

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St., Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #12 : Oct/Nov '13

Free



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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

This issue represents the **first anniversary** of Cuckfield Life since it first hit the streets back in November last year.

We get loads of really useful feedback and so we hope that we are doing a good job in the production of this **monthly communication for the village**. It's been great getting to know many individuals and organisations over the past year or so. We try to pack as much as possible into each edition, so we are **extremely grateful** to those who call and email to ensure we know all that's going on locally.

Partnering with **local groups and organisations** is very important to us and we are proud to have worked with **Holy Trinity** and the **Baptist** churches, **Cuckfield Society**, the **Cuckfield Museum** and the **Cuckfield European Association** to name just a few. I'm also delighted to announce that **Cuckfield Parish Council** will be publishing their **quarterly newsletter** as part of our pages regularly from early in the New Year. This is great news as we seek to be your go-to place for Cuckfield news and information.

However, back to this month and there is lots going on. The **Mayoral Elections** take place in just a few days (p.5) and I'm sure the candidates will be anxiously awaiting the results. Another village tradition comes in the form of the **Bonfire at Cuckfield Park** on Saturday 2nd November (see p.7). Gates open at 6pm.

At this time of year we are also thinking about those who have fought for their country. There are various **Remembrance Day** services - see page 10 - plus we have articles on **Joan Kleinwort's** wartime efforts (p.11) and tell the remarkable story of bravery shown by former RAF serviceman **Bunny Watts** on page 12.

There is plenty more in here but can I suggest you take a leisurely flick through the magazine and see what takes your fancy, as I have run out of room!

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Cuckfield Life
Published by Kipper



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at Staplefield

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We'd love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@cuckfieldlife.co.uk



Rugby Club celebrate approval of plans

Members of Haywards Heath Rugby Football Club (HHRFC) have every reason to celebrate.

HHRFC Board is delighted to announce that Mid Sussex District Council has granted planning permission for the proposed extension of the Clubhouse, creating a fantastic new facility which will benefit all members. The exciting plans are on display in the Clubhouse.

Commenting on this latest development John Orchard, Commercial Director at HHRFC, said "We are now one step closer to turning our dream for the Club into a reality and we hope all our members and the local community will work with us over the coming months to ensure that we can translate the plans into the quality facility that our Club and the Mid Sussex area deserves.

"We continue to explore all options to ensure that we maximise this opportunity and all members will have an important role to play in helping us raise the funds that will be needed.

"We hope this fantastic news will be welcomed by all players, parents and supporters and we will be working to ensure it marks the beginning of a new and exciting era for HHRFC."

Come and meet with God

Whether it is your first time in a while...or ever...all welcome!

Sunday Mornings @ Cuckfield Baptist Church from 10.30am



We run a Sunday School for under 11's during the service and refreshments are served after the meeting.

Our All Age Service is on the last Sunday of the month.

Polestub Lane, Cuckfield, RH17 5GP www.cuckfieldbaptistchurch.co.uk 01444 473531

Election Night is here

With the Mayoral election just days away, Cuckfield candidates are appealing for those final few votes that could lead them to victory.

Leanne Knapman, Mark Grant and Mike Schlup are all hoping their fundraising campaigns will result in victory on election night – 18th October at the Rose and Crown.

For Leanne, the last few weeks have included a range of events from a clothes swap to a quiz at the White Harte. But the highlight was undoubtedly a 15k run with Leanne dressed as Wonder Woman! Leanne's grand raffle will be drawn on election night.

"I would like to thank Jim and Jackie for all their help organising these events and all friends, family and customers for their support," she said.

Mark had a setback in his campaign last month when his skydive had to be cancelled. "We turned up for our skydive and hung around hoping the cloud cover would lift but unfortunately the forecast for it to break up didn't happen," he said. However, the event was rebooked and Mark and his team were due to take to the skies on 12th October. Any late skydiving sponsors can add to Mark's total by visiting <http://bit.ly/16G4xhR>

As part of the ongoing fundraising for Mike's Mayor campaign, The Rose & Crown hosted a German themed evening. Mike commented: "We shall fight on the benches, we shall fight on the recreation grounds, we shall fight in the Chapelfields and in the Broad Streets, we shall fight in the Borde Hills; we shall never surrender!"

Ladies to get pampered

Cuckfield resident Catherine Snashall is organising a charity Ladies Night to be held in the Queen's Hall next month.

The event, held on 22nd November, follows the success of a similar event by Catherine in 2011 when she raised £1,600 for her chosen charity, Hemihelp.

Hemihelp provides support and information to those with hemiplegia - a condition that Catherine's younger son George suffers from. It is a neurological condition that affects children in a similar way to a stroke. It is caused by damage to some part of the brain, which may happen before, during or soon after birth, when it is known as congenital hemiplegia, or later in childhood, in which case it is called acquired hemiplegia and results in a varying degree of weakness and lack of control on one side of the body.

The Ladies Night starts at 7pm and entry is just £5, which includes a complimentary glass of wine. Ladies can enjoy manicures, reflexology, head massages, arts and crafts plus lots of great ideas for Christmas presents. Tickets for the event are available at Queen's Hall on the night, from Sussex Crafts in Cuckfield or by calling Catherine on 07775 932823.



October Food Market

Sat 12th Talbot Courtyard

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Allotments still available from Warden Park

In the grounds of Warden Park Academy there is a dedicated growing space run by Warden Park Community Garden. The area has allotment plots, an orchard, a developing wildlife area and, new this year, their very own beehive. The area is also going to be used this year for a new after-school club learning about countryside skills and gardening.

There are still some allotment plots available to parents and local people to rent at a very reasonable £20 per year. If you are interested in acquiring one of these plots, then please contact Helen Weatherell on hweatherell@wardenpark.co.uk

School celebrates sporting wins

Warden Park School has had plenty of sporting achievements to celebrate recently.

Georgia Bowen was recently selected as one of two players to attend the England under 15s Elite Performance Camp at the Surrey Sports Park in Guildford. She also attended a testing day at Aston Villa and will now receive two days training from England coaches, along with 21 other players. The Elite Performance Camps are held three times a year and are designed to provide a link between emerging talent and international football. The Year 9 student currently plays football for Brighton and Hove Albion's Centre of Excellence.

