

East Hoathly & District Preservation Society



BRING ME SUNSHINE

New Year 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

Email:

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

ACTING CHAIRMAN – Chris Pellett

History is easy, predicting the future is anyone's guess.

Walks, talks, visits and other activities will resume as soon as we can.
And we have plenty left over from last year to keep us busy.

In fact the walks have been happening but in a more flexible way than in the past. That's covered further on in the newsletter.

Sadly the February meeting has had to be postponed, but there is a page about Thomas Turner and his diary to whet your appetite with.
Realistically the March meeting is looking unlikely as well, but fingers crossed for April.
Whenever it is that we do meet again, it will be a special occasion on which to celebrate and raise a glass.

It's been pointed out that the **I Remember When** series has so far been all by people who grew up very locally and of course most of us didn't.
This needs a bit of thinking about, but to get the ball rolling I ask;
Why did you move to this beautiful, but muddy part of Sussex? (you can remain anonymous if you wish).

We remain keen to assist other groups such as Village Concerns, Footpath Volunteers, Butterfly Conservation and Woodland Trust. If you know of other groups in the area you feel should be promoted please let us know.

There will again be an interesting AGM come June and anyone wishing to join the committee will be warmly welcomed.

I do hope you have, or will, renew your membership in anticipation of better times and that meanwhile you enjoy the reading the newsletters.
Anything for which you would like to contribute would be eagerly received.

PROJECTS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

We might not be able to meet and learn from the presentations of our professional speakers but we may be able to put our own expertise and knowledge to good use by assisting with community projects.

The School Local History Project. There have been a few ideas for this and it really looks like it will get off the ground this year. Peter Brooke is the one to speak to if you want to get involved.

I Remember When Project. Are you all so bashful? It's the little snippets that put meat on the bone and make history fun. Write something down, drop it in through the letterbox of Clara's bookshop where Jane Seabrook is waiting to receive them, or email them to the editor.



Chair Making Workshop. This will be with Danny Harling of [Sussex Green Woodworking](#), more details in the spring on this one.

Village Directory. So much goes on locally and we all buy things from far away. If we each just looked within our postcode area and noted the self-employed tradesmen, services offered or businesses close by, we could soon put together a useful directory. Any one like to take this on?

Pelham Buckle & Bow Bell Milestone and other antiquated street furniture maintenance. [Eastbourne Historic Vehicle club](#) are going great guns on this with two more missing mileposts scheduled for replacement.

Themed Exhibitions of Local Interest. An easy one to start with would be local pottery.

And there are still the Chiddingly Oral History recordings to be digitalised.

If you want to get involved, or indeed have any other ideas, please let us know.

COVER STORY - Yaffingale House – Chris Pellett

At one time known as Price's Cottage.



The large family of Streeter lived there before and until just after the war.

It was totally rebuilt (except for the chimneystack) by the former Chief Constable of Sussex, Sir George Walter Roberts Terry CBE CStJ QPM DL as a

retirement project and renamed Yaffingale because of the Green Woodpeckers and Nightingales that allegedly nested in the woodland gardens.

After a short ownership by Dennis Evans who never actually moved into the house, it was sold to June Dandridge and Annabelle Hawtrey of Glyndebourne fame.

June & Annabelle lived at Yaffingale for over thirty years.

Interesting interviews with each are on the oral history of Glyndebourne website:

[Oral-history-of-Glyndebourne](#) (Annabelle)

[Oral-history-of-Glyndebourne](#) (June)

If one of her team asked if their work was good enough Annabelle would answer “is it the best you can do?”

The current owners, Zoe and Lindsay, have revitalised both the house and gardens with everything from pigs to peacocks. Free range bacon and eggs are produced and they are active members of the [Small Farms Training Group](#), organising courses from cider making to willow weaving!

I think June and Annabelle would approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Linda Butcher

We do not expect to be able to maintain the level of income that we have had in previous years and our reserves need to be used wisely.

The organisations that we support are all in the same boat as us and we will continue to support and subscribe to them as their specialist expertise and actions undoubtedly contributes to our local communities' wellbeing.

Until meetings resume both income and outgoings are reduced and although this does not affect the soundness of the society, it affects the risk to the society should we explore new directions.

Ideas to raise money would be most welcomed.

MEMBERSHIP – Jenny Pellett

It is amazing that despite the bewildering year that we have just endured good number of members have already renewed their subscriptions – Big Thanks.

Asking for money is always difficult, however our membership fee remains unchanged for another year and I trust that you will trust in us and that the society will be able to give value for money for the coming year.

In anticipation of your continuing support there is a renewal form at the end of the newsletter.

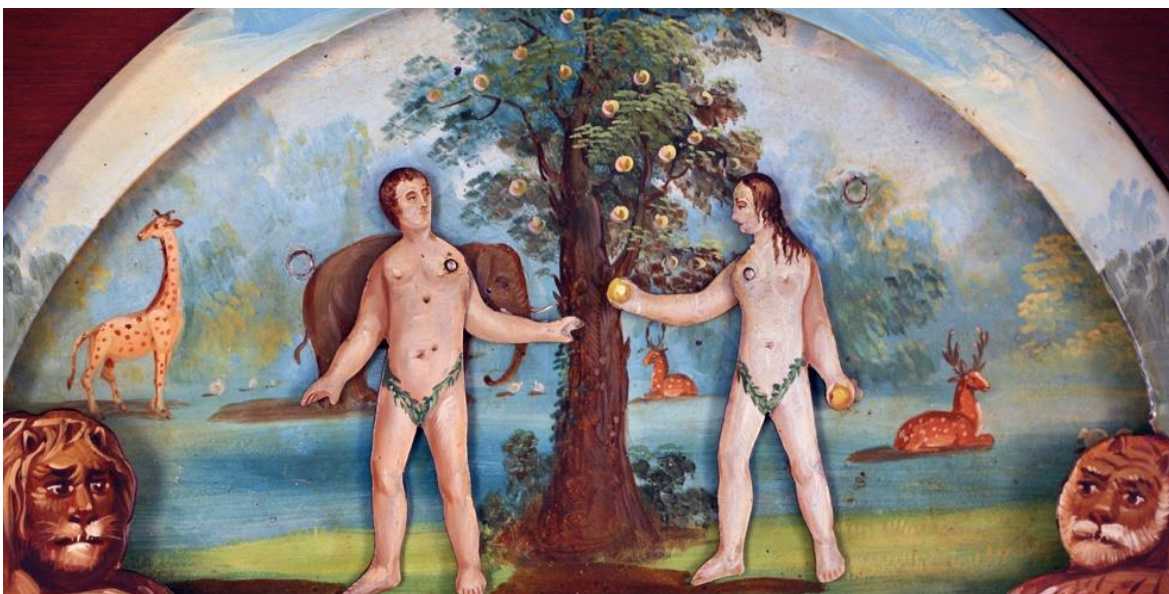
I am also delighted to welcome our newest member Jane Street, - thanks for joining us and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

The King's Head 1895 - J J Hissey

"In one corner stood a genuine old grandfather clock, not one of your expensive ward or street imitations made to look ancient for the inexperienced eye of which the supply is ever equal to the demand and that profits nothing except the dealer's pocket."

"This clock amused us by reasons of two curious figures on the top that took the place of the usual revolving moon and dial (showing generally the wrong days of the month). The figures were manifestly intended to represent Adam and Eve clad in somewhat European dress. However that is but a trifle. Between the figures was a tree unknown to modern botany and round its stem wound the serpent. The reptile as shown one would imagine be hardly likely to tempt any woman, but let that pass as the clock marked the minutes and Eve, at every tick with a most mechanical movement, offered Adam a very sour looking apple that even a schoolboy would have thought twice about before accepting it. Then just as Adam should have taken it away it was jerked from him to be represented again and so on ad infinitum."

"It was a most irritating clock, that the story never progressed."



