

East Hoathly & District Preservation Society



Summertime 2018

The Society is:
Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex
Affiliate Member of the CPRE
Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust
Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

Committee

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

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

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

Website address:

www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk

Email:

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

JUNE – Vic Tidswell

June moved to East Hoathly in 1987. She had a full time job and was involved in the new home and garden in her spare time.

In 1988 Susan Gold was asking for support to restart the Preservation Society which had ceased to function from the lack of officers. She managed to form a committee and as June had little time Vic agreed to act as secretary with June's support until she retired from her day job in 1989 when she and Vic became joint secretaries.



14 June 1929 - 16 May 2018

When Susan Gold became president of the preservation society June took over as secretary and Vic became treasurer.

June was excellent as secretary and she also took on the duties of Susan Gold, which were to organise the monthly speaker and occasional outings. She also organised the monthly walks that Chris and Jenny now do so well.

During her time as secretary she increased the Society's membership and it became the successful organisation it is today. One of the main events she organised was to record the history of the village by getting older members to share their memories of village life.

June was quite stubborn when it came to getting her own way especially on historic matters. "Sellens" the lovely old cottage opposite the now defunct Foresters owes its life to June. She nagged and nagged Wealden to do something about Sellens as it was neglected and becoming a wreck.

June was successful in getting Wealden to force the owner to put the house up for sale.

June retired as secretary in 2015.

As well as her committee work June will be remembered for her lovely flower arrangements in the church and her floral arrangements at the Show Society. She also helped provide lunches at the Age Concern Pop-Ins.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Toni

Hello members,

In April, Richard Howes' enthusiasm and knowledge about the Argos Hill Windmill was indeed infectious and 20 plus members signed up to visit on the 12th August at 2pm. A donation of £3 (£4 for our guests) will be given to the Windmill Trust. A pre ordered lunch has been booked at 12.15 at the Rose and Crown, Mayfield and the opportunity to purchase further sustenance of tea ^{Toni} and homemade cakes! This should be a very yummy affair.



In May, Chris & Jan Wilkins stepped in at the last minute to tell their story of the development of the Hollow Lane Vineyard at Blackboys. The unexpected wine tasting was an added bonus. The evening ended with Chris, Jan and daughter Claire feeling delighted with the success of their first presentation evening. We certainly wish them well as they did us proud! A lucky member even won a bottle in the raffle at the AGM!

31 members attended a very enjoyable and lively June AGM. It was also a sad time too, with the recent loss of June Tidswell who, along with Vic, did so much for the Preservation Society over the years. Her kindness, energy and spirit will be certainly missed. Members were informed there will be a memorial service at 3.30pm on Mon 11th June at East Hoathly church.

Another popular outing is to the Harvey's Brewery, Lewes not surprisingly we were quickly oversubscribed. So we have given our members priority! We shall however be holding a reserve list to offer places to both non-members who have expressed an interest to date and any further interest from members. The Harvey's Brewery Tour is on the 26th July 2018. Starting at 6.30pm and finishing at 8.45. Harvey's is an old brewery and therefore does not have lifts; there are a numbers of steep steps to negotiate during the tour. The John Harvey Tavern is opposite the brewery and is open all day and is therefore a natural gathering point for groups on their arrival. As well as serving a range of Harvey's draught beers and alcoholic beverages,

tea, coffee, and hot chocolate are also obtainable. Please ensure that you are in the brewery yard for the 6.30 start. The cost will be £2.50 for members and £3.50 for our guests.

I am writing this just after the most amazing walk around Jevington. Fab weather and amazing 360 degree views. Wild flowers in great abundance. The cutest lambs snuggling up to their mums. Skylarks and buzzards glided effortlessly overhead. Wow, Wow and Wow. Along with foot stomping live music by Crystal Clear a Country and Western band in the gardens of the Eight Bells, along with an “obligatory” accompanying drink or two afterwards. What a brilliant afternoon, a huge thank you to Chris and Jenny for once again organising such a treat and to Sue, who suggested the walk.

Just in case our paths don't cross between now and 14th September talk here's a note about our next talk. Ben Cross is a 4th generation flower grower from Crosslands Flower Nursery in West Sussex. He will be talking about his British Alstroemeria from growing to maintaining them. With 90% of cut flowers in the UK being imported he will also talk about the greater need to support British Flower Growers. You will also be able to buy some really fab blooms! I have already ordered 4 bunches!!

Do let me know if you want to come on either outing as their maybe a place or two free by ringing 01825 872460

or email toni.wilkinson@btconnect.com

Enjoy the summer!

Best wishes

Toni

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Brooke

The 2017 accounts were finalised and circulated at the AGM. No surprises and the society stands in good shape for the year to come. We are now half way through 2018 and income and expenditure are as predicted. Toni's raffles tip the balance towards profit and enable us to keep subscriptions as they are for yet another year.

2016	<u>Income</u>	2017
£		£
752.00	Subscriptions	980.00
138.00	Visitor fees & refreshments	253.00
619.00	AGM receipts	512.00
451.00	Social receipts	446.71
15.00	Donations	30.00
0.38	Bank interest	0.24
224.00	Extraordinary item	
2199.38	Total Income	2221.95
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
455.50	VH hire & speaker fees (see * below)	345.10
561.00	AGM expenditure	457.00
175.91	Social expenditure	182.38
45.75	Printing/stationery	23.00
13.50	Postage & telephone	
138.00	Donations/subscriptions	341.00
197.10	Insurance	181.50
110.40	Web site	96.00
1697.16	Total Expenditure	1625.98
502.22	Excess(+)/Deficit (-)	595.97



Peter

2016	<u>Liabilities</u>	2017
£		£
1378.14	Balance Accumulated Fund b/f	1880.36
502.22	Excess Income over Expenditure	595.97
1880.36	Closing balance 31/12	2476.33
	<u>Assets</u>	
184.33	Cash in hand	384.06
1063.89	HSBC Current account	1459.89
632.14	HSBC Deposit account	632.38
1880.36	Total assets 31/12	2476.33

* VH Hall fees inc. est. £82.50 for Sep, Oct, Nov - no invoice received as at 12/2/18 so Have been be paid in 2018

MEMBERSHIP – Jenny Pellett

I am very pleased to report that, despite being over half way through the year, with just a little prompting, some slightly lapsed members have renewed their subscriptions. Our numbers now total 84, and we also extend a warm welcome to new member, David Jenkins.

Every member is important to the society and it is only with ongoing support that we can continue to thrive. So, on behalf of the committee, thank you to all members. Jenny.

*Jenny*

Subscriptions can be paid by telephone or internet banking as well as the old fashioned ways of cash or cheque.

Jenny Pellett Membership Secretary

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

PAST MEETINGS – Hollow Lane Vineyard

Planned: Pinot to Phytuema: the story of the Rathfinny Wine Estate at Alfriston.

