

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY



A banner for our future by Emil & Felicja

ISSUE 1
2022

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 & EDITOR – Chris Pellett

Not a quick start to this year but a promising one.

1. DETAILS OF THE AGM IN JUNE WILL BE SENT OUT BY EMAIL SHORTLY
2. Yes this is the first newsletter of the year and it's a bit late to call it the New Year edition so instead it is renamed as 2022 Issue 1!
3. The February Meeting wasn't able to happen but is postponed, not cancelled. As soon as we can reschedule it we'll let you know.
4. And Yes the January Walk was hastily arranged and I apologise to those that missed it.



I was busy in my den

Having got those four matters out of the way I can now say the Society is very much up and running.

There is a full schedule for the rest of this year and to compensate, 2022 memberships will all run until March 31st 2023, so that's an extra three months for free.

We are aware that many members are rightly cautious and don't feel comfortable about gatherings in the confines of the Village Hall and there is an increase in membership and interest from further afield from where travel for our Friday meetings is not really practical.

Therefore this year we intend to improve the reporting on our activities so that those of you unable to make the meetings and walks can still follow the events, causes and other groups that we actively support or promote.

One of these groups is the Laughton Greenwood Group, managing 170 acres of the 600+ acre Vert Wood as a Community Benefit Society. They have a Day of Activities for all the family on Friday June 3rd including tree planting for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. (Free event)

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-family-day-in-the-wood-tickets-302128543607?fbclid=IwAR1Hycj35KoRjW1uAC6UqyyOMoiYi_NEYK5AoUa7HLs52UO1UZaxSrrB8IY



© [Jim Holden](#)

We have had the February walk, and to align with other walks taking part across the country campaigning against inappropriate developments, we joined with Village Concerns and walked along the Wealdway through Hesmond's Stud to the Great Wood. From there we could see in the direction of Hailsham land put forward for development that would double the size of the town. Similarly for Horam, the historic Heathfield Park, land at Blackboys and of course Uckfield. We had walked through and were standing at the edge of a proposed 3000 home Hesmond's Village.

Of course life will change and houses will be built, but at what cost and to whose benefit?

The proposed cover picture for this newsletter changed when I saw the banner made by two children from the village, it moved me; a faultless statement for all forms of life and of utmost importance at this time in the world's crises. LET US LIVE.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE – Jenny Pellett

Committee at Rest!

The last couple of years have inevitably caused considerable disruption to our established calendar of talks and walks, so we are very, very pleased to be resuming these again and welcoming members old and new.

Currently our membership stands at 34, made up of 13 joint and 8 single.

It is particularly encouraging to be welcoming new members Heather Wood from Laughton, Julie & Tony Gosling and Jan & Alan Burdon from East Hoathly and also returning members John Graham and Susan Cole.

Due to the lack of events and the delay in getting the first newsletter of 2022 completed, it has been decided to extend this year's membership by three months to 31st March next year.

Many thanks to those who have paid so far, and thanks in advance to those who will be re-joining again soon. Every membership is important to us and enables us not only to pay for our excellent speakers, but to support organisations such as the CPRE, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation Sussex and others.

Many of you will know that long time members, Verne & Rob Heath, have now moved to their new home in Dorset. We will all miss seeing Verne behind the Post Office counter and will miss their company on our walks and we wish them every happiness in their retirement.

CHIDDINGLY

James Pilbeam of Chiddingly, Mercer.



James Pilbeam died in 1728 one year before Thomas Turner, Mercer in East Hoathly, was born.

James, born some time after 1682, probably only came into the Chiddingly shop following the death of Richard Pilbeam, a cousin of his father, in 1721.

Similarities to Thomas Turner include meticulous book keeping and an impressively full shop. Clearly a successful business with the capacity to take on an apprentice in 1725 in exchange for a premium of £50.

After his death, the propate inventory by Thomas Friend and John Turner of James' belongings and stock list 197 entries.

Fabrics include, "Nine hundred and twenty seven ells of Rusha Cloath" Fustian, Yellow Canvas and Striped Cotton feature.

An ell is about 45" or the length of the arm from the shoulder (or the elbow) to the wrist.

Brillion, Prunella, Calamanco and Tabby.

A great deal of cloth is described as "wide stuff, cherry stuff, black and white stuff or just stuff. Stuff being a term to describe any woolen material not made up.

In all there were 4,846 yards of cloth, 1831 ells and 84 pieces.

Then the made up goods; stockings cravats, gloves, childrens coats and stays. Stays were expensive at 11s -14s (55p- 70p), childrens stay just 2s 3d a pair.

Two hundred and forty three hats.

Buttons, buckles, tapes and pins etc., contrast with the nails, hinges, rope, tar pitch, writing paper and books.

Then the groceries; soap, salt, fruit, vinager, spirits, treacle, tobacco, 4 cwt of sugar and three sugar loaves.

A sugar loaf can be up to 50lb in weight.

Not a bad stock to serve a village of about 650 inhabitants!

James Pilbeam's house has become Pilgrims and the village shop continued for 300 years until closing in 1997.

FUTURE MEETINGS – 2022

PROVISIONAL TALKS & VISITS 2022 Fridays 7.30pm at East Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise. Usually on the SECOND Friday of the month but not always.	
FEBRUARY 11 TH	Open House. Bring along your memories, a small exhibition and Ringmer Soup POSTPONED
MARCH 11 TH	John Kaye – The Archbishop of Canterbury’s Ringmer Deer Parks.
APRIL 8 TH	Janet Pennington – Sussex Chairs <i>How East Hoathly influenced William Morris’ design</i>
MAY 13 TH	Antony Smith - Smugglers in Sussex <i>The Custom of the Country</i>
JUNE 10 th	AGM & Dinner <i>Venue, Menu and details to follow by Email</i> (Please phone if you think Emails are not getting through)
JULY	Visit to Fxxxxxxx <i>An exclusive tour is being arranged</i>
AUGUST Sunday 28 th	Visit to Springham Grove <i>Rewilding, Sustainable, Regenerative & Biodynamic Farming</i>
SEPTEMBER 9 th	Bruce Moore - The World’s Fastest Steam Powered Car <i>Beating the Stanley Steamer’s 100 Year Record</i>
OCTOBER 14 th	Peter Crowhurst The North Laines Brighton <i>Brighton’s Industrial Quarter until 1920</i>
NOVEMBER 25th	Social Evening <i>Back to the usual shenanigans</i>

KIEV IN 1990 - David Burrough

What devastating and awfully sad news is hitting the headlines every day.

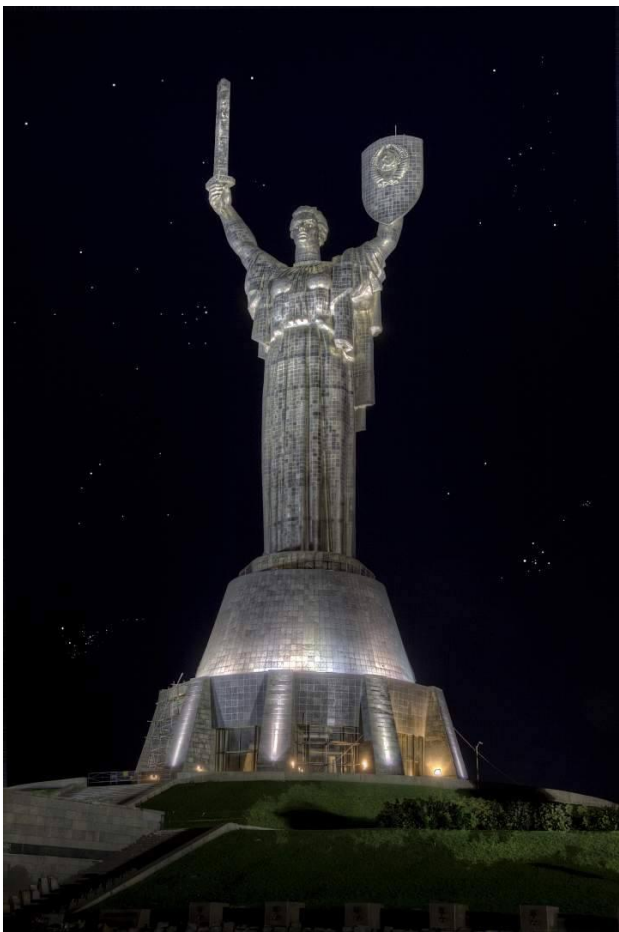
I can only respond to it by reflecting on a time 32 years ago when I was very fortunate to be part of the English Shakespeare Company's tour of *A Comedy of Errors* touring the UK, Cork, Israel, Kiev, and Moscow in the years between the Berlin Wall coming down in 1989 and the end of the USSR in 1991. We were a company made up of black and white British actors performing one of Shakespeare's early works. It was a joyous experience and we were welcomed with open arms to the lovely, ancient city of Kiev which in 1986 had experienced the horror of the nuclear disaster in nearby Chernobyl. In fact all the members of the fire brigade of Kiev, apart from one firefighter, who didn't go to Chernobyl because he was unwell, had died as a result of radiation poisoning over the previous 4 years. The remaining fireman couldn't live with the knowledge that he'd let his fellows down and, sadly, committed suicide.

Life for the average inhabitant of Kiev then was pretty harsh, with irradiated food still the only fare. We could only compare it to life in the West. Bread

and lard seemed to be the items on sale in their markets. Whereas, we actors and crew of the ESC, staying in the top Stalin-era hotel, ate what we called “Chickenfish”, because, wrapped in breadcrumbs it was difficult to tell which it was. It had a strange indistinguishable taste and texture. Boiled potatoes and a whole bulb of boiled garlic accompanied the meal. We counted ourselves lucky, although our breath was pretty awful. Thank goodness I didn’t have any romantic scenes to play; I played Angelo the goldsmith, a very quarrelsome character.

Kiev was very beautiful with its magnificent buildings painted in cream, light blue, pink and white and its churches with their golden domes. On days off we walked throughout the city.

We visited an Orthodox Christian monastery and church with its incense and heavenly sung liturgy. Underneath the church the bodies of former monks



Mother Russia AKA Tin Tits

were preserved in catacombs cut deep into the rock. Some monks were over 300 years old and were so holy that their bodies would never decay, we were told; the salts and minerals and the lack of humidity apparently made this possible but I must admit I found it a little eerie down there looking at these perfectly preserved corpses. Near the monastery was a commemorative park to the hundreds of thousands of Ukraine’s fallen in WW11 with Soviet rockets and tanks as reminders of those years. All was very harshly communist with goose-stepping slow- marching guards keeping vigil. This was in complete contrast to the quiet dignity of the monastery.

