

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

**Spring 2015**

The Society is:

Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex

Affiliate Member of the CPRE

Member of the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies

Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

## Committee

CHAIRMAN ..... Toni Whewell

SECRETARY ..... Leycester Whewell

TREASURER ..... Peter Brooke

NEWSLETTER EDITOR ..... Chris Pellett

EVENTS SECRETARY ..... Toni Whewell

WEBSITE & IT ..... Leycester Whewell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ..... Mervyn Barnes

.. Linda Alsop, Jenny Pellett, Vic & June Tideswell

Additionally, Kate Richardson and Fred Carter write reports and have input regarding hedgerows and wildlife. Jane Seabrook and Gill Ford have volunteered their services to manage the Russell Room and archives.

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

Website address:

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

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Toni

Notes from the Chairman

Hello,

I am pleased to announce that Denise will be once again be providing the culinary flourish for the Annual General Meeting on Fri 12<sup>th</sup> June. Please complete the booking form at the end of the newsletter to secure your place. Forms will also be available at the March meeting.

I was very sorry to hear that our neighbouring Blackboys Historical Society had closed its doors. I am pleased to say that we are in a more fortunate position but we still need your active support if we are to continue to flourish.

Subscriptions are due: £10/£18 for single/joint membership. Hope you enjoy this year's programme of activities, please let me know what you would like included in the future.

The Russell Room now has carpet and shelves, Jane has kindly been sorting through the archives and would like more: (that's a plea for old photos and

documents relating to the village and its inhabitants -Ed)

Many thanks to John Deane for his diligence and to the Rights of Way group for pursuing the blocking of the footpath that crosses Blackberry Farm. East Sussex County Council has now given notice to the landowner so hopefully, it will be reopened soon. Watch this space.

Kind regards,

Toni

## TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter

A good turnout at our first two meetings has meant that most members have had the opportunity and paid their yearly subscriptions.

If you still have yet to pay why not do it now?

The membership form is again at the end of the newsletter together with the option regarding how you receive your newsletter. Printing and postage is a major cost, we do save money if you opt for receiving the newsletter by email only and that in turn keeps the subscription down.

New members are always welcome, - it is East Hoathly and District, and so if you know of anyone in the area with an interest in the past, preservation of what we have and with a care for the future, please promote our society.

We can offer a reduced membership based on pro-rating the subscription on the number of meetings left in the year.

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

Peter Brooke Hon. Treasurer



*Sellens Cottages South Street East Hoathly*

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## PAST MEETINGS - Leicester Whewell

### Gloves and Cauliflowers, a history of St. Valentine's Day in England

Presented by Dr Sally White

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015



This was a lovely talk by Dr White about a subject with which we're all familiar and the majority take part in each year but know very little of its history. Slides showed examples of cards, many of which had come from the museum archives in Worthing.

The origins according to the oldest surviving literature, the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493, date events to Roman times, when Emperor Claudius Gothicus (ruled 268-270) struggled precariously in power. The empire had broken up into three governing entities in the 260s and so his desperate need of soldiers led him to ban them from marrying. However, a priest called Valentine disobeyed these orders and continued to marry them. Either that activity, or a general persecution of Christians, or a refusal to deny Christ before the Emperor (as told by the Golden legend of 1260) led Valentine to be beaten with clubs and then beheaded.

Pope Gelasius I first established the feast of St. Valentine on 14 Feb 496.

In the Middle Ages St. Valentine's Day was regarded as a very serious affair in finding a partner to marry. By the C16<sup>th</sup>, Ben Johnson considered St. Valentine's Day as having been corrupted and that one should mark virtues instead, such as helping the poor.

Various games and sayings developed in the country, such as an equal number of men and women placing their names in separate bags and then drawing lots. Each person ended up with two names, the one they

had chosen and the one who had chosen them. If two people had drawn each other directly then that was supposed to lead to marriage! Others included writing names on paper, wrapping them up in small balls of clay and placing them in water. The first to surface was the chosen Valentine. Even the birds that one saw on St. Valentine's Day supposedly foretold the type of person you'd marry.

