

East Hoathly and District Preservation Society

New Year 2016

The Society is:

Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex

Affiliate Member of the CPRE

Member of the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies

Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

Committee

CHAIRMAN Toni Whewell

SECRETARY Leycester Whewell

TREASURER Peter Brooke

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Chris Pellett

EVENTS SECRETARY Toni Whewell

WEBSITE & IT Leycester Whewell

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Jenny Pellett

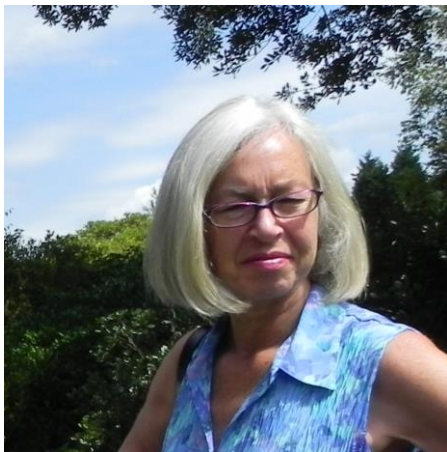
Additionally, we thank Kate Richardson, Fred Carter, John Deane, Jane Seabrook, Russell Brown, Gill Ford, as well as quite a few others who all assist with different aspects when needed.

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 issues seasonal newsletters and there are monthly guided walks

Website address:

www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Toni



Greetings for 2016 - Happy New Year!

At our Social Evening on Fri 27th November 2015 we started off by watching a humorous vintage film "The Specialist" about an old rural privy maker and the tips and tricks of his trade as he worked his way around his customers. Then we were free to chat and have a drink (courtesy of Mervyn Barnes and Roger Moore at the bar), whilst playing the various games on offer. Q Deane had made a guess the number of snowballs game, all held in a glass jar with a very decorative surround. I'm sure that remembering the winning number of 103 will be futile as a different jar and snowballs will be employed on any future occasion! Chris and Jenny had a vintage French Toad in the Hole game, the object being to throw each of the 8 brass discs onto the board from about 8' and hopefully get them to fall through various traps in it to gain points. Janet Jupp ran the game and finally announced that the winner of the bottle of champagne was indeed our own treasurer, Peter, with a total score of 1040 - still well short of the theoretical maximum of 16000 but well ahead of most other attempts. Whilst this was going on, Jean Moore, Jenny & Nov Jones were busily working away in the kitchen preparing all the food. Once the buffet of hot savoury nibbles, breads, cheeses and an array of tempting sweets, along with very tasty mince pies that Linda Alsop made had finished, Chris began his quiz. Once again, the questions were real teasers, with Thomas Turner featuring as one of the three rounds of 10. It wasn't just the case of one point per question; one question even carried a maximum of 32 points if you were able to recall all the pubs that T. Turner had visited in his travels. The prize of a box of

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chocolates was won by Jane Seabrook and Jean Barnes' team. Leycester's and my raffle proved to be the most successful of the year, both in terms of ticket sales and of the prizes won. I was the eventual winner of Q's game, with the closest guess of the number of snowballs.

I would like to thank all those who helped, either directly or indirectly, in making the event so successful. Such occasions are real team events.

Last year the newsletter started going out by email, alongside hard copy. Are we still getting our message across? We shall be checking out if this new arrangement is working.

Despite seeking a replacement Treasurer, no-one came forth, so we are very relieved that Peter has agreed to continue with Jenny helping as Membership Secretary.

2016 membership fee remains unchanged, yet again!

A list of walks is planned, just waiting the right timing to avail ourselves. Similarly, the Programme cards are printed with an eclectic mix of speakers, with some old favourites and others new to the Society.

The Local Plan needs your attention as it could have profound consequences on the community.

