

Cuckfield Life

Inc. Brook St, Ansty & Staplefield

Local village talk,
by the village

Issue #23 : Sep/Oct '14

Free

Cuckfield Parish Council newsletter

page 29

Meet your Mayoral candidates

page 22

Village People – Cameron Bennett

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EDITORIAL

By David Tingley, Editor

Here we go then, a new term for those of us connected to schools and a new start, whatever your connections, after what I hope was a pleasant summer for you, dear reader.

At Cuckfield Life we are constantly hearing from new residents of the village who are raving about how great it is to live here. One such 'newbie' is **portrait artist Cameron Bennett**, whom you can see and read about on **page 18**.

Both recent and more established villagers can benefit from reading the quarterly **Cuckfield Parish Council newsletter** on **page 29**. Of course the council is still very much enjoying the spectacular 94% 'yes' vote to the Neighbourhood Plan referendum in July. There's more on that, Roads & Traffic and various other facilities and notices in the update.

Although it seems too early to be talking about October, we have to as there's a small matter of the Independent State of Cuckfield **Mayoral Elections** coming up! If you don't know what it is, read the briefing on **page 22**. This long-held tradition in the village is good fun and raises money which will be spent on projects, charities and organisations in the immediate locale. I hope you've enjoyed current mayor Mike Schlup's monthly column as he's kept us up to date with the various joys and tasks that his role required of him. On our pages you can see who's running to take over for the next 12 months. Do get involved!

Elsewhere in this issue we have **Fiona Evans**, our interior design guru, talking tiles on **page 26**. There's an opportunity for one lucky reader to **win a pair of tickets** to one of the open-air cinema showings at Borde Hill Garden on **page 12**. Holy Trinity Church is asking everyone what their **favourite hymn** is on **page 4**. And, last but not least, we have a number of articles about some great charities on our pages, including the annual **Angus Rowland walk** also on **page 4**.

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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

Pimms and Pink

Pink ladies took over Cuckfield Golf Club last month and raised more than £800 for charity.

The golfers, all members of the ladies section, were taking part in Pimms and Pink, a special competition organised to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness.

The event included a 9 Hole Pink Ball competition, putting, chipping and penalty shoot outs, a blind auction, raffle and book sale.

Member Judith Gallagher said: "The weather threatened but kindly came early that day, and obviously the Pimms oiled all of the wheels!"

She added that the golfers are planning further fundraising events for Breast Cancer Awareness and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming a sponsor.



Angus Rowland ForgetMeNot run / walk

The annual Angus Rowland ForgetMeNot run / walk, now in its fourth year, will take place on 5th October.

The event, which starts and finishes at Staplefield Village Hall, was set up in memory of teenager Angus Rowland who died from acute myeloid leukaemia in 2011.

The walk is open to all comers and there will be a choice of two local routes – a 6.5 mile trek on muddy rural footpaths or a 1 mile walk, mainly on roads.

Registration will start at Staplefield village hall at 9am for walkers and 10am for runners. Participants can register on the day or online <http://bit.ly/1jfuaffH>.

The organisers suggest a donation of £10 adult & £5 child under 14. This will include a T-shirt. (Those who have t-shirts from previous walks are asked to bring them along.) Refreshments will be available throughout the morning in the village hall.

For further information contact angusfmn@brantridge.co.uk or visit the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AngusRowlandFMNFund>

Vote for your favourite hymn

Holy Trinity Church takes the opportunity of welcoming the new Mayor of The Independent State of Cuckfield at the Village Service on the Sunday morning following 'mayor-making'. This year's service on Sunday 19th October will have a very special musical content – all of the hymns will be chosen by the people of Cuckfield!

Everyone in the Parish is invited to take part in the voting process and all those proposed will feature in a special 'Hymnathon' later in the year, even if they don't make the final list for the service itself.

Voting is very easy. Each vote costs £1 and residents can cast as many votes as they like for their chosen hymn, as long as they donate the correct amount! All proceeds will go towards the restoration fund.

Hymns can be from any standard hymn book.

Voting slips can be collected from the church during daylight hours, from The Old School or can be found in the August and September issues of the Parish magazine. Closing date for receipt of voting papers is 28th September 2014.



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The Broadway Village Fete

by Ruth de Mierre, Haywards Heath Town Team

The Broadway Village People are inviting everyone to join them on Sunday 21st September at their inaugural Village Fete. From 12 noon the road will be closed and all the fun of the Fete will begin. With hay bales encircling a stage arena, magicians, martial arts and Morris dancing will amaze you, choirs and singers will astound you, Popsteps classes for Kids and Guitar & Drum Workshops will exhaust, and brass bands will get you stomping! And, of course, it's all free so come along and join the fun!

Add to that stalls selling the very best of our local produce, including real ale from the Broadway bars, ten historic tractors plus the local fire engine and police van to ride on, and you've the recipe for a wonderfully happy day to bring our community together. Italian-born Angelica from Grape & Grain is planning loads of old-fashioned and traditional games for all to play and, to remember this very special day, there will be a limited edition Commemorative beer mug on sale!

