40 acre field for the past 80 years. "At one time it was a golf course, and if you look closely you can still see where some of the bunkers were," said Kaye. "During the war it was ploughed as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign."

The Baker family used the field for grazing until five years ago when farmer John Baker had a serious accident. "My father fell through a barn roof and almost died," said Kaye. "It was a very difficult time for the family, and we focused on dad's recovery and on keeping the Staplefield farm going. The Cuckfield land was left to its own devices."

The field has remained a popular route for dog walkers and cross-country runners, thanks to the public footpath which runs along one side.

To prepare for the arrival of the herd, a mix of around 20 young Norweigan red, Aberdeen, Sussex and Belgian Blue crosses, Kaye is currently erecting fencing along the side of the path to provide a barrier between the walkers and cattle and ensure safe and enjoyable access through the field.

"Young cattle can get excited by dogs and walkers, and I'd hate to hear of any incidents happening in my field," said Kaye. "Like most farmers, I've been headbutted by a cow and it's not a pleasant experience!"

The cattle will graze throughout the summer. During the winter months, when the field is empty, Kaye plans to provide access into the rest of the area for walkers and dogs to enjoy.

"We know how much the fields are loved by walkers and their dogs who enjoy the stunning views," said Kaye. "I hope that by working together, and keeping to the footpaths while the cattle are grazing, we will see an even more beautiful view and a richer habitat."







**Richard Allan**

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# Cuckoo Fayre 2016

## PHOTO ROUND-UP

By Claire Cooper

Drizzle and clouds failed to dampen the spirits of stallholders and villagers who turned out in force to support the popular Cuckoo Fayre.

The event, at Cuckfield Recreation Ground, saw a range of groups and organisations based in and around the village offering a variety of stalls and sideshows.

Hot dogs and home-made cakes went down a treat, while children enjoyed radio-controlled cars, a bouncy castle and traditional fairground games.

The wet weather led to the cancellation of the two arena events, but the Village Band and children's entertainer Tomfoolery provided music and fun throughout the afternoon.

The event, organised by the Independent State of Cuckfield, was opened by Mayor Ken Gregory. He was joined in the arena by 20 former Mayors, some of whom will be standing for election this year as the ISOC aims to attract 50 candidates to celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

Some of the potential Mayors ran stalls to help fund their campaigns, including four members of the Woods family who are going head to head in this year's election.

The event also saw the official unveiling of the Mayor's portrait (see page 9) and a chance for budding young artists to create their own drawing of the Mayor.

Four legged friends weren't forgotten either. Always a popular addition, the annual dog show, organised by Mewes Vets in Haywards Heath, attracted dozens of entries.

Martin Ingebretson, from the ISOC, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who braved the cold, damp weather to make this year's Fayre an enjoyable event for the whole community. We are delighted that the income from the day totalled £1,200, a good contribution to the running costs of £1,700."







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# A rare find among the antiques

It's no secret that Cuckfield residents have always been passionate about their village – but few have put pen to paper to record their feelings.

That's why we were delighted to hear from Sophie Jeeves, whose late father ran Peter Jeeves Antiques shop in the village High Street (now Penfolds).

Sophie was sorting out some of his papers and came across a piece he wrote during the 70s which captures his thoughts about the village he loved.

"Sadly he is no longer here but is resting peacefully in Cuckfield church yard," said Sophie.

We feel like Cuckfield is rather special and different. It isn't. We just happen to live or work in the place, therefore because we are there it must be special. Does a village then derive its character from us, the inhabitants?

We marry certain people, we have certain friends or enemies, we produce certain children, we do certain jobs and live certain types of lives. We imbue those people, places and occupations with characteristics in our minds. Because they are 'ours', intimate components of the daily cycle of living, we attach to them special significance since they are a reflection of ourselves and our attitudes. Villages are no different from people; there are good ones, bad ones and those that don't fall into either category. The good ones may be considered bad by some, the bad good by others. It is all a question of personal opinion. The eye that sees and judges.