Cards came later. Charles Duke of Orleans was the first known to have sent a card, in 1415. Oliver Cromwell banned St. Valentine's Day (and Christmas) but it was restored in 1666. It was at this time that Samuel Pepys wrote of giving gloves and garters as a symbol of love, allowing women to show off the former at the Easter Sunday Service as a sign of being cared for.

As publishing developed and expanded there came a number of books on St. Valentine's Day, often for a specific sex, which gave verse and advice for sending messages. With the development of the universal postal service the volume of cards and messages grew rapidly. Sailors featured on many cards of the 1840s, presumably drawing upon the success of the Navy as an enticement. The 1840s was also the heyday for publishing books about St. Valentines, with the late C19<sup>th</sup> seeing the greatest range of cards. It was also during the C19<sup>th</sup> that the cauliflower was seen as a token of love but its origin is unclear. The last C19<sup>th</sup> also saw the production of nasty Valentine's cards, with caricatures or pointed messages aimed at upsetting the recipient.

The C20<sup>th</sup> witnessed great changes in the fortunes of St. Valentine's Day. Prior to the Great War it had almost died out, before the firm of Raphael Tuck developed plans to resurrect it to commemorate the golden jubilee of their company in 1916. It was a great success and it reinvigorated the process of sending cards. Commercialisation grew steadily to the level we see today, as soon as the shops have cleared their shelves of Christmas cards then St. Valentine's Day cards are brought out which, in turn, will be replaced by Easter cards on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The curious characteristic of St. Valentine's Day is that although its origin lay in the Roman Empire, its legacy lies mainly within the English speaking world.

Now, we can all look forward to tomorrow with a new insight into the origin and history of St. Valentine's Day

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Presented by Ian Everest

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015



*Leonard Ellis was the first from East Hoathly to be killed in the Great War, his name appears on Panel 4 of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial*

The Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC), renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) in 1960, is an organisation that most of us are aware of but know relatively little about its formation and operation. Ian's excellent talk and slide show shed much light on this organisation. Family events prompted his interest in the I/CWGC and the subsequent desire to research more of its history.

Prior to the Great War it was the responsibility of individual regiments to look after the graves of the fallen. Most pre C20<sup>th</sup> fatalities were caused by disease and infection, not as a direct result of enemy action. The condition of the sites depended greatly upon volunteers and site access: the 365 cemeteries in South Africa resulting from the Boer War soon began to fall into decline simply due to their remoteness.

It took the determined and persistent efforts of the journalist and teacher Fabian Ware (1869-1949) to start a process of collecting and recording information of battlefield graves. In September 1914 he went to France with cars and asked volunteers to record all the graves they found. Given

the high casualty rate and hence the magnitude of the task, the authorities gave Ware the rank of Major. This reflected the significance of his work when negotiating with other parts of the armed forces, some of whom were particularly dismissive of the need to look after the dead. Ware spoke French and was able to secure land from the French Government on a permanent basis for the purpose of burying and remembering those who had been lost.

In May 1917 the IWGC was formed and also that year the Women's Voluntary Army started helping the maintenance of the graves. A policy was developed not to repatriate the soldiers and to standardise the headstones so that, regardless of rank, everyone's memorial was uniform. This helped put an end to private graves being created with lavish headstones simply because a particular family was able to afford it.

Another of Ware's great skills was to harness the talents of others in the IWGC, such as Edwin Lutyens for the design of headstones and cemeteries and Rudyard Kipling for developing the wording to be used in remembrance. After the Great War a huge effort was made to establish formal cemeteries and by 1920 some 4000 headstones per week, of Portland stone, were being carved. Most was done manually with some companies utilising machinery to speed up the process. The planting of flowers and shrubs along the lines of tombstones and trees in other areas was done with great care, so as to avoid needless repetition and also to give the overall impression of an English country garden.

The conflicts that have occurred since, along with the need for repair and maintenance, means that the work of the CWGC is unending; the 23000 cemeteries that hold 1.7million dead require constant attention. Their current budget is around £70million.

LET US NOT FORGET

Please pass your newsletter on to neighbours and encourage them to join the Society.



# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## CHIDDINGLY ORAL HISTORY GROUP



The first meeting of the new Chiddingly Oral History Group was held on 20 October last year and was well attended. Robin Symington helped us all understand the sources of information that are available already, focussing on the extensive information available on <http://www.coopersfarm.co.uk/>. In addition, we were able to discuss in more detail the history of one of our most historically interesting houses:

### Chiddingly Place.



CHIDDINGLY PLACE, 1702.