Also there was a monstrous metal sculpture of “Mother Russia”, with her huge muscular semi-naked body and

a head that was proportionately too small, holding a sword in her right hand facing the West. She dominated the skyline. I expect and hope she was removed when Ukraine gained its independence. We learnt very quickly not to refer to Ukrainians as Russian.



Malinovsky Theatre

After Kiev we went to Russia and were welcomed to the Malinovsky Theatre in Moscow where the play was well received. Again on one of our days off we were fortunate to be in the Kremlin visiting the palace and various churches and St Basil's, when President Gorbachev was holding a conference of all the deputies from across the USSR. He came straight across a huge courtyard straight towards me

and was 3 yards from me when I photographed him on my camera. Extraordinary Luck. He had no bodyguard - just a confident charisma. How things have changed. Nowadays Mr Putin doesn't seem to trust anybody. He reminds me of the tragic figure of Macbeth.

What the good people of Kiev and Ukraine are going through now is impossible to imagine. My hope is, with prayers and help from the Free World, the message of "A Comedy of Errors", which was certainly understood and embraced 32 years ago, along with the fortitude and bravery of the population will prevail and that brothers lost to each other will be reconciled in joy and laughter and togetherness.

David Burrough

Based in East Hoathly at the heart of Wealden district, Village of Sanctuary welcomes and supports refugees. They have created a fund to provide petty cash for Ukrainian guests in Wealden, so that they can be free to buy what they need for themselves, make their own choices in shops and to access public transport.

To contribute to this fund go to

villageofsanctuary.net or <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/refugees>

RIPE AT WAR

It was standing-room only for an evening of World War 2 memories at Ripe Village Hall.

The February event at Ripe Village Hall was reported to have been the largest gathering there in recent years when Gerry Price, of Deanland Airfield gave a presentation on Ripe at War and the role of the Deanland ALG during WW2. Roy Medhurst, Ripe's oldest resident and who lived through it all, was guest of honour and able to answer questions from the audience.



© J Biggadike

“Spitting Fire” by J Biggadike is available printed on canvas from the [Air Power Art Co.](#) and is of the Battle of Britain memorial flight Spitfire AB910 painted with the insignia of “PeterJohn1” Tony Cooper’s D-Day Spitfire flown from Deanland.

The history of the site as an RAF "Advanced Landing Ground" was surprisingly short, constructed in late 1943 and closing down before 1945. The main runway stretched up north-east almost to Golden Cross, with a shorter second runway crossing at right angles. Spitfires from the base were the first in the air on D-Day, covering the beach invasions and escorting gliders and the tug planes to their targets.

Then came the battle in the air against 'doodlebugs' the flying bombs aimed at London; the airfield's pilots took out 165 in total before they reached their targets.

Roy Medhurst was in the Home Guard during the war but recalled visits to the landing strips for the dramatic arrival of bombers running short of fuel on their return, and hiding under farm machinery when doodlebugs flew overhead.

WALDRON CASTLE



The probable old Saxon font at Waldron, which has featured before in these newsletters, is one of just three recorded in Sussex (Berwick & Rodmell playing host to the others) and quite different to those in both appearance and folklore.

Legend has it that in the 16th century this font was removed from the church and rolled down the hill by Thomas Cromwell's soldiers, ending up as a cattle trough at Dengates Farm from where it was eventually recovered in 1907.

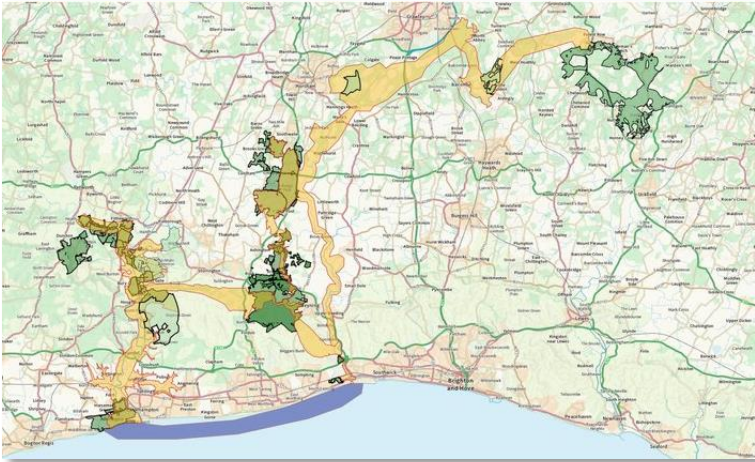
Initially it was rehoused in the church but then doubt was cast as to whether it was really a Saxon and Christian font by the suggestion that it may have had pagan origins. To play safe it was moved once more; relegated to the churchyard.



Another suggestion is that the designated ancient moat in Middle Wood, now recognized as medieval ringwork (as there is no evidence of provision for a water supply), contained a homestead and chapel, perhaps home to a religious order and the font possibly came from there.

Often referred to as Waldron Castle, oral tradition has it that there was stone there thought to be from buildings within, and the steepness of the banks and deep ditch suggest a defensive stronghold typical of those built around the time of the Norman conquest.

WEALD TO WAVES Chris



At a seminar in November Jenny & I learnt of a new initiative instigated by the Knepp Wildland Foundation. A Sussex Wildlife project to create new wildlife corridors across the county to further understanding of nature recovery in Sussex.

In West Sussex, in particular, the Help the Kelp campaign and subsequent bylaw to protect 300Km² of former kelp forest from total extinction has raised awareness and highlighted the need for a holistic approach.

All habitats are reliant upon their neighbours.

To help restore the kelp forest ecology, coastal farmers at Climping are improving their own eco-systems where marine and terrestrial habitats interact.

The Waves to Weald takes us from these coastal farms inland either over the South Downs or through them along the rivers of Sussex.

These have all suffered from the intensity of human activity particularly since the nineteen fifties.

Whether by intensive farming, extensive house building or excessively polluting travel, biodiversity has diminished and the health of the land with it.

Farmers who have been at odds with nature for decades sit well placed to be part of the solution by signing THE PLEDGE!

A fast expanding group of farmers have signed up to the W2W initiative. They pledge to do their bit, to give some of their land over to nature or adopt more nature-friendly systems – whatever they feel they can do – especially where it will help reconnect isolated pockets of valuable habitat.

From Climping across the South Downs National Park into the heart of the county, connecting with Wiston Estate and the Knepp rewilding project and from there to the St Leonard's and Ashdown forests.

WAVES TO WEALD

From the Ashdown Forest, East Sussex is equally well situated to instate a W2W initiative.

Already protected by awareness of its fragile lowland heathland and knowledge of the damage being done by air pollution, nature corridors towards Pevensey and along the Ouse and Cuckmere valleys seem an obvious progression towards the regeneration of East Sussex countryside.

Beachy Head East is the largest of the Marine Conservation zones on the Sussex coast. It interacts with the equally important Pevensey levels.



[Pevensey Level farmers](#) have already formed a cluster group of 41 landowners, led by Chiddingly farmer's wife Lucy Carnaghan Holt with a key priority to extend and link existing habitats to increase connectivity and reduce fragmentation.

They have a number of issues to contend with;

Vegetation succession, eutrophication, pollution, invasive animal species and general disturbance from humans.

The well-being of the levels is reliant on good practice by its neighbours and its connection to both the weald and the shoreline.

Weald to Waves projects will, we hope, connect the dots again, allowing wildlife to move in response to climate change, and reach other populations to increase genetic diversity and species resilience.

Regenerative, organic or non-intensive farming will help the mycelium networks replenish improving the natural soils and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

We are horrified at the rainforests being replaced with oil palm plantations. But our own eco- systems are broken, too, with damage caused across entire landscapes in the UK by industrial farming and centuries of infrastructure and development.

The tide is slowly turning and now nearly all farms across Sussex have adopted some form of offsetting measures whether that's flower-rich field margins, replanting hedges or switching to fully organic systems.

Thanks to David Attenborough most of us are acknowledging the biodiversity emergency and have become strong supporters of nature-friendly farming.

Successes are beginning to filter through. Locally rare birds – once common – are returning.

The damage we've done can be undone, if we put our collective minds to it.

Which leads us nicely on to;

THE SUSSEX REGENERATION COLLECTIVE

The Weald to Waves corridor (W2W) will be part of the wider Sussex Regeneration Collective (SRC):

The SRC is a non government citizens project comprised of private, charitable and public body landowners who are at work on creating the conditions for nature recovery and allowing wildlife movements, through making corridors of woodlands, grasslands and wetlands and green bridges and tunnels, across a broad swath of the county.

Which of course includes Knepp and many other landowners showing intent to join in.

The very many advantages of this undertaking for nature, tourism, mental health and general well-being, as well as contributing to adapting to climate change and coastal erosion are well recognised.

There are other benefits to adopting farming methods which work better with nature (as we used to); it improves the soil structure, the essential microorganisms and mycorrhizal mycelial networks.

Sponsorship and grants to compensate for the change of land use is arriving via companies who see this as a method of offsetting their carbon footprints as well as enhancing their public images. Once more of this is in place there are large estates and small landholders already agreeing with the principle and waiting to sign up.

The early stages comprise of an interactive map of Sussex for community groups, gardeners, landowners, NGOs, councils and, well, anyone really, to register their nature conservation projects in a publicly visible way. Whether it's a 5-metre strip for pollinators in a garden, a 50-hectare wildflower meadow, a 500-hectare rewilding project or a 5000-hectare nature corridor, it all matters and will be part of the Collective. www.rewildingbritain.org.uk www.wealdtowaves.co.uk

East Sussex WRAS



A rare Brown Booby was rescued around midday on Sunday 2nd January from the beach opposite Holland Road Hove, Sussex UK, after being reported by members of the public.

Volunteer rescuers Shaz Hawthorn and Lisa Barrow from Brighton & Hove Wildlife Advice & Rescue Service attended

on scene and found a member of the public had already caught and boxed the bird. They transferred the bird to one of their containers before delivering it across to the veterinary hospital at East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (East Sussex WRAS) near Lewes, East Sussex.

