

East Hoathly and District Preservation Society

Spring 2017

The Society is:

Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex
Affiliate Member of the CPRE
Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust
Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

Committee

CHAIRMAN	Toni Whewell
SECRETARY	Leycester Whewell
TREASURER	Peter Brooke
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Chris Pellett
EVENTS SECRETARY	Toni Whewell
WEBSITE & IT	Leycester Whewell
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jenny Pellett

Additionally, we thank Kate Richardson, Fred Carter, John Deane, Jane Seabrook, Gill Ford, as well as many others who all assist with different aspects when needed

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

Website address:

www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk

KENT SURREY SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE by Dave Winsor



When father of two, Mark Ross, chose to support the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance by running the Brighton marathon, he had no idea that just a week later the service would be called upon to help save the life of his two-year-old daughter, Freya.



Friday 7th April 2017 at 7.30pm East Hoathly Village Hall

ADMISSION IS FREE TO MEMBERS VISITORS VERY WELCOME @ £4

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Toni



Hello Members,

We have started the year with some fascinating talks with lots more to come!

On the 4th February some of the members were privileged to be wowed again!! "A portrait of Space" was performed in East Hoathly Church. A play for voices set to images on the life and work of surrealists Roland Penrose and Lee Miller. As some of us already know, Lee's was an amazing life story as we the Society were privileged to have Tony Penrose speak to us last year. Again this was beautifully told, wonderfully executed with such warmth and provided further insights into her life. Such an inspirational woman.

On the 10th February we started the year with Ian Everest telling us about Sussex during the First World War. As always, this was a fabulous talk and the excellent turnout made for a vibrant evening. Given the date, more fun was added when members shared stories about "inappropriate" Valentines gifts. I started the Valentines themed raffle explaining how I had bought my husband Leycester a chainsaw for one of our early Valentine's celebrations. Whilst this appealed to my sense of humour (i.e. the

chainsaw massacre!) he didn't think much of it and refused to use it for three years!! Similarly poignant stories about the First World War ensued. It was only the call of the pub that got the hall cleared and the chatter continued in the Foresters.

On the 10th March Chris Yarrow told his story of Thirty Years in Wilderness Wood. How, against the odds they succeeded in making a living from just 63 acres, transforming a nondescript Sussex wood into a much loved working woodland park in the village of Hadlow Down, north east of Uckfield.

Back to the Future.

I am delighted to say that Denise will be providing the cuisine for the AGM on the 9th June (booking form attached). Hopefully we shall have a full house!

Our outing to the Giants of Brede is on Saturday 1st July (booking form attached), where Mr John Foxley MBE, Chairman of Brede Steam, will be both taking us around and providing fascinating insights into this beautifully restored Victorian water pumping station. We shall be starting with lunch at the Red Lion, which comes highly recommended but this is optional. Car sharing always makes sense. Another fascinating trip so do mark up your diaries accordingly! The cost is £5 for members and £8 for non-members; £5 per head being donated to the charity.

Look forward to seeing you soon,

Kind regards,
Toni

More about the Giants on page 9 and the booking form for the trip is at the back of the newsletter.

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TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter



MEMBERSHIP - Jenny



2015		2016
1658.14	Total Income (Inc. £224 exceptional item from FOSAS)	2199.38
1726.56	Total expenditure	1697.16
-68.42	Excess(+)/Deficit (-)	502.22
1446.56	Balance Accumulated Fund b/f	1378.14
-68.42	Excess(+)/Deficit (-)	502.22
1378.14	Closing balance 31/12	1880.36
466.49	Cash in hand	184.33
503.89	HSBC Current account	1063.89
407.76	HSBC Deposit account	632.14
1378.14	Total assets 31/12	1880.36

Our sound financial position is not least of all thanks to Toni's raffles, but more importantly thanks to a good turnout of members and guests at every one of our events. I do trust you have enjoyed them as much as I have.

Regards, Peter Hon. Treasurer

Many thanks to everyone who has promptly renewed their 2017 subscription.

So far, our membership for this year stands at 72, and we are particularly pleased to welcome our new members: Lindsay Wigens, Molly Tideman, Harry & Val Lilly, Jenny Davies, Hugh & Irene Soper, Marion & Richard Beal, Fiona Dennis, Peter Weston and Pamela Jarvis.

It has been great to see such good numbers enjoying the first two talks of the year, and it has also been our pleasure to welcome a very encouraging number of visitors.

If you have not yet got round to renewing your membership, may I give you a gentle reminder? Your continued support is greatly valued and with it we can continue to thrive and grow.

Jenny Pellett Membership Secretary

Cheques payable to EH&DPS c/o Jenny Pellett, 2 Prices Cottages, Whitesmith, Lewes BN8 6JD

DID YOU KNOW

New Books on East Hoathly are available through the society

Used books on Sussex are available for loan from the society

The Society is always pleased to receive Books on Sussex and E H memorabilia

Residents own stories and memories of our villages are also always of interest

See Chris for information or call 01825 872830 EHDPS@hotmail.co.uk

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BLUEBELLS Marion Salmon

There are two species of bluebell found in the UK. Native or British bluebell and non-native Spanish bluebell. Cross-breeding between the two species means you may spot flowers which combine traits from both.