Meanwhile Eva Craig, Year 8, was crowned under 13 girls' singles and doubles champion at the Sussex Junior Badminton Championships earlier this month. Eva played in the annual tournament near Brighton and this fantastic win has cemented her position as Sussex's leading female badminton player in her age group.

As the Junior Squash season got underway at the Sussex County Closed tournament this month two brothers continued their dominion of the sport. Playing at the Coral Health and Fitness Club in Hove Curtis Malik, Year 10, retained his under 15 county title. His younger brother Perry, Year 8, retained his under 13 county title.



Museum in a spin

Visitors to Cuckfield Museum enjoyed a demonstration of the traditional art of spinning last month.

Daphne Stuart, a member of the Wealden Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers, visited the museum to run one of her popular workshops.

"Daphne is immensely skilled and made it look very easy," said curator Philippa Malins, "but we soon found it wasn't so simple when we tried! Co-ordinating your feet on the treadles and your hands feeding the wool onto the wheel was quite a task!"

Visitors, including children, were allowed to have a go at working the treadles while Daphne's demonstration used different types of wool, including some spun from dog's hair - her daughter's Golden Retriever! "We had asked her about spinning wool from dog hair because it's something we had heard the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) organised during the War," said Philippa.



First Aid basics

A Cuckfield mum and former officer in the Metropolitan Police is running First Aid training courses in The Old School for anyone looking after children.

Emma Russell runs the classes, which run on the second Friday of the month, and teach simple First Aid skills about what to do in an emergency. Unconsciousness, head injuries, choking, bleeding and burns are all covered as well as croup and meningitis.

The next class is on Friday 8th November. Speak to Emma on 07946 391117 or see the website for more information: www.babyfirstaidsussex.co.uk



Cuckfield Bonfire 2nd Nov

The skies of Cuckfield will once again light up on 2nd November as the village holds its annual Bonfire celebrations.

The event, which includes fireworks to music, will be held at Cuckfield Park.

Gates open at 6pm and the bonfire will be lit at 6.45pm. Fireworks to music with the Bright FM roadshow start at 7.30pm.

Admission costs £7 for adults, £5 for under 16s and under 4s go free. Food on offer includes hog roast, hot dogs, burgers, bacon butties, hot & cold drinks, snacks, sweets, popcorn and doughnuts. Proceeds go to Holy Trinity School Cuckfield, Woodlands Mead and other local charities. The event is sponsored by Bright FM, G4S – and the Firework display is by Pyro 1.

The mystery bayonet



In 2011 The Cuckfield Bonfire Society found a bayonet wrapped in a roll of wallpaper amongst a pile of wood and refuse that was being assembled for the annual bonfire.

Geoff Bridger of the Sussex Military History Society has identified it as an 1888 Pattern British bayonet (probably a Mark I - second type), initially for the .303 Lee-Enfield Rifle. This example was made in 1896 and would have been used on the Magazine Lee-Enfield Mk I Rifle, the so-called Long Lee-Enfield, in service from the time of the Boer War.

The Bonfire Society donated the find to the Cuckfield Museum earlier this year. No-one ever came forward to the Bonfire Society to claim it, so it remains a mystery as to where it came from.



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Adelia has won several major prizes, including the Countess of Munster Award, which is supporting this concert. Adelia has performed in a number of prestigious venues, such as the Queen Elizabeth, Wigmore and Fairfield Halls. Her programme with accompanist Craig White will include works by Bach and Brahms.



9th Nov 2013: Samson Tsoy (piano)



Kazakh-born Samson Tsoy has won many international prizes. Described as having "... brilliant virtuosity and poetic soul", he will play Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, plus pieces by Schubert and Schumann.

Both concerts start at 7.45 pm in St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath.

Tickets £12, conc's £11, member's discount £3
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We will remember

The Remembrance Day service for Cuckfield will be held on Sunday 10th November.

10.30am - assemble at the war memorial behind Holy Trinity Church.

10.45am - the service commences, including the Act of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths by the Royal British Legion Cuckfield Branch, The Royal British Legion Women's Section and various other organisations, groups and schools representing the community in Cuckfield.

At approximately 11am the service will be continued within Holy Trinity Church including the Presentation of Standards and reading of the Roll of Honour.

After the service, coffee will be served in the Old School. If the weather is inclement the whole service will take place within the church. There will also be a short service at the war memorial behind Holy Trinity Church on Armistice Day, Monday 11th November.

The Cuckfield branch of the Royal British Legion is always on the lookout for new volunteers to help with the Poppy Appeal. If you can spare some time to help please contact Peter Negus on peternegus43@btinternet.com or 01444 457740.

A special Remembrance Day service will also take place at Cuckfield Baptist Church and St Mary's in Slaugham on Sunday 10th November at 10.30am. There will be a wreath laying ceremony at Staplefield War Memorial at 11am on Monday 11th November.

Remembrance Concert held at Dolphin Centre

The Annual Mid Sussex Remembrance Concert will be held on 10th November at the Dolphin Centre Haywards Heath at 7.30pm in aid of the Royal British Legion.

Ardingly Choral Society has engaged Mid Sussex Sinfonia along with Ashdown House, Tavistock & Summerhill and Ardingly Prep School choirs to ensure the customary range of outstanding items. Mozart's beautiful Requiem comprises the second half while the first half starts with Hammersley's moving Remembrance, followed by the children performing 'Songs for Friday Afternoon'. Then will follow Borodin's exuberant Polovtsian Dances and Verdi's Grand March from Aida and The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, thereby celebrating the anniversaries of the birth of Verdi (1813) and Britten (1913). Everyone is then invited to join in a heartfelt rendition of Jerusalem.

The soloists are well known both locally and nationally: Eloise Irving (soprano), Cuckfield's Jane Haughton (alto), Andrew Sinclair (tenor) and Mark Stone (bass).

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Joan Kleinwort's War



A 1945 caricature of Joan Kleinwort shouldering her burden of responsibilities

By Sue Burgess, Co-Curator Cuckfield Museum
Cuckfield Museum's new main display - 'Joan Kleinwort's War' - which runs until mid-December, was inspired by the kind donation to the museum by Sir Richard Kleinwort of his grandmother's wartime papers.

