

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St. Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #25 : NovDec '14

Free



From the new Mayor's table

page 12

Tessa in the frame

page 26

What's on in Cuckfield

page 34

flint&co




INDEPENDENT LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

Professionalism
and integrity at
the heart of
everything
we do



Jane Todd
Managing Director

"From starter flats to large family houses – we've brought a genuinely refreshing approach to the local market. So do pop in or call if you're thinking of selling a property this winter."

 www.flintandcompany.co.uk  01444 62 77 62  sales@flintandcompany.co.uk
113 South Road (Haywards Heath High Street), RH16 4LR

Zoopla.co.uk
Smarter property search

 **rightmove**.co.uk
The UK's number one property website

 **PrimeLocation**.com

 The Property Ombudsman



EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

I remember writing my editorial this time last year and thinking that this issue is a special one. We come at it hot on the heels of the Independent State of Cuckfield's mayoral elections and bonfire night! We can now begin to look forward to the last month of the year. But more of that in due course.

I am very grateful to Kate Fleming for again providing the write-up for both the **election night** and Saturday's **procession** through the village. Many of us were out in force with cameras; we've tried to capture the mood and spirit of the fabulous event on **pages 18-19**.

The mayor elect takes on one of his first (unofficial) roles as he pens his first column for us on **page 12**. Read **Rob Helliwell's story** of his meteoric rise to office and how he's coping with the new found fame!

Claire Cooper, the workhorse behind much of the content of Cuckfield Life, has been out and about meeting new people as ever. This month she took great delight in meeting the team behind the village's newest charity – **Building Heroes** – which takes residence in the former Court Meadow School. Read about the start and aims of this interesting charity on **page 10**.

On **page 26** Claire meets our **Village People** candidate this month – Tessa Land-Smith. We say it all the time but it's true, that being allowed a 'backstage pass' to others' lives is an immense privilege that Claire and I both enjoy. Tessa talks about the start of her framing business in Brook Street and her passion for art in its many forms.

Margaret Tyzack More brings us news of the **Cuckfield Local market** – now in its fifth year – back to its traditional home at The Talbot on **page 21**. It's all back to normal from the next event on 13th December. Plus, she has also unearthed some fascinating facts about our Christmas focus on red and green colours from nature!

Finally, look out for our tree at the **Christmas Tree Festival** from 12th December! More information on **page 33**.

Issue #25 – Nov/Dec 2014 –
3,400 copies printed

Next magazine copydate:
28th November 2014

Next magazine published:
15th December 2014

Cuckfield Life

The Barn, Hurstwood Grange,
Hurstwood Lane, Haywards
Heath, West Sussex, RH17 7QX
Telephone 01444 884115
www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Editor: David Tingley
Assistant: Claire Cooper
<editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk>
Advertising: Matthew Buss
<ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk>

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within the magazine are of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the editors. Whilst the editors welcome contributions and photographs, this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to include them and that the item may be edited & that there is no breach of copyright. Neither the editors nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement.

Cuckfield Life
Published by Kipper



David Tingley
Cuckfield Park Lodge
in the evening sun

norto5 kidz Pre-school Daycare Nursery



Call us today!

Get peace of mind knowing that you can check in via our webcam at any time.

www.norto5kidz.com
0845 004 5226

Lindfield Hickmans Lane Cuckfield Whitemans Green Burgess Hill The Brooks

Haywards Heath Auto Centre
2 Bridge Road,
Haywards Heath. RH16 1UA

**We service and repair all makes
Factory trained technicians
High quality work at a low cost**

the Good Garage Scheme 

01444 458641
www.haywardsheathautocentre.co.uk
Email: kerry@hhauto.co.uk

NEWS

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



Orchestral manoeuvres

Music students at Warden Park Academy were recently given the opportunity to visit Ardingly College for the day to play with a full orchestra. The day was led by the dynamic young conductor Jonathan Lo, who was joined by members of the Ardingly music staff. Jonathan Lo serves as an assistant conductor for the Gabrieli Consort and is currently Musical Director of the Sheffield Philharmonic. This was a wonderful opportunity to learn directly from top professional orchestral musicians and to play with other students from schools all over Sussex.

Year 9 student Rama Suphadet commented: "It was great! I learnt many things and had so much fun playing new repertoire and meeting new people!"

U14s Rugby runners up in Sussex

Congratulations to Warden Park Academy's Boys U14 Rugby team on beating local schools Sackville, Imberhorne and Forest to play The Weald in the final. Unfortunately they lost 10-0 in that game, but their form makes them runners-up in Mid Sussex. Well done boys!



SUSSEX WEALTH MANAGEMENT LIMITED

WEALTH MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS



A wealth of expertise on your doorstep

We provide an experienced wealth management service and offer specialist advice in a wide range of areas including:

- Investment planning
- Retirement planning
- Inheritance Tax planning

For further details contact Michele or Ross on:

Tel: 01444 458197
Michele Mob: 07984 448526
Ross Mob: 07985 911364

Email: sussexwm@sjpp.co.uk
Website: www.sussexwealthmanagement.com



Incorporating
Sussex Mole Control & The Wasp Man
Qualified & Insured
Domestic, Commercial, Agricultural
Bee swarm removal by a Beekeeper

01444-420031



Pub closes but cross will remain

In Ansty village centre, demolition of the former Ansty Cross pub and construction of several residential units has commenced. It is expected the new homes will be completed in 2015.

However, the iconic green cross in the front elevation, which has become an important landmark in the village, will remain. Local councillor Pete Bradbury explains: "Once the planning permission for the new units had

been approved, I wrote to the owners of the building and asked them to preserve this important piece of local heritage. Fortunately they agreed and have incorporated the cross into the design of the new construction."

Sadly, further examination of the wooden cross showed it to have rotted beyond repair, so it will be replaced with an identical new cross which will retain the distinctive landmark for future generations.

One life.
What's it all about?

Christianity Explored gives you time and space to consider the big questions of life and to explore the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

Christianity
EXPLORED

- You can ask as much as you like
- A seven week course without any Bible knowledge assumed
- Run by churches around the world

Cuckfield Baptist Church
Polestub Lane, Cuckfield
T: 01444 473531
E: david@cuckfieldbaptistchurch.co.uk

NOTE: We are still meeting at the chapel on Polestub Lane during the building works

www.christianityexplored.org *Christianity*
EXPLORED

Busy bathroom shop expands

If you have spent any time on Cuckfield High Street over the past couple of months you won't have failed to notice significant building work taking place at The Clock House on the corner of Broad Street.

The shop, formerly Flâneur, is to become the new home to Cuckfield Bathrooms next month.

The bathroom supplier has been based in the village for more than four years but has now outgrown its current premises. Resident and business owner Jim Henning commented: "Cuckfield is a great location for our business and we really didn't want to move away in order to accommodate our expanding supply and design services. When this property became available I realised it was perfect for us."

Jim is planning the new building in a way that will be fitting for the exclusive bathroom brands (Vola, Dorn Bracht, Samuel Heath) the shops stocks. "We want to help our customers and save them travelling to the fashionable Kings Road in London," Jim continued. "That said, I get immense satisfaction from selling any bathroom, whether its high end or simply a lower value wall cabinet."

Jim and his colleague Jobe hope the new showroom will be open before Christmas and look forward to welcoming anyone in to look around at the contemporary and traditional bathroom displays.



DAMIAN STANLEY GARDEN SERVICES

01444 248 527
07794 330 151

damianstanley@tiscali.co.uk

Weed & Moss Control
Scarifying
Aeration
Fertiliser Application

Dawn Benson Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants

Local friendly service to meet all your accounting needs

- Self assessment tax returns • Sole trader accounts • Partnership accounts
- Limited company set up • Limited company accounts
- Registered office service • VAT • Bookkeeping • Payroll • Business advice

Call now for worry free accounting
Tel: 01273 833950

E: info@dawnbensonaccountancy.co.uk
W: dawnbensonaccountancy.co.uk

dawn benson
db
accountancy

Richmond House
38 High St
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex
BN6 9RG

Christmas Lunch for over 65s

The Independent State of Cuckfield is holding it's Christmas Party and Home Cooked Lunch on Friday 5th December in The Queen's Hall from 12.30pm.