Detail from a similar clock currently for sale at [P A Oxley](#)

HALLAND - John Evelyn



In his *Silva* of 1664, (or, a Discourse of Forest-trees, and the Propagation of Timber in His Majesty's Dominions), John Evelyn, who spent his early years at Southover Grange in Lewes, wrote ecstatically about Hampton Court and followed on immediately by describing “other sweet and delectable country seats and villas of the nobles, rich and opulent citizens built and environed with parks, paddocks, plantations etc., adapted to country and rural seats, dispersed through the whole nation, conspicuous not only for the structure of their houses, built after the best rules of architecture, but for situation, gardens, .., parks, forests, ponds, prospects, and vistas, groves, woods and large plantations and other most charming and delightful recesses, natural and artificial: but to enumerate and describe what were extraordinary in these and the rest would furnish volumes”

“For who has not either seen, admired or heard ofHalland....?”

WALDRON Rev John Ley BD 1850

“In past times Waldron supplied the county with various Sheriffs, and Members to represent it in Parliament. Tattered hatchments still hang within the church, and tell of departed greatness. Three mansions of wealthy families, shorn of much of their original dimensions, remain to testify that Waldron has seen better days. Two iron brackets or rests still project from the south wall of the church, from which at some time have hung the banners of a Sackville, a Pelham, or a Heringot, or of some Crusader, whose military adventures may have originally given name to the well-known hostel of the Cross - in - Hand.”



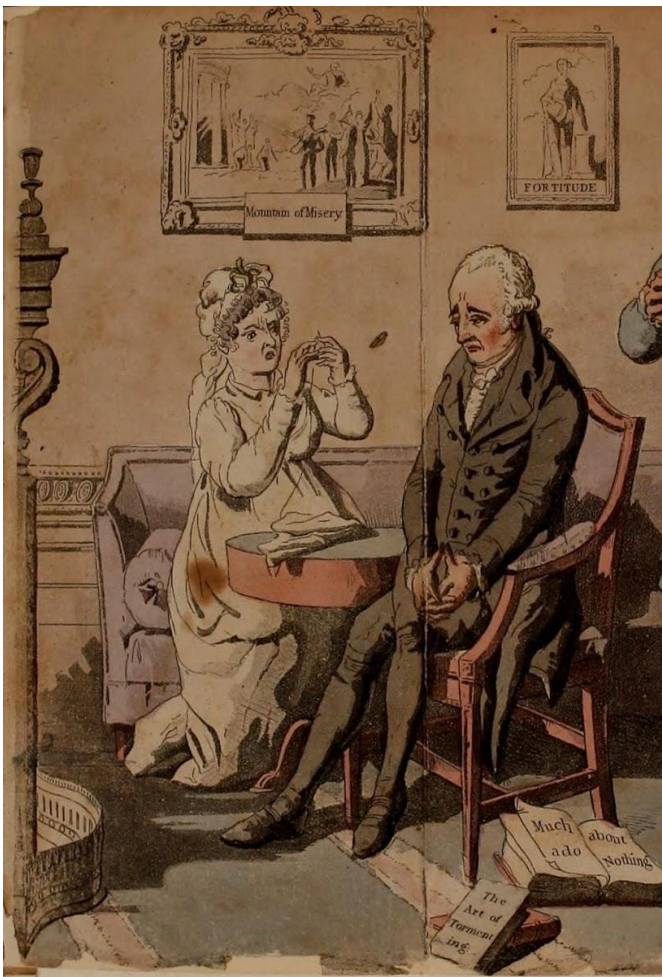
Possingworth home of Sir William Harengaud

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021

PROVISIONAL TALKS & VISITS 2021 Fridays 7.30pm at East Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise. Usually on the SECOND Friday of the month but not always. THIS YEAR THINGS MAY BE DIFFERENT!	
FEBRUARY 12 TH	David, Fiona & Friends – Life at Bank House since the days of Thomas Turner POSTPONED
MARCH 12 TH	David Burrough – Life in the Theatre. <i>A fascinating first-hand account by our very own</i> IF this is our first meeting of the year, let's make it a good one WITH COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE!
APRIL 16 TH	Janet Pennington – Sussex Chairs <i>How East Hoathly influenced William Morris's design</i>
MAY 14 TH	Antony Smith - Witchcraft <i>The Hammer of Witches and The Fables of Witchcraft</i>
JUNE 11 th	AGM & Dinner <i>Venue, Menu and details to follow</i>
JULY Wednesday 7 th	Visit to Wings Aviation Museum Balcombe <i>Personalised tour</i>
AUGUST Sunday 22 nd	Knepp Walk or Chair Making in the Woods <i>– Yet to decide which!</i>
SEPTEMBER 10 th	Bruce Moore - The World's Fastest Steam Powered Car
OCTOBER 8 th	Ros Black - The Temperance and Hope Movement <i>Including the story of Sarah Robinson who lived in East Hoathly</i>
NOVEMBER 26 th	Social Evening <i>Back to the usual shenanigans</i>

DIARIST THOMAS TURNER - Jane Borodale

It was hard trying to decide who might be my favourite person from the past – because apart from other considerations there is always the unbridgeable gap between who they actually were and what we have left of them. Diaries being possibly the nearest we can get to interior thoughts from the past – in the end I was torn between shopkeeper and diarist Thomas Turner, and Dorothy Wordsworth (intelligent, intriguing, influential sibling of William) – and (apologies, sisterhood) Turner won through on this occasion because I was more in the mood to be with him in Sussex.



Misery of human life

In many ways Thomas Turner (1729-93) is the quintessential Mr Ordinary, Everyman, the man in the street. Literate, and having a pivotal role in the life of the village of East Hoathly in Sussex, he was at once shopkeeper, grocer, mercer, undertaker, tax-gatherer, writer of wills and accounts, overseer of the poor, churchwarden and more. But the remarkable or notable thing about him (in terms of posterity) is the diary itself. Two hundred and fifty years have passed since he began writing it, yet his character still jumps off every page; vibrant, busy, flawed, self-chastising, hypocritical, keenly-reading, drunken, generous, and unhappily married.

Jane Borrodale's "The Book of Fires" is available [here](#)

LIFE ON THE STAGE - Morecambe & Wise

While we wait for a suitable opportunity to hear our own David Burrough to reminisce, and led on by the subtitle on the cover page, I looked for a local connection to Morecambe and Wise:

Night Train to Murder.

Released in 1985

This was the last work that Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise worked on together before Eric's death in 1984

It is described as a British comedy horror film, directed by Joseph McGrath and obviously starring Morecambe and Wise.

It was filmed mainly in Surrey but the train scenes are all on the Bluebell railway.



When solicitor Mackay advises Kathy Chalmers that she is to inherit her Great Uncle's estate, two music hall stars, Eric Morecambe, Kathy's uncle, and Ernie Wise (they use their own names in this film . . . again!), arrive at the station to find the way barred.

Night Train to Murder is all about fun in the face of adversity.

Much needed: Available on [DVD here](#).

CHIDDINGLY Thomas Horsfield 1821

In the Church, on a black marble slab in the aisle, beneath the gallery, is this inscription:

“The body of Mr. Thomas Eades lies here,
A faithful shepherd that did not pow'rs fear,
But kept old Truth, and would not let her go,
Nor turn out of the way for friend or foe,
Who was suspended in the Dutchman's days,
Because he would not walk in their strange ways:
Demona non armis sed morte subegit Jesus,
As Xt [Christ] by death his rampant foes trod down,
So must all those who doe expect a crown.
He died 1717, aged about 80 years. ”



Chiddingly Church 1841 Albion Russell

Thomas Eades, became vicar of Chiddingly in 1671 but refused allegiance to King William III. He was therefore suspended from his position until Queen Anne came to throne in 1702.

In his will he bequeathed twenty shillings a year to all future parish clergy unless

they were a Chapman, Strong, Shewsmith, Hollands, Fuller, Tree, or Attree!

How long this bequest lasted is unclear but in 1758 and again in 1805, it was contested by gentlemen “learned in law,” who had gained possession of Eades’ estate. The lawyer proved a flaw in the indictment in that the lands providing the income were not correctly described.