In 1941 Mrs Kleinwort became the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence (WVS) County Organiser for East Sussex, which at that time included both rural and urban Cuckfield. When we started looking into exactly what that role involved, it very quickly became clear that the WVS undertook such a hugely diverse range of activities for the war effort that only some could be represented in our display.

For instance, amongst many other activities, they provided and staffed canteens for troops and civilians, set up work parties to make garments for evacuees, ran Rest Centres for those made homeless by bombing, made camouflage netting, operated supply depots for fuel, food and clothing, provided tea on the quayside as troop ships docked and, perhaps most surprisingly, filled 'Molotov cocktails' (petrol bombs) for use by the Home Guard.

The respect and admiration for Mrs Kleinwort is evident from the pages of the tribute book presented to her in 1945, which we are displaying separately.

In the same year she was awarded the MBE in recognition of her outstanding public service. We show some of the congratulatory telegrams and letters that flooded in when the honour was announced, including one that simply says: "I shall always feel that it stands for Most Brilliantly Efficient."

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Cuckfield RAF veteran gets medal

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Earlier this year a group of ex-servicemen were finally honoured for the role they played in supporting Russia during the Second World War. The Arctic star medals were awarded mostly to veterans of the Navy but the recipients also included a small group of RAF ex-servicemen.

Among them was Cuckfield's Bernard 'Bunny' Watts and we are pleased to be able to tell some of his story.

By Claire Cooper

In 1938 a young Bernard 'Bunny' Watts went against the wishes of his father and joined the RAF.

"I had left school at 17 and went to work as a trainee in my father's piano making factory," he recalled. "The other young boys were apprentices but, as I was the boss's son, I was a trainee earning £1 a week!"

When the factory was taken over for war work, making aeroplane parts, Bernard was granted 'deferred' service as his factory work was considered of great importance – much to the delight of his father.

But young Bernard had other ideas. "I spoke to my chums who had all gone into the armed forces and decided that I had to do my bit for my country. My father was absolutely livid but I had to do what I felt was right."

After expressing an interest in engineering, Bernard was sent to Bridgewater and then on to Staffordshire to join the 61 School of Technical Training, where he spent six months working on aircraft engines. He was then selected for an engine fitter's course in Derby, before being posted to join the Spitfire squadron at RAF Biggin Hill.

"The Germans were bombing day and night and we were often out in the dark filling in the craters so the Spitfires could take off at daylight," he recalled.

Bernard had just settled at Biggin Hill when he learnt he was being posted overseas. "When we boarded the troop ship RAF Llanstefan Castle at Liverpool and set sail due north to Iceland we still didn't know where we were going - we were all making wild guesses.

"It was only when we joined a huge convoy of ships that we learnt, with much surprise, that we were going to Russia!"

Britain was sending a squadron of 12 Hurricane fighter planes to Russia, and Bernard was among a group of RAF engineers sent to accompany the planes on their journey and pass on their skills to the Russians.

"Our job was to train the Russian pilots to fly Hurricanes and to teach the ground crews to service and maintain the aircraft," he said.

The group arrived in Mermansk following a 4 day train journey along with the Hurricanes packed in trunks.

"At first the Russians thought we were German prisoners of war but once they realised we were British we got a very warm welcome."



The weather, however, was anything but warm and before long conditions were treacherous.

"It snowed constantly day and night, week in and week out. We had never seen anything like it!" said Bernard. "We often had to rely on the Russian soldiers to dig us out of our billets and eventually the weather got so bad that all work had to stop!"

He added that it was not uncommon for the temperature to drop to minus 36 degrees. "But we were young and fit and able to cope."

Just months after arriving in Russia, Bernard's job was done and the engineers were picked up by boat to return to Britain. "The sea was extremely rough," he recalled. "The waves were 30 foot high and we were all very seasick."

Before leaving the servicemen were presented with a baby reindeer as a thank you gift! Not wishing to offend the Russians, they took the reindeer with them to Britain where it spent the rest of its life in a wildlife park!

After returning to Britain it wasn't long before Bernard was posted overseas again, this time to Burma where he remained until the end of the war.

Bernard's wartime service earned him a collection of medals - the 1939-45 Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal, General Service medal and Russian medal. Now he can add the Arctic Star to his collection.

"I'm extremely proud to have received this medal, especially as it comes 72 years late," said Bernard, who celebrates his 93rd birthday in January. "It's very special, completes my collection and will be wonderful to hand down to my family."

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Photo by Gary Stripp

Local musical roots

ENSEMBLE REZA

By Claire Cooper

Cuckfield's Holy Trinity Church adds a new string to its bow next month.

The church will be hosting the first concert to be organised and performed by talented local string sextet Ensemble Reza.

The group of professional string musicians chose the 13th century church as the perfect setting for their flagship event, which will also see the official launch of their Friends Group.

"We're really excited about performing in Cuckfield," said group manager Hannah Carter. "It's very special for me as Holy Trinity is where I worship. Since the Church was re-ordered it has become a great place to hold concerts and the acoustics are amazing.

"It's wonderful that the people of Cuckfield have the chance to see such high calibre fine musicians on their doorstep. Normally you have to travel to London to see performances like these."

Ensemble Reza was formed earlier this year by a group of Sussex-based musicians keen to develop a programme of concerts and education workshops for local schools and audiences.

The group brings together a wealth of talent and experience in both performance and education, with members representing some of the country's finest orchestras including the London Philharmonic, the Philharmonia and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

They include Cuckfield violinist Andrew Thurgood, who spent 22 years touring the world with the London Philharmonic Orchestra before leaving to spend more time with his family.

"Since leaving the orchestra I've been freelancing and teaching locally, but joining Ensemble Reza has given me the chance to perform again which is fantastic!" he said.

The members of Ensemble Reza are among the best in the country but the key to their success is the bond they have formed with one another and their enthusiasm

which draws in the audience. "It's a wonderful thing when you go to a concert and see the musicians connecting with the audience who are on the edge of their seats," said Hannah. "Ensemble Reza has that connection."