The bird was assessed by the Care Team at East Sussex WRAS and found to be under weight at 760 grams. Their natural body weight is around 1-1.8kg.

“This is very concerning” said Lead Casualty Manager Katie Nunn Nash who admitted the bird.

“The bird passed faeces of a solid enough state indicating that it had recently eaten but clearly not enough over time.”

This is the second Booby which East Sussex WRAS has had in care. The last one was a Red Footed Booby back in 2016. A Brown Booby was also spotted on the Cornish Coast in 2019.

Trevor Weeks MBE, founder and Operations Director of East Sussex WRAS said “Having one Booby to deal with was a surprise to get a second turn up here in Sussex is really unusual as these birds are found around from the Mediterranean and down onto the African coast as well as around the Gulf of Mexico over a pantropical range.”

The brown booby is the most common and widespread of the Booby species but very unusual here in the UK.

“We don’t know where the bird came from originally nor what route it would have taken but we are aware that these birds have landed on shipping and travelled outside of their natural home range before as well as being blown off course in storms” said Trevor.

East Sussex WRAS veterinary surgeon Lourdes Cortes Saez MRCVS said “We are being very guarded about the bird’s chances of survival due to the degree of weight loss. The bird has a good attitude and being a good patient so we are trying our best to build the bird up. It’s very much one step at a time.”

Once the bird is healthy enough, it is likely to be transferred to another specialist rehabilitation centre before potentially being flown back to a more natural location for its release.

[East Sussex WRAS](#) is an award winning community veterinary charity which deals with 4-6,000 wildlife casualties every year across East Sussex and is funded entirely by donations.

IMPORTANT:

East Sussex WRAS have a new rescue line phone number
0300-10-26-999

BOOBY FACTS:

WEIGHT: Their natural body weight is around 1-1.8kg.

RARENESS: 2nd Booby in Sussex. Red Footed Booby back in 2016. Brown Booby seen Cornwall in 2019. Conservation status “LC” (Least Concern) worldwide. This species is the most common and widespread of the Booby family of birds.

HOME RANGE: They have a pan tropical range and various sub species including: Coast of the Southern USA / California, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, West African coast, but have been seen up into the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Singapore / Indonesia & Northern Australia

DIET: Small fish.

GENDER OF THIS BIRD: Unknown.

AGE: Believe to be a juvenile.

POLLUTION: 90% of Brown Booby nests consist of plastic according to a study undertake in 2018 and reported in the Marine Pollution Bulletin

PLASHETT PARK Marion Salmon

LIVING AT PLASHETT PARK FARM in 1890s

Information from EXTRACTS OF THE DIARY OF GEORGE LOVERING ANDREW.

GEORGE ANDREW, with his wife and young daughter, moved to Plashett Park Farm in 1892. His sister was married to his wife's brother and the two families farmed next to each other at Clayhill. George was a farmer by profession. He was also a member of the non-conformist church and a lay preacher. He frequently invited the preacher to the farm where a place of worship was set up there for children and local residents. George kept a diary most days. It illustrates the tasks allotted to his workers and their payment.

Normally the farm was run by three men and a boy, with added help for harvest and threshing.

A typical payday entry was;

22nd April 1893

George, the Foreman, rolled tares and the ground he ploughed yesterday and began to harrow.

Pond filled, Booth and boy both jobbing about.

Sold calf off Carey to Jim Weekes for 32/6. (£1.62)

Paid Ted 18/- (90p). Booth 14/- (70p) Candy 8/- (40p). up to 4th April.



© Phil Winter <https://www.sussexruralimages.co.uk>

*Milk 5/5d. (27p). Skim milk 2/1d.(10p) Bread etc 1/8d. (8p) Beans 8d (3p)
Total £2 9s 10d (£2.49)*

Cows laid out first time. Beautiful day. Hot.

George and the boy were paid two weeks wages the following Saturday. 40/- (£2) and 10/- (50p) respectively.

George and his man often drove flocks of ewes and lambs to market in Lewes, Uckfield or Chailey. Any unsold had to be driven back to the farm.

They carted chalk from Earwig and Southram pits and flint from Lewes.

Crops were rotated, and the soil was kept fertile with bone, nitre and phosphate. Clover was also ploughed in.

Tares and mangel were grown as cattle food and cattle dung used as manure. They harvested wheat, oats and hay, grew potatoes, cabbages, swedes and turnips. They bred cows and sheep and kept about 320 chickens.

Stuart Andrew described harvesting a few years later:

“It took a whole day to cut and stook a 10 acre field. This was left for 10 days to ripen. Then with two men in the field, three on the stack and one carting, it was carried and stacked in ricks, where it remained till after Christmas, when Mr Holden and his gang came with his threshing machine.”

Today the same field would need one man in his combine harvester.

The dairy herd seems to have been the main source of income, 120 gallons of milk per week from his 9 cows, was sold to one man in Brighton and another locally.

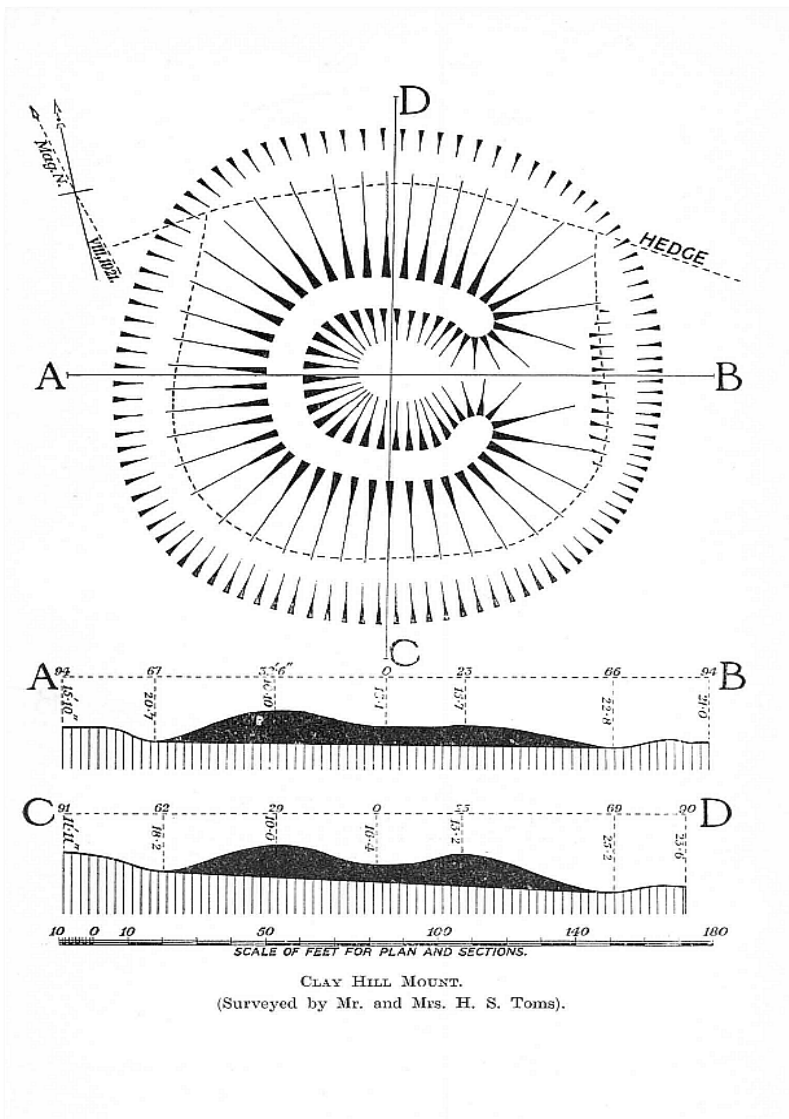
The ewes were often sold straight to the butcher.

George was a member of the Ringmer Parish Council and the Dairy Association. Like most farmers of the time he supported the Ringmer Liberal Association.

The Andrews family moved to Clayhill in the early Twentieth Century and George Andrew retired in 1924 selling the farm.

From the thirty or so diaries kept, this extract was transcribed and information added by Anna Beckworth of [Ringmer History Group](#).

CLAYHILL



Clayhill is also the location of an ancient motte listed in the castles of Sussex as twelfth century although it is possibly a later hunting lodge. Being recognised as an antiquity in 1922 didn't prevent the Royal Engineers digging a hole into it twenty years later and constructing a hideout for the WW2 Ringmer Patrol Operational Base. Captain Ralph Benford Edmondson of Gate Cottage Clayhill Farm led the local clandestine resistance.

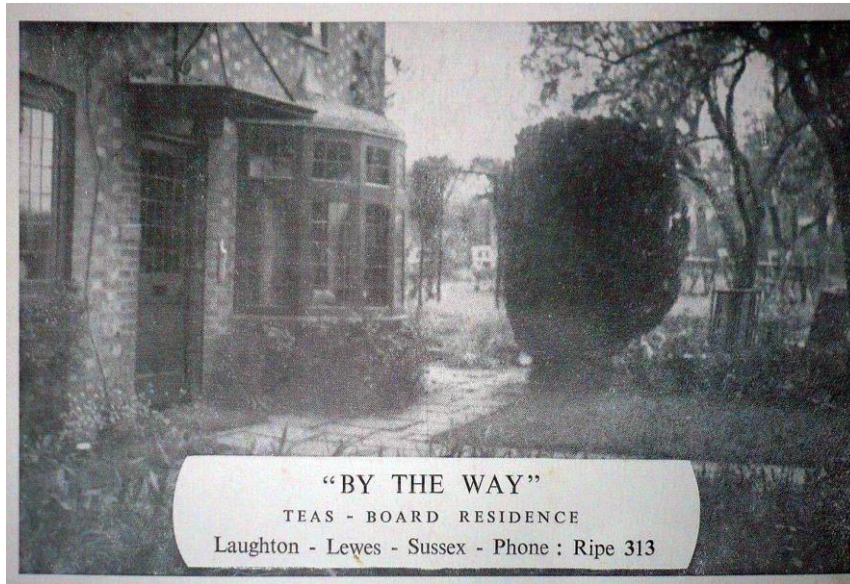
Unusually, Sergeant Bill Webber from Firle patrol kept a diary, an entry of which reads:

"On 29 November 1941 an inter-Patrol competition was held at Bishopstone. Competing were members of the Bishopstone, Cooksbridge, Ringmer and Abbot's Wood Patrols. The events included Mills bomb throwing, pistol, rifle and Thompson sub-machine gun target shooting and a night patrol efficiency test. Cooksbridge Patrol came first, with 84 points, Bishopstone second, with 81 points; Abbot's Wood third, with 55 points; and Ringmer last with 43 points."