The easiest way to tell the difference is to look at the colour of the pollen. If it is creamy-white then the bluebell is native. If it is any other colour such as pale green or blue then it's not native.

These other characteristics will also help you to tell the difference.

Native.	Spanish
Narrow, dark, pointed leaves.	Light green wide soft leaves,
Flowers on one side of stem	Flowers around stem
Stem droops like shepherds crook	Stem upright
Flowers vivid purple	Flowers blue/grey
Bell shape: rolled back tips	Bell shape: Conical, more open and not rolled back
Sweet cool scent.	No scent
Creamy white pollen	Blue pollen



Bluebell House, formally The Little House Stalkers Lane

The plants hybridise so anything Not Native has to go.

All hard work. You can try: Pulling the leaves when long and hope bulb rots, digging out.(DO NOT compost), Cut off all leaves as they grow.

Do not let them flower. That is the most important thing. If time is short ensure you cut off flower heads. No seeds, so no new plants.

Motto: If in doubt pull it out.

VILLAGE CONCERNS

Wrens Warren Valley, otherwise known as Eeyore's Gloomy Place



An unexpected revised WDC draft local plan was submitted to the planning committees on 13th March, discussed, and went forward to the full committee meeting on 22nd March. They supported its progress and direction. They also agreed for it to be brought back for their consideration at a future meeting when the "full set of evidence is available in a comprehensive and accessible form."

Currently, evidence of nitrogen pollution across the Ashdown Forest is so worrying that Council Officers have had to totally change their strategy.

The great news for East Hoathly is that the housing allocation changes from 230 to zero and the new development boundary is re-drawn to exclude previously targeted sites (e.g. Hesmonds, Buttsfield Lane and Broomy Lodge).

And so applications for new housing in East Hoathly, Halland and other rural communities within the weald are unlikely to succeed, for the time being.

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[Village Concerns](#) is an East Hoathly with Halland Parish Action Group. It has joined a national alliance for considered planning and the knowledge it has acquired will be shared with other groups facing similar potential development both now and in the future.

Although the current threats of 203 houses on Hesmond Stud land and 50 plus at Halland are apparently on hold, the action committee of Village Concerns is not complacent and continues its quest unabated to best prepare us for the battles ahead.

Councils can be quite contrary:

"In order to conserve the rural character and setting of East Hoathly, it is important to prevent over-development and its outward encroachment into the surrounding open countryside."- WDC

PUB REVIEWS - Chris

My suggestion of reviewing the local hostelrys was encouragingly received. Rather than just eat and drink I thought a bit of history more appropriate.



Blacksmiths Arms Halland

Originally the site of two blacksmith's cottages built in 1807 opposite the forge in Halland. In 1881 Frederick Turner is recorded as "Master Blacksmith and Beerhouse Keeper". He had three sons and two daughters by his wife Mary who hailed from Dorset. In those days Halland was still known as "The Nursery."

After several name changes over the years, it became known as "The Black Lion". Vikki & Steve are proud to have made the decision to revert to the original name.

We think Frederick Turner, the blacksmith, would have liked it that way.....

The Turner family ran both the Halland and East Hoathly blacksmith forges.

The first parish record found is of Francis Turner born 1769 listed as blacksmith in the 1821 census.

An earlier Francis' Turner (b. about 1710) occurs frequently in the Thomas Turner diaries of the 1760's, not as a relative but, as an Ale house keeper at Halland.

William Turner born 1791 was a blacksmith from 1821-1851 (married Sarah Ferry) along with his brother John Turner born 1799 blacksmith from 1829-1851 (married to Martha Rich).

In 1851 William's brother, Richard (born 1811) took over at the forge with his nephew? Frederic.

Later John Turner, married to Emma Stokes in 1887, and possibly the son of Frederic, continued in the profession.

John Turner took his smithy skills to Virginia, and then Pennsylvania in the USA.

[The Blacksmith's Arms](#) remains resilient in the centre of Halland.

HEDGEROW SURVEY - Kate

Now is a good time.

For more information

Kate Richardson

01825 840082

kathrynrichardson@gmail.com

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PAST MEETINGS - Leycester



Sussex in World War I
Presented by Ian Everest.
Fri 10th February 2017

Ian has presented various talks to the Preservation Society over the years and once again, the chosen topic was brought to life with an excellent narrative worked around a very interesting set of slides. Due to its proximity to the English Channel and beyond it the battle fields of France, Belgium and Holland, Sussex played an important role during the war. As well as becoming a training ground for troops, a conduit for them, their munitions and supplies to the ports along its coast, it received the wounded and maimed from the front. It also played its role in overcoming critical food shortages to counter the German tactic of cutting off imports that brought Britain perilously close to defeat.