The name Reza, which is taken from the Greek word roots, was suggested by Haywards Heath cellist Pavlos Carvalho, a graduate of the Royal College of Music who has appeared in venues ranging from the Purcell Rooms and the Royal Albert Hall to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

It's a fitting name, as all the members have chosen to perform nearer to home rather than repeatedly travel to London or other parts of the country.

With growing families, they also have a commitment to introduce classical music to young people and to connect with their local communities.

"We feel very passionately about getting a young audience and taking our music into schools," said Pavlos.

"With so many school budgets being cut, there are fewer opportunities for schools to bring in specialists. It's frustrating when schools will find large amounts of money for sports specialists but are reluctant to do that for musicians."

During the first year the group has formed links with several local schools and, as a result, has invited young musicians to join their concerts. "Giving young people an opportunity to perform outside school with professional musicians makes them feel professional themselves and that's really important," added Pavlos. "The transformation is amazing."

Earlier this year the group ran a series of workshops, based on the story *Where the Wild Things Are*, with students from Oathall Community College as part of the Lindfield Arts Festival.

Other highlights have included performing at the Brighton Fringe Festival, an outdoor concert at Borde Hill as part of their Musical Sundays series over the summer

and performing at the Proms in the Park at Eastbourne. "That was when we realised that we had our first 'groupies', who had travelled to Eastbourne especially to see us!" said Hannah.

The group also took the opportunity to have promotional pictures taken on the beach by a member of the Eastbourne Photographic Society.

Looking to the future, the group has plans to take their music to audiences from nursing homes and hospitals, to village pubs." Taking classical music into pubs would be really exciting," said Hannah, who added that the group is currently working on securing charitable status.

Ensemble Reza has already been booked to play at the Brighton Fringe Festival next May and at the Lindfield Arts Festival in September. They will also be running a lunchtime recital series at the Methodist Church on Perrymount Road in Haywards Heath on every second Tuesday of the month, starting on 12th November, as well as developing several education projects for local schools.

But for now the group is focused on the Cuckfield concert, which will include guest performances by local young musicians. There's also a chance to attend a pre-concert performance and talk in the Old School hall.

"It's a big event for us as it's the first one we have managed ourselves," said Hannah. "Until now we have always been invited to perform at other people's events."

"Come along and don't be afraid to come and talk to us," said Pavlos. "It doesn't matter what preconceptions



Cuckfield resident Andrew Thurgood, part of the ensemble

you may have about classical music, when you see it played well right in front of you the energy will just hook you!"

Tickets are available from Wealden Stores and Pepperbox, Cuckfield, Carousel Music, Haywards Heath, online at www.ensemblereza.com or directly from hannah.carter@ensemblereza.com

Adults: £15 (VIP Ticket) and £12 Under 18/Student £5. Programme to include: Arensky: Quartet in A minor for violin, viola and two cellos. Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (performing alongside young musicians). Brahms: Sextet No.1 in B major.

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A day in the country

CUCKFIELD VILLAGE SHOW

Cuckfield was at its creative best last month, with residents proving that the traditional village show is as popular as ever!

Organised by the Cuckfield Society, the annual show has become one of the highlights of the village calendar and this year was no exception.

Competitors had clearly spent the past few months planning, creating and cultivating their entries, with exhibits ranging from the heaviest potato and the largest sunflower to decorated cupcakes and handcrafted doorstops.

From chioggia beet and cucamelons to purple podded peas, the range of home-grown vegetables on show proved that today's gardeners are an adventurous lot, giving the independent panel of judges plenty of food for thought.

Jo Roche, organiser of the event, was delighted when her basket of home-grown vegetables was awarded first prize. "Some of the varieties were new to me, so I wasn't entirely sure if they would flourish, but the cucamelons in particular were a huge success."

Children had plenty of choice with cake, crafts and floral art classes for the older exhibitor and humpty dumpty eggs for the under-fives.

Overall children's winner was Saskia Monteneiro with her miniature farm on a plate while, in the adult floral art section, Belinda Campopiano swept the board for the second year running.

New this year was the Katie Stewart Cup, awarded in memory of Cuckfield resident and celebrity chef Katie Stewart who died earlier this year.

Judges had a tough decision choosing the best version of Katie's Chocolate Fudge cake but finally awarded first place to Stephen Oversby-Powell's offering. The award was the icing on the cake for Stephen, who also won awards for his tomatoes, chillies, herbs and home-made beer, making him the overall winner of the Cuckfield Show.

He was presented with his award by Sue Mayou, owner of Cuckfield Park.

With the sun shining all afternoon, residents and visitors took full advantage of the stalls and sideshows, trying their hand at archery and the coconut shy, or simply sitting on hay bales, listening to the Mid Sussex Brass Band and enjoying tea and cakes from the Cuckfield Society and WI.

Jo Roche added: "We were really pleased with the number and the quality of the entries this year. The lovely summer weather definitely helped!" She added that the society wished to thank the businesses who supported the event and sponsored the categories.







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Concrete doesn't have to be ugly!

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Limited Editions

Who would have thought that concrete, corrugated iron and rusty metalwork could be beautiful, trendy and downright chic? Yet interiors incorporating industrial style using such raw elements can be exciting and inspirational. It's a look born from warehouse and factory life where hard lines, exposed surfaces, function and utility ruled. Stripping the building to its bare bones and leaving nothing to the imagination is the key and philosophy. Hard lines generated from concrete beams and metal posts, reclaimed wooden boards, exposed brickwork juxtaposed with corrugated iron, metal furnishings and salvaged items resurrected from scrapyards create an interior which is fabulous, balanced and atmospheric. Add a neutral backdrop of greys, exposed brickwork and perhaps a few statement punches of colour. A large factory window will illuminate the space with plenty of natural light broken up by shadows created by the window framework. A funky spiral staircase composed of scaffolding and metal steps adds wow factor.

Take industrial elements such as concrete floors or walls, exposed or painted floorboards, metal and glass pendant lighting, cables, exposed painted pipes and chunky Victorian radiators. The style incorporates furnishings such as metal cabinets (factory lockers would be great), up-cycled objects, for instance a sink made from an old cold water tank, salvaged wood units, leather and chrome seating from old cars and large vintage clocks. Inspirational furnishings that were once only functional, like vintage shop drawer units or old work benches, added to the design create a cutting edge interior. Industrial style adds weight to the already popular trend of up-cycling and crosses all budgets. It's a style that wouldn't appeal to all but one which I personally love and could have a lot of fun with, re-using and turning something originally considered utilitarian and boring into one of beauty.