Our next meeting is on the 12th February, where we welcome Molly, a border collie, and her owner, June Felstead, from the Search and Rescue Volunteers.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards,
Toni

TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter



Jenny Pellett has kindly volunteered to take the duty of Membership Secretary BUT someone needs to bank the money and balance the books. So for the time being I remain treasurer for the essential duties. If you would like to assist the society, the treasurer's job is a good starting point as you become aware of the bookings, insurances, affiliations and activities that keep the group going without too much demand on time. And it makes you eligible for the committee meetings which always involve wine.

I will be continuing to forward reports on my other interests for the benefit of the society:

Planning ([The Wealden Local Plan](#))

The Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Back to money; we are solvent, though income has been down this year which makes booking speakers etc., a bit of a gamble.

Paying your membership early in the year takes out that worry so please make Jenny's role as stressless as possible by returning the membership form ASAP.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our first meeting on February 12th

Peter Brooke Hon. Treasurer

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MEMBERSHIP - Jenny



We do hope that you wish to continue your membership, if so please fill in and return the form at the end of this newsletter with your remittance to me directly or via any other committee member if that is more convenient.

If you wish to pay over the internet by Bank Transfer please request the society's bank details by email.

As well as renewals it would be good if we could attract new members and appeal to a wider age range.

We are, as ever, very grateful for your continued support.

Jenny Pellett Membership Secretary

PAST MEETINGS - Leicester Whewell

[WRAS](#) - Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service

Presented by Trevor Weekes MBE
Friday 9th October



Trevor's passion for rescuing and caring for animals spans some three decades. He formed [WRAS](#), as it is known, in 1996 in order to care for the large number of guillemots being washed up on the sea shore. In those days it was still legal for oil tankers to wash out their tanks with sea water and discharge the toxic effluent into the sea. Fortunately, the number of such cases has now dropped from about 400 to less than 10 per year.

His talk comprised a comprehensive set of computer slides, many of which contained embedded video content of rescues and a short discrete video clip from a recent Country File program, who had made a feature article on [WRAS](#). He spoke of many rescues carried out over the years and how the profile, structure and capability of the organisation developed as a result.

The organisation was subsequently registered it as a charity in 2005 and now has 75 volunteers and 3 vets on board. There are 5 veterinary ambulances ferrying casualties to and from the centre near Blackberry Farm in Whitesmith, where an X-ray unit is due to be installed this coming winter. Many of the volunteers do 3-4 hour stints feeding the animals in the hospital which, in the recently completed orphan rearing season, required food to be dispensed at 15 minute intervals from 6am right through to 11pm.

Approximately 90 percent of all incidents are due to the effects of human activity, ranging from deer antlers becoming entangled in fencing to small mammals getting caught in carelessly discarded food containers to swans hitting power lines. On average, each incident lasts 2.5 hours and given that there can be 110 calls per day at peak times, this highlights the incessant

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demand on [WRAS](#) and the necessity to prioritize cases. Inter-agency cooperation is also common, with organisations such as the Fire Brigade and the RSPCA working alongside [WRAS](#) to provide the best outcome for a given situation.

Each rescue call-out costs average of £75, last year the amount spend on transport and food was £46000. Drug costs had peaked at £54000 annually, but now that the rescue centre is open and registered as a veterinary centre then supplies can be bought directly from the manufacturers at a greatly reduced cost. WRAS relies completely on public donations for its income, monthly subscriptions are particularly welcome as it assists in planning the organisation's activities.

It must be noted that the Whitesmith centre does not cater for visitors; it is a sanctuary for wild animals who, by definition, are not used to and are afraid of humans.

MORE ON THE SOCIAL EVENING - Chris
Friday 27th November 2015



Le Jeu de la Grenouille

Many of you may well be familiar with the Sussex pub game; [Toad in the Hole](#) which gave its name to the popular Sausage in Batter meal.

The origins of the game however are probably from Ancient Greece where **Pot Break** was played with amphoras and flat stones. This carried on through Roman times and became the favourite entertainment of the Emperor Verus.