Don’t you just love a good lawyer?

LAUGHTON

Laughton's own Post Office has shifted premises several times. Here it is shown as at Virginia Cottage which has also been a police house.

It is also known to have been where Orchard Cottage is now, and at Elm Corner.

The main post office for Laughton was at Shortgate with the mail delivery from Hawkhurst arriving at 5am weekdays and Sundays.

In his book "On Southern English Roads" J J Hissey writes of a journey in the 1890's where Laughton old post office is hinted at as being "A Haunt of Ancient Peace" itself the title of a 1902 book by the then Poet Laureate Alfred Austin.

"Its roof partly thatched and partly tiled, the structure below being a happy combination of brick, half timber, rough casting and weather tiling - the manifest outgrowth of a long life given to so humble a building. Its own little history and with a dignity that no modern cottage can possess, the variety of material too gave a variety of colour and quality that made the old Post Office a tempting subject for a sketch."

Unfortunately Hissey did not sketch the Post Office and so it would be interesting to know if it is remembered or pictured elsewhere.

CPRE

Every green space between our towns and villages is a lifeline.



The UK is now one of the 'most nature depleted countries in the world' according to the recent 'State of Nature' report. These 'green gaps' are not only vital to our wildlife, they are also fundamental to our own health and well-being.

[Put nature at the top of the agenda today – make a donation to CPRE Sussex](#)

In Sussex there is no 'greenbelt'. We have a fantastic national park and two areas of outstanding natural beauty, but so much of the countryside is 'unprotected' in planning terms.

The green gaps between our towns and villages are vital – they provide us with local food, space to walk and habitats for wildlife. They are critical for carbon absorption to combat climate change and help to prevent flooding. We need new homes, particularly affordable homes, but our challenge is to make sure that the countryside we depend upon is not lost whilst brownfield or previously developed sites lie idle.

CPRE Sussex has attended local plan hearings and submitted responses to planning applications wherever we have volunteers in Sussex in order to lobby for the protection of these green spaces. The gaps between Shoreham and Lancing, Ferring and Goring, Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath and so many more are all under threat. **We need your help to fight for the protection of these green gaps and spaces.**

We are a small charity with a big remit. A donation of any size makes a real difference. If you are able to help us, please donate on-line at: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/4826>.

WOODLAND TRUST - Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs



We're bringing life back to the forgotten and fragmented ancient woods in Sussex. Working with our partners and the local community, we'll transform the landscape to boost biodiversity and revitalise traditional woodland management.

With our partners, we're leading work that will transform the landscape that sits between the South Downs National Park and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We've received funding from [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) for initial plans, and then at the end of 2021, we hope to unlock further funding to deliver a full and ambitious programme that will bring life back to these forgotten woods.

Our plans

- Train local woodland managers in the traditional skills of coppicing, hedge laying and charcoal production.
- Work with woodland owners to improve the condition of ancient woods with a focus on biodiversity.
- Work with schools to get more children learning in a woodland environment.
- Record all the ancient, veteran and notable trees in the area.
- Write new management plans that include the care of old trees.
- Create new woodland habitat through natural regeneration.
- Ensure all local people have access to woods.

How you can get involved

We are working with landowners, community groups and schools to save Sussex's Lost Woods. To get involved please contact lostwoods@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

SAVE WEALDEN FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT

The Poly-Olbion by Michael Drayton (1612) introduced the “Daughters of the Weald” or wood nymphs of Sussex, bitterly complaining of the injury they were suffering daily by the insatiable appetite of forges and furnaces.



The trembling nymphs were certainly better prophets than the human guardians of the forest. Their anticipations have been verified by time.

The plans of our Wealden Council Officers, like those before them, have repeatedly been proven unjustifiable.

The forests have disappeared, and with them the founderies that consumed them. Not only were the complaints of the Dryades just, but they would have been equally so had they lamented the destruction of their favourite haunts by today's build, build, build mentality within this region of the county.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/137627436595082/about>

W.I. EAST HOATHLY

The story of the Institute and the Village School in Wartime would not be complete without mentioning the establishment of the Parents' Association. This arose from a resolution sent in by East Hoathly to our County Institute Annual Meeting in November 1942. The resolution was inspired by the great interest shown in the school by the mothers once they had been invited to share in the work of running the school dinners. The resolution suggested that W.I.s should do all that they could to bring parents associations into existence in connection with every village school. Our own Parents' Association was formed at the School Open Day in July 1943. With certain ups and downs it has existed ever since, and now arranges the yearly summer outing for the seniors and the Christmas party for the juniors and infants, besides helping the school in any way it can¹. Being made up of parents and friends of the school it is not in any way linked with the Institute except through mutual friendly interest.

Patriotic Pudding

taken from the Good Fare Recipe Book first published in 1941.

Ingredients

4 table-spoons Flour

4 table-spoons grated raw Potato or Fine Oatmeal

1 table-spoon Fat

½ table-spoon Jam, Treacle or Milk and Water to mix Syrup and 1 grated Carrot

½ tea-spoon Bicarbonate of Soda

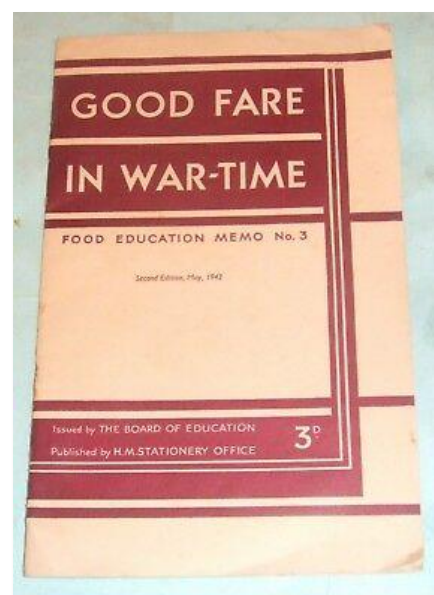
Pinch of Salt

2 tea-spoons grated Orange or Lemon Rind (if available)

Milk and Water to mix

Method:

Rub the fat into the flour, add the rest of the dry ingredients and mix well. Add the jam and carrot, heated in four table-spoons of milk and mix to a soft mixture adding more milk or water if necessary. Turn into a well-greased bowl, cover and steam for 1 hour.



¹ This was written in the 1950's

THE BAT AND BALL



[© The Society of Brighton Print Collectors](#)

From early in the eighteenth century cricket played a large part in the lives of young men during the summer and featured regularly in the diaries of Thomas Turner.

One location given is at Broad Oak (Golden Cross area) when, in 1756 and again in 1757, East Hoathly took on Chiddingly. It is likely to have been in the field adjacent to the Bat and Ball Inn and home to the “Bat and Ball Fair”.



Whether the late 16th century Bat and Ball hostelry at Broad Oak Chiddingly took its name from the game of cricket or from an earlier game, possibly Stool Ball, is unknown.

An advert for the Broad Oak Fair appeared in the Sussex Weekly Advertiser 29th June 1791, at which a game of cricket was to be played for a prize of eleven cricket bats.

Although it appears that the Bat and Ball fair was in decline by 1909 when the Inn was to close, it continued until about 1960 on different sites closer to the Golden Cross pub.

EAST SUSSEX WRAS – Trevor Weeks

Can you help?

With every year getting busier and us seeing more and more casualties admitted, we are starting to look for new sites to locate our rehabilitation and release pens ready for next season.

As well as rehabilitation, these pens are used for 'soft release', this enables the casualties to acclimatise to the area and the surroundings before the doors/hatches are opened and they are then free but able to return to the pen for food and shelter until they have found their feet in the wild.

We are specifically in need of safe, rural areas, on private land suitable for groups of fox cubs to be released.

All equipment, food and bedding will be provided, but you are asked to help care for any occupants whilst inside, feeding and cleaning them.

We are looking ideally for sites within 30 minutes of our hospital at Whitesmith BN8 6JD.

If you think you could help please email katie@eastsussexwras.org.uk with the location of your land and if possible a few photos of the area.