Girl Guides at Cuckfield [Cuckfield Museum](#)

Some of the facts and figures presented were remarkable in their magnitude:

The town of Seaford with a peacetime population of 4,000 was swelled by a further 20,000 at the nearby Kitchener training camps, the platforms at the railway station were lengthened to accommodate the larger trains required.

20 ships sailed daily from Newhaven, carrying part of the 6,000,000 tonnes of munitions used. 5,500,000 tonnes of hay was sent across the channel to feed the horses, supported by the efforts of the newly formed Women's Land Army. The artillery could be heard as far away as Isfield.

Just 52 villages in the country experienced the return of all their soldiers. East Wittering was one such "thankful village". In contrast, there were 16000 war memorial committees across the land.

Sussex had 9 convalescence camps with 3500 patients.

Local people featured too, including Ian's own grandfather who was in the Middx Regiment. He went to fight at the battle of Mons in August 1914 but was taken prisoner on the first day. Many prominent people and organisations were either involved in recruitment, training, making land available and contributing to the war effort in ways that are too numerous to include in a brief summary such as this. For those interested in further reading the book that Ian referred to was Kim Leslie's "An Historical Atlas of Sussex", ISBN 9781860771125.

Leycester Whewell EHaDPS secretary

The Good Life
Presented by Chris Yarrow.
Fri 10th March 2017

Most of us in the village hall are of an age where we can remember the exploits of Tom and Barbara Good as they attempted to live off the land in their suburban environment. Therefore, it was interesting to hear Chris relate his tale of how he did it for real, not in the environs of Surbiton but in a 63 acre plot near Hadlow Down with the charming name of Wilderness Wood. A forester by background with native experience supplemented by several years spent living and studying the topic in the US State of Montana,

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Chris had often wondered about the possibility of creating a sustainable life from a wood. He despaired at the large proportion of British woodland that was either poorly managed or simply neglected and considered the Forestry Commission's focus on the sole pursuit of growing timber as too narrow. A better approach that met the needs of timber production, conservation and recreation seemed possible.

After some false starts, the opportunity to purchase Wilderness Wood arose at auction in the early 80s. From that moment, when the hammer came down on their final bid in the auction room, Chris and his wife Anne were on a mission to prove a point. The technical and practical side of forestry was just one component of the process of creating a sustainable living from the land; much depended upon communicating and developing good a relationship with the local community. This is where the correct portrayal of a slightly eccentric character, along with sound business and environmental sense can reap rewards in terms of being able to gain planning permission to put a dwelling on the site.

Success was a slow and hard won battle with many hiccups along the way. The storm of October 1987 was a particular case in point, where numerous trees were either blown over or had their trunks snapped by the force of the wind. Once the effort of clearing up the debris had finished, an opportunity to remodel the site with new planting arose. The goal here was to develop the practice of continuous cover forestry, which avoids the harvesting of large sections of woodland in a short period of time and provides the shade to prevent young trees from growing too quickly. Cash crops such as Christmas trees provided a periodic source of income whilst other parts of the site grew towards maturity.

After 30 years of full-on activity, Chris and Anne decided to retire and let someone else continue the project. Having developed the business and raised their children there, they can look back with satisfaction at having brought back one part of an East Sussex woodland from obscurity and made it into a feature.

Chris' book "Thirty Years in Wilderness Wood" is available in hardback, [ISBN 9781784624934](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781784624934).

THE SPECIES RECOVERY TRUST Dominic Price

The woodlands of two hundred years ago would have been alive with activity, from foresters to charcoal burners, coppicers to herbalists. This activity created a dynamic system of change, where trees were felled, glades were created, then fenced off to allow coppice and, later, huge standard trees to grow.

Wildlife thrived in this environment, with plant species well adapted from a previous age where large mammals had created this sort of disturbance, and from an ecology which allowed their seeds to lie dormant in the ground, waiting for an increase in light and warmth to signal the right time for them to germinate and grow.

One of the rarest plants in the UK, Spiked Rampion (*Phyteuma spicatum*), would have thrived in these environments.



The Species Recovery Trust have a great project running on Spiked Rampion at the moment, and after 6 years we now have the highest number of plants ever recorded, all due to a fantastic steering group of the good and great from Kew, Forestry Commission, Sussex Wildlife Trust, and East Sussex County Council, along with some very committed local volunteers.

It's been a lot of work but proved a great example of many organisations joining up with a single achievable aim of saving a really rather special plant from extinction.

Spiked Rampion, a beautiful tall plant of woodland rides and glades. This was the plant Rapunzel was caught stealing (to ease her mother's birth pains) before she was locked away by the witch. It now only grows in seven sites in East Sussex, with the largest population marooned on a road verge

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beside what was its woodland home, now an arable field.

The conservation of Spiked Rampion has proved challenging, not least because increasing deer numbers nibble off plants. The local council also sanctioned damage at the road verge site. But we are protecting all the remaining locations, where necessary caging off plants to protect them until their numbers reach more secure levels. All the sites are regularly coppiced, and at the road verge we are working closely with the local council to ensure the verge is protected from untimely mowing and any other damage.