It is said that the Vikings, after their expeditions in the Mediterranean, brought back the game to Normandy and probably Sussex where cider was stored in casks rather than the amphorae of Mediterranean wines and so it became the game Cask.

In Sussex, not to waste good cider the game further developed into our [Toad in the Hole](#) (or perhaps Frog?). Later, in France, Billiards and Bowling had inspired the new game of Bagatelle which was easy for Napoleonic soldiers to transport,

I like to think that after raids on Rye and other South coast English towns, disillusioned French troops may have been inspired to then come up with Le Jeu de la Grenouille where the high score hole was replaced with a cast caricature of a disliked leader (Napoleon) or Frog if they wished to keep their head!

And for those that missed the quiz
(round 1)

1. Thomas Turner died: Plaque on Bank House says 1789 the correct year is? **1793**,
2. According to Rightmove, 5 Thomas Turner Drive sold on in March 2015 for how much? **£480,000**
3. As well as Churchwarden nine other jobs are cited by David Vaisey on the cover of The Thomas Turner Diaries book:

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Grocer, Mercer, Draper,
Undertaker, Schoolmaster,
Surveyor, Tax gatherer, Writer
of Wills, & Distributor of Charity

4. Over the years there have been four MPs called Thomas Turner:
Rochester, Reading, Bath & S. Leicestershire.
5. Lieutenant General Tom Turner II retired in 2010. In Iraq he was Commander General of which famous American airborne division? 101 squadron
6. Thomas Turner's Dad's name was? John, Turner (obviously)
He also had an alias it was: Fann
7. Prior to her marriage to Thomas, Peggy Slater was lodging with whom in Lewes? Mrs Pellett
8. On his trip to Ringmer in the early hours of October 25th 1757 who was the dad Thomas was out to get? Richard Parkes,
9. And who did he (Richard Parkes) end up marrying? Mary Vinal
10. Name as many pubs as you can that Thomas Turner mentions in his diaries.

You had one minute to do this: (1 mark each max 32 marks)

Alfriston, The Star Battle, The Bulls Head Chiddingstone, The Castle Cuckfield, The Kings Head E. Hoathly, Kings Head & or Maypole E. Hoathly Crown Framfield, The Chequer Godstone, The Bell Hailsham, the George Heathfield, The Cat Lewes, The White Hart Lewes, The White Horse Lewes, The Cats Maidstone, The Bird-in- Hand	Newhaven, The White Hart Ninfield, The Kings Arms Ninfield, The Spread Eagle Rye, The George Seaford, The Tree Southwark, The White Hart Steyning, The Chequer Steyning, The White Horse Tunbridge Wells, The Angel Tunbridge Wells, The Crown
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Maresfield The Chequer Mayfield, The Star Uckfield, The Kings Head Uckfield, The Maidens Head	Whitesmith, The Chequer And without confirmed location The Black Boy The Half Moon The Hand & Sceptre
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And I have promised never to do a quiz round on Thomas Turner ever again!

FUTURE MEETINGS - Toni

Please put the dates in your diary for future reference.

MEETING DATES 2016		
Friday 12th	Feb	SEARCH AND RESCUE: volunteers with their dogs. June Felstead.
Friday 11th	Mar	QUIRKY SUSSEX. Kevin Gordon.
Friday	Apr 8th	DITTY BOX YARNS. Cdr Roger Paine RN.
Friday 20th	May	BACKSTAGE AT FARLEY FARM HOUSE. Tony Penrose.
Friday 10th	Jun	AGM & Dinner. *
Jul/Aug		Outing: TBC
Friday	Sep 9th	TALKING MACHINES. Dave Homewood.
Friday 14th	Oct	THE WILDLIFE OF THE OUSE VALLEY. Michael Blencowe.
Friday 25th	Nov	SOCIAL EVENING In the Village Hall

The talks begin at 7.30pm so please arrive early if possible!