Are you over 65 and a resident of Cuckfield? YES?

In which case you are invited to the annual Christmas Party and Home Cooked Lunch. If you would like to take advantage of this amazing offer, or you know someone who would, then please contact Sarah Galbraith-Gibbons on 01444 457475 or e-mail sarahgg@sky.com.

Please note that numbers are limited so places are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Veteran cars drive through



Photo: @DavidJohns_ITV

On Sunday 2nd November hundreds of old vehicles passed through Cuckfield. Here's a photo posted on Twitter from ITV's David Johns as he left the village and headed for Ansty in the rain!



01444 414 999
AV CARS
01444 892288

Your local private hire taxi company.

Prices
24/7

Gatwick **£20** Heathrow **£60**

Stansted **£90** Southampton **£100**

Please book in advance to avoid disappointment!
All local work undertaken and all destinations quoted for

Call Bernie Mick or Dan

01444 414 999



THE TALBOT CHRISTMAS MENU NOW BOOKING

From our special Christmas menu:

Smoked Venison with Rockette & Parmesan, Beetroot Dressing

Slow Braised Shoulder of Lamb with Rosemary Dumplings
and Wilted Greens

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy sauce

Christmas
3 courses
£24.95

2 course
lunch
£19.95

In the heart of the village, The Talbot serves a wonderful range of lunch, bar and dinner menus.. and, of course, our weekend big breakfast and traditional Sunday lunch. Add our extensive wine list, regional ales and relaxed atmosphere; there is no place better to entertain friends, family and colleagues.

THE TALBOT, HIGH STREET, CUCKFIELD RH17 5JX
01444 455898 / INFO@THETALBOTCUCKFIELD.CO.UK

WWW.THETALBOTCUCKFIELD.CO.UK



CARIBBEAN | USA | EUROPE | MIDDLE EAST | INDIAN OCEAN | INDIA | FAR EAST

WESTERN & ORIENTAL

TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS

A Western & Oriental holiday is a slice of paradise; a journey set at your pace; a discovery of a whole new culture

Put your holiday in safe hands
with our Destination Experts

FAMILY ADVENTURES | BEACH HOLIDAYS | PRIVATE ITINERARIES

020 3588 6122

Visit www.westernoriental.com



East of Western and Oriental Travel Ltd



dwell
architecture + design

Dwell are local Chartered Architects specialising in residential alterations, conservation and bespoke homes with a focus on sustainable design.

Call us to discuss your project, or visit our website to find out more

01444 831800

www.dwellarchitecture.com

RIBA 
Chartered Practice



Building Heroes

By Claire Cooper

For more than 50 years Court Meadow School in Hanlye Lane has been a centre for specialist education and opportunities with thousands of young students passing through its doors, before they closed in 2012.

Now the learning tradition is set to continue as an innovative new charity has moved on to the site and is breathing new life into the redundant buildings.

Building Heroes is a new national charity set up to provide training and employment for service leavers and local young people.

The charity took over the building on 1st July and for the past few months a team of builders has been hard at work converting the former classrooms into new workshops to offer building maintenance courses, and in a few week's time the first groups of trainees are set to arrive. Even the former swimming pool has been transformed, although the seaside mural has survived as a lasting memorial to the school and a clue as to what lies beneath the floor!

Chief Executive Brendan Williams explained the concept behind Building Heroes and why the Cuckfield site provided the perfect location for the innovative project: "The idea behind Building Heroes came from my brother-in-law Tony, who had been working as a construction skills instructor for the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People," said Brendan. "Many of his trainees were ex-service personnel who had lost limbs.

"Tony became aware that while there were several training schemes available for service leavers, there was very little help to secure a job at the end of it. We hear too often of former servicemen and women falling through the net into unemployment and homelessness. By providing both training and employment we are going to change all that."

Brendan had recently returned from working in South Africa, and so the time was right for a new challenge. Spurred on by Tony's enthusiasm, he began to look into the feasibility of setting up a new project to provide training and employment, not just for ex-service men and women but for unemployed young adults. "I felt the two groups could work well together and learn a lot from each other – from the discipline of life in the armed forces to the street knowledge of young people."

Brendan was also adamant that training courses should be residential.

"One of the key characteristics of the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation was that the courses were residential," said Brendan. "Not only does living on site provide an opportunity for trainees to socialise, it also helps them develop social skills."

With further support from Jenny Fyson, former deputy principal at the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation, Brendan began to search for a suitable site for the project.

"Our trainees will be coming from all over the country but most of our instructors are based in Sussex and Surrey so we focused in this area," he said. "We looked at stables and farm buildings but when we visited Court Meadow it was ideal for our needs, right down to being wheelchair accessible!"

Not only were the school buildings perfect for conversion into workshops and classrooms, there was an added bonus of a Victorian walled garden and potting shed, where the charity will run horticulture courses and set up its own garden maintenance business.

There's even potential for residential accommodation at historic Horsgate House, former home of Robert Bevan, which borders the site.

"It's a true local landmark and much loved building and, with the 150th anniversary of its construction



coming up next year, it would be wonderful to refurbish and revitalise the building as accommodation for our trainees," said Brendan, who is currently in negotiations to lease the building.

There was further support from local district and county councillor Peter Bradbury, who agreed to become Chairman of the Building Heroes board of trustees.

"We are all very excited that Building Heroes has chosen to have its base in Cuckfield," said Peter. "The charity has a lot to offer the area, both as an employer and a source of skilled maintenance contractors, not to mention the community work offered."

Building Heroes aims to train more than 400 service leavers and young unemployed each year in sustainable building refurbishment and horticulture.

Applications have already arrived for the first places. "We've had to work hard to get the message out to the ex-service community but there's a massive demand from unemployed young people, who will be able to use the qualification from Building Heroes to start an apprenticeship," said Brendan.

Once the first trainees arrive they will begin a six week programme learning trade skills such as plumbing, plastering, carpentry and painting and decorating during the day, with employability skills, mentoring and employment options studied during the evenings.

At weekends the trainees will undertake community projects in the area, delivering more than 1,700 days of labour to the local community and gaining valuable work experience.

"At the end of the course we will provide direct employment or help the successful trainees to get into self-employment near to where they live," said Brendan.

Direct employment will be through the charity's own building company, which will offer estate and property

maintenance, sustainable refurbishment and energy efficiency improvement." We are passionate about sustainability and helping property owners reduce their carbon footprint and protect the environment," said Brendan.

Building Heroes would like to invite the Cuckfield community to a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday 3rd December at 10am. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available along with fun games and goodies with all proceeds going to Macmillan.



Cheers Mr Mayor

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE



By Rob Helliwell

My notes from the end of the Mayor's bar! Well, where to begin after such an amazing election weekend!

Firstly congratulations to the Independent State of Cuckfield (ISOC) for a brilliant event and an incredible turnout on both the election night and the procession on Saturday. I can't remember seeing so many Cuckfieldians lining the streets and joining the festivities. A magnificent effort from everyone.

Secondly, thank you to all the organisers and volunteers that generously give their valuable time and put in a huge effort to orchestrate and continue the traditions of Cuckfield village. Thank you to The White Harte for a great election night (and a lovely hangover on Saturday). Thank you too to The Talbot for hosting the handing of the keys ceremony (and a lovely hangover on Sunday). Thank you to The Wheatshaf for all the hard work and generosity from the amazing staff, customers and friends, together raising a wonderful amount for the election. And finally thank you to my fellow candidates for achieving another fantastic total for the ISOC and the charities and groups it supports in our community.

I am really looking forward to my Mayoral year hoping to continue supporting the events and traditions that make Cuckfield the most wonderful and vibrant community.

Your Mayor...

Snowflake Appeal

Local charity Home-Start CHAMS is launching its first 'Snowflake Appeal' to raise funds for its work supporting vulnerable local children and families.