There has been a house on the site of Chiddingly Place for over 500 years and it was extensively rebuilt in around 1574 to create an imposing manor house for Sir John Jefferay, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer to Queen Elizabeth 1. Chiddingly Place occupied three sides of a triangle, open towards the North: the two projecting wings, and the slightly advanced porch creating a ground plot resembling an E, for Elizabeth; a deliberate architectural compliment to the Monarch.

The principal apartments were on the Eastern side of the mansion. The Great Hall was a double height baronial style hall at the south of the mansion, linking

the East Wing apartments to the main range. At the eastern end of the Great Hall was a magnificent large window looking towards the Church and above which was displayed the arms and crest of the Jefferay Family.

Sir John Jefferay died shortly after the rebuilding of Chiddingly Place in the 1570's and the house was only occupied as an intact mansion for a relatively short period of time. The West Wing appears to have been demolished within 20 years of its construction and the Great Hall was demolished in the Napoleonic Wars and the bricks sold. The only daughter of Sir John, Elizabeth married Sir Edward Montague and moved away to his Northampton estate. A monument to the Jefferay family is in the Grade 1 Chiddingly village church.

Chiddingly Place was subsequently sold to The Pelham Family for a number of generations before being sold to the Reverend John Chatfield and passed to his son the Reverend Henry Chatfield. Subsequently the estate belonged to The Guy Family for three generations.

The mansion was one of the most substantial in Sussex and has been much altered and reduced in size since its heyday. The surviving parts include a section of the main range now known as The Manor House, the East Wing now known as Jefferay House, and part of the rear wing now known as The Granary. These properties were sold to developers in the late 1990's by the Whitehead Family and have now been sympathetically restored as individual family residences.

The second meeting of the group, held on Monday 17 November looked at the history of two further houses of interest: Pokes and Hale Farm.

### PEKES by Kildare Bourke-Borrowes



Pokes, which lies down two long drives on the south of Nash Street, is at heart one of the very oldest

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houses in the village. The original hall-house of the mid 1400s is still there, though additions & alterations were made in the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We know that there was an earlier house on this land, perhaps on the same site. It's probable that this was the Jefferays' first house in the village of Chiddingly, and they may have built it. It was already called Pokes, probably from the Anglo-Saxon *pic* meaning a top or hill.

It was built as a 6-bay timber box-frame Wealden hall house, and these bays are still there. Looking from the West, the left hand bays 1 & 2 were the service area - cooking, buttery, pantry, etc., with bay 2 probably of two stories, the middle two bays were the Hall, and the right hand two bays (5 & 6) contained the Solar or parlour below and a bed chamber above; the small medieval stairs are still within the structure. The Hall was open to the roof, had a beaten earth floor and a central fire with surrounding stones. The dais was at the south end of the Hall, as evidenced by the dais beam still in position. This and other features indicate that this house was built by people of some status, members of a gentry family.

Succeeding generations of Jefferays covered in the open hall (1530s), built fireplaces, built a large kitchen bay at the back (1550s), had the first floor chamber walls covered with the well-known paintings on plastered linen (1570s), and turned the solar into an entrance hall with a magnificent fireplace (late 1500s); at the same time their cousin Sir John Jefferay was building his new mansion at Chiddingly Place. With the death of the last male of this Jefferay family after the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, ownership continued in the female line until it was sold by them at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In all that time up to 1908 it was a substantial farm house, and a map in the house of 1777 shows all the farm buildings, the field names, etc.

In 1908 Pokes was bought by Terence Bourke, and he employed two architect friends to make substantial alterations and additions - including an Edwardian wing with a colonnade courtyard, an imposing staircase, an Oast house conversion, the walled garden and the front gates and drive. He also tile hung most of the exterior. His granddaughter Eva still lives at Pokes.