NITROGEN - Plantlife

Nitrogen in the air is one of the greatest threats to our wild plants, lichens and fungi, yet few people have even heard about it..



Nitrogen has built up in the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels and intensive farming. Transport, power stations, industry, farm fertilisers and livestock are all major sources of nitrogen oxides and ammonia emissions.

Deposited directly from the air and in rain, the nitrogen enriches the soil, creates acidic conditions and causes direct damage to our flora. Over two thirds of our wild flowers, plants like harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) and betony (*Betonica officinalis*) require low or medium levels of nitrogen. Only robust species, such as nettle (*Urtica dioica*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) thrive in nutrient enriched soils.

Woodlands, grasslands, heaths and bogs have all become colonised by nitrogen-loving plants, with

knock-on effects for all our wildlife. In 2014, 90% of land in Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in England and Wales received excessive levels of nitrogen; for the UK as a whole it was 63%.

The impacts of nitrogen deposition may be a far more immediate than climate change, but we don't hear it talked about by environmentalists very often - nitrogen is the 'elephant in the room' of nature conservation.

For more information

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

Fri 7th April	Air Ambulance Speaker TBD
Fri 12th May	Sussex Bat Hospital Jenny Clark MBE
Fri 9th June	A.G.M. & Dinner Details in newsletter
Sat 1st July	Outing: The Giants of Brede Details in newsletter
Fri 8th September	Without Reserve Janie Ramsey
Fri 13th October	The importance of Wildlife ponds in our environment Pete the Pond
Fri 24th November	A Social Evening Details in newsletter

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HALLAND

Your perfect garden awaits...

The [National Garden Scheme](#) is the most significant charitable funder of nursing charities in the country, donating over £50 million so far. We help our garden owners open their beautiful gardens to the public, sharing their passion and raising impressive amounts of money through entry fees, teas and slices of cake.



Weavers House, Knole Lane Halland

Friday 21 April (2 - 5.30pm). Admission £4.00, children free. Home-made teas. Courtesy of Mrs Miranda Gibb

Sloping south and west facing garden, stocked with fragrant flowers, shrubs and trees. There is an attractive rill along the base of a sloping bank of seasonal snowdrops, daffodils and primroses. From the garden two sets of steep steps take you to the ancient bluebell wood with seasonal ponds and mature broad leaf trees. The woodland is approximately 3½ acres and is covered in swathes of English bluebells in April and early May. There is a developing bog garden and choice of walks around wood. Wellies recommended.

BREDE STREAM GIANTS - our July Outing

The Brede Heritage site is rather special. It tells the story of water supply for the Hastings area from the steam days of 1904. The Giants are huge and reach over 9 metres (30 feet) high. They are located in tall brick engine houses displaying striking architectural features in the baroque and art deco styles.

Today, safe water is rather taken for granted, and we aim to tell the Brede story in a friendly and informative way. On our guided tour with the founder and Chairman John Foxley MBE you will learn more about the water you need for life. Our Collection of engines will be in operation for you to enjoy and appreciate British Engineering at its best. Come and share our Passion!

Light refreshments and homemade cakes are available at the "Tangye Tea Bar".

Site Location

The Water Heritage site for the Brede Steam Giants is at:

Waterworks Lane

Brede

RYE

East Sussex

TN31 6HG

Optional lunch beforehand at The Red Lion, Brede for lunch at 12.30. If you want to join us please advise on the booking form.

The section below has been lifted from their website

(<http://bredesteamgiants.co.uk/history/>)

and provide some useful background.

History

The Society was formed in 1994 with the purpose of restoring the triple expansion steam pumping engines that remained on the Brede site. Two Tangye engines with their ram pumps and well pumps were installed as part of the original Waterworks concept in

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1904. They were joined in 1940 by a third pump manufactured by Worthington Simpson as part of the Darwell Reservoir Project and all three units operated until the end of steam in 1964. Sadly one of the original Tangye pumps was broken up in 1969 but it is very fortunate that the two other examples remain largely intact.

Over the years other examples of water pumping engines have been saved and brought to Brede for restoration and display. Acting as a non-profit-making company and a registered charity, the Society's declared aims are to restore and operate heritage water pumping artefacts from the water industry and to educate the public in the technologies associated with the water pumps and the role they play in bringing safe drinking water to the home.



We operate the pumps throughout each open-day. Our Guides will be on hand to tell the story of how the water was drawn from the large wells penetrating the rock (Ashdown Sandstone aquifer) beneath the River Brede, how it was purified and then pumped into service reservoirs on The Ridge above Hastings for distribution by gravity via the pipe networks serving Hastings.

CHIDDINGLY ORAL HISTORY GROUP



You have missed
A talk by Noel Hardy
(he's on the right)
'The History and Development of
the
[Chiddingly Festival](#)'

& another:
A talk by Frank Gearing
'Life and times as the Village
Policeman'

Both were at
Chiddingly Village Shop

The Chiddingly Oral History Group meet monthly.