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Members are not charged and visitors are welcome for a modest charge of £3 per person. To help subsidise the cost of speakers Toni is kindly organising raffles. Please do buy a ticket if you can and stop for a coffee/ tea and biscuits after the talk and catch up with the various activities and opportunities that our society affiliations offer.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Our first meeting of the year is in East Hoathly Village Hall on the 12th February June Felstead will talk about her work with the [Sussex Search and Rescue Volunteers](#), and be assisted by her talented and adorable border collie, Molly

June is a retired Paramedic, she got Molly at 12 weeks old, 5 years ago. She is a Border Collie (blue merle) and a family pet.

Molly and June joined the team in 2011; Molly is now a nationally qualified search dog.



CHIDDINGLY ORAL HISTORY GROUP

The October Meeting of the Oral History Group was all about Burgh Hill Oast and oast houses in the Parish, the talk led by Nigel Braden. This meeting took place on Monday 26th October at 10.30 am in the [Chiddingly Village Shop](#).

Monday 23rd November 2015 and the Robinsons talked about The Old Drapers Store, Chiddingly

Everyone is welcome and please bring friends or villagers who may be interested. Please let us know, at the shop, if you are attending.

There will be a small charge of £5 to cover tea/coffee and a cake.

best wishes,

Caroline caroline@chiddinglyshop.org.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH

Manages the Butterfly Conservation reserve at Park Corner Heath where there are regular work parties; twenty one turned out for the last work party of the year on 13th December.

In advance of plans to restore the spring fritillaries, there is still much to do and it will take another winter of hard graft before the scene is set for their return

As part of the Fritillaries for the Future project the reserve manager is working with owners and managers over a much larger part of the Vert Wood complex, as it is vital to reinstate these species on a landscape scale if they are to really thrive and survive here in the longer term.

One of the most exciting developments is the recent purchase of a very large area (70 hectares; 171 acres) of adjacent woodland, destined to become the Vert Woods Community Woodland.

www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/

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LEWES & LAUGHTON COMMUNITY WOODLAND



An [introductory walk](#) on News Years Day was the first many of us knew of this.

But still a hundred turned up!

The Woodland is [Upper Vert Wood](#) bordering Park Lane (opposite the butterfly reserve) and the A22 (opposite Blackberry Farm). This is a really exciting and wonderful new amenity to have amidst our communities.

The steering group have Plumpton College and the [Plunkett Foundation](#) as well as experienced local groups and councils on board to re establish and conserve this ancient woodland with an invaluable benefit to both the natural species and us humans.

There will be volunteer and learning opportunities.

THE WOODLAND TRUST

[Protect](#)

We campaign to protect woods that are under threat and purchase vulnerable woods to safeguard them.

[Restore](#)

We are restoring hundreds of devastated ancient woodlands, bringing them back from the brink.

[Create](#)

We've created thousands of hectares of new native woodland including 250 community woods.

[What is ancient woodland?](#)

Ancient woods have been around since medieval times. They have developed spectacular communities of plants, animals and fungi.

[Trees face huge challenges](#)

Signs of Ash Dieback

Pests and diseases are having a real impact on our woodland. We're in a race against time to safeguard trees for the future.

[Restoring ancient woodland](#)

Thousands of ancient woods all over the UK have been damaged by conifer plantation. Find out more about what we are doing about it.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

PAST WALKS - Chris 'n' Jenny

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER - Arlington Reservoir

Very pleased to see a few different faces turned up for this one.



Flat, no mud and a jolly good cup of tea at the car park café made this a satisfying Sunday afternoon. We saw a fair selection

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of birds such as the Little Ringed Plover and Cormorants. And having a telescope with us helped identify Widgeon and Teal.

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER - Wessons Café, Horam (Cuckoo Trail)



Opened in 1880, the Cuckoo Line was the Polegate to Eridge railway, carrying milk, livestock and animal feed as well as passengers.