Savannah's Amanda Brackley is thrilled her dream has come to fruition: "The Broadway, although very much part of our town, has a very special community feel - so it's just wonderful that we can get together to celebrate our local people and our local produce!"



Volunteer gardeners at St Peter & St James Hospice

Staff from ABN AMRO in Haywards Heath recently spent a day at the Hospice carrying out various gardening tasks. The company, which serves retail, private and commercial banking customers in the Netherlands and across the globe, has been supporting the Hospice over the last two years, raising more than £3,000.

Michael Loughlin, Director of ABN AMRO, said: "We are always keen to help worthwhile causes. The members of staff really enjoyed working alongside the volunteer gardeners and we look forward to other opportunities to do so again."

St Peter & St James Hospice would like to thank everyone for taking part and for their generosity. Over 86% of funding comes from the community and the Hospice is always grateful for support from individuals and businesses. If you would like to be involved in supporting the work of the Hospice through fundraising, please email carolyn.robinson@stpeter-stjames.org.uk

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18th Oct 2014: Eloise Irving (soprano) and Lawrence Olsworth-Peter (tenor)
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8th Nov 2014: Applin-Pratley Piano Duo
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Both concerts start at 7.45 pm in St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath.
 Tickets £12, conc'ns £11, member's discount £3
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St Peter & St James Hospice in partnership with Local Hospice Lottery

St Peter & St James Hospice has announced an exciting new fundraising initiative for people throughout the towns of Lewes, Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Uckfield and surrounding areas, in the form of a new partnership with Local Hospice Lottery.

The weekly lottery, which already works with a number of hospices throughout Great Britain, gives people in the areas where St Peter & St James works the chance to win up to £1,500 each week and to win a roll-over prize that can reach as high as £10,000!

St Peter & St James Hospice's services are provided free of charge to patients and their families. This means the Hospice continues to rely on the generosity of local people to help raise 86% of its annual running costs. The new partnership with Local Hospice Lottery is a new way for the Hospice to help raise these vital funds.

Each chance to take part in the lottery costs just £1 and the draw takes place every Friday, with a top weekly prize of £1,500, a second prize of £400 which, if not won, can roll-over to £10,000, a third prize of £100 and 100 prizes of £10 each.

To join Local Hospice Lottery, please call freephone 0800 316 0645 or you can join online at www.localhospicelottery.org

Brighton Marathon places

Calling all keen runners! Chestnut Tree House is looking for runners to join the team for the second largest marathon race in the UK.

Brighton Marathon 2015, which takes place on Sunday 12th April 2015, has already closed for public entries. However, Chestnut Tree House, the only children's hospice in Sussex, has charity places available. The charity's aim is to recruit 300 runners for the team, one for each child that Chestnut Tree House currently cares for.

Everyone who runs as part of Chestnut Tree House's team is given support from beginning to end with fundraising tips, training seminars, group training sessions, a pre-race Pasta Party and a post-race reception with refreshments and massages, and lots more.

Running and raising money for Chestnut Tree House makes a huge difference to the 300 children and young people from across Sussex and South East Hampshire that use the charity's services each year. The children, aged from 0-19 years old, all have progressive life-limiting conditions and receive not only specialist care and symptom management from the nursing team but are also able to enjoy Chestnut Tree House's facilities, such as the hydrotherapy pool and multi-sensory room.

Places can be secured now at www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk/brightonmarathon



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Jubilee book acknowledged

Details of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Cuckfield have been preserved for future generations, both locally and nationally.

A bronze tablet in Holy Trinity Church provides a permanent tribute to the Jubilee Celebrations, while three special books recounting details of events in the village have been produced by Stuart Ingram. Two books remain in the village at the church and in the museum, while the third, a leather bound copy, has been sent to the Queen.

Last month, Stuart, who instigated the celebratory events in the village, was delighted to receive a letter of acknowledgement from Her Majesty's lady-in-waiting.

The village Jubilee celebrations included pop-up Pimms parties, a boules competition, a big picnic, sports day, a barn dance, a street party and a dramatic beacon and fireworks that lit up the skies on Whitemans Green.

The Cuckfield Jubilee Committee raised £8,077, of which £4,089 was spent on the tablet and book, and the balance spent on the fireworks and programme.

Colin Sewell-Rutter was the driving force behind the design and manufacture of the bronze tablet made to commemorate the Jubilee and laid on the floor of the re-ordered church.



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Villagers don't want supermarket move

By Jo Roche

Earlier this month, with less than 3 hours' notice, more than 150 villagers gathered outside The Ship in Whitemans Green to protest at the Co-op's plans to convert the pub into a supermarket and close the existing High Street store. The pub was sold in May to publicans from Lingfield who had led us to believe that they would be reopening by the end of the year. It was with considerable dismay to suddenly find notices posted on the building advising that the Co-op had applied for an off-licence for alcohol sales as part of a supermarket in the building. Add to this the news that they have not renewed their lease in the High Street and you can see the whole landscape and dynamic of the village being changed in one fell swoop by one large corporate.