To achieve full on industrial detail, ideally a suitable building would be required, such as a loft space in a disused factory, but here are some ideas you could take to use in your home, especially the kitchen and bathroom, if you want to take a step or two towards the style :-

In the kitchen: If you were starting from scratch then concrete is a serious option, perhaps a work surface or floor. Use of white metro wall tiles or metal shelving with vintage supports instead of wall cupboards. Or maybe an island feature, perhaps a vintage shop unit with lots of drawers or similar (if you're lucky enough to find one).

For the bathroom you could consider: White metro wall tiles, vintage bevelled mirrors hung on chains, a chunky Victorian radiator, exposed painted pipes or a vintage wooden ladder to hang towels.

Read all Fiona's industrial ideas and suggestions at the 'Cuckfield Blog' <http://bit.ly/19YtAsQ>



Miraculous mushrooms

ON YOUR TABLE

Mushroom stew with Orange zest and Fennel seed

Ingredients

1 handful dried mushrooms (optional) soaked for 15 mins in hot water
1 tsp fennel seeds
2 cloves of garlic
1 tsp crumbled dried chillies
2 large onions
3 tbsp olive oil
long strip orange zest
450g mixed fresh mushrooms
1 glass white wine/vermouth
1 handful rough chopped parsley

Methods

1. Toast fennel seeds in a dry frying pan for a minute or so until they start to pop
2. Peel and crush garlic with a pinch of salt
3. Add fennel seeds and dried chillies to the crushed garlic
4. Peel and finely slice the onions and warm oil in frying pan, add garlic mix and sizzle gently
5. Add onions to the pan and stip of orange zest until softened
6. Chop mushrooms and stir into onion mix and cook until pale and gold
7. Add dried (soaked) mushrooms if using
8. Add wine and bubble until evaporated
9. Season with salt and pepper and stir in chopped parsley

Serve on toasted bread or with brown rice



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As part of a new government initiative (ECO), if you are receiving certain means tested benefits, you could be eligible for a grant to install a new boiler together with loft and cavity wall insulation.

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To find out if you are eligible contact our heating team on **01444 831138** or email us at warm@bsw-bs.co.uk

By Caroline Whiteman

One of the most wonderful aspects of home cooking is that it enables you to 'eat the seasons'... and to my mind autumn is the the tastiest season of all. Going mushroom hunting is not only a fantastic way to connect with our local landscape but can bring some truly special ingredients into the kitchen.

It goes without saying that you should never eat any mushrooms you find unless you are 100% positive in your identification, there are many that will upset your stomach and a few that are deadly poisonous, but taking a foraging course, checking in a book (Roger Phillips' 'Mushrooms' is a classic) and using web-based resources such as ispot.org.uk to identify your discoveries are all great ways to get started.

Mushroom Pearl Barley or Spelt Risotto

Serves 4

Ingredients:

175g/6oz pearl barley or spelt
25g/1 oz dried mushrooms
(Portobello or Porcini are best)
veg stock (veg bouillon mixed with hot water)
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 teaspoon fresh or dried tarragon
350g fresh mushrooms
salt and pepper
150ml (or to taste) white wine

Method:

1. Soak the grains in cold water overnight or in hot water for 1 hour. Soak the dried mushrooms in 50ml (5 fl oz) warm water (skip this step if using only fresh)
2. 1 tablespoon of bouillon in 1.5 litres of hot water (or use homemade chicken/veg stock if you have it).
3. Heat the oil in a large heavy based pan and gently fry the onion for 4 minutes. Drain the barley or spelt and add it with the tarragon to the onions. Stir until coated with the oil. Chop the fresh mushrooms and add to the pan. Fry for 1 minute or so.
4. Add the soaked mushrooms (if using dried) with their juice and start adding the stock, a couple of ladles at a time. Let the pan simmer over a low – medium heat. Gradually add the wine as the grains soak up the liquid.
5. As soon as the stock is absorbed, add more hot stock and repeat this until the grains are soft and creamy (about 45 minutes).
6. Taste, add salt and pepper as required.

Serve this with freshly grated parmesan cheese.

Celebrating craft in The Weald at Ardingly



Photo by Sara Pugh

It goes without saying but The Weald is home to some of the country's finest craftspeople. On 26th and 27th October Weald Crafts brings an exciting event to Ardingly College. It will give visitors the exclusive opportunity to purchase artists' and crafters' work, just in time for the start of the festive period.

"Weald Crafts is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to encourage crafting throughout the Wealden area and highlight the talents of local crafts people through events like this one at Ardingly College," says Sarah Hill, photographer and organiser of this month's event. "All members live or work within 30 miles of the venue at which they are selling and are encouraged to use locally sourced materials, so their events give local residents the unique opportunity to buy items not only locally crafted, but also locally sourced."

"Visitors to Ardingly College can expect to find an array of truly original items," Sarah explains. "All 35 stalls are sold out, with items available from gold and silversmiths, jewellers, printmakers, painters, knitters, textile workers, metal and leather workers, a wooden toymaker and local photographers. You will find gifts with which to spoil your friends and family - or even yourself!"

This is the perfect place to start your Christmas gift list," Sarah says. "Everything on sale is very special, with most being one-offs. Local residents have the opportunity to browse in comfort and buy from knowledgeable people who can explain their wares – because they made them. With tea, coffee and light lunches available, as well as free entry and parking, this really will be stressless shopping!



CUCKFIELD EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2013

www.cuckeuro.co.uk



The CEA sees one of its most important roles as the stimulation of friendships across national boundaries and cultures. Here are a couple of examples. We would always be pleased to hear of our members doing the same thing...



Julie and Nick Brandsen wrote:

Whilst staying in Hamburg recently we took the opportunity to visit the International Garden Show, as talked about by our guest speaker Paul Bristow at our last AGM.