Express Diaries had a depot at Horam from which railway milk tankers carried large quantities of milk to help make cockney cuppers. The evening train would be backed down into a siding and three or four milk tankers coupled onto the rear carriage. This of course greatly increased the load the engine, usually a small tank engine, had to pull up the 1 in 50 gradient starting immediately outside the exit from the station. When the tankers had been coupled on, the train was shunted back down the station approach section of line in order to take a run up and gather speed as quickly as possible before hitting the hill towards Heathfield. The excitement was to see if the train would 'make the grade'. More than once it didn't and came to a grinding halt with slipping wheels and great clouds of black smoke and so had to back down the hill and try again.

Another good turn out for our walk, we walked South along the old line before turning East to Marle Green. The Farm there is recorded as having a horse operated butter churn prior to its sale in 1968. The footpaths beyond are undulating and muddy until we came out near the home of [Diamond Fibres](#), specialist semi-worsted yarn spinners of note.

At Maynards Green we stepped back onto the Cuckoo Trail and returned over the bridge that, due to a lorry collision, closed the line three weeks prematurely to Beechings intended date, and then down the incline back to Horam.

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER - Lewes (Streetwalk)



Billed as an intriguing walk so we had to start with why is it called Lewes.

The Historic Character Assessment Report comes up with four suggestions:

Forsberg suggests a source in Old English *læw* ('gash, wound'), here describing the Ouse gap in the Downs, but unique in such a usage.

Coates proposes derivation from Brittonic Celtic *Lexowiās* ('hillsides, slopes'), though this requires special pleading as a near

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unique survival of a Celtic place-name in Sussex.

The traditional idea that it came from Old English hlæw or hlāw (meaning 'tumulus, hill', primarily used for artificial mounds) is no longer tenable, not least since the initial h is absent from pre-Conquest spellings.

Then recently there has been some consideration of the possibility of a late medieval and later monosyllabic pronunciation of the place-name (as in *truce* or *news*) giving potential for more possibilities and an inevitable irritation to the natives of Lewes.

We started at St Annes, (formally St Mary's Westout) the oldest standing church in Lewes and walked the town wall route to St John's sub Castro, probably built on the site of what was Lewes' oldest church and earlier Roman camp.

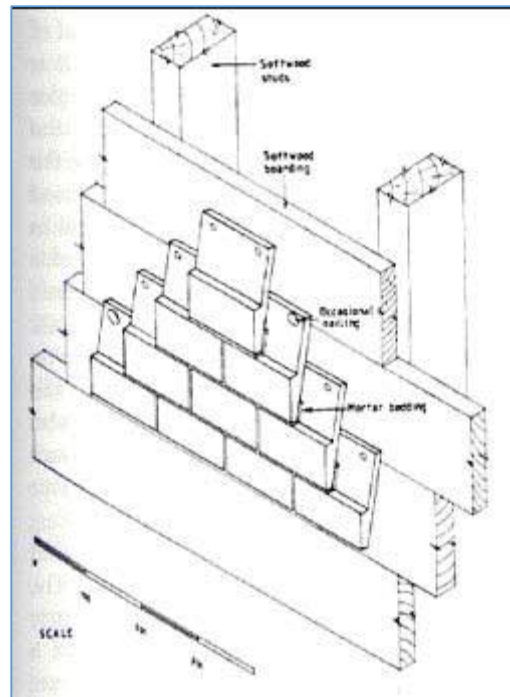
Both churches are able to boast housing anchorites but at the latter we were shown the more intriguing and unexpected object pictured below:



Alan Salmon was able to correctly identify it as a Vintage Six Comb Honey Spinner (Extractor).

In answer to some other questions:

MATHEMATICAL TILES



Lewes is full of houses with beautiful brickwork, but sometimes the brickwork is not what it seems. Timber framed houses have survived well but, in Lewes, instead of the traditional tile hanging ubiquitous to the Sussex farmhouse protecting the timbers and keeping the damp out, tiles shaped to hang with a mathematically regular appearance, mimicing brickwork, were widely used during the 18th century and became what are commonly known as mathematical tiles.