These pens may be used for other animals from birds of prey to garden birds throughout the years but they must be suitable for the cubs to be released.

Hubble Bubble Soil and Trouble

Soil consists of two parts;

- i) Inert matter such as clay, carbonate of lime, sand, etc.
- ii) Vegetable and animal matter, decayed or decaying.

The mix of these determines its characteristics and suitability for use.

Sussex can be divided into five districts; the downs, the maritime district, the weald, the forest ridge, and the marsh land.

The soil of the downs fulfil the needs of sheep, the south facing maritime district provides excellent arable land. The marsh land of the Pevensey levels is traditional summer grazing and the forest ridge of the high weald looks down on the humble low weald.

The Weald was once a thriving thick forest.

Perhaps impenetrable, but the Oak, Elm and Ash were considered the best in the country, with the soil at Sheffield Park described as oak tree clay.

Between 1500 and 1700 the iron industry decimated the forest for fuel to run furnaces. Without the trees to drink the water the ground becomes mud. And on the base of gault clay, deep mud.

Iron had the disadvantage of being a heavy industry. A Heathfield gun founder wrote to the Board of Ordnance, "Sir, I have gotton twenty 9 pounders of 9' to Lewes. These twenty have torn the roads so that nothing can follow them and the country curse us heartily."



From the start of the eighteenth century the weald was needed as the transport link from the coast to an expanding London. The traditional six days p.a. work by parish surveyors and labourers was not sufficient to maintain the roads.

Turnpike trusts were set up to raise capital for investment and repaid by toll revenue.

The King's Highway TURNPIKES & TOLL ROADS The A22

The A22 has very much shaped the development of East Hoathly from its very early days.



The track was a drovers' road moving livestock fattened on the Pevensey Levels towards London late summer, before the rains made the Sussex roads impassable. Investment in road improvement was in the interest of both the Dukes of Newcastle and of Devonshire (both Whig Prime Ministers) with land

at Halland and Eastbourne respectively. The Union Point to Langney Bridge Turnpike Trust (1754) was one of the earliest to connect London right to the coast.

As well as the Inns for weary travellers to overnight in, the Kings' Highways had developed to be widespread in the seventeenth century with staging posts along their way, where regular couriers would exchange their tired horses to continue on the next stage of their journey without interruption enabling much reduced journey times.

The position of Postmaster General was created in 1710 and this system was not restricted to Royal Mail.

But it needed better roads.

The Turnpike Trusts raised the capital to build them.

Thomas Turner moved to East Hoathly at the right time (1750).

Between Hailsham and Uckfield, East Hoathly had pens for the drovers' cattle and sheep, it now had stables at a staging post office for the couriers.

Mackerel caught at Eastbourne could reach London in under six hours.

Traffic increased and local trade increased, in Turner's time new shops and houses were built.

East Hoathly thrived.

During the nineteenth century little changed, it missed out on the boom a railway line could have made but without rail competition the turnpike continued until 1872. By 1900 East Hoathly was preparing for the invasion of the motorcar.

The King's Highway The A22

In 1895 there were no more than 15 cars on England's roads.

In 1900 there had still only reached 750.

J J Hissey had one of the first; a Daimler 4 h.p.

On May 16th 1899 he drove from Reigate to East Grinstead where he came across another car! A Mors 8 h.p. "rejoicing in all the glory of new varnish & nickel plate".

Both cars were bound for Eastbourne and passed through Uckfield at the same time. "The £400 Mors could not tackle the hill and had to be pushed up with the air of several men! Our Daimler simply raced along."

I suspect that this was the first time that the residents of East Hoathly were to see two cars in one day drive through their village.

The car itself is a great success.

By 1910 there were 100,000 cars across the country.

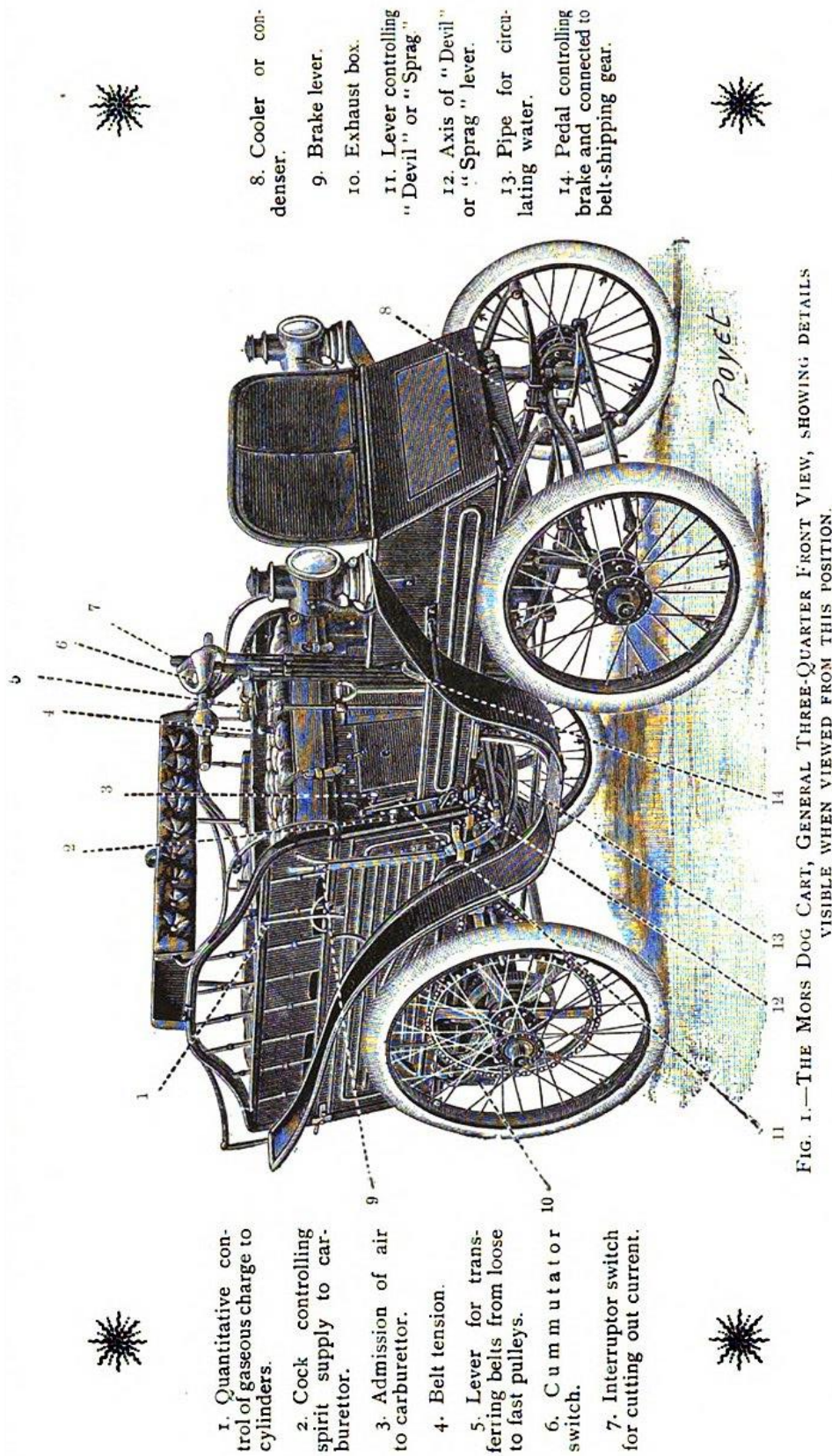
Houses could be built in the villages for men that worked further afield.

In 1950 when a bypass for East Hoathly was first proposed there were 10,000,000 private cars on the road, and South Street, the High Street and indeed Halland were becoming less desirable places for pedestrians.

By 1992 when the bypass was opened the number had doubled to almost two million, many commuting, all polluting, but no longer through the village centre.

Although East Hoathly regained the seclusion it had lost in 1750 its potential for speculative development has not been missed by the builders of tomorrow's world.

The A22 rules our village, a King of highways!