"Many young children face tragedy and hardship," said Liz Roe, Manager at Home-Start CHAMS. "When families struggle to cope with illness, disability, bereavement, poor housing, mental ill health, or many of these problems at once, Home-Start supports them until they can stand on their own two feet again."

Last year they supported 327 children in 146 families. The number of families referred for help rose by almost 20% in the last year.

To be able to offer the vital support families need and make sure they can reach even more vulnerable local children in 2015, Home-Start CHAMS is asking local people to get involved in the Snowflake Appeal, which runs until 31st January.

"We are asking people to do something they love to help raise funds," says Jacquie Thomas, Fundraising and Marketing Manager. "Whether you make snowflake decorations to sell, get sponsored to run to the North Pole (on a treadmill at your gym!), or get your school involved in a Snowflake bake sale – there is a way to raise funds to suit everyone."

Free fundraising ideas packs and details of other ways you can support the Snowflake Appeal are available from www.homestartchams.org.uk/snowflake or by calling them on 01293 416327.

Haywards Heath & District Probus Club 30th birthday

As the name suggests, Probus is a club for retired and semi retired professional and business people, primarily to replace the fellowship lost when they retire and to make new friends, brought together in a relaxed environment over a regular lunch. The name is an amalgam of the words professional and business. Probus is also a Latin word meaning honest and virtuous. Probus is a worldwide organisation and there are some mixed Clubs and a few ladies Clubs.

The Club was formed by the Rotary Club of Haywards Heath & District in 1985 and it meets on the second Wednesday of every month at Lindfield Golf Club for lunch and usually a guest speaker. There are social events and trips throughout the year in which members' wives are involved. The ladies and partners are invited to the meetings in April, October and at Christmas.

The Probus Club of Haywards Heath & District is always pleased to accept new members and anyone wishing to investigate this social organisation should in the first instance contact the Honorary Secretary, Angus Robson, on 01444 482580 or email a.g.robson@btinternet.com or via the website www.haywardsheath-probus.org.uk

Time for School? Choose the best.

Choose Burgess Hill School for Girls.



Reception 2015

Your daughter is eligible to start school in **September 2015** if she is born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011.

**No time to lose,
apply for our reception
class now.**

BURGESS HILL SCHOOL
for girls

Our Junior School is the 'right' choice

Warm, vibrant, buzzing with happy, enthusiastic and motivated young learners.

Call now for further details - 01444 241050



www.burgesshill-school.com



Holy Trinity calling all musicians – young and old

The Music Group would like to invite all musicians to join us for some of the Christmas Carol Services this year and to join the Family Band in 2015.

All we ask is that any musician is of at least grade 3 standard and is confident sight-reading music.

We welcome anyone aged from 7 years to 70+ years, but we do ask that if a musician is under 11 years old that a responsible adult stays with them at the rehearsals.

We will be rehearsing in the Church on 22nd November and 20th December from 4:30–5:15pm.

If you or your child is interested in joining us, or you know of a musician who might be interested, please e-mail michele.branscombe@virgin.net

In the New Year we will be introducing the Family Band at Family Services. Even if you cannot join us for the Christmas Services, would you like to join us for the Family Band in 2015?

British Heart Foundation: Chase the Pud

On Sunday 7th December the British Heart Foundation will hold their annual fundraising 'Fun-Run' - where everybody dresses up as Santa - through the beautiful woods and fields which surround Ardingly College.

This year three events are being organised: a 10km run/jog (The Full Pud), a 5km run/jog (The Half Pud) – both starting at 9.45am. There is also a 5km walk which starts at 10.15am and includes a children's competition. Medals are given to all participants and some great prizes can be won on the day.

Whether you're a keen runner, a gentle jogger or simply enjoy a gorgeous walk with the dog, this has to be a great way to spend a Sunday morning and help raise vital funds for life-saving research.

Pre-event registration is £10 for adults, which includes your free Santa outfit. For more information and to register go to bhf.org.uk/chasethepud or call 0300 330 3322 or call John Higgins, Event Organiser, on 01444 482183.



café in the park

CAFE OPEN:
Tues-Sun 9am-5pm
Closed Mondays



Open all year round in Victoria Park,
Haywards Heath. Join us in the park
for Sussex breakfasts, homemade cakes
and light lunches.

www.toryscafe.co.uk

Would you like clear, independent advice on your property finance?

At Bonaventure Finance we can help with all areas of your property finance no matter how complex or seemingly straightforward they may appear.

- Residential Purchase and Remortgage
- Investment/Buy to Let Loans
- First Time Buyers
- Commercial Lending
- Agricultural Debt
- Specialist Debt Solutions (see website for more details)



Contact us for a free initial chat on 01444 849420 or email enquiries@bonaventurefinance.co.uk www.bonaventurefinance.co.uk

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. Bonaventure Finance Limited is an Appointed Representative of TenetLine Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Bonaventure Finance charge a fee of \$495.00 upon application and may charge a fee of up to 1% of the loan amount for arranging finance subject to your circumstances.



The Green Tree Gallery
at Borde Hill Garden

Christmas Gifts to suit all pockets!

From one-off, unique paintings and sculpture to stocking fillers, Christmas cards, decorations and everything inbetween!

Plentiful free parking right outside.

Open Tuesday-Sunday, see website for opening times.

www.greentreegallery.co.uk

01444-456560



Jesse's Creature Comforts

07961813047



Dog Walking
Home Visits (Dogs, Cats & Small Animals)
Puppy Breaks
Equine Services

Book a week's dog walks in advance. 1 walk free!

Website: www.jessescreaturecomforts.co.uk Email: jessescreaturecomforts@outlook.com



Angus ForgetMeNot Walk

By Elizabeth Mailey

Sunday 5th October turned out to be a beautiful sunny morning in stark contrast to the heavy rain the day before. 300 people, and as many dogs, registered to take part in the Angus Rowland FMN Run/Walk taking the 1 mile and 6.5 mile routes around Staplefield Village. Once again there was the wonderful sight of a line of red Leukaemia and Lymphoma T-shirts moving across the countryside. It was very heartwarming to see so many teenagers taking part.

The walkers set off just after 9am and the runners at 10am. They were fed and watered by Chris and Simon at the first stop, Ditton Lodge, and by Pip and Vicki at the second stop, Sidnye Farm. Elizabeth and Jonathan joined the 1 mile walkers this year and Edward the 6.5 mile walk. All were welcomed back to Staplefield Village hall with an array of wonderful homemade cakes and plentiful tea and coffee and could sit in the sunshine to enjoy them.

Elizabeth, Angus's mum, said, "The weather the day before was awful. It rained all day and we got soaked marking out the route. However, as in previous years,

the sun came out to allow us all to enjoy the beautiful Sussex countryside. Once again the whole community came out to support us; taking part, helping out with arrangements and making lovely cakes."

Jonathan, Angus's dad, said, "We had a recent meeting in London and heard that the research teams are struggling to find treatments for Angus's type of blood cancer, particularly when it occurs in teenagers. We know of others who have died and it makes us even more determined to continue our work. We are thrilled that the walk has raised in excess of £4,000 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research in Angus's name.

"This October marks the 4th anniversary of Angus's diagnosis of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and it is wonderful to see so many people who knew him before his illness come along and remember him. There have been some very dark times for our family but we hope that our fundraising will help others to beat blood cancer. Since June 2011 The Angus Rowland FMN Fund has raised £138,000.

"We are planning to do another walk/run in 2015 on 4th October so put the date in the diary."

Need a Local Mobile Mechanic?

I'm Steve and as your local mobile mechanic I'll come to you. With over 20 years experience in the motor industry you will always receive a professional service from me. I deal with all makes and models for your vehicle:

- Servicing
- Maintenance
- Diagnostics
- Repairs
- MOT's (arranged)
- At work or home

07960 982783

Or email me:
sgwardmobilemechanic@outlook.com

SG Ward





Guy Tomlinson Fitness

Located at New Barns Gym, Staplefield

One to One, or Paired Personal Training at a Private Gym

- ✓ Comfortable Environment in a Private Gym with New Equipment
- ✓ Personal Exercise Plans with Dietary Information Available
- ✓ Qualified in Various Exercise Techniques for More Exciting Workouts

Call or Email for a Visit to the Gym and a Free Trial

Phone: 07799493904

Email: guytomlinson1991@gmail.com

Fully Insured and Member of the Register of Exercise Professionals

Chez
Fleur

Christmas Wreath workshops - Book now!

