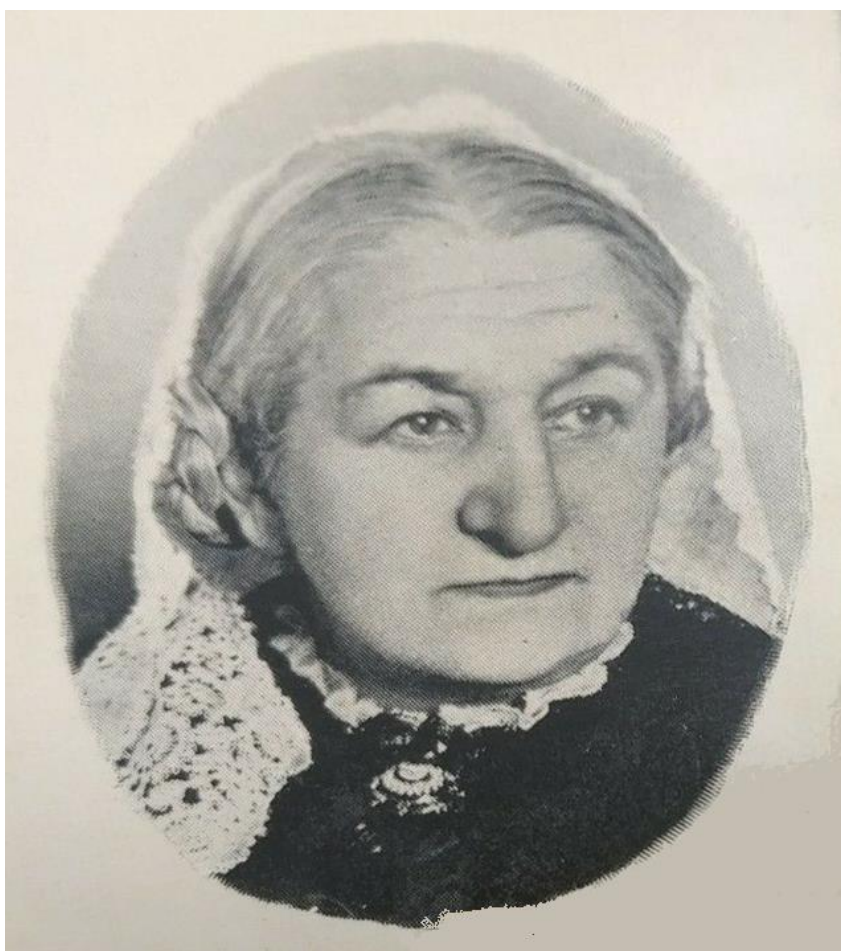


# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



AUTUMN  
2021

The Society is:

**Affiliate Member of the CPRE  
Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Supporter of the Sussex Butterfly Conservation Trust  
Associate Member of the Woodland Trust**

**Committee**

ACTING CHAIRMAN

Chris Pellett

SECRETARY

Marion Beal

TREASURER

Linda Butcher

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Chris Pellett

2021 EVENTS SECRETARY

Marion Salmon

Community Liaison, Communication and Social Media Secretary

Sue Redshaw

WEBSITE & IT

Leycester Whewell

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jenny Pellett

Additionally, we thank all our members, as well as many others who come forward and assist with different aspects when needed

***The Society aims to promote the preservation of the amenities of the village and its surrounding area, its heritage, historic buildings and footpaths. The Society hosts expert speakers, outings, monthly guided walks and issues seasonal newsletters.***

**Website address:**

[www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk](http://www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk)

**Email:**

[ehdps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ehdps@hotmail.co.uk)

**ACTING CHAIRMAN – Chris Pellett****COMPETITION PRIZEWINNER!**

The correct answer was 74 eggs plus 2 broken ones.

Pat Appleby was nearest guessing at 72 and has received a copy of *Comical Observations*, the just-out poetry book by our local resident poet, Audrey Haney.

Most entries came in as a result of posting on Facebook and so I wonder whether the society should have its own Facebook page? I'll answer that myself and say probably not. But a volunteer to monitor and collect information (subject to copyright and data protection rules) from the various local history and community pages would be useful.

I'll be surprised if you get this newsletter before the talk on Temperance and Hope so I'll just remind you that we have our social coming up in November and the theme will loosely be based on the 1970's.

More details further on.

Our outing to Knepp was a great success with twenty making the hour long journey to get there. It was worth it.

For those that couldn't come there is a good report of the day and I promise that next year our trips will be closer to home.

We had a good turnout from both members and guests for our first meeting with a speaker for eighteen months.

The compelling talk by Trevor Weeks on WRAS and Hedgehogs is reported further on for those unable to attend. The evening enhanced by the free wine available!

£128 was raised all of which we have given to WRAS in gratitude to the service Trevor, his team of volunteers and organisation provide for wildlife.

#### NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE – Jenny Pellett

As 2021 is drawing towards its end, we can probably all agree it has been as equally bewildering and difficult as 2020, but in slightly different ways.

The lifting of some restrictions has left the committee facing “could we.....should we.....” decisions about talks, walks and the upcoming social evening.

Paramount in any decision making is the well-being of our members and we want everyone to feel as safe as they can when attending events. If anyone feels that we need to do things differently in this regard, please let us know.

With this in mind we need to know what appetite there is for the Social Evening on November 26th. We will only go ahead if there is sufficient enthusiasm - so please let us know your thoughts as soon as possible.

Continuing support of the society means we are financially ‘OK’ and we hope that come 2022, you will renew your memberships in the hope of better things to come.

We will be having a very short Extraordinary AGM at the social to consider membership subscriptions with regards to the cost of producing the newsletters.

Stay safe, stay well, stay warm.

The committee



**COVER PICTURE - SARAH ROBINSON**

Our October talk by Ros Black is correctly titled: Scandal, Salvation & Suffrage - the Amazing Women of the Temperance Movement.

And the correct date for the meeting was Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

That date has now passed and so now we can report on the meeting which was described by one member as the best he had ever attended!

The cover picture is of Sarah taken from a book she had published as a "Little Keepsake" compiled for soldiers to mark her seventieth birthday and thirty years of the Portsmouth Soldiers Institute on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1904.

It contains uplifting Bible quotes for each day of the year.

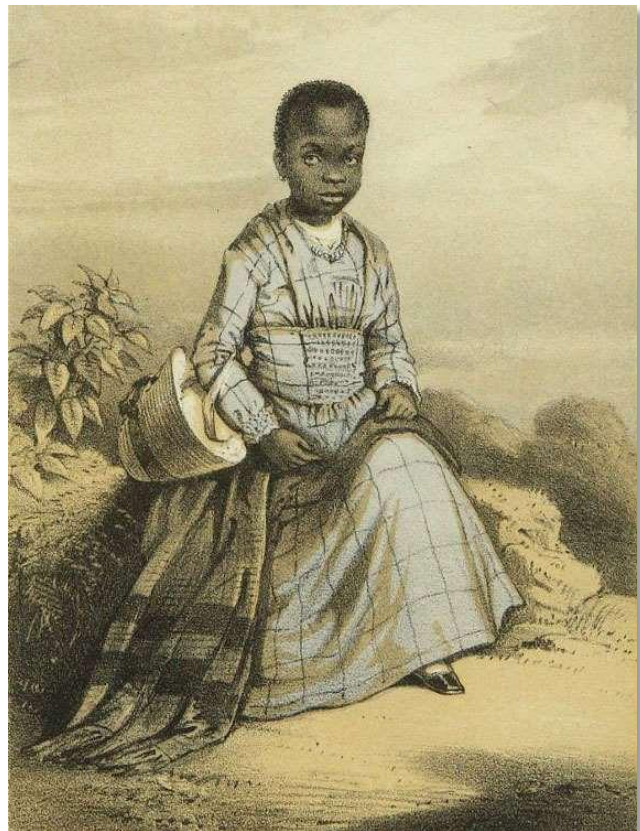
For October 8<sup>th</sup>; "Who then can be saved? With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible. (Mark X 27)"

Sarah Robinson spent her early childhood years at East Hoathly, playing as children did, first becoming proficient with a crossbow before moving on to a pistol, buying gunpowder presumably from the village shop.

Apparantly she didn't like the sermons at East Hoathly and so attended Chiddingly Church.

She recalls seeing a young girl there of about 8 years, also named Sarah unusual only in the fact that she was the first black person she had ever met.

The girl was Sarah Forbes Bonetta.



**SARAH FORBES BONETTA DAVIES & THE CHIDDINGLY VICAR**

Sarah Forbes Bonetta was born around 1843 with the name Aina as a member of the Yoruba. The village in West Africa where she lived was raided by another tribe in 1848, and whilst her parents were killed in the attack, Aina was taken captive and ended up at the court of King Gezo due to her high status. She had tribal marks on her face that indicated that she was a Princess.

Aina was intended to be used as a human sacrifice, but she was rescued by Captain Frederick E. Forbes of the Royal Navy who had been invited to watch the ceremony. The Captain had been horrified by the ceremony and became even more so when he realised that this young girl was also intended as a sacrifice. He appealed to King Gezo, telling him that Queen Victoria would never kill a child and would certainly not respect him if he

did so. After some deliberations, the young girl was spared and gifted to Queen Victoria, though the adults in the ceremony were still sacrificed. He took her to the HMS Bonetta and sailed down the coast to Badagry.

He then took her to the Church Missionary Society where it was decided that she should be baptised and when asked what her name should be, the Captain named her Sarah Forbes Bonetta. She was dressed in English clothes, and the wife of Reverend Vidal painted a portrait of her.





I believe this to be the wife of Rev James Henry Vidal Rector of Chiddingly. His twin brother, the Right Rev. Owen Emeric Vidal went on to become the first Bishop of Sierra Leone and in England he was the first incumbent of Holy Trinity Church in the newly formed Upper Dicker Parish.

Rev. Owen is recorded as marrying Anne Adelaide Hoare, daughter of the the Rector of Framfield in 1852.