Villages like Cuckfield, in common with many others all over England, used to be very good places indeed because they served a very specific purpose, forming a focal point for practically everyone who lived in and around them. The work, relaxation and progress of these people caused the village to happen. Villages were born out of necessity. They were moulded gratefully and graciously into the contours of the landscape because the land was like a placenta to the village. The villages respected the land, and in exchange the land nourished the inhabitants of the village. There was a mutually beneficial exchange, a harmonious if sometimes hard won balance and rhythm which is what the countryside, and the world, ideally should be about.

Today the houses and cottages are as aesthetically pleasing as they were two or three hundred years ago, but their inhabitants in the main no longer rely on the village and its surroundings for a livelihood. They go out from the centre to work, play, shop and find relaxation. That is not their fault – just another tiny step in man's evolutionary journey towards some ill-defined utopia which, like jam on tomorrow's slice of Hovis, never arrives.

So where does that leave the village? It leaves it exactly as it was, nestling around a highway under a moving sky. The Church hasn't changed, the old houses haven't moved, the pubs are in the same place and the



services available are much as they were. There are good views, fine fields, old trees and tasty parsnips. It is in season wet and dry. If life goes out of a village the one thing that no-one can blame is the village itself. The older we get the more we regret the passing of the 'good old days'. If villages like Cuckfield are to survive, it is perhaps wise to remind ourselves that the good old days are now.

P.J.

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## Welcome to 'Olive'

Last month saw a new regular visitor arrive in Bolnore. 'Olive' the brand new van of The Pizza Oven arrived on the village square bringing us the delights of handmade pizzas cooked in a wood fired clay oven made to order.

If you've never seen a wood fired oven in the back of a bespoke van, you need to come and see The Pizza Oven at Bolnore, Middle Village car park, every Tuesday between 5pm and 8pm.

Come and try a taste of the Mediterranean. Fresh, authentic, handmade pizzas right on your doorstep. The menu changes each week but you can always be sure of the best quality Italian mozzarella, tomatoes, dough and toppings. You can stay simply sumptuous with a Margherita or get a genuine taste of Sardinia with the 'Loads-a-Meat' special.

The first night was a great success with a sell out and lots of good comments from the residents.

---

## Style Lounge gets first anniversary celebrations

The Style Lounge celebrated its first anniversary in the village last month after opening its door on 14th April 2015. Owner Amy Packer commented: "All our clients are lovely and there's always lots going on in the salon - which is great!"

The salon is getting busy with the wedding season coming up and is also currently promoting a 2-for-1 offer on spray tans ahead of the summer.

Amy has also employed two new stylists - Mo and Yasemin - as the business continues to grow.

Congratulations and 'Happy Birthday' to Amy and her team.

---

## RMC Transfer of management news

A lot of work is still going on behind the scenes. To keep as many people as possible informed we ask everyone who isn't already signed up to the Bolnore village newsletter to do so by signing up on [www.bolnore.org.uk](http://www.bolnore.org.uk) or sign up via Facebook - search 'this is bolnore'.

[www.facebook.com/bolnorevillage](http://www.facebook.com/bolnorevillage)

## Improving the management of Bolnore Village

April 2016

Following the Annual General Meeting at which Pembroke presented, the committee has been working hard to keep up the momentum. At first glance it might seem an easy solution to simply take a vote and tell FirstPort that their services are no longer required in 'Old Bolnore'. However, the legalities of handling a contract worth over half a million pounds annually make it a bit more complicated.

Firstly we have to nominate directors and register a limited company – this is well underway to completion. Together with Pembroke, we are developing and agreeing with FirstPort the words and style of voting document that we will need to legally remove FirstPort. We anticipate this to be with residents in May. This is a critical step in the process and we must not only achieve a majority vote in favour of removing FirstPort but also a majority of residents participating in the vote. In this way we can demonstrate the strength of feeling in the Village. We are determining the extent of the properties and lands over which our new Residents Management Company will legally exercise control. Finally, we are discussing ways in which to properly ensure that all of the various subgroups that have been created over the years continue in some way.