Actual: The story of the Hollow Lane Vineyard at Blackboys.

Fri 11th May 2018



Leyester

Talks are generally arranged a year in advance, so when on the 3rd May we got an email to say that Richard James would be at a meeting in London and therefore not be present for the talk, we were in a bit of a pickle. Desperate to find an alternative and avoid having to cancel the meeting, Toni rang around every vineyard in the vicinity that she knew of, albeit without success given the short notice. It was therefore fortunate that when talking to Jenny about the predicament that she mentioned that Chris had bought her a nice bottle of wine from the [Hollow Lane Vineyard](#) for Valentine's Day. Toni rang them to find out that they were available that evening and that there was just enough time to assemble their first ever public presentation.

Therefore on the night we were more than delighted to welcome Chris & Jan Wilkins and their daughter Claire to the hall. Chris and Jan took it in turns to relate how they had moved down from Yorkshire some 25 years ago and ended up studying a wine making course at Plumpton College in 2004. In 2010 they bought land some that hadn't been worked for 30 years at the Bushmere Stud between Blackboys and East Hoathly. The following year some 2400 Pinot Noir, Chardonnay & Pinot Meunier vines were planted by hand, with 3000 more in 2013. That would generate capacity to produce 10000 bottles annually. That year they also went back to Plumpton to study more about vineyards & winemaking. The strategy behind the business is to complement their equestrian interests, although it could be said that both are competing for the same land.



Sparkling Wine

It turns out that there's never a dull moment during the year when running a vineyard, beginning with pruning in February (before sap rises), through ground treatment in March, bud burst in the latter part of April and so on until harvest in October. The jobs seem to expand to utilise all the manpower resources available, making it a dedicated labour of love. Quite a lot of equipment is required for the winemaking process too, which is always a hurdle for anyone developing such a business. The goal at Hollow Lane has also been to be as self-sufficient as possible, with solar panels being installed in an off-grid system to make them independent of the public supply.

Conventional wines can be produced in a single season but sparkling wines take two. After the initial 6-8 month fermentation in their 350 & 700L tanks the wines are bottled with crown corks and then laid to rest on their side for a 9 month secondary fermentation. Riddling racks are then used to gradually twist and turn the bottles to an angle of 80°, then the necks are frozen so that the sediment can be disgorged before the final top-up and corking.

After the talk and question and answer session there was a chance to try and buy the various wines which, not surprisingly, proved very popular. There was a choice of Chardonnay still and sparkling, and Pinot Noir sparkling blanc and blush wines. Blush comes from the second pressing of the Pinot Noir grape which picks up colour from the skin (the flesh is clear) and not to be confused with rose. The wines are light and refreshing, with an ABV content just above the 10% mark.

The evening ended with Chris, Jan and Claire feeling delighted with the success of their first presentation evening; glad that it was organised quickly so as not to worry about it beforehand. We wish them well!

Leycester Whewell, EHaDPS secretary, 28 May 2018

PAST MEETINGS – ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

[Argos Hill Windmill](#) Trust Ltd., past, present & future.
Presented by Richard Howes
Fri 13th April 2018

Windmills have been in existence in the UK since the 12th Century and, along with water mills, were the principal sources of inanimate mechanical power until the arrival of steam power in the late 18th



Argos Hill Mill

Century. Numbers peaked at around 10,000 around 1800 but have been in steady decline ever since, with about 500 remaining.

Structural designs fall into 3 categories:

Post – in which the whole body of the mill turns with wind direction,

Smock – which has a masonry base, a wooden body and a cap that turns to face the wind and

Tower – which is built of masonry (usually brick) with a cap that swivels.

Argos Hill Windmill is of the post type, which sits 605 feet above sea level and dates back to 1656, although the present structure was built around 1835. It is one of 50 such structures that remain; 42 have been restored, 6 are under restoration and 2 (including the one nearby at Cross-in-Hand) are at risk.

Richard's interest for windmills began at the tender age of two, when his grandfather took him on an outing from Tunbridge Wells to the one at Argos Hill. That sparked a passion for these unique buildings which, over time

drove him to join the Argos Hill Friends' group in 2008 and later, in 2010, to help set up the preservation trust.

By that time, the windmill was in a sorry state of repair, having been last used around 1927 when George Fuller was the miller. In 1929 the unusual pole mounted fantail was damaged, rendering it inoperable; the only other known example of that type of fantail is at nearby Cross-in-Hand. Come WWII the white roof had been repainted red to serve as a guide for allied aircraft. By the 1950s one of the four patent sweeps had broken off, the patent referring to a hand operated chain driven mechanism to control a Venetian blind style device to control use of the available wind power. That enabled the windmill to be controlled whilst still in motion and was a great improvement over earlier mills where the sweeps (and hence the mill) had to be stopped in order to make adjustments for the wind strength.

Wealden District Council took ownership in 1955 and did some cosmetic work to it.

In the 60's & 70's it was struck twice by lightning and then in the following decade the storm of '87 broke the round house roof and two sweeps. In 2011, WDC leased the mill to the Trust for 99 years, triggering a burst of restoration activity. After 8000 hours of effort and the scaffolding finally coming down, the sweeps rotated for the first time in nearly 90 years. Not that the work stops there, it requires about £5000 annually to maintain the status-quo.

Given that the last remaining lead paint to be found in the UK was used in this current round of restoration, no-one knows what will be used next time it needs painting, although they have a few years in which to think about it.

Leycester Whewell, EHaDPS secretary, 28 Apr 2018

PAST MEETINGS – AGM & Dinner*Photo by Leycester*

The full committee of Toni, Chris, Peter, Jenny & Leycester were present to welcome the 26 members attending the AGM.

Formalities started off at 7.30 with the opening of the meeting by Toni, followed by the acceptance of the minutes of 2017's meeting, which was proposed by Sue Carter, seconded by Nov Jones and carried unanimously by those present. Toni then reflected upon the recent and sad loss of June Tidswell to whom the society owes a debt of gratitude for all her work over the years in her role as secretary and events organiser. A consensus of appreciation for her was manifest in the hall.

The last part of the chair's piece was to run through the year's events and highlight key moments from it and to thank the myriad of people who all contributed to the society's success.

Next, Peter gave the treasurer's report which, in summary, forecast an estimated £350 surplus for 2018. A buffer exists to mitigate against increases in costs, of which speakers' fees are the most notable. No change to subscriptions was deemed necessary. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Julian Oakley, seconded by Margaret Csillag and approved by a unanimous show of hands.

The committee was similarly re-elected en bloc by a show of hands.

Chris then spoke to ask if everyone was in receipt of the newsletter and other emails and then reminded everyone of the forthcoming walk from Jevington on Sun 24th. After commenting about the impact of the new General Data Protection Regulations he verified that everyone present was happy to subscribe to its requirements.