Wednesday 3rd December 7.00pm
Miss Mabel's Emporium, Burgess Hill

Tuesday 9th Dec 9.30am or 1.30pm
Jack Dunkley's Birchfield Nursery, Henfield

Monday 15th Dec 9.15am
The Sportsman Inn, Goddard's Green

(Also at Hurst College, Monday 8th December - contact Belinda for more information)



Have fun creating a delightfully scented and decorated eucalyptus wreath!
Refreshments included. No experience necessary.

£38 per person

Contact Belinda to book belinda@chezfleur.co.uk or telephone 07811 892644.

Chez Fleur will also be at the exclusive Clive Christian showroom, Forest Row, RH18 5EZ, on Thursday 27th November from 10.30-12.30 presenting innovative floral ideas for Christmas.

www.chezfleur.co.uk



FESTIVE FEAST

START THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH A TRIP ON A STEAM TRAIN THROUGH THE SUSSEX COUNTRYSIDE AND THEN ENJOY A DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS MEAL IN THE RESTAURANT AT SHEFFIELD PARK STATION.

1ST/8TH/15TH DECEMBER

**£18.50PP THIRD CLASS-OR TREAT YOURSELF TO A TRIP IN THE FIRST CLASS CARRIAGES
£21.50PP**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

CALL 01825 720800 OR SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS www.bluebell-railway.com



Cuckfield goes 'en fete' as Rob becomes Mayor

MAYOR'S ELECTION

By Kate Fleming

Not many villages devote a whole weekend to fundraising, celebration, spectacle and thanksgiving, but Cuckfield does! The White Hart started the three days by hosting The Independent State of Cuckfield's Mayoral Election on the evening of Friday 17th October. A large white silky marquee had been erected over the car park to accommodate this unique election and provided an ideal setting for the occasion. The purpose of this election is to raise as much money as possible for the village; the candidate with the largest amount is the winner. It was an exciting, lively evening with the marquee bursting with music and laughter from the supporters and friends of the aspiring mayors. After a closely fought contest, Rob Helliwell, landlord of The Wheatsheaf public house in Broad Street, having raised an impressive £4,080 won the coveted ermine trimmed triangular hat along with the red velvet robes and was proclaimed Mayor. Overall, with significant contributions from the other candidates, there will be a substantial £6,292 to distribute to local charities and organisations.

Overcast skies and light drizzle gave way to sunshine to welcome the spectacular procession on the afternoon of Saturday 18th October to celebrate this annual event. A large crowd gathered to support and enjoy the twenty two floats which wove their way from Warden Park School, through the village and down the High Street to The Talbot. Here the new Mayor alighted from a beautiful shiny Jaguar, driven by the outgoing Mayor Mike Schlup, received the 'Keys of Cuckfield' and enjoyed a well deserved pint of beer. He spoke reassuringly to his people that the village would be high on his priority list and that he looked forward to his year in office.

The floats were varied; decorated lorries, walkers, roaring iguanodon-headed scooters, prams, bicycles, trolleys all featured and represented the rich and manifold nature of our community.

The Singing Allsorts original float won first prize, capturing the memories of World War II with their group of singing Land Girls. Poignantly, and fortunately temporarily, returning to the horrors of war and the depth of human resources that were revealed to handle those desperate times.... 'Sing as we go and let the world go by...' advised Gracie Fields then and this is just what the khaki girls did from their poppy covered truck. Orchard House's Heroes, Superman, Batman and Robin, Spiderman and Flash, beamed down on us from their float, proudly displaying their second prize rosette. Heroes indeed. Third prize in the float competition went to BPM, the Cuckfield based Dance group as they danced their way through the village dressed in the hippy 60s outfits we wore when we went to San Francisco with flowers in our hair. Did we really look like that? The special award went to Cuckfield Women's Institute for their mobile vintage tea party, wheeled by the wonderfully costumed, mink wrapped Ladies adding grace, dignity and a sense of times past to the procession.

Brillo the clown, a good friend of the village, entertained the children in the High Street as the 'Ex-bandables' Surrey and Sussex Drum and Bugle Corp smartly 'played on' for the crowds before the procession wound its way back to Warden Park School.

A great Cuckfield community weekend concluded on Sunday morning with a joyful service in Holy Trinity Church to welcome the new Mayor Rob Helliwell, and celebrate and value living in Cuckfield. People had chosen their favourite hymns, which were sung lustily, and candles were lit by representatives from all walks of village life.

A time to reflect and give thanks for a splendid weekend and relish the thought of another year of The Independent State of Cuckfield's events under the leadership of their new Mayor Rob Helliwell. Watch out for him in his distinctive outfit, he'll be everywhere!



**marcus
grimes**
estate agents

**Do you know
what your
property is worth?**

**With over 25 years of
experience in this area
we do!**

relax
for sales and rentals call us today...

Haywards Heath
01444 476200

Cuckfield
01444 451818

Hurstpierpoint
01273 835104

marcusgrimes.co.uk

How clean is your shower?

Keep it clean the easy way.

UP TO
90%
LESS
CLEANING



Enduro Shield

WORKS
ON TILES
TOO!

'EnduroShield for Glass' is a revolutionary invisible coating that repels water, oil, grime and dirt.

- Once only application
- Apply DIY or by professional
- Makes cleaning a breeze
- 3 Yr Guarantee on existing glass

Call David on 01444 410738
to talk about DIY kits or
professional applications.

www.spearandshield.co.uk

Permanent Protective Coatings for all Glass
(showers, solar panels, windows), Tiles,
Grout & Stainless Steel

Market returns to Talbot

VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Celebrate, celebrate, celebrate! Cuckfield Local Food Market is back in its original home in the courtyard of The Talbot. All your favourite food sellers are with us providing fish, local game, local cheeses, delicious savouries, good bread and scrummy cakes. Deep gratitude to Mansell McTaggart for hosting us market refugees so generously over the last few months. Thank you also to The Talbot for asking us back.

Cuckfield Local and our Market are in their fifth year now, so let's hear it for the stalwarts who have organised The Market, made Cuckfield almost Plastic Bag Free, worked so hard on the Community Garden, run the Bee Friendly to Pollinators Campaign, tended the wild flower bed in the Recreation Ground and initiated Cuckfield Nature Village.

Here's another reason to celebrate. There is a wonderful opportunity for you to join our Nature Village Team, indulge your passion for wildlife and share in the next steps for this ongoing initiative. Mosquitoes bite but we don't, so come and have a chat with Sheila and Margaret on the Cuckfield Local Table at the next market, 13th December 9.30am-12.30pm in the courtyard at The Talbot. You could have breakfast, brunch or a coffee there too and have a look round the beautiful new bar and restaurant.

Whilst we are patting ourselves on the back, we have a word of appreciation too for all the Cuckfieldians who so regularly bring their milk bottle tops and hard plastic lids to us at the Market for recycling. More and more are arriving each month. Well done everyone.

Still on the nature trail, I was noticing the bright red berries on the shiny, green holly leaves the other day and thought about their place in our Christmas traditions. Soon we shall be singing Christmas carols, including The Holly and the Ivy which is a favourite of mine. It seems that there was a tradition in which this carol had its place. In midwinter the men would sing songs extolling the virtues of manly holly whilst the women sang in praise of ivy and it's eternal climb to the light. Neither being judged a winner, all was brought to conclusion under the mistletoe! Red and green have been our traditional Christmas colours ever since as we decorated our homes and churches with holly leaves and ivy trails. A bunch of mistletoe held a place of importance too, fading somewhat these days as social mores have changed down the years. In a pagan story the Holly King and the Oak King battled for supremacy, Holly King winning in Autumn and Oak King in Spring. This particular carol has come down to us from over one thousand years ago. Strange how the men's carol survived all those years, whilst the songs of the women have disappeared into the mists of time. Well, they did have the loudest voices, especially after the quaffing of a wassail cup or two!