Information from <https://www.staybehinds.com/county/sussex>

TEA GARDENS - Laughton

Laughton was for many years a regular destination for townfolk on their bicycles or in their Morris 8 cars to head for and enjoy afternoon tea at “Pear Trees Tea Gardens” or “By The Way” now known as Three Chimneys, another favourite.

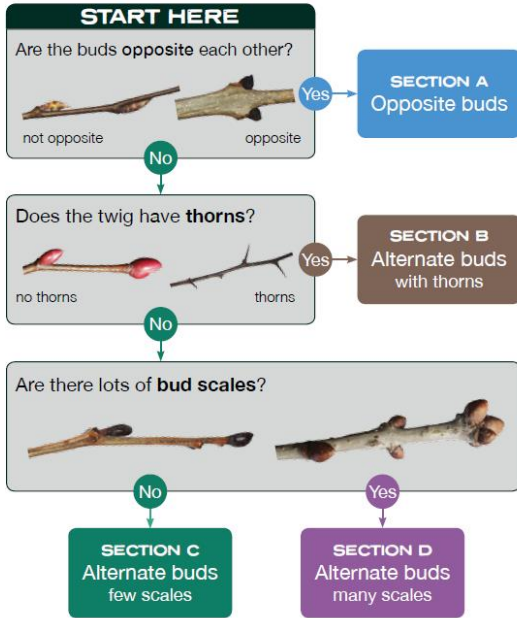


Times have changed and, last year whilst restrictions permitted, [Millward's Estate at Laughton](#), better known as a wedding venue and for their wedding fairs, hosted a Mad Hatters Tea Party. It may have been a one off but I'm told that if they do another it's a must do event.



BRITISH BROADLEAF TREES BARK

Photo guide to Trees in winter



A Opposite buds

Ash
Fraxinus excelsior



Buds dark black and hard. Bark light grey. Bark is smooth when young, but develops vertical ridges with age.

Horse Chestnut
Aesculus hippocastanum



Buds dark brown, large and very sticky. Bark grey-brown, becoming flaky with age.

Sycamore
Acer pseudoplatanus



Buds pale green, with purple edges. Bark grey. Smooth on young trees but with age flakes off in rectangles.

Field Maple
Acer campestre



Buds reddish-brown, with white hairy edges. Bark grey or brown. With age may become flaky and corky.

B Alternate buds with thorns

Hawthorn
Crataegus sp.



Buds red, small and oval, found at the base of spines, but not on them. Bark grey-brown, flakes off with age.

Blackthorn
Prunus spinosa



Buds red, small and oval, found on the spines as well as the stem. Bark black or dark brown and rough.

Cherry Plum
Prunus cerasifera



Buds green, small, often in clusters. Bark dark brown, with horizontal lines, orange bark underneath.

Holly
Ilex aquifolium



Evergreen, keeps spiky green leaves all winter. Bark light grey with horizontal warts, becoming craggy.

C Alternate buds few scales

Lime
Tilia sp.



Buds red, plump and bluntly rounded. Bark grey-brown, becoming fissured with outgrowths at the base.

Willow
Salix sp.



Buds red or yellow, pointing away from the stem. The buds are cottony inside. Bark brown or grey.

Alder
Alnus sp.



Buds purple, and shaped like boxing gloves. Bark purple-brown, becoming greyer with cracks and ridges.

London Plane
Platanus x hispanica



Buds red and round. Bark light green or grey, peeling off in patches to reveal cream colour underneath.

Photo guide to Trees in winter

Identifying trees without their leaves seems like a daunting challenge. But a closer look will reveal a multitude of slowly swelling buds.

Some trees are easy to recognise. In Ash, Horse Chestnut, Sycamore and Field Maple, the buds grow in pairs opposite each other. Other trees have thorns, like Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

Otherwise you will need to look closely at the shape and colour of the bud. Some trees, like Lime, Alder and Willow, have fewer than three bud scales that protect the bud. But others, such as Oak, Elm and Cherry, have many bud scales.

Winter trees are best in January and February. By early spring the buds start to open, and lose their distinctive shape.

Why not share your photos of buds on Twitter or Instagram, using the hashtag #winterbuds. Or why not try to find five over-wintering insects, such as ladybirds, shieldbugs, butterflies and bees.



Planting trees in winter

Winter is a great time to plant trees. So why not join a planting party in your local area this year?

You can find out more about volunteering opportunities in your town at www.treesforcities.org



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Green Recovery Challenge Fund



D Alternate buds many scales

Oak

Quercus sp.



Buds orange-brown, plump, with waxy hairless scales. Bark grey, becoming vertically ridged with age.

Cherry

Prunus sp.



Buds red-brown and pointed. Bark red, brown or grey, with orange-brown horizontal lines.

Beech

Fagus sylvatica



Buds brown, long and pointed away from the twig. Bark grey, developing criss-crossing ridges and furrows.

Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus



Buds brown, pointing towards the twig. Bark grey, develops orange or silver vertical furrows with age.

D Alternate buds many scales

Elm

Ulmus sp.



Buds black and tiny. Bark grey-brown, with corky ridges when young, then becoming fissured.

Birch

Betula sp.



Buds green or brown, and pointed. Bark orange-red when young, becoming white grey ('silver').

Whitebeam

Sorbus aria



Buds green with brown edges, hairy, and oval-shaped with a blunt point. Bark brown-grey, smooth and glossy.

Hazel

Corylus avellana



Buds green or red, plump and oval-shaped. Bark brown or green, shiny, peels in thin horizontal strips.

Poplar

Populus sp.



Buds brown or green, sharply pointed and sticky. Bark brown-grey, developing wavy ridges with age.

Rowan

Sorbus aucuparia



Buds purple-brown, cone-shaped and hairy. Bark grey and smooth, with horizontal scars.

Apple

Malus sp.



Buds red-brown, usually on a stalk. Bark light brown or grey, becoming fissured with age.

Pear

Pyrus sp.



Buds brown or green, small and pointed. Bark light grey, splitting into into squares and rectangles.

BOOK REVIEW – Chris Pellett

“Laughton Life - Portraying a Sussex Village 2021” – [Lucy Carnaghan](#)

“Laughton Life - Portraying a Sussex Village” first appeared as a millennium edition in, you’ve guessed it, 2000. Published by and as part of the Laughton Millennium Committee project.

LAUGHTON LIFE - Portraying A Sussex Village 2021



The Granary at Mill Farm

This new edition was entirely self-funded by Lucy and taken on as a lockdown project. Contacting the near three hundred homes, getting permissions and arranging visits at a time when we were all facing unprecedented times was undoubtedly a logistical nightmare.

The quality of the photographs is outstanding. Although in most cases only a single sentence of text accompanies each picture, it pleasantly surprised me to find just how many residents still work locally or in agriculture.

A slightly lesser number of dwellings are featured in this new book than the old one probably as

more families wish to maintain their privacy in these days of the internet and mass sharing of information. That does not mean to say that they are not active in the local community, which this book clearly demonstrates is alive and thriving.

To produce a book of this quality, that conveys not only the basic information but an uplifting feel-good factor without the need for pages of explanative text is an indication of the skill and artistry of Lucy’s photography.

Laughton Life 2021 is a stand-alone book, although if you have the original millennium edition as well then hours can be spent identifying the changes.

CPRE Sussex

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.

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.

Donate to CPRE Sussex

Your generosity will help ensure our Sussex countryside continues to thrive, providing lasting benefits for generations to come. We’ve been campaigning successfully for over 70 years to protect and promote the Sussex countryside, your gift will enable us to continue to campaign to protect and promote our Sussex countryside far into the future.

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/4826>.



VILLAGE CONCERNS

14th January 2022

Judge Grants Permission for Full Judicial Review Hearing

Our battle to get justice over the Hesmond's Planning Application has gone on for a long time, cost a lot of money and suffered a significant set-back in November when a Judge did not grant permission for the case to proceed. However, we applied for an Oral Hearing to appeal that decision.

The Oral Hearing took place this morning and our Barrister Jenny Wigley QC argued our case clearly and strongly. The case was based on 2 Grounds - A failure to consider the housing mix for the proposed development and misleading the Planning Committee over their ability to restrict the number of houses at Reserve Matters. The Judge agreed and dismissed the arguments of the legal teams representing Wealden District Council and Hesmond's Stud. We now have permission for a full Judicial Review Hearing on both our Grounds. This is a really significant moment and, although the official wording of the decision is yet to be published, it was joyous to hear a Judge summarise our case as having a very strong basis to take forward.

We expect to be given a Full Hearing date sometime in the Summer and feel confident that our case will again prevail. This will be the final stage of the process.

UPDATE 21st April

Hesmonds Stud Judicial Review

Fundraising

The Judicial Review will be heard in Court in May. We have raised a considerable sum in pledges and donations to fund the Court action and other ongoing costs. Many people have been very generous, but we still need more to reach our target. Any amount is very welcome. Please support us in this hurdle, we have done extremely well to get this far.

There are various ways to donate:

1) Online via Just Giving

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saveeasthoathlyfromoverdevelopment>

2) Bank Transfer: Village Concerns Sort Code 60-22-05 Account Number 63197553

3) Cheque: Payable to Village Concerns. Please deliver cheques to: Lyntons, 19 High Street, East Hoathly BN8 6DR

Public Consultation for 55 Houses in South Street held on March 23rd

Unfortunately, there were no details of the development. It was more for the developers to hear people's views, presumably as well to inform Wealden that there had been some Public Consultation.

The developers Oakford have stated "it is our intention to carry out another consultation once we have a more worked up scheme, likely to be in June/July".

The developers are due to have pre-application discussions with Wealden before submitting a Reserved Matters application at a later stage, presumably after the June/July consultation.

Bramblebank – Halland

This application for up to 30 houses has been dismissed at appeal.

The reasons for dismissal help to support our case against the Hesmond's Application.

Back to the Judicial Review

Once the full decision of the Judicial Review has been published we will let you know the plan of action. Until then, enjoy this bit of excellent news and we thank you all for your support along the way.

