

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty, Staplefield & Bolnore Village

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #37 : Nov/Dec '15

Free

Shop locally this Christmas

page 10

Mayor's Procession photo round-up

page 16

Upcoming rugby star in Village People

page 8

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By David Tingley, Editor

The village has been buzzing since the spectacular that is the **Mayor's Procession** last month. Huge congratulations to **Ken Gregory** on his appointment to the role of Mayor. Ken kicks things off as he means to go on with his regular column on **page 15**. This is quickly followed on **pages 16/17** with photos from the weekend. Can you spot yourself or someone you recognise?

On **page 8** Claire Cooper talks to **James Chisholm** – a local lad who is rising through the ranks of professional rugby. Currently a star in the England U20 squad, he is making quite an impression on the sport, all of which was started with a rugby ball on Whitemans Green when he was just four years old.

Another local who has kindly agreed to share their story in our pages is Cuckfield resident **David Spear**. He was lucky enough to meet Professor Stephen Hawking recently – but the reason why is a fascinating tale of one man's determination to welcome adventure. Read all about it on **page 12**, kindly written by **Georgia Lambert**.

If you are reading this from the comfort of **Bolnore Village** - where CL is also delivered - then we have specific news and information for you on **page 25**.

We always welcome news from **Bolnore** and **Cuckfield** to be sent in ahead of the regular copy date of 28th of the month. This can include **events taking place locally** for our **What's On** section on **page 30**.

Amazingly there will be some who have already finished their Christmas shopping! However, for the rest of us a number of local businesses are doing their best to make suggestions in our **Christmas Gifts feature** on **page 10**. Do check it out and see what they have to offer. Remember that local shopping can be a great joy for a number of reasons.

In the meantime I will sign off until our next issue when Christmas will be very much upon us. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as we did putting it together for you.

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Cuckfield Life

The Barn, Hurstwood Grange,
Hurstwood Lane, RH17 7QX

Telephone 01444 884115
www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Editor: David Tingley
Assistant: Claire Cooper
<editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk>

Advertising: Karishma Vadgama
<ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk>

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Cuckfield Life Published by Kipper



David Tingley
Winter sun shining across
Cuckfield's High Street

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

Animal shoebox appeal

An animal lover from Mid Sussex is organising a Christmas shoebox appeal for Raystede Animal Welfare Centre.

The centre, which is based near Lewes, has been caring for animals for over 60 years. Every year the centre rescues, re-homes or provides sanctuary for more than 1,500 animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, horses & donkeys.

The drop off point in Cuckfield is Gardenia Tea House and there are other points in the area.

For more information about donating a box and the appeal's wish list, please contact Justine at shooboxappeal@yahoo.co.uk or call 07724 352777. The appeal is running until 18th December.



Golf Society season ends

By Ken Gregory

The last golf day of Cuckfield Golf Society's season 'Captains Day' was held at Cottesmore Golf Club last month with this year's Captain Edward King welcoming 12 members to the club.

So after ten very good golf days, in the end it was myself who won the day with 36pts, followed by Tony Bean 33pts and Stan Longhurst with 31pts. The Alf Goodwin Trophy was won by Tony Bean.

Once again, this year our golf tour went to the Ashbury Golf Complex, overlooking Dartmoor, for four rounds which was won by next year's captain, David Ericson, with a cumulative score of 144pts.

We thank Edward for his input over the last year and hope he enjoyed it and now look forward to David's first Golf Day which will be at Pyecombe on the 27th November. Full English breakfast at 9.30am and 18 holes of golf, so let's have a good turn out.

Finally, if anyone would like to join our Society we would be more than happy to welcome you as we would like to increase our membership. For more details contact me at ken.gregory47@btinternet.com



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Enjoy a boutique shopping night

A number of Cuckfield shops will be open late into the evening for a special late night shopping experience on Wednesday 18th November.

The retailers – who label themselves as The Boutique Village – are aiming to inspire local shoppers with fresh produce, goodies to sample, wine tasting, raffles and door prizes. Of course, they will also see some wonderful ideas for Christmas presents.

Participating shops include: Cuckfield Bathrooms, Cuckfield Candy Store & More, Cuckfield I Wear, editsecondhand, Ensor Interior Design, JoJo Boutique, Neilson, Nicky C, Pepperbox, Tom's Food, The Talbot and Willo Baby & Childrenswear.



Tree Festival opens

By Paul Goldfinch

Our festival is going to be held Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December inclusive. We will have 81 beautifully decorated and lit trees on display. These have been individually decorated by local schools, clubs, societies and businesses.

Our Partner Charity this year is The Chestnut Tree House Children's hospice. We have a full LIVE musical programme throughout with many local school choirs as well as our customary instrumentalists playing AND our wonderful organist Vicar, Rev Michael Maine

Refreshments including light lunch will be available on each of the three days. Door entry is £4 and children under 16 years are FREE.