Noel Hardy rose to offer thanks to Chris for the extensive and comprehensive nature of the society's newsletters, and what remarkable output it is for such a small organisation. Julian Oakley thanked Toni for her benevolent dictatorship which made the society so successful!

The final announcement before the meeting ended at 7.48 was Toni stating that members would be given priority in the oversubscribed tour of Harvey's Brewery and the equally popular outing to the Argos Hill windmill.

A fine meal prepared by Ellie's Little Kitchen was then served to everyone's delight, with a vote of thanks and applause being given to Elaine and her assistants after the teas and coffees. The table arrangement of two Ls forming an open rectangle worked very well and it was evident from the buzz, conversation and comments afterwards that everyone had really enjoyed themselves.

FUTURE MEETINGS

PROGRAMME FOR 2018

*Harvey's Brewery*

26th July	THURSDAY 6.30pm. Harvey's Brewery Tour LEWES*
12th August	SUNDAY Outing: Argos Hill Windmill. **
Fri Sep 14th	Alstroemeria & UK Cut Flower Industry: Ben Cross.
Fri Oct 12th	Honey Bees: Oliver St. John.
Fri Nov 30th	Social evening.

* RESTRICTED NUMBERS & SOLD OUT

** SEE DETAILS BELOW



Argos Hill Windmill

Following on from Richard Howe's talk, our visit in August is to the [Argos Hill Windmill](#).

Because of access restrictions this mill is not frequently open to the public so we are particularly fortunate to have this opportunity to see the inside workings and structure. The mill is of the same type and age as the now long gone East Hoathly mill so after the visit and with a bit of imagination we may have a better appreciation of what life was like in the Good ol' Days.

The visit details including the pre tour lunch are covered in Toni's Chairman's bit back on page 4.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION Jenny Pellett

Daisies are our silver,
Buttercups our gold:
This is all the treasure
We can have or hold.

Raindrops are our diamonds
And the morning dew;
While for shining sapphires
We've the speedwell blue.

These shall be our emeralds
Leaves so new and green;
Roses make the reddest
Rubies ever seen.

God, who gave these treasures
To your children small,
Teach us how to love them
And grow like them all.

Make us bright as silver:
Make us good as gold;
Warm as summer roses
Let our hearts unfold.

Gay as leaves in April,
Clear as drops of dew
God, who made the speedwell,
Keep us true to you.

Hymn by Jan Struther

Churchyard conservation

In a time where our environment is under constant threat from over development and loss of habitat, churchyards have an increasingly important role to play in providing a sanctuary for wildlife.

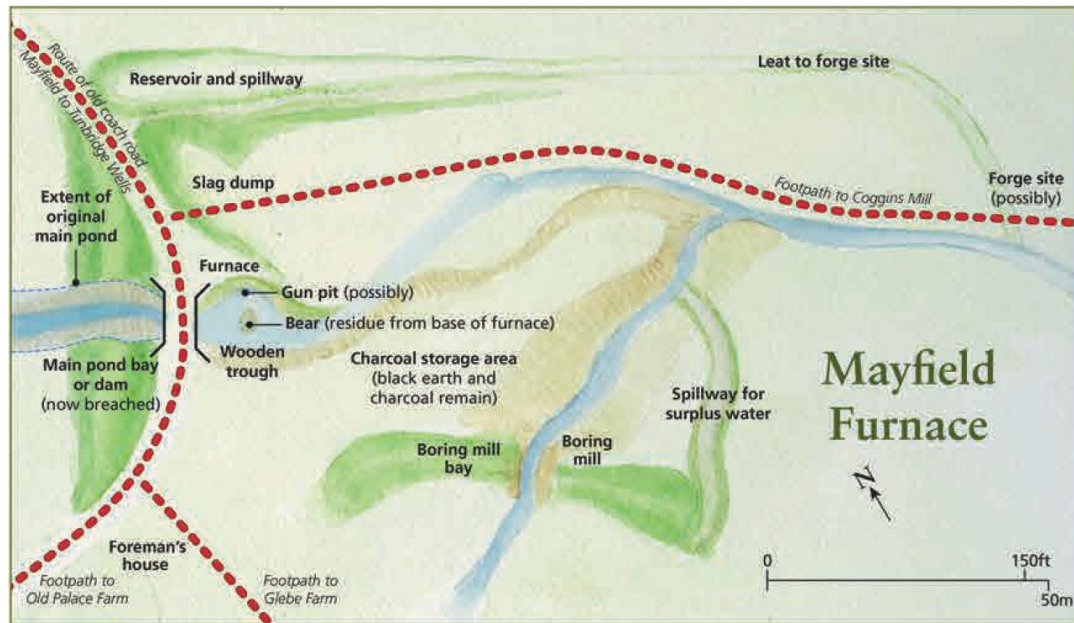
Many of you will remember Eric Gould, who for many years cared for East Hoathly churchyard in a sympathetic and wildlife friendly way. When he sadly died, Linda Allen and myself wanted this to continue and taking guidance from the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Diocese of Chichester and the Rank organisation, a plan was formulated for conservation mowing and habitat management. A good number of years has now passed and we have been reviewing the plan and feel that now is the time to begin a fresh survey of the churchyard.

We are hoping for volunteers with some knowledge of wild flowers, insects, lichens etc. maybe able to help us with carrying out an ongoing survey over the next year or so. If you feel you would like to be involved, or know someone who would, we would be very pleased to have some help and would greatly appreciate your input.

Please contact Jenny on 872830 or jlpellett@icloud.com

BANGS PER BUCK - SUSSEX IRON – Chris Pellett

Our Mayfield walk took us to the site of the old Mayfield Blast Furnace. The remains give no indication as to how thriving, active and important this once was.



From the Information Board

The Sussex iron industry was well established making cast iron pigs for further working into wrought iron when, at Buxted, the first iron cannon was cast in 1543.

The Sussex gun founding industry may have come into its own due to a shortage of bronze but, Sir Thomas Gresham was undoubtedly the master who created the successful British armaments industry that led the world from the 1560's until the mid-twentieth century. And Mayfield was its home.