Our newly adopted Neighbourhood Plan makes very clear the importance of the Village Centre as the

'economic and social hub of the village'. Without the Co-op the hub will lose its very core and, as we saw when the primary school relocated, will take even more people away from the High Street and the other shops and businesses down there. Conversely, the smaller neighbourhood centre of Whitemans Green, already serves 'the day to day needs of the northern part of Cuckfield and passing trade'. There has been a general store at Wealden Stores for over 100 years. It has a great history, indeed some of you will recall when the village acted to save it 30-40 years ago by buying shares.

We are fighting again to save Wealden Stores, save The Ship and keep a food store in the High Street. To find out more please email info@cuckfield.org or visit our Facebook page (<http://on.fb.me/Yb9BYG>)

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Outdoor Cinema Competition

Win tickets to Borde Hill Garden's exciting new open-air cinema event. There are two pairs of tickets up for grabs for the film of your choice!

Friday 19th September, Grand Budapest Hotel (15)
Saturday 20th September, Top Gun (12)
Sunday 21st September, The Great Gatsby (12A)

Tickets include an exclusive opportunity to explore the historic Garden after hours (6pm to 7pm). Then from 7pm there will be live music/entertainment on the stage before the film starts at sunset, 7:45pm.

Hot pies, local ales and homemade popcorn will be available, thanks to the scrumptious 'The Humble Pie Company'.

Tickets £12. More information: www.bordehill.co.uk or 01444 450326

To enter please email info@bordehill.co.uk with the answer to the following question: Which celebrity is a supporter of Scientology and stars in Top Gun?

New O2 Touch Centre at local Rugby Club

HHRFC has become an O2 Touch Centre for Touch Rugby – a fast-moving and fun sport that promotes fitness for all. Our goal at Heath is to promote Touch Rugby to the local community and encourage everyone to give it a try. Touch is a sport that can be enjoyed by anyone of any age – it doesn't matter whether rugby is a distant pastime or even if you have never picked up a rugby ball before. Touch is a non-contact sport, a great way to keep fit, make new friends and learn new skills.

We are running sessions for ladies only from 6.30pm and mixed sessions from 7.30pm every Monday at Whiteman's Green and will be running weekend sessions as well later this year. So come along and have a go – get involved and try a new sport. We are passionate about rugby & promoting sport and fitness in general to the local community and look forward to welcoming you to the Club.

For more information contact Charlie Fergusson on cf@hhrfc.co.uk or call her on 07912 22 20 26. For more information about Heath Rugby visit www.hhrfc.co.uk



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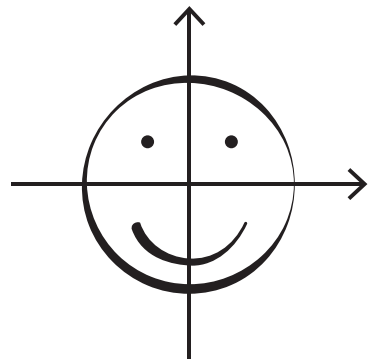


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Image above is by Allison Day called 'Painter Painted Red'
Image right is by Anna Conversano called 'Japan'



Balcombe Arts Trail

The search is on for artists to take part in this year's Balcombe Art Trail from 20th September to 3rd October.

The two week event will see a range of work on display all over the village, including the Half Moon Inn, Tigger's pre-school, the village hairdressers and Flooring Shop.

Exhibiting in St Mary's will be Allison Day, Anna Conversano, Louise Dunford, Rebecca Wicking and Caro Brownhill. The Half Moon will have work by Tessa Land-Smith and many more artists on display, and there will be a further display in the Chapel Gallery which is owned and run by Tessa.

If you're interested in taking part and would like to find out more, contact Paul Milton on 07896 203310 or visit www.paulmilton.co.uk



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Cameron Bennett

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Digital cameras, iPhones and endless new technology have made it simple for us to capture family images and special moments. But in the midst of the photo shopping, digital enhancing and airbrushing, the traditional portrait never goes out of fashion and remains the number one choice for families looking for something really special. And that's good news for artist, portrait painter and Cuckfield resident Cameron Bennett....

By Claire Cooper

Cameron, who lives in Glebe Road, has painted portraits which hang in libraries, colleges, law firms and homes all over the USA and England. But he's just as happy illustrating children's books, creating a caricature, or sketching the contented face of his sleeping daughter.

Born in Brooklyn in New York, Cameron began to paint from an early age, encouraged by his parents who were both portrait artists. "I had lots of support and was always encouraged to further my interest in the arts," he said. This included getting him into the renowned Baltimore School for the Arts, where his classmates included famous rapper Tupac Shakur and actress Jada Pinkett Smith, wife of Will Smith. He went on to gain a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the Massachusetts College of Art and a Master of Fine Art degree from Lesley University.

Cameron met and married his English-born wife Kim in the US and the pair made plans to settle in Cornwall.