"I find it to be a pleasant & novel sensation to glide apace across country, up hill and down dale, to the, to me, merry accompaniment of the arrhythmic chick-a-chick beating of the engines! But the 'fly in the ointment' (and a big fly too!) is that the horses one meets on the country roads look doubtfully on the newcomer as though he were a beast of prey rushing at them and so are inclined to bolt and make matters somewhat too exciting, this means a constant slowing down and much care on the part of the driver - but when the road is clear ahead and speed can be safely indulged in, there is something very exhilarating in running your own 'light' locomotive on the old coach roads."

PLANNING

Since the first wave of substantial development planning applications were made in 2016, which led to the forming of the Village Concerns group, continual efforts have had to be made to minimise the potential impact of the proposed changes to our communities.

This has not just been objecting to planning applications. Lobbying has encouraged the Parish Council to instigate Neighbourhood Plans.

Also looking at the needs of villagers, the East Hoathly with Halland Community Land Trust has been formed.

Last year permission was granted for over two hundred new houses in East Hoathly alone.

This may satisfy the needs of the District Council but it does not quell the appetite of the developers.

Applications that we have objected to in the past have not gone away, they are being resubmitted with little change and any previous objections are wiped away.

Please subscribe to [Village Concerns](#) to get the latest updates

This is the artists impression of the entrance to the proposed Bramblebank development



Perhaps with an air of surprise, Halland's Bramblebank proposed development of thirty dwellings has been refused by Wealden.

These are two of the reasons given:-

1. The site lies within open countryside situated on the periphery of Halland, Loss of this greenfield site for development of up to 30 dwellings constitutes overdevelopment of the site. Development in this location would not respect the landscape character, the grain of the existing settlement and character of the existing built form. The development would amount to an unacceptable backland or 'tandem' form of development within open countryside. The principle of residential development would therefore not be acceptable having regard to local planning policy as it would be contrary to policies GD2, DC17, EN2 and EN27 of the Wealden Local Plan 1998 and Policy WCS6 of the Wealden District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (CS). These, taken together and amongst other objectives, preclude development within open countryside, set a classification of settlements suitable for additional housing and seek development that respects the character of the area and maintains existing settlement pattern. The development would also be contrary to the guidance set out in Paragraphs 8 and 127 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 which seek to ensure that development protects and enhances the natural and built environment.

2. The proposal is unsustainable development in an unclassified settlement with no significant rural services that the occupants could rely on or contribute to and with no desirable alternatives to the private car leading to the need for private vehicle trips to access services and employment likely to be in the urban centres of Hailsham and Uckfield. The proposal would therefore be contrary to Policies EN1 and EN2 of the adopted Wealden Local Plan 1998; and SPO7 and Policy WCS14 of the adopted Wealden District Council (incorporating part of the South Downs National Park) Joint Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and paragraphs 8, 11 and 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

It is a shame that these policy guidance concerns have not been given the same weight when applied to other proposals.

PLANNING, SWOT & WASP

Another source of information is the Facebook page of [SWOT](#) - Save Wealden from Overdevelopment Team was formed to review the Wealden District Council Local Plan recommendations and seek information to corroborate or challenge the findings, so as to ensure sustainable housing development is upheld across Wealden without undue overdevelopment.

Further action is also being taken by [WASP](#), an Alliance of Planning and Green space interest groups dedicated to protecting and enhancing green spaces in Wealden by challenging both local and national policy makers on planning and policy adversely affecting quality of life in Wealden.

Some potential good news to start off with; the Government has announced it wishes to be building carbon-neutral houses by 2025.

WASP's letter to Boris Johnson and the Housing Minister, Robert Jenrick, can be found [here](#). The letter has also been copied to Labour, Lib Dem and Green Party and awaits comment.

More housing applications continue to flood in - you can also find the link to this week's list on home page.

Part of what we are trying to do is really a numbers game - the more people who can speak with one voice, the more potential influence that we can have. Also, the more people with a bit of local knowledge who can learn a little about Planning and help others in turn

So please ask your friends to visit us too - www.wasp2020.org.

WASP is a new group, it needs more members in order to claim to speak for the people of Wealden, then it will have a sting in its tail.

Development - yes. Over-development and building in unsound locations - NO.

Finally, remember, we can't guarantee any results. But if we don't try, we can guarantee NO result!

SUSSEX BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

The [Sussex Branch of Butterfly Conservation](#)

Butterfly Conservation is a registered charity dedicated to the conservation of butterflies and moths.

The Sussex branch is run entirely by volunteers.



Throughout the year we hold outdoor conservation and educational activities and events across the county. We also manage the Butterfly Conservation reserve at Park Corner Heath in East Sussex where we are implementing a long term plan to create a rich and enduring habitat for some of Sussex's rarest butterflies and moths. Our goals are to:

Halt and reverse the decline of threatened species of butterflies and moths in Sussex.

Increase the numbers of butterflies and moths across the wider landscape.

Maintain efficient, scientifically robust recording and monitoring schemes making the best use of modern technology.

Influence Government and wider decision-making on the environment for the benefit of all species.

Use our influence to support wider initiatives to conserve a healthy environment and ensure a secure future for both wildlife and people.

Raise widespread awareness amongst the public and especially young people, about the role of butterflies and moths in contributing to a healthy environment and the need to conserve them now and in the future.

We are extremely lucky to have the developing flagship of Sussex Butterfly reserves within walking distance of East Hoathly, Halland, Laughton and Chiddingly.

Appreciation of it by individual membership (and/or volunteering) or donation makes a significant difference in what can be achieved

WILD BENTLEY Not to be.

After the year of closure, in October 2019 an ambitious new plan for the future of the former Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum was announced.

It took inspiration from other brave ventures such as the rewilding of Knepp but its aims were not limited to the natural world:

A sanctuary for the conservation of native, endangered wildlife species and the reintroduction of lost species would replace the wildfowl collection for which Bentley has been renowned.

An active technology hub celebrating our motoring heritage, not as a museum but focusing on the future of sustainable transport and encouraging young people to get involved with engineering for their future was envisaged.

The Creation of an education centre that encourages people to play a part, however small, on nature conservation projects and that spreads information about green technology.

And a 'green gym' and 'green therapy' centre to promote the healing potential of engaging with nature, especially for young people.

2020 has frustrated us all and sadly, certainly not for the moment, Wild Bentley is not to be.

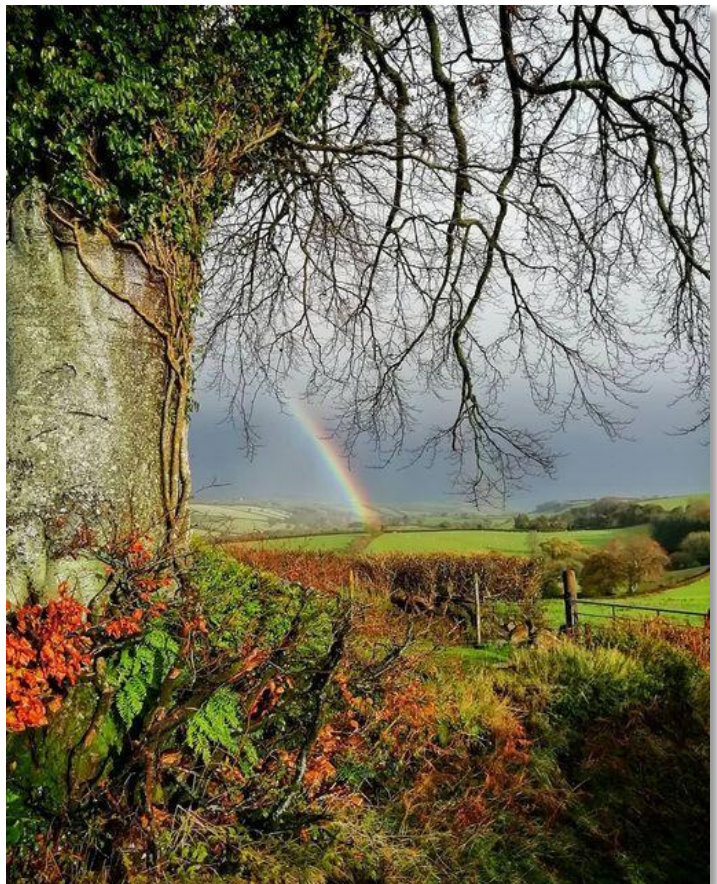
However, Bentley is still very active.