Sally, as she was known, was in the care of Captain Forbes when brought to England in 1850 but he unfortunately died within a year. There was a strong connection between the Forbes and Vidal families formed years before during time in Jamaica. It would seem that Sally visited the Vidal family at Chiddingly before returning to the CMS in Sierra Leone. It is possible that the death of the now Bishop Owen Emeric Vidal in 1854 was a contributory factor to Sally being summoned back to England in 1855, and taken in by Reverend Schoen at Gillingham.

There is a letter surviving from Sally Bonetta written to her Mama (Mrs Schoen) from Chiddingly Vicarage dated October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1860.



In November 1860 a letter was sent from the Palace to Mrs Schoen instructing her to send Sarah to live with a Miss Welsh in Brighton and consider a proposal of marriage from James Davies. The Rev Vidals' parents had also recently moved to Brighton and so I wonder if it was not intended to isolate her as some writers have suggested.

Her marriage to James Davies, a successful businessman and son of liberated slaves, was encouraged by Queen Victoria and their wedding at Brighton

well documented. They returned to Africa and then diagnosed with tuberculosis, Sally went to Funchal on the island of Madeira to recover but died leaving a husband and three children. Her grave was until recently unmarked.

The story of Sarah Forbes Bonetta Davies, Queen Victoria's African Princess, gained media attention when featured in the TV drama series Victoria in 2017. A full length film of her life is currently in the offing.

Rev. James Henry Vidal retained the living at Chiddingly but likely continued his overseas missionary work until his death in 1875. His name appears on a memorial at the Protestant Cemetery, Mt. Zion Jerusalem, Israel where he is buried.

## FUTURE MEETINGS – 2021

<b>TALKS &amp; VISITS 2021</b> Fridays 7.30pm at East Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise. Usually on the SECOND Friday of the month but not always.	
OCTOBER 9 <sup>TH</sup>	<a href="#">Ros Black; The Temperance and Hope Movement.</a> <i>Including the story of Sarah Robinson who lived in East Hoathly.</i>
NOVEMBER 27 <sup>TH</sup>	Social Evening <i>Usual shenanigans</i>

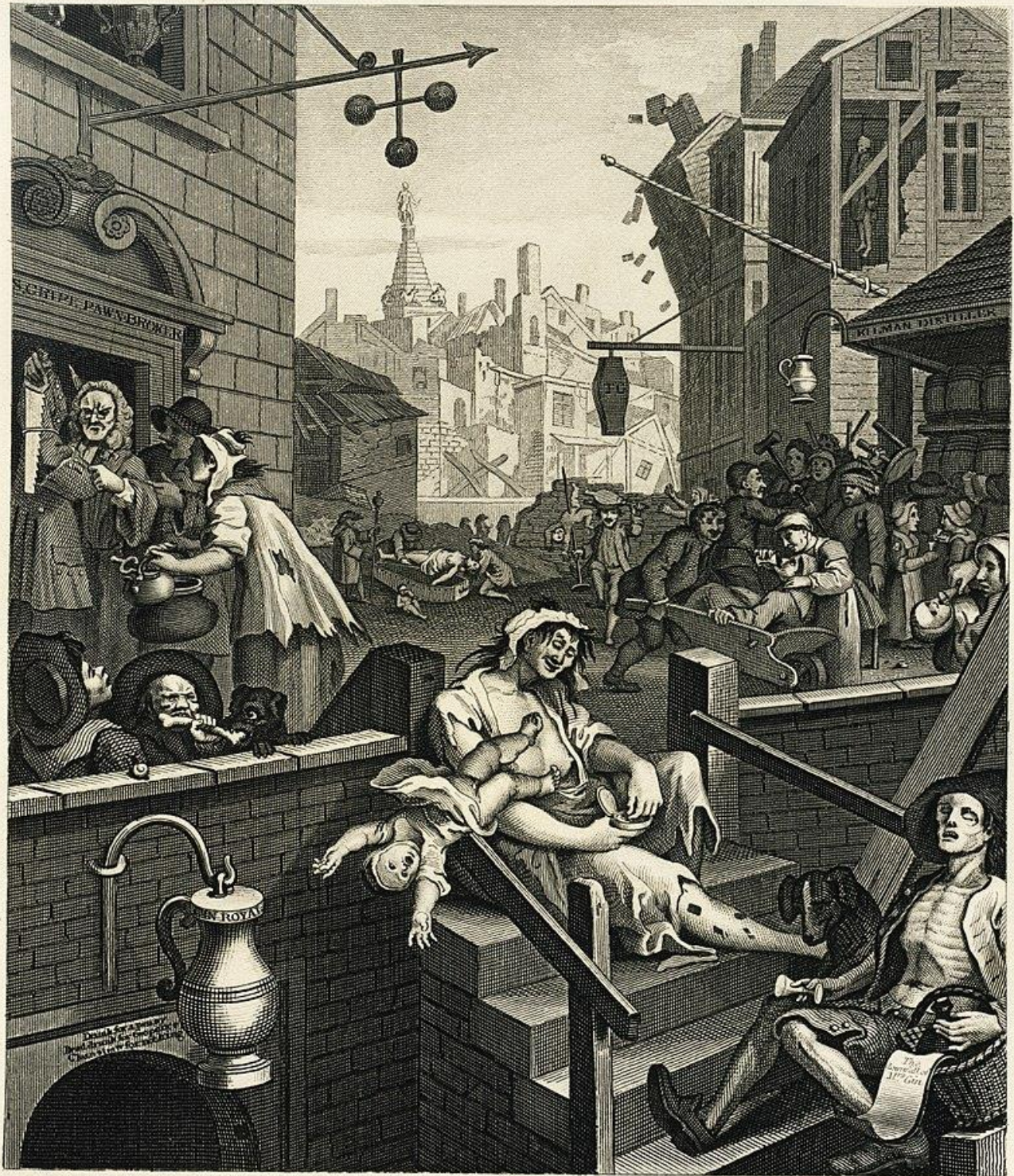
Wine for irony? Yes more was drunk at the October meeting.

Obviously you were either there or you have missed the talk by Ros Black. It was VERY good.

Please do offer your help for the social, we can all do something towards it whether that is putting silver skin onions and cheese cubes on to cocktail sticks or finding a photo album of your 1970's holiday to Majorca to display it'll raise a smile on someone's face and that's what it is all about.

The programme for next year is all but complete and will be issued at the Social.



**SCANDAL, SALVATION AND SUFFRAGE – Ros Black**

Unfortunately several of our regulars were absent due to illness, drunkenness, or other vices and so only just over 20 members attended.



On 8th October 2021 Ros gave an outstanding talk enlightening us as to what temperance and the Temperance Movement were really all about. In particular she singled out the amazing women;  
Sarah Robinson – the Soldiers' Friend  
Agnes Weston - the Sailors' Friend,  
Lady Henry Somerset & her farm colony for inebriate women,  
Catherine Booth, mother of the Salvation Army and  
Rosalind Howard, Countess of Carlisle.

Although a movement promoting total abstinence to try to curb poor behaviour and poverty due to excess drinking of alcohol started in the early nineteenth century, success was limited.

Then, Anne Jane Carlile set up the Band of Hope as a children's movement teaching of the perils of alcohol in 1847.

The children's movement was attractive because it also provided activities such as singing, education and outings, sometimes to the seaside.

Temperance didn't necessarily mean total abstinence; the "pledge" was at first promising to abstain from all intoxicating liquors and tobacco but this soon changed to agreeing not to use intoxicating liquor as a beverage.

Moderation was acceptable to many, prohibition perhaps not so popular.

Some employers such as Mr Cadbury built Bourneville village for employees but prohibited alcohol, Tide Mills near Seaford was also deliberately built without a public house for its workers.

Band of Hope is still an active drug education charity now named Hope UK.

Sarah Robinson born Peckham 1834 had a sense of Humour.

Her family moved to Hesmonds in east Hoathly when she was seven, she was diagnosed with a spinal condition in her teens and could not walk, but lived to the age of 87, dying at The Hut, Burley in the New Forest 1921

She described herself as naughty at school in Brighton and not well behaved. Her family were strict Calvinist until her mother died. Sarah

started going to Chiddingly Church and a particular sermon from Rev. Vidal helped shape her life. Religion was very important. The Robinson family moved to Guildford in 1858, near to the barracks.

With the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny recent news, Sarah considered soldiers and sailors heroes and was disappointed that many spent all the money they had on drink on arrival back at barracks.

She joined the Band of Hope at Guildford, took to writing letters to soldiers and soon helped set up an alcohol free Institute and Mission Hall at Aldershot, serving buns and coffee.

When the soldiers left for manoeuvres on Dartmoor Sarah followed with tea and cake, served from a caravan under the banner of the National Temperance League. Local pubs, losing trade, came out and set up stalls selling their beer. This continued at Cannock Chase and eventually Sarah set up the Soldiers Institute at Portsmouth.

We learnt of Sarah's other work including an Institute in Egypt, her fundraising, her 1000mile coach tour and her correspondence with Florence Nightingale.

For the rest of the talk the best thing to do is to buy Ros Black's book, currently at a bargain price if you buy direct from her via her website.

<https://rosblackcreative.com/>

"Scandal Salvation and Suffrage" is also available from good bookshops and Amazon

**THE SEVENTIES – Maz Beal****I remember when :**

I wore Hotpants, I had the legs for them then although they were still very short. I had a black velvet choker attached with a popper at the back and painted my eyelids very very blue, my earrings were large hoops and the shoes were platforms, I quite liked that concept being so vertically challenged. It was a precarious operation climbing upstairs on the bus in such footwear, always at the top so we could smoke!!

I listened in my bedroom on a Sunday evening to Pick of the Pops with “fluff” Freeman and waited with untold excitement to be informed who was number one that week. Maybe David Cassidy or T Rex or Lieutenant Pigeon with mouldy old dough, this list is endless and it was indeed the highlight of my week. I had a Binetone cassette player and would try to record some of the tracks as we didn’t have a record player but it was very hit and miss. What I really wanted was a Chopper Bike but that was never to be.



I remember Instant Whip, Gob stoppers, Smash, Marathons, Spangles, Fab ice lollies and old money. I also was on the Isle of Wight ferry with the festival goers who saw Jimi Hendrix and the Who, however it was with my Mum and Dad who were rather intimidated by the “scene” ha ha . It was my

parents though who had the lurid orange swirls of wallpaper upon their walls and a bright green Robin Reliant. Oh the embarrassment.