"My wife's family is from Guildford but it was always our dream to live in Cornwall," said Cameron. The dream became reality when the couple moved to the West Country in 2012. "Unfortunately we couldn't find enough work and it soon became clear that we needed to be nearer to London," said Cameron.

The couple stumbled upon Cuckfield almost by accident while looking for properties in the Horsham area. "But when I saw Cuckfield I completely fell in love with the village," Cameron recalled. "I love the history, the houses and the fields and countryside surrounding the village. There's such natural beauty here and the views from the train across the viaduct and over the golf course are just stunning."

"As you can see, I'm very pleased to be here and all my

friends have 'Cuckfield-envy!'" he added.

Cameron was lucky enough to be offered a job just weeks after the family moved to Cuckfield and now teaches art at Reigate College. But when he's not teaching, Cameron is busy working on portrait commissions and illustrations. "During term-time I can be up at 3am in the morning painting portraits," he said.

Before moving to England Cameron had been making a name for himself in Boston with a string of portrait commissions. "Thanks to the internet, I'm continuing to get that work," he said.

"People can be suspicious of portrait paintings. They often think a photograph is just as good," he added.

"The recent trend has been to get photographs transferred onto canvas but a painting captures so much more than a photograph."

However, photographs still play an important role in Cameron's work. "Almost all of my work is done from photographs," said Cameron. "I don't expect people to sit still for hours!"

"There's been a lot of down-skilling in the art world but a highly skilled painting with high concept behind it is wonderful to look at."

Cameron loves painting pictures of his children and among his favourites are sketches of his newborn daughter sleeping. Every Mother's Day he paints a special gift for his wife.

While Cameron always enjoys a challenge, some commissions have been incredibly emotional.

"The most difficult portrait I have done was of a stillborn baby," Cameron recalled.

"The parents came to me with a small snapshot taken soon after their baby had died. It was the only memory they had of their child.



"I was able to make slight adjustments so that their child looked more like a sleeping, living baby.

"The parents were delighted and sent me the nicest letter. They said I'd brought their baby back for them. It was an incredibly moving experience for us all."

Childbirth was also the subject of the only commission Cameron has turned down. "I was asked to produce a painting from a photograph of a woman giving birth. I couldn't do that – it was just too intimate!"

Another memorable commission came after the horrific Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 when Cameron was asked to paint a portrait of one of the victims, 29 year old Krystle Campbell.

"Krystle's parents asked me to paint her portrait to hang in the University of Massachusetts, where a scholarship had been launched in her memory," said Cameron. The image was also used on the scholarship fundraising banners. Krystle's parents described the portrait as – "just beautiful".

Cameron is currently working on a series of illustrations for a new children's adventure story.

"The story follows the adventures of a group of children who are riding a train on the famous Watercress line railway which is taken over by pirates!" said Cameron. "Through a series of wishes, which never go the way the children expect, the train eventually ends up in space!"

"It's been a lot of fun. The writer knows exactly what

he wants and that includes a huge amount of detail," added Cameron. "For example, the children who appear in the illustrations are the author's own and one illustration includes Nelson, train, space station and dinosaurs. I've had to think really creatively."

Cameron is producing a set of illustrations to accompany the book when it's sent to prospective publishers.

He has also illustrated a series of animal story books by American author Kathy Brodsky.

Inspired by the countryside around Cuckfield, Cameron plans to make time to develop his landscape painting skills. He also has a dream to create a retreat and studios for artists and has spotted the perfect location in Horsgate House. "When I walk by Horsgate I imagine what it would be like to fill the place with artists," he said. "It's a pipe dream but it would be the perfect place for artists to gather."

He'd also like the opportunity to create a mural, and would love the chance to paint a portrait of the Mayor of Cuckfield.

"I've always been traditional and I was taught in the old fashioned way, and that has always helped me survive when lot of artists have ended doing something totally different," said Cameron. "I'm lucky I've had a range of skills and have been able to nurture them.

"I also like to think my best work is still ahead!"



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Cuckfield Mayor's Election

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER

We are now entering the final build up to this year's Independent State of Cuckfield Mayor's Election.

Election Night will be hosted by the White Harte on Friday 17th October from 8.30pm.

Currently there are five candidates appealing for you to support their campaigns: Mike Schlup, the current Mayor, Ross Bradshaw representing the Cuckfield Dramatic Society, Rob Helliwell representing the Wheatsheaf, Leanne Knapman once again standing for the White Harte and Paul Leppard also from the Wheatsheaf.

Look out for fundraising activities organised by all the candidates in the run up to Election Night. Every vote costs one penny and anyone can contribute to some or all of the candidates as many times as they wish. All the money raised from the votes cast on Election Night is distributed by the Independent State of Cuckfield to charities, groups and organisations based in Cuckfield and the surrounding area.

It is still not too late to stand

There is no limit to the number of candidates standing for Mayor and new candidates are always welcome, even right up to Election Night itself!

The only rule is that a candidate must have some involvement with Cuckfield though residency, work or social connection. If anyone is interested in putting their name forward, or would like more information, then please contact Jim Ayling at the White Harte on 01444 413454 or email independent_state_of_cuckfield@hotmail.com

Leanne Knapman



Leanne Knapman is hoping to follow in her family's footsteps and claim the mayoral chains this year!

Several of Leanne's relatives have been past Mayors of Cuckfield, including both her mum and dad -Christine Murphy and Ted Murphy!

Other family Mayors have included grandad

Ronald Knight, cousin Martin Ingerbretson and uncle Henry O'Donohue.

"I am Cuckfield born and bred, and have thrown my hat into the ring because it means I get to have a night out in October!" said Leanne. "I don't have a lot planned campaign-wise, but have a mud soaked obstacle course coming up - sponsor forms available at The White Harte!"

Leanne added that she is organising a raffle at The White Harte. "Feel free to pop in for a pint and buy a ticket!" she said. "The important thing is that we raise lots of money for the Independent State of Cuckfield. At the end of the day, it doesn't really matter who wins!"

Paul Leppard



My name is Paul Dominic Leppard. I have been a Cuckfield resident for the majority of my 52 years. As a toddler I lived above what is now Lloyd's Chemist in the High Street, where my father ran the pharmacy.

After moving away for a few years, we returned to Cuckfield in 1976.

I very much enjoy being part of the Cuckfield Community, particularly taking an interest in the Annual Mayoral Election. I have been involved in supporting previous campaigns, usually based in the various hostelrys I have frequented.

I volunteered to stand as a candidate in order to increase the number of available choices for people to place their votes.

My fundraising efforts are primarily based on a Collecting Box based in The Wheatsheaf (many thanks to Rob and Nik for their support).

My Campaign message is: "Vote for somebody rather than nobody, as the money raised goes to very worthy causes. Also, there's always an alternative - you know it makes sense!"

Mike Schlup – Honest, Integrity and Bribery

Some of you may recognise me as the Mayor of Cuckfield (I think the hat gives it away) and it is required that the current mayor must stand again at the following election (just in case nobody else shows up I think). However, I am actually looking forward to standing again and will do my best to poll as many votes (pennies) as possible. To be honest I don't think I'll win this year as the other candidates are definitely putting in a lot more effort. But you never know, with the way this election process works you can 'buy' votes right up to the last minute on election night, so if anyone out there would like to make a substantial secret contribution to my campaign then please get in touch. Good luck to all the other candidates and I look forward to seeing as many locals as possible on election night.



Rob Helliwell

I'm 33 and have lived in Cuckfield for the last 27 years. I attended both the old primary school and new one, as well as Warden Park and Haywards Heath College. I am very much a 'local boy'.

I'm the current landlord at The Wheatsheaf Inn. My business partner Nik Cobley and I have been here for over five years now and after a narrow defeat for our mayoral candidate Mark Grant last year, when we raised more than £6,000, I decided it was time for me to stand.

I suppose the main reason I'm standing is to get hold of the amazing red robes ;-) and of course the money raised goes back into our local community and local charities, which is brilliant.

We have already completed a skydive from 15,000 feet and our race night was held recently at The Wheatsheaf. Our raffle will be drawn on 10th October and we are holding a German evening on the 27th September in association with Mike Schlup.



Ross Bradshaw

So, there I was, having a quiet pint in the pub with our current and much revered Mayor; next thing I knew I woke up with a headache and the sure and certain knowledge that I had been press-ganged into service! It all came back to me later in the day that I had agreed to run for next Mayor!

I am Ross Bradshaw and have been a passport holder of the Independent State of Cuckfield for the past four years. I am a paper agent, supplying all types of paper for packaging. I also sit on the Board of PEFC, a not for profit organisation which promotes sustainability in the forestry and paper industry worldwide.

Having accepted the Mayor's shilling, I considered my options. Since I have been coerced (again after a 'quiet pint') into stage management for the Cuckfield Dramatic Society, I thought I would run on behalf of this fine and talented group of thespians and entertainers! As the great Bard said: "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more"! As my entrance is only in the last act this year, time is short BUT a Conker and Cider festival beckons, watch this space!

Vote for Bradshaw, let's keep the village entertained!
ROSS FOR BOSS!





2014 Mayor's Procession

The 2014 Mayor's Procession to introduce the new Mayor to the Cuckfield community will take place on Saturday 18th October from 2.30pm.

Take the opportunity to see the procession as it makes its way around Cuckfield, before arriving at the Talbot at 3.30pm where the Keys of Cuckfield will be presented to the new Mayor.

The vehicles that make up the procession are parked in the High Street during the presentations at the Talbot, so that all the imagination and hard work that goes into creating the magnificent floats can be appreciated close up.

All charities, groups and organisations based in Cuckfield and the surrounding area are welcome to take part in the Mayor's Procession. The event includes many decorated floats and vehicles but some organisations choose to walk around in costume or fancy dress, while others come up with other innovative modes of travel, such as bikes, wheelbarrows or scooters.

A cash prize is awarded to the organisations judged to be 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Best Dressed Entry competition and all the participating organisations receive a donation from the Independent State of Cuckfield.

The money the Independent State of Cuckfield is able to distribute is thanks to the commitment and hard work of all the candidates taking part in the Mayor's Election, plus the generosity of the Cuckfield community in their support of all the candidates. In 2013/14 the Independent State of Cuckfield was able to make donations to over 30 organisations.

If you would like more information, then please contact Jim at the White Harte, or phone: 01444 413454, or email: independent_state_of_cuckfield@hotmail.com



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Tile style

DESIGN AT HOME

By Fiona Evans, Limited Editions

An art form that is present in every house to a greater or lesser degree is the use of tiles, but have you ever thought about going off-piste and moving away from white, cream or limestone? Looking around the choices are just mind boggling and with a little bit of imagination and creativity tiles can be used to make unusual as well as fabulous spaces. Moving away from neutral there are choices in the tile world you may not have come across, such as oak effect planks, tiles that look woven together or how about differently designed tiles forming a patchwork effect running up your hallway? Those containing metal such as copper add a deep glowing richness and glass tiles reflect light inviting you into the space, while those mimicking concrete or the texture of corrugated cardboard add another dimension. Alongside the colour and texture is the shape of the tile and what you can do with it. Tiny mosaic tiles in panels together or in between larger tiles forming bands is a popular feature on bathrooms walls. Hexagonal tiles form a lovely honeycomb effect and laying square tiles diagonally is an alternative. Brick tiles laid horizontally, vertically, offset or lined up are immensely versatile. Tiles disguised as wooden planks provide that sauna look you may have always wanted and can even have that distressed, semi-painted, battered look so that they appear to be recycled!

Ceramic tiles have a long history. For example the Ancient Greeks and Romans made clay tiles for their roofs and used pieces of coloured tile to create their beautiful mosaics which were laid with immense precision, the designs telling a story. Medieval floor tiles, hand painted with Gothic designs, decorate ancient churches and cathedrals. Designs and techniques have developed over the centuries and tiles were manufactured hand-in-hand with the technology of the era. The earliest clay tiles were pressed by hand and laid to dry in the sun (more history from www.designboom.com).

Tile choices are offered from around the globe; Spain with their wonderful bright, sunny designs, Italian sophisticated styles and amazing intricate, dazzling designs from Africa e.g Morocco. Tiles being a wise choice in a hot climate as they provide a calming coolness and pleasing touch.

Whichever style you choose they provide a hard tough surface that is easy to clean but, however, are not a warm choice in winter. Victorian houses may have small encaustic tiles in the hall which provide a wealth of geometric designs, subtle tones and together create an overall stunning pattern (modern replicas available). A general consideration when laying small floor tiles is that the many grout lines will give the floor a pattern which may appear fussy and make the room look smaller, which may not be desirable; so size, shape of tile and colour of grout for a given space are important considerations. Large tiles can appear seamless when laid with a matching grout and look fabulous in open plan spaces.

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Our village green

VILLAGE GREEN

By Margaret Tyzack More, Cuckfield Local

On 21st September is the Autumn Equinox, equal nights, a marker point in the turning of the year. Summer is gone and our Cuckfield Local Market reflects this by the return of The Oaks Poultry Farm and Chanctonbury Game adding to the splendid display of local food for you to buy and savour.

Musing on the Cycle of the Year, the merging of Spring into Summer and the exuberance of Summer relaxing into Autumn, several things came to mind. The passing of the seasons was celebrated in our land at the Celtic Festivals, the great harvest feast being Lunasadh on 1st August. Fairs were held, business was done, legal matters settled and a good time was had by all. In the Christian calendar this celebration is known as Lammas.

You are reading this under the heading VILLAGE GREEN, a meeting place where people came together to graze the cattle, herd the geese, shoot at the butts, play cricket and where the fair was held. A green place for gathering, sharing and celebrating. There would be singing, dancing and seasonal food of all kinds.

"How does this echo down the ages to Cuckfield in our present day?" I wondered. Yes, we have our open spaces, Whiteman's Green, the Recreation Ground and, thanks to the good people of Cuckfield Park, the Cricket Pitch and the field for the Village Show and the Bonfire; a Festival of Fire one might say. People come for miles around to this celebration, food is on hand and music adds to the festivities along with the bangs and beauty of the firework display.

Singing and dancing were very much part of the fun but we don't seem to be dancing together much in Cuckfield anymore. Singing? That's another matter and our choirs, The Singing Allsorts and the Senior Citizens, are well attended as Cuckfieldians come to join their voices in song and social exchange. We have many groups in Cuckfield doing their thing in their own way, as is evident from the beautifully decorated trees in Holy Trinity Church in the middle of Winter. (Daren't use that other word yet!) It seems to me that, with a few exceptions, there is little crossover and sharing between these disparate initiatives. The choirs bridge into events throughout the year and it would be wonderful if even more sharing, coming together, could evolve.