April will see the reopening of the [Bentley Miniature Railway](#) after the winter break.

[Branching Out Adventures](#) has weathered the storm by being Covid secure and will reopen as soon as allowed.

And similarly [Ember Camping at Bentley](#) is already for the 2121 season to begin.

Other events such as the [Bentley Woodfair](#) is on for 17th - 19th September, 2021



PAST WALKS : CROSS IN HAND – Jenny

I loved this walk in [Darch's Wood](#), so much that we are doing it again in April!

The first time we tried it, the rain was torrential and the mud deep and slippery. We didn't need to worry about social distancing - no one else was bonkers enough to venture out in such appalling weather, yet it still had an enchantment all of its own, with the promise of beauty to come in the ghylls and glades that typify this woodland.

There are majestic trees, winding paths through areas of twisted Rhododendrons and a beautiful lake with benches, where in better times we can sit with friends and enjoy the birdsong over a flask of tea and a slice of cake.

The second time we walked here, we were joined by Verne and Rob. It was good to walk again in the company of friends, albeit well-spaced, and made me realise how much I have missed this simple pleasure.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will once again be able to enjoy each other's company and reflect on a time of challenges, surprising opportunities, appreciation of our caring community and treasured environment.



EAST HOATHLY STREET WALK - Chris

December's walk in East Hoathly went ahead as planned and proved it can be done safely, enjoyably and complying with the rules as they were at the time.

Amazingly little more than a stroll up the high street took more than two hours.

Starting at the Church we walked down to Paine's Oast then walked up South Street visualising what an 18th century visitor would have seen.



On the right in 1750 it's probable that there were hops, a risky crop with vastly varying yields. Away from the road, Black Barn and arable fields as shown on the 1839 tithe map. Elsewhere woodland belonging to the Pelhams.

The first dwelling to be encountered, would be Park Lodge built in the 1720's, then Cherry Tree Cottages on the left, which appears to be a timber framed house restored later in the C18th with brick and stone salvaged from Halland Park.

Even the Yew Tree wasn't built until 1810 so there would probably just have been Holly Cottages for workers at the woodworks opposite.

I can imagine cottage vegetable gardens behind (later to become allotments) and pigs kept where the village hall now stands. The Foresters perhaps named because of association to the self-benefit club it ran, and adjacent The Crown which failed in the time of Thomas Turner.



Ivy House in East Hoathly

Opposite there is Sellens and then at about where 4 the Mews is, Ivy House, a substantial house home to Atkins, the Pelham's gardener. Although referred to as gardener he seems to be from quite wealthy stock and his duty was steward and housekeeper rather than cutting the grass.

The Church and rectory, both suffered neglect even while the Pelhams still partied at Halland Park.

Rosemount appears to have been built around 1785 for Thomas Davey a shoemaker.

Next on the left was Rectory Villa, now The White House built on the site of a much older property.

We turned up Buttsfield Lane but looked back across the high Street at Commerce House probably built by Thomas Turner as he extended his property portfolio in 1766.

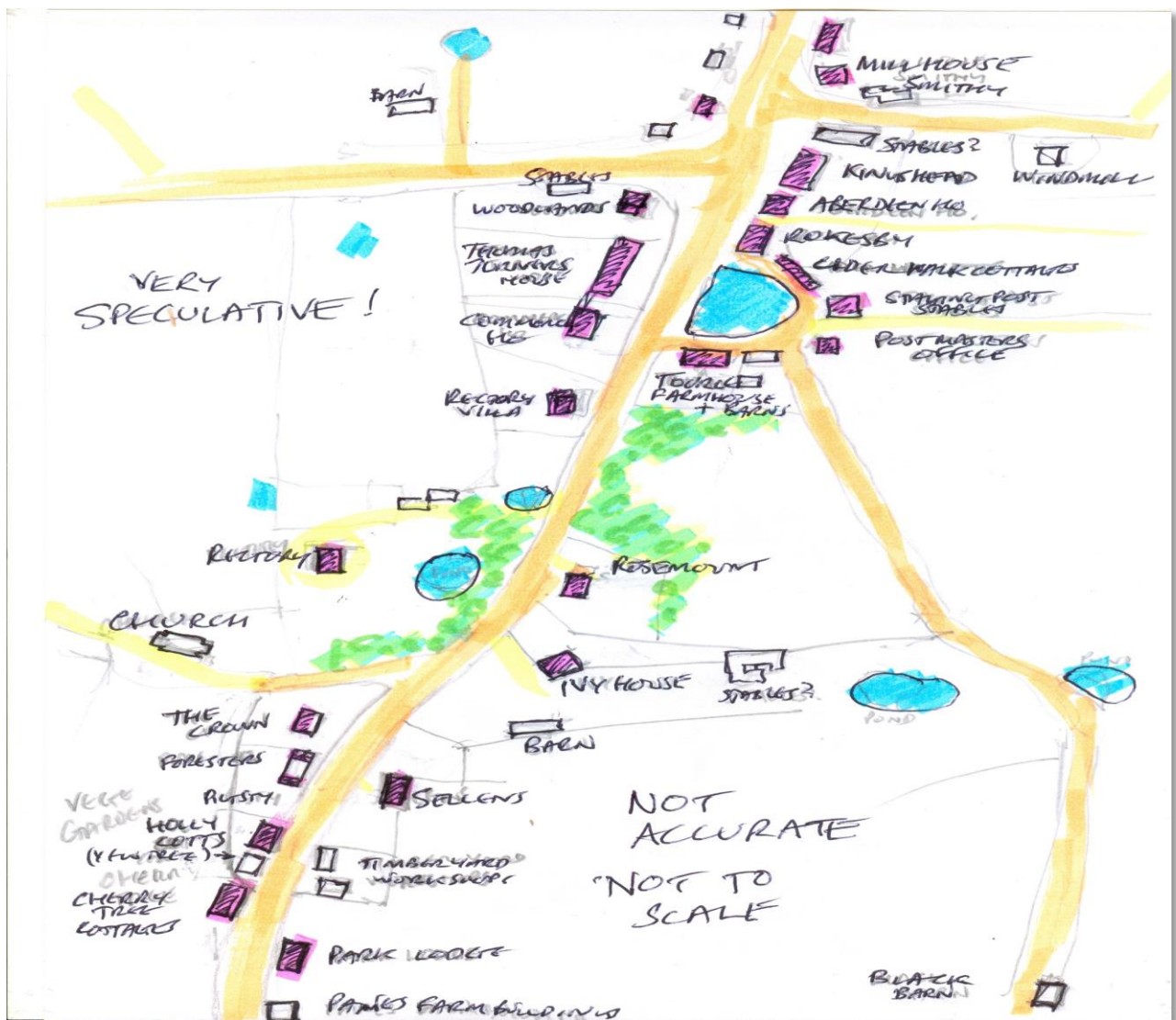
Going up Buttsfield on the right there would have been Tourle's Farmhouse and barns. On the left the Village pond and straight ahead the Post Office dendrochronologically dated to 1630 and to its right, a onetime substantial house used as the Staging Post Stables. The lane on our right, which goes to the modern Tourle's farmhouse would take you on to Black Barn. I suspect that prior to the adoption of the Turnpike road this would have continued and been an alternative track to get to Whitesmith and the Dicker.

We returned down Cider House Walk (the other side of the pond) where the three roomed cottages contained households of up to eleven. Turning right, Rokesby existed and belonged to the local excise officer in 1784.

Aberdeen House has a stone with TC 1765 carved on it (and another WV 1854). It appears to have been a butchers for about 200 years.