## HALE FARM by Bob Harvey



Hale Farm has existed since 1550 to 1600 when the house was built in two stages within two decades of each other, one with better craftsmanship than the other. Whether there had been another building that was demolished isn't known nor whether the second part was built on the site of an earlier half. The farm was 78 acres bounded by the road, Bull River, and Chiddingly Stream. The house is on the highest part of the farm, with a cellar supposedly for the wine of the Iron Master "Mr Torel" who lived there in the late sixteenth century. His crest can still be seen in stained glass in the house. At the north end the two inglenook beams are carved and there are sandstone blocks in the chimney stack which may have been recycled from elsewhere. After the Torels, the Calverley family lived there and then it became farmworkers cottages. It had had three additions by then which included an external window becoming an internal window, and there is still a Sussex horizontal sliding sash window to the rear elevation.

Milly Dayrell, the great aunt of David Burrough, and her friend Grace Reeves, daughter of Rowland Reeves of Stream Farm, acquired The Hale early in the twentieth century and returned it to one house and ran the farm. They added to the south end including cavity walls, which were most unusual in 1914. There was a further addition in the 1960's when Eileen and her husband Mike Burrough came to live there. The farm then became a pony stud before providing accommodation for language students and bed and breakfast guests. Thus the current house, which was bought in 2012 by Bob Harvey and his family, has been built in seven stages. The old Sussex Barn is now being developed for residential use, and is built on sand with no foundations. The farm today is about 58 acres as pieces have been sold off over the last century.



# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

In February the topic was

## CHIDDINGLY CHURCH

**The Organ**, made originally by J. Walker, London.

The organ was previously in the "Iron church" in Eastbourne, East Sussex. It was bought by Chiddingly Church in 1906 for £75.00 and brought to the Church in pieces on a farm cart. The case was assembled by a village carpenter. The pipe work and action was put together by Mr Herbert Richardson an amateur organ builder and moved to its present position 1985.

### **The Tower**

Pelham Towers deserve a separate article of their own.

Suffice to say that soon after Laughton several others were built in the area but Chiddingly was probably not one of them.

Perhaps three generations later and the seventh Pelham attributed tower Chiddingly Church is unique with its impressive stone spire topped tower.

### **The Bells**

A ring of eight bells and a ninth, the former 3rd bell, is on display. The oldest bell was cast in 1617 and the newest 1998. The ringing chamber is the envy of many a visiting campanologist.

### **Mass Dials**

There are two mass dials on the church, one easily missed to the right hand side of the South door, and another in the eaves of the south transept carved in a stone probably relocated from elsewhere

### **Harmer**

Memorials with their terracotta plaques need no introduction, at Chiddingly look out for more Harmer work on the Latchmere tablets on the East wall.

### **Wooden Chalice**



Jill Ford of East Hoathly writes:

Some 400 years ago Chiddingly Church possessed a wooden chalice of curious design. It was made of sycamore and dated 1610 on the underside of the base. The bowl was engraved in four panels with a lion standing and facing front, wearing a crown; a unicorn; an ostrich with a horse shoe in its beak, and a recumbent stag with corona, collar and chain. Also the following lines:

(these lines have been slightly edited)

*O Taste what Drinke the Lord of Lyfe Doth Give:*

*It is his owne most Deare and Precious Bloud:  
who Drinke thereof eternally shall Live:  
Who worthily receive that Drinke so Good:  
such as with honest and Good-heart  
Do heare his word Sincerely often Preacht and read:*

*they Grow to assurance of salvation Deare:  
the spirit of truth Doth them direct and Lead:  
They feele the Power of Christes Death and Passion*

*Working in them the true Death of all sinne:  
and the Power of his Glorious resurrection:  
Raysing them UP a new Lyfe to Beginne:  
to them it is A true and certayne token:  
that they from Christ shall never be Broken:  
Having true faith working by sincere Love:  
Their Names are written in heaven above*

*RICHARD ALLiNN + A B xxii of October: 1610*

This fine item is now on display in the 17th century gallery in the Cheltenham Art Gallery.

## CHIDDINGLY COMMUNITY SHOP

Next meeting of the Chiddingly Oral History Group is on

Monday 20 April 10.30am at the Chiddingly Community Shop, Muddles Green.

Tony Penrose will be talking about Farley Farmhouse

It's proving exceedingly popular so please click here:

[To book your place](#)

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## FUTURE MEETINGS - Toni

Please put the dates in your diary for future reference.