**THE SOCIAL – FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER**

**With a Seventies Theme:**

The decade of dodgy hairstyles, dubious fashion, power cuts and Arctic Roll!

**SOCIAL EVENING**  
**FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER**

An evening of fun and games with a 1970's theme:  
Join us for

BEETLE DRIVE  
'70'S QUIZ  
RETRO FOOD AND DRINK  
A SHORT FILM shot in SUPER 8MM  
RAFFLE

and some of the best, or perhaps worst, music the decade had to offer  
Wear your flares if you dare!

We also need to have a very short EAGM to consider newsletter costs and ways to sustainably fund them. Who remembers the 1970's Roneo Duplicator?

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Due to the ongoing Covid situation, the social will only go ahead if there is sufficient enthusiasm (and restrictions allow).

Please let us know if you would come along, or if you would prefer not to.

Then we are after offers of help, all gratefully received

jlpellett@icloud.com  
872830

## OUR TRIP TO KNEPP – Richard Beal

### OUR DAY OUT AT KNEPP AUGUST 22ND 2021

The weather was extremely kind to us and the picnic enjoyed beforehand in the parking area of Knepp was very pleasant indeed.

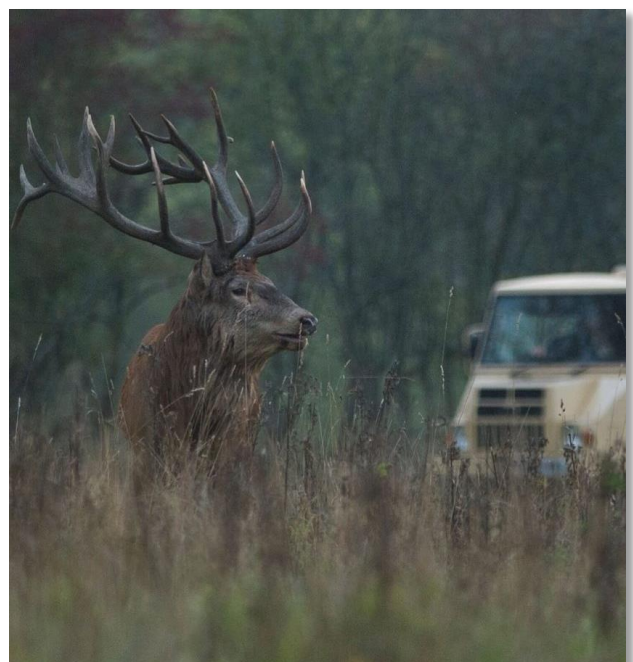


My understanding of the concept of Knepp was that the estate was being returned to the wild without interference from modern agriculture to encourage previously missing insects and predators to return, thrive and reshape the landscape with the help of grazing animals. We were hoping to see some of these

in the grounds. There are 16 miles of permitted footpaths on the 3,500 acres and we were rather glad when Chris announced that we would only be walking a shorter distance. Maps were available at the entrance as was the donation box for parking.

En route there are lookout towers and upon climbing one saw a herd of Fallow Deer with the most enormous antlers, a stunning sight across the long grasses and largely hidden without the aid of the tower.

Above us flew a large white bird which we were delighted to observe was a stork! There has been successful breeding in the last year



and it was so wonderful to see a few more joining them wheeling around the blue sky, an unusual sight in Southern England as opposed to Europe where we have seen them nesting atop of telegraph poles. There was abundant wildlife underfoot with a slowworm spotted and ants everywhere, in fact they had taken to the air and we were at risk of ingesting them if we didn't keep quiet!



There were many butterflies and I wished I could have identified them all, apparently a very rare Purple Emperor is thriving here. Perhaps we did see one? We passed a [Knepp Safari](#) truck taking people around to explore, maybe those who were unable to walk or wanted to go further. A wild camping area is available and I was very excited about the prospect in the future of seeing the sun setting and watching the possible 13 species of Bats circling the tent or waking to the sound of Nightingales and Turtle Doves whilst watching the deer grazing nearby with peregrine falcons hunting in the rough grassland and the long horned cattle lowing in the distance. We didn't see any Tamworth Pigs this trip, although our friends had spotted some in the morning with hoglets. Something I really would like to experience. Knepp is a magical place and inspired me to read [Wilding by Isabella Tree](#) (kindly lent by Jenny) which was very enlightening and saddening to understand what we are doing to our environment and what we could and should be doing to reverse the effects of intensive farming and over urbanisation.

I would encourage anyone to visit, well-marked paths of a distance to suit any abilities, a refreshment van is available and a farm shop with produce from the estate. Dogs are welcome but must be on leads at all times, and there is a toll ride for horses available too. I will return at the earliest opportunity to be at peace with nature and a very natural environment with the added bonus of a wildlife spotting opportunity around every corner!

## East Sussex WRAS

This was our first talk for 18 months, and despite masks and precautions, it felt good to be back.

Trevor's knowledge of hedgehogs is extensive and fascinating. We learnt:

They have three different types of fur and most of their tail is inside their body; To survive winter they need to weigh at least 900g (approx. 2lbs); They can live for about 5 years; Over the last 35-40 years their numbers have seriously declined to worryingly low levels; They need to roam freely to find food and for breeding. Providing 'Hedgehog Highways' - holes in fences and walls - is a simple and effective way to help; They eat beetles, caterpillars, worms, birds eggs, young mice and slugs; They hibernate under wood piles, in leaves, tree roots and quiet sheds. Don't make your garden too tidy - think like a hedgehog!



During hibernation their bodies go into a state of torpor, with all bodily functions slowing down. They have to wake to sleep; they are predated by badgers and can be injured by curious foxes; they can give birth to 10 young, but 25% of

those will die in the nest. 40% do not survive their first winter; Hedgehog fleas are species specific and do not live on other animals. Do not use flea treatments on them;

Trevor's top ten tips for keeping hedgehogs safe and healthy in garden.

1. If a hedgehog comes to your garden you don't need to feed it if it looks healthy, it will find beetles, caterpillars, worms and slugs in your garden.
2. It would like water in a shallow dish.



3. If feeding hedgehogs, the food should be moist/wet so add water to dog or cat food and don't use fish varieties.
4. Don't give it bread or milk, or mealworms.
5. If unsure check the internet and don't give too much of any one food.
6. If its spines are not giving it a well-rounded shape it needs help from a professional.
7. Don't forget when tidying up your garden and moving leaves or small twigs that hedgehogs and other vertebrates, (toads, frogs, slow worms, lizards), may be underneath. Also check that your shed, keep it tidy and make sure lids are firmly on things like paint, glue, oil and antifreeze.
8. Don't make a bonfire and leave for ages before setting fire to it, check it first and only light from one side (to leave an escape route).
- 8a. Think before you strim - all sorts of creatures live in long grass!
9. If you have a pond, can animals escape if they fall in?
10. If you don't know how to solve the problem ask WRAS <https://www.facebook.com/wildlifeambulance> Tel: 07815 078234 (9am-5pm unless an emergency)

Trevor also had some useful information regarding deer:

If you find an injured deer on the road and it is a hazard, phone 999. The police have a link to deer wardens who will deal with it.

An injured deer on the verge should be reported by phoning 101.

A dead deer or other large animal on the verge, but not a hazard, should be reported to Wealden Council on 01323 443322.

WRAS's 24 Hour Rescue Line: 07815-078234

To donate over the phone and all other enquiries please call: 01825-873003

This year is WRAS's 25th Year as a voluntary group.

**PECKHAM'S HALLAND – Lord Shawcross**

Seventy five years ago on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1946 Nazi war criminals were sentenced at Nuremburg.

Peckham's, the house in Knowle Lane, Halland, made the news recently because of the death of its former resident Charlie Watts of the Rolling Stones.

Perhaps remembering the house for the work of Lord Hartley Shawcross who lived there from 1946 to 1958 would be at least equally appropriate.



Photo kindly supplied by [Geograph](#)

Lord Shawcross, Britain's Chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trial had a lifelong fondness for Sussex.

Shawcross was born in Giessen, Germany, a small university town where his father, the 13th son of a mill-owner from Rochdale, was professor of English literature.

His parents brought him back to England as a baby, living first near Oxford and then at Clapham Common, South London. The family also owned a cottage in the Ashdown forest in Sussex, an area he regarded as his real home in childhood, and to which he would return for good as an adult.

One of Sir Hartley's early tasks was to lead the British prosecution at Nuremberg, alongside allied colleagues. He made the opening and closing speeches for the British case, held to be one of the finest and deadliest presentations of a very long trial – "Shawcross's rapier of cold steel contrasting vividly with the ornate sledgehammer wielded by the chief American prosecutor, Justice Robert H Jackson."

Back in England, it fell to Shawcross, as attorney general, to lead the prosecution of William Joyce, "Lord Haw-Haw" who incidentally had lived at Fox Hunt Green, Waldron, before the war.

In 1958 Sir Hartley Shawcross was given a life peerage and bought Friston Place. He died in 2003 at his home in Cowbeech aged 101.

His most famous line was "There comes a point when a man must refuse to answer to his leader if he is also to answer to his own conscience".



He was most famously misquoted as saying "We are the masters now" which haunted his political career.

Lord Shawcross also served as Britain's principle delegate to the UN immediately after World War 2 and later as Attorney General for England and Wales.

Back to Peckham's, I understand that there was a veterinary hospital built in the grounds, decorated with sketches by Charlie Watts's wife. Does anyone know more about this?

**OPEN GARDENS - Linda Butcher**

As a fund raiser for the Village Concerns group, in August this year, four large gardens opened up to the public and we were blessed with lovely weather for the event which attracted lots of local people. It was the first time that these four lovely private gardens had been accessible at the same time.

The gardens were located at Old Whyly, Belmont House, The Gate House and Hesmonds.

We decided to visit three out of the four, omitting Old Whyly as I regularly walk through there with my dog.



*Masses of Colour at Belmont*

Firstly, we went to Belmont House and I have to say, this is certainly impressive and so colourful and the lake is absolutely amazing. It is hard to describe how the colours are emphasised by the number of plants of one type so you get swathes of colour, it truly is wonderful.