Their use in Lewes in particular, is significant as the builders, Wilds, Kemp and others were keen to display their abilities to be in the forefront of the lucrative development of Brighthelmstone in the latter part of the 18th century.

A mathematical tile is a clay tile which has the exposed part, when hung, the same shape as a brick. In the late 18th century to look modern you needed to have a brick face. Lewes houses were existing and had to be brought up to date quickly, without

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encroaching further onto the narrow Tudor streets and medieval twittens, and cheaply to display a shop window for potential Brighton property investors. So the answer was to cover the whole of the front face with mathematical tiles.

It worked and the Brighton Crescents incorporated the same tiles enabling the Regency seaside town to be built for a fraction of the cost of the Georgian City of Bath.

Mathematical tiles came in all sorts of different colours, colours that bricks would have come in - reds and greys and whites. Also produced were mathematical tiles with a black-glazed surface, Barthomolew House at the entrance to Lewes Castle is probably the most obvious.

and

ST PETERS PLACE LEWES

Relief plaster or painted terra cotta arms adorn the corner houses to St Peters Place.

They are the Armorial Emblems of Lord Abergavenny who owned the land but displaying the punning motto of his heir at the time, Lord Nevill who had the cottages built: NE VILE VELIS (Wish no evil)



FUTURE WALKS - Chris

PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2016

Usually start at 2pm after lunch in the designated pub

SUNDAY 17th JANUARY - The Foresters,
E. Hoathly

SUNDAY 21th FEBRUARY - Somewhere on
the Ashdown Forest

SUNDAY 20th MARCH - The Smugglers
Inn, Alfriston

SUNDAY 17th APRIL - The Star, Waldron

SUNDAY 15th MAY - The Cuckoo's Rest,
Hellingly

SUNDAY 19th JUNE - The Forge, Halland

SUNDAY 17th JULY - The Lavender Line
Cafe, Isfield

SUNDAY 21th AUGUST - Six Bells,
Chiddingly

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER - Mount Harry
Offham

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER -, Stanmer Park,
Brighton

SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER - The Green
Man, Ringmer

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER - East Grinstead
(Streetwalk)

Times and details to be confirmed
EVERYONE WELCOME

CONTACT CHRIS & JENNY PELLETT
01825 872830

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MID WEEK WALKS



Will no doubt start again in the spring with an emphasis on

VOLUNTEER FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE

And Rights of Way parish volunteer groups

John Deane and his walkers should be rightly proud that they have been used as a good example by the [ESCC Rights of Way Access Team](#) who now support a number of regular volunteer groups helping improve the rights of way network across East Sussex.

The team provides tools, materials, training and leadership to help volunteers to work safely and effectively. The work of volunteer groups is highly valued by both the council and the communities they serve and offers great opportunities for personal development, community involvement and team working.



What can volunteer groups do?

Volunteers can be involved in a variety of ways:

- surveying the rights of way in a parish or area, recording the condition and any works required
- liaising with landowners to improve access by maintaining stiles and gates and keeping hedges trimmed
- waymarking - attaching information discs to fittings and installing waymark posts
- cutting the path's vegetation.

What can you expect from the council?

We will provide:

- first aid, site and tool and safety training
- hand tools and other protective equipment, such as gloves, goggles and hi-visibility vests
- support with training, practical tasks and rights of Way information
- opportunities to meet with other volunteer groups.

How do I get involved?

You can email John at dixiewalks@hotmail.com or ring him on 01825 841385

CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)

While the [CPRE](#) exists largely to stop bad things happening, it is also part of our charitable purpose to make things better. And some things really have got better in the countryside in recent years.

As we enter the new year, it's time to reflect on the past 12 months - and 2015 certainly stands out as one of the busiest campaigning periods in our recent history. And looking back on that reminds me how important our supporters' efforts have been in helping us achieve some great successes.