Christmas warmer

ON YOUR TABLE



Mulled Wine

Ingredients

2 clementines
1 lemon
1 lime
200 g caster sugar
6 whole cloves
1 stick cinnamon

3 fresh bay leaves
1 whole nutmeg, for grating
1 vanilla pod, halved lengthways
2 star anise
2 bottles red wine

Dog Day Care Crèche & Grooming 7.00am - 7.00pm; Walk, Rest & Play!

- Not only great indoor & outside play & rest areas but dogs are taken on a variety of walks!
- Weekend & holiday boarding
- Expert Grooming for all breeds
- Pet Taxi service coming soon

Paul's Lane (private), Slugwash Lane, Haywards Heath
abfabdogs.co.uk 01444 657511

FREE
TRIAL!



AB FAB DOGS



December Food Market

Sat 13th 09:30 - 12:30

Talbot Courtyard



We're back at the Talbot – drop in on your way to the
Christmas Tree Festival!

For market updates follow us on Twitter @Cuckfield Local

www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com

By Simon Dennis, head chef
at The Rose & Crown



Method

Peel large sections of peel from your clementines, lemon and lime using a speed peeler. Put the sugar in a large saucepan over a medium heat, add the pieces of peel and squeeze in the clementine juice. Add the cloves, cinnamon stick, bay leaves and about 10 to 12 gratings of nutmeg. Throw in your halved vanilla pod and stir in just enough red wine to cover the sugar. Let this simmer until the sugar has completely dissolved into the red wine and then bring to the boil. Keep on a rolling boil for about 4 to 5 minutes, or until you've got a beautiful thick syrup. The reason I'm doing this first is to create a wonderful flavour base by really getting the sugar and spices to infuse and blend well with the wine. It's important to make a syrup base first because it needs to be quite hot, and if you do this with both bottles of wine in there you'll burn off the alcohol. When your syrup is ready, turn the heat down to low and add your star anise and the rest of the wine. Gently heat the wine and after around 5 minutes, when it's warm and delicious, ladle it into glasses and serve.

Are you fast on your feet?



A former Warden Park pupil, now working for Young Epilepsy, is looking for Mid Sussex runners to take part in the Brighton Marathon and Brighton Half Marathon next year.

The charity works exclusively on behalf of the 112,000 children and young people aged 25 and under with epilepsy and associated conditions such as autism, learning and/or behavioural needs.

To further support the work the charity does in providing better futures for children they are seeking runners to get involved and raise money by running in these events. James Gaydon commented: "We are delighted that local lad Norman Cook (AKA Fatboy Slim) is captaining our Half Marathon team in February while the endurance athletes are taking on the full 26 miles of the Marathon in April. Which could you do?"

Contact James on 01342 832243 or jgaydon@youngepilepsy.org.uk for details.

Highley Manor Hotel

EXCLUSIVE USE
Luxury at affordable prices



Weddings
Ceremonies
Conferences
Wakes
Private Parties
Mothers Day
Christmas Parties

Crawley Lane, Balcombe, West Sussex RH17 6LA Telephone 01444 811 711 Fax 01444 811113
Email highleymanor@btconnect.com www.highleymanorhotel.co.uk



FINE FURNITURE BY DAVID WILLIS

Cuckfield-based designer and maker of beautiful, bespoke, handcrafted fine furniture made to be enjoyed for generations.

If you would like to commission a piece of bespoke fine furniture, please call David on 01444 473365 or email info@davidwillisfinefurniture.com

www.davidwillisfinefurniture.com

Are you looking for a
unique gift
this Christmas time?



Exclusive offer:

3 for 2 on all mounted prints purchased*
Quote '1410-CL' when booking

with me,
Claire Goldsmith,
you get a sensitive and considered approach to portraiture at a stunning studio in Hurstpierpoint.

Give me a call to discuss your needs
tel 07743 393924
email info@clairegoldsmithphotography.co.uk
web www.clairegoldsmithphotography.co.uk

clairegoldsmith photography

* offer expires 30 Nov 2014

CHRISTMAS
PARTY!

01444 484129

POTENTIAL
PERSONAL TRAINING

You are invited to the

GRAND OPENING



ENTRY IS FREE TO
ALL MID SUSSEX
RESIDENTS

BRAND NEW STUDIO

FRIDAY

28 NOV

6-9PM

AN AMAZING COMMUNITY EVENT...

- 1 Come and see why our training facility is different to anywhere you have seen before.
- 2 Meet the whole Potential PT team and see our training environment.
- 3 Be one of the first to lock down exclusive membership that will only be available on the night.
- 4 Enjoy guilt free food at its best, provided by local guys Bird Food.
- 5 Performance from 10 piece soul band 'The Saviours Of Soul'
- 6 Surprise Celebrity Guest paying a visit!
PLUS...Much much more!!

WIN OVER
£5,000
IN PRIZES



St Peter &
St James

A chance to win over £5000
in prizes in our grand charity
raffle for St Peter & St James

DON'T MISS OUT!

Register now and receive your exclusive
invitation delivered to your door.

www.potentialpersonaltraining.com/grand-opening
or call us today on 01444 484129

HOW TO FIND US!

Unit 7 Enterprise Park
Lewes Road, Lindfield
RH16 2LH



Tessa Land-Smith

VILLAGE PEOPLE

If you've visited Cuckfield Museum recently, then it's likely you've been enchanted by the exquisite miniature toy shop on display, complete with the tiniest workbox you'll ever see! But you're probably unaware that its creator runs a business in the village, and that designing and making miniatures is just one her many talents.

Tessa Land-Smith is the owner of the Chapel Gallery framing business in Brook Street. Visitors calling in to the former chapel will often find Tessa beavering away at her latest project. And from painting portraits and making soapstone sculptures to icing wonderful wedding cakes it seems there's nothing that Tessa can't turn her hand to.

Tessa spoke to Claire Cooper about her endless creations, her inspiration and how she's happy to tackle any project – even a request to frame a single fish finger!

By Claire Cooper

"I like to think of myself as an 'artificer' rather than an artist as I'm constantly trying something new," said Tessa. "At the moment I'm working on a sculpture made of barbed wire, rusty metal, broken mirrors and bones!"

Tessa spent her childhood in Italy and Spain, moving to England as a teenager to study illustration at Harrow School of Art.

Although she started off illustrating and painting, Tessa's creativity soon got the better of her and she began to branch out. "I love trying my hand at anything creative - sculpture, drawing, writing, painting - generally making stuff!"

On leaving college, Tessa worked freelance illustrating book covers and magazines before leaving for a job at the prestigious Smith Gallery in Covent Garden.

"But I'm afraid I wasn't very good at being told what to do, so I left and went back to illustration and ended up working as an illustrator's agent for three years."

During her time as an illustrator, Tessa worked on a wide range of projects from children's book covers to sketches of hair and make-up techniques for the Molton Brown beauty book.

When her children were young, Tessa was often asked to paint children's portraits and also started making cakes. "It soon got a bit crazy!" she said. "I made

everything from tractors to mermaids, castles to tennis shoes and some very wacky wedding cakes! But, like so many things, I got a bit bored and now just do the occasional one for friends. The last one was a vintage fire engine for a friend's 60th."

Tessa branched out into picture framing when her children were growing up and she went to work at Picturesque in Haywards Heath.

After a year, the owner decided to move on. "I loved my job and didn't want to leave," said Tessa. "So I took the plunge and bought the business!"

The next step was to find new premises, and when Tessa visited the Chapel Gallery in Brook Street she knew she'd found the perfect place – even though it was completely derelict!

"The first thing we had to do was to clear the brambles to get in," Tessa recalled. "But I love working in the gallery. It has a lovely comfortable feel and people like visiting. Some of our customers remember attending Sunday school here as children!"