PLANNING, FLOODING & SEWAGE

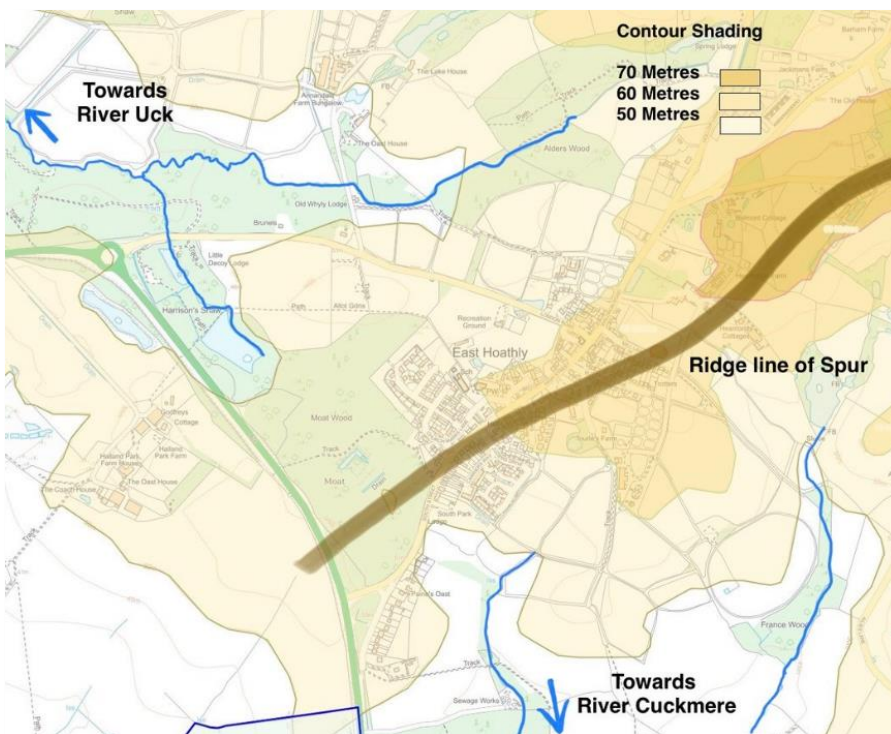
The Sewage Issues affecting East Hoathly are well known but Wealden and Southern Water remain silent as to how they will be resolved. This is particularly concerning given the significant number of new homes they want to build in our Parish and particularly on the Hesmond's site. Parker Dann and Redrow have offered no proposals as to how they intend to deal with the Sewage Issues.



As with many rural villages the sewage system was added to an existing collection of homes and businesses, in the case of East Hoathly this was in the 1950s. As was then the accepted practise, the sewage pipeline took foul water (from bathrooms, toilets and sinks) and surface water (from drains, gutters and roofs). The addition of new homes has added to the sewage system in an ad hoc fashion as

can be seen on the plan above. The existing main sewer running through the village is too small to cope with the existing loads. The East Hoathly Sewage Plant has been working very close to its capacity for decades. We believe that the addition of the Nightingales and Juziers developments took the Sewage Plant over its limits. Evidence shows that the Sewage Plant regularly discharges untreated water into the watercourse feeding the River Cuckmere (see below). During heavy periods of rainfall, the surge of water going into the sewer pipes regularly overloads the pipe causing sewage to back up into people's drains and gardens. This is hugely unhygienic and distressing.

It is apparent that several parts of East Hoathly do not appear to be connected directly to the sewer system. Some of these properties are below the level that will allow gravity to take their sewage into the main sewer system. Some may be using septic tanks. Some are known to have Sewage storage tanks which collect the sewage and then pumps it into the main sewer on a timed system. This is known to exist in part of the Juzier development and part of Thomas Turner Drive. These storage and pumping systems are built by the developers but then (in accordance with government legislation) are adopted by the Water Company. Whilst this is common practice it does add to the complexity of the system and increases the risk of system failures. It adds cost to the initial development and, because the Water Company has to take on the running and maintenance costs, it adds to the price charged to consumers. Village Concerns would very much like to know if this applies elsewhere in the village. Please let us know, particularly if you live in Rectory Close, The Mews and to top end of Mill Lane and Buttsfield Lane.



Understanding how our sewage system works will give us a better understanding of how the existing capacity is already overloaded and to strengthen our arguments to improve the current capacity before any new developments are approved.

The geography of East Hoathly can be

seen on the map above. The village sits on the end of a spur of land which slopes to the North West towards the River Uck and South to the River Cuckmere. Building new homes on the Hesmond's site will add to the sewage load on the already over capacity Sewage Plant. New homes on the Hesmond's site will also have to overcome the problem of getting the sewage uphill and over the spur.

EVEN MORE ON WATER – Chris Pellett

Sewage Overflows discovered by The Rivers Trust

The following information came from The Rivers Trust <https://www.theriverstrust.org/what-we-do/sewage-in-rivers/>

In 2020 the East Hoathly sewer storm overflow spilled 41 times for a total of 416 hours.

In 2020 the Halland sewer storm overflow spilled 112 times for a total of 2045 hours.

This appalling situation indicates that untreated water is being discharged into watercourses at an alarming frequency and shows that the existing Sewage system is already working significantly over its capacity.

The water authorities were privatised in 1989 and, to be fair, thirty years on it is hard to remember just how bad things were. Since then leakage is down by more than a third, two thirds of beaches are classed as excellent, compared with less than a third 25 years ago, and wildlife has returned to many rivers biologically dead since the industrial revolution.

However, new housing is approved on the assumption that, like roads, water infrastructure will follow.

Most of Wealden has pre-war drainage which combines rainwater and sewage.

To cope, new build developments include actuation tanks or ponds to hold the rainwater and pump it into the sewers during dry periods. This can work, but doesn't, and a major reason is because the modelling calculating need is made by the individual developer and only applicable to that application. Other recent builds, potential or proposed builds are NOT included or considered.



INSECTS - Zombie Spiders

What are Zombie Spiders? Quite literally they have four feet in the world of the living and four feet in the world of the dead. With the meagre bit of life they have remaining inside them they silently stagger about, knowing that their cursed days on earth are severely numbered. Like bad apples they are rotting from the outside in, and soon their ghostly white furry bodies will be hanging lifeless from little silken threads, gently twisting and turning in the breeze.



What malevolent fate has befallen them? What fiendishly evil sorcery can possibly have taken control of their bodies? The villain here is the white fur which you see surrounding their bodies. It's an entomopathogenic fungus, which is a type of fungus that affects invertebrates.

The Cellar Spider (Phlocus sp.) seems particularly prone to infection because it lives in the damp environments where this fungus thrives. Once the fungus is established the spores from the fungus rapidly infect other spiders nearby.

For a while the infected spiders are able to live on in a zombie-like state enveloped by the fungus. But slowly and surely the fungus consumes their living tissue and kills them. The only tolerable thing about this murderous fungi is that it's harmless to humans...

well almost.

Once the spider's body has succumbed to the fungus it's tormented spider soul is released into the world. Then when you are sleeping these Ghost Spiders (Pholcus sanctus) rise up and march into your ear canal where they lay their eggs. When the zombie spiderlings hatch out they feast on your brain until they reach adulthood then they climb out through your eye sockets and go in search of their next victims. (only kidding)

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION - Sussex Branch

Time for a cup of tea and a read of the latest copy of the Butterfly Conservation membership magazine “Butterfly” Have you got yours yet?

(Available to individual Butterfly Conservation Members both in print and online via an email link.)

Lots of interesting articles inside including the link to the Open Gardens.

If you want to become a member, or gift membership for a birthday or special occasion, please visit this link: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help/join>

As the sun brings out the butterflies, make sure you have your iRecord app ready to use on your smartphone - it's so easy, especially with photos that will help you ID. Visit the App Store to download [iRecordButterflies](#)

Recording what you see, when and where is of ENORMOUS importance to Butterfly Conservation, as it helps us build a picture of which species are doing okay and which ones need our help.



Speckled Woods seems to be abundant this year and the Brimstone is always one of the first to emerge from winter hibernation in the early Spring. Anywhere you go in the UK, why not try recording what you have seen?

Not only are these of scientific value, but your records will give you a great reminder of your year of butterflies. Thank you 🙏

WILDLIFE IN MY LAUGHTON GARDEN- Sue Redshaw**LOCAL WILDLIFE****Laughton by Sue Redshaw**

It is several years since I wrote about the wildlife in my Laughton garden. Some things have stayed the same and others have changed. I rarely see hedgehogs these days (or should I say nights?) Our garden backs on to the cricket ground and occasionally Sadie (my dog) would point out a hedgehog to me when on our late night walks round the field. She was always very good at detecting them and never did them any harm.

The Tawny Owls still hoot in the nearby copse. I love to hear them when I am lying in bed. So much nicer than the traffic noise which starts at 5am. I'm sure it's much noisier than it used to be and there is a very loud motor bike that I swear I can hear revving all the way to Ringmer, two miles away.

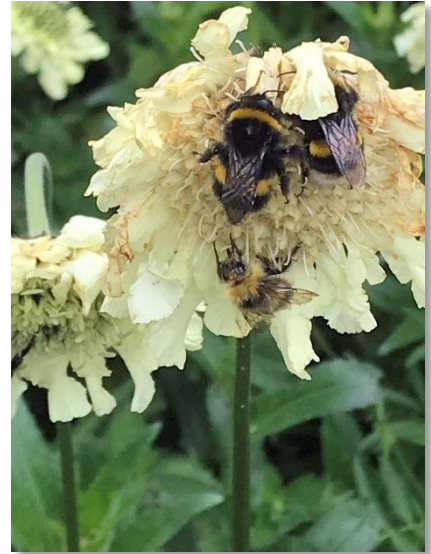
A very pleasing noise is that of the sparrows chattering to one another in the Bay tree. There is quite a large colony there, which I think have decamped into our garden from across the road. They used to live in the hedge running alongside the chicken run in our opposite neighbours' garden. But the Council decreed that the hedge should be cut hard back to allow them to get at the ditch to clear it out. This was done but I'm not aware of any ditch clearing. Anyway, the sparrows obviously decided that they needed a new home and very welcome they are too. The bird feeder needs filling up constantly. And they avail themselves of the water in both the fountain and the trays both for drinking and bathing! My only worry is that the Bay tree and the shrubs alongside it were due for a severe hair cut this Winter but I think I may have to modify my plans! The sparrows are such a cheerful and uplifting presence.