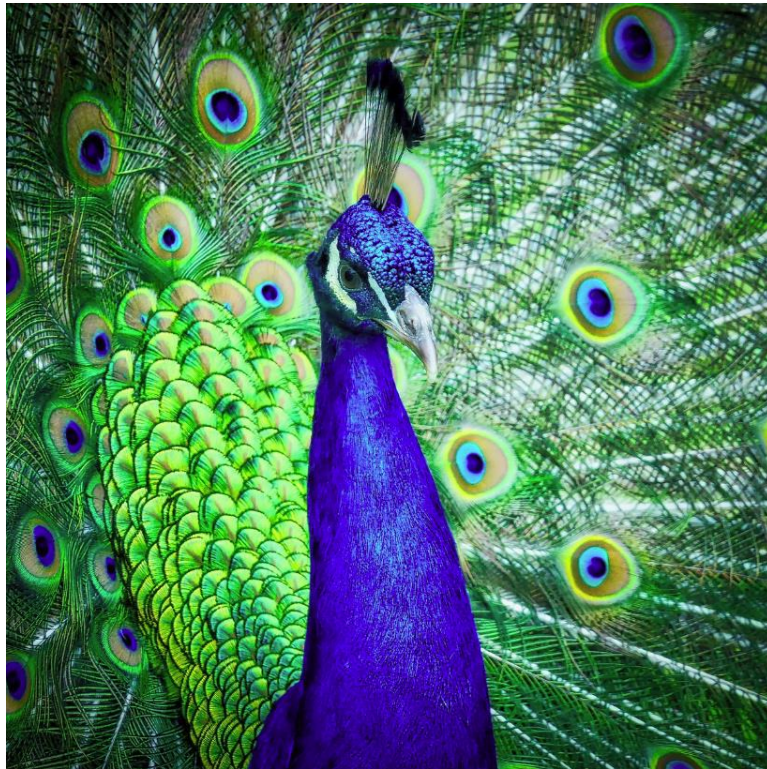
Thomas Gresham's work in Europe raising money and buying arms for the crown was rewarded with land which included the Archbishop of Canterbury's Mayfield Palace.

Using Wealden clay, Calvinist Walloon gun makers, fleeing the Spanish Catholic controlled Netherlands were welcomed, to make superior moulds into which Sussex ore could be poured,

The blast furnace was established in Vicarage Wood and cast iron guns were produced for just one twelfth of the cost of the bronze equivalent.

Coining the phrase, "More Bangs per Buck".

HALLAND Bentley Woodfair



Bentley Wildfowl

It is amazing what brilliant facilities we have right on our doorstep and yet we can go for years without exploring them.

[Bentley](#) is a case in point.

Wildfowl

They have around 1,000 birds and 130 species from around the world, including the Wandering Whistling duck and the spectacular Spectacled Eider duck.

[Miniature Railway](#) - [Miniature Ponies](#) - Motor Museum – [Delightful Tearooms](#).

Although the house is undergoing renovation at the moment the grounds are a gem.

In addition the estate is home to [Branching Out Adventures](#), [Ember Camping](#) and hosts the county's annual [Woodfair](#), this year on Friday 28th to Sunday 30th September

CHIDDINGLY HISTORY

Photos from the last Millennium



Photo by John Williams

We were very pleased to have been asked by Josie Loosemore to look after a photographic record of some of Chiddingly's past events. This was the 1978 Chiddingly Sports Gala.

Who were these First Aiders? Are they still in the village? And if you can answer those questions perhaps you might like to go through the album and help identify the many other villagers at the event.

If so contact ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

Some members may not know about Robin Symington's web archive of Chiddingly histories. Well worth a read: <http://www.coopersfarm.co.uk/>

FUNGII Is it Edible?*Pellett***Phallus Impudicus**

The Stinkhorn is easy to identify, and where there is one the young eggs of others should be easy to find in among pine needle or leaf litter. Whilst at the egg stage they are edible but an acquired taste!

Much better is the Hedgehog Fungus, *Hydnum repandum*, and spotted in Vert Wood



www.wildfooduk.com

Another easy to identify mushroom as it's the only one with spines (which you rub off before cooking). If it hasn't got spines it's not a hedgehog. Blanch them in salted boiling water for a minute, then cook: Great in stews and even better fried in butter and dropped on toast.

NEVER EAT ANY WILD MUSHROOM UNLESS YOU ARE 100% SURE OF WHAT IT IS AND THAT IT IS EDIBLE. 99% SURE IS NOT ENOUGH!

ECOTONES - Living on the Edge - Jon Gunson

An ecotone is a transition area between two biomes. It is where two ecosystems meet and integrate. It is used by biologists to describe the marginal area between different habitats, and of course this is where most of the interesting stuff happens. Woodland margins are ecotones, as are beaches and riverbanks.

So too is the transitional border between housing and the countryside. A space of indisputable importance yet the space most subject to attack by developers and the authorities. Traditionally it is where we keep our sports fields, our allotments and our recreational woodland.

I am afraid that wherever you get human geography, you will also find the dismal science of economics, exerting its baleful influence. The disparity between population growth and housing availability results in rising land prices, so the undefined edge of town is transformed into a prime development site. As the housing pushes outward, so the urgency for protecting the countryside increases and the ecotone loses ground.

If you think that for us, the human community, this presents a series of challenges, for wildlife, it is a bloody disaster. Because this ecotone in the biological sense is a boundary habitat, and a refuge for those birds and animals that cannot adapt to life alongside humans, but finds the countryside, bereft of hedgerows and soaked with pesticides and herbicides, a difficult place to feed, or breed, or nest in safety.

If our community is grossly expanded, trees will be felled and congestion will increase. Air pollution may reach the Ashdown forest but it will start closer to home, we will be gulping down deep lungfuls of the polluted air first.

And what have we got to clean the air up; the diminishing number of leaves of trees and shrubs? Perhaps it might be a good idea for us to accept that an environment that is healthy for wildlife is also healthy for human beings. Why does this basic principle not underpin our council policy and our planning legislation?

With acknowledgement to [Transition Town Lewes](#)

The BATS of BRITAIN



WILDLIFE GROUP – Jonathan Walker

A fledgling Wildlife Group has been started in the Parish. The proposals to build large housing developments all over our wonderful environment would threaten much of the existing Wildlife. Some specific species are protected and are a constraint on developers. It is really important that we know what is already here and that it is recorded in the Sussex Biodiversity Database as this is the source that the developers have to consult. Some good survey work has already been done in the Parish and some is already included on the Sussex Biodiversity Database. The Wildlife Group was initially formed to begin to survey the Parish and record the presence of Amphibians, Reptiles and Bats all of which have some level of protection.

The Group has 2 bat detectors and these are being used to survey specific places. Once bat activity has been identified the behaviour is confirmed and if possible the species identified using the detectors. Then by widening the search we hope to track the bats back to their roosts. We have had initial success on the chosen sites and many other areas being put forward for surveys. We are all novices and learning from each other. Since our formation we have discussed adding other animals to our surveys. We will record any sightings of important biodiversity but at this stage will continue to primarily focus on the amphibians, reptiles and bats.

We usually meet every 4-6 weeks at The Kings Head and collate our sightings which are then emailed round to members. At present we have around a dozen members but would be delighted to add newcomers. You do not need to take part in the Survey work (although you would be most welcome) but may just wish to get emails about our progress. Please contact Jonathan Walker at jonathan.walker42@icloud.com to add your name to our group.