We are still seeking volunteers to help. The more people we can call on the better, and your help will be needed primarily to encourage residents to take part in the voting process.

Please email us at: [estate@bolnore.org.uk](mailto:estate@bolnore.org.uk)

Thank you.

Chris Belton (Chair), Marco Van Dijk, Carlos Leon, Iona Pemberton-Billing, Martin Heath

---

## Monthly Quiz Night Dates

Our next monthly quiz night is at the Woodside on 28th May from 7.30pm. Teams of between 3 and 6, £2 per head. Email: [events@bolnore.org.uk](mailto:events@bolnore.org.uk) to reserve a table.

Flip burgers and street food are now a regular at the Woodside one night every weekend. Check our Facebook page (Woodside) for dates and menus.

Also save the date for the Bolnore Village Summer Fete which will be on Saturday 9th July. Plans are well under way to make this year's our best ever!



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## Being bold with colour

### DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Cuckfield Interiors

Spring has sprung and so have all the Spring flowers laden with colour. How about introducing a little colour into your home to lift mood and embrace the time of year? Grey has become the new magnolia in many trendy abodes and looks great but when grey or white interiors dominate and it's a grey day outside it's worth considering the influence colour can have on our lives. After all, we live in a colourful world. Nature displays a palette of colours balanced out in harmony, all of them contained in the white light generated by the sun and demonstrated so beautifully by the creation of a rainbow when sunshine hits raindrops. So, if your home is a shrine to greys and whites, how about introducing a splash of colour for a change.

Without realising it colour can affect the way we feel and our sense of well-being so by simply introducing a shot of colour we can make a difference. Mood can be lifted by painting a wall, ceiling or tired piece of furniture in a cheerful hue. If you're feeling brave, go for it by painting a dark colour on the ceiling with pale walls to make the walls seem higher and the interior feel cosier. If you're feeling even braver really go for it by introducing a geometric design on the wall using greys, black or white and a bright colour.

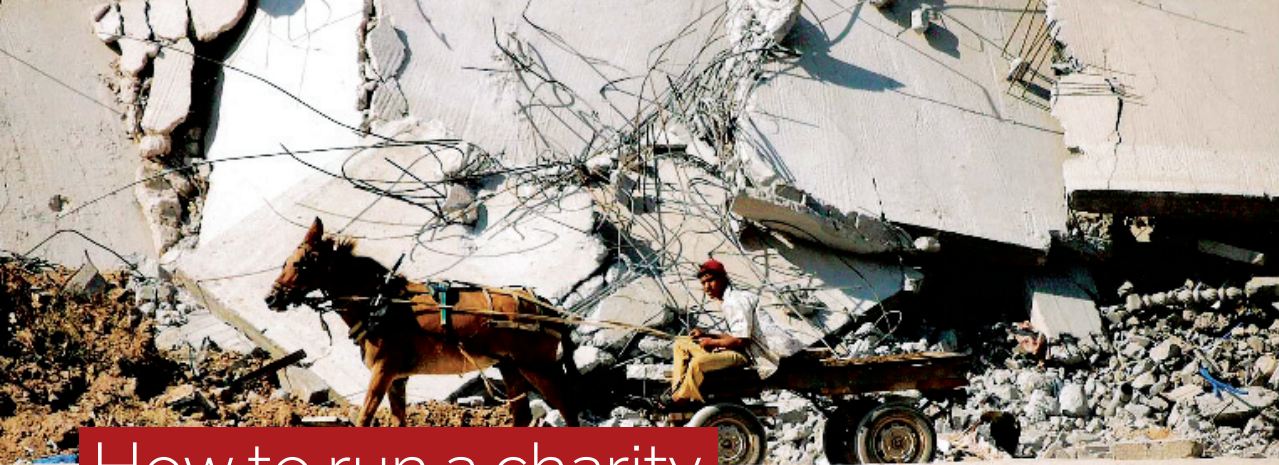
For a temporary solution add vibrant cushions or a spectacular rug. A blast of colour added to a neutral interior adds accent or focus to your space, and cushion covers can be changed to suit the season.