Despite local reservations about the floral displays, and unfavourable comparisons to 'beautiful English gardens', we were not disappointed. Considering it was largely built on reclaimed land, the amount of planning and preparation was remarkable. There was a marvellous infrastructure in place, including a monorail enabling one to visit the seven different worlds of gardens, including the world of the port, the world of religions and the world of water features. Highlights included the German Schreber garden [allotment gardens], the water features stimulating the senses, the show of roses, the meeting point depicted as an artist's palette and the wild flower gardens (see above).

When the show finishes next month, it will be made into a park for the people of Hamburg.

Similarly Kenneth and Candy Hood were inspired to visit the Hamburg Garden Festival by our same AGM speaker.

Janine Watts went to Berlin with Beatrix von Vanrooy and reported...

In mid-September I flew out to Germany to spend a few days in Berlin with Beatrix and Michael van Venrooy. They had travelled by car from Karlstadt and met me at the airport. We all stayed in a hotel near Tiergarten Park, which was very convenient for sightseeing.

On the first afternoon we walked to Kurfurstendamm, the 'commerce street'. Over the two days we visited churches (Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedachtnis) and department stores (the famous KaDeWe), Palaces (Charlottenburg), and saw Nefertiti at Museumsinsel. We ate at the Sony Center in Potsdamerplatz. We saw the sights at Alexanderplatz... We caught the world's greatest variety show at Fredrichstadtplatz.

My highlights of the trip? Of course, as always, it was wonderful to catch up with old friends, laughing and gossiping. But I could not fail to be impressed by the attentions of those charming young men at Checkpoint Charlie. All in all a memorable trip!

Sound like fun? Join CEA today....

If you like the sound of what we get up to, why not join us? We'd love to hear from you. Membership is just £10 per year. Contact Janine Watts by email at janine.watts@gmail.com. Or visit the website: www.cuckeuro.co.uk



The great Cuckfield Boules competition of 2013



This event returned to our calendar by popular request. It again drew 36 competitors and proved to be as popular as before.

The early rounds provided a bit of practise for those who had not played since last year but holidays intervened for some and the organisers were worried we would not get through the competition. But in true Cuckfield spirit games were played at odd hours and various places. The cast of players turned up at Marshalls (courtesy of Judy and Stephen Cockburn) to see the semi-finals and final. The players were so well matched that the semi-finals took much longer and the final itself had to go to a third game. By this time it was getting dark and the cochinet had to be identified with a torch and the last game reduced to five points rather than 13. Last year's finalists got through to the semis and it looked as if they were going to play for the cup and champagne again, but two sets of newcomers broke through to the final and after a see-saw game Stephen and Sue Laing were the winners, only narrowly beating Kenneth and Candy Hood.

The photo shows the chairman of the CEA presenting the cup to the Laings. It was another happy occasion accompanied by the South Coast Stompers jazz band. Drinks and canapés kept the spectators alert in-between Bridget Keates' requests to know the score.

Dates for your diary

Cuckfield Street Event 6th December

Find us in the Old School serving refreshments with a European flavour and looking to sign up new members. It is of course St Nicholas' night.

Christmas Party 14th December

At Borde Hill (note change of venue) 7.30 for 8pm. Canapés, mulled wine and other seasonal delights. Impresario, Mr Stephen Laing returning after 10 years absence (about time too! Ed). Lots of local talent and of course, you. Raffle of some German goodies and other non edible items. Tickets £15 per head from WindowScene and Wealden Stores from 23 November.

Annual General Meeting Saturday 8th February

Our AGM is at Reid House, Mill Hall, (courtesy of David and Sheila Mortimer) from 7.30pm ploughman's supper and news of what's happening in the new year. Annual subs will also be due for those not yet on direct debit or standing order.

Christmas Tree Festival

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Taking a closer look

SUSSEX MINERAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY

By Claire Cooper

When retired teacher Helena Carter walked through the doors of Clair Hall about six years ago, little did she know she was stepping into a whole new world.

Acting on the suggestion of a friend, Helena attended one of the monthly meetings of the Sussex Mineral and Lapidary Society. "When I walked in I didn't know what to expect," she said, "but the guest speaker gave a talk on 'Black Smokers' (chimneys that form at the bottom of the ocean ridge which spout thick black fluids associated with sub-marine volcanic activity). It was absolutely fascinating and before I knew it I was hooked!"

Helena, from Woodhall Close, has been attending meetings ever since and is now a committee member. "I've always been interested in wildlife, geography and the landscape," she said, "but the society has introduced me to a whole new world.

"I've met people who are really knowledgeable and have wonderful collections of minerals but it doesn't matter if you are a beginner like me - everyone is so welcoming and friendly and you get carried away by their enthusiasm!"

Many members are looking forward to exhibiting at this year's Sussex Mineral Show at Clair Hall on Saturday 16th November. It's an annual event when members of the public can see rare and beautiful gems, fossils, minerals and even meteorites, and learn more at a series of talks.

"It's an amazing, beautiful hidden world," said Helena. "I'm constantly astonished that these things are quietly forming over thousands of years and making wonderful colours and beautiful shapes and it's nothing to do with us. It's nature at its secret best!"

However, Helena won't be among the exhibitors. "My collection is far too small," she said, "but I've been

given the honour of chaperoning the Mayor of Haywards Heath, Cllr Mrs Sandy Ellis, who will be presenting the trophy for the competition and meeting exhibitors."

Highlights of this year's event include a display of super uv fluorescent minerals, a fossil repository, marcasites from Cap Blanc Nez and a copper minerals competition. "There's also children's workshops with gold panning, stone polishing and talks designed specifically to spark the imagination of young people," said Helena.

Visitors can also see rare pieces collected by members during mineral collecting holidays in other countries. But Helena prefers to collect her minerals closer to home.

"The South Downs is a good area as within the chalk you can find big boulders of calcite," she said. "I've also collected Baryte from the Isle of Sheppey, together with fossil seed pods and palm nuts, and ancient oysters and turtle shell pieces from a weekend fossil hunting on the Isle of Wight."

"Every walk presents an opportunity to find new pieces. I often return home from a walk with a heavy rucksack," said Helena. "The problem is, the more you get, the more you want!"