VERT WOODS COMMUNITY WOODLAND - Sue Redshaw**EAST SUSSEX TREE WARDENS MEET-UP**

Early in June on a beautiful Summer's day, East Sussex Tree Wardens met in [Vert Woods Community Woodland](#), Laughton. This is the first of what we hope will be many get-togethers of our newly-formed group.

The Tree Wardens came from all over East Sussex from Robertsbridge to Seaford, from Rotherfield to Dallington and Chiddingly. We all share a love of trees plus a desire to look after the ones we've got and plant more for the future. Trees are us!

The first activity was to join with the folk from the Community Woodland and take part in the unveiling of their first Vert Woods information board. The deed was done by Councillor David Watts of Wealden District Council.



We were also joined by the top brass from the Tree Council! It is the Tree Council that oversees the Tree Warden scheme, which dates from the time of the Great Storm of 1987. Also in attendance were the Tree Officers from East Sussex County Council. Jim Smith-Wright was there representing the Woodland Trust and he spoke briefly about the planned forming of a local branch of the Ancient Tree Forum.

The assembled company were then escorted by Sue Redshaw, Laughton Tree Warden, and members of the VWCW management through the woods, pointing out the work that has been done, to the area called The Giants. The Giants is an area of big trees, often used as a meeting place.

Here refreshments were laid on. Jon Stokes and Sara Lom of the Tree Council spoke of the work of their organization and the value of the Tree Warden network. Sara has recently been appointed Chief Executive and this was her first outing to visit Tree Wardens in action!



Stewart Boyle of the VWCW Management Committee took the opportunity of videoing many of the participants to add to the VWCW archives and use in future promotions including a 'crowdfunder' film in 2019. There will be an opportunity to join the Vert Woods Community Benefit Society (CBS) at a forthcoming

event being held on July 18th at the Roebuck in Laughton.

Another short walk then took place to see some of the work achieved by Plumpton College students. This preceded a lunchtime picnic back at the Giants. Everyone took advantage of the opportunity to exchange views and experiences, as well as enjoy the beautiful location.

It was a great day - which marked a significant step with the first signage in the woods reaching out to the local community, and some great networking and partnering between a range of organisations and individuals.



Sue Redshaw, Laughton Tree Warden June 2018

SUMMER LEAF IDENTIFICATION



WOODLAND TRUST

Leaf type, shape, appearance, texture and colour are all key characteristics when identifying trees. They are also often the most obvious feature, particularly in spring and summer.

Broadleaves

The leaves of broadleaved trees fall into two basic categories.

Simple leaf: leaves are whole and are not divided right to the central leaf vein, such as apple or birch.

Compound leaf: leaves are divided right up to the central vein into separate leaflets. And compound leaves are either pinnate or palmate.

Pinnately compound leaves are feather-shaped where leaflets are attached in pairs along the central vein such as rowan, ash and elder.

Palmately compound leaves have leaflets that join to a central point. They are palm-shaped, like the outstretched fingers of a hand. Horse chestnut has palmately compound leaves.

Leaf shape

Leaf shape is a description of the form of the leaf. Some basic leaf shapes and examples include:

Egg shaped (ovate) - sour cherry, hornbeam, blackthorn, box

Long and thin (lanceolate) - white willow, osier willow

Triangular (deltoid) - silver birch, downy birch

Round (orbicular) - aspen, hazel

Heart-shaped (cordate) - limes

Leaf margin

The edge, or margin, of a leaf or leaflet can be a distinguishing feature.

Look out for edges that are serrated or toothed (hornbeam and common lime), prickly (holly), wavy (beech) or lobed (oaks, hawthorn, sycamore and field maple). Leaf margins that are smooth and have no obvious features are called entire.

Asymmetrical leaf base

Trees that are closely related to each other show similar characteristics. For example, elms have leaves with a characteristic asymmetrical base.

Leaf texture

Leaves can be glossy, dull or hairy. Look at both sides of the leaf to see whether the hairs cover the whole leaf or are just on the underside.

Leaf colour

Leaf colour is also important, especially as they change in autumn. Guelder rose and field maple are two species whose leaves often turn a vivid red or orange in autumn.

Conifers

If the foliage on the tree is needles or scales then you are probably looking at a conifer that is in the pine, fir, cypress, larch or spruce family.

Most conifer trees have needles or scales present all year that can be used for identification. One of the few exceptions is European larch which loses its needles in winter.

Conifers can be separated into two broad groups.

Needles: includes pines, spruces, firs, cedars and larches.

Scales: covers species in the cypress family.

Needles can be arranged singly (Douglas fir), in clusters (larch) or in pairs (Scot's pine).

Clustered needles, long, thin and pointed needles indicate a Corsican pine compared with the short pointed needles of Scot's pine. Flattened needles could mean a yew and whorls of three needles a juniper.

Top tip: look closely at the type, shape, edge and arrangement of leaves on the twigs. These can be some of the most useful clues for identifying trees.

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

WRAS - Trevor Weeks MBE

<http://wildlifeambulance.org/>

Think Hedgehog!

A Hedgehog Awareness Talk by



Trevor Weeks MBE - Founder and
Director of East Sussex Wildlife Rescue
and Ambulance Service (WRAS)

Monday 23rd July 2018

Small hall, East Dean and Friston Village Hall

at 7.30pm

Coffee and Tea available from 7pm



Suggested donation £5.00

**Part of the educational initiative of
East Dean and Friston Hedgehog Street**

Contact Cathy for tickets on 01323 422029

Although this is a little way from us, I thought the event was worthy of inclusion - Ed

Small Places Of Large Consequence – Crispin Truman, chief executive CPRE*Near Horam*

Standing amidst glorious countryside bathed in sunshine, I thought about how crucial it is to make sure we can continue to enjoy such fantastic views. Yet pressures of development, degradation of nature, the changing economy of farming and the long, slow decline in traditional forms of community participation put it in jeopardy.

We need to take a holistic view, which connects our landscape with housing, society with economy, nature with tourism, and farming and transport with community – all the elements of countryside life.

Our market towns and villages are the beating heart of that countryside. They are [small places of large consequence](#).

Just as the countryside is dependent on its towns and villages, the towns and villages are dependent on its people and so the complex, delicate web of rural life holds together. Yet by 2039 nearly half of all rural households will comprise people aged over 65 - so if those communities are to thrive we must ensure that villages are attractive places to live and prosper for people of all ages.



Waldron

[CPRE](#) has a vision of creating a positive model for sustainable rural life, to which all rural communities would aspire. It includes the provision of new affordable housing for local people that is environmentally sustainable and community-led in design, location and

scale. CPRE are also working to close a loophole that enables developers to backtrack on their obligations to provide the affordable homes local families need if they are to be able to continue living in the areas in which they grew up.