This Spring we had several nests in our garden – Blackbirds, Blue Tits and Collared Doves that I know about but I think there must've also been a Robin's nest as baby Robins appeared from somewhere. Our garden has plenty of hidden places for birds to tuck themselves away.

At the end of April I had to stop feeding the birds because the Rooks from the Rookery over the road started to descend on my birdfeeders and scare away the smaller birds. I haven't had that problem before. So, I have recently invested in some really sturdy (and expensive!) bird feeders that are absolutely Squirrel and

Rook proof. I had some very cross squirrels and I found myself actually feeling rather sorry for them and have put out an old peanut feeder that they can get at. The new feeders are designed to let only the small birds in so I was a bit concerned that the Great Spotted Woodpecker would be denied access but he has figured out a way of getting at the peanuts from underneath – clever chap!

We had loads of Bumble Bees this year – the Scabious and Comfrey being the most visited. Butterflies were in short supply, sadly.



WILDLIFE IN MY HALLAND GARDEN- Marion Salmon

Halland by Marion Salmon

This year I have had two sightings of slow worms in the garden. Two different grass snakes.

Fewer toads in the past two years than previously but maybe due to snakes?



We have lots of jackdaws around at different times of day. Morning sitting on the chimney pots and evening around 30-45 mins before sunset a group of them flying over the garden and woods. Groups of crows appear at times to intimidate the jackdaws or try to push away either buzzards or kestrel.

Have had a kestrel sitting on the roof to watch for prey and find something under the bird feeder, probably voles.

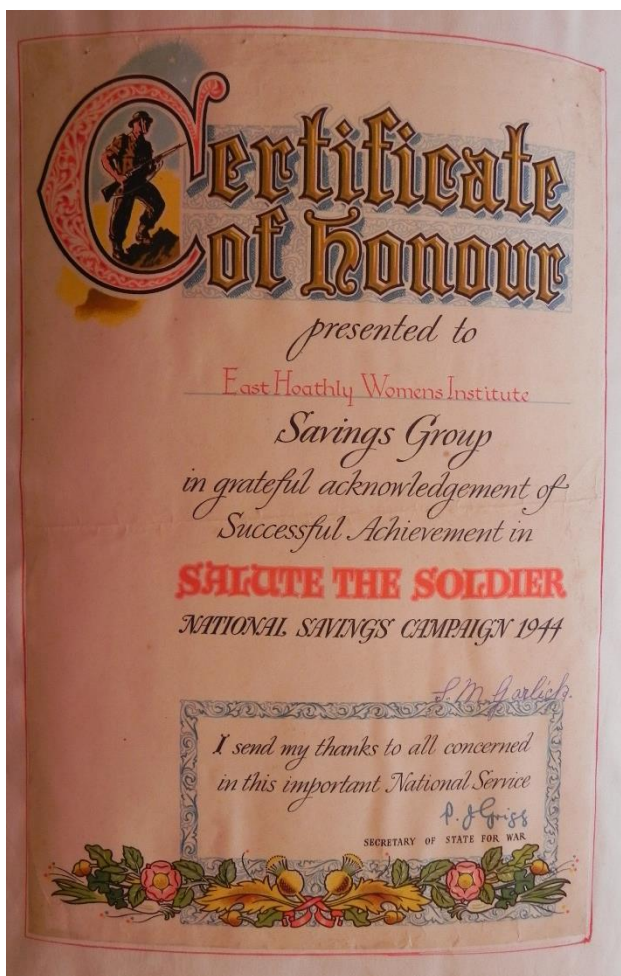
Have seen a kestrel bombing a buzzard which was in its territory and a group of buzzards (3or4), seeing off two kites.

This year we had a pair of greenfinches on the feeder for first time ever. Gone now.

WARTIME RECOLLECTIONS CONCLUDED – W.I. East Hoathly

In summing up this picture of our village and Institute to go into our 1952 Institute scrap book, it will be seen that we have nothing really unusual or spectacular to relate. It just happened that owing to geography our village, in common with many others in East Sussex, we experienced at first hand most of the events that were going on in wartime England. We happened to live under the skies where the Battle of Britain was fought out in the autumn of 1940. Our members, as they picked blackberries for the jam centre, will never forget the machine gunning in the sky, the smoke whorls as the planes fought, nor the occasional experience of seeing swastika markings on a plane as it hedgehopped out of range. We came from homes where our menfolk in the home guard were called out to round up enemy parachutists. Being on the route to London we knew what it meant when newspapers reported that bombs had been unloaded “harmlessly” on the

open countryside. We knew from the experience of other villages that ‘harmlessly’ was a comparative word, and we knew we ourselves were fortunate that only one serious disaster occurred in our village. A stone in our Churchyard is the record of the loss of those four lives in Greywood. Later, as the report for 1944 mentions, we had our share of unpleasantness of ‘Bomb Alley’. This was the period when the older children took turns, two at a time, to stand guard with a whistle in the playground ready to sound the immediate danger signal when a buzz bomb flew directly overhead, when a classroom was strengthened as a shelter, and when table shelters were issued to every household.



It so happened that the village sampled every possible category of wartime Britain. Starting as a 'reception area' we took in evacuees. Then for a while East Hoathly was classed as a 'neutral area'. As war drew closer it became a 'defence area' and visitors from other parts of England were forbidden to come in. That was the time when even a short journey by bus to Uckfield or Lewes might be enlivened with a police stop, and a demand for identity cards, with tiresome and unpleasant consequences for the unwary shopper who had left her card at home! Finally for a short time, the village became itself an 'evacuation area', and opportunity was given to East Hoathly parents to send their children to safer spots. But that did not last many months, nor did many households part with their children.

None of this can yet be called history. But even now it is easy to forget all that happened. And members, in twenty years' time, may perhaps like to read from our scrapbook about East Hoathly in war time, about 'Bert', and our Institute Market-Stall-jam-centre-gossip- shop.



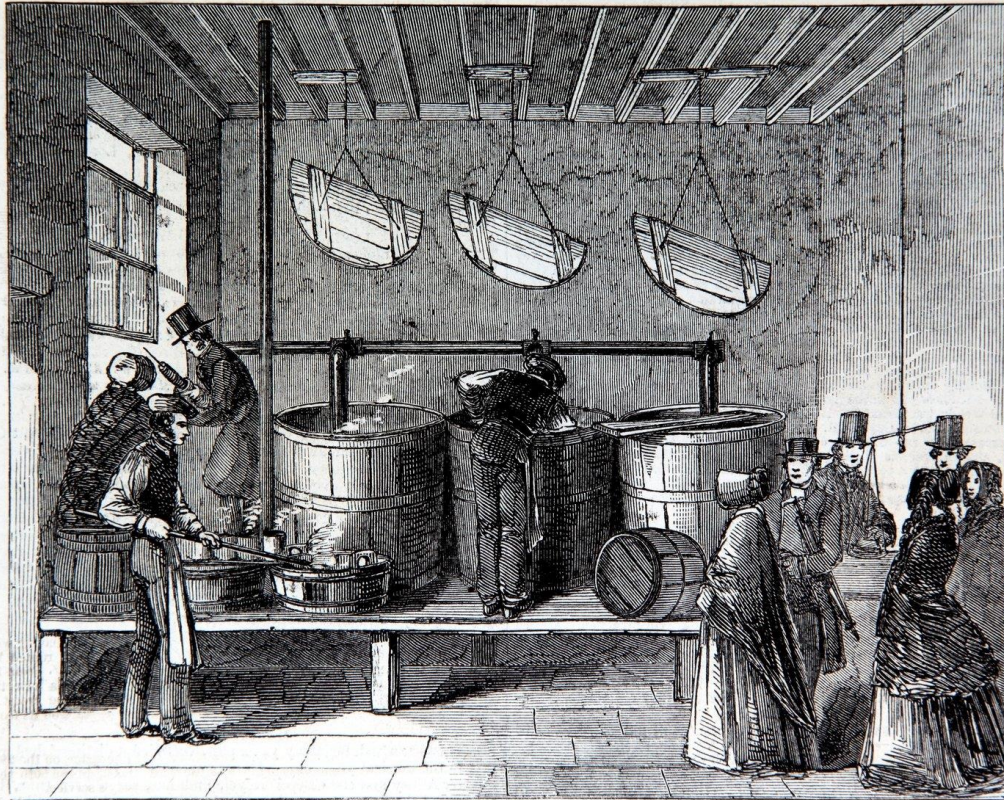
Post war party in the Village Hall. Believed to be W.I. and includes Dorothy Roberts, May Turner, Cis Jarvis and Phyllis Hartley.

RECIPE FROM THE PAST – RINGMER SOUP

6 gallons turnips		9d
4 gallons onions	2s	0d
3 lb Scotch barley		7½d
4 gallons of pease	4s	2d
70 lb beef, 4½d/lb	26s	3d
½ head	1s	3d (no longer available at Tesco's)
10 lb oatmeal	3s	0d
7 lb salt, 6 oz pepper		9½d

Served with 560 penny loaves of bread £2 6s 8d

Last day for soup 1839 - Mar 20th



THE CORK SOCIETY OF FRIENDS' SOUP HOUSE.

FEEDING THE POOR

The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act abolished the parish-run poor relief system and replaced it with the notorious workhouses.

Avoiding the workhouse was one thing, feeding the family was another. Emigration to the colonies was an answer for some, either through schemes such as the Petworth Project or individual Parish sponsorships such as at East Hoathly where, earlier in 1818 and perhaps unusually, the parish paid for the passage of Thomas Ford, another man and their families, to America. A third way of emigrating was conviction for theft or minor misdemeanour, but that was risky!

Fortunately the philanthropic nature of individuals and communities pulled together forming friendly societies such as the Foresters “to assist their fellow men and women who sometimes needed help as they walked through the forests of life”, and lesser schemes to supply the local poor with soup and coal. Ringmer was one such parish and Ringmer Soup was served twice weekly during the winter to those suffering and in need.

It was hoped to be serving Ringmer Soup at the February meeting but as that has been postponed probably until the Summer, when soup might not be the ideal sustenance, we might pass on it for now.

An improved recipe, care of Mrs P’s cookbook, is given below:

In a large pan put

1 onion and 1 clove garlic, fried gently in olive oil until soft.