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1. Safer cycling and walking

Early in the year thousands of you joined us in writing to MPs, calling for the Government to set out long-term funding and plans to increase cycling and walking. Ministers listened and now we're looking forward to the publication of the first Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy in 2016.

2. Putting brownfield first

In June, we delivered our Charter to Save our Countryside to the Prime Minister, with more than 80,000 signatures. Alongside our Waste of Space campaign, this helped us influence the Government to announce incentives worth close to £1 billion to boost building on brownfield sites; regenerating our towns and cities, and helping to protect the countryside.

3. Sharing Green Belt experiences

This year marked the 60th anniversary of England's Green Belts, designed to limit urban sprawl and provide a breath of fresh air for millions of people living in towns and cities. However, they are increasingly under pressure from development. You've helped us demonstrate how valuable and vital the Green Belt is by sharing your stories and memories on Our Green Belt website, inspiring others to go out and enjoy it, too.

4. Tackling litter

Just over three years ago, thousands of you campaigned with us and the Break the Bag Habit coalition in writing to your MPs and sending letters to your local papers calling for a compulsory charge on plastic carrier bags. Finally, in early October a 5p bag charge came into force, an important step in helping to reduce litter that has already

shown results - an 80% drop in plastic bag use has already been reported by some supermarkets.

5. Victory for our National Parks

After many years of campaigning with the Campaign for National Parks, the Friends of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales Society, we achieved an extension to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, announced at the end of October. We could not have done this without the support of the many thousands of you who supported the campaign by writing to your local MPs and Defra.

6. Protecting landscape

We're working with the Stakeholder Advisory Group in supporting National Grid's work to reduce unsightly pylons in protected areas, primarily through putting cables underground. Four projects have now been prioritised; Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near Winterbourne Abbas, New Forest National Park near Hale, Peak District National Park near Dunford Bridge and Snowdonia National Park near Porthmadog. Thank you once again to the many thousands of you who wrote letters to your local MPs and to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to support the campaign.

7. Making our mark

By supporting our campaigns you've made our voice stronger and enabled us to be heard in Parliament, helping us achieve those successes. In the coming year, we'll need to continue fighting threats to the countryside particularly from changes to planning rules, energy and transport issues.

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8. Celebrating our 90th anniversary next year

Thank you again for supporting our campaigns and helping us achieve so many successes to protect the countryside. Next year will mark our 90th anniversary as guardians of England's beautiful countryside and will see us looking even further forward to our Vision for the Countryside in 2026, our centenary year.

We hope you will celebrate with us in marking our 90th birthday and in the meantime wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year from everyone at [CPRE](#).

WILDLIFE REPORT

If you are lucky enough to be on their flight path, a squadron of Long Tailed Tits it is a wonderful and regular sight.

I'm told numbers are down this year but Nightingales in East Hoathly is well served.

I guess there must be a nest nearby.

It takes two weeks for a female long tailed tit to build the nest. The male will be close by but little help.

If he does bring in some moss he doesn't quite know what to do with it.



They do collect spider's webs together and that will form the anchor for the nest,

possibly wrapped around a stem in a rose bush.

The male bird will watch and hover but not help.

If I knew where the nest was I'm sure I could do the same.

Time spent in reconnaissance is not time wasted, Field Marshal Montgomery said and I find that very useful advice sometimes.

The long tailed tit makes a completely covered nest where a chaffinch would be sitting in the open brooding her eggs.

Presumably the small size of the eggs, and hatchlings will need serious warmth and cover, provided by a dome of moss over their heads.

The basic nest is built in a week. Next both birds collect lichen flakes to waterproof the dome and another week collecting feathers from Pigeons killed by sparrowhawks, pheasants by cars, chickens preening themselves when dust bathing, and fluff from the remnants of small birds caught by cats, all of which are used.