The fact that many local amenities – post offices, pubs, village stores - are closing down in place of large retailers and supermarkets on the outskirts of towns means that rural life is becoming impossible without a car. That must change.

The growth of a sustainable rural economy is a complex issue, but one aspect is to encourage local shops and pubs to sell local produce by putting in place the supply chains and marketing support so often missing. Easing the connections between local producers, retailers and consumers is crucial to develop thriving local economies, landscapes and communities.

Providing solutions to the many challenges faced by rural communities is much like building a house of cards. You may be able to remove one or two, but as soon as too many disappear from the tower, the whole thing comes toppling down. In order to create a thriving sustainable rural community, it takes collective effort and a holistic approach.

This piece was first published in Country Life magazine

PLANNING – Chris Pellett



The Wealden Local Plan Draft Proposed Submission

has now been published and is under scrutiny by the planning committee.

Intended to cover the period 2013 - 2028 the first five years are history,

a period that has been described as developer led resulting in a lack of confidence and frustration with the council.

Wealden District is home to two very important areas of environmental conservation: The Pevensey Levels Ramsar Site and Special Area of Conservation and Ashdown Forest Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

The effect of these sites on the plan and development to date has been interesting to say the least. Air quality has a rightful significance and it is mildly amusing that wildlife has greater protection from pollution than humans do.

But it seems Local Neighbourhood Plans are now to be encouraged.

There are 553 pages to this document and the planning committee members had another 6043 pages of [background information](#) to study in the 7 days between publication and their first meeting.

There are also twelve Planning Policy Evidence Base sub categories with documentation that has been evaluated by the officers.

Not surprisingly there needs to be a lot of scrutiny by us all and there will undoubtedly be many issues highlighted for further discussion.

The Draft contains a vision of our future which may or may not be agreeable to you. So much of this is down to personal opinion or preference.

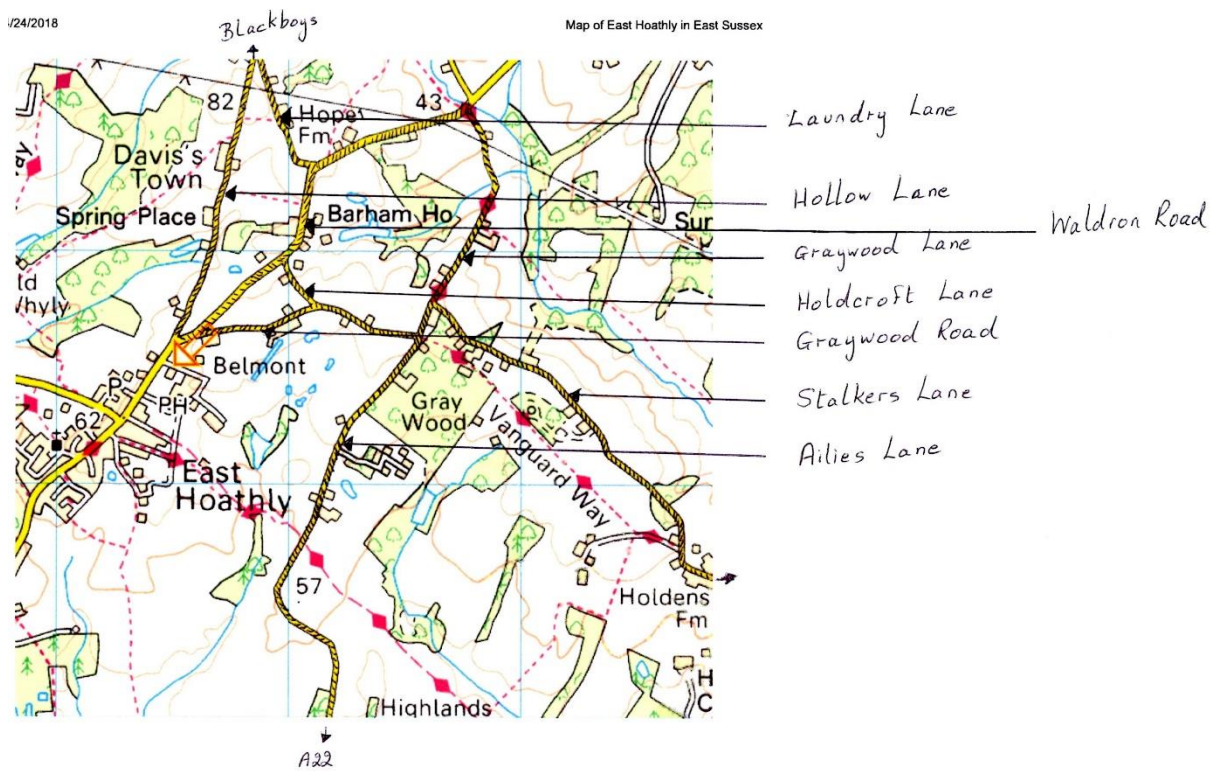
The fact is we live here, the beaurocrats at their desk have a duty and are under pressure to produce a plan not necessarily the right plan.

Getting the right plan is down to us.

The answer is make yourself heard; support and thank groups like Village Concerns, Save Wealden from Over Development, The CPRE, The Wildlife Trust and many others that are putting significant amounts of time, money and effort on our behalf.

VILLAGE CONCERNS

Village Concerns



A number of local residents have written jointly to Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at East Sussex County Council, to request that some of these lanes be officially designated as 'Quiet Lanes'. The [Quiet Lane Designation](#) does not affect access but merely asks drivers to be careful and considerate in those lanes particularly used by residents and visitors for recreation. We think that our lanes are of great value to the community, not only for transport.

EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**Feria Urbanism**

As scheduled, in May, an East Hoathly with Halland Local Neighbourhood Plan draft interim report was published.

<https://easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/00-Feria-draft-copy-Interim-Report.pdf>

It is largely based on the findings of the February consultations and engagement. Because of the lack of a Wealden Local Plan this draft report is limited on direction.

The report is interesting and explains the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the Wealden District Local Plan.

The steering group had already assessed Planning, Landscape, Architecture, Conservation and Engineering (PLACE) issues and these were included in the public consultation events.

Challenges and opportunities are considered as are the top qualities of the two villages. The potential for growth is assessed noting the services and facilities as they are and how we would like them to be in the future.

Safety issues are looked at and all this leads up to an emerging Spatial Strategy.

Scenarios are then offered. It is stressed that these scenarios are not proposals or exclusive and have been developed through the design forum process to allow the testing of ideas, options and outcomes.

Depending on your views it may or may not make palatable reading. The point is if you want your say GET INVOLVED.