Looking at VILLAGE GREEN from another aspect brings Cuckfield Nature Village and all Cuckfield Local have done to raise awareness of the importance of the bees, butterflies and all pollinating insects to our future and how each of us can do our bit to support them. Can the people of Cuckfield come together on a metaphorical Village Green to keep the surroundings and our own village a green and biodiverse haven for wildlife? I like to think so.

If you have recently moved to the village, wanting to know more about Cuckfield Local and all that we do, email Margaret at makaet@yahoo.co.uk

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Cuckfield

PARISH COUNCIL

News from Cuckfield Parish Council

AUTUMN 2014

Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Passed with 94% in favour

We are pleased to announce that the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, held on July 24th 2014, resulted in a positive YES vote in favour of the question:-

'Do you want Mid Sussex District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cuckfield to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

Polling day was at the Queen's Hall, with 886 electors turning out to vote (a turnout of 32.6%). 833 electors voted in favour – a resounding 94%! (Only 50% was required).

The Neighbourhood Plan therefore completes its final stage of the process and will be lodged with Mid Sussex District Council, to be used in all planning applications. This will make it the first one in the Mid Sussex District to be fully adopted and to carry full weight. Mid Sussex District Council will now meet in September, when the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made'. The plan will then be used, and carry full statutory weight, by the District Council to help it decide planning applications in the Parish.

We would like to thank everyone who turned out to vote in this landmark event for Cuckfield and the Mid Sussex District. The Parish Council would also like to again formally thank all the volunteers and members of the community who came forward, at all the stages, to make this result possible.

Cuckfield now has the best possible opportunity to shape its future over the next 20 years.



Roads and Traffic committee

Whitemans Green

As part of the ongoing Cuckfield Parish Council traffic calming measures, we are very pleased to say that the new speed reduction measures have now been installed along the Whitemans Green road.

The work involved the installation of new '30mph' signs, 'reduce speed now' signs and 'road narrows' signs.

In addition, new gateway features have been added. These consist of red rumble strips to warn drivers of the speed reduction, as well as enlarged 30mph roundels on the road.

Finally, the centre line along a certain section of the road has been removed and new white lines have been painted on either side, in order to provide a virtual narrowing of the road, which should encourage drivers to slow down.

We will continue to monitor speeds along the road to gauge the effectiveness of the new measures.

Ardingly Road Crossings

Following the public consultation by West Sussex Highways on the proposed installation of the two long-awaited zebra crossings in Ardingly Road, just one objection to the scheme was received. This could delay the scheme whilst we work with West Sussex Highways on a solution to overcome the issues raised. Please be assured that we will resolve this issue as quickly as possible in order to proceed with the much needed installation.



The Queen's Hall

The Hall continues to be a very valuable asset, of which the village of Cuckfield can be very proud. It does continue to attract bookings but this year is already proving to be an expensive one in terms of upkeep and maintenance. Improved safety standards have meant that we had to have an expensive new cooker hood and extractor fitted in the kitchen, and we have had some work completed on the roof. These kinds of issues, on top of the routine maintenance costs which go hand in hand with running any listed community building, makes managing costs a constant balancing act.

On a different note, the old and battered flag has been taken down and replaced with a new one befitting this fine building (pictured above).

The Youth Club

The Parish Council's offer of £200,000 for the purchase of the building on London Lane has been accepted by West Sussex County Council, which is great news for the Pre-school, other local users of the building and the village as a whole. Negotiations are not yet quite complete but we hope that the solicitors will have contracts drawn up very soon.



The Churchyard and Cemetery

After many years of dedicated service to the Parish Council, we were sorry to say goodbye to Dick Taylor who retired in July of this year. He will be greatly missed. Brian Smith is still doing a wonderful job for us looking after the Closed Churchyard and we are very pleased that Dave Edwards & Son have taken over the general maintenance work in the cemetery (pictured above).

Cuckfield Recreation Ground

Mid Sussex District Council has begun work on the installation of the new play equipment at the Recreation Ground but the work is not yet complete, as the rope walkway between the pillars has yet to be installed. MSDC are looking for a swift resolution to the issue. In the meantime, now that the location and dimensions of the plot available at the Rec are clear, work can begin on the Iguanodon sculpture, commissioned by Cuckfield Parish Council, using Community Arts s106 monies. We hope that this will be ready to install early in the New Year.

Waste bins in the Conservation Area

We have become aware of residents leaving their waste bins out on pavements on a permanent basis. Although the storage of large waste bins can be difficult, leaving them permanently out on the pavement does look unsightly, particularly in the Conservation Area. If residents really do not have adequate space to store their bins, they can contact Mid Sussex District Council, Refuse and Recycling, 01444 477440 and they will be able discuss alternative arrangements.

Operation Happy Feet

The work to fix the drainage problem on the footpath linking the Baptist Church to Glebe Road has been completed – just in time for the new school year! No more wet feet for the children walking to school along that route!



YOUR PARISH
COUNCIL

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This newsletter is published independently by Kipper Creative Ltd for Cuckfield Parish Council. The Parish Council does not guarantee or endorse any of the services or products advertised in this publication.