The Kings Head erected in 1764 initially as the School house but soon to become an inn and purchased by Thomas Turner in 1772.

The walk ended there as time was getting on.



WELL-BEING WALKS FOR 2021 - Dates for your Diary

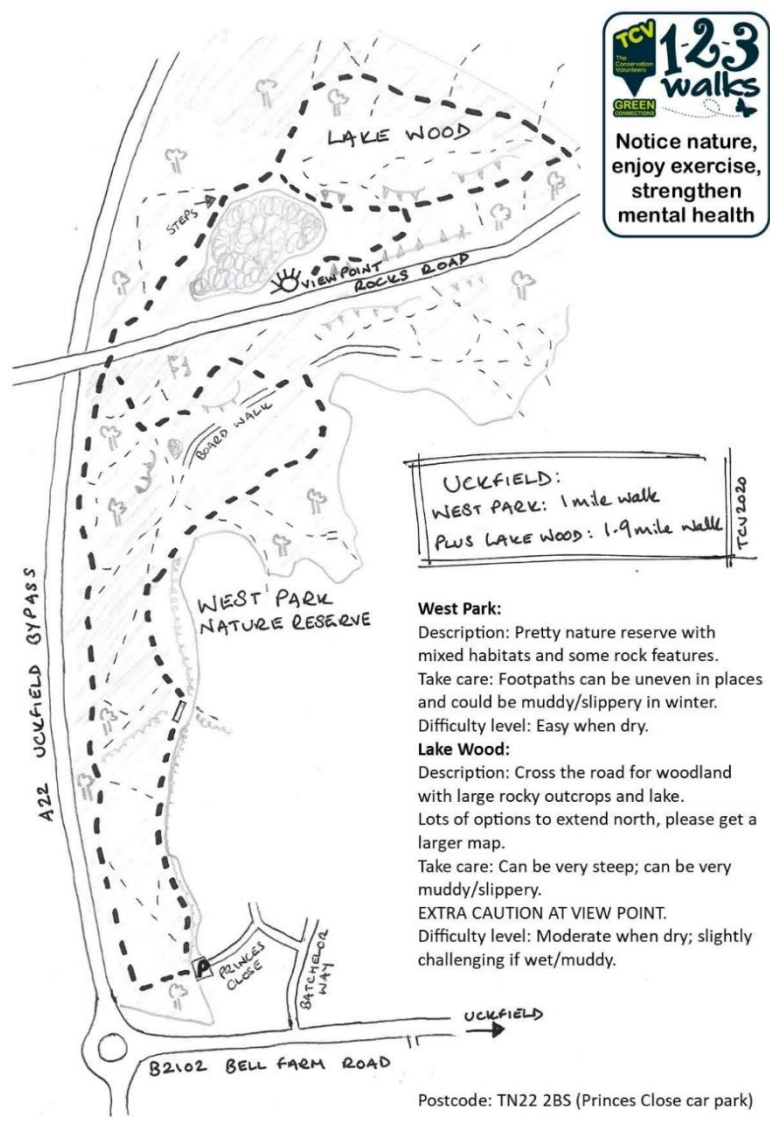
Walks 2021	
Walks start at 2pm, usually after lunch in the appropriate pub. This year they will usually be on the FOURTH Sunday of the month but please check	
JANUARY 24 th	West Park, Uckfield <i>Cancelled</i>
FEBRUARY 28 th	Chiddingly, meet in car park. <i>Subject to restrictions</i>
MARCH 28 th	Ashdown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

Unfortunately we cannot be precise with our walk itinery just yet and so everything is provisional. Feel free to ring Jenny or myself on 01825 872830 about any of the walks, even if you don't want to do the walk at the same time as us.

JANUARY WALK FOR 2021 – WEST PARK UCKFIELD

Current Government advice states “you can leave your home to exercise. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.”

We suggest, therefore, that you leave this one for now and let those more local to it have the pleasure of it. It'll still be there later in the year.



Parking is at the end of Princes Close, just off of Bell Farm Road Uckfield.

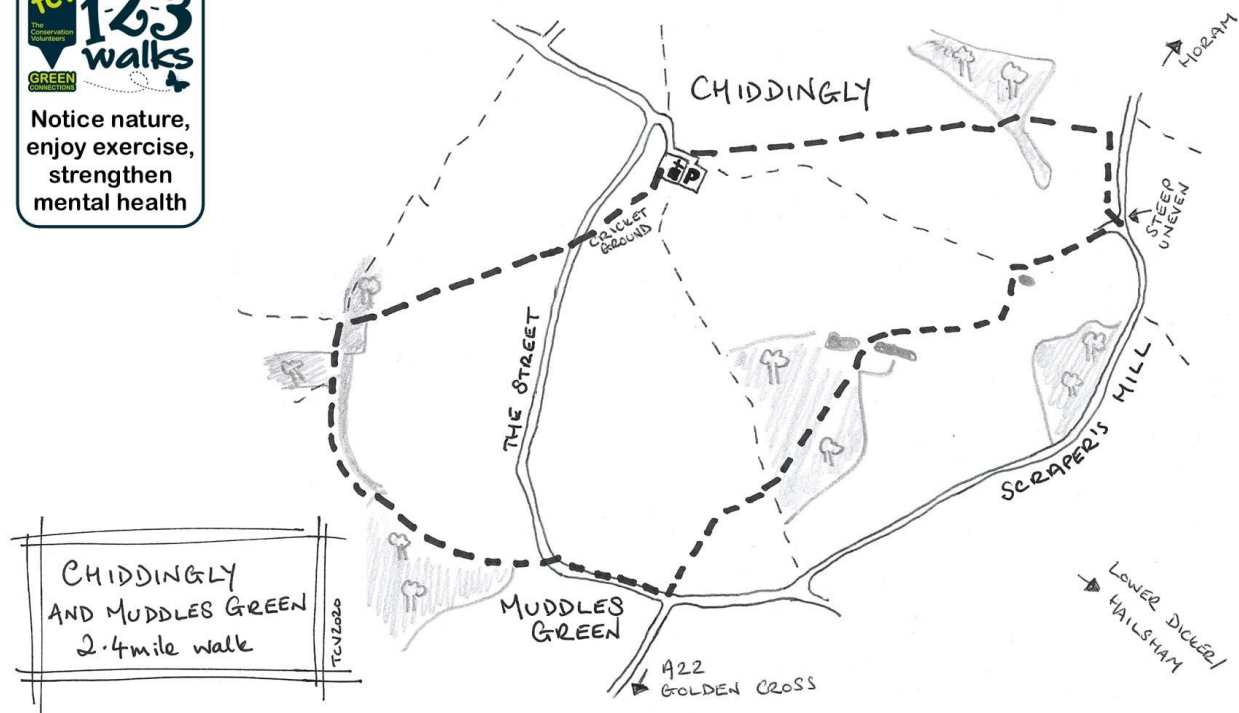
[West Park](#) has a boardwalk over the mushy parts of the reserve. The Reserve is a vestige of ancient parkland, containing herb rich uncultivated wet meadow, woodland, some thriving wildlife and the remains of Mesolithic settlement.

The site is also a Site of Nature Conservation Interest and utilises sheep grazing for long term management of the habitats present.

There is an information board and map at the entrance so there is no need for a route.

It's not a long walk so at the top end, if you want to go further, you can cross the road and go into [Lake Wood](#) which was the one featured by the Bald Explorer in the video we recommended for the “at Home Social” in November.

FEBRUARY WALK FOR 2021 – CHIDDINGLY



Description: Public footpath loop through fields and woods with striking views.

Take care: Cows were in one field, and possibly more at times; rural footpaths can be uneven and could be muddy in winter; exit from permissive footpath onto Scaper's Hill is quite steep; some stiles and bridges.

Difficulty level: Easy.

This one should count as local to most of us.

Again we are recommending that you do it in your own time away from other people.

[1-2-3 Walks](#), instigated by [The Conservation Volunteers](#) group are recommended local well-being walks. There is a Facebook page which has about sixty East Sussex walks of between 1-3 miles.