PC "SURGERIES" are held at;

East Hoathly: Kings Head, East Hoathly from 8 to 8.30pm. Ask for Cllr Jonathan Ritchie or Cllr Tony Pope. Second Thursday of each month.

Halland: Halland Forge 7pm, Third Monday of each month.

East Hoathly and Halland Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Email address: ehwhnp@gmail.com

Parish Council Email address: easthoathlywithhallandpc@gmail.com

LISTED BUILDINGS - Sellens

Sellens is an entirely detached structure built on an earth base. In its original fifteenth century form it was a three bay hall house. Its original front door would have been in the same position as it is now. The cross passage and doors to the service rooms are no longer there. The present small sitting room and the part of the kitchen was the service area with a simple stairway leading to an upper chamber that was open to the roof. The ground floor area has undergone structural changes including the removal of the old dias partition wall between the hall and the parlour. During the C16th the hall was boarded at first floor level to create an additional upper chamber and a chimney built into the cross passage. The rear kitchen area was added in the C18th.

Strangely Sellens belonged to the Manor of Heighton St Clair and not the Manor of Laughton with the rest of East Hoathly. Sir John Gage owned the manor and Sellens, known then as Wheatlands, would have been a

copyhold tenement probably occupied by the Willard family. Descendants of that same family lived there until 1814 when John Sellens bought the property. The property changed hands again in 1828 and the Hall family became resident, finally buying the dwelling in 1902. It had been converted into three cottages in about 1885 and remained occupied as such until no.3 became subject to a closing order in the late 1960's.

The cottages were still in the hands of the Hall trust but derelict by 1994 when purchased by Ian and Amanda Pitman.

The restoration by Ian and Amanda has been thorough and well executed, subsequent owners have also made their mark to a high standard securing the future of Sellens for many years to come.

However, a special thanks must go to Vic and June Tideswell who did the leg work, tracking down the Hall Estate trustees and chasing the District Council, that actually saved Sellens from becoming a ruin.



Sellens

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Everyone enjoys seeing wildlife, but how much notice do you really take of what you see?

Whether it is the seasonal changes of the wild flowers on the roadside, or the ladybird you spot crawling up the window as you are doing your washing up. Often we don't really notice what we see and we especially don't tell other people about it.

It is vital for conservation that we hear about your local wildlife. We need this information to inform future land management in Sussex. Without it, we simply wouldn't know what wildlife there is and what is so special about each place.

Records are entered into the database held by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre which is based at the [Sussex Wildlife Trust](#) HQ at Woods Mill. They collect all the information together and use it to keep track of how wildlife is faring in Sussex. This information can be shared with everyone, from amateur naturalists and conservation managers, to council planning officers and government departments. We want all decisions affecting Sussex to be based on the best evidence about wildlife possible.

If you're out and about in the countryside or just pottering around in your garden please let us know what wildlife you've seen using our...

[Species Recording Form](#)

Or if modern technology is not for you write down your name and sighting details and give them to Jenny or Chris Pellett:

Location* (Postcode or grid reference)

Date seen*

Species seen*

Number seen*

BOOKS, PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS - Chris**THE SUSSEX TRUG****Form Function and Craft**

As quintessentially English as a country garden, the Sussex Trug is a wooden basket made almost exclusively in one small area of East Sussex, using natural, sustainable, local materials.

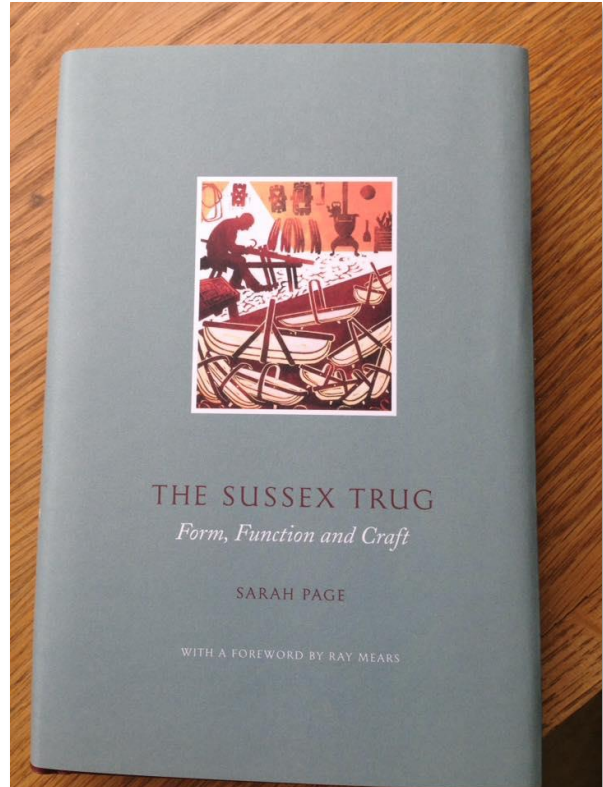
In this beautiful new book, trugmaker Sarah Page takes us into the lives of the makers and explores the fascinating history of the craft in the area. Follow each stage of trugmaking in words and pictures, and understand the traditional techniques of woodland management, whereby the materials for making trugs are sustainably managed.

An important and timely record of a declining way of life, the book is illustrated with stunning new photography and a wealth of archive pictures.

This hardback book is filled with more than 100 colour illustrations, bringing the history, traditions and work of trugmakers vividly to life.

I've read the book and can genuinely thoroughly recommend it – Chris

Available from East Hoathly Village Stores, Chiddingly Community Shop, [The Truggery](#) and Waterstones.



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH**Rowland Wood and Park Corner Heath***Rowland Wood Pellett*

We've been so pleased to see the successful reintroduction of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly at our Park Corner Heath and Rowland Wood reserves as part of the Fritillaries for the Future project. The numbers seen a year on from the reintroduction are very promising and we've already seen lots of egg-laying females this year. To mark this moment, we've put together a behind-the-scenes video telling the story of the conservation work behind this success.

<https://vimeo.com/256913210>

It's thanks to a huge number of dedicated volunteers, that we are all now able to enjoy the sight of Small Pearls back in the south east of England. Of course, we now need to make sure that all this hard work pays off in the long term, and the key to this will be the continuing woodland management and fundraising efforts of our volunteers for years to come.

Colin Gibbs

RIGHTS OF WAY GROUPS

Many parishes across Sussex now have their own group maintaining footpaths, one of the first was The Monday Group at Westmeston



Founded in 1961 [The Monday Group](#) is an organisation of hard-working volunteers based in the heart of Sussex who respond to requests from members of the public, land owners and local authorities to help provide easier access to our beautiful countryside by building and maintaining stiles and other wooden structures on public rights-of-way, as well as working to keep them clear of obstructions and overgrowth.