"We may be a little off the beaten track but the road outside is busy and it's amazing how people have noticed us and keep coming back." She added that having a life size papier mâché zebra (made by her of course!) outside the building all summer also helped attract new customers. "Sadly he fell victim to the



weather, so I only have his head left now!"

Tessa and her colleague Malc pride themselves on being able to frame absolutely anything.

"We love to frame unusual things," said Tessa. "We never turn anything down! There's no limit to people's imagination and ideas. If they have an idea, we can think of a way to frame it!"

Treasured mementos brought in for framing have included an axe from the Braveheart film, a 1920s bathing suit, a lifejacket from the Titanic and several pieces of naughty underwear!

There are also medals, swords, ballet shoes, cross-stitch and tapestries, lots of signed football shirts and a fencing trophy for Ardingly College.

The most unusual request was also one of the easiest. "We were asked to frame a single fish finger!" said Tessa. "It wasn't difficult, although we had to make a replica fish finger!"

Tessa and Malc recently reframed a set of 12 very valuable paintings from a designer whose home has appeared on the TV programme Grand Designs. "He wanted new frames to match the ultra modern designs," said Tessa.

Closer to home, the pair have reframed all the photographs on the walls of Lindfield Cricket Pavilion. "That was a huge job," said Tessa. "We also framed all the sports shirts on display at Warden Park." She added that they also framed a coat of arms as part of the re-ordering of Holy Trinity Church in Cuckfield, which Tessa swapped for an old vestments storage chest which now takes pride of place in her workshop.

Tessa also specialises in making three-dimensional dioramas, which have gone on display at the church. "I've created the Three Wise Men, Wenceslas and an Angel diorama for the Christmas Tree Festival," said Tessa.

Other work has included scenes from Shakespeare's King Lear and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe which was a present for a friend's daughter.

"I love making little things," said Tessa. "The idea of the shop currently in Cuckfield Museum came from illustrations I did at art college. I decided to recreate it and add a few more pieces, all made from scraps of fabric, balsa wood and clay.

"One of the museum curators spotted the shop in my workshop and asked if they could borrow it. I was delighted to see it go on display!"

Several of Tessa's portraits are currently on display on the walls of The Half Moon Inn in Balcombe and she was also one of three artists who worked on the Millennium map in the Village Hall.

For Tessa, inspiration can come from anywhere. Visiting the tombstones at Highgate Cemetery led to a stunning silk and clay sculpture, while a photograph in a newspaper of the tragic bombing of a Russian school resulted in a poignant painting of a fireman carrying a baby to safety.

"I did a sketch from a magazine photograph of David Cameron with his son Ivan who had died," said Tessa. "I sent it to him and received a lovely thank you letter. He also mentioned the sketch in an interview shortly afterwards."

Tessa has complete a portrait of teenage cancer victim and fundraiser Stephen Sutton, which she has sent to his family.

More recently, Tessa has turned her hand to writing short stories. "I've written about a range of subjects and have given some stories to friends but it would be lovely to have them published one day," she says.

And with Tessa's talents, it's probably just a matter of time...

Garden Design

& MAINTENANCE
THROUGHOUT SUSSEX

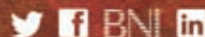


07941 798145

www.ginkgogardensolutions.co.uk

mark@ginkgogardensolutions.co.uk

facebook.com/GinkgoGardenSolutions



Making
new friends
is easy!

Every day
is an
open day



An Exceptional
Co-educational Nursery
and Preparatory School



TAVISTOCK &
SUMMERHILL SCHOOL

*"The size of the
school facilitates
a nurturing, family
atmosphere where people are
known and valued as individuals."*

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report, 2014

We put learning at the heart of all we do

www.tavistockandsummerhill.co.uk

Summerhill Lane, Lindfield, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex RH16 1RP. Tel: 01444 450256

Tavistock & Summerhill School is
a registered charity number 800086.

www.midsussexbackcare.com

ATTENTION MID SUSSEX MEN & WOMEN! WHO WANTS TO GET RID OF BACK PAIN ONCE AND FOR ALL?



Local expert Osteopath, back care specialist, award winning author and the owner of The Perrymount Clinic - Christian Bates, who is responsible for helping hundreds of Mid Sussex men, women & children to lead a pain free life Reveals for free his 'Insider Secrets' on how you can maintain a healthy spine & eliminate discomfort or pain.

CALL US TODAY: 01444 410 944
www.midsussexbackcare.com

THE PERRYMOUNT
OSTEOPATHY & NATURAL HEALTH CLINIC

"Very friendly and the 'nothing is too much trouble' attitude from all the staff, along with the treatment received and advice given resulted in immediate relief of long term problem and has ensured a long term solution to my back pain."

CLAIRE WILSON, 47, MUM OF TWO, SUSSEX

FREE REPORT
FOR PEOPLE
SUFFERING
WITH BACK
PAIN



GO TO

www.midsussexbackcare.com
to download your **FREE** report
and special gift **TODAY!**
(Value £97)
(Only for Mid Sussex residents.)



Service with Sincerity

"Dear Paul,

Thank you so much for all your help in making yesterday an easier day. Your guidance in the lead up and friendly approach was also very much appreciated. Wishing you well." Mrs MT

42-46 Queens Rd, Haywards Heath, RH16 1EE

Talk to us on 01444 410 770 (24 hr)

paul@paulmassonfunerals.com www.paulmassonfunerals.com

Easy parking on the forecourt and incorporating Seymour & Dench Florists at No 42, who provide flowers for all occasions.

 **Paul Masson
Funerals Ltd**

What's your style?

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Limited Editions

A good starting point when furnishing your home is knowing your style in interior décor. For me it's eclectic; a happy mix of old and new objects from contemporary to vintage styles, including inherited and found items. Place them against a neutral backdrop or a strong colour, making sure that at every turn there is something interesting or fun to look at. Your style is part of you and lets your personality shine through. There are many styles to choose from, below are just a few examples. A nice idea is to create your own style developed from an interest or a collection of favourite items.

Vintage styling chosen from many eras can be striking, whether your choice is from the 1940s with its attractive floral prints, vintage 1950s featuring geometric designs or the 1960s with the choice of abstract designs, psychedelic patterns, G plan furniture, Biba prints or the world of Andy Warhol. According to the online dictionary Merriam Webster, styles need to be at least 20 years old to be called vintage. Objects, lighting, historical events and music all play a part in creating the look.

Traditional style is a popular choice and will always be in fashion. The style uses heavier, chunkier classical pieces that won't date but perhaps are not always suitable for modern day interiors. Wardrobes, cabinets, tables and chairs with elaborate or turned details on dark wood such as mahogany or oak. Symmetry is a must and objects are set to balance with each other in size and position. Rich colours and patterns on fabrics and carpets, gilt picture frames and antique objects all generate a look that is timeless. Sofas sit raised on turned wooden legs next to nests of tables and in winter roaring log fires in iron grates offer homeliness.

Contemporary style suits modern homes, with its sleek lines and pleasing designs. The furnishings are without detailing on the arms and legs, and a good example is 1950s G plan. Contemporary style uses a mix of materials often with a high gloss finish, including metal, chrome and glass, and room layouts are asymmetrical, giving a more animated feel than the symmetry of the traditional style. Mixed textures such as leather, fake fur, glass and acrylic add depth, while graphic designs on cushions add to the look.

Industrial style echoes a loft/warehouse/factory atmosphere. Be creative with wire mesh, metal units, vintage factory metal lockers, old tea chests, metal chairs, tables created from lab benches and old desks. Breathe new life into furnishings never meant for the home, such as factory sewing machine tables and stools made from old tractor seats, set against concrete and exposed brickwork.

Something a bit glitzier is Hollywood Style. Not for everyone but have fun with posters, fake furs, mirrors lit with LEDs, neon lights, glamorous seating such as The Lips Mae West Sofa inspired by Salvador Dali.

Have fun adding to your own style.