Add:

2 or 3 chopped carrots,

1 stick chopped celery

2 cups cooked beef

6 cups of beef broth/stock

1 tin chopped toms

1 chopped pepper

2/3 cup pearl barley

Worcestershire, brown sauce, bovril or marmite to taste

2 tsp. mixed herbs

Packet of gravy mix or gravy granules

1 bay leaf

Bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer for approx. 50 mins. until the barley is soft. Remove the bay leaf, and serve with crusty bread.

BURDOCK FACTS – Jenny Pellett

Burdock (*Arctium Lappa*)

To myself, and doubtless many other dog owners too, Burdock is a real nuisance.

As late summer drifts into autumn and then winter, the Velcro-like burrs attach themselves to fur and almost instantly become hopelessly entangled in swishing tails and furry leg-pits, requiring patient teasing to try and get them out in one piece. More often than not, scissors are required.



However, ignore the unwanted, but very successful, method of seed distribution and you are left with a plant that has many culinary and medicinal properties.

Burdock grows worldwide and is regularly eaten in China, Japan and other Far East countries. During the Middle Ages, it was a commonly used root vegetable throughout

Europe, but over the centuries it gradually fell out of favour. The rise in popularity of the macrobiotic diet in the second half of the 20th century saw it once again finding favour, due to its low calorie, high nutritional qualities.

And then there's Dandelion and Burdock, that strange tasting drink that lurks on supermarket shelves somewhere between the diet cola and cream soda.

Burdock is also an important medicinal plant and is widely used in traditional medicine. In the hands of skilled practitioners and trained herbalists, it can be used to treat diverse illnesses and diseases, from the common cold, to gout, joint pain, acne, psoriasis, gastrointestinal complaints and bladder infections and more. It is also reported to inhibit the progress of some cancers.

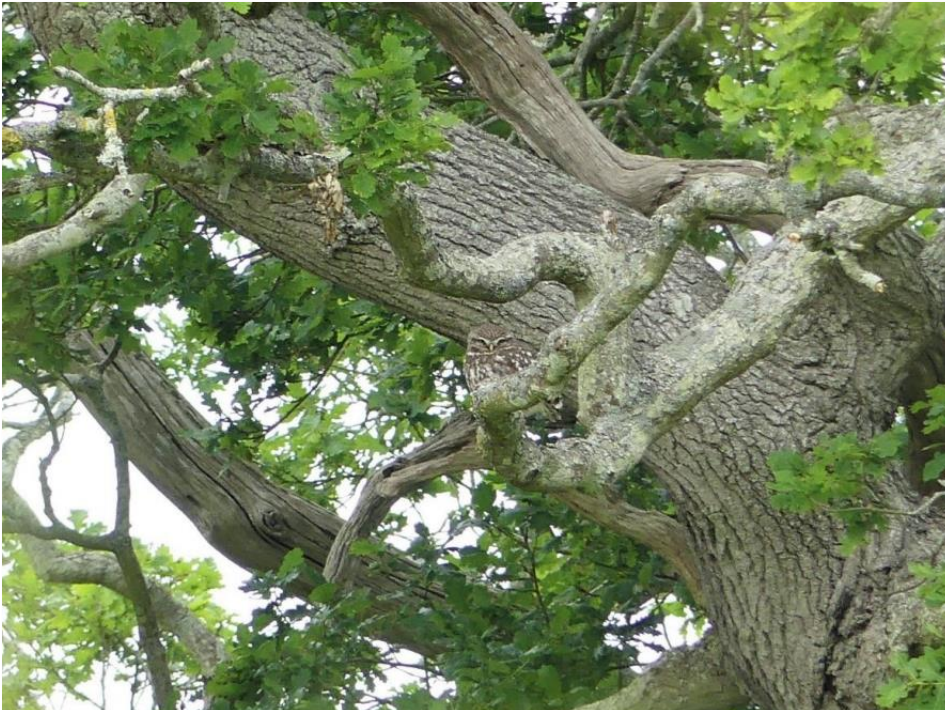
A plant whose uses range from being a shredded ingredient in oriental salads to treating so many different ailments deserves far more recognition than certainly I have ever given it and the next time Trevor's tail is tangled with burrs, I might, possibly, not feel that it is nothing more than a blooming nuisance.

WELL-BEING WALKS FOR 2022 - Dates for your Diary

Provisional Walks for 2022	
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 23 rd	West Park, Uckfield
FEBRUARY 27 th	Chiddingfold, EAST HOATHLY SWOT/VILLAGE CONCERNS CAMPAIGN WALK
MARCH 27 th	Shortgate & the Broyle
APRIL 24 th	Barcombe Cross & Knowlands Wood <i>(Flask & Cake Walk)</i>
MAY 22 nd	Arlington Meet at Yew Tree Inn
JUNE 26 th	Laughton Tower Meet at the Roebuck
JULY 24 th	Chiddingfold Meet at the Six Bells
AUGUST 28 th	Springham Grove. <i>A guided walk with a donation charge(no dogs)</i>
SEPTEMBER 25 th	Seaford Head
OCTOBER 23 rd	North Laine Brighton <i>This will be a guided walk with a small charge</i>
NOVEMBER 20 th	Kingston Windmill, from Lewes
DECEMBER 11 th	Lewes Street Walk, <i>More Peeps!</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 – BARCOMBE CROSS SUNDAY APRIL 24TH

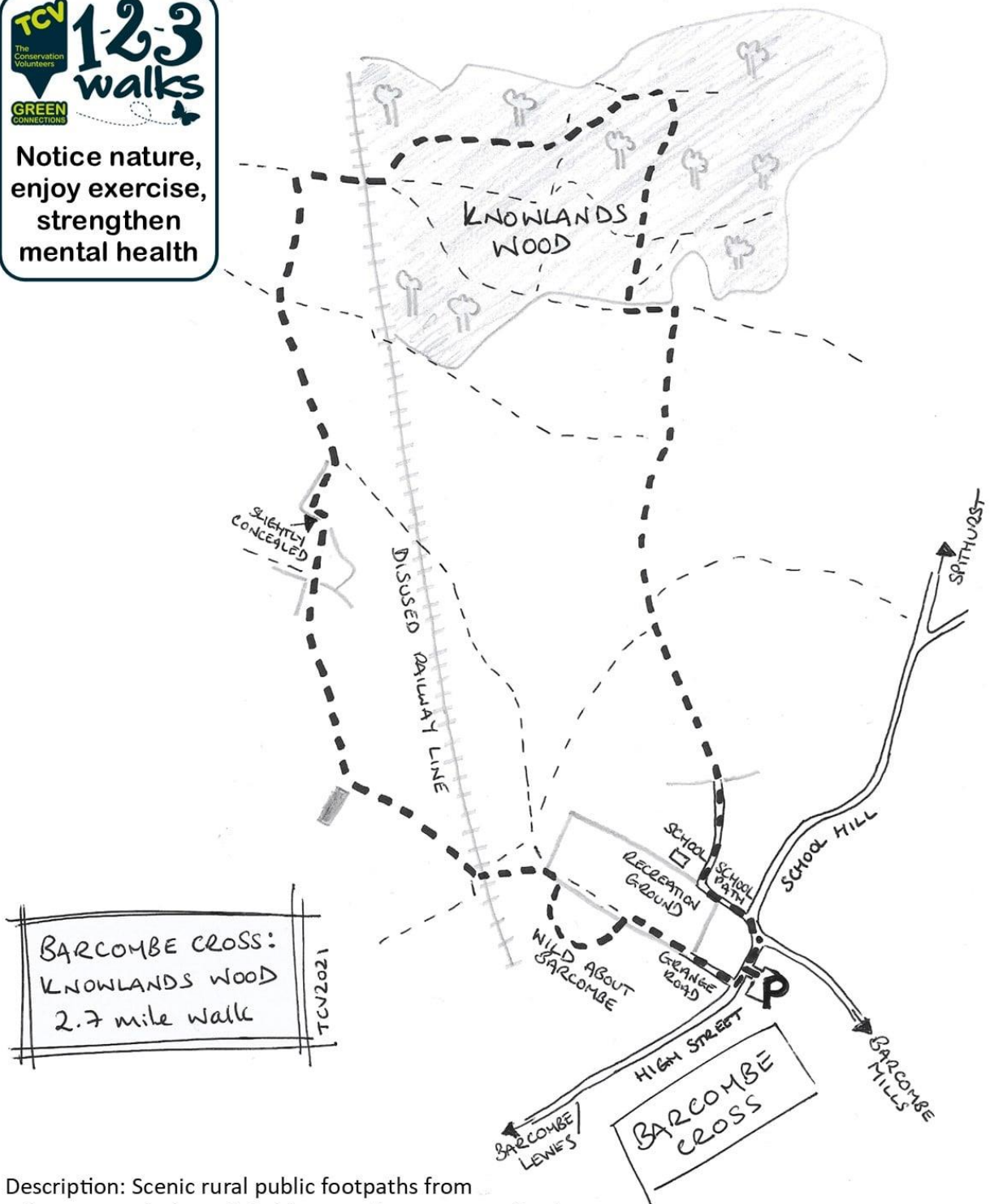
©Simon Linington <https://www.wp.barcombepc.net/wildlife>

[Simon Linington](#) has studied the birds at Barcombe for over twenty years. Including earlier records a total of 199 species have been sighted plus the one in his picture here, can you make it 200?

We start our walk with a visit to the Wild About Barcombe project which provides an accessible, alternative recreational space promoting community, education and bio-diversity.

Then after a journey crossing the old railway line, our walk will pass through [Knowlands Wood](#) which is part of a private nature reserve. At present, the philosophy of the owners is to allow access to local people who are interested in the natural history of the wood. It is not a public park. You are encouraged to bring binoculars and camera, move quietly and leave your dog at home.

It is also the treehouse home of [Hunter Gather Cook](#), a foraging and cookery school that specialises in game butchery, wild cocktails and outdoor cookery, exclusively over live fire.



Description: Scenic rural public footpaths from village car park through fields towards pretty woodland, managed as nature reserve, private but open to walkers. Also "Wild about Barcombe" nature pathways.

Take care: Only slightly uneven in places; likely muddy in winter; very little gradient; some stiles; some footbridges with step up; possibility of grazing livestock.

Difficulty level: Easy when dry; moderate if muddy.

Nearby postcode: BN8 5DH (public car park behind Village Store)

PAST WALKS – PEEPS of LEWES STREETWALK December 12th

You might have done this while we were away. Jenny & I didn't walk it until January so we have now corrected one or two errors made on the route printout and PDF file.