If you know where a stile, steps, bridge or gate is needed let us know and we will investigate the options.

For mid-week walks in the East Hoathly area, to report difficulties with footpaths to the Parish Council or to help assist John's faithful Rights of Way group keep our footpaths and byways in good order call John Deane on 01825 841385 or at dixiewalks@hotmail.com

EAST HOATHLY BIRDS – Fred Carter**The Blackbird**

An easily recognisable bird, both by sight and ear. The male glossy all over, except for the orange bill and yellow eye rings. The females dark and light brown with dark spots on the breast. Young birds are lighter; the males do not acquire the orange beak until their second year. Some instances occur of pied and white birds!



Blackbird by Pellett

A little larger than the song thrush, noisier, but holds its own from any musical point of view. When alarmed, it will fly off with a shrill complaining scream; its normal song is most beautiful. Its notes are deeper, not so measured, or perhaps varied and repetitive as those of the song thrush, but the rich, flute like whistle and, sometimes heard after dark is familiar and welcomed in woods and garden.

It eats insects and berries, rakes over dead leaves for them and is very fond of fruit, particularly cherries and strawberries! It is true to say that not everyone would be as patient as the essayist Addison, he said, "I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs."

A resident in Britain, although some migrate south, where they will congregate in large flocks. In all other aspects it is strongly individual and independent bird.

More EAST HOATHLY BIRDS – More Fred Carter*Wheatear by Pellett*

The Wheatear

Generally the first of the summer visitors, the Wheatear is a bird of open country, from seashores to pastureland, a flash of white will betray a small bird flying restlessly from stone to stone, perching briefly while raising and lowering its tail. Indeed its habit of sitting on an upturned clod of earth has given it one of its many nicknames, Clodhopper! It blends in remarkably well

with its stony habitat, but does not stay long and as it flies off its distinctive tail pattern confirms it as a wheatear.

It is from its white rump that the bird derives its name; there is no connection with wheat! Under parts are cream, shading to buff on the breast and flanks. The wings, bill and long legs are black. Females light brown above and buff below, both birds having white tails and rump.

It has a low dipping flight and during the breeding season indulges in amazing dances and occasionally furious fights! It moves jerkily on the ground, stopping abruptly, often bolt upright, and bobs up and down before snapping up an insect. It gives hard clicking chack chack calls and if alarmed, insistent weet-chack-chack sounds.

A pair will choose a nest site inaccessible to most predators, within a hole in a dry stone wall, or some other place such as a rocky outcrop, they often use disused rabbit burrows or other holes in the ground.

Once common in the south east, but following dramatic declines they are scarcer and more localised, but still there to see and numbers are increasing.

Fred Carter

RECENT WALKS by Chris & Jenny Pellett

Since the last newsletter, our walks have taken us to the bluebell woods at Bates Green, Mayfield and its ancient iron workings and Jevington.

All three were completely different with regard to landscape, terrain and habitat and prove, if proof were needed, what a wonderful and varied part of the country Sussex is.

ARLINGTON [Bates Green Farm](#) – April 15th

The stunning beauty of the bluebell woods at Bates Green, near Arlington, is unrivalled. With Bluebells being so very late this year, in the middle of April this famous Arlington venue was able to showcase how splendid the Wood Anemone can be.

The trail we followed took us through the magnificent woods, with



Bates Green Farm

unusual stiles, and beyond to the dairy farm, where we were able to watch milking from a convenient viewing platform, before heading back for tea just before heavy rain brought the afternoon to a close.

MAYFIELD – May 20th

Starting from [Middle House](#), Mayfield sits within a beautiful rolling landscape and has a wealth of shady woods and meadowland. The tranquillity of it all belies an innovative past where methods of iron working were developed by Thomas Gresham that completely revolutionised the production of cannons and armaments in Tudor times.



Mayfield

On Gresham's death his cousin Sir Henry Neville took over the estate. The Old Palace where Thomas Gresham had entertained Queen Elizabeth I was later rebuilt by Pugin and is now Mayfield School

JEVINGTON – June 24th

And finally to Jevington. Not an area of downland that I was familiar with, but this walk proved to be thoroughly enjoyed by us all, perhaps even a favourite? It had all the ingredients you need for a perfect walk: an abundance of wild flowers, butterflies, birds and brilliant 360 views of the Weald, the coast and the downs themselves. I really can't recommend this walk enough, and it had the added bonus of [The Eight Bells](#) at the start and finish.



Above Jevington

Jenny.

INTERESTING INSECTS – downlooker snipe fly*Pellett***The Downlooker Snipe-fly
*Rhagio scolopacea***

There are over 15 species of Snipefly in the UK, which can be very difficult to tell apart. This is the common one, (photographed at Halland).

Snipeflies are predators, which can often be found from May to August sat on fence posts or sunny tree trunks, facing

downwards, on the lookout for passing prey. Up to about 2cm long and mainly orangey brown in colour, with dark markings down the length of the body, they catch smaller flying insects in flight, taking them back to their look-out post to eat.

The larvae live in the soil and are also predators.

Snipeflies probably got their name because they are particularly common in marshy grassland and wet corners of fields, the kind of places where Snipe can be found. The Downlooker bit because that's the way they face!

For those interested in some of the otherwise neglected species I recommend

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

2018 WALKS



March Walk 2010

PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2018

Usually start at 2pm after lunch in the designated pub

SUNDAY 15TH JULY	The Gun, Chiddingly Guns & Roses, an old favourite.
SUNDAY 19TH AUGUST	The Crown, Newick King Harold & Wartime Resistance
SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER	The George Alfriston Views of the Rathfinney Estate
SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER	The New Inn, Hadlow Down
SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER	Little Cottage Tea Room, Glynde
SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER	Crockstead Hotel, Halland Our Doorstep Gem

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

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

EDITORS NOTES – Chris Pellett*Sun burnt Pellett*

I'm often asked what the Preservation Society is. The Society is the sum of its members, (and we have some very good members) so it is what the members want it to be.

Within the newsletter we have the obvious reports of our events, those of the Societies to which we are affiliated and a roundup of activities by others both in

E. Hoathly and further afield, loosely calling this the District.

If you wish to share or promote a group that you have an interest in, which is vaguely relevant to the maintaining of our wonderful rural way of life I can guarantee there are others in the society that would be pleased to hear about it. Similarly, as the membership numbers rise towards the magic one hundred there are more like minded members with interests and concerns to share. As the resources of the society increase our programme of activities can expand (subject to volunteers) and more can be done to ensure our rural communities remain vibrant and sustainable.

Again I have more to fit in than pages I can print and still get a staple through, hopefully the Autumn newsletter, for which I would like copy by the 17th September can have a little more information from outside the core of East Hoathly.

Enjoy the sunshine

Chris ehdps@hotmail.co.uk