If you want reminders of future events call in at the shop or email caroline@chiddinglyshop.org

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BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH - Colin Gibbs

Saving the Butterflies of Sussex

We've teamed up with film-maker Justin Ingham to highlight the situation facing butterflies in the area and to provide an insight into the conservation work carried out by volunteers at our Park Corner Heath and Rowland Wood Reserves in East Sussex.



Work has been ongoing for many years at these two reserves to reinstate a well-managed wood and heathland with a wide range of habitats and a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. In particular we are working to secure the future of the rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly and the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This short film shows just a few of the many volunteers who are helping with this work.

As well as a long career as a freelance cameraman in international broadcast television, Justin Ingham has increasingly been working with select businesses and charities in the UK.

Justin said, "It was a huge privilege to work with the dedicated volunteers to make this film. We were all amazed by the fiercely passionate conservationists who do so much for these fragile creatures. No matter whether they were young or old, everyone had the same vision and commitment to make a difference - we have learned a lot from all these people."

To find out more about film-maker Justin Ingham, please visit www.justiningham.co.uk

swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org.uk
www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/

VERT WOODS A COMMUNITY WOODLAND

PAST: PRESENT: and

Our presentation on the 3rd February was well-attended with over 60 people gathered in Laughton Parish Hall. We are grateful to all who turned out on a particularly wet and windy night. The feedback that we have received so far would seem to indicate that it was well worth the effort!

FUTURE:

[Circle of Life Rediscovery](#) is just one of the groups using the woodland.

It is a Community Interest Company. Since 2004 we have been working to reconnect people from all backgrounds and ages to the natural world.

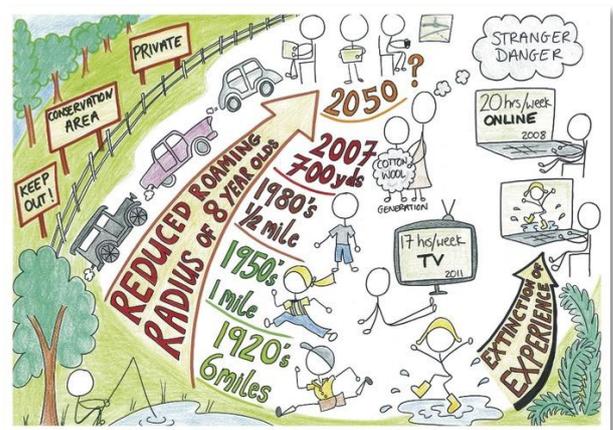
What we do:

We provide nature based experiences and programmes that are educational, fun and often life-changing.

Why we do it:

We see time and time again how rediscovering nature is beneficial and therapeutic for all ages. It makes us happier, healthier, increases our self-esteem, resilient and instils a lifelong love of nature.

In the outdoors, all our senses are stimulated, we feel alive, inspired, relaxed and fulfilled! We want a future where nature matter's, where we capture what people have to offer, and realise we all are important.



Susan Kelly

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VERT WOODS COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Bank Holiday, Monday 1st MAY, 11am
A May Day Walk in Vert Woods: 'SEEING
THE SIGHTS'

This is for LOCAL people (living within a 5-mile radius) to have a chance to see what is going on in the woods, talk to members of the VWCW Steering Group, enjoy the bluebells, see the Yew sapling and coppiced Sweet Chestnuts, marvel at the progress made by Plumpton students and learn something of what Circle of Life Rediscovery is all about.

Tickets for walkers are FREE and available at local shops. It is important to obtain a ticket so that we know how many people are coming and can plan the walks accordingly. There will be different lengths of walk to suit everyone. Please decide before you come whether you prefer to go on a short (1/2 hour), medium (1 hour) or long walk (1 ½ hours). Write S, M or L on your ticket to remind yourself of what you decided.

Wellies advisable!

If you want to bring a car, we are asking for a donation of £5. Phone Sue on 01323 811030, if you wish to reserve a car parking space. Out of respect for our neighbours, parking spaces up in the woods will be restricted to 20 for this event. Please drive in the first instance to the Car Park behind Laughton School where we will organise car sharing (please be there by 10.45). Cars, with a coloured-coded ticket, will then go on to the rendezvous at the barriers where Vert Lane crosses over Park Lane. There you will be directed to a parking space, depending on the ticket colour.

If you live close enough to come on foot, please also go to the rendezvous at the barriers but don't forget your ticket!

DOGS ARE WELCOME ON SHORT LEADS - NO EXTENDING LEADS, PLEASE.

Contact Sue Redshaw for more information
smredshaw@btinternet.com

THE WOODLAND TRUST

The Government has proposed adding ancient woodland and aged and veteran trees to the current list of policies that restrict development in England.

It's great news! Currently planning permission should be refused if it impacts these precious habitats. But a loophole has led to devastating losses.

Now, through the new Housing White Paper - called 'Fixing our broken housing market' - the Government intends to add ancient woodland aged and veteran trees to a list of the nation's assets that should be explicitly protected from development. This would raise their status in planning terms to that of National Parks, SSSIs or Green Belt.

But... it won't change their fate - or close the loophole - unless the relevant guidance elsewhere in planning policy is amended accordingly.