A colorful poster for 'Jack and Jill Carers & Toddlers' at Cuckfield Baptist Church. The background is a vibrant green field with various flowers and a yellow sun in the top left. The text is arranged in a central column. At the top, 'Jack and Jill' is in large pink letters, followed by 'Carers & Toddlers' in even larger pink letters. Below that, 'Cuckfield Baptist Church' is in white, followed by the address 'Polestub Lane, Cuckfield, RH17 5GP' in white. The days and times 'Tuesdays in term time 9.30-11.15am' are in purple. The next line, 'Fresh coffee and time-out for mums, dads and carers', is in yellow. Below that, 'Free play, craft, stories, songs and refreshments for 0-4 year olds' is in white. At the bottom, 'For more information call 01444 473531' and 'Or click on www.cuckfieldbaptistchurch.co.uk' are in purple.

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Scrooge set to visit Cuckfield this winter

Famed for its Shakespeare summer season UK tours, Rain or Shine Theatre Company is delighted to be on tour again this Christmas with a unique adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale which is coming to The Queen's Hall in December.

A host of Dickens' charming and comical characters bring the story to life with energy and wit, and festive audiences are invited to share in Ebenezer's journey as he travels with the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future to discover a life changing meaning to Christmas.

Set in authentic Victorian costume, with a cast of five playing a whole host of characters and with surprises throughout, Rain or Shine aim to delight and enchant those new to the tale and those who already know it. This family show is suitable for everyone aged 6 and above.

Producer Jayne Meekings said: "Many of our summer venues have asked us to perform again for them indoors during the winter, so we couldn't resist this opportunity to offer a brand new adaptation of Dickens' famous Christmas story by the artistic director Tom Jordan."

The tour includes a one night only performance in The Queen's Hall, Cuckfield on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £10 (child £6) are available from the venue (01444 451610) or direct from the Rain Or Shine Credit Card hotline: 03306 600541.



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Dressed up karate!

After three years training in Cuckfield Youth Centre (now Cuckfield Village Hall), Seishin Karate held a scare-ific Halloween party recently. With some very impressive fancy dress outfits from adults and children alike, it truly bought the family feel of the club to new heights. From

eating doughnuts on strings to assembling skeletons, a great time was had all round. A great way to end October, especially after a successful grading of seven students the previous weekend! The club trains every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning, and everyone is welcome to come along and try it out.

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James Chisholm

VILLAGE PEOPLE

The hopes and dreams of rugby fans all over the country were dashed last month as host nation England made a dramatic early exit from this year's Rugby World Cup.

However, in Cuckfield spirits have been lifted by the success of the country's under 20s squad and, in particular, local hero James Chisholm whose stunning performance led the team to victory in the Six Nations Championship.

James, who grew up in Cuckfield, was crowned Man of the Match following the historic game – the first to be played at Brighton's Amex stadium – and went on to lead the team to the World Cup final in Italy.

It's been a remarkable year for the 19 year old, who first picked up a rugby ball on Whiteman's Green at just four years old!

By Claire Cooper

A talent for sport certainly runs in the Chisholm family and James, the youngest of three brothers, was kicking a ball from an early age.

"Dad had a couple of years as a professional footballer with Everton and went on to coach the England U18 team, so I played a lot of football," said James. But instead of following in his father's footsteps, James was encouraged to try other sports.

"Dad and mum wanted their boys to play a sport they knew nothing about so they could have no influence over it," James added. "I joined Haywards Heath Rugby Club at Whitemans Green and was hooked! Rugby was always my favourite game – I was never very good at football!"

A student at Warden Park Academy, James' talent for rugby was soon recognised and he was selected to captain the school team. He also excelled at field sports and became Sussex U18 high jump champion.

In 2010 James had his first taste of success when Warden Park Under 15s reached the quarter-finals of the Daily Mail Schools' w Cup. "We took on Wellington College and lost by five points but felt we should have won," James recalled.

"It was the best run the school had ever had and it was very upsetting at the time because it could have been us playing at Twickenham in the final. We went to watch but felt it should have been us instead."

After leaving Warden Park, James studied biology, physical education and a BTEC in Sport at Brighton College, where he also became captain of the first XV rugby team.

Up to the age of 15, James had played at centre but a move to 'blindsid flanker' proved to be a turning point in his rugby career, leading to selection for Sussex, London & South East and England U16A and U17.

James took inspiration from Lawrence Dallaglio. "I used to love watching him. I wanted to run into blokes and get stuck in like he did!" He also credits HHRFC's John Graham and his school coach Steve Heaton with putting him firmly on the path to success.





In 2013 James' rugby career reached new heights when he was selected to captain the under 18 England squad. On his debut match and wearing the No. 8 shirt, James led the team to an impressive 57-13 win over Scotland at Darlington. He also led the side to a 27-22 victory over hosts France at Grenoble in the subsequent FIRA/AER final, scoring three tries in the tournament.

Later that year James captained the team in a tour of South Africa, scoring another two touchdowns in the opening match. He went on to captain the side in all three games that produced wins over Wales by 17-15 and France by 12-8.

During this time James had also secured a coveted place at the Harlequins Academy, joining his older brother Ross who plays at first team level for the club. "It's really comforting to do something special with a person you are really close to," said James, who continued his success following a move to the England Under 20 squad.

His maiden try for England U20 was against Scotland at Galashiels in February 2014 and he shared in the side's IRB Junior World Championship triumph in New Zealand the following June, playing in all five matches.

He scored two tries in the 63-3 pool win over Italy, added another when England lost 21-15 to Wales at Colwyn Bay in the opening game of the Six Nations Championship and made his fifth touchdown at this level against Scotland. He also scored tries against France and South Africa during the World Championship in Italy this June.

But perhaps the highlight of his career came this summer when James was named as the BMW Man of the Match following England's victory in the Under 20's Six Nations Championship. With the final held at the Amex Stadium in Brighton just weeks before the stadium played host to the first matches of the Rugby World Cup, the victory was even sweeter!

"It was amazing but tough at times. We knew we could win but it was tremendous to do it in Brighton," said James, who went on to be named as the World Rugby U20 Championship Player of the Year. "Winning was an awesome feeling and I was so proud of all the guys.

"We made it hard for ourselves by losing the opening game against Wales, but we regrouped and came back really strongly.

"For me, as a local guy, to play at the Amex stadium in front of an amazing crowd and get the win was pretty special. It is an experience that will definitely live long in the memory for me."

James completed the season with a magnificent performance in the Junior World Cup in Italy, where England narrowly lost to New Zealand in the final and James was awarded 'Man of the Tournament' last received by England's George Ford.

James currently lives in Surrey with both his brothers Ross and Ali but enjoys regular visits to the family home in Cuckfield. Older brother Ali, having completed a degree at Exeter University, works locally and plays semi professional rugby for Esher RFC. "It's awesome to live with my brothers – we get on really well and I couldn't wish for a better place to live," said James, who approaches this season hoping to feature in Quins premiership title aspirations.

James hopes the success of the Under 20s team and the high profile Rugby World Cup matches at Brighton will encourage a new generation of rugby players in Sussex.

"The World Cup opening games provided an amazing opportunity for people in Sussex to come and watch some high-level teams," said James.

"Sussex doesn't really have a rugby team at a top level but hopefully this will help Brighton, Worthing and other local clubs open their doors to some new faces."

Sadly the England senior team failed to emulate the Under 20s success and rugby fans all over Great Britain were heartbroken to see all four teams leave the tournament before the semi-finals.

But with the youth team going from strength to strength, and with players like James Chisholm, the future looks bright for the next World Cup in four year's time when Cuckfield could have its own special reason to celebrate!

Header photo: Six Nations' Player of the Tournament. Left top: James with brothers Ross and Alistair. Left bottom: James, aged 6, with his first medal with HHRFC Minis. Top of this page: Junior World Cup Player of the Tournament 2015 – Final vs New Zealand.

Christmas shopping starts here!

Here's a range of products which are available from local businesses.

Great inspiration to kickstart any Christmas shopping list!

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Our own spaceman

By Georgia Lambert

Cuckfield resident David Spear is waiting for his chance to join 699 others on a once in a lifetime trip into space with Virgin Galactic. David signed up for the first commercial flight in 2008 and, after forking out a lot of money, he fed his desire to one day have an astronautic experience. Since then he has been subjected to all kinds of training regimes and trips around the world in preparation for this 'long haul flight'. I wonder what the plane food is like...

Astrophysicist Professor Stephen Hawking supports the programme and David was lucky enough to be one of the few who were able to attend a recent special event at Cambridge University to learn more about what scientists want to achieve in the future. The Virgin Galactic programme is driven by the deeply human need to explore the universe, to generate new and lasting technologies and to create a better future for the human race by heroically opening a new frontier. The programme now has a former space shuttle pilot on board too.

With trips to NASTAR in Philadelphia, America, David had to undergo tests and flight training exercises to prepare his mind and body. For example, he has been spun in a centrifuge up to 6.5G - this prepared him for the dynamic forces of take-off and re-entry. By enduring this, it taught him how to stay conscious and it is very similar to what American fighter pilots do at the same training facility. Expressing excitement David said: "Our future flight commences at 50,000 feet when we are dropped from the mother ship. Then we will rocket to 368,000 feet. Our top speed will be about 2,600mph!"

As a child in April 1961 David saw a news clip of Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. He turned to his dad and asked: "What's space?" His dad replied: "It's above the

sky son. You can't breathe out there - that's why they wear the space suit." Four year old David looked out of the window, then back at the television. This was the moment David says he 'signed up'. From then on he was hooked and watched every space flight with a resounding urge that one day he would become an astronaut.

"In 1961 I watched Yuri Gagarin in awe as the first man in space."

With the explorer gene passed down from generations of men, David has proven to be a resilient and courageous adventurer. Aside from becoming an astronaut, he has completed the Inca Trail in Peru, climbed Mount Roraima (the legendary mountain in Conan Doyle's book 'The Land that Time Forgot') in Venezuela, trekked to Mount Everest Base Camp and, if that wasn't enough, he has led treks in remote parts of Nepal - while dodging the odd rhino here and there! While in Peru, David followed in history's footsteps and visited the copper mines that his great grandfather worked at in the 1890s and, using his old pictures, David stood on the spot in which his grandfather had stood 105 years before. He is like Marco Polo and Neil Armstrong rolled into one!