MEETING DATES 2015	
Friday Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	FROM MOTORINA TO RACING DRIVER - how women learned to love the motor car by Anna Aston.
Friday May 8 <sup>th</sup>	RUDYARD KIPLING by Peter Wellby
Friday Jun 12 <sup>th</sup>	AGM & Dinner In the Village Hall
Sunday Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Outing: CULVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT*
Friday Sep 11 <sup>th</sup>	Behind the Scenes at the NATIONAL GALLERY by Sara Berry
Saturday Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	WRAS East Sussex Wild Life Rescue and Ambulance Service by Trevor Weekes MBE.
Friday Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	SOCIAL EVENING In the Village Hall

**Anna Astin's talk  
entitled 'From Motorina to Racing Driver'  
looks at the  
difficulties women faced in getting involved  
in motoring between 1885 and 1960. We will  
learn of Pioneers and Trailblazers. It is  
definitely not just for women!  
East Hoathly Village Hall 7.30pm  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Meetings begin at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members are not charged and visitors are welcome for a modest charge of £3 per person. To help subsidise the cost of speakers Toni is kindly organising raffles. Please do buy a ticket if you can and stop for a coffee/ tea and biscuits after the talk and catch up with the various activities and opportunities that our society affiliations offer.

## PAST WALKS - Chris 'n' Jenny

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - "More Mud" After Lunch at the Six Bells, Chiddingfold

We started off the year with an easy walk on familiar territory. A good turn out, it was uplifting to see fences, paths, gates and stiles in good order. Farm, business and residential buildings clearly well maintained with fields and orchards ready and waiting for spring, looking forward to a productive and prosperous year ahead.

### SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - The Mill, Shinewater, Eastbourne



Shinewater is that large expanse of water on your left as you head for Langney, Eastbourne from the Polegate by-pass.

Two contrasting halves to this walk around the lake, the first half a national cycle route and tarmac, the second through undergrowth and slippery mud but with rewards: we saw DUCKS.

Missed a Kingfisher and Water Rail seen by others but saw a good selection of the usual inc. Teal, Great Crested Grebe, Shoveler, Shelduck, Pochard, Canada Geese, Long-tailed Tits, Cormorant, small gulls and a Cayuga duck

### SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - The Foresters, E. Hoathly

Mothering Sunday wasn't the day to be looking for butterflies and so we have postponed the walk and will do it as an extra later in the year. We'll email those of you on the "walkers" list as it may be quite short notice.

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## FUTURE WALKS - Chris'n'Jenny

### PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2015

EVERYONE WELCOME

For further details please contact Chris & Jenny Pellett 01825 872830

Usually start at 2pm after lunch in the designated pub

SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - Royal Oak, Barcombe

SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY - ~~The Lamb~~, Ripe The Yew Tree, Chalvington

SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE - The Star, Old Heathfield

SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY - Kings Head, E. Hoathly  
Retracing T Turner's journey to Lewes

SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST - Hartfield

SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - Roebuck, Laughton

SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - Arlington Reservoir

SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - Wessons Café, Horam

SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - Lewes (Streetwalk)

## MID WEEK WALKS - John Deane

Back from warmer climes, the first walk this year is planned for Wednesday, April 22nd, meeting at the King's Head at 2PM.

The petition to ESCC regarding the ancient footpath across Blackberry farm has borne fruit:

I can confirm that an officially approved diversion at Blackberry Farm was provisionally agreed with ESCC on March 24th. This will be brought into use ASAP.

During the official consultation period there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the revised route.

Thank you all again for your support during 2014. Please bear in mind that we always welcome new members, so if you have any friends who are likely to be interested in our efforts with ROW preservation, do encourage them to join us.

With my good wishes,  
John

## Volunteer Footpath Maintenance

As a Right of Way (ROW) assistance group the Mid Week Walkers have had positive effect all round: Used by the County Council as an example to encourage other parishes, hands on action in removing brambles, briars and nettle, and of course instigated the reinstatement of lost RoWs.

If you would more details on, either his walks, or, helping maintain the local paths, you can email John at [dixiewalks@hotmail.com](mailto:dixiewalks@hotmail.com) or ring him on 01825 841385

## WILDLIFE REPORT - Fred Carter



Goldcrest

Firecrest

It was with much pleasure that I was able to record the arrival of a Firecrest in the garden on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Along with their close relative, the Goldcrest, they are the smallest birds in Britain at three and one half inches long, weighing no more than 5g. I have not seen it since, but hope springs eternal. (The Firecrest can be identified by its eyestripe)



# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Towards the end of summer last year a Tawny Owl chick decided to take up residence on my neighbour's chimney pot each night for two weeks or so. Trouble was that it is only about 8 yards from my bedroom window and he started calling for his parents each night roundabout 4 AM as it became light.

It was still very much a pleasure to observe him, or her, as closely as dawn approached. Talk about up with the Lark!

The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch took place during February. I spent 30 minutes on Saturday and 15 minutes on Sunday, observing the following species in our garden, recording the most seen at any one time; Blue Tit 7, Great Tit 5, Long-tail Tit 3, Coal Tit 2, Robin 2, Gold Finch 13, Greater Spotted Woodpecker 3, Blackbird 4, Dunnock 1, Chaffinch 5, Nut Hatch 1, Magpie 1, Collard Dove 1, Woodpigeon 2, Pied Wagtail 1, Starling 2, Jay 1, Greenfinch 2 and Thrush 1.

Happily there has been no occasion when resort has been made to dash off to Wild Life Rescue this quarter!

I have a friend and co-birdwatcher who lives just outside the village with his wife in a very rural position, it is striking that less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile away the different species that can be observed. They have become the Rural Correspondents!

They are fortunate enough to observe in their garden or surrounding fields and woodlands Tawny, Little and Barn Owls, both Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, with regular observations of Cormorants, Herons, Moorhens, Pheasants and Coots and Raptors in the shape of Sparrow Hawks, Buzzards and Red Kites.

Fred

## **Motorist Repeatedly runs over Road Casualty Owl.**

Rescuers were shocked when they arrived at the site of a road casualty Tawny Owl on The Broyle near Ringmer, East Sussex, this morning after a well-meaning motorist repeatedly used his car to run over the injured bird in an attempt to end its suffering. Volunteer rescuer Trevor Weeks MBE responded to the emergency call from a passing motorist just after 5am this morning and was on site within 20 minutes of the initial call.

"When I arrived on site I found another passing motorist had parked up with their hazard lights on, I stopped and the gentlemen present explained that

he had seen the owl on the ground unable to fly and wanted to end its suffering so not knowing how else to end the birds suffering he placed the bird on the road and repeatedly ran the bird over, killing it" explained Trevor.

East Sussex Wildlife Rescue deal with hundreds of road casualty calls each year and they range from small mammals like hedgehogs to larger animals like swans and badgers too. Many are fatally injured by vehicles but many are concussed and can be treated. "Although I applaud this gentlemen for stopping rather than just driving on, repeatedly running over a casualty to end its suffering is not a suitable way to end its life and can cause immense suffering. I diplomatically mentioned about calling us or a vet in future and he was surprised that vets would be interested in dealing with wildlife and also concerned about the costs involved. The gentlemen was unable to describe the birds injuries and did not know the birds full condition but seemed to assume that if it had been hit by a car it would need putting down" said Trevor.

WRAS is urging motorists not to attempt to kill any casualty unless they have been trained how to do so but to call their local wildlife rescue or emergency veterinary practice for assistance.

"For road casualty deer you can call Sussex Police on 101 and ask for a Deer Warden to attend. There are four dedicated out of hour's emergency veterinary practices which are open at night in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove, plus a few smaller vets' practices which provide their own out of hours cover too. Very rarely does a casualty need putting to sleep on the road side. We wouldn't advise motorists to attempt to pick up foxes, badgers, swans and similar wildlife which can be hazardous but to call a rescue organisation for assistance. We have had a number of occasions when motorists have picked up foxes and badgers which are concussed placed them on the seat of their car only for them to wake up and the drivers has had to pull over and get out of their car quickly and wait for us to arrive and rescue the now lively animal running round inside their vehicle." Said Trevor.

East Sussex WRAS is only a small local charity but it tries its best to attend and deal with as many calls as possible but at night time they only have one or two volunteers available to help deal with night time casualties. The charity does not have a dedicated night time team and the two main volunteers Trevor and Tony who deal with night time calls are also

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working during the day so have to jump out of bed to respond to emergencies.