The usual number of feathers in a long-tailed tit's nest is apparently two thousand.

The tits will have caught the attention of many predators and given the chance, crows, magpies, squirrels, stoats and rats would tear the house to pieces instantly.

I don't know if the male bird or myself was more worried.

From the number that continue to pass through our garden pausing for just a few minutes before flying on I guess the brood was raised successfully. I can sleep relaxed.

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SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST



The UK farming community have been severely affected by Bovine TB with badgers believed to play a part in its spread. A large area of the South Downs between Brighton and Eastbourne is a bovine TB High Risk Area. It is possible that the government could sanction culling of badgers here in an effort to control the disease. However the [Sussex Wildlife Trust](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaign/badgers) is opposed to the programme of culling promoted by the current government.

Find out more about bovine TB

<https://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaign/badgers>

AIRS (Action In Rural Sussex)

is a forward looking charity that acts as a rural advocate and manages a number of projects all designed to promote the interests of rural communities - details of which can be found at www.ruralsussex.org.uk

The next East Sussex Rural Partnership Meeting will take place on Thursday 10 March 2016 at Bodle Street Green Village Hall from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

We would love to be represented at this meeting, if that could be you please contact Leicester for details

GRAVESTONE PHOTOGRAPHIC

RESOURCE PROJECT



Footstone - St Johns Sub Castro Lewes

Project Aims

1. to digitally photograph grave monuments worldwide that are currently legible
2. to extract all legible personal information (name, age, date of birth, date of death, relationship) from each image
3. to publish all legible personal information on an internet database and make this data freely available
4. to make available copies of any grave monument image free of charge to anyone requesting a copy
5. to lodge at appropriate public record offices collections of images appropriate to that area
6. to encourage local groups to maintain, photograph and record grave monuments

How you can help:

When you are next in a churchyard (any churchyard), take a photo of the church and another of its name board as a record of its location. Then take pictures of as many headstones as possible.

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If you can do a transcript brilliant, if not, not to worry.

Put the pictures onto a memory card and pass it to one of the committee.

We'll copy it and pass it on to one of the project Coordinators. I'm afraid Emailing lots of pictures just doesn't work with our broadband connection.

HEDGEROW SURVEY - Kate



Ongoing: new faces always welcomed.

Kate Richardson

01825 840082

kathrynrichardsoneh@gmail.com

FOSAS

FoSAS is unfortunately closing its doors.

Our society has been making use of the reasonably priced insurance FoSAS had negotiated. We understand that this cover will continue to be available to us.

We will also keep in touch with the other fifty or so societies that have been members of the group.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Chris



We hope that you are enjoying these seasonal newsletters.

Although there are regular contributors, we welcome ideas, articles and information from all our members and from other groups within the loosely defined '& District' catchment area, that offer **anything** of interest for the conservation, preservation or betterment of our communities.

The electronic copy is out now and being emailed to every member that has given us their email address and not requested otherwise. But you will also receive the printed unless you specifically ask not to.

I know some members have not received all the newsletters that they should have, and I do apologise for that. If you think that is you then please do ask for any back issues.

The newsletter is now sent from ctpellett@yahoo.co.uk as some email clients reject me sending using the EHDPS Hotmail account.

If you are reading this as a printed newsletter but have not received the electronic version but would like to, PLEASE ask. The electronic version has hyperlinks to many various web resources for further reading.

The email address EHDPS@hotmail.co.uk goes to both the secretary and myself so you can be sure it will be seen. Don't forget we need your contributions to keep the newsletter and society useful and interesting.

Many Thanks
Chris

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

To:

Jenny Pellett
Honorary Membership Secretary
EH & District Preservation Society
2 Prices Cottage
Whitesmith BN8 6JD
01825 872830
jlpellett@icloud.com

I enclose the sum of £10 / £18* as my subscription to the EH &
District Preservation Society for the year
1st January - 31st December **2016**

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