David has ongoing support from his family and friends. He said that his daughters are not surprised that he wants to embark on this next adventure, as they have seen him gallivant around the world completing these amazing adventures. What do people say to David about his plans? "Most folk say: 'go for it, you only live once!'"



Dave 'G'

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First past the post

FROM THE MAYOR'S TABLE



By Ken Gregory

The election weekend was another great success this year with me winning for a fourth time and I look forward to my year as Mayor of Cuckfield.

Firstly, I would like to thank Rob Halliwell for all the work he contributed last year, which I hope he enjoyed, and also for hosting this year's Election at the Wheatsheaf.

The four other candidates all raised good money: Paul Leppard £34.72, Rob Halliwell £24.02, Leanne Knapman £1,341.24, Ross Bradshaw £1,402.25. Many thanks to them. My campaign started back at the beginning of the year with collecting tins around the village, raffles at the Rose and Crown and stalls at village events. The biggest event was my charity golf day with an auction and raffle at the Rose and Crown bringing my grand total to £2,201.93 and a total for the election to £5,004.16.

In the procession the following day saw twenty three floats taking part – one of the biggest ever – with the pre-school playgroup winning the first prize and cup. Second was Orchard House, with the Singing Allsorts third. The winner of the small float was BPM. There was a very good crowd in the High Street to see the handing over of the keys and Brillo entertained the children.

The village service at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, with photos of the weekend, brought a very good weekend for the ISOC to an end.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the Independent State of Cuckfield and we are looking for 50 candidates to stand for election. So if you would like to stand and raise some funds please let me know.

Now I am off on holiday for a couple of weeks but will be back in time for my regular report next month.

See more photos from the weekend overleaf...



A great turn out

MAYOR'S PROCESSION PHOTOS





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VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

Just recently I was spending a few days on the northern island of Orkney. Waterproofs, boots and warm clothes were the order of the day or so we thought. Surprise, surprise, we were blessed with two days of clear weather. The seas and lochs were glassy calm, the sun warm and the scenery heart achingly beautiful. Hearing a skein of geese honking as they flew in the distance made me really appreciate how vitally important it is to hold our ground here in Sussex in the face of the encroaching concrete carpet and cloned housing estates. I am not BANANA, Build Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone, but there is a line to be drawn one feels. Something I discovered whilst chatting to locals is that Orkney generates much of its energy from renewables and is often able to export electricity. The first wind turbine was tested there in the 1950s and now there are 470 on the islands. It is also home to the European Marine Energy Centre; the world's first and only real-sea facility for testing machines that generate electricity from waves and tides.

That is really good news but, closer to home, I have to tell you of a 'spanner in the works'! Many of you have been diligently collecting your plastic tops and lids for a long time now and bringing them to the Cuckfield Market for specialist recycling. Thank you so much. You have made a real difference. Sadly, the gentleman who has been taking our small plastic items to the recycling company in Worksop is changing direction and will no longer be able to offer us this facility. As from December we are only taking standard red, blue and green milk bottle tops and nothing else. The good news is that we can now put large plastic and metal lids such as those from coffee jars, margarine pots, large cosmetic tubs, jam or mayonnaise jars in our blue bins, so all is not lost. Please remove them from the container and give them a quick clean. It is still a big NO to the small plastic tops from milk and soft drink bottles and other small items. They can fall through the holes in the large revolving drums and get mixed with glass, causing a problem. Please do not screw the standard milk bottle tops on to the empty bottles as they are squashed in the collecting vehicles, the tops pop off and the problem occurs. They are too small to be processed correctly by the sorting machinery. Now you know as much as I do.

On a brighter note, the next Cuckfield Local Food Market is on 12th December, our special Christmas Market. Come and celebrate with us at the Talbot between 9.30am-12.30pm. You can find yummy Christmas treats, buy wildlife friendly pressies, enjoy meeting friends and soak up the atmosphere. A warming drink in The Talbot? Not a bad idea.



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Postcard sparks special exhibition

CUCKFIELD MUSEUM

By Claire Cooper

A simple postcard of Cuckfield Church, sent from a young soldier billeted in the village to his mother in Peckham, was the inspiration behind the Armistice Day exhibition at Cuckfield Museum.

The postcard came to light earlier this year when a group of former evacuees gathered in the village for their annual lunch. "We were looking through a collection of postcards belonging to Sylvie Gray, when one of the church caught our eye," said Phillippa Malins from the Museum.

"It was sent in December 1914 and sounded as if it were from a soldier billeted in Cuckfield. We knew it was likely he was from the 2nd Btn of the 8th City of London Regt Post Office Rifles who were in the village training for six months between November 1914 and May 1915 before leaving for France."

Eager to find out more, Sarah Mees, the daughter-in-law of evacuee George Mees and a researcher at Kew, offered to do some work on the sender of the postcard, taking the name and address of his mother (Ma in the message) in Peckham as her starting point.

"She found that the sender was George Gates and his mother, Mrs Sinnamon, had been widowed and had remarried in 1910," said Phillippa. "It's interesting to see that George misspelt the new surname of his mother!"