The colour wheel displays primary and secondary colours. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet are placed around the wheel with yellow at the top. Warm colours, red, orange and yellow, on the left side of the wheel will warm up a north facing room.

Red is a very excitable colour. It encourages conversation so is frequently used in restaurants and is ideal for dining areas in your home as an accent wall or accessories. Best avoided in children's bedrooms as the excitable nature will not encourage sleep. Orange is invigorating with spicy or burnt tones, and used in small amounts will definitely add glow and glimmer to your home. Warm up those nooks and crannies with perhaps a burnt orange lampshade or spicy orange candles. Think how exciting and comforting open fires are in the winter, due not only the heat they let out but by the colours they transmit – red, orange and yellow.

Yellow is of course sunny, warm and inviting. A happy colour in a soft tone or a vibrant accent to welcome guests into your home.

On the other side of the colour wheel the colours green, blue and purple are more tranquil and relaxing in their paler tones, but watch out for blue as it has cooling properties and should be avoided in North facing interiors.



# How to run a charity

In the aftermath of the controversial collapse of Kids Company, Cuckfield resident and charity CEO Geoffrey Dennis writes here about the important aspects of running a charitable organisation.

While on a work trip in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Geoffrey witnessed the desperate sight of hundreds of families living under plastic sheeting as their homes were flooded. This event, and the people he met on those railway tracks, drew him to work in the charity sector from a very comfortable job with a large multinational firm of consultants.

On his return home he decided he wanted to work for a charity to assist vulnerable people and subsequently joined the International Red Cross as International Director in the UK. After many years there Geoffrey went to work for CARE International as its Chief Executive, but 18 months ago he took over as CEO of the Royal National Children's Foundation which seeks to help children whose development has been seriously disrupted by their adverse home environment.

By Geoffrey Dennis

I would suggest two key aspects – firstly proof of their true impact, secondly cost-effectiveness and a totally businesslike management control.

## 1. True Impact

In other words, what is the real effect of the charity?

There should be a regular check on the effect a charity and its funding actually has. Yes, after a serious emergency overseas, for example, there are desperate people who have lost their livelihood and are on the verge of death due to lack of food, fresh water and health care. But, as desperate as their needs are, a charity must also be aware of the medium and longer term – nobody can continue to provide emergency assistance for ever. One of the programmes I ran after the tsunami, in parallel to the provision of emergency aid, was to fund a very experienced agricultural specialist to help local families rebuild farming in parts of Indonesia and Sri Lanka – two countries very badly affected. This agricultural specialist was paid a very modest salary, assisted hundreds of families and stayed in post for a full year's agricultural cycle – the effect was incredible. Let me say, at this stage, that I firmly believe that the vast, vast majority of the world's population do not want handouts – they need help, but really want to restart their lives after an emergency.

In the case of the Royal National Children's Foundation, we recently produced an impact report which is available on our website. This consisted of

a survey conducted with the kind co-operation of beneficiaries, their parents, guardians and school representatives. Plus we can always find existing and previous beneficiaries who want to talk about their experience with RNCF. In addition we produce regular and comprehensive reports on our beneficiaries. Increasingly, donors and potential donors also want not only to receive information about current beneficiaries but also want to follow their lives after their school days – I think that this is extremely important in order to reflect the true long term value of our intervention.

The research in RNCF was conducted using a number of methods. In total we proved that we had a 94% success rate with young people we assisted, which is outstanding. Many charities do not conduct this analysis and cannot prove the success rate they are achieving. Plus some charities do not look at the longer term benefits – in some parts of the world families have been living in refugee camps for years, never really improving their lives and certainly not working towards rebuilding their livelihoods. I remember some years ago a potential donor had read an article in a national newspaper and asked if he could sponsor four children in order to bring them to the UK from a previous war zone. I met him personally and stated that it would be much more effective to help support the education of these children in their own country and then promised to send a regular report to him. He accepted this and the effect was really positive, but obviously you need to properly analyse the options.





## 2. Cost Effectiveness

I know of many charities that spend excessive amounts on administration, salaries and overheads. In every charity I have worked as CEO I concentrated very hard on bringing the overheads to an absolute minimum. A charity should be extremely effectively managed, but still needs very strong management and financial controls. In some roles I have held I have been running a £100 million business; this needs a very professional and extremely businesslike approach.

A charity needs to be run like a business. I became involved recently in the after-effects of the break-up of Kids Company in that some of the young people being looked after by that charity were co-funded by my current charity. We made sure that those beneficiaries did not lose out. Why did Kids Company fail? Basically I think that a great number of the people involved really cared about their beneficiaries and did a good job, but any charity must be run effectively, overheads must be kept to a strict minimum and every charity must evaluate the true impact of their work.

I remember after the tsunami, I travelled to Sri Lanka to start a relief operation. There were several really kind, well-meaning people who were flying out to Colombo, the capital, at their own cost carrying bags full of clothes and other items that were totally unsuited to the climate in that country – a really good example where potential donors should work in partnership with a well-established and effective charity.



## Three final questions:

1. Are there too many charities?

Yes. When I worked in North Korea I switched our role to concentrate only on health care, our specialisation, leaving other areas like food and water to other charities.

2. Should charities work more in partnership?

Yes, definitely, and when appropriate they should merge.

3. How do you assess which charities to support?

You do not need to be a financial accountant in order to assess the better charities. Look at staff numbers, assess the rough percentage of donations that actually goes to beneficiaries. Ask for regular reports and ask for proof of their impact.

## Finally

Should people in the UK support overseas or UK charities? There is no doubt that after the tsunami, after the more recent earthquake in Nepal or with many Sudanese refugees there are real needs, but firstly there has to be a serious longer term development plan in addition to emergency response. Secondly, along with many other people, I was not fully aware of the real issues some people face in the UK. That is why I transferred to a UK orientated organisation. Our emergency phone line is constantly busy with really vulnerable families who are just desperately in need of help.

# Our rural England

## VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

After enthusiastic hours in the garden preparing beds and sowing seeds I was feeling somewhat stiff. A great feeling of satisfaction led me to be incredibly grateful to have a 'fringed plot' of my own in this beautiful land of England.

We have been celebrating the 90th Birthday of our Queen Elizabeth recently. Another 90th anniversary this year that you may not be aware of is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). The vision of the founder, town planner Patrick Abercrombie, was to 'prevent the further destruction of rural England'. This in 1926! He '...warned against letting the 'invisible hand' dominate rural England in the foolhardy expectation of an emergence of economic beauty from a devastated countryside'.

He would turn in his grave if he heard what I heard at Clair Hall one Saturday. Health and Fracking was a talk organised by REPOWER Balcombe – clean community energy. On the platform were speakers from MEDACT – health professionals for a safer, fairer and better world and CHEMTrust – protecting humans and wildlife from harmful chemicals. There is also the No Fracking in Balcombe Society – NoFibs. In my young day a fib was tantamount to an outright lie. We were told that the government, the 'invisible hand', is saying that there will be no more fracking. Oh yes? No. No! It's called alternative oil and gas extraction now. A fib if ever I heard one.

So how does that affect us in Cuckfield? Perhaps not much in the village but we all have friends and family living elsewhere, so think further afield. Hundreds of licenses have been granted to drill in Sussex and other counties. We are likely to encounter great, heavy lorries in our lanes and on our roads for building and servicing the wells. And I mean great, heavy trucks that make the Brown's lorries look like Dinky toys. Imagine one carrying lethal chemicals overturning. Am I fearmongering? In a way, yes. I am fearful for my lovely granddaughters. Where will their water come from? How will the toxic chemicals affect their health and their babies? High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, it seems, requires between two and five million gallons of water per well. Where will this come from to supply multiple wells all around the land? That's only water in. What about toxic water out? Where and how is it to be cleaned? We could be seeing the 'devastated countryside' warned against by Abercrombie. I could go on. Find out the truth for yourselves not the fibs being banded about in ignorance.

Find a little sanity in a mad world when you come to the Cuckfield Local Monthly Food Market. Good bread, local Sussex cheeses, home-made cakes and other goodies to find. Next Market, Saturday 11th June in the courtyard of The Talbot, 9.30am-12.30pm. Hope to see you there.

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## Fun of the Fayre

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE



By Ken Gregory

This year's Cuckoo Fayre day started with light rain falling when stallholders were arriving to set up, but I remained positive by telling everyone that it would clear away, which thankfully it did.

This was the 50th anniversary of the ISOC and my fourth at opening the Fayre. When I arrived, courtesy of Mark Grant's BMW, some former Mayors had gathered in the main ring to help celebrate.

Just after the opening we had the unveiling of my portrait on Cameron Bennett's stall, which I am delighted with, I think he has done an amazing job. He spent time through the afternoon doing sketches, which went down well.

I also thought the children's entertainer Tomfoolery was very good. He kept them entertained with his magic and fun games in between music by The Village Band, who always go down well.

Going around the stalls and chatting to many people, I bumped into Caroline Bowring, daughter of Phil and Peter who started the Independent State of Cuckfield (ISOC), and shared some memories and stories from previous years with her.

The Dog Show is always popular, with six classes and the Dog of the Show this year was won by Doris, owned by George Budd, who was also my favourite. But all class winners looked good.

After a bad start, the day turned out again to be a success, with everyone telling me that they had had a good day and even some selling out early and packing up! Those who said it was going to be a washout were proved wrong. Thank you all, from your Mayor.



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# Dolphin Ladies in full swim

When Jeanne Izod decided to start a ladies swimming club at the newly opened Dolphin Leisure Centre in 1977 she was delighted when 12 swimmers signed up for lessons.

She could not have dreamt that nearly 40 years later the club would have welcomed more than 1,500 ladies for swimming lessons.

Today membership stands at around 170, with one original member still swimming and many more members swimming regularly with the club for more than 25 years.

The ASA qualified teaching team of 20 also includes many former club members – some of whom could only swim 'head-up breaststroke' when they joined the club and progressed through the classes.

"We cater for all abilities, from non-swimmers through to highly competent swimmers," explained Margaret Carter, the membership secretary. "Non-swimmers and beginners are taught in small groups and usually have a teacher in the water to help build confidence."

The club runs weekly sessions at the Dolphin Leisure Centre in Haywards Heath and at Ardingly Swim centre (based at Ardingly College).

Tuesday morning sessions at The Dolphin include classes for beginners and improvers, swimming widths or lengths according to ability and working on all strokes, turns and water skills. The more proficient and advanced swimmers attend length classes working up to competition level.

At Ardingly College on a Friday, 25m lengths are available to all swimmers, but beginners stay in the shallow water until ready to progress deeper.

"Every swimmer is allowed to develop confidence and improve technique at their personal pace," said Wendy Dumbleton, who has been teaching since 1982. "Many swimmers have found their health, as well as fitness and self-confidence, has improved during the time spent having swimming lessons with us."

Members range from young mums, joining when their children start school, to those who have retired. "The oldest swimmer we have had was 96 year old Irene Curtis, one of our original treasurers," said teacher Stephanie Wilson. "Irene is now 102 years old and still has an active mind, which shows the youngsters how good swimming is for body and mind."