Directory enquiries can search for local rescue organisations and vets practices if you are not sure who to contact in an emergency or as a last resort you can dial the non-emergency police number 101 and ask them for a local rescue contact details especially when a casualty is on the highway and a potential hazard to other motorists.

"Many people seem surprised that vets will deal with wildlife or believe that vets will charge them a huge bill if they call them and take them a casualty, when in reality if a casualty is suffering and needs putting to sleep all good quality veterinary practice will do so free of charge. If the casualty is treatable good veterinary practices will hold onto the casualty and pass it on to wildlife organisations like WRAS once the casualty is stable" added Trevor.

"I would urge motorists not to move a casualty unless they have to safety reasons either that of the casualty or other motorists to avoid potential additional injuries to the casualty but to either cover with a towel if safe to approach and by doing so you are not going to encourage the animal to move or run out into traffic into more danger. Otherwise keep back and observe from a distance and call for help." said Trevor.

East Sussex WRAS receives over 3000 calls every year, all its rescuers are volunteers, and the service is funded by donations. The service has expanded since the charity started 20 years ago and increases the number of casualties it can deal with each year. The charities biggest source of funding is donations and standing orders. To find out more about the charity, to make a donation or to find out more advice about dealing with wildlife casualty visit their website at [www.wildlifeambulance.org](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org)

Trevor Weeks - East Sussex WRAS  
01825 873003 or 0793 152 3958

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## **Sussex Wildlife Trust**

### **Marine Conservation Zones**

**Please take a moment today to add your voice to ours to ensure our marine habitats and creatures are protected.**

Locally, three Sussex sites have been short listed for special protection but we need people like you to encourage the Government to listen and understand

SPRING 2015

why it is so vital to protect our marine environment.

Nationally, The Wildlife Trusts are encouraging its members and supporters throughout the UK to have their say on all of the 23 sites involved in the consultation. Please speak up for Sussex.

The Government consultation for the second round of Marine Conservation Zones is now open. If you would like to learn more about the sites before you add your voice, follow the site links on our [Marine Conservation Zones](#) web page.

[We have set up a page to help you respond here.](#) It is really important that the decision makers hear from you, in your own words. There are some writing tips to help you so responding is quick and easy.

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## **HEDGEROW SURVEY - Kate**

Now is a good time to get involved, no experience necessary, you will have fun, learn lots and be helping gather useful information.

Just ask Kate

Kate Richardson

01825 840082

[kathrynrichardson@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynrichardson@gmail.com)

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## **SOLAR FARMING - Chris**

### **Solar Slashes Energy Bills for Chiddingly Village Hall**

A roof solar system donated by [Solarcentury](#) has been installed on Chiddingly village hall and will cut the hall's annual energy bills by an estimated 64% \*.

The 4kWp system comprising 16 panels was connected to the grid earlier this month and is now generating clean solar electricity.

A survey was carried out to ensure the roof would be able to support the weight of the panels and that the panels could be installed at the required angle. The panels sit atop the south facing roof and cannot be seen when approaching the hall; they can only be spotted from neighbouring fields.

Stephen Tolhurst, Chairman of village hall Management Committee said, "The panels were installed quickly and easily with no interruption to the running of the Hall. The donation from Solarcentury is hugely beneficial because it means we can offset the Hall's energy bills and put the money we're saving towards improving the hall, for

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

the benefit of all the various local community groups who use the hall every week.

We are also pleased that the panels will help us reduce the environmental impact of the hall - we'd much rather use solar electricity rather than burning fossil fuels. We're a fairly green-minded community; some people are already using energy saving measures in their homes; we have a recycling service; and a few people even have their own solar panels on their roofs, in gardens or fields."

A display unit in the hall means local people can see how much electricity is being generated by the panels and the amount of carbon dioxide saved as a result of using solar electricity rather than fossil fuels. The panels have a lifespan of around 40 years, so will benefit future generations of local people too.

Jason Arnold, Installation Manager at Solarcentury said, "Bringing solar to local communities by installing solar systems on local community buildings such as Chiddingly village hall is a great way to help people understand the benefits of clean solar electricity. The display in the hall clearly shows how much energy is being produced, so people using the hall know that when they do things like turn on the lights or boil the kettle, it's being powered in the daytime by the solar panels."