Sarah found that George was 20 when the Great War started and had been working in the Post Office as a Telegraph Messenger boy, hence joining the Post Office Rifles. He also had a sister Helena who could have been the Nellie in the card – the name was frequently shortened. Sarah also found that George survived the war, having been commissioned as a 2nd Lt into the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

"He worked all his life for the Post Office, becoming a Supervisor," added Phillippa. "He married and had two children and died in 1970. It was fascinating to build up a picture of a life from this message on the back of a postcard!"

Delighted with what they had discovered, the museum volunteers took a wider look at the 6 months that the Post Office Rifles spent in Cuckfield. "Because they were billeted with families, the village became very attached to them," said Phillippa. "The Regiment put on entertainments for the children at Christmas – we have the invitation to a little girl called Daisy Keep. The villagers were allowed daily rations by the Army for the soldiers and we also have the billeting letter which went out."

She added that the amounts of meat and bread were generous (1lb meat and 1¼ lb bread) and families benefited from the extra food.

The exhibition also includes photos of soldiers billeted with local families and the PO Rifles being assembled in the middle of the High St!



Text of the postcard (above)

Dear Ma,

We were due to go to Cromer (East coast) next Sat: just been cancelled on account of bad weather. We were picked from the C of L (City of London) Regts as being the smartest. Evidently we were going to help defend the coast. This is a poor picture of the church we attend each Sun morn. A very old but good building. Please order 1/2 doz more photos. There is a great demand among the fellows. We are all exchanging dials (small portrait photos swapped as mementos between soldiers before leaving for the front). Will let Nellie know later of her visit. Find times of trains meanwhile.

Love to all, George

"It looks as if they're not quite ready and there is an atmosphere of familiarity with the children milling around."

In 1968 a plaque was placed in the churchyard to remember the men who didn't come back. Soldiers who had been billeted in 1914/15 returned for the ceremony and one met with the family who had looked after them so many years before and the exhibiton includes press cuttings from the event.

Also on display are two diaries from the Gallipoli campaign, 1915/16. "They were discovered recently in a house clearance in London Lane and had belonged to Col Robert Sayer who had been a Gunner at Gallipoli in the 26th Battery RFA, 17th Brigade, 29th Division," said Phillipa. "One is the official military diary for the Battery and the other is the personal, pencil written diary of one of the officers, 2nd Lt Ralph Chalkley.

"We are displaying the pages in the diaries which describe the terrible chaos of the retreat from Gallipoli in January 1916 when equipment had to be abandoned, efforts to blow up the equipment failed and horses had to be shot."

The Battery subsequently moved to Flanders where Ralph Chalkley was Mentioned in Dispatches and Robert Sayer was awarded the DCM and granted a commission in 1917.

"He went on to become a career soldier and was awarded the OBE as Regimental Paymaster for the Royal Army Pay Corps," added Phillipa.

Andrea King researched the life of Ralph Chalkley and found that he went to Sherborne School. A photo (right) shows him in the Officer Training Corps in 1912 when he was 16. This extremely young looking boy would be at war in two years time! Again, he survived the war.

"It's nice to think that the three men we've looked at in the display: George Gates, William Sayer and Ralph Chalkley, all survived."

The display will stay up until 12th December when the museum closes for the winter at 1pm.



What leather is the right leather for me?

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, interior designer

Shiny, worn or battered, distressed, textured or smooth, real or fake, what kind of leather would you like to adorn your new leather sofa? The choice comes from a wide list, from fake to the best quality leather, affecting price, look and life expectancy. If you are thinking about splashing out on a leather sofa the list below may be helpful.

Tanned leather is a natural, durable material but fake (faux) leather does have its plus points. Combinations of pvc (polyvinyl chloride), polyester, polyurethane and cotton are processed into many forms of faux leather. Simulated cowhide leather, crocodile skin, lizard and snake ensure that the real thing comes to no harm and can be generated in amazing natural and unnatural colours, resulting in an affordable and eco-friendly material. Produced in the 1920s, the first fake leather was composed of PVC but unfortunately the material was too artificial and sticky. Improvement was made in the 1970s by adding pores to the fake leather, rendering it breathable. Bad examples meant that the top coating of fake leather parted company with the fabric backing, leaving areas of fabric on the sofa and pieces of fake leather on someone's back.

Leather sofas used to bring to mind heavy buttoned chesterfields covered in shiny leather but nowadays good

quality leather can drape beautifully over all styles of furniture, adding warmth, style and comfort to your home.

The lowest priced leather is PU leather, also known as bi-cast leather. Split leather is the leather left behind when the top layer with the grain is peeled off. PU leather is made by taking this bottom layer and adding a polyurethane topping with a fake grain, making it shiny and wipeable. The polyurethane surface means that the PU leather doesn't age in the same attractive way as cowhide leather does and is not recommended for areas of high use. PU leather can have a smell of plastic rather than the lovely aroma of leather.

An online supplier lists the following grades:

A low price leather sofa equals low grade leather if it is covered in buffalo hide, which is really pig or goat leather.

The most basic of decent leather (cowhide) starts with corrected grain which has a protective finish.

A step up is semi-aniline leather which is softer, smoother and more luxurious. Double thickness leather has a heavy grain and is ideal for every day living.

Natural waxed leather gets its appearance from natural scarring, cuts and scrapes that the animal has had during life, giving it a natural look. Aniline leather is the best leather, the softest and most luxurious leather.

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Health & Wellbeing event success



Last month saw the Woodside's first Health & Wellbeing Fundraising Event. Organised by Bolnore resident Karly Harris, the Woodside was turned into a busy exhibition hall featuring Bolnore businesses Falcon Health Chiropractic and The Style Lounge, along with residents Ping Ping Bowen therapy and A Little Consideration P.T. and Life Coaching. Bolnore's Hey Diddle Diddle crafts & Harvey Smith's stationary impressed with their handy-work, while visitors and exhibitors from all around Mid Sussex took in health advice from group talks, enjoyed

great taster sessions from Salsa Julia and Nia Mid Sussex and helped themselves to the free samples on offer!

Funds raised for Woodside by exhibitors, a prize draw and Woodies Bar were gratefully received by Michael Bramble, venue manager, at the end of the day. "We're very much looking forward to more events like this. Woodside is the newest venue in Haywards Heath and we're now showing how we can host exhibitions, community events and more."

New cycle and pedestrian path linking Kingfisher Drive to old Rocky Lane bridge approved

Good news if you live near Kingfisher Drive, Highbank or Roundway. The proposed works to connect the southern end of Bolnore with the old Rocky Lane to form a pedestrian/cycle way have been approved by MSDC. We don't know much about the works but would hope that Crest gets started next spring. These works will give people living at the southern end of Bolnore an easier car-free route into Haywards Heath town centre without having to go through the woods.

A BIG thank you to the Co-operative

A massive THANK YOU to the Co-op in Bolnore which has donated loads of brand new toys to Saplings! Come along Tuesdays 9-11am in the Orchard Room at the school to test them out or at the Woodside, Fridays 9.30am until 12pm when the coffee shop is also open.

Christmas Fair 5th Dec

Friends of Bolnore Village Primary School are holding the annual Christmas Fair at the school on 5th December between 12-3pm. The group is looking for volunteers to help out at the fair. You don't need to be available the whole time (unless of course you want to). If you can help please let the committee know. Also, we would like to offer face-painting at the fair. Does anyone have the creative skills to help with this particular task? For more information please email: fobvps@gmail.com

Three years old and counting!

By David Tingley, editor

With last month's 36th issue we were able to mark three years in the village. This is great news for my small, but perfectly formed, team who work hard to create the magazine that many of you still tell us you love to read. Karishma Vadgama works with me in the office and Claire Cooper writes and collects most of the editorial content.

So now seems as good a time as any to highlight again how you can play a part in what we do. Below is a diagram which shows some easy ways. But, in truth, we love any form of interaction be it on social media (we are active on Twitter and Facebook), emails giving ideas or your opinions or phone calls to tell us if our delivery guys missed your house one month!

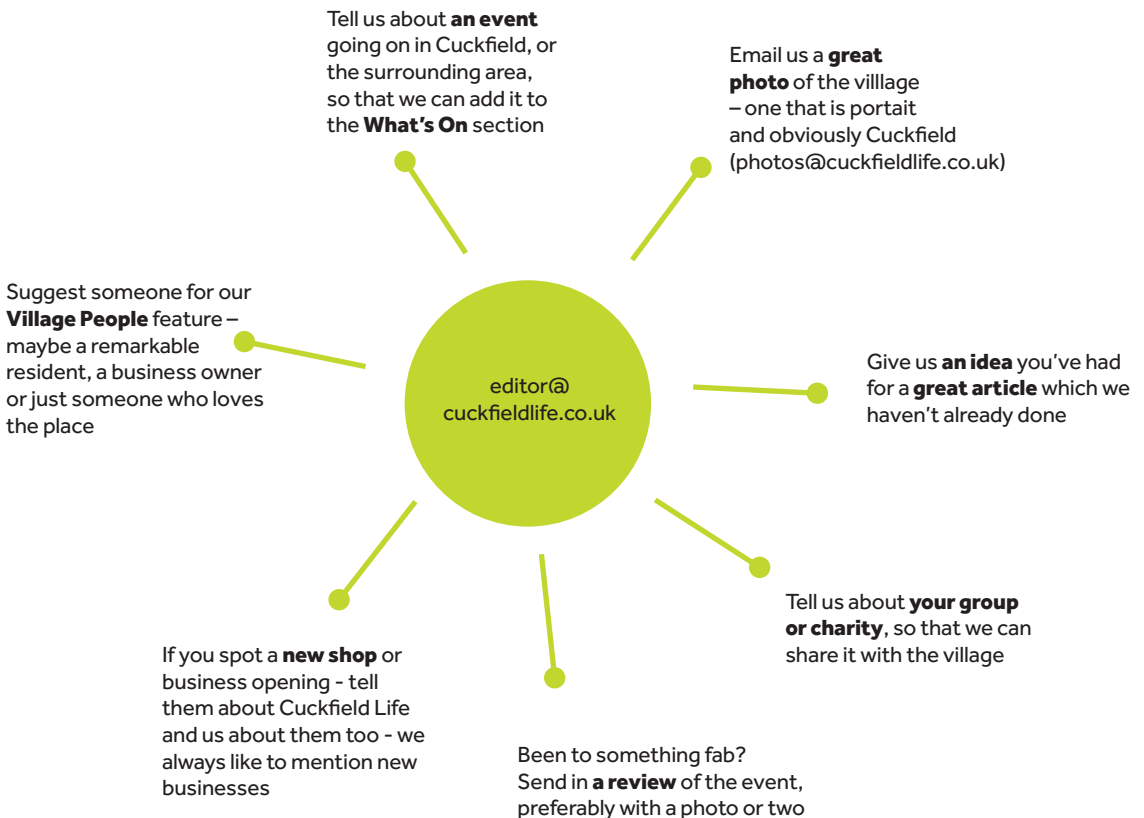
Thank you for all your continued support and we look forward to carrying on our service to Cuckfield for future years.

Oh, and please remember to tell our advertisers where you saw their business advertised!



How you can be involved...

As your local magazine we want as many residents and friends of Cuckfield as possible to be involved in every issue. Here's a few ideas about how you might do just that. We'd love to hear from you!



As well as contributing to the content of the magazine, we also need you to use the services of our advertisers - and don't forget to mention Cuckfield Life when you call or email! Remember, these advertisers make it possible for us to create and deliver your magazine to you completely free-of-charge every month.

Winter lanterns on show



Following the success of last year's inaugural and magical 'Glow Wild Winter Lantern Festival' at Wakehurst Place in Ardingly, this wonderful after-dark event has been extended this year! For six nights, from the 4th-6th and 11th-13th December, visitors will have the chance to see Wakehurst, the country seat of Kew and home to the UK's largest living Christmas tree, transformed at night as if touched by fairy dust... They will be invited to wend their way along a lantern trail, through beautiful gardens adorned with thousands of lights and around trees dripping with lanterns. Thousands of lights will be reflected in the lakes and there will be fire-pits with spectacular displays of flames.

To get you in the festive spirit there will be seasonal music and food treats, and you can stand under the dazzling lights of the UK's largest living Christmas tree.

Iain Parkinson, Conservation and Woodlands Manager, who helped conceive the event said: "This is a truly magical occasion and one that you won't want to miss. The lights and atmosphere appeal to a wide variety of people and we've added a number of new exciting features, including the Garden of Candles and Valley of the Owls – we hope you can join us to celebrate Wakehurst's unique landscape at night!"

Don't miss out on the wonder. There will also be a lantern-decorating activity for children and opportunities to browse Wakehurst's well-stocked shop for some Christmas ideas. Tickets, on sale to the general public from 8th September 2015, cost £10 for adults, £5 for children aged 4-16 and 0-3 years old go free. To book your tickets and for further information about this event, please click here www.kew.org/glowwild



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The sure touch of a maestro at the keyboard

By Simon Rothon

The recent concert sponsored by the Friends of the Holy Trinity Church was entitled 'Toccatà', the Italian term originally used for a musical composition for a keyboard instrument designed to exhibit the performer's touch and technique.

The Reverend Michael Maine, Vicar of Cuckfield and virtuoso organist, certainly gave vivid meaning to the term as he put the venerable church organ through its paces in a programme so varied and colourful that it is conceivable that every stop of the organ was usefully employed! The beautiful setting of the thirteenth-century stone church in the early autumn sunlight provided its superb acoustics to a recital which combined familiar Toccata classics from Bach and Widor.

A particular favourite of both the capacity audience and (I suspect) the performer was Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance Military March, which had been arranged for organ by the Music Director at Truro Cathedral where Reverend Maine was once a chorister.

Three pieces, however, made a special impact on your correspondent. First was a lesser-known composition, Allegro Grazioso by Brighton-born Frank Bridges. Bridges composed mainly for strings and this was clearly apparent in the subtle evolution and lyricism of the central theme, interpreted by the Reverend Maine with sensitive mastery of the organ's 'quiet' stops. Second,


a particularly moving rendition was Reverend Maine's sung performance of Quilter's setting of Tennyson's 1847 Sonnet Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal. This sensitively performed lyrical paean to nature's beauty at twilight could not have enjoyed a more evocative setting than the fading rays of afternoon sunlight through the glorious stained glass windows of Holy Trinity Church. It has to be conceded, however, that one of the things we all go to organ recitals to hear is the thunderous resonance of the loud pipes.

The third item (which received equally thunderous applause) was, of course, Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. It must be a challenge to find something new for an interpretation of this seminal organ work. The Reverend Maine, however, certainly succeeded in a truly chiaroscuro rendition which shook the foundations of the church with its strident opening bars and then wove the intricate contrapuntal phrases of the Fugue with a masterly touch on pedals and manuals. Paul Goldfinch, Chairman of Friends of the Holy Trinity Church expressed the warm appreciation of all attendees for what had been an inspiring and uplifting programme. Guy Berkeley, the ever-enthusiastic sponsor and originator of the Friends' series of Concerts, expressed his confidence that events like this will continue to expand the thriving membership of the Friends of the Holy Trinity Church.



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11am **Weigh In – Work Out**
1.30pm **Join the Line**
7.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society** – Ring Craft

Tuesday

- 9am **Tiny Soccerstars**
9.30am **Tinkerbells** - music classes for children
3pm **Codanza**
6.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society** – Obedience Class
7pm **Pilates**

Wednesday

- 9.30am **Tinkerbells**
10am **Stroke Communications Group**
12.30pm **Zumba Dance Fitness**
1.30pm **Modern Line Dancing**
4pm **Codanza**
8pm **Best of Ballroom Cuckfield Dance Club**

Thursday

- 9.30am **Tumbletots**
9.30am **Tinkerbells**
10am **Pilates**
7.30pm **Social Ballroom and Latin American Dance**

Friday

- 7.30pm **Evening Flower Club** - (2nd Friday/month)

There is now a list of regular activities and classes on the Notice Board that includes contact details.

November

- 27th- **The Attic Club Art Fair**
29th Open 12-8pm 27th, 10am-5pm 28th/29th
Admission free but the club are sponsoring Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance. Refreshments will be served throughout the art fair.

December

- 22nd **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens performed by the Rain or Shine Theatre Co
Doors open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm
(Tickets from QH office, or online at www.rainorshine.co.uk)

November

- 17th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – The Old School, 8pm, Shoreham Fort Past & Future by Gary Baines
21st **Christmas Craft and Gift Fair** – The Old School, 10am-2.30pm
25th **The Royal British Legion Women's Section** 'Travels on a Wide Beam Narrow Boat' by Sally Williams, The Old School, 10.30am-12noon
28th **Quiz Night** – Woodside, Bolnore Village from 7.30pm (01444 451112)
28th **Advent Breakfast** – Holy Trinity Church 8.30am followed by breakfast in The Old School (Tickets are £5 for adults - kids free - from the Church Office)
29th **Advent Carol Service** – Holy Trinity Church 6pm

December

- 7th **NHS Retirement Fellowship Mid-Sussex Branch Christmas Lunch** – Barnsgate Manor, 11am
9th **The Royal British Legion Women's Section Christmas Party** – The Old School, Cuckfield 10.30am-12noon
11th **Cuckfield Christmas Tree Festival**
13th (Opening times see www.cuckfieldctf.org.uk)
Tickets £4 adults, U16s free)
12th **Cuckfield Local Food Market** – outside The Talbot, 9.30am-12.30pm
13th **Bolnore Christmas Carols** – Woodside, Bolnore Village from 5pm (www.bolnorewoodside.org.uk)
13th **Carol Service amongst the Trees** – Holy Trinity Church, 6pm
15th **Cuckfield Evening WI Christmas Party** – The Old School, 8pm
18th **The Cuckfield Nativity** – starting at Holy Trinity Church 6pm
18th **Christmas Party at Cuckfield Golf Centre**
Music from our Resident DJ, a glass of Fizz on arrival, and festive buffet. £20.95 per person (01444 459999)
19th **Quiz Night** – Woodside, Bolnore Village, 7.30pm (01444 451112)

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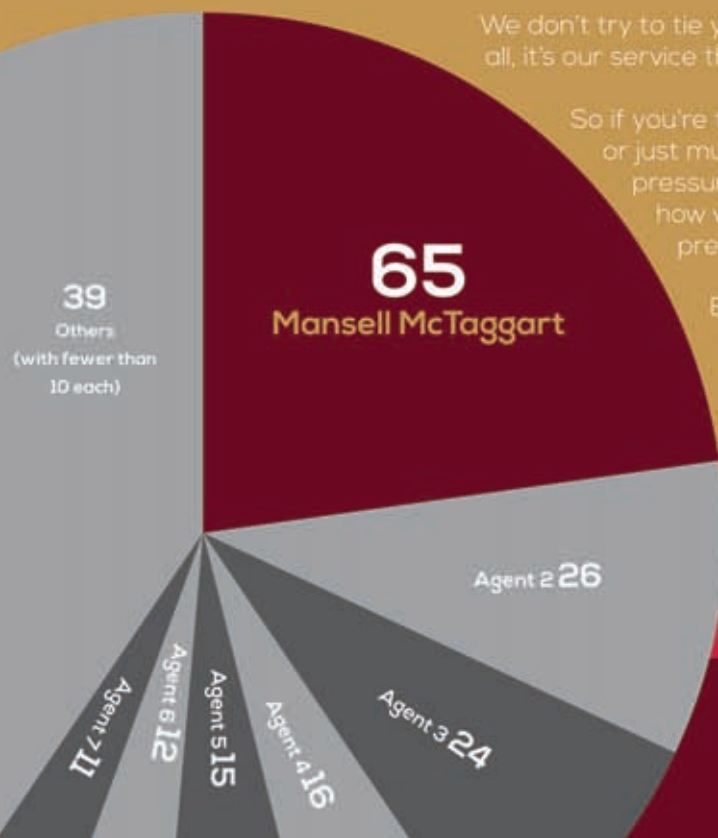
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Best wishes

Richard, Mel and Michael

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