Next we went to The Gate House and as well as appreciating the gardens we were able to enjoy cream teas and chat to neighbours. It appeared lots of people only got this far! But we did walk around the garden and saw so many varieties of wonderful dahlias but also examples of how we should be growing vegetables! (No photo here as too many people about)





*The "Haunted Lake" at Belmont*

Finally, we walked into Hesmonds and were impressed with the lovely looking house before being a little disappointed by the grounds. Although extensive, it was very natural compared with Belmont and The Gate House, but that's just a personal view. The lake was interesting though, I turned my back and something jumped out the water and made quite a splash which made me exclaim!

Linda

#### Footnote:

As Linda said, she didn't visit the garden at Old Whyly as she often admires it when passing by on dog walks. For me, it was the first of the gardens I visited on this marvellous afternoon and I found it utterly enchanting. The grounds and planting felt welcoming and tranquil, and I would have been quite happy to have passed the afternoon sitting peacefully watching the bees and butterflies flitting from flower to flower.

What also made visiting Old Whyly rather special was the long walk along the driveway, shared casually chatting with friends not seen for far too long.

Jenny



## FARMS & FARMING – Chris

One Hundred & Ninety Four Turnips to a Perch!

Oh how farming has changed.

And Sussex dialect is all but lost.

The following words and farming practises have been gleaned from the early nineteenth century book on Sussex agriculture by Rev. Arthur Young:

“Kilk” was a problem in Sussex, and a Sussex term for Charlock, which was a name used for many of the yellow-flowered cruciferous weeds of grain fields. Now Charlock is more specific referring only to wild mustard.

Sussex embraced Coleseed, which we now call Rape.

Golden Dun, Ox Noble & Early Kidney were the popular potatoes two hundred years ago. The Ox Noble only deemed fit as animal feed.



“Buckwheat” was tried at Beddingham and fed to sheep when in full bloom.



“For two hours all were as if drunk, their glands swollen, and staggering and stumbling. On hogs it had the same effect, and bleeding made the sheep worse”. Despite the side effects buckwheat is experiencing a resurgence – as it is gluten free.

Since the mid sixteenth century hops have been grown as a chancer’s crop;

“First the flea, then the fly  
Then the mould, then they die.”

Annual yields swung wildly: 1.57 million pounds (lbs) in 1726, 20.39 million the next year. Fortunes could be made but the wise farmer remains cautious.

Smaller crops included Opium, grown by the Earl of Egremont at Petworth comes highly recommended. Whilst apple orchards abounded with 15 bushel of apples making a hogshead of liquor.

Other Sussex words once common in the Weald:

Who talks of “Bavins” these days? Apparently more of a Sussex word than Faggot and more usually only tied with one “Withy”. And it is the “Shiverer” that quarters the ash into middling, long and short hoops.

“Tellows”, another Sussex word, are the first year’s growth from stumps of oak or ash after coppicing and allowed to regrow. The regrowth rarely produces good timber.

The “Shaws” on the Weald were broad belts of underwood, two, three, and even four rods wide, around every field. At first preserved to ensure a timber supply and, latterly, protected against encroachment by the tenants livestock were, by the nineteenth century considered a nuisance to corn crops by shading them from the sun and (timber excepted) created but a miserable account for the wood produced.

As there is no longer a need for “ship’s timber” it is a wonder that any of our shaws have made it to the twenty-first century.

But perhaps if we lost the shaws we would lose another part of the Wealden dialect.

## TEA ROOMS - CURRENT

Little bit different to how I envisaged the format of this series on tea rooms developing but I'm sure many of you knew Wesson's Café at Horam.

It ran from 2000 to 2018 and wasn't the quaint genteel tea rooms that most people think of when considering a trip out into the English countryside. Born out of a motorcycle shop, the Café with a biker theme soon took over to be a thriving business for Steve and Loz Wesson. For many local teenagers it was their first, and a most sought after, place of work in Horam.

Wesson's took pride in attempting to retain classic British Cafe culture by infusing a classic touch in the ambience, menu and memorabilia on display.

The atmosphere was always cordial and the staff warm and friendly. Complemented by some excellent food it remained a favourite with bikers, cyclists, walkers of the Cuckoo Trail, visitors and a good number of locals and regulars with whom Steve, the owner, was always there ready to have a good chat. Steve and Loz have now stepped back to have more family time and perhaps a less hectic work schedule.



But their enthusiasm has rubbed off and remains with Tpodz Tearoom & the Horam Emporium, the new incarnation. Like everyone else the new tea rooms have had 18 months of uneasiness and are only now just getting back into the swing of things.





One of Steve's regulars was the amazing Dave Fletcher. He was a Tail Gun Charlie in a Lancaster Bomber during WW2

In 2014 Dave, starting from Wessons, rode 1000 miles (aged 93) his motorcycle solo to Inverness and back visiting his old air bases - he was camping on this trip! A truly

amazing man.

In 2015 he made a 500 mile trip in France on his motorcycle visiting war cemeteries.

His last motorcycle ride was to the Cafe on his 95th birthday, where he left his trusty Honda and it was sold on his behalf.

Dave Fletcher continued to ride his bicycle the five miles up the Cuckoo Trail to Tpodz Tearoom regularly, including on D Day 2019. In fact he continued to visit Tpodz on his bicycle until lockdown in April 2020.

Unfortunately he died this September two weeks before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He will not be forgotten.

Few tea rooms can boast such heroic patronage.



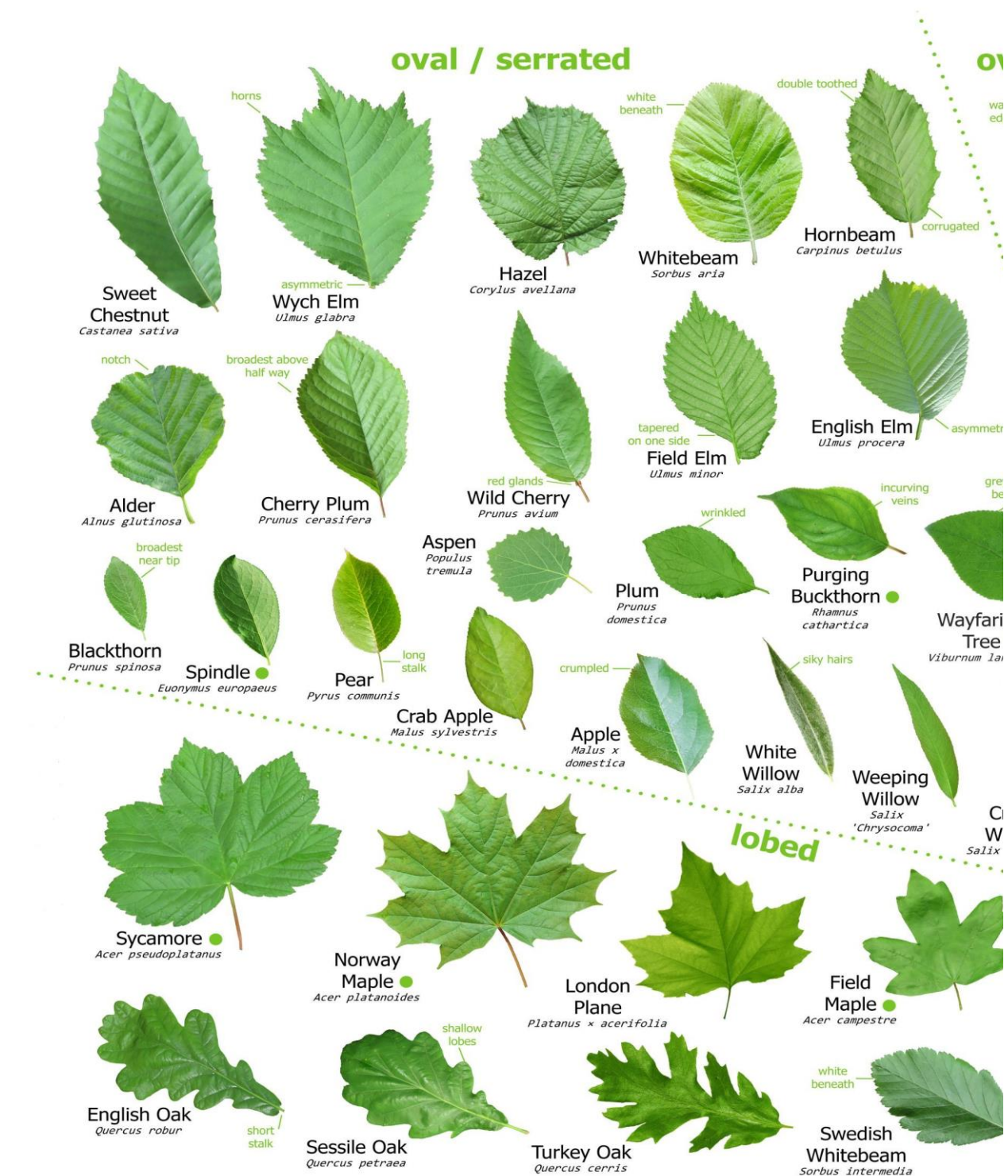
Tail gunners view



Tpodz customers view

[www.horamemporium.co.uk/tpodz-tea-room/](http://www.horamemporium.co.uk/tpodz-tea-room/)

