

# The Society is:

# **Affiliate Member of the CPRE Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust** Supporter of the Sussex Butterfly Conservation Trust Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

#### Committee

**ACTING CHAIRMAN** Chris Pellett **SECRETARY** Marion Beal **TREASURER** Linda Butcher **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Chris Pellett **2021 EVENTS SECRETARY** Marion Salmon Sue Redshaw Community Liaison, Communication and Social Media Secretary

**WEBSITE & IT** MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Levcester Whewell 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

The Preservation Society is described as an amenity society. Having marked time for a year, now is the time to prepare to catch-up.

The newsletter may be late but Marion has already got most of next year's speakers lined up as well as confirming that the remainder of this year's are ready and waiting to inform and entertain us on Friday evenings as scheduled.

Monthly walks are continuing and as larger gatherings become permitted we can confidently do them together with a well-being aspect, including refreshments.

We have the AGM next month with the opportunity for you to join the committee or just take on one of the many projects where, with a little bit of volunteering, we would be able to help preserve or improve the amenities that make us so lucky to live in the communities we do.

There is always history to learn from: This can be promoted through the local schools.

There is always a need to keep our communities clean: Expecting the council to keep our paths and roads litter free is unrealistic.

We are lucky to have so many reserves, relics and charitable organisations locally: Liaising with them is another role for this society.

I'm told by Peter Gillies, of the <u>Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club</u>, that more Bow Bell mileposts are ready for installation. If you would like to physically help (they are heavy) it can be arranged.

If you could be a willing volunteer for these or any other activity that would help the preservation of our communities please let us know and we can point you in the right direction!

Chris ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

# SECRETARY'S REPORT – Maz Beal

The Preservation Society for me this year has been so very interesting. Strange, I hear you say, we haven't done much.

I however have been collating a reference data base for all the past newsletters.

What an enormous source of reference, archive photographs, histories and memorabilia. I didn't think the task would take very long but found myself immersed in reading every word and learning all about the villages, and their developments. Such interesting talks given by diverse, knowledgeable and fascinating characters. I enjoyed all the articles on the native local birds, insects, butterflies and reports from Wildlife Rescue (WRAS). The instigation of Vert Wood and of course all the walks undertaken, as well as the Historical and factual reports. Our Villages are unique and The Preservation Society brings this altogether in an informative and interesting format.

I hope that this year we can all return to enjoying the Walks the Talks the visits and the all-important Social events which I hope to reflect upon soon.

### TREASURER'S REPORT – Linda Butcher

#### 2020 Provisional Accounts – Notes to the accounts

Although we are continuing with Receipt and Payment format, as many of the usual 2020 payments have been deferred the expenditure includes monies owed and where that is the case it is indicated by E for Estimated.

Total Receipts in 2020 were, as expected, down by just over 25% although remarkably subscriptions rose by £30. The loss of raffle and visitor fees has had a significant impact.

Whilst expenditure appears to have dropped by £500 this is misleading because in 2019 we were able to contribute towards the new oak gate on the Wealdway respecting the memory of June Tidswell. If comparison is made to 2018 expenditure has reduced by less than £100.

At the time of writing it looks as if the society made a loss in 2020 of less than £100 which considering the circumstances is not unreasonable.

Looking forward best we can, it is likely that in 2021 we will lose nearer to £200. I am however confident that when meetings resume, with good attendance,

resumption of the raffle and other donations, the society will return to its former sustainable state.

# **EAST HOATHLY and DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY Financial Accounts for the year ended 31/12/2020**

2019	<u>Receipts</u>	2020
816.00	Subscriptions	846.00
171.00	Visitor fees	60.00
660.00	AGM Receipts	=
93.60	Social Receipts	nil
-	Donations	nil
3.27	Bank Interest	2.00E
263.16	Raffles	30.00
2007.03	Total Receipts	936.00E
	<u>Payments</u>	
90.00	Village Hall Hire	60.00E
395.00	Speaker fees & expenses	300.00E
69.39	Social Expenditure	nil
83.95	Printing/Stationery	80.00
-	Postage/Telephone	-
632.00	Donations/Subscriptions	300.00E
212.80	Insurance	200.00E
86.26	Website	100.00E
696.50	A.G.M.	=
2298.90	Payments	980.00E
(291.87)	Excess (+)/Deficit (-)	(48.00)E
	Assets	
627.87	Cash in Hand	
646.60	HSBC Current Account	
1636.95	HSBC Deposit Account	
2911.42	TOTAL	

Regards Linda Butcher, Treasurer

# MEMBERSHIP – Jenny Pellett

The sunshine is glorious, the birds are singing and the bluebells are blooming.....and at long last lockdown restrictions are gradually easing. There is generally a feeling of cautious optimism about and we are anticipating being able to resume talks, walks and events shortly.

Despite the challenges of Covid, our membership currently stands at 61 and we are pleased to welcome new members John Lynch from East Hoathly and Pauline and Mike Tiplady from Horam.

A gentle reminder that if you haven't already renewed your subscription, it's never too late just call me for details 01825 872830.

See you soon, I hope! Jenny.

Membership Secretary

#### I REMEMBER WHEN

At an event in the village hall sometime in the late 1990's - I forget the occasion - food and soft drinks were provided, but if you wanted any kind of alcoholic drink, you had to bring your own.

At this event there were people of all ages, but I remember two in particular. These very respectable, genteel ladies of advancing years, Enid and Margaret, made me smile, when from a wicker shopping basket Enid produced not the expected bottle of wine or sherry, but a couple of cans of probably the best lager in the world, which they both promptly opened and swigged straight from the cans!

Two less likely 'Lager Louts' would be hard to find!

Both these lovely ladies are now long gone, but some may remember Enid driving round the village in her beautiful white soft top Sunbeam Alpine sports car, and Margaret whose driving was a little unpredictable and seemed to use the kerbs as a means of keeping to the road.

# COVER PICTURE – Spring Flowers by Jenny Pellett

# Wildlife Friendly Planting

Throughout the gardens of Britain and beyond a quiet revolution is gaining pace - a move away from immaculate, close cropped lawns to gardens that are mown less, where insects can find shelter and wild flowers get a chance to grow and provide food for butterflies, bees and birds.

Having areas of the garden that are left wild with log piles, leaves and nettles may seem to some a mess, but it is time to re-evaluate what is important - trying to control nature, or working with it for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity. With a bit of planning it can be perfectly feasible to achieve a workable and pleasing balance, and together with wildlife friendly planting, we can all play our part in helping nature thrive at a time when it is seriously under threat from habitat loss and climate change. In short, we need to try in some small way to make amends for the situation man as a whole has made. Individually what we do may seem like a drop in the ocean, but collectively it can make a difference. Researching and planning a more relaxed but equally beautiful garden is an exciting challenge and there is a huge amount of guidance to be found on the internet, in books and magazines. When changes are made, even gradually, the benefits will start to show themselves and it is such a rewarding thrill.

From personal experience, I can definitely say that leaving an area of brambles by a hedge has reaped many benefits. The extra protection afforded by them has lead to a sparrow resurgence in the hedge; A hole in the shed is now well concealed and great tits are nesting well out of sight of predators; We have good numbers of gentle bees and a colourful array of butterflies pollinating the bramble flowers and consequently we get a marvellous crop of blackberries every year - everyone wins.

Particularly good sources of information are the RSPB, Plantlife (a small but amazing charity), the Sx. Wildlife Trust and the RHS.

Another benefit from mowing less - a bit more time to sit down with a cuppa and watch nature do its thing.

I REMEMBER WHEN Each year one Sunday in Spring we would go picking primroses, another daffodils and another bluebells. – Anon!

# WEBINAR REPORT - WILD COAST SUSSEX – Marion Beal

### WILD COAST SUSSEX: A TOUR OF MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES

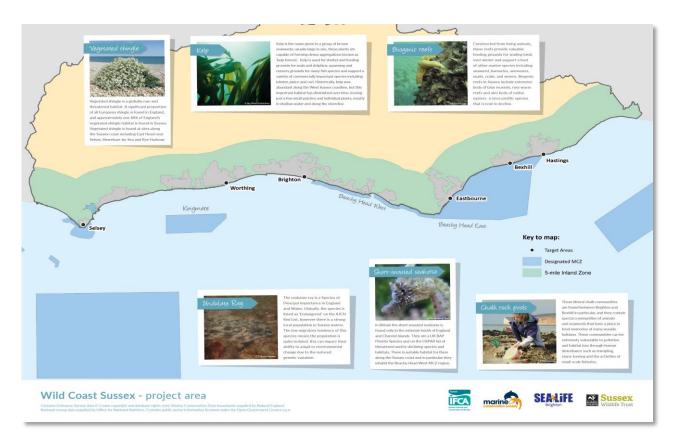
This was a very informative Webinar led by Ella Garrud giving us a tour of the <u>Marine Conservation Zones around our Sussex Coast</u>. There are nine Marine Conservation Zones covering 22% of the Sussex seas. Since 2011, 91 sites have been designated nationally. This is supported by IFCA (Inshore fisheries and Conservation Authority), Marine Conservation Society, Sealife Brighton, and Sussex Wildlife Trust and National Heritage Lottery Grant.



These sites in Sussex have some rare and endangered species that need protecting and recovery. The MPA (Marine Protected Areas) are there protect this to environment from overfishing, exploration for resources and damage to natural habitats. These zones must be large enough, close

enough and numerous enough to allow species and habitats to travel and be representative of the species to be protected.

There are 9 sites stretching from Selsey Bill to Hastings with 3 New MCZ only just designated. I was really interested to learn that Selsey Bill and the Hounds has some amazing limestone and clay outcrops which provide homes for many marine species. Short snouted sea horses, squat lobsters and spider crabs to name a few and bottlenose dolphins have been seen there. Offshore Overfalls is thought to be one of the most species rich areas in the South East and includes blonde rays, flatfish, tope sharks, and sand eels. The biogenic reefs are made by ross-worms protecting juvenile species and smaller creatures. Utopia has one of only two examples of fragile sponge, coral and anemone communities. This site is so named because of





the profusion of tope shark and is thought to be an important pupping ground. We have Kelp forests that need to be protected from over trawling in order for them to recover and provide habitats.

There was an array of

interesting slides showing some really colourful examples of our undersea wildlife with some UV footage of an anemone at night from a rockpool.

I wish I had taken more notes.

### HOW WE ARRIVED AT EAST HOATHLY PARISH – Anon

#### I REMEMBER WHEN

In 1979, we had three children and were living in a bungalow with a small garden. We felt 'cramped'.

The children had chickens that sometimes woke the neighbours or wandered into their gardens. Plus we were renting garages to store our 'over spill'.

The decision was made to move. Houses went on the market and got snapped up within a week. So it shouldn't be too hard to find something a bit bigger with a garden that could accommodate some outbuildings!

It started well, we had a buyer and saw a house we liked. The buyer then withdrew.

Various other offers came and went, so we decided the best plan was to move out and become cash buyers.

February 1982, we finally moved and spent three weeks in Max Millers old flat in Brighton. From there we went to an old cottage in Shoreham.

Working in BH, dropping children off at school in Hassocks and spending weekends house hunting was exhausting.

Every estate agent looked at us and commented that 'everyone wanted the same as you,'and there was nothing on the market in West Sussex.

So we had to rethink and started looking in East Sussex.

We covered many miles house hunting. Finally finding exactly what we wanted at the end of June. Hooray!

We had to move from Shoreham, bought a caravan and moved to the campsite at Bolney.

Then bad news. The house had been for sale for a while, and just as we put in our offer, so did someone else. We had to put a bid in an envelope and give it to the agent.

We won.

Finally we moved ourselves in at the end of August 1982! Still here and not planning to move.

# FUTURE MEETINGS – 2021

TALKS & VISITS 2021				
Fridays 7.30pm at East Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise.				
Usually on the SECOND Friday of the month but not always.				
APRIL 16 <sup>TH</sup>	Janet Pennington; Sussex Chairs. "Discovered" in East Hoathly and made popular by William Morris.			
MAY 14 <sup>TH</sup>	Antony Smith; Witchcraft or Smuggling			
	By the curator of the Priest House West Hoathly			
JUNE 11 <sup>TH</sup>	AGM AND DINNER; Friday night Takeaway from the King's Head			
	Menu and Details elsewhere in the newsletter			
JULY 7 <sup>TH</sup>	Visit to WINGS AVIATION MUSEUM BALCOMBE			
WEDNESDAY 2pm	Personalised Tour and a Grand Day Out!			
AUGUST 22 <sup>ND</sup>	Visit to KNEPP, West Sussex.			
SUNDAY	See the Walk; The Burrell Estate Rewilding Project			
SEPTEMBER 10 <sup>TH</sup>	Bruce Moore; The World's Fastest Steam Powered Car			
OCTOBER 9 <sup>TH</sup>	Ros Black; The Temperance and Hope Movement.			
	Including the story of Sarah Robinson who lived in East Hoathly.			
NOVEMBER 27 <sup>TH</sup>	Social Evening			
	Usual shenanigans			

It is important that those wishing to come on the Wings visit let us know NOW. There shouldn't be a problem with numbers but we need to confirm it with the Wings team ASAP. Email or contact Marion or Jenny 01825 872830.

Knepp details will be in the next newsletter.

# **SUSSEX CHAIRS & CAVES - Chris**

With Janet Pennington's talk again postponed I'm struggling to find fresh information about Sussex Chairs and so, with a poetic introduction by Audrey Haney, I will digress on to Sussex cave dwellers.

Thousands of years ago or maybe more some caveman sat upon a floor
His bum was cold, his back did ache his knees were sore, his bones would shake this way of life it brought despair
Which is why they invented the first chair.

**Audrey Haney** 

The Piltdown man was alleged to date from before cavemen. Found in gravel supposedly carried by a distributary of the Ouse, along with the skull were relics of the elephant, mastodon, hippopotamus, and red deer, besides flint implements anterior to those used by cave dwellers.

Cave dwelling is associated with Neanderthal man, appearing in Sussex, continuously, for just the last 12,000 years.

Perhaps not a dwelling, but the carved passageways at Uckfield's Lake Wood, certain caves at Buxted traditionally ascribed to hermits, a hollow (not quite a cave) on the approach to Waldron reputedly inhabited, and the more famous Parson Darby's Hole at Beachy Head, all contain seating.

And the St Clement's caves of Hastings were rediscovered by a grocer carving a garden seat into the side of the cliff for his boss when he broke through into a vast chamber!

Rock-a-Nore at Hastings is also noted for its caves which were inhabited by the Butler family in 1843, and the caves continued to be occupied intermittently until sealed in the 1960's by the council to prevent their use by 'beatniks'



Not quite beatniks but "The Confederates" playing in the St Clements Caves, Hastings - Summer of 1965 photo from Jinks the Group website <a href="https://pet842.wixsite.com/confeds-to-jinks">https://pet842.wixsite.com/confeds-to-jinks</a>.



Finally again at Hastings, West Hill Villa, an unpretentious looking Grade II Listed Georgian house is built onto vaulted caves, where the old Hastings Pottery was located.

The most extraordinary feature of this house has to be the unique "bathroom in a cave", complete with cave drawings and faces carved into the walls many centuries ago.

It is for sale:

https://www.zoopla.co.uk/forsale/details/58278160/

## PETE THE POND meets TOM HEAP - Chris

You will probably remember Pete the Pond's incredibly enthusiastic visit and talk to the society in 2018.

You may well be aware of his recent predicament where Wealden District



Council Planning and Environmental Services Enforcement Officers ordered him to clear his garden because they believed him to be running a business from home. (He is not).

Fortunately, after 46,000 signatures and messages from the likes of Chris Packham, there has been a favourable outcome and the council backed down, provided he keeps his garden tidy and does not sell the plants he has collected.

If you have a TV that can link to YouTube, I thought the night of the AGM (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June) might be a good time for us to share half an hour watching Pete restore a pond at Barcombe Mills with Tom Heap.

# Pete meets Tom Heap! Part One

In January 2020, Pete met up with Countryfile's Tom Heap at a wildlife pond project in Barcombe Mills, East Sussex. The pond was full of silt and Pete explains how a system of new hazel bank edges will help to keep the pond crystal clear once the silt has been scooped out and packed behind the edges. Tom lends a hand as the bank edges are created and discusses a variety of pond-related topics with Pete over the course of the day and a cup of tea.

# Pete Meets Tom Heap! Part Two

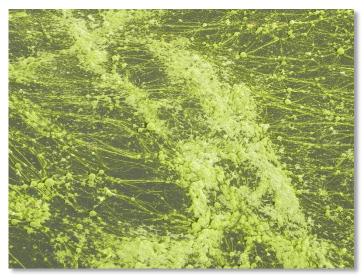
Tom's visit to Pete the Pond continues with a spot of on-the-job training, a spot of banter and a drop of Pete's homemade sloe gin. Along the way, Tom

asks Pete about his love for ponds, whether they're creepy and whether we should be more of a 'pond appreciating' society. Pete explains why we've lost so many ponds and why it's vital to be putting them back into the environment.

Even small ponds can support a wealth of species and collectively, ponds play a key role in supporting freshwater wildlife. They are one of the best ways of bringing more wildlife into an area. Ponds can be very diverse, supporting similar aquatic plants to lakes, and even more large invertebrates than rivers. The best ponds for wildlife have shallow margins with a fringe of vegetation and nearby plant cover for amphibians and insects with terrestrial life stages.

Because they are small, ponds are particularly vulnerable to contamination by pollutants that run-off in rainwater from agricultural land and roads.

Half a million ponds have been lost over the last 100 years and one in five remaining ponds are thought to be in poor condition. Initiatives are underway to try and restore lost ponds and create new ones that are not contaminated by alien plants or run-off.



Algae used to be called "primitive," but a more accurate term is "ancestral" for organisms that have not changed much for billions of years.

Green algae is vital for healthy aquatic ecosystems. As the base for aquatic food chains, it feeds and shelters tiny animals, insects, and young fish.

It intakes animal waste for its nitrogen, expels oxygen and provides food. Timing is everything: some fish attach their eggs to strands of filamentous algae (Cladophora spp.), which has its big "bloom" in early spring before trees gain their leaves and shade forest streams, causing the algae to decline.

### FUTURE MEETINGS - Witchcraft

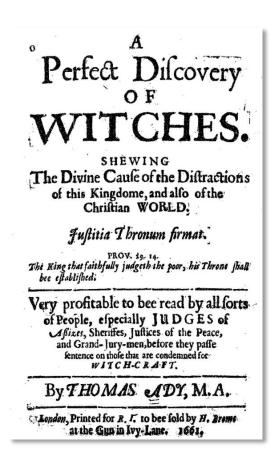
Nothing is set in stone anymore.

Antony Smith, curator at the <u>Priest House</u>, <u>West Hoathly</u> was yet again scheduled to give a talk this May. As that still wasn't possible we are hoping that our walk in July will be able to include a visit to the Priest House where we will be able to see an unusually large number of ritual marks associated with witchcraft and pagan beliefs.

The most common is the apotropaic mark or witch mark, a symbol or pattern scratched into the fabric of a building to keep witches out.

It should not be confused with a witches' mark, which is a mark made by a witch. Or a mark upon the body of a witch made by the devil himself as a permanent representation of the witches' service and obedience to him. While there is plenty of evidence of the devil's work in Sussex e.g. the Devils Dyke, the Devil's race at Halland Park or the legend of St Dunstan at Mayfield, there have been surprisingly few witches tried and convicted in East Sussex.

Things like birthmarks, scars, insensitive patches of skin, moles, skin tags, extra nipples and natural blemishes were all be considered to be witches' marks and, I'm sure, would be as common in our communities as elsewhere.



I can only conclude that the witches within the Sussex Weald were so powerful that during the period of their persecution from 1563 to 1735 they were able to avoid being caught and tested. And so it is likely that, rather than fewer witches as suggested by the court records, the impenetrable Weald has been host to, and may still be, a hotbed of devilment and witchcraft.

Stories from our members would be most welcomed.

# FUTURE MEETINGS JUNE 11TH - A.G.M. & DINNER – Chris

We would like to be a bit more adventurous but for ease of organisation and because it worked, we're doing a re-run of last year's Friday Night Takeaway

### **DINNER**;

Again we are going to support the King's Head in East Hoathly.

The menu is below. For the AGM please order from the Preservation Society NOT the pub.

Place your order with us by the end of May and we will deliver it to you on Friday the 11th June between 6-8pm.

Email is preferred: <a href="mailto:ctpellett@yahoo.co.uk">ctpellett@yahoo.co.uk</a> but telephone is fine: 01825 872830. DO NOT RING THE KINGS HEAD.

Just choose what you want, add up what it costs, let us know, and include your delivery address and telephone number so we can confirm it with an approximate delivery time.

If that doesn't suit, nearly all our local pubs do really good takeaways, please support at least one of them, drink some wine and make like we're all together enjoying ourselves.

So, onto the AGM: The idea is that it is all concluded on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, with a glass of wine. It can't go on beyond that, so the earlier you volunteer your services the better.

#### **2021 AGM**

#### **AGENDA**:

#### **APOLOGIES:**

We have one apology for absence so far, Maz Beal will be away on the 11<sup>th</sup> so has submitted her secretary's report in advance.

Anyone else?

#### **MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM**

We couldn't really take minutes but the gist of it appeared in last summer's newsletter. All emails have been kept so if anyone wants a more detailed breakdown of who said what, it is available.

Forty five members played an active role in the AGM last year, quite a few good ideas came about and a few issues with newsletters and communications were revealed.

If there is anything you would like to suggest to the committee now is the best time to do it. We really would like to hear from you, even if it's only to know that you have seen the newsletter.

Ring 01825 872830 or email <a href="mailto:ehdps@hotmail.co.uk">ehdps@hotmail.co.uk</a> – you can do that now while you think about it!

Of the **MATTERS ARISING** from those minutes, a new committee was formed and just about enabled the society to continue throughout 2020 and this year. However, the society remains in a critical position with the role of Chairman still vacant. I don't mind continuing as acting chairman but it is far from ideal for both the society and myself.

So this is the existing committee who are fortunately willing to stand again: Marion (Maz) Beal has confirmed that she is looking forward to remaining as secretary.

Sue Redshaw is still looking forward to having a defined role.

Linda Butcher has confirmed that she is happy to continue in the role of treasurer.

Marion (Marion) Salmon has confirmed that she can continue to arrange talks for 2022.

Leycester is keeping quiet as he knows he is stuck with looking after the website.

Jenny will continue as membership secretary.

Chris (myself) is happy to continue with the newsletter.

The committee could be extended further and candidates for ANY of the positions would seriously be welcomed.

Offers of practical help with our proposed community activities would be especially welcomed.

#### **AGM ACTING CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

2020 was a bewildering year.

We started off very well with Paul Green and his Detection Dogs and Ann Chance's Petticoat Pilots, but then the virus came along and the world changed.

We have all missed the ordinary aspects of everyday life and now, thanks largely to the vaccination programme, it looks as though something like normal life can gradually be resumed. The committee very much look forward to restarting an active programme of events and seeing members - friends - old and new.

Even without meetings and walks, there has been a lot going on behind the scenes and there are people to thank, particularly:

Marion Salmon for organising and rescheduling talks, and with Alan, also provides the after talk refreshments; Maz Beal for doing the reference database; Lucie Thornycroft for delivering newsletters and Jenny for her invaluable support and newsletter input.

My thanks also to Linda Butcher, Peter Brooke, Leycester Whewell, Sue Redshaw, Sue and Fred Carter, Nov and Richard Jones, Jane Seabrook and anyone who in any way keeps the society going.

The finalised AGM TREASURER'S REPORT for 2020 should be similar to the estimations given earlier in this newsletter and available by email or post if requested before June 11th.

The ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE is your opportunity to get on board help to keep us thriving.

Being Acting Chair and newsletter editor is proving to be a bit more than I can realistically sustain whilst still working - WE NEED YOU!

A.O.B. The society is poised ready for action. Life in 2020 tested everyone's resilience. It also confirmed our ability to pull together, which should make going forward an exciting opportunity for us all.



# The King's Head

Takeaway Menu for Preservation Society AGM

Friday June 12th

# **PLEASE ORDER VIA THE SOCIETY**

1648 beer battered Cod	£5.80	
Breaded Scampi Tails	£5.80	
Pork Jumbo Sausage	£2.00	
Jumbo Sausage Battered	£2.30	
Portion of Chips	£2.70	
Curry Sauce or Tartar Sauce	£1.00	
Portion of Chilli con Carne	£5.90	
Portion of Vegetable Curry	£5.90	
Portion of Basmati Rice	£2.00	
Short Crust Steak, Onion & Guinness Pie		
Chips, Baked Beans or Peas	£8.50	
Short Crust Chicken, Leek & Bacon Pie		
Chips, Baked Beans or Peas	£8.50	
Spicy Chicken Wings, Coleslaw & Chips	£8.00	
Veggie Med Tart Chips & Salad	£8.00	
Asparagus & Goats Cheese Quiche		
Chips & Salad	£8.00	
1/2lb Steak Burger in a Brioche Bun & Chips	£8.50	
Monterrey Jack Cheese	£1.00	
Veggie Burger Brioche Bun & Chips	£8.00	
Piri Piri Chicken Breast Salad & Chips	£8.50	
Whole Breast of Chicken Curry		
Basmati Rice & Popadum	£8.00	
		Prices of drinks shown are not
Beers 1648	£3.50	confirmed and so may change, but not a lot.
Harvey's	£3.50	
Lager, Cider & Guinness	£3.50	Best to have a drink and worry about it later! (An opinion
Wine	£12.00	only, NOT endorsed by the Drink Aware Campaign)
		Dillik Aware campaign)

# WINGS OUTING – Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup>



The picture shows wings volunteers collecting parts from Brooklands museum. Unfortunately they had to leave Concorde behind!

I think most of us men would like this to be an all-day event so some of us will be at the Wings Museum from 10 o' clock when it opens!

It isn't really a museum, it's a hive of activity full of interesting things that just happen to be old and associated with aviation, mainly WW2 and Sussex, the museum having formerly been based at Redhill.

There is no catering on site at the museum but I think we would get away with a picnic in their car park. If you prefer, the nearest pub is the family owned <u>Jolly Tanners</u> at Staplefield.

Because of these uncertain times, anyone for the pub is advised to pre-book direct with them.

The cost of the wings tour is £7 for adults, £6 concessions.

Please Pre-book with us ASAP by contacting either Marion, or Jenny (01825 872830).

We will formally meet at 2pm on July 7<sup>th</sup> and be divided into groups of six. We can have tours of the workshops as well as of the public exhibits for anyone interested.

Let's make this a good one. So hope to see you there.

Wings is situated at: Bucklands Farm, Brantridge Lane, Near Balcombe, West Sussex RH17 6JT

## CHIDDINGLY - Toni



As lockdown is to be eased soon we thought it's time to inject some fun into the village, in a Covid-safe way of course. So let's give our daily walks some purpose and amusement by creating a Scarecrow Trail! The idea is to create your own scarecrow for everyone to see as they walk by your home or business, so have a rummage through your cupboards and see what you can find. Let's fill every possible space with your creations to amuse us all and maybe even win a prize....!

Scarecrows have been used for many years to keep crops safe, they're usually made from old clothes and straw, made to look like a person standing in the field to protect newly sown seeds from birds. But the choice of material, style and format is very much down to the maker so the more humorous the better!

The trail will run from 31st July to 8th August with additional weekend events

Details and timing of these are to be confirmed but will be published in the Chiddingly Parish News and be available from the <u>Chiddingly Community Shop</u>

Chiddingly is known for having fun and coming together to celebrate, so let's make our trail really special.

Further details will follow, including how prizes will be awarded. If you would like to get involved please email me at:

toni.wilkinson@btconnect.com or call 01825 872460. Toni

## SPRINGHAM GROVE - BIODYNAMIC FARMING - Chris

When we think of Community Land Trusts we most likely think of community led affordable housing and what that offers us. A CLT acquires, holds and stewards land and property in trust for community benefit and enterprise.

But we are only part of the community. The community is the land and all that goes on within it. And it is undoubtedly better to work with the community of which we are part, than to spoil the environment in which we live.

Community Land Trusts can go far beyond housing.

In Sussex we have the <u>Biodynamic Community</u> <u>Land Trust farm at Tablehurst</u>, Forest Row which has proven itself and grown over twenty-five years to include Plaw Hatch Farm and Brambletye Fields.

<u>Springham Grove</u>, near Hailsham, is a new Biodynamic Land Trust initiative focused on Regenerative Farming, Re-wilding, and Biodynamic agriculture.

The plan is to create an inspiring, regenerative, biodynamic farm for the mutual benefit of humans and nature that can be replicated elsewhere.

Working with the community to create access to land for health and education.

Biodynamics is a holistic, sustainable form of organic farming which, put simply, seeks to maximise the health and well-being of soil, animals, food and people, sees the farm as a self-maintaining flourishing ecosystem composed of many elements, and recognises the effects of lunar and planetary cycles.



To most it's only the third of these which is contentious. And as many mainstream farming practices are considered contentious, to ignore the clearly sound holistic and sustainable practices because of this would be folly.

Springham Grove have regular open day educational tours, we hope to be able to visit them in the not too distant future

# LAUGHTON REVISITED - Alan Edwards

#### I REMEMBER WHEN

Here are some of my memories of Laughton Place. We didn't have a car so travelled by steam train from Chilworth, near Guildford to Redhill then changed into an electric train from Redhill to Lewes where Enid met us and we had a delicious fish & chips lunch near the railway station, then it was a climb up the hill to the main street where we waited by the Evening Argus office for the Southdown route 16 double decker bus to take us via Ringmer to Laughton Paygate bus stop, then it was a long walk along the lane and farm tracks and across the fields to Laughton Place.



The Decca Navigation transmitter can just be seen on the horizon directly above the left hand wheel track

remember the cottage which my Mum and I stayed in during the 1950's while our friends Rueben and Enid Hard went away on holiday. Enid was a local post lady with a red bicycle and a post bag. Rueben worked for railway and was a Diver (not a driver!)

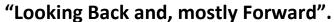
at Newhaven Harbour. I remember that he had a diver's outfit at home with the old fashioned heavy ball shape head covering. He also had a lovely very large model ship on display in the front room. The cottage was the left hand side when looking at it from the front. There was no gas and no electricity, there was a well and a loo in an outbuilding in the back garden. There was an elderly lady a Mrs or (maybe Miss) Lawrence who lived next door, but she was very rarely seen out of doors. Further along on the right was a family by the name of Richter, pronounced Rickter. During the 1950's Laughton Place tower was a ruin and I recall having harmless fun exploring the tower with Rueben and Enid's Son, Robin and going up the stairs to the

top. Sadly I was only a schoolboy in short trousers aged about 10 in those days and I can never remember my Mum having a camera to take photos, the only time that photos were taken was at Weddings or new born babies etc'.

Prior to living at Laughton, Rueben and Enid lived at Longfrey, Chilworth near Guildford, Surrey this is how my Mother became friends with them. Rueben and Enid Hard sadly lost a Daughter, Andrea who died at only a few months of age. Andrea is buried at St. Martha's Church, Chilworth, Surrey.

In later years Rueben and Enid moved away from Laughton Place to Dunsfold in Surrey. Sadly they have now passed away.

# EAST HOATHLY & HALLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN - James Hamilton-Andrews





The genesis for the Community Garden came from my experience of recovery from a mental breakdown and learning to come to terms with a progressive neurological illness. After hospital I recuperated on my brother's farm in Cornwall. My recovery was strongly influenced by the beauty of the countryside and learning what I could achieve within my limitations.

Returning to East Hoathly, with the support of the Parish Council and village community the project was started five years ago.

We work with a broad spectrum of people with mental and physical health issues. Our aim is to support and encourage in a safe welcoming space to help recovery. In the case of physical impairment, we foster a positive philosophy of not looking at what

might have been lost but at what we can do now. Learning new skills to grow and nurture plants can become a focus for hope. This work was recognised by an award from the CLA for our contribution in improving mental health in a rural area.

An important function is providing veg boxes to those struggling households who have to use foodbanks. This gives our participants the knowledge that they are helping other people which is a building block to improving self-esteem and aiding recovery.

Apart from gardening we also have a lot of fun with other activities. Firing up the pizza oven is surely one of the great pleasures we are looking forward to post lockdown. Even the research project we take part in like the three B's are fun to do together. Bird, butterfly and bee counts can get extremely competitive! A few years ago, we planted a small orchard of twenty-three Sussex Heritage varieties of apple trees, and we are learning new skills in pruning and care.

Another event that all our team look forward to is the Show Society Autumn Show. The Show Society very generously pays for our plot rents. Deciding what to grow to put in the show is a hotly debated process with our groups throughout the year. Just watch our clients' smiles when we win "Heaviest Pumpkin" again. Hopefully!

"If you would like to help or would like support please contact us on the numbers below. Visit our website for more information and to donate.

# www.ourcommunitygarden.org.uk

James Hamilton-Andrews 07500 965 530.

Stella Mullane 07751 711306

Julie Gosling 07845 255842

# POSITIVES OF LOCKDOWN - Jenny

No one could possibly deny that the last year has been tough. The challenges have been daunting and bewildering, whether from the perspective of work, loneliness, missing friends and family, schooling, the list goes on.....BUT.....there have been positives too. The enforced disruption to our 'normal' has given rise to the opportunity and need for rethinking and resetting many aspects of our lives.

Just a few of the positives:

The community spirit of neighbours helping each other has been something to treasure. The willingness to help one another was already there, but the Covid crisis has really enhanced it and brought out the best in people.

The environment we are so lucky to share has enabled many of us to take our daily exercise in beautiful surroundings and spend more time appreciating what is around us. When out walking with the dogs, one of the things I have been most aware of has been the lack of background noise from traffic and planes. Birdsong has sounded clearer, louder and purer and at times silence has seemed audible and incredibly precious.

Gardening for so many has been a vital aid to dealing with stress. Spending more time observing the life within the garden has been, for me, a source of joy and learning and I am excited to nurture it and keep finding out more. Stavertons and other garden suppliers have done an amazing job over the last year keeping our gardens and veggie plots flourishing.

Throughout lockdown, who hasn't tried a new hobby or returned to one left behind as our lives changed and got busier over the years?

Jigsaw puzzles! There's been quite a few 'nomadic' puzzles gradually working their way round the village! What a wonderfully therapeutic way of focussing the mind and passing peaceful hours in solitude or companionable quietness.









One positive of lockdown I found slightly surprising until I really thought about it and then understood completely, was that it enabled people in general to not have to do things, see anyone or take on commitments that ordinarily there might have been a perceived obligation to do. For Homebodies or shy people this has perhaps been a welcome consequence of government rulings?

The various Village Stores and Post Offices - what a Godsend they have been and I think we all have appreciated the efforts made in keeping the village well supplied and catered for. Who would have thought the queuing could be enjoyable? Most times waiting in line has turned out to be quite a sociable time, often getting the chance to catch up with a friend or pass the time of day with a stranger, albeit at a distance, masked up and usually with misted up specs!

Lockdown has been a shared experience, but at the same time uniquely personal. Writing down any of these experiences will give an invaluable insight on how we as a community and individuals coped with the pandemic and will be of interest in years to come. The society would welcome yours, anonymously or otherwise, to record for posterity.

# W.I. East Hoathly – Wartime recollections continued

#### I REMEMBER WHEN

The house and grounds of Annan were taken over by the Army and the camp there was soon followed by a camp of over a thousand men at Greywood. Among our own troops, units of the Manchester's, the Queen's, the "Reccy" Battalion and the Royal Regiment of Artillery became our friends. Greywood was a Canadian camp. Units of the second Canadian division were stationed there in August 1942, and many who were dancing in our village hall one evening were over in Dieppe a few hours later. That was a sad week in the village. The loss of so many whom we had known



<u>Canadian Tanks training in Ashdown Forest, Sept. 1942.</u> <u>From a watercolour by Major W.A.Ogilvie, M.B.E.</u>

brought sadness to us all. Later units from the first and third Canadian divisions came among us. The village was crowded and the fortnightly pay day was always a noisy evening! As with the going of the evacuees, the disappearance of the troops after 'D' day left us feeling blank and empty!

Naturally somewhere for all these soldiers to go in the

evenings was a crying need. We had no troop's canteen, but the Hall, which had been earmarked for a civilian rest centre in the case of an evacuation from the coast, was put to full use. Night after night it was crammed for Socials, whist drives, concerts and dances, and the Canadians even taught us the joys of Euchre as a game. Ventilation under black out conditions became such a problem that special ventilators had to be fitted in the roof. Often the crush of five hundred or more in a hall built to seat two hundred left little room to dance. Then, too, from time to time the hall was used as a one night shelter for troops in transit. It may interest future [W.I.] members to know that we started off in 1939 with Institute crockery for a hundred, and with institute members in charge of refreshments we ended the war with eighty of those cups and saucers intact!

# LAUGHTON GREENWOOD – at Upper Vert Wood

#### A Children's Forest

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

The Children's Forest is a partner of the Forest School Association and a movement inspire and enable children plant healthy to forests. An initiative support communities to start Children's Forests in their areas and encourage those with access to land to host these projects.



**Audrey Jarvis** 

Laughton Greenwood is the name of the group that oversee the management of Upper Vert Wood which is in trust as a community woodland. The group is keen to engage with the Children's Forest and already have 1500 trees including 800 oaks to plant. Matched funding is available and so, as money doesn't grow on trees, there is an appeal to raise £4000. This together with £2000 already in would give a working fund of £12,000. This is a marvellous opportunity.

We're imagining that, for all the children who hear of THE CHILDRENS FOREST, this will give them a real sense of ownership and connection. What is there not to love about this?

Imagine a future where life can thrive. Where forests ring to the sound of birds. Where the air and water are clear and clean. Where children play, learn and experience what it is to be part of Nature...

# ...a bright future for the children of all species!

The Children's Forest is planted through a four-step journey of experiencing, imagining, planting and tending a forest. Children are guided through a planting journey by trained facilitators.



**Audrey Jarvis** 

### 1. Experience

Children are given experiences of meaningful connection to nature through Forest School.

# 2. Imagine

Children are supported to engage their imagination and creativity as they envision a positive future through art, story, song and crafts.

#### 3. Plant

As they plant the trees to create their Children's Forest, the children plant their wishes for a bright future for all life.

#### 4. Tend

These trees and the biodiversity they support are tended and care-taken by the children over the years to come, supported by their families and communities.

If you wish to be involved please contact Sue Redshaw via the society

# East Sussex WRAS – Trevor Weeks

Coronavirus: Our Hospital is still taking in casualties, and we are still attending rescues where we can, but we are having to work with a reduced crew. This may at times cause some delays in responding. We have reduced the number of volunteers coming to our hospital to work, and all non-essential roles have been stood down. We, like everyone else, need to reduce the risk of catching and spreading the virus too. Our rescue line is still operating and we will continue to do our best under these difficult and challenging circumstances.

<u>East Sussex WRAS</u> was established as a voluntary group in 1996, but some of its rescuers have been rescuing since 1985. The organisation was set up in order to provide a front-line rescue service for wildlife casualties who unlike their domesticated cousins, do not have owners to help look after them.



WRAS deals with calls from members of the public and other animal welfare organisations like the Swan Sanctuary, Fox Project, Southdowns Badger Group, International Animal Rescue, British Divers Marine Life

Rescue, Sussex Bat Hospital and many others. Our service is free of charge, we DO NOT charge - but the average cost to the charity of responding to and dealing with a call-out is £85, which includes veterinary bills, food, water, electric, bedding, caging, rescue equipment, vehicles and fuel, phone bills and other necessary expenses, so we appreciate any donations to help cover these costs.

Every year between 3-4,000 calls are made to WRAS's rescue line. Our rescuers are all volunteers and are funded by kind donations from people like you.

East Sussex WRAS is working alongside the Animal Careers College to improve animal welfare.

WRAS's 24 Hour Rescue Line: 07815-078234

To donate over the phone and all other enquiries please call: 01825-873003

# RECIPE FROM THE WOODS – Wild Garlic Soup

Remember when foraging please only take what you need.

Wild Garlic is quite common around our villages. It tends to grow in woods, often near or among patches of bluebells. The droopy leaves form a dense ground cover and the scent identifies it, but if you are unsure wait until the flowers appear (although they appear at the end of the growing season).

It is all edible and at all stages of its growth but, unlike domestic garlic, it is the leaves, rather than the bulbs, that are prized.

It's possible to confuse wild garlic with lily-of-the-valley, which looks similar but doesn't smell of garlic and is toxic.

And the three cornered leek is another that some confuse with wild garlic. That too makes a delicious soup but go for one or the other - they are not the same!

For Wild Garlic Soup it's the leaves that are used and can be picked without fear of damage to the plant stock. The plant self-seeds and dies back.

As well as the Wild Garlic you will need onions, potatoes, vegetable stock and double cream.

It's great served with a good chunk of buttered bread.

Ingredients:

25g butter

2 (roughly 275g) medium potatoes, cut into 1cm cubes

1 (about 150g) medium onion, chopped

1 litre vegetable stock

4 big handfuls (about 200g) of wild garlic leaves, chopped (see tip)

100ml double cream

#### Method:

Heat the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat.

When foaming, add the potatoes and onion, then toss until well coated.



Wildwood Days, A Forest School making soup

Season.

Reduce the heat, cover and cook for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are soft.

Add the stock, bring to the boil, then add the wild garlic and cook for 2 minutes until wilted.

Immediately liquidise the soup with a hand-held stick blender, then return to the pan, stir in the cream, taste and season.

Serve hot with crusty bread.

# TEN RULES OF FORAGING

- 1. Be prepared. Unless you have a coat of many pockets, have a back pack for all your foraging essentials - plant guide, secateurs, scissors, first aid kit, rubbish bag, notebook and pencil and basket for your bounty.
- 2. Keep it legal. No foraging on private land without permission. Woodland Trust sites generally allow foraging for personal use only, but on some sites it is completely forbidden for reasons of conservation, the protection of habitats or where there have been issues of over picking. Check online or see specific site signage.

Remember - all wild plants are protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act of 1981 and it is illegal to dig up or remove a plant without the permission of the landowner or occupier.

- 3. Know your environment. Never forage from rare or endangered species and only collect from where you know there is an abundance. Some species are specifically protected by law, so must not be foraged. If you are unsure, always leave it alone.
- 4. Have a plan and stick to it. Decide what you are going to look for and where to look for it. If you find something else of interest take photos and make notes for future reference.
- 5. Keep it clean. Only forage from areas away from traffic pollution. Always try to find areas that are clean or only lightly travelled by humans and animals.
- 6. Positive I.D. Only pick when you are certain you have accurately identified the plant or fungi. This is crucial. Always use at least three points of identification your life could depend on it. Fungi can be particularly hard to accurately identify. If you are the least bit uncertain, leave it where it is.
- 7. Be restrained. Only pick what you really need and don't get carried away. Only pick from an area where there is a good population and always pick from more than one patch. Restrained foraging will ensure enough food is left for wildlife to feed on and for fungi and plants to reproduce. Fungi should only be picked after their caps have opened as they should have already dropped their spores.
- 8. Keep to paths. As far as possible, stay on footpaths and avoid trampling and damaging areas where you are collecting. Only pick leaves and berries. Never dig up roots. Always respect the needs of wildlife and do not disturb nests etc.
- 9. Take your rubbish home and any that others may have left behind litter fairies do not exist!
- 10. Have fun!

# WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN - Wealden Planning Services

Posted on Social Media by Kevin Benton.

Via an FOI request dialogue between a WDC planning officer and Highways that makes interesting reading:

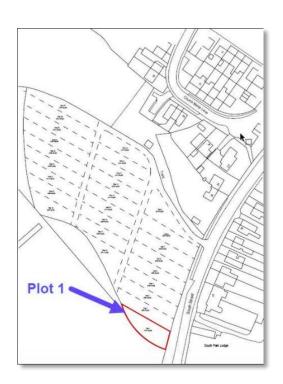
In response to a consultation request the retort was "High mate, which way do you want this to go"?

Then transcribed from a video clip of Wealden Planning Committee South! Councillor Bob Bowdler asks:

"Can I be really radical and say that, why are we here then if every time we come to this meeting we have to arbitrarily act to support whatever the officers recommendation is, we cant do anything else, so we are we wasting our time being here?"

The reply from the chair, Councillor Susan Stedman

"Well that's a very good question there is no answer to that the answer is there is no answer. Does anyone have an answer to that? not at 4 O' clock".



With bizarre plans such as twenty seven development plots in Moat Wood, East Hoathly, being bandied about it worryingly clear that the current Wealden Planning is considered Department ineffective.

Our MP Nus Ghani puts the ball firmly in to WDC's court. Neighbouring MP's Maria Caulfield and Caroline Ansell seem more openly concerned.

Bad decisions are being made because of the strategy of WDC. but at least this is now being recognised by the higher authorities. Waiting for a new Local Plan to be approved

is not the answer. A policy change is needed now and that could happen if the various MP's sang from the same hymn sheet with an holistic approach and determination.

#### VILLAGE CONCERNS - SWOT - WASP

There is a continual onslaught by developers to be challenged: Village concerns and other pressure groups put in a sterling effort and need our support.

#### Village Concerns report:

The two new four bedroom homes for the top of Buttsfield Lane, East Hoathly, the client being Hesmonds, were approved 6-5 by Planning Committee South on Thursday, March 25th.

The homes will be for the open market.

However, this is conditional upon East Sussex County Council providing a licence for vehicular access for the new owners of the homes as currently the Lane at this point is a public footpath. This means that there is no road access to these properties. This is not a guarantee.

Village Concerns has now asked for Tree Preservation Orders on the avenue of Lime Trees on the perpendicular Lane at the top. These are mature and gorgeous trees which deserve protection. Wealden regularly say they cannot put TPOs on trees until planning approval, so now is their chance. We emailed them on Friday – no acknowledgment of the email, yet. If you would like to add your voice to this (and for the Oak tree on the corner of the footpath and the perpendicular lane) please email either or both: planning@wealden.gov.uk or ralph.forder@wealden.gov.uk quoting the planning application number: WD/2020/1472/F

We feel very strongly that architects, planners, builders can work with nature, not against it.

Thank you again for all your support and for your help in keeping this village the cohesive, safe, friendly, genuine and incredible community that it is.

## **SWOT** - Save Wealden from Overdevelopment Team reviews:

Wealden District Council Local Plan recommendations, and their facebook page is the place to find information to corroborate or challenge the findings, so as to ensure sustainable housing development is upheld across Wealden without undue overdevelopment.

<u>WASP</u> is an Alliance of Planning and Green space interest groups dedicated to protecting and enhancing green spaces in Wealden by challenging both local and national policy makers on planning and policy adversely affecting quality of life in Wealden

#### BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Posted the <u>South Downs National Park</u> Facebook page:

Have you heard the one about the yellow meadow ant, Adonis blue butterfly, sheep and a plant called Horseshoe vetch? They have quite the relationship.

Without sheep, ants would have a really difficult time surviving. Colonies rely on the sun being able to permeate and warm up the nest. Who better to keep long grasses at bay than sheep?

By keeping the long grasses at bay, this gives smaller wildflowers a chance, such as the Horseshoe vetch.



Horseshoe Vetch - Andy Horton

Now, the Horseshoe vetch is a favourite of one of our iconic species. You see, the Adonis blue butterfly cannot get enough of its sweet nectar.

Now, this is where things get really interesting as the ants and the Adonis blue have an almost

symbiotic relationship. The ants love feasting on a honey-like substance produced by the pupae of the Adonis blue.

In return, the ants will go out of their way to protect the developing butterfly. They will guard it from parasites and even bury it overnight to keep it snug, warm and protected.

And what about people? Well, without someone carefully managing the grazing and taking care of the sheep, this entire ecosystem would just disappear.

This vast, hidden network is nature in action.

#### THE DANDELION - Jenny

For countless years the Dandelion, also colloquially known as Blowball, Cankerwort, Swine's Snout and (forgive me for this one) Piss in the Bed, due to its diuretic qualities, has been commonly and effectively used in herbal medicine. Sadly, in more recent times, with our reliance on 'proper medicine', our fixation with perfectly manicured lawns and parks, and the indiscriminate mowing of verges, it has become widely regarded as nothing more than a nuisance weed, to be dug up or exterminated with toxic chemicals.



Fortunately, it's huge benefits to wildlife and humans alike are seeing of resurgence а recognition and it is a joy to behold swathes of their vibrant vellow blooms. Not only do the flowers provide a vital early food source for bees other and pollinators, but the

whole of the plant can be used in various ways to treat a multitude of common ailments in humans and animals.

As with all herbalism, expert knowledgeable advice should be sought before use, but the humble Dandelion can be used, for example, as a lymph tonic, a blood cleanser, for the treatment of deep seated chronic infections and viruses, to ease arthritis and rheumatism, to aid the relief of constipation and cystitis and if you are stung by a bee, the juice from a split stem can be rubbed in to relieve the pain.

I've yet to try them, but the leaves are said to be good in salads. However, I can confirm that the blooms do indeed make a delicious country wine.

With so many diverse uses, what's not to love about Dandelions?

#### LITTER HEROES – Keep Britain Tidy Group

The Great British Spring Clean - 28 May to 13 June 2021

Our outdoor spaces have proved more important than ever before during this past year, so this year The Keep Britain Tidy group are aiming to collectively achieve a million miles of litter-picking with The Great British Spring Clean.

The huge strides we need, to create the clean parks, beaches and streets we all want to see, will be made up of small individual steps. We want to empower everyone so they can collect litter in their area.

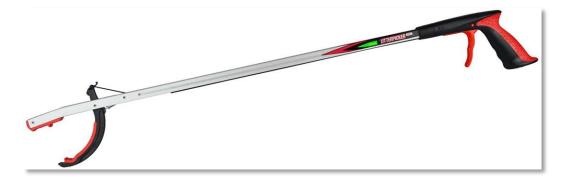
#LitterHeroes is our way of supporting everyone who wants to do their bit to create a better environment on their doorstep and anyone who is already making a difference.

If it fits, you can place the litter you've picked straight into your own outdoor bins at home. If you do plan to collect a large amount of litter, speak to your local authority ahead of your activity to get advice about what to do with it.

If possible, please separate the litter you find into three bags so as much as possible can be recycled:

- 1. Plastic bottles
- 2. Aluminium cans
- 3. General waste.

The litter picker of choice is this one: The Litter Picker Pro



For inspiration and local opportunities to help check out <u>One Bloke with a Litter</u> <u>Picker</u> on Facebook

# **FAIRY HOTELS**

Whether built by fairies or not, these structures, often known as false houses or stack centres, follow an ancient tradition by woodsmen and serve a useful purpose for woodland management with coppicing/pollarding in particular.

The natural heat of the drying branches draws air in through the low opening seen on the larger stacks such as this one allowing them to breath, dry and not rot.

The timber remains useful, in days of old for bodgers and perhaps more importantly these days, as an important safe breeding habitat for moths and other insects which will over winter there.

The species and biodiversity they support is a serious contribution to the overall welfare of the woodland.

They probably have other uses too, as Robert Burns wrote:

"He grippet Nellie hard and fast,
Loud skerl'd a' the lasses,
But her tap-pickle maist was lost,
When kiuttlin' in the fause-house."



#### PAST WALKS – Uckfield

This one was cancelled but please let us know if you have walked in the West Park nature reserve recently.



West Park and Hempstead Meadow Local Nature Reserves in Uckfield have a supporters' group.

Mike Skinner asked;

West Park Nature Reserve looking lovely this year but where is the Wild Garlic this year?

#### Answer:

It's mostly in View Woods. When it comes out the perfume is outstanding.

The key objectives of the supporters group is to:

Raise and maintain public awareness and involvement with Uckfield Town Council's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs);

Develop and implement a range of activities to involve local residents, especially those surrounding the LNRs, and local organisations e.g. schools; Work with the Ranger to support their work activities and involve their support and participation in the programme of activities planned;

Hold events for the public and all interested organisations to encourage use of the nature reserve for education, research purposes and community participation with nature;

Promoting the nature reserve to the public with events such as; open days, nature trails, seminars etc. and

Any person with an interest in the nature reserves is eligible for membership.

#### PAST WALKS - CHIDDINGLY – Rob & Verne

## **February**

We have been suggesting that whilst there are restrictions on social gatherings you may wish to explore the various walks at times that suit you (and the weather).

Rob and Verne heeded this advice and have reported back:

"We thought of you guys today as we did the Chiddingly walk in today's fabulous weather. Very nice and certainly a different aspect of Chidd that we have never seen before. The path through the woods half way round is very muddy in places, but slowly drying out. And we think this would be a great walk during bluebell season as there were lots all around.

We were also really lucky to see the East Hoathly Barn owl on our way back, a real treat.



Stunning photography of the Chiddingly Barn Owl courtesy of Roy Broad. More of his photographs can be seen here:

http://www.hailshamphotographicsociety.co.uk/roy-broad.html

#### PAST WALKS – ASHDOWN FOREST - Chris

March 28th.

Four of us did this walk at the prescribed time; just two households socially distancing. Hopefully others amongst you will take, or will have taken the opportunity to enjoy this published walk at your own leisure.

Armed with the purchased guide to the walk we were able to recognise the various features described and understand a little more about the activities, past and present, by man and by beast, that have made this not only an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but a Site of Special Scientific Interest as well.

An AONB is exactly what it says it is: a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.

Surprisingly there are only 36 AONBs in England representing 18% of the finest Countryside.

<u>Ashdown Forest</u> was first officially recognised as a triple S I in 1953 because of the several species of uncommon plants, a rich invertebrate fauna, and the important populations of heath and woodland birds it supports.

In addition in 1996 the forest was given European Special Protection Area status because of its breeding sites for Dartford Warblers and Nightjars and in 2005 designated a Special Area of Conservation because it has one of the largest single continuous blocks of lowland heath in south-east England.

The site supports important assemblages of beetles, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies, including the nationally rare silver-studded blue Plebejus argus.



Of course we saw none of these. But Jenny & I did stop at the Millbrook car park on the way back, sit down to take in the view across to Nutley windmill, and enjoy our first 99 ice-cream cornets for over eighteen months!

# PAST WALKS – CROSS IN HAND – Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> - Jenny



With the easing of restrictions we were delighted to have eight walkers join us on an afternoon walk where we were able to catch up and enjoy much needed good weather.

The walk itself has been described in the previous newsletter, but on this occasion, after the limitations we have all negotiated our

way through over the last year, it was particularly good to enjoy each other's company, stop at the lake and share cake and a cheeky gin and tonic. (It should have been tea, but I ran out of time to get organised and the gin was to hand!)

#### MOUNT HARRY from PLUMPTON - Sunday 23rd MAY

Very nearly a past walk, but if you are quick: Travelling on the B2116 Cooksbridge to Ditchling road, we will be meeting at the small layby opposite the bridleway just after the Allington Lane turning.

It is just 1.1 miles along the B2116, if you reach the Half Moon you have gone exactly twice as far as you needed to! (the joys of modern mapping apps!). There are other parking spots nearby should the layby be full.

Our walk follows the main incline up the hill but it really isn't as steep as you may fear. Great habitat for blue butterflies just don't ask me which ones. 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. This is an ideal spot to stop for drink and cake.

We walked this one last June (see <u>Summer 2020 newsletter</u>) if it's half as good this time it'll still be worth it.

# WELL-BEING WALKS FOR 2021 - Dates for your Diary

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

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

Feel free to ring Jenny or myself on 01825 872830 about any of the walks, even if you don't want to do the walk at the same time as us.

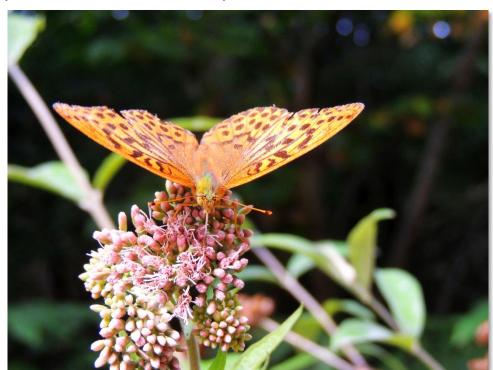
# ROWLAND WOOD BUTTERFLY RESERVE— Sunday June 27<sup>TH</sup>

Provisionally meeting at the small car park in Park Lane, 2pm.

A great deal of work, all for the benefit of the butterflies, has been done by a small party of <u>Sussex Butterfly Conservation</u> volunteers during lockdown.

The sightings will always vary year to year but we should be visiting when the Large Skipper, Painted Lady, Ringlet and Marbled White are at their best.

The locally famous Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary season should have finished. The Dingy Skipper & Small Heath sightings are likely to have peaked but Peacock, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Common Blue and



Meadow Brown will still be around.

I won't go on as 34 species were recorded in 2019, including the unexpected Chalk Hill Blue, Long-tailed Blue and a Large Tortoiseshell.

# EAST HOATHLY BIRDS – THE BULLFINCH - Jenny

The Bullfinch is somewhat dumpy in appearance and has a short stout beak. The male is brightly coloured and unmistakable, having a striking pinky red breast and cheeks, grey back, black cap and tail and a white rump. The female has similar markings, but the colours are far more muted.

They are present all year, but their rather shy nature means they can be tricky to spot. They are mainly found in woodlands, orchards and hedgerows, with the best chance of spotting them at the edge of woodland,

where they feed with great gusto on buds in springtime. In the past when they were more numerous, they were considered a pest to fruit crops and were persecuted.

Although fairly common, in recent decades their population has again been

declining, probably due to loss of habitat and they are now on the conservation 'Red List'.

Over recent years, we have been thrilled when in late January, just as the buds on a very old fruit tree in our garden are starting to appear, Mr and Mrs Bullfinch arrive for just a couple of days, enthusiastically eat their fill, and then disappear to who knows where.



#### EDITORS FINAL NOTES - Chris Pellett

# ZOOOOOM!!! My arse

Thanks to the many contributors and all those who have given permission to use their images. I apologise to the one or two that I've probably missed. The newsletter is packed! Please enjoy and do use the hyperlinks to read more.

My thanks to the many members and supporters of the society, I do hope you will at least have a takeaway for us to deliver for the AGM on June 11<sup>th</sup> If you haven't renewed your membership this year yet, it's never too late! Hope to see you soon.

Chris 01825 872830 ehdps@hotmail.co.uk