\* Based on total energy cost for the hall's 2013/14 electricity bill

## **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Chris**

You may have noticed a sizable portion of this newsletter is about Chiddingly.

This is partly my mistake as I forgot to include some of it in the last newsletter and partly intent to encourage the "and District" part of our title.

I'm hoping to include much about Halland and Laughton in our Summer and Autumn newsletters. Any contributions are exceedingly welcomed!

Our modern technology database of who wants paper and who wants electronic only newsletters may or may not be correct.

The electronic copy is out now and has been emailed to every member that has given us their email address and not requested otherwise. If you are reading this as a printed newsletter but only needed the emailed PDF version please do let me know.

Email [EHDPS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:EHDPS@hotmail.co.uk)

or give us your email address at any of our meetings. Don't forget we need your contributions to keep the newsletter and society useful and interesting.

Many Thanks

Chris



<http://www.lyndseysmith.co.uk/>



# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## FOSAS

The Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies is an independent body, supported by the subscriptions of some 100 member societies, donations, legacies and bequests. As well as discounted insurance scheme, the pooling of knowledge on common issues that affect many of its member societies, such as woodland management and development of greenfield sites, is a powerful resource.

## AIRS (Action In Rural Sussex)

Supporting rural communities in Sussex to be vibrant and diverse places in which to live and work.

## CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)

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

<http://www.cpresussex.org.uk/>

## SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is the leading nature conservation organisation covering East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove

## WOODLAND TRUST STATEMENT

Our vision is a UK rich in woods and trees, enjoyed and valued by everyone.  
Autumn Statement 2014: Chancellor's 'long term strategy' ignores trees and woods

## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH

manages the Butterfly Conservation reserve at Park Corner Heath where there are work parties, it advises landowners across the county how to conserve and protect butterflies and moths, and it collects and compiles records of butterflies in Sussex.

[Recent Sightings](#)

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

Affiliate Member of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England  
Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex (formally the Sussex Rural Community Council)  
Member of the Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies  
Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

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

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

We now have an Archive room within the Village Hall, giving access to all members to the extensive records held.  
The Hedgerow survey and biodiversity study with the Sx Wildlife Trust continues.

Meetings in the village hall are planned for 2015 from February until November.

In addition monthly footpath walks are organised throughout the year.

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## EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

To: Peter Brooke                      Tel 01825 841218  
Honorary Treasurer  
EH & District Preservation Society  
11 The Mews  
East Hoathly  
BN8 6EH

I enclose the sum of £10/ £18\* as my subscription to the EH & D Preservation Society for the year **2015**

Name (Block Letters) .....

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms / other title (please specify) .....

Address.....

.....

E-mail.....

Telephone.....

I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter by email only (PDF attachment)

I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter printed only

*(Delete as appropriate)*

Signature .....

- £10 if single, £18 if joint. Please delete whichever is not applicable.

*Please make cheques payable to East Hoathly & District Preservation Society*

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## Annual General Meeting

Friday 12th June 2015 at 7.15pm

East Hoathly Village Hall

## Dinner Booking Form

Please enter quantities of main and dessert courses required, checking the totals of each.

Retain a copy as a reminder for when you arrive.

Main Course	Quantity
Steak and kidney pie	
Salmon fillet with lemon and parsley butter	
Chicken breast stuffed with brie wrapped in Parma ham	
Warm salad of roasted vegetables giant couscous and goats cheese with lemon & thyme dressing	
<b>Total</b>	

Main courses come with fresh vegetables and new potatoes

Dessert	Quantity
Profiteroles with cappuccino ice cream & hot chocolate sauce	
Chocolate and raspberry brownie	
Strawberry pavlova	
<b>Total</b>	

Bring your own bottle(s)!

Cost is £14.50 per head.

Payment total = £.....

Please bring completed form with payment to the next meeting or post to

Toni Whewell, Holdens Lodge, Stalkers Lane, Chiddingfold, BN8 6HF.

Closing date for booking is the meeting on Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June.

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Name .....

Address .....

.....

Tel/Email ...../.....