## BRITISH BROADLEAF TREES

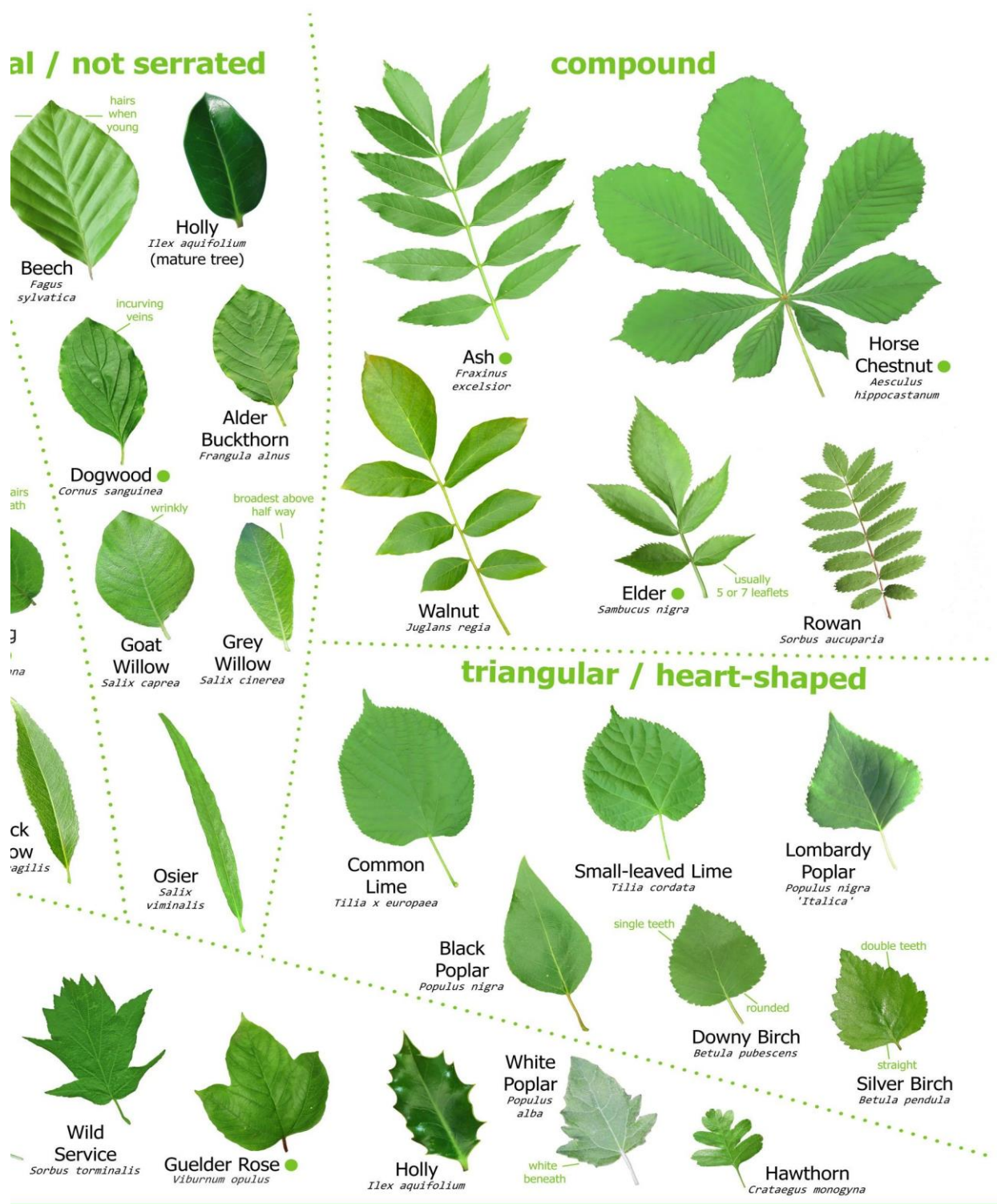


## Leaves of British Broadleaved Trees

● denotes List of British Trees

This poster by Phil Barnett is available as a hi-res free download or you can buy a print - £1 goes to World Land Trust for each one sold - protecting threatened





leaves that are arranged in opposite pairs - all the others are arranged alternately

**MICROCOSMIC.shop**

habitats and endangered species. Loads of other interesting items in his online shop. Phil gives 10% of profits to World Land Trust <https://microcosmic.shop>



**BOOK REVIEW – Chris Pellett**

I was very pleased to be able to give a copy of Audrey Haney's new book "[Comical Observations](#)" as the Guinea Fowl Egg Competition prize. And if anyone was wondering "would it make a good stocking filler for Christmas?" here's a little bit about it.

Every now and again Audrey comes up with a powerful meaningful poem. None of those are in this book.

This book has poems about builders' bottoms and Scrabble;

"We stopped playing board games  
in the year 1974,  
When a typical game of Scrabble  
ended by being thrown on the floor"

So the answer is yes, 34 pages of observational humour, guaranteed to make someone smile at Christmas.

Audrey's book is available for just £5 at [Muffins in East Hoathly](#) or by post if you ask her nicely.

The adjacent poem by Audrey was chosen to appear on the Royal British Legion poetry page a few years ago.

**Where Poppies Grow**

Remember us, time does pass,  
we now lay down under grass.  
Some stay silent, others known,  
some have families far from home.  
We could hear the whispers calling,  
did not know we would be falling.  
Found ourselves in mud and pain  
washed away by gentle rain.  
Now you talk and we do hear  
always standing by you near,  
watching silent from the field  
where the many fates were sealed.  
You stand silent, prayers last  
wishing you could change our past.  
But we smile from far away  
hoping you will learn one day.  
You remember us, as time does pass,  
from that field among the grass  
This gift to you we do bestow  
In the grass where Poppies grow.

Audrey Haney

## CPRE campaign on planning - What gets built and where

We want places to live that are good for people and nature.

The places we live should provide us with access to everything we need for a good quality of life. It's just common sense.

Since the government proposed the most radical changes to our planning system since 1947, which would have severely curtailed the public consultation process on major developments, the CPRE along with others has been campaigning against the proposals.

The government has now confirmed that they will be pausing their unpopular plans to change planning rules, and as we celebrate a successful campaign we now urge Michael Gove: 'take a fresh look'.

It's a big success for the countryside, [CPRE, the countryside charity](#), and for us, the rural dwellers that know what is appropriate for the communities in which we live.

Boris Johnson has used his conference speech to signal a brownfield-first approach to new building. We now have to ensure he sticks to it.

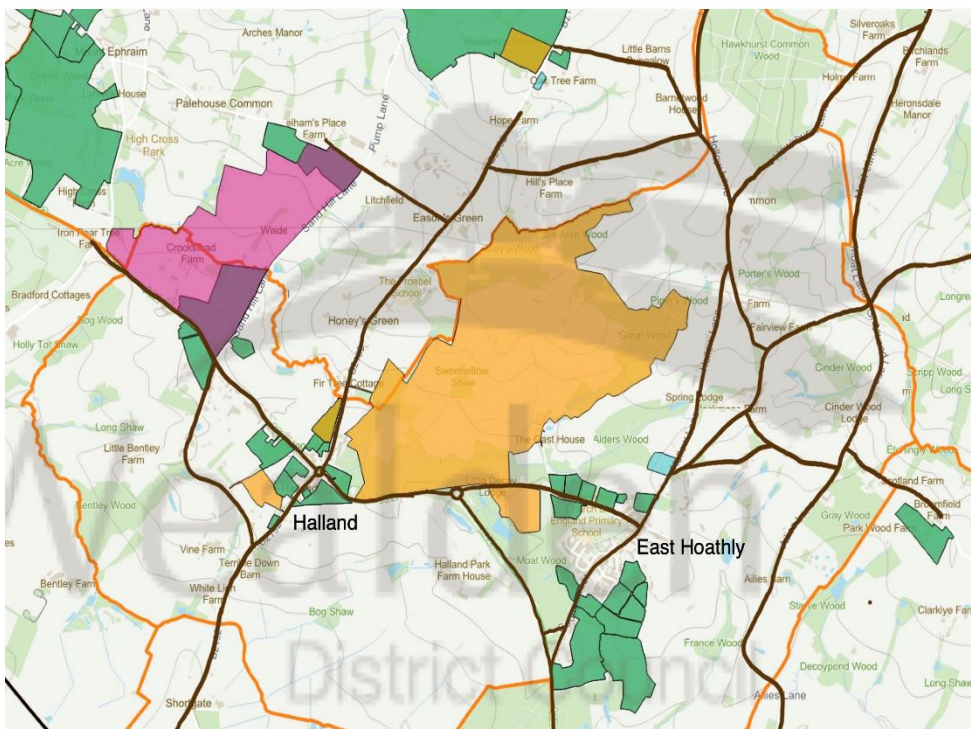
The CPRE looks forward to working with the government to drive up build-out rates of genuinely affordable and low carbon homes on brownfield sites.

[CPRE research](#) has shown that there's space for over a million new homes on these previously-used or derelict sites already – and that many of them already have planning permission.

As Tom Fyans (CPRE Deputy CEO) says, "It really is a no-brainer that these sites, many of which are located in the north and Midlands, are put at the front of the queue for development to realize the government's levelling up ambitions."

## VILLAGE CONCERNS

We have learnt some alarming news regarding future development in our Parish: Wealden have created a relationship with Parker Dann who are contacting landowners directly. In their approach to landowners Parker Dann state "We have been engaged with the Council's Planning Policy Officers regarding the potential inclusion of the site within the emerging Local Plan and have had a series of meetings to this end. The Council have asked that we explore the possibility of enlarging the potential site".



The areas marked Green have been put forward previously, some already gaining planning consent. The Yellow, for 3000 houses, was added in 2020, and now the Purple (with more likely to be added).

As far as we are aware, our District Councillor and Parish Council have not been informed or consulted on this matter.

We feel that this proposal is monstrous and wrong.

We will continue to challenge Wealden, pursue our Judicial Review and urge our District Councillor and Parish Council to take up the fight. Other groups are emerging to fight against similar ideas for Upper Dicker, East Chilmington and Heathfield - we are making contact to exchange ideas. We suggest that if this enflames you, then write to our MP, the press, The Tooth Fairy, to anyone you think might listen.



## WATER - Rachael Powys-Keck

The response by Southern Water to questions from Village Concerns reads thus:

“I would advise that water companies are not statutory consultees on planning applications however, we encourage planning authorities to consult with us on applications which may have a significant impact, or be impacted by our assets. In situations such as this, we would normally rely on the council putting in place the relevant conditions for the protection of our assets on any planning approval.

When the application comes in for planning, we will do a desktop assessment to check for capacity, if there are any issues we will let the council know and they should condition the development to occupy the site in time for us to deliver the extra capacity needed. We will then carry out further investigation and if upgrades are needed then we will design something suitable to accommodate the development within 24 months of planning being granted”.

Rachael Powys-Keck

Planning Coordinator, Developer Services

[www.southernwater.co.uk](http://www.southernwater.co.uk)

## PLANNING, FLOODING & SEWAGE

The Lord's, headed aptly by the Duke of Wellingtons, requested an amendment to the Environment Bill that the government didn't like.

It's made the news and the government has had to reword it following the public outcry.

Raw sewage should not be discharged into water courses, rivers and the sea. It should not be flooding into people's gardens or out through storm drains onto the roads.

BUT.

We are blaming the water companies, who are not statutory consultees when a planning, even major planning, application is made.

Developers submit their own expert reports offering Sustainable Drainage Solutions that clearly do not work, and the water companies' commitment is to “design something suitable to accommodate the development within 24 months of planning being granted”.

Whilst it's in the news this is the time to press for change. Locally and nationally countless development applications have been passed which would have not done so if the water and sewage issues had been properly assessed, submitted and properly considered. The rules need to be changed so that the infrastructure comes first.

## Shedding light on INSECTS

Nature is under siege and we know we are responsible.

Insects face multiple, overlapping threats including the destruction of wild habitats for farming, urbanisation, pesticide use and from light pollution. Population collapses have been recorded where human activities dominate, and although there is little data from wild tropical regions, where most insects live, climate change is causing drought which is the biggest killer of insects.

Insects are the most varied and abundant animals on Earth, with millions of species and outweighing humans by 17 times. They are essential to the ecosystems that humanity depends upon, pollinating plants, providing food for other creatures and recycling nature's waste.

In the journal [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#). "Nature is under siege, insects are suffering from 'death by a thousand cuts' and severe insect declines potentially have global ecological and economic consequences."

Many insect populations are falling by 1-2% a year, a rate that should not be seen as small: "You're losing 10-20% of your animals over a single decade and that is just absolutely frightening. You're tearing apart the tapestry of life."

Everyone has a part to play. We can protect insects. Individuals can rewild their gardens, cut pesticide use and limit outdoor lighting. Countries must reduce the impacts of farming and urbanisation. All groups can help change attitudes towards insects through education, understanding and acknowledging that they are crucial components of the living world.

The number of butterflies in the UK has fallen by 50% since 1976.

## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION – Light Pollution



A new ground-breaking study from [Butterfly Conservation, the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Newcastle University](#) has shown how “Eco-friendly” LED streetlights produce even worse light pollution for insects than the traditional sodium bulbs they are replacing.

The research, led by PhD student Douglas Boyes, shows that streetlights in southern England reduce the abundance of moth caterpillars in grass verges by one-third.

In grass margins, moth caterpillar numbers near LEDs were a third lower than in unlit areas, whereas sodium lights had little effect on abundance.

The white LED lights are more energy efficient but produce more blue light, say scientists, which is the colour predominantly seen by insects.

Moths are important pollinators and provide essential food for birds and animals, but the total abundance of moths in Britain has dropped by a third over the past 50 years.

However, whilst it's only part of the problem for moths, it would be very easy, in principle, to change the intensity and colour of LEDs for the betterment of insects and reduce the impact on moth populations in the future.

On 26 September, since I earmarked this article for the newsletter, Douglas Boyes unexpectedly died.

Douglas Boyes championed Lepidoptera from the age of twelve, was the country's youngest County Butterfly Recorder at 16 and at Oxford, earned an MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management with distinction. He was the winner of the Newcomer Award in the 2020 NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording and released this latest study in July this year.



A supremely talented, enthusiastic and dedicated young scientist he was also a kind and generous colleague to those he worked with, and a young man who had already achieved so much in his career and life to date.

Butterfly Conservation is supporting Douglas's family to inspire a new generation of Lepidopterists to share his passion and further the work of young researchers. If you wish, [please make a donation](#) to further Douglas's legacy.

### WILDLIFE IN MY LAUGHTON GARDEN- Sue Redshaw



We live in the middle of Laughton with a small garden, road on one side, Village Hall, Cricket ground and a neighbour's garden on the others. Not what you'd expect to be a wildlife haven. However, this summer we have had bluetits nesting in the bird box on the Oak tree, Thrushes nesting in the front hedge and Blackbirds in the rose

bushes. The bluetits raised their young to the point where they were joining Mum and Dad on the bird feeder, so OK to go, I think. A fledgling Thrush, whose navigation system wasn't quite up to speed, flew into our Conservatory and had to be rescued and returned to his agitated parent on the lawn. The Blackbirds I am not sure about. All seemed to be going well but then Mum disappeared leaving just Dad, easily recognised by the white streak on his head, but I haven't seen any fledgling blackbirds.

I think we have also got some sparrows nesting - not sure where - but there are a lot of them in the garden. Their great joy in life is bathing in our water feature – a little fountain spouting from a hunk of granite. Several will get in together, splashing and chattering – so funny to watch. The bigger birds are more dignified and bathe alone. A few weeks ago the water stopped flowing and we had some very disgruntled birds complaining about the poor service. I contacted David, our resident electricity wizard, and he popped round to see what had gone wrong. A miniscule slug (not-so-welcome wildlife!) had crawled into the transformer and fused it. A magic wand was

waved and, low and behold, the water flowed again – happy, happy sparrows!



Most exciting has been the appearance of hedgehogs in the garden. One night as we were going to bed, there was an awful racket going on outside our bedroom window, which proved to be two hedgehogs dancing around one another. Sounded like a fight but I 'googled' hedgehogs and discovered that this is what

they do when they mate! So five weeks later (early July) I'm woken at 3am by another racket – this time Mrs Tiggywinkle building a nest in the flower bed below our window. Hedgehogs are very noisy creatures! Hopefully the hoglets have been born and will appear at the beginning of August. I am having to work on keeping my dogs from investigating the nest!

We do have less welcome visitors on occasions in the form of the above-mentioned slugs (hopefully being eaten by the hedgehog), snails (ditto by the thrushes), rats and mice (new neighbours' cats hopefully on the case), grey squirrels, pigeons and jackdaws. We don't have deer as they won't venture into the centre of the village and luckily the rabbits prefer digging up the cricket pitch!

When it comes to wildlife, both welcome and unwelcome, it all happens in Laughton.

Sue Redshaw

## W.I. East Hoathly – Wartime recollections continued

### I REMEMBER WHEN

As D Day came and passed, and more and more of Europe was liberated there came the call to Institute knitters to take part in the N.F.W.I. wool scheme. Under this scheme the wool came to us from the county office and was sent back knitted up to the patterns given. The report for 1945 mentions ninety-one jerseys, cardigans, and shawls knitted up to the patterns given. As the wool came to us from public funds even the tiniest little balls of wool over had to be collected and returned to make the articles knitted up and the wool issued tally. A Help Holland appeal was also taken up in the institute and three enormous sacks full of useful articles sent to the receiving warehouse in London.

Last, but by no means least, the Institute worked hard for the Savings Movement. Volunteers from the Institute acted as area collectors covering all parts of the village.

Each year of the war there was a special national savings week under different names; Salute the Soldier week, Wings week etc. And so each year found the Institute making seven days of special effort with concerts, whist drives and dances. The annual report of 1942 mentions that one of our collectors did so well with her group in War Weapons Week that the group earned the right to



*"Susie" lifts her skirt ready for action!*

have a tank named after the collector. The report went on to say that perhaps one day a member, with a son in the Tank Corps, might hear from him that he was careering about in the desert in our tank "Susie", even, perhaps, referring to having slapped her affectionately on her rear armour plating.

In that case the report hopes that the collector in question will not consider him to have been too familiar!



**RECIPE FROM THE PAST****Sussex Plum Duffs**

55g lard  
2 cups of flour  
55g currants or sultanas  
27g castor sugar  
1 cup of milk (soured)  
Lemon



Sour the milk by adding the juice of half a lemon.

Rub the lard into the flour, add the fruit and sugar, and then the milk. Work the mixture into a pastry.

Roll out and cut into rounds, brush with milk, bake in a moderate oven for 15 minutes.

According to the story given in the history of the British navy, an English brig in the south Pacific was caught in a series of awful hurricanes. All on board were anxious to reach a port in time for Christmas, but the holiday found them still off the Navigator islands. Worst of all, they had shipped a sea that carried away the hencoop containing a few chickens.

When the cook saw the Christmas dinner floating in the lee scuppers and in danger of going overboard he made a gallant charge down the slippery, sloping deck to recover it, but at that moment a great wave rose high over the bulwarks, broke with 'resistless fury on the very spot where he stood, and when it subsided cook and chickens had both disappeared.

This unfortunate accident left the crew not only without a Christmas dinner, but without any one to prepare an ordinary meal. The sailors were heartily sick of "hard tack" and remembered with longing the famous plum pudding of merry England. They determined that somehow they must have a Christmas pudding and drew lots as to who should be the cook. I

The choice fell on the boatswain's mate, a brawny son of the Emerald Isle. In the galley he found an old cookbook. This he solemnly pored over in search of something promising, but for lack of skill or materials found, nothing he dared venture upon. At last he settled upon a recipe which began, "Make a stiff dough." When he reached the word dough he said to himself, "If r-o-u-g-h spells ruff, d-o-u-g-h spells duff." . s '.



[\*The Kitchen's Garden\*](#)

So he made the pudding, putting in some fine Malaga raisins, and served it out with a generous quantity of rich sauce. The sailors hailed it with delight and appreciation. "What d'ye call it?" they asked. "Plum duff," said the proud cook. And plum duff it has remained from that day to this.

**CHALVINGTON PLANE CRASH -**

*Avro 504K - Shuttleworth Uncovered 2015 by Airwolfhound*

On December 30<sup>th</sup> 1914 Harold Rosher set out from Fort Grange Royal Naval Air Station at Gosport for Dover in one of a squadron of new Avro 504's. Having a burst tyre mended before take-off and finding the air speed indicator and compass were both dud when he got into the air, he knew he was in for an eventful flight. A sudden jolt resulted in his feet slipping from

the rudder control and at the same time the engine lost revs. He glided two miles and landed in a field near Chalvington. Special Constables turned up, farm hands and then a motorcyclist who gave him a lift to Lewes. Returning with a mechanic and his tools they tinkered with the seven cylinder rotary Gnome engine, started it up and Harold set off again – he managed two fields. By this time a larger crowd had gathered including the local vicar who brought sandwiches.

At 3pm the engine started again but caught fire, the problem eventually discovered to be a broken valve spring.

Whilst in Lewes Harold had telephoned Fort Grange and Dover and learnt that another of the Avros had come down in Hastings.

A service car from a local Army camp arrived with soldiers to guard the aircraft for the night and George spent the night in the company of the vicar.

After breakfast a Chief Petty Officer called in on his way to the Hastings incident with a brand new engine. Before he had had a chance to question it Harold had "hot-stuffed" (requisitioned) a valve spring from it.

At 12.30pm the plane was ready and Rosher was on his way, with pockets stuffed full of gifts of cake from the Vicar. He headed for the coast and then turned to follow the coastline with a strong tailwind to help. The engine was still a bit dodgy and visibility was bad especially around Dungeness. Then he spotted Dover harbour and dived towards it passing through a gale. About to land he saw red flags which meant bad ground. Turning to find a better spot the wind caught him and took the biplane right across the aerodrome. He was forced to the ground and both wheels buckled bringing him to a standstill. He stepped away unhurt.

## CHIDDINGLY FOLKLORE

From the Sussex Centre of Folklore, Fairytales and Fantasy at Chichester University – I kid you not!

And found on the Folklore Map of Sussex.

### PAYETH HEED

#### VISITORS TO JEFFERAY HOUSE

In the year of our Lord 1575, our most gracious Queen Elizabeth did visit this dwelling.

Ever since then, on the last days of July, her apparition is said to walk the upper halls of this noble house once again.

Payeth heed, that her presence here shall be heralded by the arrival of a black and raven crow, with eyes blood red.

Visitors art well advised to walketh on by if such a creature is present here.

Breaketh this counsel at thy peril!

After the attack, the hen flew through the east window, bending two thick iron bars which were left pointing outwards.

The hen now returns in the form of a Raven.

Both the Raven and the soul of Elizabeth appeared during the July Chiddingly Scarecrow Trail weekend!

At Chiddingly Place a crock of gold, possibly secreted by Sir John Jefferay on behalf of Queen Elizabeth, was guarded by an evil spirit in the form of a black hen.

The hen sat there undisturbed until a thief tried to make off with the gold. The hen attacked with such violence that the man was knocked senseless and was found to be mad when he came round.





## ZOMBIE CATERPILLARS & THE BODY SNATCHER WASPS

"Can you write something about butterflies for the newsletter, please?" asks Mr.P.

"Anything in particular?"

"It's Hallowe'en tomorrow, how about something gorey.....?"

Caterpillars, it seems, don't only have to worry about being eaten by birds. Parasitic wasps can cause their demise in far more gruesome and protracted ways, eating them from the inside out. Parasitoid wasps, of which there are at least 6000 species in the UK, lay their eggs inside eggs, caterpillars or pupae of their chosen host species.

Even though a caterpillar egg is very small, a wasp can still develop within. One particular type of wasp is known to closely watch a developing set of eggs and will lay its own eggs inside them just before the tiny caterpillars hatch. As the caterpillar grows, the wasp larva waits within, until the unsuspecting caterpillar is almost fully grown, when the wasp puts on a growth spurt, eating the entire contents of the host's body. It then spins its own cocoon in which to pupate before emerging as an adult wasp to repeat the whole grisly cycle.

Other species of parasitic wasps use a different method and lay eggs inside an already hatched caterpillar. The larva soaks up the host's nutrients, but has to keep it alive, so carefully avoids damaging the vital organs. Not knowing its fate, the caterpillar swells and when ready to emerge, the larva releases chemicals that paralyse the host and uses saw like teeth to eat its way through the thick skin.

Different types of parasitoid wasps employ equally gruesome variations of reproduction, but as if that weren't enough, being a caterpillar can be tough in other ways too.

Although rare, zombie caterpillars that explode from their skin have been found at the top of trees - an extremely unusual location for the particular species involved, the Oak eggar caterpillar, which is normally found keeping out of harm's way in undergrowth. Research has found them to be infected by Baculovirus, which changes their instincts to hide away from sunlight and forces them to climb trees and tall plants. Their bodies then liquefy and explode, spreading the virus to other caterpillars.

Glad I'm not a caterpillar.

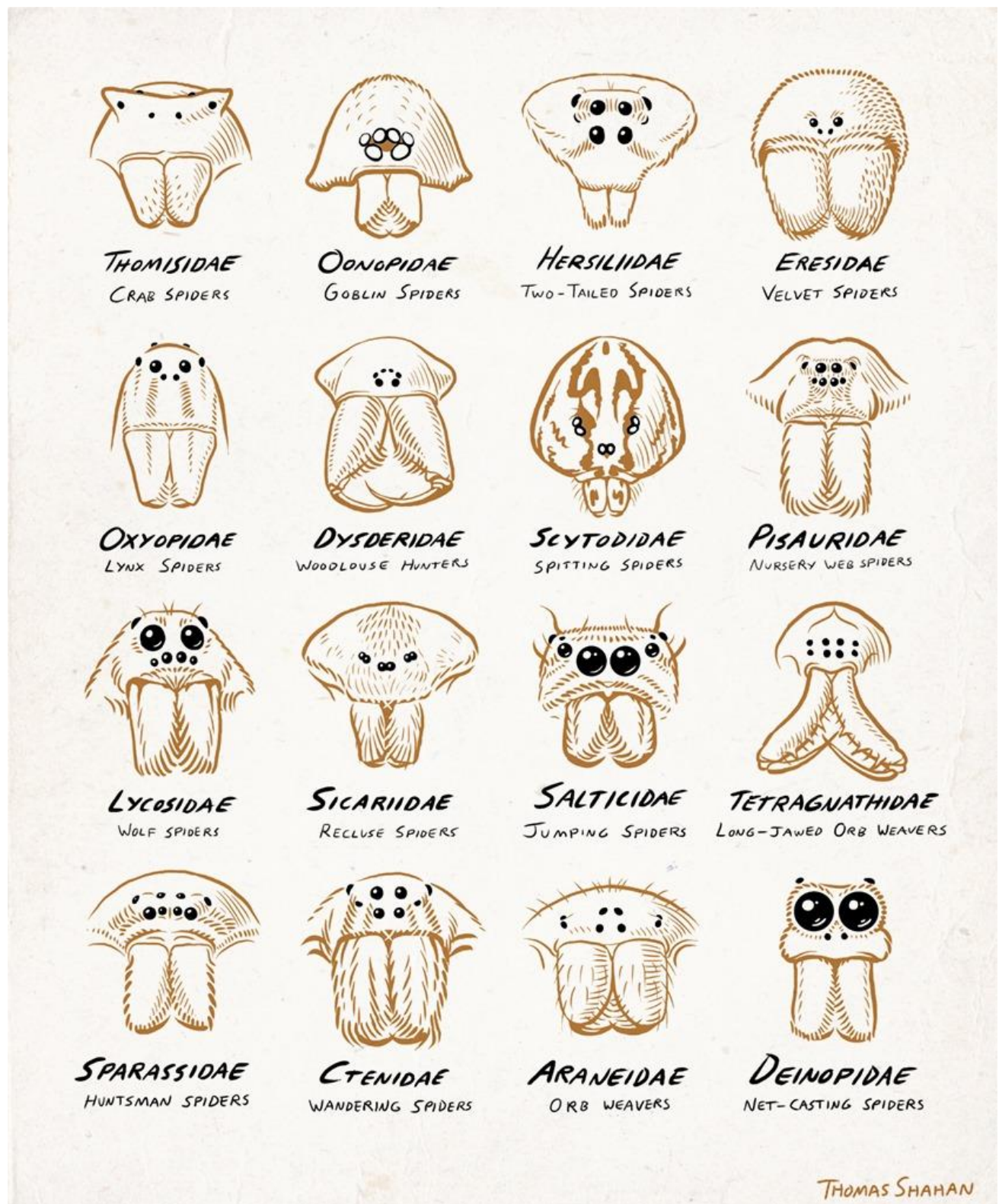
**GRUESOME INSECTS**

See more of Mandy Powell's photos at the [British Spider Identification Group](#) on Facebook

### Female Eratigena eating a male Steatoda bipunctata

That's a common giant house spider eating a standard rabbit hutch spider although thanks to the tabloid press they do get referred to as false black widows these days. Spider species can normally be identified by their eye arrangement (see the poster on the next page) but for the house spider examination of the genitalia is required to confirm the species. Yuck!

## INTERESTING INSECTS -



[Thomas Shahan](#) Poster, Amazing Macro photography & [Tee Shirts](#) available



**RAGWORT FACTS – Neil Jones**

*[Melanie Reeves Photography](#)*

[Ragwort is important for wildlife](#). 35 insect species totally rely on ragwort for food including 7 moth and 7 beetle species; Another 83 species are recorded as using Common ragwort and often it forms a significant food source. There are then a further estimated 50 species of parasite in turn feeding on those.

On top of those 133 species, ragwort is a significant source of nectar for others, including bee species that specialise in feeding on yellow Asteraceae (daisies) and many species of butterfly. Government research shows that of over 7,000 plant species in Britain, Common ragwort is the 7th most important nectar-producing plant. Loss of habitat in general is a major problem for UK wildlife. Moth numbers have declined by over a third over the last 30 years and a major cause of this is habitat loss. This has knock on effects on other creatures such as bats and birds which use the insects as food.

The often quoted statistics around horse deaths from ragwort poisoning were subject to action by the Advertising Standards Authority, but the idea that ragwort is dangerous is in the public consciousness now. The reality is that there are no formal stats of horse deaths from ragwort poisoning, and the numbers are likely to be very low. Horses will only ingest it if they cannot identify it, i.e. cut dried and mixed into hay and even then they have to eat a substantial quantity to be a problem. As long as it is left alone, it can benefit wildlife and pose little issue for the ponies & horses.