Picturehouse
THE CHAPEL GALLERY
WWW.PICTURESQUE-CHAPELGALLERY.CO.UK

**ON-SITE WORKSHOPS
OVER 400 DIFFERENT MOULDINGS
HAND-PAINTED AND GILDED FRAMES
TO YOUR SPECIFICATION
RESTORATION
ORIGINALS AND PRINTS BY LOCAL ARTISTS
UNUSUAL ITEMS FRAMED
COMMISSIONS FOR PORTRAITS TAKEN**

TELEPHONE : 01444 412827

**CHAPEL GALLERY, BROOK STREET,
CUCKFIELD, WEST SUSSEX RH175JL**

**ON SITE PARKING
OPENING HOURS 9-5 MONDAY-FRIDAY
9-1 SATURDAY**

(OUT OF HOURS OPENING BY ARRANGEMENT)

EMAIL : TESSA@PICTURESQUE-CHAPELGALLERY.CO.UK

Get your message out to the village

CuckfieldLife

Call David or Matt today on 01444 884115,
email ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk
or see www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Plea to save Play Meadow

The fight to save the Cuckfield Play Meadow is far from over as residents continue their campaign to preserve the well loved open space.

President of the Cuckfield Society Stephen Cockburn has made an impassioned plea to Mid Sussex District Council appealing to councillors to reconsider their decision. Here we publish extracts from his letter.

By Stephen Cockburn

As William Shakespeare put into the mouth of King Henry the Fifth in his great St Crispin's Day Speech before Agincourt 'Old men forget, yet all shall be forgot' but not in Cuckfield. We do not forget the perfidy of the Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC).

This destruction of an asset of the people of Cuckfield by the very people charged with protecting the same is disgraceful. It is quite outrageous that MSDC should seek to sell off our assets to meet the difference between its income and its ill-managed expenditure.

The recent letter from Charlotte Jones, published in the Mid Sussex Times, was a model of measured criticism. She had observed the debate in the Council Chamber at which the two Cuckfield representatives had spoken eloquently and forcefully against the application for outline planning consent to build on the Play Meadow.

Alas, the impassioned pleas of the Cuckfield representatives fell on deaf ears, as she related. In particular she ridiculed the point made by no less than a Cabinet Member that by giving themselves a planning consent that would have been granted to no other applicant (since the Play Meadow is outside of the Cuckfield built up area) the Council was contributing to easing 'housing need' in the area. This is a claim made by the applicant in the following words: "building this house on a site of open amenity green-space will provide an opportunity to create an additional dwelling within an area where there is a shortage of new homes."

Last March the villages of Mid Sussex were ranked ninth in the Halifax survey for the top 50 rural areas with the best quality of life in Britain. Councillor Garry Wall, leader of MSDC, was quoted as commenting: "It's always nice to be recognised in surveys like this but the results simply confirm what local people already know – that Mid Sussex is an excellent place to live. We are blessed in this beautiful district with low crime rates, high levels of employment and excellent PUBLIC GREEN SPACES." (My emphasis)

Why then is the Council he leads hell-bent on destroying the very asset we cherish: a public green space in the very heart of Cuckfield? Do I detect just a whiff of hypocrisy? In fact it reeks!

The Conservation Officer of MSDC has stated that with regard to the Play Meadow: "the new development will not result in substantial harm to the special character of the designated heritage asset as a whole." So no worry then – the admitted harm is not 'substantial'.

She goes on: "Section 134 of the NPPF (whatever that may be) states that 'Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be

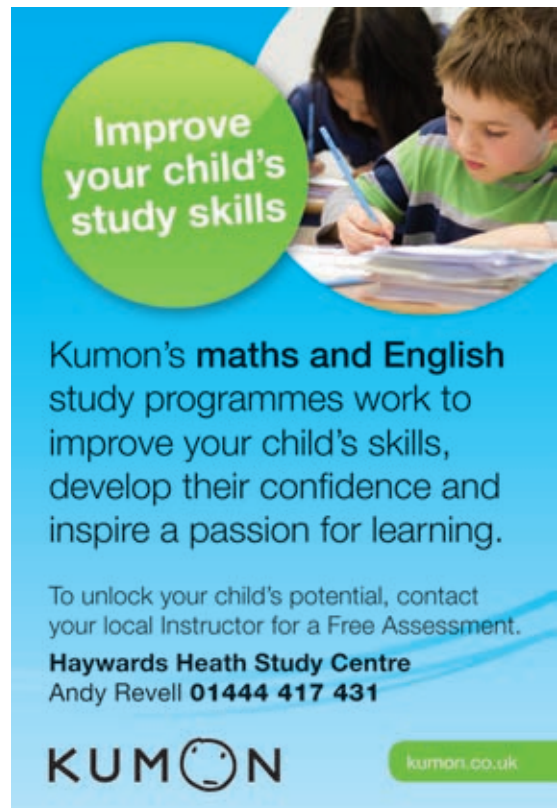
weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use'."

Can anybody identify 'the public benefits of this proposal' which in her own words 'will lead to less than substantial harm'?

She concludes that: "An on balance decision should be made as to whether the benefits of development outweigh the minor damage to the character of a component of the Cuckfield Conservation Area." Note the damage is just 'minor'!

I ask again, what benefit does this development have to outweigh the, in our opinion, not minor, not less than substantial, but the total and permanent loss of what even she has to admit was formerly used as a community amenity?

This whole business is a scandal and an outrage – everybody involved in promoting or allowing it should be ashamed of themselves.




Improve your child's study skills

Kumon's maths and English study programmes work to improve your child's skills, develop their confidence and inspire a passion for learning.

To unlock your child's potential, contact your local Instructor for a Free Assessment.

Haywards Heath Study Centre
Andy Revell 01444 417 431

KUMON 

kumon.co.uk

Golf Society season ends and starts

By Ken Gregory

Another very successful year for the society came to a climax at Mid Sussex Golf Club on 17th October. We have now been to nine very good golf clubs throughout what has been a very good summer and seen some good scoring by our members.

In September we had our annual tour down to the Ashbury Golf Complex near Okehampton, Devon, at which Stan Longhurst managed to retain the cup for the second year.

Other competitions run through the year are the Millennium Trophy and the Alf Goodwin Shield, won by myself and Edward Kind respectively.

Our AGM is to be held at the Rose & Crown on 20th November at 8pm, anyone is welcome, with our first fixture for next year the following day.

New members are always made very welcome. If you would like any further information please contact me on 01444 457547.



A Christmas Tree Story

By Sally Williams

My first thought on waking on 13th December 2013 was 'I must get a Christmas Tree and I don't want to spend more than £10! Sadly I had missed the Christmas Tree Festival the previous weekend.

The next thing that happened that morning was me reading Cuckfield Life. I turned to the back page and saw the beautiful picture of Iris Symonds, whom I had known for over 40 years, the wife of Andrew. I read the obituary.

On Fridays I try to get to the 11am Communion Service at Holy Trinity Church - a straightforward affair, no hymns, no sermon, just the King James version. As I walked through the Lych Gate I spied three Christmas Trees lying on the grass. I could have one for a £10 donation. I chose the best; the Baptist Church tree!

Into church I went, announcing I wished to purchase the tree and waving a tenner! As the service proceeded I gave thought to how I would get said tree into my car! I felt I needed help. After all it was over 6ft and I am a little lady of 80! Outside in the car park I heard: "How are you going to get it into your car?" from a stranger, who then helped push the back seat down, shoved it in and bent up the spire.

"I'm Heather and I have just been looking at the flowers on Iris Symond's grave. I'm a Baptist," she said. "Oh, please could you tell Andrew that Sally Williams has their lovely tree?" I asked.

So that is the story of my 2013 Christmas Tree.

It was after all Friday 13th December, some people feel that it will not bring them good luck but I feel differently about it. In Numerology you add the numbers together - 13 - 1 + 3 = 4 and there is no problem with four. It means stability, it relates to the earth being created on the fourth day in the biblical story of creation and after all Christmas is a wonderful celebration.



GCSE, A-Level, conversation, business.

All levels taught by qualified and experienced native speaker.