Cuckfield's Lynne Wilson was a very nervous swimmer when she joined the Dolphin Ladies in March 2007. "Since then, although I shall never make the Olympics, I am now able to swim with my head IN the water and can manage most of the basic strokes with ease and confidence!" she said. "This is all thanks to the infinite patience of our wonderful teachers, who give up their time voluntarily every week to encourage and support us as well as teaching us all the important bits of the art of swimming."

"As an extra bonus, there is always the opportunity to meet after our swim to chat over a cuppa and make new friends. For me, it has been a huge confidence builder, and swimming has become a most important and enjoyable part of my life."



Classes run during term time only, which is an advantage for mums with school children and The Dolphin also has a crèche facility. There are currently places for new swimmers, particularly at the Dolphin Leisure centre on Tuesday mornings.

For more information about the club visit:  
[www.dolphinladieswimmingclub.co.uk](http://www.dolphinladieswimmingclub.co.uk)

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# Cuckfield bunker is open to public

Cuckfield Museum is again helping to organise visits to the village's Cold War bunker.

The underground bunker, near Cuckfield churchyard, was built in 1962 as part of the Royal Observer Corps Post. It formed part of the Cold War early warning system and stayed in place until 1991 when the Post was closed. Mark Russell and Ed Combes have restored the bunker to how it would have looked at closure.

ROC Post open weekend dates are:

Sat 4th June 11am-5pm

Sun 5th June 10am-1pm

Sat 2nd July 11am-5pm

Sun 3rd July 10am-1pm

Sat 27th Aug 11am-5pm

Sun 28th Aug 10am-1pm

For more information and to book a place visit:

[www.facebook.com/cuckfieldnuclearbunker](http://www.facebook.com/cuckfieldnuclearbunker)

and [www.rocremembered.com](http://www.rocremembered.com) or telephone Phillipa Malins 01444 452307.



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by 30th June

# What's on this month

## AT QUEEN'S HALL

### May

- 19th **Annual Parish Meeting** – 7pm
- 27th **Ladies Night Out** – 7.30pm-11.30pm  
Event to boost Leanne Knapman's Mayoral campaign. Includes manicures, massages, handbags, scarves, great gift ideas and a flavoured vodka bar! (Tickets, £35, available from the White Harte or on the door)

### June

- 1st – **Cuckfield Dramatic Society production**  
4th 'Pardon Me Prime Minister'  
Doors open 7.15pm, Curtain 8pm  
(Buy tickets in Cuckfield from Wealden Stores and Marcus Grimes or see website: [www.cuckfielddramaticsociety.com](http://www.cuckfielddramaticsociety.com))
- 9th **Cuckfield Museum talk** – 2.30pm  
Held in the Council Chamber. 'Folk songs from Sussex', an audio and personal musical venture by Mak Norman into the local folk songs from the 19th century to the 1960s and the characters who sang and collected them. (To book a place, via Mike Nicholson phone 01444 457448 or email [events@cuckfieldmuseum.org](mailto:events@cuckfieldmuseum.org))
- 10th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** – 7.30pm  
'I've had an idea' by Graham King
- 23rd **EU Referendum Polling Day**

## AND ELSEWHERE

### May

- 17th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – 8pm  
The Old School : 'Resolutions'
- 21st **Flowers for the Queen** – 10am-4pm  
Holy Trinity Church - A floral journey to celebrate 90 years of the life of Her Majesty. Tea/Cake in Old School.
- 22nd **Flowers for the Queen** – 11.30am-5.30pm  
Holy Trinity Church
- 25th **Royal British Legion Women's Section** – 2.30pm  
The Old School: 'Safety in the home' by West Sussex Fire Brigade