Show your support for the plans - and help us to make them worthwhile

The Housing White Paper consultation is the best route to influence the Government's plans and to see the relevant planning policy (paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework) amended. It's open for views until 2 May.

Find out more, [Woodland Trust Campaigns](#)

When you're ready, complete the form to respond to the consultation. You can also choose to send a message asking your parliamentary representative to help, too. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>



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PAST WALKS - Chris 'n' Jenny

SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY

Vert Wood, Laughton

The first walk of the year was in Vert Wood, which borders Laughton, East Hoathly and Whitesmith. The wood covers over 170 acres and is owned and managed for community benefit.

Grotty weather meant that only a few of us ventured out on an afternoon when cozy firesides were obviously more appealing than rain and mud!

However, Sue Redshaw, Society member and key member of the woodland steering committee gave us a brilliant guided walk around the woods and told us about their management and development plans.

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Arlington Reservoir

Arlington Reservoir was the venue for our walk in February and better weather saw more of us venture forth.

I think it fair to say that none of us were experts in bird identification so we probably missed out of spotting rarities but none the less, we enjoyed our walk and seeing the large numbers of birds out on the water, including cormorants, grebes, mallards, shelducks & more. Right at the end of the walk, as tea and cake beckoned from the excellent little café we were treated to sightings of glorious little goldcrests.

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH

T Turner Walk, Kings Head, East Hoathly

Our Thomas Turner walk in March saw a long term project finally come to fruition.

Years ago (probably the turn of the millennium, but no-one seems certain of quite when or who was responsible), quotes from Turner's diary were sited around on the circular Thomas Turner Walk. Over the years these have gradually suffered and were becoming illegible. The Society decided that they should be renewed and Chris set about deciphering the various texts and getting new oak plaques made and reinstated. All ten are now in

place and our walk, starting from the Kings Head, followed the route over the fields up past Davies Town



and then back down through the stud finishing as good walks often do in the pub with friends.

On this walk we were very pleased to welcome along some new friends and look forward to seeing them again soon.

2017 WALKS - Chris

PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2017

Usually start at 2pm after lunch in the designated pub

SUNDAY 23 RD APRIL	Lakeside, Horam
SUNDAY 14 TH MAY	Roebuck, Laughton
SUNDAY 18 TH JUNE	Middle House, Mayfield
SUNDAY 23 RD JULY	Hare & Hounds, Framfield
SUNDAY 20 TH AUG	Ouse Valley TBC
SUNDAY 17 TH SEPT	Buxted
SUNDAY 22 TH OCT	Chiddingly
SUNDAY 19 TH NOV	Rushlake Green
SUNDAY 17 TH DEC	East Hoathly (Streetwalk)

CONTACT [CHRIS & JENNY PELLETT](#) 01825 872830

Times and details may change but put the dates in your diary

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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MID WEEK WALKS - John



East Hoathly Rights of Way Group

If you find a right of way that has been blocked or vegetation that has made it difficult to get through, or if stiles are in need of repair call us, we want, and can make, paths that are a pleasure to walk on.

If you feel that you would like to join this Group in our ROW activities please contact me at dixiewalks@hotmail.com You will be made most welcome.

John Deane

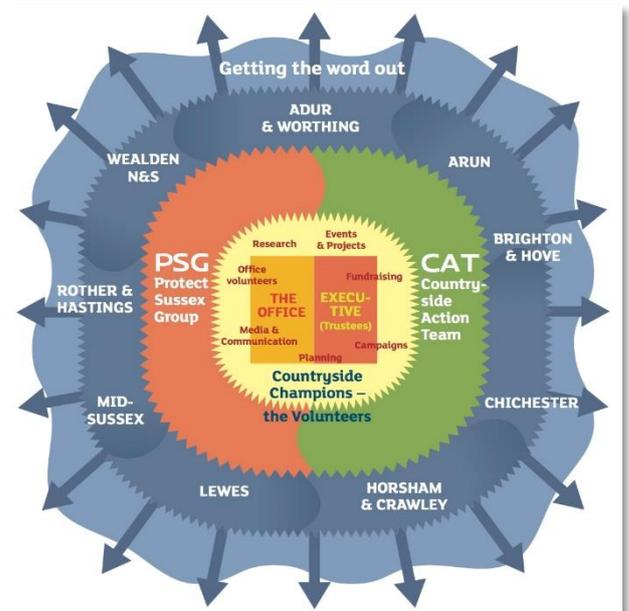
CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)

Want to help us protect Sussex? Please do! Sussex has never faced the prospect of so much pressure on its amazing countryside.

We're a friendly bunch and there's always a huge amount to do!

Take a look at our structure diagram below. We need volunteers at every part of our organisation.

- Reporting news from the districts by checking local media and council planning notices
- Helping in our office
- Researching hot topics, from fracking to farm stewardship
- Helping us to help people threatened by inappropriate development - especially if you've an expertise in planning
- Organising campaigns and reaching out to local activists
- Helping run special events and projects
- Helping with our media and communication
- Fundraising



[CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust](#)

Brownings Farm
Blackboys
Uckfield
E. Sussex
TN22 5HG

Tel: 01825 890 975

Office open from 9.30am to 12:30pm on weekdays.

Email: info@cpresussex.org.uk

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

WILDLIFE REPORT - Living with Birds

Birds of East Hoathly



Yaffle Pellett

The Green Woodpecker - 16 Facts.

1. The green woodpecker is the largest of the three species of woodpeckers that occur in the British Isles.
2. Though widespread throughout much of lowland England, it is scarce in West Wales and absent from much of Scotland, where it only bred for the first time in 1951.
3. It doesn't occur in Ireland, though three individuals were reputedly shot there in the 19th century.
4. The range of this species extends north into Scandinavia and as far west as Turkey and Northern Iran.
5. In the last 30 years this essentially parkland bird has been seen increasingly in gardens.
6. They communicate with each other by calling frequently. The best-known call is the far-carrying, descending territorial song which gives the old name of yaffle.
7. Rain bird is another name, as the birds are reputed to call more when rain is imminent.
8. Unlike the great spotted woodpecker, the green rarely drums.
9. Of our three woodpeckers, the green spends the least amount of time in trees, and can often be seen feeding on the ground.
10. Here it is likely to be digging for ants, its favourite food. It eats both the adults

and their eggs, catching them with its exceptionally long and sticky tongue.

11. Other food taken includes a variety of insects, and on rare occasions, reptiles such as small lizards.
12. Green woodpeckers like to excavate their own nest holes, a process that takes them from two to four weeks.
13. The usual clutch size is between five and eight unmarked white eggs.
14. The pair takes it in turn to incubate the eggs, with the male sitting at night.
15. The nestlings are vulnerable to predators such as stoats, which may be attracted by the young birds calling for food.
16. Because they spend so much time feeding on the ground, prolonged spells of snow cover can be fatal.



Nightingale Pellett

Nightingale - 16 Facts

1. It's highly unlikely that a nightingale has ever sung in Berkeley Square: the habitat isn't right, and even records of passage migrants in inner London are few.
2. This hasn't always been the case. When the duke of Buckingham bought the land where Buckingham Palace now stands in 1703, it was said to be a wilderness full of blackbirds and nightingales.
3. They are not the only birds that will sing at night, while they will also sing during the day, too. However, it's at night that they are heard best, when competition from other songsters is minimal.
4. What makes the song so exceptional is its variety, its range and power. Studies have

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

shown that individual birds may have a repertoire of over 200 different phrases.

5. As with most birds, it's only the male that sings, a point not appreciated by early poetic writers, who always cast the singing nightingale as a she.
6. Most males sing from dense cover where they are usually hard to see. Only occasionally will they sing from exposed perches.
7. In England, the cocks start singing as soon as they return from migration in mid to late April; they will continue until early June. In contrast, Continental birds have a much longer song period, probably because they have two broods so defend their territory for much longer.
8. The most celebrated recording of a nightingale singing was made in an Oxted garden in 1924. The bird was accompanied by Beatrice Harrison on her cello, and the subsequent radio broadcast was heard by a million people.
9. Two hundred years ago there was a trade in trapped nightingales as cage birds, but few lived for long in captivity.
10. Britain's nightingale population is thought to be around 4,000 pairs.
11. Most of our nightingales are to be found in southeast England and East Anglia. They have never bred in Ireland or Scotland, and no longer do so in Wales.
12. Our birds are on the north western edge of their range. Spain, France and Italy have the biggest populations, numbering tens of thousands of pairs.
13. In northeast Europe the very similar thrush nightingale replaces the nightingale.
14. Europe's birds all winter in sub-Saharan Africa as far east as Uganda.
15. Southward migration starts in July and peaks in late August.
16. It is thought that the birds fly across the Mediterranean and the Sahara in one flight.

Info taken from [Living with Birds](#)

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST



Frogspawn – [Gardening with Children](#)

Your frogspawn questions answered By Charlotte Owen

1. What type of spawn do I have?

Frogspawn is always laid in big clumps whilst toadspawn comes in long chains like a string of pearls draped over pond weed and submerged plants.

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

As long as you haven't introduced additional frogs into your pond, there is no such thing as too much frogspawn. Unfortunately it's a tough life for a tadpole, they have a number of natural predators and are susceptible to various amphibian diseases. Female frogs lay thousands of egg each year with the expectation that only a tiny fraction will survive to adulthood.

3. My spawn hasn't developed properly.

This can be a tricky one. There are lots of factors that affect whether spawn develops: it may be to do with the frogs, it may be to do with the pond. The most common cause of spawn failure is lack of light and late frosts. Frogspawn needs a lot of light and a lot of warmth to develop properly, so shady ponds are not good for spawn.

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

I never recommend moving spawn or tadpoles between ponds as this can spread non-native plant species and amphibian diseases. Ponds may contain a big black mass of writhing tadpoles, but this is how it is meant to be. Just kick back and enjoy watching these amazing amphibians.

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

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Newts and frogs are not mutually exclusive, but they do tend to have a bit of a boom-bust relationship. Newts eat tadpoles, so ponds with lots of newts tend to have fewer frogs. However, the decrease in frogs can lead to fewer newts, leading to more frogs in following years and so on. It may be that your pond is just more suitable for newts rather than frogs. This isn't a bad thing, newt habitat is just as valuable as frog habitat.

[Find out more about frogs and toads](#)

Still not sure? WildCall is here to help! Ask a question by phoning WildCall on **01273 494777** (9.30 am to 1 pm weekdays)

AIRS (Action In Rural Sussex)

Village Agents Programme

As one of its principal programmes AirS has a network of Village agents currently covering Wealden, part of the Lewes District and north Rother in East Sussex. Each Village Agent becomes a trusted and well integrated person within the community, helping to improve the information and communications between and within the community and supporting the development of local initiatives as defined by local needs and aspirations.

The Village Agents' crucial role is as a facilitator and catalyst for community development but they will also be a conduit to and from external service providers and agencies that support individuals thus effectively linking services to people and their community. For some projects an integral part of the work for the Village Agents could involve home visits and supporting individuals to access the right services, but they will mainly be supporting community groups and volunteers to do this locally.

Each Village Agent covers a number of villages, providing community development

support, identifying local issues particularly for those who are disadvantaged, lonely or isolated, and then working with the local community representatives and groups to find solutions.

AirS ambition is to build on this initial work and expand into other community service areas, particularly focusing on the needs of those who are disadvantaged, older or isolated from mainstream services. This will be both exciting and challenging.

For further information contact Chiara Vagnarelli, Village Agent: Email: Chiara.vagnarelli@ruralsussex.org.uk
Mobile: 07773320315

www.ruralsussex.org.uk

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Chris



As others have complained about the less than flattering pictures I have often included, to show fairness, this is me running!

The Summer newsletter is scheduled for the beginning of July.

Keep sending in articles or ideas of what you would like from the society

[Chris Pellett](#)

East Hoathly and District Preservation Society presents:

Guided site visit to the Giants of Brede

[\(http://bredesteamgiants.co.uk/.\)](http://bredesteamgiants.co.uk/)

2pm, Saturday 1st July 2017

Waterworks Lane, Brede, RYE, East Sussex, TN31 6HG

Dating back to 1904, the steam driven pumps at Brede were built to provide a continuous and safe supply of drinking water to Hastings and the surrounding countryside. This represented a major step forward in living standards for the population, who had previously relied on wells and other sources for their potable water.

I am delighted that the chairman, John Foxley MBE, an experienced mechanical engineer who founded the charity in 1994, will be taking us around this amazing site and showing us its wonderful machinery in its beautiful buildings.

Admission is £5 (£8 non-members) of which £5 will go directly to Brede Steam and the visit is expected to last 90 minutes or so. There is a tea room in the main pumping station building for light refreshments.

For those who want to have a pub lunch beforehand the nearest pub to the site is The Red Lion in Brede (<http://www.redlionbrede.co.uk/>), which is on the A28 in Brede, almost opposite the lane that leads to the site. Please indicate whether you intend to visit the pub (at 12.30) so that we can book space accordingly.

✂.....

Enquiries: Toni Whewell 01825 872460. Closing date: Fri 9th June 2017 (the EH&DPS AGM)

Guided site visit to the Giants of Brede, Saturday 1st July 2017.

Please send applications to Toni Whewell, Holdens Lodge, Stalkers Lane, Chiddingly, BN8 6HF enclosing cash or cheque for £5 (£8 non-members) made out to the East Hoathly & District Preservation Society.

First name Surname.....

Telephone number..... Email address.....

Members attending Non-members attending

Cheque enclosed for £ Cash enclosed for £

Places required for the Red Lion at 12.30pm.

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Friday 9th June 2017 at 7.15pm

East Hoathly Village Hall

2017 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 mushroom pie	
Chicken breast in white wine and tarragon	
Salmon en croute	
Wild mushroom stroganoff with rice	
Total	

Main courses come with fresh vegetables and new potatoes

Dessert	Quantity
Mixed fresh fruit pavlova	
Fresh fruit cocktail	
Sicilian lemon sponge pudding with custard	
Total	

Cream in a jug

Bring your own bottle(s)!

Cost is £16 per head.

Payment total = £.....

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

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

Closing date for booking is the on 19th May.

.....
Name

Address

Tel/Email/.....

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
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 each year.

Website address: 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 2017 from February until November.

In addition monthly footpath walks are organised throughout the year.

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP or MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

To: Jenny Pellett Tel 01825 872830

Membership Secretary

EH & District Preservation Society

2 Prices Cottages

Whitesmith

East Hoathly

BN8 6JD

I enclose the sum of £12/ £20* as my subscription to the EH & D Preservation Society for the year **2017**

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

I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter printed only

(Delete as appropriate)

Signature

*£12 if single, £20 if joint. Please delete whichever is not applicable.

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