The other way to acquire minerals is to simply buy them and some members have invested heavily in their collection but Helena has a more modest approach.

"I've never spent more than a couple of pounds on a piece and have also been lucky in our raffles!" she said. "A particular favourite of mine is a rock with a cavity filled with calcite crystals brought back from Morocco by a fellow collector who donated it to the raffle. As soon as I saw it I somehow knew I was going to win it!"

For more information about the Society and the Sussex Mineral Show visit www.smls.org.uk

How we can help

TO THE RESCUE

by Neil Fairhall, Firefighter

There is no doubt Haywards Heath has dedicated, well trained and skilled firefighters, that our station has an excellent record when it comes to the speed of our attendance at incidents and that we put a great deal of time and energy into educating the public about fire safety.

There's an old cliché that fire doesn't discriminate. But the reality is, it does. Sadly, most of the time we can predict who is most likely to die in a house fire. In West Sussex our fatalities fall into a very distinct pattern – the vast majority are over 65 and they live alone.

When we look at the fatal house fires across the county since the start of 2012, a staggering 80% of them involved someone over the age of 65 who lived alone.

So, we know who is vulnerable and more often than not we also know why they are so vulnerable. It is usually because they either don't have a working smoke alarm or they have difficulty in responding to a standard smoke alarm and need more specialist protection.

If we had been able to reach them with a Home Fire Safety Check, it could well have been a different outcome for some of them.

We see time and time again the life-saving difference our Home Fire Safety Checks make to people in West Sussex. We've carried out over 50,000 of them over the last 10 years and they have without doubt had a huge influence on the downward trend of fatal fires over the last decade.

For most people a standard smoke alarm gives them enough time to escape their home in event of a fire, but we know that for a small but increasing number of people in West Sussex, a physical frailty or sensory impairment or other disability means that isn't the case.

For those people a Home Fire Safety Check could give them the access to specialist detection equipment like vibrating pillow pads or smoke alarms automatically linked to a 24-hour monitoring centre which matches their needs and would keep them much safer than a standard smoke alarm in the event of a fire.

Frustratingly, it is often those who are most at risk that we find most difficult to reach. This can be for a host of reasons – some are socially and physically isolated and don't know about the services we offer. Those who do know may assume the specialist equipment is expensive. Some older people simply don't like to feel like they are 'making a fuss' and do not like asking for help.

The truth is there are some vulnerable people we will never reach, but there are others we can. In order for those people to be able to access our potentially life-saving services, they may need someone to advocate on their behalf and make a Home Fire Safety Check referral for them. That someone could be anyone – a professional support worker, a friend, a relative, even a neighbour. Basically, just somebody who cares...

Now there's an idea for a campaign name...

Autumn's green

VILLAGE GREEN

by Helly Eaton

As usual there's plenty of enticing stuff going on in the village at this time of year.

First, there's the increasingly popular Community Garden and Orchard at Warden Park. Set up as a joint venture by Cuckfield Local and the school, this growing phenomenon is now in its third season and was originally created to offer Cuckfield residents and school pupils and staff a thriving place to grow their own vegetables and fruit.

It now offers 28 traditional allotment-sized plots, two community and two school plots, a secure fenced area in a beautiful setting, on-site water from a new water-harvesting system, compost bins and a communal shed for tool storage and a pond fed by new French drains.

There are regular 'grounds days' for general maintenance and also workshop-style 'masterclasses' to help novices get started.

As reported in the last issue, local bee expert Caroline Whiteman has helped establish the first beehive (part of Cuckfield Local's 'Bee Friends with Pollinators' campaign) and our little pollinating friends have been very busy on the plots (though claims of fantastic yields may also have something to do with the better weather...).

Plans for 2014 involve creating a wildflower area (good bee food), expanding the fruit trees and installing a community polytunnel.

If you fancy getting involved, please contact Max Rickard on 01444 459895 or email Helen Weatherell on helenweatherell@hotmail.co.uk

Perhaps the best news is that the school is now offering its pupils a new optional Gardening and Countryside Studies course. Led by a qualified gardener and woodsman, who also has bushcraft skills, it's hoped the students will learn and experience a wide range of useful growing and countryside skills for the future.

Next, if you love nature and wildlife, there's another new local venture you could get involved with. Cuckfield Local are exploring ways to protect and enhance the biodiversity of our lovely village and would love to have you on board. If the idea of Cuckfield Nature Village appeals to you, please phone Margaret on 01444 412228 or email makaet@yahoo.co.uk

One of the plans is to create a local map showing wildlife-friendly habitats throughout the village, so if you have a pesticide-free garden, a pond, insect 'hotel', wild flower border, bird boxes or feeders, let us know. The map will be at the next market ready to add your info (9th November, 9.30am–12.30pm).

And finally, don't miss our latest Cuckfield carrier bags. Snazzy, bigger and better than ever, they're a real steal at £1 each. The Plastic Bag-free Cuckfield campaign started three years ago and with the government's new plan to charge for plastic bags from 2015, you don't have to wait that long. Why not use your new Cuckfield carrier with pride right now...

www.cuckfieldlocal.wordpress.com

Live local Shop local

Cuckfield Life

www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk

Calling all Cuckfield retailers

By David Tingley, editor

In next month's magazine we are planning a special Christmas shopping feature where we challenge Cuckfield Life readers to buy all their Christmas gifts from within the village. Can it be done? Well, we think it can.

Out on 15th November - just in time for getting organised - we hope the issue will contain a listing of sample products from all the village retailers with a price, description, photo and suggestion of who the gift would suit most (ie; granny, foodie man, child 2-5yrs).

However, to make this feature a success we need to hear from the local shops who can suggest a product to show.

Business owners in Cuckfield should contact me on 01444 884115 or email ads@cuckfieldlife.co.uk to book their space in the pull-out feature. As well as the gift listing, there will also be an opportunity for retailers to buy a discounted quarter page advert to encourage shoppers to pay a visit to their store.

Products for listing and adverts should be booked before Friday 25th October. See our website www.cuckfieldlife.co.uk/advertise-with-us for more details on the feature.

Autumn colours at Wakehurst Place

Celebrate autumn in the glorious surroundings of Wakehurst Place, the country estate of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the heart of the Sussex countryside.