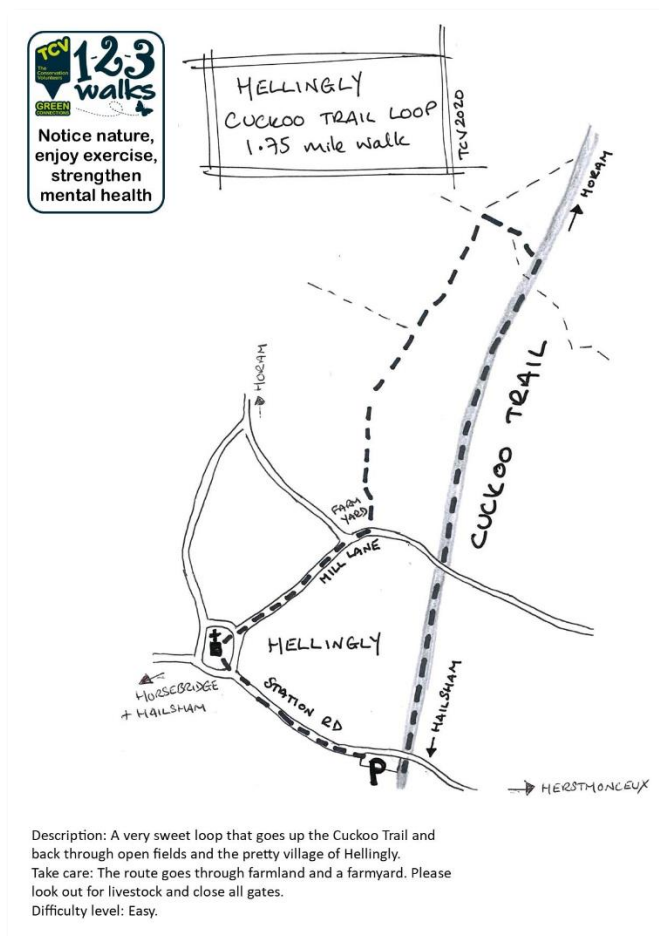
## WELL-BEING WALKS FOR 2021 - Dates for your Diary

<b>Walks 2021</b> Walks start at 2pm, usually after lunch in the appropriate pub. This year they will usually be on the FOURTH Sunday of the month but please check	
JANUARY 24 <sup>th</sup>	West Park, Uckfield <i>Cancelled</i>
FEBRUARY 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chiddingly, meet in car park. <i>Subject to restrictions</i>
MARCH 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ashdown Forest Visitors Centre, Wych Cross <i>Subject to restrictions</i>
APRIL 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cross in Hand (Flask & Cake Walk)
MAY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mount Harry, Plumpton (Flask & Cake Walk)
JUNE 27 <sup>th</sup>	Rowland Wood Butterfly Reserve (Flask & Cake)
JULY 25 <sup>th</sup>	West Hoathly, Possibly including Priest House
AUGUST 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Knepp Estate, Dial Post
SEPTEMBER 26 <sup>th</sup>	Seaford Head
OCTOBER 24 <sup>th</sup>	Hellingly Cuckoo Loop
NOVEMBER 21 <sup>st</sup>	Holywell, Eastbourne,
DECEMBER 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lewes Street Walk, <i>Meet outside W H Smith</i>

Notes and maps for many of our walks are available to members upon request.

If you want to do any of the walks in your own time we have the details of most of them printed out, so feel free to ring Jenny or myself on 01825 872830 and we will let you have a copy.

## FUTURE-WALKS – CUCKOO LOOP HELLINGLY



Starting from the Cuckoo Trail car park, use the path at the end of the car park to join the Cuckoo Trail beside the old Hellingly Station (now a private house). Opposite the station is Hellingly Millennium Arboretum, planted on the site of the old goods sidings that served the station. Turn left and follow the Cuckoo Trail under the bridge and on for a distance of approximately 370 metres (400 yds.) to reach Mill Lane. Cross the lane and continue to follow the Cuckoo Trail. The route passes the old Watermill, and then over the River Cuckmere and beside wetland areas on each side of the path. Immediately after passing under Shawpits bridge, turn left onto the footpath and keep to the left passing through a gate, a kissing gate and

another gate, before coming to a “cross paths” where you turn left through a gate. Follow the signposted route ahead, and then follow the field edge path, keeping the hedge on your right.

On reaching the short track between fields, cross, to reach a footbridge and then beyond the bridge the path follows the next field, with the hedge again on the right. After another gate the path runs along the edge of another field, this time keep the hedge on your left. Follow the path to a field gate on the left hand side of the farm buildings. Cross the surfaced yard using the two small handgates, and follow the route along the edge of the short section of field to another handgate, and then on along the enclosed path to reach Mill Lane again.

Turn right and follow the lane, passing the first junction on the right. Continue to follow the lane into Hellingly village, to the Church. Well worth exploring and look out for the Pard\*. Hellingly Church is built on the only remaining,

undamaged ciric in Sussex. A ciric is a circular Celtic burial ground, raised to keep the dead dry. The Hellingly ciric, although once round, is now oval as the church acquired more land in the 12th century. Exiting the Churchyard onto Station Road turn left and follow Station Road back to the Cuckoo Trail car park.

\* The Pard, a slightly mythical creature but in reality a Leopard.

### **FUTURE WALKS – HOLYWELL RETREAT EASTBOURNE November 21<sup>st</sup>**

I recommend parking along Dukes Drive by Helen Garden and walking down Holywell Drive to meet at the Italian Gardens for 2pm. If you want lunch first the Holywell Tea Chalet is just below.

Prior to 1905 Holywell looked like this picture.

In 1905, the town council laid out a public garden, named somewhat loosely The Holywell Retreat, on the site of a disused chalk pit known as The Gore, some 400 metres to the northeast of



the Holywell fishing settlement. A tea chalet was later built in the garden and the area above was redesigned in the Italianate style after WW1 to provide work for the unemployed. The Council later erected beach chalets above the lower promenade including one for King George V and Queen Mary.

We will be walking from Holywell on the lower promenade to Wish Tower for refreshments and back on the Middle Parade. More to this walk than you might think. A well being walk truly good for the soul.



## FUTURE WALKS – PEEPS of LEWES STREETWALK December 12<sup>th</sup>



We have walked in Lewes numerous times and never fail to find something new.

Recently I learnt that there is a large UXB under Southover Grange Gardens, which is still live, but can't be moved as it might go off in the process. Apparently the bomb squad tried to dig it out but the ground was soft and marshy, so every time they tried it sank deeper. It was decided to leave it and cap it with concrete. It's fairly near to the wall at the railway station end of Grange gardens.

I've selected ten Lewes Peeps (framed views) such as this one so we stop at each location and enjoy the view.

We'll start here at 2pm, the Barbican, at Castle Gate,

parking is free on Sundays at the ESCC car park behind St Anne's Church.

Jenny & I will be 4,500 miles away so I'd like to leave the route/instructions with someone and look forward to seeing photos and a write up for the New Year newsletter when we return.

Who's willing to lead this one? please.

If it's you please call me on 01825 872830.

## PAST WALKS – SEAFORD HEAD Sunday Sept 26th



[Seaford Head Nature Reserve](#)  
[Graeme Lyons Sx Wildlife Trust](#)

The Small Tortoiseshell seems to be more numerous now than it has been all year, building up their fat reserves in preparation for the long hibernation through to next spring.

Red Admirals are too, hurriedly feeding up either for their southerly migration or for the dark days of a British winter.

The whites are still in breeding mode and time is of the essence as it is their offspring that, as pupae, will face the coming winter. Speckled Wood have been breeding throughout September in the long grass and the Common Blue are still on the wing.

Add to that the abundance of both sloes and blackberries this year and the scrub can be described as glorious.

On top of that the incredibly rare Moon Carrot Plant is only just passed its best and has had the most successful years on record. There are only five confirmed sites for this plant in the UK

So this one had to be cancelled, not because of pandemics or weather but, because of a shortage of fuel at the pumps!

You may think that we didn't miss much, the flowers will have finished and the butterflies mostly gone, but you are wrong!



[Wild Carrot and Moon Carrot for comparison](#)  
[photo by Dawn Nelson](#)



## EAST HOATHLY BIRDS – Jenny

### FIELDFARES

Fieldfares, *Turdus pilaris*, are distinctive, large colourful thrushes with a grey head, back and rump, separated by a beautiful rich brown saddle. The tail is black, the underparts white with a heavily streaked ochre coloured breast. In size they are similar to the Mistle thrush and have a tall upright stance. They are a very social species and spend the winter in flocks of anything up to several hundred birds. With large numbers of them sitting in bare trees during the winter, it is surprising that their presence is given away more often by their delightful chuckling calls than by sight. That is, until they take flight and then you really can't miss them.



They feed mainly on insects, worms and berries and are particularly fond of Hawthorn berries. In late winter they are frequently seen on grassland and arable fields and in really harsh winters they may visit gardens to feed on fallen fruit.

Approximately 680,000 Fieldfares over winter in the UK and their conservation status is red.

Locally I have enjoyed regularly seeing them in the trees and fields around the Boltwood area of Chiddingly and also near Blackboys.

Hearing their characteristic shack-shack chuckles is for me, one of the joys of winter, brightening up dull damp days or adding to the glory of a crisp and frosty sunny morning.

Anytime from now they should be arriving and I will be very happy once I've heard them again.



**EDITORS NOTES – CHRIS**

There were as many topics left out of this newsletter as there are in it. And you can probably think of many more that would no doubt be far more interesting to read about. But they all need researching and writing which is taking an excessive amount of time.

I'm very grateful for all the contributions received and really do need them to continue coming in, especially for the New Year edition as we are away most of December.

(To any burglars reading this, FYI, we have dogs and house sitters.)

We'll need write-ups on the walks, the social, over wintering butterflies, historic features (possibly village pumps) or buildings, famous people with a local connection, Tea rooms, "I remember when" tales, something about the Horticultural Societies, Poetry, pictures, recipes, the list is endless.

Two hundred and fifty words and a picture fill a page.

Please put pen to paper and help make the 2022 newsletters more varied, more interesting and less work for me.

The printed version of the newsletter certainly appears to be the most read and so we want to make copies more readily available. That does have implication on cost and distribution and your thoughts on this would be gladly received before or at the social.

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