From Chiddingly's car park path to the village hall turn left onto the Weald Way diagonally across "Gail's field". The cows are docile through contentment and absolutely lovely. You will pass over the most photographed stile in the county and exit the field in the corner through a delightful glen into a wild meadow field that at the right time is a mass of colour and butterflies.

At Scaper's Hill there is no need to walk on the road as there is a kindly provided permissive path that takes you to the start of the track to Boltwood Stud and Little Park Farm. Keep alert as you walk down this track as although only a short distance the trees and bushes will be teeming with

life. As you get to the old farmhouse, opposite, there is a stile and footpath. Follow the footpath, it bears round to the right and then down to a raised board walk between two impressively large ponds. Sometimes the trees here have seasonal decorations, other times the path may be full of toadlets. This is a good time to stop, look and listen.

As you come off of the boardwalk bridge continue straight ahead through the woodland. As well as spring wood anemones and bluebells the woods have, on occasion, been a haven for painted lady butterflies. You should arrive at a footpath crossroads at which you go straight ahead (over another stile) into a field and straight on through another and exiting through the Jubilee garden at Muddles Green.

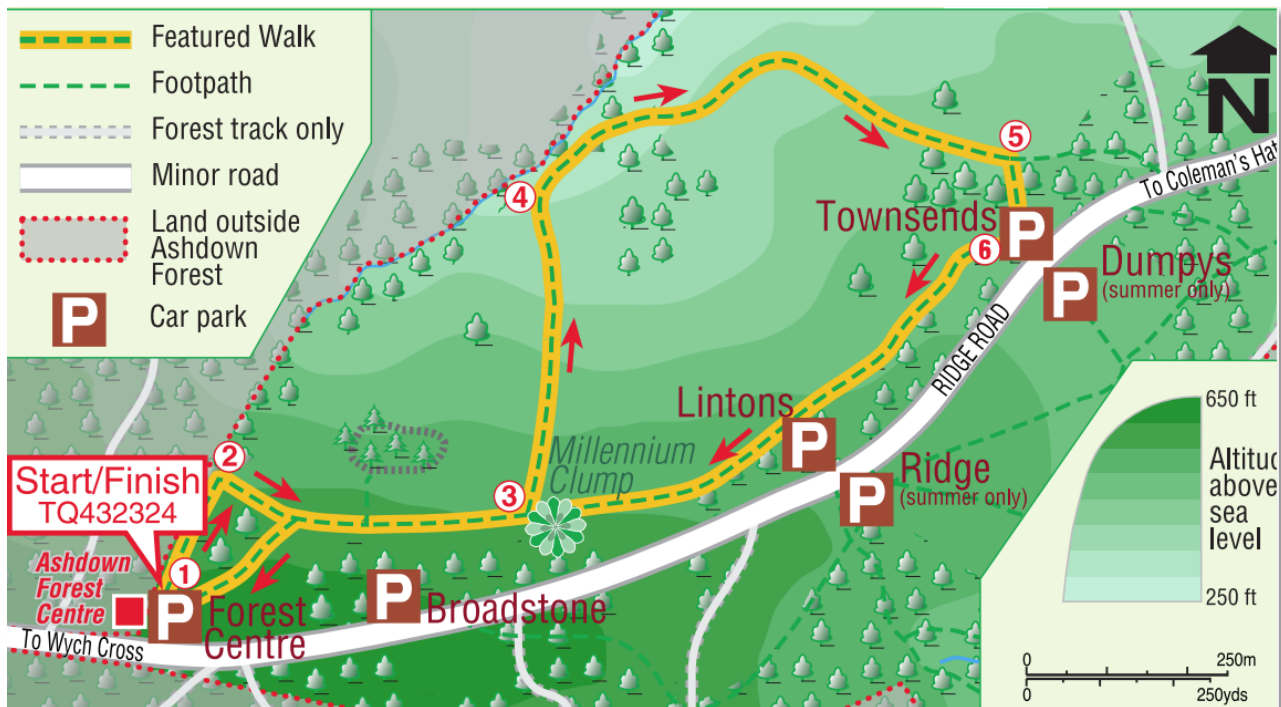
Turn left for the [Chiddingly Community shop](#) and café - well worth a visit for refreshments (weekdays and Saturday mornings) or turn right to continue the walk.



From Muddles Green. walk along the lane towards Chiddingly village, past the school, and turn left onto the footpath adjacent to Jubilee Cottages. Just follow the path (lots of sweet chestnut here), it bears to the right and unfortunately gets muddier and muddier until you come to another crossroads of footpaths. The right hand footpath is the one you want, you can see the field you need to cross and the church spire in the distance. More often than not there are sheep in this field and you exit the field over a very well thought out substantial stile more or less opposite the entrance to the cricket ground.

It's pretty obvious where you are heading (although the Six Bells will probably be shut); the Church with its stone spire has a Grade 1 listing. The churchyard is full of quite ancient memorials, among the churchyard memorials is the family tomb of Downton Abbey writer Julian Fellowes.

MARCH WALK FOR 2021 – ASHDOWN FOREST VISITORS CENTRE



The Broadstone Amble

The heathland of the Ashdown Forest is one of England's rarest habitats. As a result, not only is the forest a designated AONB but, it also commands SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status.

Starting from the Forest Visitor Centre at Wych Cross this is one of ten walks published by the [Friends of the Forest](#).

As Spring approaches it is likely that travelling as far as the Ashdown Forest will be more acceptable than it is at the moment. So tentatively I'll say that Jenny and I will be at the Forest Centre on Sunday March 28th at 2pm.

It would be lovely to see other members and friends even if only to wave at from a distance!

The walk is waymarked and an easy walk. Ancient rabbit warrens, stone quarries and military training trenches demonstrate how this seemingly wild landscape is very much shaped by the work of man and industry. The golf course is a little more blatant!

Despite centuries of abuse Broadstone Heath is still home to the Dartford warbler, nightjar, stonechat and tree pipit.

BIRDS OF SUSSEX – Long Tailed Tit

Bumbarrel, Lollipop, Mumruffin - just a few of the charming country names given to the enchanting Long Tailed Tit.



Usually found flitting through woodland edges and farmland hedgerows, their chatty contact calls give their presence away as they restlessly work their way from tree to tree in search of the insects and

spiders that largely make up their diet. However, much to the delight of anyone who puts up feeders in their gardens, it is becoming much more common to see these delightful little birds acrobatically swinging on your fat balls.

The collective noun for the roving Mumruffin is a Volery, although our dear friend Eric Gould referred to them as a Squadron. Each group, whatever you choose to call it, is made up of mums, dads, aunties, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins and it is quite usual for non breeding birds to help with the rearing of the nestlings in acts of family solidarity.

The nests themselves are a thing of tremendous avian architectural mastery, being skilfully constructed from around 6000 individual components of moss, lichen, feathers and spider's silk. A study into the construction of the nests has discovered that the spider silk is intricately used to form tiny loops that catch on the hook like leaves of the moss, creating a structure whose bonds, similar to that of Velcro, prevent it from falling apart and allow it to stretch to accommodate the rapidly growing young.

The skill of these birds is truly amazing.

EDITORS FINAL NOTES – Chris Pellett

I make no apology for the numerous extracts from old books included in this newsletter, as you may have guessed I've been reading more than usual during lockdown.

If you are looking for something interesting to do at the moment, how about going through your old albums and digging out the oldest pictures taken locally? and we'll try and do a then and now comparison in the next newsletter.

Finally my thanks go to

[Moi Hicks Photography](#) for the lovely picture of the Long Tailed Tit.

And [Dan Cordell](#) for his rainbow photo on the Bentley page.

Dan is best known for his wood carvings and is a regular at the Wood Fair.

As always, the links to outside web pages from the PDF copy of this newsletter have been checked and lead to potentially hours of interesting reading.

As web pages get updated these links may become obsolete so please proceed with caution when looking through old newsletters.

The old newsletters can be read or downloaded from the society website:

<http://www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk/newsletters.html>

Chris 01825 872830

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