Enjoy the sights and scents of the season, with a spectacular show of autumn colours around the 500 acre estate at Ardingly.

Highlights around the estate include red-leafed American maples in Horsebridge Wood, Japanese maples round the Mansion pond, amber sweetgums, and the golden yellows of Wakehurst's national collection of birches.

Also popular with visitors is the *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, known as the Candy Floss tree, because of its pink tints and distinctive smell of burnt sugar.

Guided walks are held daily at 11.30am and 2pm (subject to the availability of a guide) or simply stroll around the gardens and woodlands on your own to enjoy nature's dazzling display. (Check website www.kew.org nearer the time for details of other events.)

Autumn colours are normally at their best at Wakehurst between mid October and early November, depending on weather conditions, but there is always



something new to enjoy around the estate which includes formal gardens, natural woodlands, nature reserves and a 16th century mansion.

Wakehurst is also home to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, the largest wild seed collection in the world, where visitors can discover how Kew is helping to safeguard the world's most endangered plants. The Seed Bank is also establishing the country's first national collection of tree seeds - the UK National Tree Seed Project.

Wakehurst is open daily throughout the year and closed only on 24th & 25th December. Visit the website www.kew.org for more details.

MANSELL McTAGGART

ESTATE AGENTS SINCE 1947

A selection of properties for sale and recently sold within the village.



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The Dell,
Cuckfield **£694,950**



Woodhall Close,
Cuckfield **£579,950**



Whitemans Green,
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Brainsmead,
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London Lane,
Cuckfield **£295,000**



Glebe Road,
Cuckfield **£249,950**



High Street,
Cuckfield **£224,950**



Ockenden Lane,
Cuckfield **£154,950**

For more information about any of the above properties for sale or to arrange a free valuation please call Richard Butler on 01444 417600 or email us at cf@mansellmctaggart.co.uk

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What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

October

19th **Cuckfield Vintage Emporium:** An unrivalled selection of vintage homeware, gardenalia, designer labels and country antiques from Sussex's most original and creative stallholders Admission £1. Free cup of tea/coffee Contact Darcy Shepherd on 07773 360631 Please note change to Saturday

November

8th **Cuckfield Crafts and Market**
9.30am-1pm

8th **Cuckfield Evening Flower Club**
flower arranging demonstration
by Jean Plaskett 'Go with the flow'
Meetings are at 7.30 for 7.45pm
New members and visitors always welcome

22nd **Charity Ladies Night**
7pm - £5 entry including a complimentary
glass of wine
Tickets and info from Catherine 07775 932823

AND ELSEWHERE

October

18th Independent State of Cuckfield – **Mayoral Election**
The Rose & Crown 8.30pm, polls close at 11pm

19th **Drop-in Flu Clinic** at Cuckfield Medical Practice
Please arrive between 8.30am & 10.30am

19th **Mayor's Procession**
There are cash prizes for the float competition, so this is an ideal opportunity for any organisation to boost much needed funds. All floats and organisations taking part in the procession assemble at Warden Park School from 1.30pm, ready for judging by 2pm. Procession leaves at 2.30pm. Ceremony of the Keys at approximately 3.30pm outside The Talbot.

23rd **Singing Allsorts Charity Concert**
An evening of light entertainment to be held at Holy Trinity Church at 7.45pm, doors open at 7.15pm. Tickets are £8 and are available from Wealden Stores and Window Scene in Cuckfield

24th **Shopping & Pamper Evening**
The Inner Wheel Club of Cuckfield & Lindfield
7- 9.30pm at St Wilfrids Hall, Haywards Heath to raise funds for Mary's Meals. Entrance £3

26th- **Weald Crafts at Ardingly College** 10am - 4pm
27th Genuine handmade craft products - 01825 767476

30th **Ansty Garden Club** Camelia Botnar Foundation

November

2nd **Cuckfield Bonfire**
Gates open 6pm, fireworks 7.30pm. See page 7

5th **The History of Holy Trinity Church**
2.30pm in Holy Trinity Church
Dr. Brian Cutler will talk about details of findings during the recent reordering as well as other aspects of the history of the church. For any queries please telephone Ann Went 01444 450982 events@cuckfieldmuseum.org

9th **Cuckfield Local Market** – Talbot Inn Courtyard
9.30am-12.30pm

15th **Lunchtime Concert: Sussex Symphony Orchestra** 1pm Holy Trinity Church

16th **Christmas Craft and Gift Fair**
The Old School, 10.30am-3pm
The Christmas Fair will have over 30 stalls of local crafts and gifts. Ideal Christmas presents for all the family. Tea room and Father Christmas! FREE

23rd **Annual Festive Food and Drink Fair**
By The Friends of Warden Park

No CDS production this month

By Martin Sheldon, Chairman CDS

This autumn there will be no production from Cuckfield Dramatic Society (CDS). We are currently going through a transition period wherein many of our founding members have decided that they no longer can take such an active role in play productions as Father Time has his influence – unfortunately this occurred quite suddenly.

We are pulling new active members into CDS but unfortunately for our autumn production we were a bit too late starting the arrangements (which are myriad) and so we felt we couldn't put on a show of sufficient quality. We are always on the look-out for new members who wish to take an active role in theatre and this is not just limited to actors but also directors, stage hands, stage management, set build, sound and light, and front of house (ticket sales, marketing, bar, programme) – if you think you would like to have a go, please contact us via cuckfelddramaticsociety@yahoo.co.uk

Rest assured that the committee and I are working hard for next year and have exciting plans in place for both the spring and autumn productions.

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Cuckfield *Life*

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Flowers for all occasions – from weddings to workshops

Book now for our next events:

The Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath
Sunday 27th October, 9.30am & 2pm
Wedding table centrepieces demos/ideas

The Sportsman, Goddards Green
Thursday 28th November – Christmas
table flower demonstration and lunch

December wreath making workshops
Lindfield 3rd December
Goddards Green 10/11th December

*PS: There's still just time to book for our
Autumn demonstration at Miss
Mabel's, Burgess Hill on 22nd October*

*For details of the above events and to book one of our
popular events please contact Belinda now on
07811 892644 or email belinda@chezfleur.co.uk*





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