Contact:

Béatrice

Tel: 01825 790080

Email: bea29fini@gmail.com

Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival

Our twelfth starts on
the twelfth

Now a permanent feature in Cuckfield's social diary, next month will see the twelfth Christmas Tree Festival take place at Holy Trinity Church on the following days:

Friday 12th Dec	11.30am to 7.30pm
Saturday 13th Dec	11.30am to 6.30pm
Sunday 14th Dec	11.30am to 5pm

The Festival will culminate on the Sunday with a Carol Service among the trees starting at 6pm, after which mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

Raising money for the Church and this year's chosen life-saving charity, Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance (KSSAA), the Festival has already donated £44,300 to charity. Admission is £4, with children FREE when accompanied by an adult. A programme of live music will cover the whole three days and refreshments ranging from coffee to snacks, light lunches and afternoon tea and cakes will be available throughout. The atmosphere is as magical as it is fantastic!

KSSAA provides a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service for everyone living, working and travelling in the counties - any one of us may need it. Two helicopters, one based at Marden in Kent and the other at Redhill in Surrey, can reach the furthest part of each county within 20 minutes, can land in remote and rural areas as well as urban and congested areas.

The highly-skilled specialist doctor and critical care paramedics effectively take to the scene the type of expertise and equipment normally found only in the resuscitation area of a hospital's A&E department. If necessary, they can then carry out life-saving advanced medical procedures at the scene, giving patients the best chance and quality of survival.

Patients are then rapidly taken to the most appropriate hospital according to their needs, which is often one of the major trauma centres in London.

The charity launched its night flying operation last December and now attends between six and eight call-outs a day. It costs about £6million a year to keep both helicopters flying, including the £2,500 cost of each call-out.

For more information about the Festival, including the three-day musical programme, please visit www.cuckfieldctf.org.uk




Vere
Consulting Ltd

Accountants and Tax Consultants

Experienced accountants providing small businesses and individuals with a tailored accountancy and tax service, including:-

Accounting Systems, Company Secretarial, Management Accounts, Bookkeeping, VAT, Budgeting, Corporation Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Self Assessment, Statutory Accounts & Payroll

For a free, no obligation, quote or informal chat please call or email to discuss how we can help.

Telephone: 07971 816357

email: info@vereconsulting.co.uk

website: www.vereconsulting.co.uk

What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

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)

November

28th **'Great Expectations'** by Charles Dickens

December

- 5th **ISOC Christmas Party** and Home Cooked Lunch – 12.30pm. Sarah Galbraith-Gibbons on 01444 457475 or e-mail sarahgg@sky.com
12th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club** 7.30 for 7.45pm Christmas workshop – make a door wreath or table centre (Sue Spooner 01444 831602)

AND ELSEWHERE

November

- 18th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – The Old School 8pm Cuckfield Museum talk by David Jamieson
20th **Cuckfield Boutique Village** – Late Night Shopping event from 5pm
22nd **Warden Park Christmas Shopping Fair** Warden Park School 10am–4pm. Free entry
22nd **Charity Christmas Fair** Ashenground Community Centre, HH 2.30-4.30pm. All proceeds to Kangaroos.
23rd **Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving** Holy Trinity Church 2.30pm
26th **Royal British Legion Womens Section** – The Old School 2.30pm. My Travels talk by Sally Williams
28th **St Andrew's Night Celebration** – Wivelsfield Village Hall. Dinner/dance hosted by Mid Sussex Caledonian Society. New members and guests welcome (details and tickets 01403 713 719)
29th **Advent Service of Light followed by breakfast** Holy Trinity Church 8.30am
29th **Ensemble Reza Concert** Holy Trinity Church 7.30pm
30th **Advent Sunday Special Advent Carol Service** Holy Trinity Church 6pm

December

- 2nd **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – Franklands Village Hall 10.15am. Pet Partners talk by Julie Graham
2nd **Wilbury Jam plays The Priory** The Priory, Haywards Heath 7.30pm. Tickets £15 (from It's Magic Events Box Office on 01444 800045, www.itsmagic.org.uk or from Baldwins)
3rd **Macmillan Coffee Morning** – Court Meadow 10am
10th **Royal British Legion Womens Section** Christmas Party – The Old School 2.30pm
10th **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society Lecture** – Clair Hall, Haywards Heath 10.15am for 10.45am. Musical and Cultural Life in Shakespeare's England by Jeremy Barlow (www.mid-sussexdfas.org.uk)
13th **Cuckfield Local market** Talbot Courtyard 9.30am - 12.30pm
19th **Cuckfield Golf Centre Christmas Party** 7.30pm Festive Feast (buffet), DJ and a glass of fizz on arrival. Tickets £20.95

Our advertisers

CALL THEM!

Services

Flint & Co (estate agents).....	2
Haywards Heath Auto Centre.....	3
Sussex Wealth Management.....	4
Cuckfield Pest Control.....	4
Damian Stanley Garden Services	6
Dawn Benson Accountancy Ltd.....	6
Dwell (architecture)	9
Bonaventure Finance	15
Jesse's Creature Comforts	15
SG Ward (mobile mechanic)	16
Marcus Grimes (estate agents)	20
Enduro Shield (cleaning)	21
AB FAB Dogs (dog day care).....	22
David Willis Fine Furniture	24
Ginkgo Garden Solutions	28
Paul Masson Funerals	29
Vere Consulting Ltd.....	33
Marcus Grimes (estate agents)	B

Retail

The Green Tree Gallery.....	15
Claire Goldsmith Photography.....	24
Picturesque Chapel Gallery.....	30

Out & About

Cuckfield Baptist Church.....	5
AV Cars (private hire taxi).....	7
The Talbot Cuckfield	8
Western & Oriental (travel)	9
Tory's Cafe in the Park	14
Chez Fleur.....	17
Bluebell Railway	17
Cuckfield Local Food Market.....	22
Highley Manor Hotel.....	23

Education/Childcare

Norto 5 Kidz (nursery care).....	3
Burgess Hill School for Girls	13
Tavistock & Summerhill School.....	28
Kumon (tuition)	31
French Tuition	32

Health/Lifestyle

Guy Tomlinson Fitness	17
Potential Personal Training.....	25
The Perrymount Clinic.....	29
Cuckfield Chiropractic Centre	35



Cuckfield Chiropractic

- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Headaches
- Sports Injuries

Book your FREE 10 minute consultation today

Call 01444 452220
Cuckfield Chiropractic Clinic
Little Bees, Whitemans Green,
Cuckfield, RH17 5DB

www.cuckfieldchiropractic.co.uk

Fascinating Facts!

- 1092** Cuckfield from Saxon times. Meaning 'Cuckoo-inhabited open field'
- 1092-8** Early records suggest the existence of an 11th Century village Church (Holy Trinity)
- 1255** Evidence supports permanent settlement took place in the village with the granting of a Tuesday market
- 1512** Cuckfield Old School was founded making it one of the oldest operating schools in the UK
- 1820** 50 stage coaches a day past through the High Street on route between London to Brighton
- 1822** The first dinosaur remains were found at Cuckfield's Whiteman's Green
- 1897** The Queens Hall was built to celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee
- 1995** Mansell Mc Taggart opened its doors in Church Street Cuckfield before later relocating to larger offices in the High Street in 2007
- 2012** Holy Trinity primary school celebrated 500 years of learning
- 2014** Mansell McTaggart totals 17 offices offering unrivalled levels of quality service and value

So if you are considering selling in **2015** and interested in a No sale No fee professional marketing service with no hidden costs or fixed time restraints then call us today to arrange a FREE no obligation market appraisal.

Preferential selling rates for Cuckfield residents



**MANSELL
McTAGGART**
ESTATE AGENTS SINCE 1947

Richard Butler MNAEA, Director
richardbutler@
mansellmctaggart.co.uk
Twitter @mansellcuck

The Nook, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5JX Tel: 01444 417600
Email: richardbutler@mansellmctaggart.co.uk
17 Branches across Sussex

www.mansellmctaggart.co.uk

Also at 119 Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1 – www.gulldproperty.co.uk