First thing we realised, right from the County Hall car park, is that there are a lot more worthy peeps in Lewes than we had identified for the route.



Looking out of St Anne's churchyard through the lych gate for a start, and numerous twittens before we got to the castle.

First error I hadn't bargained for was that the newly created Peace Garden had been commandeered as a site compound for contractors working on the rebuilding of the

castle wall that dramatically collapsed after 800 years. This means that the twitten from the Maltings car park down into Castle Ditch Lane is closed and a detour via Castle Precints to Commercial Passage is necessary.

The recently installed Martyr's steps glass panel shows the power of sunlight and nature, producing a veritable greenhouse of weed on the damp steps below. As a personal indulgence, I'm keen to point out the other basement pavement lights here and common throughout the land; those useless looking cast iron grids with thick glass blocks set in. However on the underside of these you will find that the glass is in the shape of a pyramid efficiently refracting the light in all directions regardless of the direction of the sun in the street above. A clever invention by Lewesian, Apsley Pellatt, founder of the Falcon Glass works in London and a nod to which the modernist Falcon Wharf development at Riverside in Lewes takes its name.

With a need to get a move on, back up the high street and down St Martins Lane and Green Lane. Next amendment; I'd forgotten that this does not take you directly onto Southover Road but onto a charming almost balcony pavement twitten above. Turn left and enter Southover Road opposite the corner of Southover Grange Gardens which is a Peep tantalisingly difficult to walk past and not enter.

The route around the perimeter of the Grange gives the opportunity to look up Keere Street. The Caprons on the Corner was Asa Briggs home for many years.

Capron, a name generally assumed to refer to the home of a cape maker, is also the name of an obsolete French strawberry plant first referred to in English by John Evelyn who spent his childhood in the adjacent Southover Grange.

Deemed unlikely, but if Caprons is named after the plant it's reference in the Lewes Court Rolls of 1603/12 makes it the first known written reference to "the straw berry plant having large velvet leaves and whitish straw berries with but a faint taste".



Southover High Street takes us to Potters Lane and the Course.

Slight disappointment as we discover that the twitten into Grange Road between numbers 32 & 33 is not the entrance to the Secret Garden, that's between 2 & 3 but still a good Peep as we reach the final stage of our walk. St. Pancras Road, Rotten Row and finally Church Lane (St Anne's) Twitten back to the car park.

That was a well worthwhile walk, I thoroughly recommend it and the revised PDF or printout of route, peeps and other points of interest is available to society members upon request.

PAST WALKS – WEST PARK & LAKE WOOD UCKFIELD January

The first group walk of 2022 on Sunday January 23rd .

An encouraging number of thirteen plus three dogs took part on this walk. At the top of West Park Nature reserve it was decided to continue into the Lake Wood.

From the 1869 Visitors Guide to Uckfield I read there is a legend connected with this romantic spot recorded in a poem:

Know you this lake was Fanny's tomb?
 Sweet girl, when last she came to meet
 her Edwin in the twilight gloom,
 (where oft they'd met in this retreat).
 'Twas from yon rock, where high she
 stood
 to watch her Edwin pace the shore,
 her footstep slid, deep in the flood
 she fell beneath to rise no more.
 To mourn her fate, lone in this shade
 in silent sorrow Edwin came,
 and where their mutual vows were made,
 on every birch carve'd Fanny's name.
 But oh, sad tale – no longer sane,
 here , self destroyed, was Edwin found
 and buried was his cold remain, –
 his grave yon little island mound.
 Where, long (with ivy seen to twine)
 the pale white rose her graces lent
 o'ershadowing Edwin's little shrine,
 the weeping cypress o'er it bent.
 But time has here dissolved the spell,
 no pale white rose, no weeping pine,
 is longer seen. Nor lovers tell,
 nor point the spot where Fanny fell.
 Where Edwin plung'd beneath the wave
 his shrine, the little island grave.



PAST WALKS – SHORTGATE March

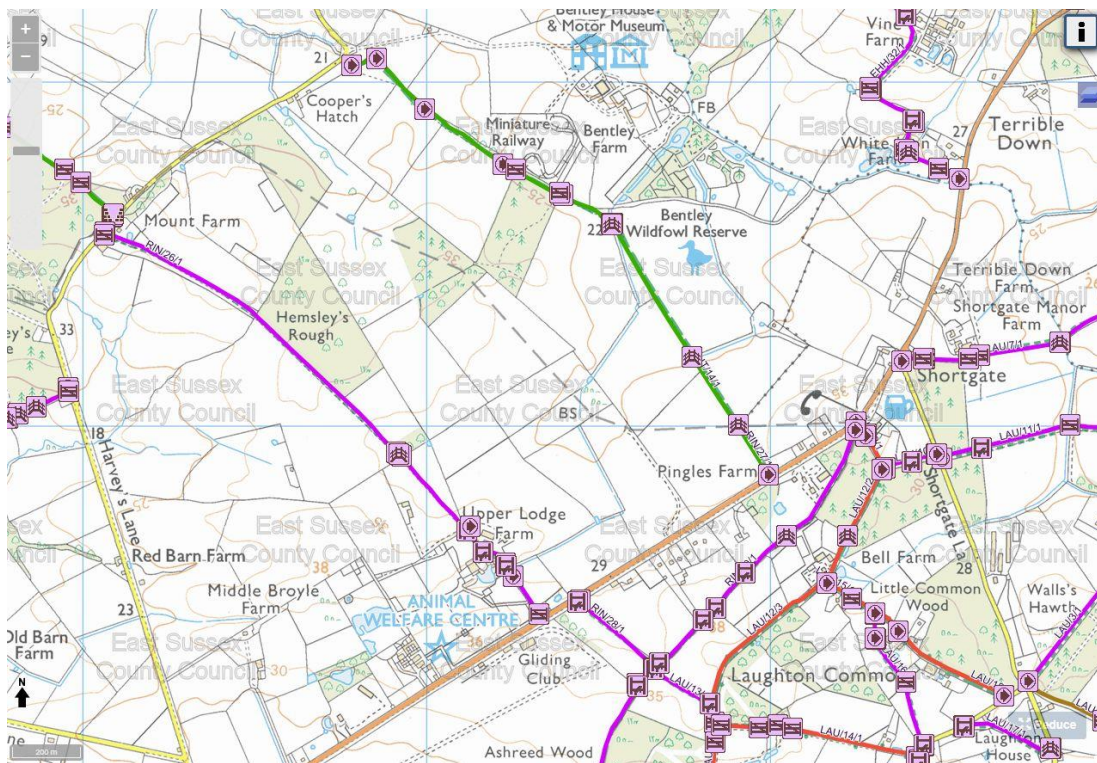
This walk was scheduled for October 2020 but the weather was bleak.

It was to be a “Future” walk but we did it before this newsletter got finished So if you want to do it your own time:

Starting from the Wok you walk down the Broyle a short distance and cross over for the footpath that takes you through the site of a proposed wartime Advanced Landing Ground that lost out to Deanland, and close to the ruins of Blunt’s Farm before passing through “[Branching Out Adventures](#)” at Bentley Wood to Coopers Hatch to view the Millennium Fox. Turning left Then walk along Harveys Lane to Mount Farm where you again turn left down a track and alongside Hemsleys Rough.

The footpath take you close to another derelict farmhouse, Lower Mount Farm, and back out through Upper Lodge Farm onto the Broyle.

Turn left again and walk up the Broyle a short distance before crossing to take the footpath opposite heading towards Laughton. Straight across into Laughton Parish at the first staggered footpath crosspaths and Left at the next path junction. This is a bridleway and takes you past Bell Farm and The Cherry Pie Rare Breeds Farm, back to the Wok and former hamlet of Shortgate.



SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST– All you need to know about Frog spawn

[Wildcall](#) is the Sussex Wildlife Trust advice and information service to help with all your wildlife and nature conservation questions either online or telephone 01273 494777

1. What type of spawn do I have?

Frog spawn is always laid in big clumps, Toad spawn comes in long chains like a string of pearls and Newts lay individual eggs on the leaves of pond plants.



Yes it's a toad but it's all I had - Pellett

2. I'm worried that I've got too much Frog spawn in my pond.

There really is no such thing as too much Frog spawn!

3. My spawn hasn't developed properly.

This can be a tricky one. There are lots of factors that affect whether spawn develops or not.

4. Should I move the spawn into a separate pond?

We never recommend moving spawn or tadpoles between ponds as this can spread non-native plant species and amphibian diseases.

5. I've got lots of newts but no Frogs. Why?

Newts eat Frog spawn and tadpoles, however, late-stage Frog tadpoles can eat newt tadpoles but newt habitat is just as valuable as Frog habitat.

6. I've found Frog spawn in a puddle at risk of drying out – what should I do?

It's probably best to let nature take its course. If you want to give them a helping hand, you could rear some in a tank or bucket of rainwater, then release the froglets back where you found them.

7. I've found a Frog/spawn in a bucket/watering can/unusual location – what should I do?

Frogs do sometimes spawn in strange places! See our guide to rearing tadpoles for more information on how to look after them:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/rearing-tadpoles>

EDITORS NOTES – CHRIS

Over six month to compile this newsletter!

I have had a lot of help, thank you for your contributions to date but, I Seriously need more help.

For the second (Late Spring?) 2022 issue there should be reports on the Ringmer Deer Parks, Sussex Chairs and Smuggling (without incriminating anyone).

Also the AGM scheduled for 10th June, details of our exclusive July day out, and an insight into Springham Grove which we will be visiting in August. If you can help with organising these PLEASE, PLEASE come forward.

Following on from the walks, obviously the Hesmonds campaign walk links to Village Concerns and Save Wealden from Over Development news, and the Shortgate walk revealed how little we know of the true history of that hamlet. The Barcombe walk is worthy of a good report as will be the Arlington walk. If you can contribute to these for the newsletter it will again be a great timesaver for me.

We have been asked about Foraging, Mushrooms and Cider – I'm game if someone else organises the events.

I have a list of thirty topics (and growing) for future newsletters, it's all amazing stuff but time consuming to consolidate and edit (for me anyway). If you would like to learn more about our communities, their histories, influences on their past and future development, and write helping to promote the many other groups we see as beneficial to the well-being of East Hoathly and the adjacent communities, just email or phone me without any obligation.

Many thanks

Chris 01825 872830

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk