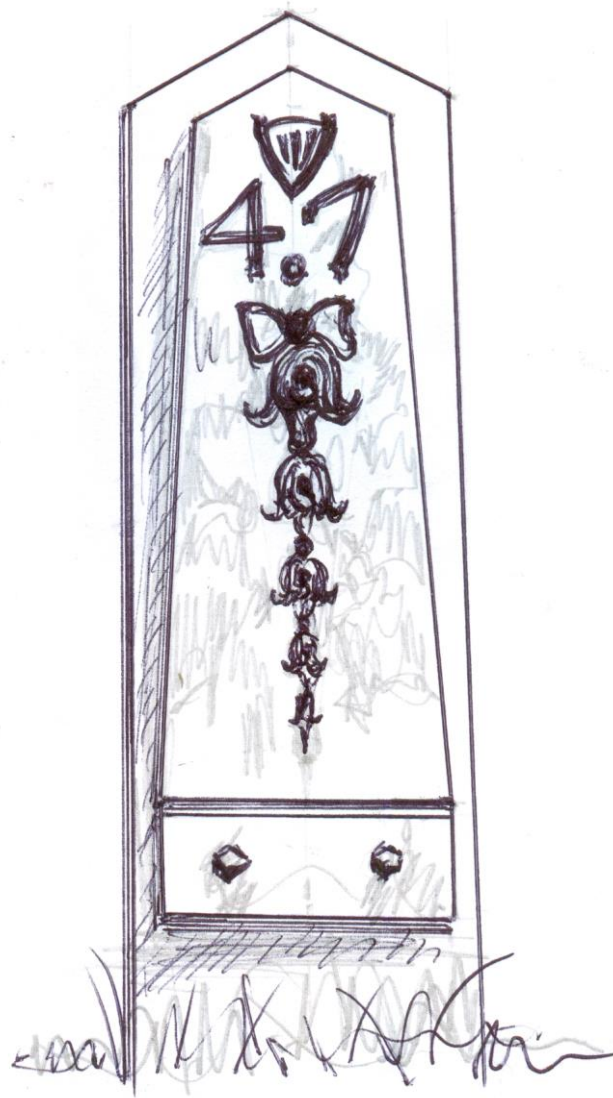


East Hoathly & District Preservation Society



Buckle & Bow Bells

Spring 2020

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

Acting Committee

CHAIRMAN	Chris Pellett
SECRETARY	Jenny Pellett
TREASURER	Linda Butcher
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Chris Pellett
EVENTS SECRETARY	Lesley Jepps
WEBSITE & IT	Leycester Whewell
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jenny Pellett

Additionally, we thank all our members, as well as many others who come forward and assist with different aspects when needed

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

Website address:

www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk

Email:

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

ACTING CHAIRMAN – Chris Pellett

Amazing start to the year.

Good turn out for a bracing January walk to the Cuckmere estuary.
Near on seventy members and guests at the Detection Dogs talk in February!

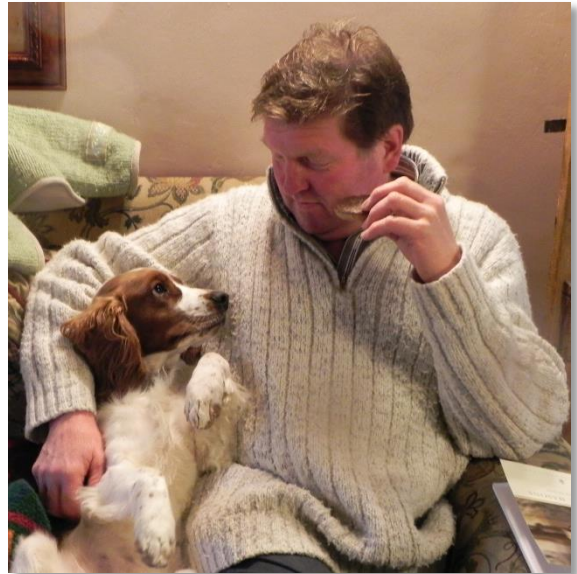
In March Ann Chance was just what we all needed:

An hour or so of laughter and useful advice on flying a plane.

Twenty seven of us washed our hands and sat well apart from each other to enjoy the evening which raised £67 for [Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance](#).

Some members, unable to make it on the night, also pledged donations, raising another £30 if you would like to add your support please let us know.

There is a write up further on and we will no doubt be inviting Ann back for another evening of informative entertainment in the not too distant future.



Since then it's all change.

The next two talks are cancelled. The AGM will take place via Telephone, Email and Post: There's more about that further on together with the Acting Chair's Report for the AGM.

Chris ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

I REMEMBER WHEN

We first moved to the village (1989) and was most impressed by the school having both a swimming pool and a brass band.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Linda Butcher**Treasurer's Report**

Firstly, I would like to thank Peter Brooke for introducing me to the workings of the Preservation Society's finances, although I have to say it came as somewhat of a shock to someone with a local government background used to ensuring that all public money is accounted for with receipts being paid in gross and then payments being withdrawn against invoices, backed up by official orders.

I'm not suggesting that we go through this process for our Society but some minor changes will be introduced.

For example to bring things more in line, so we are more accountable and transparent, we have issued a float to purchase raffle prizes and then any money collected is paid in in gross so we can see how much we earn during the events and separate it from guest visitor fees.

Anyway, suffice to say the Preservation Society finances are very healthy and in view of the necessity to cancel all our meetings, we will not be paying out for guest speakers (or holding raffles) for a while yet. I do hope everyone is managing to enjoy this sunny weather and the lovely area in which we live. Take care everyone and I look forward to meeting more of you when next we are able to meet.

Regards Linda Butcher, Treasurer

I REMEMBER WHEN

My first recollection of East Hoathly was in 1964 when I was 16 and my first boyfriend brought me here to see the Carnival Procession. Although there were lots of people, not nearly as many as now. We were able to park along

London Road, just opposite the Recreation Ground! It was quite an experience and being only 5'2" I was able to see everything, unlike now when everybody seems so tall that I can't see anything...although I can capture the atmosphere.

MEMBERSHIP – Jenny Pellett



We warmly welcome to the society new members Frances Mills, Jane Meston, Julia Jennings, Roger Ward, Pamela Jarvis and Annie Oakley, whose subscriptions bring our numbers to 77 so far this year, made up of 23 individual and 54 joint memberships.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subs for this year, but if you find, as so easily happens, that it's been overlooked, can I just give a gentle reminder, please? Thank you in advance!

At this point in time, how long it will be before we can all enjoy village life to the full again with friends, family and neighbours is unknown, but in the meantime, I send my very best wishes for good health and well-being and look forward to seeing you soon.

Jenny Pellett Membership Secretary

I REMEMBER WHEN

.... I went to my first Preservation Society Committee meeting held at Andrea and Eddie Goodridge's home; The Old House, Barham. It was a revelation – never before did I know how much wine could be drunk before getting on to "Any Other Business!"

COVER PICTURE – The Buckle & Bow Bells Mileposts

I REMEMBER WHEN back in 2014 we had a very interesting talk by Glenda Law about street furniture which included a history of the Bow Bell mileposts.

Since then the surviving posts have suffered more; from neglect, rot, collision damage and theft. Fortunately this hasn't gone unnoticed and the [Eastbourne Historic Vehicle](#)

[Club](#) has been painstakingly trying to restore them. East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council has been one of the more forthcoming authorities to assist and a new 46 (by Crockstead Farm) milepost commissioned. Since then the number 47 (by Halland Car Boot Sale) milepost has been stolen! Our Society has offered its assistance in installing a replacement and also perhaps 49 (by Rowland Wood) which disappeared in 2015.

You may note that the cover picture mile marker doesn't actually have the Pelham buckle on it but a shield with three lines. This is because milestones 47 and 52 were replacements cast by Messrs.H .E. Lintott Ltd ., of Horsham in September 1957.

The Bow Bells mileposts, which originally ran along the old A22 from Langney Bridge to Union Point Uckfield, as well as on the A26 from Lewes to Uckfield and then continue on the A22 to just south of Godstone, form probably the longest sequence of mileposts in England.

Another unique milestone in the 'Bow bells' series is the duplicate 35 milestone near Wych Cross. In the 1820's a new road was built to avoid Tilburstow Hill, Godstone resulting in an extra half a mile in distance and as a consequence the milestones from Wych Cross to Godstone were moved north by this distance. But the Wych Cross to Lewes turnpike trustees declined to move their milestones, obliging the Godstone to Highgate trustees to have a new plate cast!

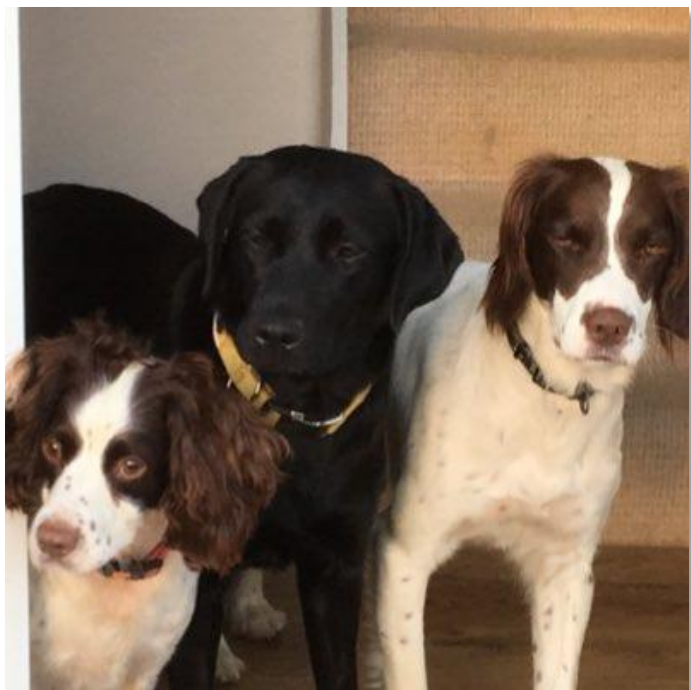
PAST MEETINGS – DETECTION DOGS

We couldn't have asked for a better start to the year.

[DETECTION DOGS Paul Green](#)

Dogs are undoubtedly a hugely important part of our everyday lives, whether for companionship, to help with work, or as part of the frontline keeping us safe. Our love and respect for these amazing creatures was born out by the packed village hall when Paul Green came to tell us about his work with his own detection dogs.

With their senses of smell and hearing vastly superior to that of humans, with specialised training they are invaluable as a means of keeping us safe in many ways. We are all reasonably aware of their successful uses in the detection of drugs and explosives, and the benefits of using them for security purposes, where one dog can do the work of up to ten police officers, but I don't think many of us present were



aware that hotels and cruise ships routinely employ them to sniff out the presence of bed bugs and their eggs. Success in bed bug sniffing may seem like fun to a dog, but it can make all the difference to the reputation of a business!

Other tasks they excel in include the detection of the abhorrent illegal animal trade, where a highly trained dog can pick up scents from smuggled animals, both dead or alive; they contribute to impact surveys by detecting the presence or absence of, for example, bats and water voles, and perhaps most amazing of all, are the potentially lifesaving skills where dogs can be

trained to detect some forms of cancer, the onset of epileptic fits and dangerous blood sugar changes in diabetic patients.

Almost any type of dog can be trained in detection work, but generally gun dog breeds tend to be particularly well suited. Staffie type dogs often show aptitude too, but the overriding characteristics vital to all good detection dogs are the absolute drive to hunt and play, and confidence.

During the evening, one of Paul's dogs, Wallace, gave us a working demonstration of finding strategically hidden drugs....and then had great fun playing with his ball as reward.

Paul's talk was immensely enjoyed by everyone and gave us all an increased appreciation for what dogs do for us. I for one, am in awe of his training skills!

PAST MEETINGS – PETTICOAT PILOTS



Over the years we have had many, many excellent speakers, and dare I say it, the odd not so engaging one, but Ann Chance was truly magnificent. With her self deprecating manner and dead-pan delivery, she really gave us an evening to remember, enthralling and amusing us with her tales of parachute jumping and learning to fly.

Obviously a lady who enjoys the excitement of a challenge, Ann's airborne adventures began when she was persuaded to do a fundraising parachute jump for the disabled dressed, rather fittingly, as Wonderwoman.

The only woman in a group of seven jumpers, she was reluctantly first out of the plane and admitted to feeling terrified until she saw the canopy open above her. She started to enjoy her descent, until hearing the immortal words "For gawds sake put your knees together!" in her headset. A not quite text book landing

followed and saw her touch ground in a field of sheep upon “painfully hard dried turds”.

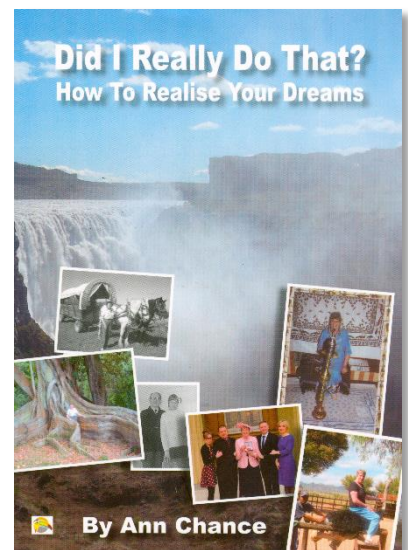
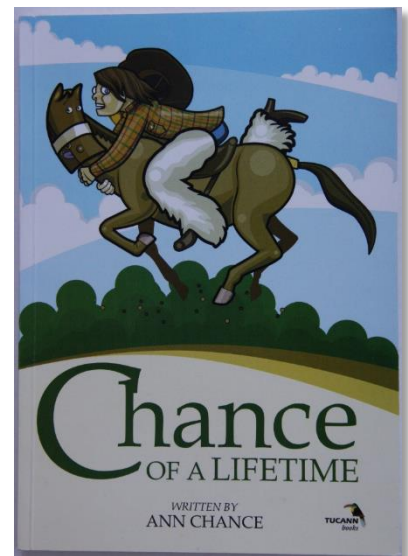
Thinking that if she could jump out of a plane, she ought to be able to fly a plane, she decided to take the plunge and do it. So, in her mid fifties, she “poned” into Biggin Hill Aerodrome, not thinking that high heels, a dress and neatly coiffured hair might not be suitable attire. During her maiden flight, with the words “if you do as you’re told we’ll live” ringing in her ears, she took the controls and negotiated the landing and was bitten by the flying bug. Over the coming months she learnt the wonders of the four stroke engine - suck, squeeze, bang, blow - passed medicals and exams and obtained her pilot’s licence at the age of 56.

Ann described her first solo flight as a beautiful, exciting experience, with a tinge of terror thrown in for good measure. When coming in to land she confessed to such thoughts as, “did I lock the back door?” and “does my son know my will is in my knicker drawer?” The answer to that particular question we would not discover as she successfully landed.....but did forget to put the brakes on in her excited relief!

To celebrate 60th birthday, Ann flew a WW2 Harvard from Shoreham airport, but has since retired from flying. She has, however, continued to take on new challenges and adventures, including learning to ride a horse at 65 and doing cattle drives in the USA, and living with the Bedouins in the Sinai desert, as well as writing her memoirs and giving talks.

Ann’s book, *Chance of a Lifetime* is described as “compelling reading – housework can wait”, her latest book “*Did I really do that?*” offers a similar excuse. Profits from the books sold on the night were added to the contribution made by the society to Air Ambulance, taking the total to over £100.

If you would like a copy, with the benefit of a charitable donation to KSS Air Ambulance, probably easiest to contact us ehdps@hotmail.co.uk



FUTURE MEETINGS – 2020

TALKS & VISITS 2020 Fridays 7.30pm at East Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise. Usually on the SECOND Friday of the month but not always.	
APRIL 17TH	Janet Pennington; Sussex Chairs. <i>“Discovered” in East Hoathly and made popular by William Morris.</i>
MAY 15TH	Antony Smith; Witchcraft or Smuggling <i>By the curator of the Priest House West Hoathly</i>
JUNE 12 TH	AGM AND DINNER; At the King’s Head Menu and Booking Form attached
JULY 8 TH WEDNESDAY 2pm	Visit to WINGS MUSEUM, BALCOMBE <i>Meeting at</i>
AUGUST 23 rd SUNDAY	Visit to KNEPP , West Sussex. <i>See the Walk; The Burrell Estate Rewilding Project</i>
SEPTEMBER 11 TH	Ros Black; The Temperance and Hope Movement. <i>Including the story of Sarah Robinson who lived in East Hoathly.</i>
OCTOBER 9 TH	David Burrough; Life in the Theatre. <i>A fascinating first-hand account by our very own</i>
NOVEMBER 27 TH	Social Evening <i>Usual shenanigans</i>

ALL the remaining talks this year are currently looking unlikely. We are offering the speakers the opportunity to write articles for the newsletter and hopefully this will be some recompense both for them and for you as paying members.

FUTURE MEETINGS - Sussex Chairs

Janet Pennington has offered to write for us, which will be great, especially as it was the Sussex chairs made by the Rich family of East Hoathly, that were taken on board and made famous by the William Morris Company, and descendants of Henry Rich still live in the village.

Meanwhile a little about making the Sussex chair.

Harry Rogers produces some very interesting videos on You Tube (as well as making leather products at Bucklehurst leather), and includes a series on making the Sussex chair much as it would have been done two hundred years ago in East Hoathly.

Making the Sussex chair is an excellent green woodworking study and includes rushwork seating and can include traditional ebonising.

Harry uses ash for the legs and stretchers after riving ash logs. A drawknife with the riven ash held in a shave horse roughly shapes the pieces before they can be turned in a lathe.

"I love to hear the noise as the crack 'seeps' along the tree trunk - it's not particularly loud, but there is something I really like about it - I suppose it's having that very close contact with the tree as almost a living thing, as I set about giving it new life as I work it into a chair; letting the wood inspire, and in its own way speak to you."

Chair stretchers that have been split from a log are very much stronger than sawn timber, and made from green wood are much easier to work. The initial shaping is done with a draw knife, and then the finer work with a spoke shave. Once prepared the spindle is put away in a warm place to dry, so that it shrinks. In time it will be fitted into a 'wet' seat post, so that as the seat post dries, you get a very strong joint.

The front legs are shown as how they would have been made with a rotary plane and a rake maker's engine to turn the wood (A F Rich Steam

Woodworks here in East Hoathly made rakes and other implements well into the twentieth century).

A hollow auger is used to make the spigots that lock into the seat structure. The back legs are awkward to make and the tops turned using a pole lathe.

The arms and other parts are bent by boiling in water and clamping around formers. I suspect steam bending would have been utilised in East Hoathly.



The spindles are also turned on the pole lathe using a roughing gouge, chisel plane, parting chisel and a small skew chisel, Harry had Yew to hand, Beech was more usually used.

Partially seasoned Ash is turned on the pole lathe to make the arm supports, quite a difficult task.

It's more than a five minute job assembling the chair and then the whole can be ebonised using a solution of apple cider vinegar and iron filings.

Harry shows the rush seating using natural fresh water river rush.

To find out more please visit Harry's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mrwindsorchair/about>

Next summer there could be an opportunity to make your own Sussex Chair.

If you would like to have a go, let us know (ehdps@hotmail.co.uk or 01825 872830) and if there is a sufficient number I'll make some enquiries.

FUTURE MEETINGS - SMUGGLING

Antony Smith, curator at the Priest House, West Hoathly was to give the talk on smuggling. This is being rescheduled for next year. He has written a short article for the next newsletter in the absence of being able to give his talk and hopefully visitors to West Hoathly and [The Priest House](#) will soon again be welcomed to explore the location of, perhaps, Sussex's most haunted village for ourselves. Meanwhile a poem with a West Hoathly connection.



“And where he did the crime they took the pains
To bring him back and hang him up in chains
That there he might be seen by all that passed by
I wish all people who will cast an eye;

It is a dismal sight for to behold
Enough to make a heart of stone run cold
So to conclude I hope you will take care
And of all wilful sin, I pray, beware;

Let's serve the Lord with all our might
And he will guard us day and night.”

FUTURE MEETINGS JUNE 12TH - A.G.M. & DINNER – Chris

Obviously if we stick to the usual format this is going to be a bit of a non-event!

DINNER bit first;

We want to make the evening special and support the [King's Head](#) who do a marvellous takeaway service. So if you are local and order your meal from them for June 12th, we will organise the deliveries on that day.

If that doesn't suit, cook yourselves a really good meal, drink some wine and make like we're all together enjoying ourselves.

There's a menu below.

So, onto the AGM: This starts **now** and will conclude on the 12th June.

This requires your input, please, please, please, ring one of the committee or email us so we can move in the direction you want.

AGENDA:

We start with the usual **APOLOGIES**, which you can make by phone, email or letter anytime between now and the 12th June!

And then moving on to the **MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM**

Which are available in full to anyone who wishes to see them and are also summarised here:

That the 2018 minutes were accepted was proposed by Linda Alsop and seconded by Nov Jones.

No matters were arising.

The Chairman's report recounted most of 2018's society activities, confirmed membership as 78 and gave thanks to all those that had helped during the year (naming most of them).

The Treasurers report was issued by Peter; the year's surplus to 31/12/18 being £425.94 and the society assets being a healthy £2903.27

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Quinta Deane, seconded by John Deane and approved by a show of hands.

The Election of a committee did not take place. Toni explained that unless offers of help for the committee were forthcoming by the next scheduled committee meeting (July 11th) the society would run the remaining events for 2019 and then be wound up.

If current members of the committee (continuing on a temporary basis) can find a viable committee then an EGM would be called.

If you are one of the 42 that attended last year please confirm that this is an accurate account (or not). Ring 01825 872830 or email ehdps@hotmail.co.uk – you can do that now while you think about it!

Of the **MATTERS ARISING** from those minutes, the lack of election of a committee and with a minimal committee continuing for this year, the society remains in a critical position.

Linda Butcher has taken on the role of treasurer and sufficient of you stayed on after the Bee talk in September with encouraging offers of help. Lesley Jepps has organised perhaps the best ever array of speakers for this year, and Marion Salmon has, as well as much coordinating with Antony Smith of the Priest House, West Hoathly, agreed to arrange next years (2021) talks. I trust Leycester will be able to continue looking after the website, Jenny will continue walking and I am happy to continue with the newsletter.

That means we still need a Chairman, and we still need a Secretary. Or at very least two new committee members to help coordinate the many willing volunteers, our proposed community interests, and realise the potential of our society's assets.

AGM ACTING CHAIRMANS REPORT:

2019 was a very good year. Starting with Janie Ramsey and ending with Millie, Mog & Gug.

However, with great sadness we lost, two jewels amongst the villages' residents; José Loosemore in February and Jill Ford in December.

With the closure of The Foresters in East Hoathly our AGM had to change with the times. I believe the King's Head served well, (we missed it). The Newhaven RNLI visit was a wonderful trip raising almost £200 for them and David Burrough's fascinating account of the lives of his three aunts of Chiddingfold left us in cheery spirit for the social, Christmas and the year to come.

The Society has engaged well with the communities, supporting Sussex Wildlife and Butterfly Conservation Trusts, the Woodland Trust and promoting Vert Woods Community Woodland, the CPRE and locally, Village Concerns. We worked with the school on their local history project and assisted with the new gate on the Wealdway in the Churchyard commemorating our long serving committee member, and friend, June Tidswell.

Our members contribute to the development of the neighbourhood plan, clear the verges, look after footpaths and much more.

This is all worth "preserving".

So we thank

Toni Whewell, Peter Brooke, Kate Richardson, Sue & Fred Carter, Q & John Deane, Jane Seabrook, Nov & Richard Jones, Linda Alsop, Kate Richardson, Jan Stericker.

Lesley Jepps, Marion & Alan Salmon, Sue & David Burrough, Fiona & David Dobbs, Jill Ford, Maz Beal, Jo & Ray Bishop, Sue Redshaw,

The **AGM TREASURERS REPORT** for 2019 will be available by email or post if requested before the AGM.

The **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE** is essential and requires at least two of you to step forward between now and June 12th.

AOB. The society was threatened with closure at the AGM last year.

Life in 2020 is testing everyone's resilience. It is also confirming our ability to pull together which should make 2021 a brilliant year.

The society has many strengths including an expanding membership but the stark facts remain, without the roles of Chair and Secretary being filled we cannot effectively continue to operate beyond this year.

Life in 2020 is proving to be very different. Though our resilience is being



The King's Head

Takeaway Menu for Preservation
Society AGM

Friday June 12th

01825 840238

1648 beer battered Cod	£5.40
Breaded Scampi Tails	£5.40
Pork Jumbo Sausage	£2.00
Jumbo Sausage Battered	£2.30
Portion of Chips	£2.60
Curry Sauce or Tartar Sauce	£1.00
Portion of Chilli con Carne	£5.50
Portion of Vegetable Curry	£5.50
Portion of Basmati Rice	£2.00
Bangers & Mash, peas Onion gravy	£8.00
Spicy Chicken Wings, Coleslaw & Chips	£8.00
Veggie Med Tart Salad & Chips	£8.00
8oz Burger Brioche Bun & Chips	£8.00
Veggie Burger Brioche Bun & Chips	£8.00
Homemade Cottage Pie & Fresh Veg	£8.00
Piri Piri Chicken Salad & Chips	£8.00
Chicken Curry Basmati Rice & Popadum	£8.00
Beers 1648	£2.90
Harvey's	£3.30
Lager, Cider & Guinness	£3.40
Wine	£12.00

Call & Collect Mon-Sat 5.30-7.30pm

CHIDDINGLY



To the East end of the Churchyard two alter tombs to members of the Hicks family stand side by side.

The day book of Bridgman's Stonemasons (formerly Parsons) of Lewes gives the following information:

December 10th 1842

For the Executor of the late Mrs Hicks.

A Portland Stone Tomb with York Stone Curb to be erected in Chiddingly Churchyard complete: £12-5s-0d

For the fixing the above:

Winhurst 3¼days, H Townsend 3¼days, Labour @ 5/-, lodgings @ 9/6d
17 Iron Cramps, 2½lbs Pitch, 100 Best Bricks, 800 Inferior Bricks,
8lbs of Lead, 12lbs of Sand, 2lb cement.

The Tombs are inscribed:

"Sacred to the memory of Mr. Richard Hicks, who died 17th April, 1837, in the 92 year of his age.

Also to the memory of Mrs. Mary Hicks, wife of Mr. Richard Hicks, who died 28th June, 1796, aged 39 years.

"Sacred to the memory of Frances Hicks, daughter of Richard and Mary Hicks, late of Hilders farm, in this parish, who died 21st July, 1841, aged 48 years.

Also Mary Ann their daughter, who died 10th January, 1842, aged 52 years.

"Sacred to the memory of James Hicks Esq., of Hilders farm, in this parish, who departed this life February 1st, 1850, aged 64 years.

GOLDEN CROSS

For forty five years Golden Cross stores, now Golden Cross Antiques, was run by Marjorie and Donald Willard.

I Remember When

Julian Fellowes lived at Chiddinghurst (Writer of Downton Abbey etc.).

In fact my mum used to live next door to Julian at Shawfield farm and Mary's dad (Donald Willard) used to deliver groceries to Julian's parents, including crates of bananas for the monkey! Oh Happy days - Iain Spence

A post from [Memories of East Sussex](#) Facebook group

WALDRON

The Foxhunt Memorial Hall, now known as the [Lucas Memorial Hall](#) built in 1904 and described as Village Hall and Reading Room.

Reading rooms are interesting; a phenomenon of Victorian philanthropy usually created by men of dignity as a facility to improve those that had not. A meeting place as an alternative to the pub with an opportunity for broadening their minds with newspapers, periodicals and a modest library in a peaceful, attractive and communal setting.

They were seen as a way to tackle domestic abuse apparently caused by labouring classes going home drunk.

They were seen as a way to counter the rise in interest of trade unions; The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers was formed in 1906.

Therefore, generally, the reading material was selected or censored.

No alcohol was permitted.

No women were permitted.

The photo suggests that the Lucas Hall was ahead of its time and its dual use enabled women to benefit from its facilities.

Tuesday, 25 February - Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes and Stool Ball, still well celebrated in the Weald of Sussex.

As long ago as 1619 Pasquil's *Palinodia* describes the rollicking Shrove Tuesday activities:



"It was the day of all days in the year
That unto Bacchus hath its dedication,
It was the day whereon both rich and poor
Are chiefly feasted with the self-same dish,
Where every paunch, till it can hold no more,
Is fritter-filled, as well as heart can wish;
And every man and maid do take their turn,
And toss their pancakes up for fear they burn;
And all the kitchen doth with laughter sound,
To see the pancakes fall upon the ground.

...

When country wenches play with stool and ball,
And run at Barley-break until they fall:
And country lads fall on them, in such sort
That after forty weeks they rue the sport."



JAMES MASTER'S VISITS TO HALLAND

James Master trained in law, and was politically well connected, being the Grandson of Sir Edward Master who was an MP for the Short Government of 1640, survived Pride's Purge during the second civil war, and went on to serve in the Cavalier Parliament until 1679.

After leaving Trinity College, Cambridge, James Master paid visits to various country gentlemen. In 1647 he spent ten days at Sir Thomas Pelham's place, Halland Park, Laughton Sussex.

Sir Thomas Pelham's mother had been Mary Walsingham, the aunt of James Master's step-father, Sir Thomas Walsingham.

For one night, as Sir Thomas Pelham's guest, James was entertained by Mr. Hewett and whilst in the park of Mr Hewett a man was killed by a stag, and so James gave 10 shillings to the widow.

In 1650, for a week or so in August, he was again at Halland, staying with Sir Thomas Pelham, and as usual, he lost money at cards, this time his loss amounted to £6.

While at Halland, his horse, which he had only just bought for £20, fell lame. Consequently he bought a six year old grey mare from Sir Thomas' eldest son John, in exchange for £15 and the lame horse.

James was back for another ten days in October whilst he had two experts view the Yotes Estate at Mereworth near Maidstone on his behalf which he subsequently bought from his stepfather, Sir Thomas Walsingham, for £8000 in November.

Now, living closer, in Kent and contemplating a further visit in 1651 James ordered from his tailor;

A new cloak of Spanish cloth,

A doublet lined with taffeta and adorned with 216 silver buttons,

72 yards of sixpenny ribbon for points,

And 24 yards of fancy ribbon (at 1 shilling a yard) to trim these garments.

Flanders lace, costing £3, made him bands and cuffs;

2 yards of lace (costing 23s.) formed his boot-hose tops;

The making of these lace ornaments cost 8s.

And at the same time he bought a band, cuffs, and boothose tops of plain cambric for more general use.

All these were provided in time for his visit to Sir Thomas Pelham from the 13th to the 27th October. And then during that fortnight, he lost a further £6 at cards.

Another fortnight was spent at Halland during December, which cost him another £7 ls. 6d. Three months later a still more expensive fortnight was spent there in February/March 1652, when £11 15s. was described as "spent" (losses at cards).

Goloshoes (galoshes) are mentioned in January 1654.

Sussex mud has a long established reputation.

He bought them to go over a new pair of Spanish leather shoes.

These, along with new cambric bands and cuffs, 3 pairs of gloves, 3 hats newly dyed, the 5 periwigs, and new "tops" of white serge, were needed in preparation for more trips to Halland from February. However, six months after this, in August, Sir Thomas Pelham died.



James Master rebuilt Yotes Court in 1659, pulling down the previous mansion on the site.

W.I. East Hoathly – Wartime recollections continued**I REMEMBER WHEN**

The next idea to be put in hand was a joint Institute and British Legion effort known as the Comfort Fund. Under this scheme every serving member of the forces who had gone from the village was sent a monthly postal order. The Proceeds from the salvage, from collecting boxes, and from dances and whist drives and socials, organised later for the troops billeted near, went to swell this fund. It ran from May 1940 to December 1945, and during that time over one thousand pounds went out in gifts to our local boys and girls serving. Many letters of thanks came back saying how much these monthly reminders from home were appreciated. One, quoted in the Institute annual report for 1941 came from Tobruk.

“I wonder,” said the writer, “how some of the boys who, during their training, thought it was pretty awful to be stationed three miles from the nearest town, would like to have six months in the desert, three hundred miles from a shop!”



Sussex Yeomanry Egypt 1942

By Martin (Sgt), No 1 Army Film & Photographic Unit - This is photograph E 18683 from the collections of the [Imperial War Museums](https://www.imperialwarmuseum.org/)., Public Domain.

VERT WOODS COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

The first bluebells are appearing, the first butterflies are emerging and the mud gradually drying out.

The new Ottaway Bridge is finished and will soon be surrounded by the Lily-of-the-valley that is now just showing its leaves. The bridge separates what we call the Hippo Pond, because of the shape of a submersed fallen tree that breaks the surface and a bit of imagination, and the larger duck pond. In fact, we are reliably informed that the Hippo pond was actually the result of explosives training by the army in the 1950's.

The damn leaky dam project and the extremely wet winter creates a new habitat (a lot of mud) of which the spread of water mint is evidence. The opening of the glades is already being appreciated by butterflies and colourful wild flowers that for many years have been suppressed.

God willing, we will be visiting the Rowland Wood butterfly reserve and the community woodland as our walk in June.

If not, I suggest that as part of your daily exercise for your well-being, at least once this year, on a bright afternoon you walk to the woods and enjoy nature at its best.

<https://vertwoods.co.uk/>

East Sussex WRAS – Trevor Weeks

Coronavirus Update • March 18, 2020



The WRAS trailer will be used as a transfer station for casualties being delivered to the Casualty Centre.

[East Sussex WRAS](#) is committed to continuing to help our wildlife as much as possible during the current Coronavirus situation. However, along with everyone

else, we are having to cope with the restrictions in order to do our part in keeping our staff, volunteers and the public safe.

Until further notice, members of the public will not be able to enter the Casualty Centre. Please call the rescue line as usual, and if you are able to deliver a casualty this may be helpful but on other occasions not. When you arrive at the centre there are clear instructions to leave the casualty in the trailer outside our reception, and to fill a form in and then press the doorbell. Where staff will then collect the casualty and return your carrier if needed.

Our first aid courses for the next few months have been cancelled as have our Quiz Nights.

Donations are therefore more crucial than ever

For a full list of ways to donate or help please go to the website

Donating online: [ThePaypal Giving Fund](#) is our preferred option as there are no charges for using the service.

Donating by bank transfer: Simply set up a new payment and use our bank Account details below:

Account Name: East Sussex WRAS

Account Number: 02529656

Sort Code: 30-92-86

As the reference please use your supporter ID number or your postcode and your full name, so this appears on our bank statements.

Donating by post: You are more than welcome to post us a donation. Cheques can be made payable to "East Sussex WRAS" and posted to East Sussex WRAS, PO Box 2148, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 9DE.

Donating by phone: A quick and easy way of making a donation is to do so over the phone. Please call our non-emergency line 01825 873003 during office hours and we can process card payments over the phone via our secure CardSave account.

How will your donation help?

£5 is enough to give a single lifesaving injection to an injured small mammal or bird.

£10 is enough to help out on site a Tawny Owl which has flown into a window and is badly concussed.

£25 is enough to x-ray a road casualty Badger with a suspected fracture.

£50 is enough to treat, rehabilitate and release a catted orphaned nestling bird.

£85 is the average cost of attending on site to a rescue with one of WRAS's specialist veterinary ambulances.

£100 is buy a long handled dog grasper to reach injured foxes and badgers.

£130 is enough to rescue and over winter a hedgehog which is too small to hibernate.

Wealden Local Plan - Wealden Planning Services

FAQ

6. Does the council have a Five Year Housing Land Supply?

No, not at the moment. The Council's Five Year Housing Land Supply position as of 1 April 2019 was 3.67 years

The Council had 4,742 dwellings with planning permission as of 1 April 2019. At that time, in order to meet the FYHLS position, the Council would require to have an additional 1,721 (net) dwellings to meet this minimum requirement.

However, to ensure that the Council continues to demonstrate a FYHLS position the Council will seek to meet at least 5.5 years of housing supply against its requirement; an additional 2,367 (net) dwellings.

7. Until a new plan is produced, will this mean unrestricted growth by developers?

No, there will still be restrictions. Developers will still need to go through the planning application process. Applications will be determined using the NPPF and National Guidance, Adopted Local Plans including the Core Strategy, The Affordable Housing Delivery Local Plan, saved policies from the 1998 Local Plan and Adopted Neighbourhood Plans. These plans are on the Council website:

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/Res_PlanningPolicy.aspx

Although the saved policies were drafted in 1998, many of the policies are still relevant and are aligned with the NPPF. In addition, we will still have planning committees who determine approvals or refusals, and also the right for applicants to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate where an application is refused.

8. Will we have acceptable grounds to resist development – won't we just lose all our appeals?

Appeals will be decided on the basis of each individual set of circumstances. The quantum of growth is significant and we are considerably short of a five year housing land supply. The NPPF is clear that permission should be granted unless:

The application of policies in the Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or,

Any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

In practice, this means poorly located, inaccessible sites or those within exposed and protected landscapes are unlikely to take growth at this stage. It might happen as part of a managed incursion but that would happen as part of the new local plan.

Over the last 6-8 months, the appeals record has been outstanding. We have won more appeals in this period than for the entire 18 months prior to this. In many, if not all of these decisions, Inspectors placed limited to no weight on the Submission Local Plan 2019. Yet, appeals were being dismissed. The appeal record speaks for itself – poor sites unsuitable for development can and will be rejected.

Please Note:

Consultation Responses

The council's postal services are currently operating a limited service. All representations to planning applications should be made electronically, either through the council's online application register of applications, or by e-mail to planning@wealden.gov.uk. Consideration of representations made solely in hardcopy cannot be guaranteed at this time.

VILLAGE CONCERNS - Kate Richardson

Yesterday (19th March) we were informed that the Wealden Planning Committee South Meeting for March 26th 2020 has been cancelled due to current concerns about transmission of the Corona Virus.

Wealden are expecting the Government to pass legislation to enable Local Authorities to make decisions in these unusual circumstances. It is then hoped that the Planning Committee Meetings can be reconvened in a new format if necessary.

The only Application, we believe, was due to be on the Agenda for March 26th was the Application: WD/2019/1674/MAO. This was originally for up to 74 houses at the bottom of South Street and has now just been reduced to up to 55.

Village Concerns will be giving more advice on this application shortly. We continue preparing for all the applications in the Parish in these uncertain times.

“We are concerned that any new format for future Wealden Planning Committee meetings adheres to a full and public democratic process. It is essential that members of the Public have an opportunity to speak.

If this cannot be achieved future meetings should be cancelled.”

If you are able to, it would be worth contacting the following people to express this opinion.

MP for Wealden: Nus Ghani

Nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk

Wealden District Councillor: Geoffrey Draper

Cllr.Geoffrey.Draper@wealden.gov.uk

Wealden Head of Planning: Stacey Robins

planning@wealden.gov.uk

Leader of Wealden District Council: Robert Standley

Cllr.bob.standley@wealden.gov.uk

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Butterflies (and moths) are sensitive indicators of the health of our environment. Find out how you can help them.

Butterfly Conservation and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust have joined forces to change the fate of pollinators in crisis. Join us, and Dr Amir Khan, to help save them.

Help Butterfly Conservation and Bumblebee Conservation Trust end the insect crisis.

Their struggle to survive is a serious warning about the environment. Helping nature feel better also helps us feel better.

Save pollinators from the #INSECTEMERGENCY.
Become a nature doctor.

Join Channel 5's Dr Amir Khan.

Helping nature feel better,
also helps us feel better.

Become a nature doctor
make a small change in your
garden and an even bigger
change for your wellbeing.

Get your free plant guide & exclusive gardening tips

Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Butterfly Conservation
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Join Channel 5's Dr Amir Khan's mission to create an Insect A&E in your garden - become a Nature Doctor today.

Making a small change in your garden and an even bigger change for your wellbeing.

You can Download your FREE plant guide and be in with the chance to win a Pollinator Plant Starter Kit (a collection of plug plants worth £75*) by visiting

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/insectae>

THE STINGING NETTLE

The common nettle is a much underestimated plant. Unfortunately its painful sting and ability to spread in the vegetable plot puts people off, but in fact the nettle is far superior in nutritional value and a better source of vitamin C and iron to many of the vegetables that we are growing in its place.

Medicinally

In addition to Culpeper's Complete Herbal which suggests putting the leaves up your nostrils to stop nose bleeds, this plant is beneficial in more ways than we fully understand.

Studies indicate that stinging nettle extract can raise blood antioxidant levels possibly reducing cancer risk.

Using nettle as an anti-inflammatory treatment, could benefit arthritis sufferers.

Stinging nettle may help reduce prostate size and treat symptoms of an enlarged prostate gland in men with BPH.

Stinging nettle is viewed as a promising natural treatment for hay fever.

In several different ways Stinging nettle may help lower blood pressure.

And amazingly this plant contains compounds that may mimic the effects of insulin and help lower blood sugar levels.

None of these potential benefits are denied by medical scientists, just that the studies so far have been too small to be conclusive. More research is needed.

Nettle as a food

If you like your greens, you'll like nettles. With gloved hands pick the top four or five leaves of each plant in early spring, which is when they are at their best. Neutralise the sting by blanching or boiling then treat the nettle as any leaf vegetable.

Use them as you would spinach, for instance, in a sag aloo curry, or simply steep the leaves in boiling water to make an excellent tea.

And then again in the autumn when there is fresh growth after strimming they are excellent for soup.

If you're a gardener

And have that compulsive need to pull up stinging nettles and can't bring yourself to eat them put them in a bucket, top up with water and leave for a week or so (in a well-ventilated area). The result is a rather smelly dark liquid packed with nitrogen compounds that makes a free and most excellent plant food.



See <https://wildernessguide.wordpress.com/2013/05/11/grandpas-nettle-beer/> for instructions on making nettle beer

RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP – John Deane

Dear Fellow Walkers,

This is a plea for your support.

In order to reinforce the witness statements of the two dozen or more local walkers, who have been using the Pine Plantation Path B for twenty years or more, I am asking if you would kindly print off the user evidence statement form <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/11711/user-evidence-statement.doc> and complete same for your own experience of this path.

You can get copies of this form together with a map showing the path from either myself or the Preservation Society c/o Chris Pellett

Path B is the path from the corner of the allotment field that takes you directly to a small bridge crossing into Moat Wood.

SAMPLE ONLY

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Map Author: _____	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">CLAIM NUMBER</td> <td style="width: 50%;">SAMPLE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>REFERENCE PATH</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INITIALS OF WITNESS</td> <td><i>[Signature]</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE</td> <td><i>[Signature]</i></td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: right;"> Scale: 1:3,807 Date: 04/02/2020 </div>	CLAIM NUMBER	SAMPLE	REFERENCE PATH	B	INITIALS OF WITNESS	<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE	<i>[Signature]</i>
CLAIM NUMBER	SAMPLE								
REFERENCE PATH	B								
INITIALS OF WITNESS	<i>[Signature]</i>								
DATE	<i>[Signature]</i>								

Your statement, even if it covers less than twenty years, will only serve to reinforce our claim to have this path officially designated as a Public Right of Way. Please bear in mind that your walking companion may make a separate witness statement.

Please do not be put off by the form as the questions themselves are quickly dealt with. The sample map which we can supply is helpful to ensure that the Path B is clearly identified.

I hope that you will find everything self-explanatory but I will be happy to answer any queries that you may have.

Finally if you are able to think of anyone who is a local walker that might not have already done so, will you please try to persuade them to complete a witness statement as well.

I feel hopeful that, if we all pull together, we have an excellent chance of succeeding in this particular endeavour, which would ensure public access to Moat Wood from the North, in perpetuity.

If you are able to deliver your completed statement to No. 3 Carpenters Croft, that would be much appreciated. Failing that I will arrange to collect them from your home. My home telephone number is 841385.

I hope that you have decided to support this effort to improve the local public footpath network.

My kind regards,

John



PAST WALKS – SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK

Prior to the creation of the Southdowns National Park in 2011 the Seven Sisters Country Park at Cuckmere Haven, bought & created in 1971 by ESCC, was the county's only designated country park amenity.



However that busy path we walked from the lower car park to the beach follows the tracks of a once equally busy industrial light railway installed nearly ninety years ago taking upwards of 700 tons of sand and shingle aggregate a month from the beach until the early 1960's.

This extraction reopened the estuary to as we know it now and how it was in the mid eighteenth century before the meanders were cut off and the river straightened in 1848. Edwardian maps show the estuary totally silted up and the Cuckmere exiting much further to the east, close to Cliff End, the first of the seven sisters.

In Victorian times a ferry operated to take travellers on the coastal path from the coastguard station across the river to the saltings and a 1000 yard rifle range appears on maps from 1900- 1947. This probably dates back to Napoleonic times when between 1804 and 1816 there was a military barracks stationed there, all of which remains is some foundations and a water trough.

During WWII Cuckmere Haven was commandeered by the RAF, land mines were laid and a decoy lighting system installed to make it look like Newhaven and confuse enemy aircraft and draw them away from the port.

Clem Berry, who worked as a Southdown bus driver during WWII, related the first occasion that he witnessed the lighting. Driving east at night up the A259 Exceat Hill. Momentarily thousands of small lights were turned on across the valley. It must have been quite a sight.



Evidence of the railway was all but gone by 1965. A campsite flourished on the lower plane and caravans were sited on the slope of Haven Brow

Long gone are the times when campers and bathers could hitch a lift to the beach in those light railway trucks.

Our walk in January was free from rain but blisteringly cold when walking into the wind. Eleven of us and four dogs chanced the weather and were rewarded, not so much by the beach but by the magically delicious hot chocolate, perfect tea, last of the fresh scones and the beautifully light cake filled with fresh cream that awaited us on our return to the [Farmhouse Tearooms](#).

Oh! And the belted Galloway (liquorice allsort) cattle.



PAST WALK – KINGSTON LEWES

For this one the weather wasn't so kind, after an excellent lunch at [the Juggs](#) by some of us, the decision was made to abort the walk. Driving rain and a 45mph wind was threatening and it hadn't been fun when we tried the walk the day before, so we returned home and sat in front of a log fire drinking tea and eating cake.

Had we done the walk as we did on Saturday, we would have endured a long drag ascending Juggs Road to the top of Castle Hill, occasionally looking back to see the new Ashcombe windmill.



We would then have turned into the Castle Hill SSSI nature reserve and down through Falmer Bottom where, on Saturday, we saw Stonechats and Hares, to the remnants of Norton Farm at Balsdean Bottom.



Balsdean is a lost Sussex village. A post war derelict barn is all that remains of Norton Farm. The ancient farmhouse, cottages, barns and formerly thatched chapel were finally destroyed, along with Sutton Farm, by the military during the Second World War using the buildings as target practice.



Evidence of past human habitation still litters the ploughed fields we walked through, onwards and upwards North Easterly to the ancient Breach Road which skirts the ridge overlooking Kingston. After three hours of walking in wind and rain we already knew that it wasn't one to be repeated with a group on Sunday.

The right decision was made; to eat cake.

PAST WALKS – ASHDOWN FOREST

This walk has been postponed until next year, so a little history instead.

It was Christopher Robin who had the idea of an expedition to discover the North Pole. Nobody was quite sure what it was, including Christopher Robin who told Pooh that it was just a thing you discover.

In Pooh's hands (or paws) it became an 'expotition' and he spread the word. Led by Christopher Robin a long line, including all Rabbit's friends and relations, started out. At the bottom of the valley they came to a stream where Roo fell in. Fortunately Pooh discovered the North Pole and used it to rescue Roo. And, as the world knows, they stuck the pole in the ground and Christopher Robin tied a notice to it:

NorTH PoL E
DICSoVERED By
PooH
PooH FouND IT

Lieutenant Harry Colebourn, originally from England but brought up in Winnipeg, Ontario, bought an orphaned black bear cub for \$20 at White River Ontario, a fairly common thing to do in 1914.

Harry Colebourn, was attached to the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps. He was in charge of the horses on the troop train which was heading for Val Cartier, Quebec and then on to England.

This little bear, named "Winnie" after his home town, became a pet for the soldiers, sleeping under the bed of her master even after they reached the Salisbury Plains in England.

As Winnie got bigger, she loved to climb the centre pole in the soldier's tent and give it a shake. It was becoming a concern that the tent might collapse so she was tethered to a pole outside the tent.



Harry Colebourn, now a Captain, received news that he would soon be shipped to France. Winnie would not be able to accompany him, so he made arrangements to keep her at London Zoo until he returned. Winnie became a favourite attraction at the zoo. People would knock on her door and she would open it and come out. She would allow children to ride on her back and she would eat from their hands. The attendants who cared for her stated that Winnie was completely trustworthy. Other bears were not allowed to have such a close relationship with the visiting public.

Captain Colebourn visited his bear at the Zoo whenever on leave and he recorded his visits in his diary. At the end of the war, as Winnie was so popular with the children, he decided to officially donate Winnie to the Zoo.

This little bear captured the hearts of many visitors, among them A.A. Milne and his son Christopher Robin Milne. They became frequent visitors and it was Christopher who added "Pooh" to Winnie's name. He got the name from his pet swan named Pooh. Christopher had been given a teddy bear on his first birthday in 1921 which he renamed "Winnie-the-Pooh" after the playful Winnie at the London Zoo.

A.A. Milne started to write stories about a loveable bear in his children's books based on that bear in the Zoo. In his first edition in 1926, he mentioned that these stories were about this bear and his son and his son's stuffed animals. We have been told that Christopher Robin had a birthday party at the Zoo that included some of his friends and "Winnie-the-Pooh" as well, since it was held in Winnie's den.

Winnie lived a long, full life in the zoo, occasionally not wanting to take her pills for arthritis, but otherwise very content. She died on May 12, 1934 when she was 20 years old. She was so loved that the London Newspaper ran her obituary. Harry Colebourn was kept up to date on Winnie over the years and was informed about her death by the Zoo Officials.

<http://www.whiteriver.ca/article/welcome-to-white-river-1.asp>

Image By #N10467 - Manitoba Provincial Archives, Public Domain.

WALKS FOR 2020 – Dates for your Diary

Walks 2020 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	
APRIL 26 th CANCELLED	Chiddingly, to East Hoathly and back <i>Meet at the Six Bells</i>
MAY 24 th CANCELLED	Plumpton, up towards Mount Harry <i>Meet at the Half Moon</i>
JUNE 28 th	Rowland Wood Butterfly Reserve <i>Meeting point to be confirmed</i>
JULY 26 th	Ripe <i>Meeting point to be confirmed</i>
AUGUST 23 rd ALL DAY	The Burrell Estate Rewilding Project, Knepp Castle <i>Details to follow</i>
SEPTEMBER 27 th	Seaford Head, Seaford <i>Meeting point to be confirmed</i>
OCTOBER 25 th	Bentley, Halland <i>Meeting point to be confirmed</i>
NOVEMBER 22 nd	Cross in Hand, <i>Meet at The Cross in Hand</i>
DECEMBER 13 th	East Hoathly Street Walk, <i>Meet at the Kings Head</i>

Restrictions are likely to be in place requiring more of our walks to be cancelled. Please check with us before venturing out and of course heed Government guidance.

CHIDDINGLY & EAST HOATHLY Sunday 26th April

Another walk to be postponed

“PRIZE WINNING PUBS”

CHIDDINGLY to EAST HOATHLY and back

Would have started from

THE SIX BELLS



Named 'bargain pub of the year' by a prestigious national publication. The Bells is home to [The Six Bells Folk and Blues Club](#).

With further refreshments available at

THE KING'S HEAD

The Kings Head has a long tradition in receiving awards, most recently: CAMRA North East Sussex, Pub of the year 2019 and Cider pub of the Year 2019.

We now look forward to doing this one next year

MOUNT HARRY from PLUMPTON - Sunday 24rd MAY

View from [Black Cap](#).

Provisionally starting from the Half Moon Plumpton

If the walk looks uncertain nearer the time then call us before venturing out.

We will email the usual list of walkers mid May with an update.

Blackcap really is well worth exploring because it is a perfect example of what the South Downs are all about. Such is the astonishing array of interesting sights and glorious scenery that there is a real temptation to follow your eyes and go off and explore this fascinating countryside in every direction.

Our walk follows the main paths but the odd straying off the way will only make the walk even better. We will go through the gate into the National Trust area of Blackcap and then up the gentle grassed incline to the summit point and enjoy even more of those wonderful allround views. There is a small plaque commemorating the replanting of the treeclump here in 1953.

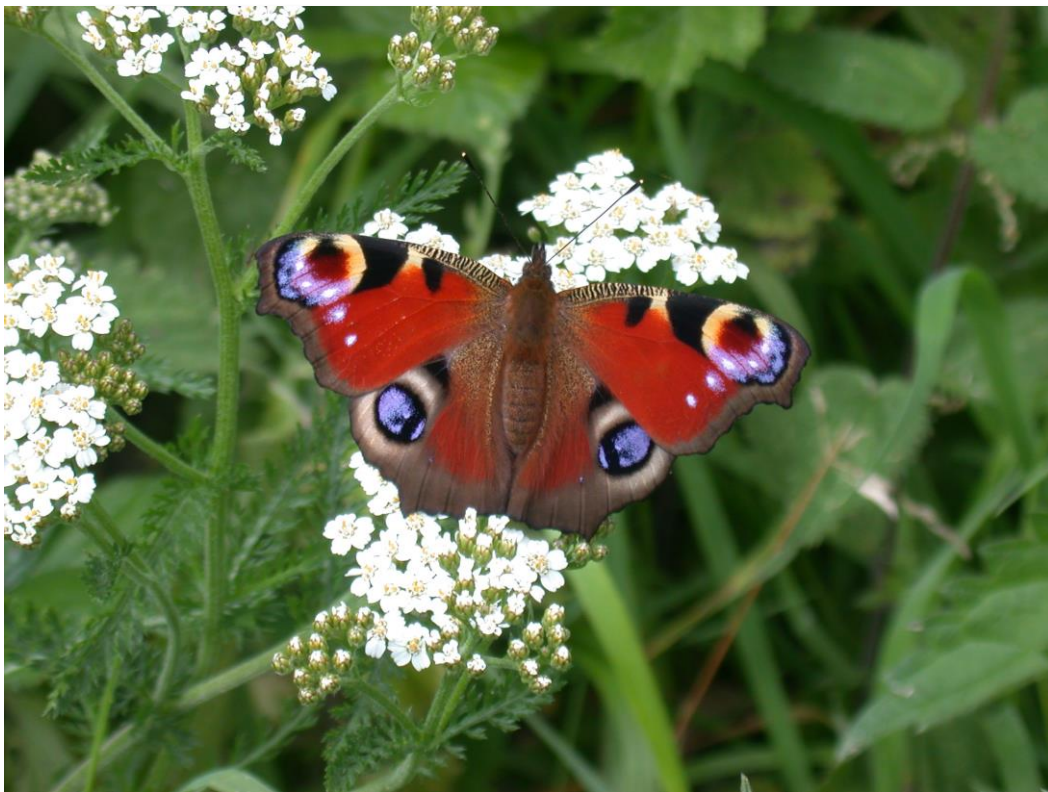
ROWLAND WOOD BUTTERFLY RESERVE– Sunday June 28TH

Provisionally meeting at the small car park in Park Lane

[Rowland Wood](#) at this time last year was abundant with a record number of Ringlets. Almost as many Meadow Browns. Lots of Small Skippers, a few Large Whites, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Painted Ladies and 1 White Admiral. Also a good selection of Dragonflies at the big pond.

If time permits then we will move onto Upper Vert Wood where thoughtful management, careful thinning and much hard work has greatly enhanced the habitat for butterflies such as the hairstreaks.

And Peacocks that seem to be very prolific this year.



East Hoathly Birds – Fred Carter

The Cormorant



Members of the cormorant family are water birds with a difference, because their plumage, surprisingly, is not very waterproof! Only the inner layer of down feathers keeps the skin dry, while the rest of the plumage periodically gets soaked! After a fishing trip, a cormorant must leave the

water and hold its long, somewhat blunt ended wings out to dry like a washing line. The spread wing posture is very caricature of cormorants. There is a point to having unheeded restriction while underwater.

It restricts the bird's buoyancy in the water, making it easier and efficient to move around and below the surface. Cormorants also have less body fat than other birds and bones are unusually dense. Some will ingest stones to keep them underwater! They are masters of speed and manoeuvrability with their streamlined, flattened bodies, long, flexible necks and powerful, webbed toes. They steer with their tail and are propelled by their backward set feet; the wings remain closed and out of the way. Fish are grabbed in the strong bill which is hooked at the tip. Cormorants perch well on rocks, jetties, trees and apparently on power lines!

The birds love a favourite place and spend much time loafing at their favourite place; they are superb flyers, capable of flying hundreds of miles. They are social birds, happy in groups.

The Rook.

On account of its numbers, its gregariousness, and an inclination to co-exist with man, the rook should be the best known of the four black crows which occur in Britain. The failure to differentiate between the two species which are very similar, but distinct in habits of long standing! The proverbial “as the crow flies” probably refers to the flight line of the rooks to their rookeries or winter roosts.

Shakespeare leaves no doubt as to the bird he had in mind when “light thickens, and the crow makes wings to the rookery woods”. Even Tennyson, with his “many wintered crow that leads the clanging rookery home”, seems to have considered the names as permissible alternative.

An outstanding characteristic of the rook is its sociability throughout the year. “The rookery” is probably the most familiar term for colonial breeding, so much so that it has been borrowed for breeding assemblies of other birds. Even more impressive than the busy nesting communities are the winter roosting assemblies, when a central rookery becomes the nightly gathering place for rooks within a radius of six miles!

They gather noisily on tall trees, sometimes accompanied by half as many jackdaws, the same routine as that of starlings is followed, small parties or long straggling streams converge towards the “rookery woods” but are in no hurry to enter. They gather noisily on tall trees at some distance from their destination, and here wait for a full muster, and the rest to converge! Sometimes in thousands, often accompanied by jackdaws. Then, suddenly, as if from a signal, the cawing stops and the whole mass, silent except for the rush of wings, swoops down to assemble on the ground! Here they go through a ritual of walking over the ground, as if in search of food. The final flight into the roost is just as sudden and concerted as the earlier descent!



EDITORS FINAL NOTES – Chris Pellett

I'm leaving this as it was in the last newsletter:

The Society is doing very well.

It is financially sound, has over fifty years of deep roots in the villages it serves, has an extensive archive of knowledge and is rich in potential.

However it needs to keep moving. We have a good group of able volunteers, and the more we have the less each has to commit to, which is good.

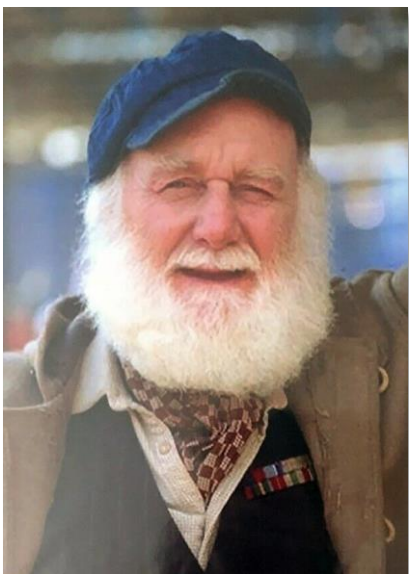
We will always need new members, but what we are lacking most of all is someone better skilled to coordinate it than your current acting chairman.

Please, as well as renewing your subscription which we take as a vote of confidence in the society, consider joining the committee, it's not a hard act to follow!

Chris 01825 872830

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

And finally, please do put pen to paper for the **I Remember When** project, or ask a relative or neighbour to do so if you prefer.

I REMEMBER WHEN - HISTORY PROJECT

During the war....