### June

- 3rd **Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society** – 7.30pm  
Redwood Centre, Perrymount Road, HH  
Illustrated talk 'Metals and their Minerals for a Green Economy' by Dr Richard Herrington, Natural History Museum. Refreshments, raffle, minerals to swap or purchase. Mineral of the Month: Skutterudite. Admission free. (Contact 01444 483041 or [www.smls.org.uk](http://www.smls.org.uk))
- 4th **ROC Bunker Open Day** – 11am-5pm
- 5th **ROC Bunker Open Day** – 10am-1pm  
(Booking: Phillipa Malins 01444 452307)
- 7th **Lindfield Afternoon WI** – 2.15pm  
King Edward Hall, Lindfield  
A newly formed group meeting on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 2.15pm in nearby Lindfield. Come and try our friendly group.
- 11th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – 9.30am-12.30pm  
The Talbot courtyard
- 15th **Mid Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society**  
10.15am, Clair Hall: 'Magnificent Mosaics – Windows into the colourful Roman World' talk by Christopher Bradley (Visitors welcome, £7)
- 17th **Heaven on a Plate** – 7.30pm  
Cuckfield Baptist Church – Roger Carswell will speak with Brigadier Ian Dobbie OBE on a soldier living for Christ. Includes puddings!
- 18th **Sussex Chorus concert** – 7.30pm  
Hurstpierpoint College Chapel (BN6 9JS)  
'Music for a Summer's Evening'  
([www.sussexchorus.org](http://www.sussexchorus.org))
- 19th **New lives - Saving Lives** – 3pm  
Cuckfield Baptist Church – Roger Carswell interviews a midwife and a fireman. (Booking Wendy on 01444 413106)

## The Queen at 90

Cuckfield Museum's new display 'The Queen at 90' looks at some of the more unusual and quirky ways of celebrating her life and reign. From June to September.

For more information visit the museum's website: [www.cuckfieldmuseum.org](http://www.cuckfieldmuseum.org)



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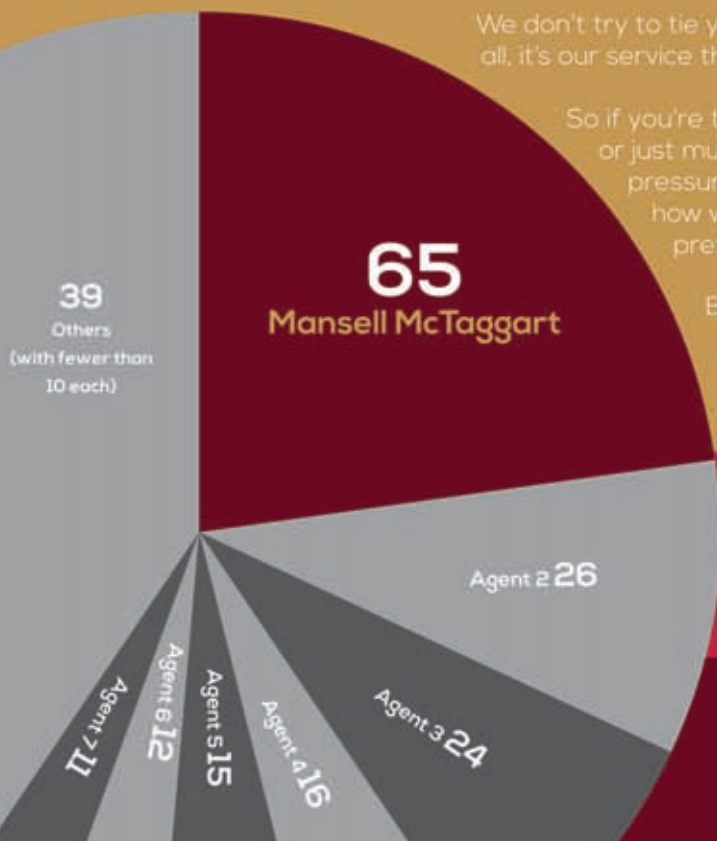
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*Richard, Mel and Michael*

\*Source: rightmove.co.uk, all residential sales agreed in R67 in the year to 16 Sep 2015



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