The Parish Council Office in the Queen's Hall is open from 10 am – 4 pm each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Parish Council meetings

September - December

25th September	Planning Finance	7.30pm 8pm
16th October	Planning Environment	7.30pm 8pm
6th November	Planning Roads and Traffic	7.30pm 8pm
20th November	Queen's Hall	8pm
27th November	Planning Finance	7.30pm 8pm
11th December	Planning Full Council	7.30pm 8pm

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Observed on the Cuckfield Rec

A lady looked left
A lady looked right
As she eyed the flowers
Standing bright

Then she picked here
Then she plucked there
Then into the middle
Without a care

Two young children by her side
Two young children along for the ride
Fresh young faces watched beside
A lady bold as any bride

A nice old lady stopped and said
We should not pick from the flower bed
What, these wild flowers? Came the reply
But the old lady felt she should try

If each and every one of us
Came by and took like you
If everyone said me, me, me
Oh, what a barren view

anon.

Happy
children
working in
harmony!

Open
Morning
September
20th



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What's on this month

AT QUEEN'S HALL

AND ELSEWHERE

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

Monday

- 11am **Weigh In – Weigh Out**
12.30pm **Stretch Class**
4pm **Irish Dance**
7.30pm **Haywards Heath & District Canine Society** – Dog Training

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 10am **Stroke Communications Group**
12.30pm **Zumba Dance**
1.30pm **Modern Line Dancing** (Live Wire School of Dance)
4pm **Codanza**
8pm **Best of Ballroom Cuckfield Dance Club**

Thursday

- 9am **Tumbletots**
9.30am **Pilates**
7.30pm **Social Ballroom and Latin American**

Friday

- 9am **Tinkerbells** - music classes

September

- 25th **Parish Council Planning meeting** 7.30pm
Finance meeting 8pm

October

- 10th **Craft Fair** 9.30am – 1pm
10th **Evening Flower Club** 7.30pm
14th **Cuckfield museum talk** – the Council Chamber 2.30pm. 'The History and Secrets of Wakehurst Place' by John Withall. To book call Mike Nicholson on 457448
16th **Parish Council Planning meeting** 7.30pm
Environment meeting 8pm

September

- 16th **Cuckfield Evening WI** – The Old School, 8pm. Gardening tips from Lindsay Shurgull
17th **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society** Clair Hall 10.15am for 10.45am. 'Behind the Scenes: Curating the Art Museum' by Anna Harnden (www.mid-sussexdfas.org.uk)
19th-21st **Open-air Cinema at Borde Hill Garden** (More information on page 12)
20th- **Balcombe Arts Trail** starts – www.paulmilton.co.uk
21st **The Broadway Village Fete** From 12 noon, Haywards Heath town centre
24th **Royal British Legion Womens Section** – The Old School, 2.30pm. Card Making with Daphne Stuart
26th **The Sussex Heart Charity** – The Old School 1-5pm. Learn about the heart, basic life support and how to use a defibrillator (Nicky Lawrence 07711 673262)
27th & 28th **Hopfest** by Dark Star Brewery
30th **Haywards Heath's First Casualty** – Haywards Heath Library 7pm. Talk about the first soldier from HH to be killed in WWI (01444 25444)
30th **NHS Retirement Fellowship** – Franklands Village Hall, 10.15am. Brighton Trams talk by Ian Gledhill

October

- 3rd **Free lunchtime concert** Holy Trinity Church 12.30 (soup) concert 1-2pm. Ashley Beauchamp and tenor from Trinity Laban Conservatoire
5th **Angus Rowland ForgetMeNot run/walk** Registration from 9am Staplefield Village Hall
10th **The Donuts** playing at The Ravenswood Inn (tickets (£18) from Norma on 07971 494959)
11th **Cuckfield Local Food Market**, Talbot Courtyard 9.30am – 12.30pm
14th **Haywards Heath and District U3A** Clair Hall 2.00pm. Hurstpierpoint College Big Band. Entrance £1 includes refreshments
15th **Mid-Sussex Decorative and Fine Arts Society** Clair Hall 10.15am for 10.45am. 'Handel in London' by Sarah Lenton
17th **Cuckfield Mayor's Election Night** 8.30pm at The White Harte (p.22)
18th **Independent State of Cuckfield Mayor's Procession** from 2.30pm (p.24)

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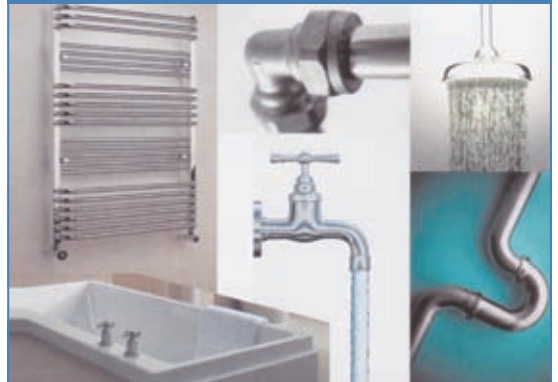
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