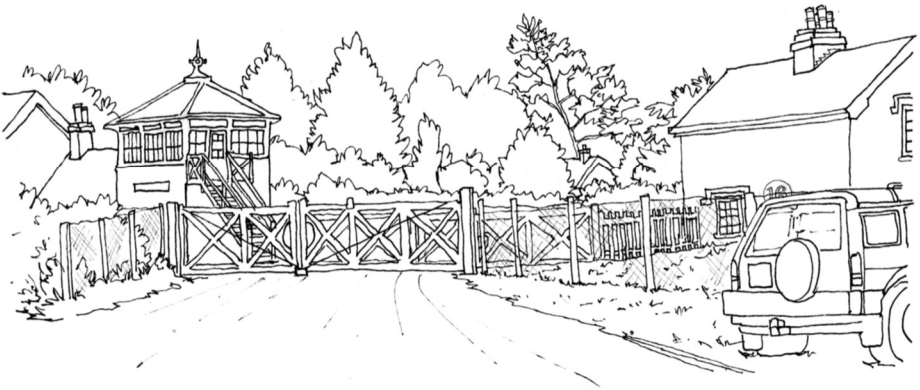


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June 2024



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PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

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Happy Circle

Thursday 13th June

2 - 4pm

Annexe

Sue's Floral Arrangement

For more details contact:

Cherie 01273891592

Jumble Sale

In aid of

The Church

Saturday 22nd June

2pm

COPY DEADLINES

15th June for July

15th July for August



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Plumpton Parish Council

www.plumptonpc.co.uk

Annual Statutory Meeting

Our Annual Statutory meeting was held on May 14th. This is when the Chair, Vice Chair and various committee members are nominated, and the council votes on the appointments for the next year. Cllr Nick Beaumont and Cllr Paul Burford were voted in for a further year as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. All details on committee members are available on the meeting minutes available on the council website and notice boards.

Lewes District Planning Authority and Special Measures

Residents will have seen the news that Lewes District Council (LDC) Planning Department has been put into "Special Measures" by the Government. This is because LDC has been trying to protect residents from over development and refusing some major planning applications. The developers have appealed to the government inspectors and the refusal decisions have been reversed. Plumpton suffered this directly with the Nolands development being allowed on appeal. Barcombe and Wivelefield have similarly suffered and have unwanted development forced upon them. Clearly the idea of local democracy when it comes to planning is proving too inconvenient for the government.

We thank our District Councillor, Daniel Stewart-Roberts for providing us with a briefing note, available on the Parish Council Web Site, which gives some detail on what 'Special Measures' means in practice.

Nolands Access and proposed Station Road build-outs

The Parish Council has been in touch with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Highways on more than one occasion to try and get the planned build-out on Station Road removed from the plans. We thank the organisers of the petition for gathering signatures and our County Councillor, Sarah Osborne, for arranging the presentation of the petition to the Chair of East Sussex County Council. Unfortunately, immediately after the petition

was delivered the PC received an email from Dan Witcher, Principal Officer (Implementation Team) ESCC Transport Development Control which was not encouraging. Highways are still hiding behind the fact that the planning inspector allowed the appeal and ignored the many objections from residents who use Station Road every day. To quote from the email we have from Dan Witcher:-

"The consented development, following approval by the planning inspector, includes a priority working build out feature as part of the site access. As the site access and layout now has planning consent I am afraid it cannot now be altered."

Rest assured the Parish Council has responded and asked for a meeting on site. We will continue to press for a change in the plans.

National Nature Recovery Strategy

On a more positive note, representatives from the Parish Council met with members of the Plumpton and East Chilmington wildlife group to discuss our participation in the National Nature Recovery Strategy. The first step would involve engaging an ecology company to produce a report providing up-to-date habitat and species data within Plumpton plus recommendations for increasing biodiversity through community led projects. At our Parish Council meeting on May 14th the PC agreed to support this initiative and find a way to fund the report for Plumpton. This is a government sponsored nation-wide projects and some grant funding will be available. Watch this space for further details as the project progresses.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

If you want to contribute and have a say in how your village runs and engage with the community then why not sit on the Parish Council. Please contact our Clerk Anita Emery if interested.

anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **June 11th, 19:45hrs** at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



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Local Plan Update

This is the plan to inform where new development in the district is appropriate. As we have reported before, the Council has said the Eton New Town proposed development on North Barnes Farm is inappropriate and therefore should not be included in the new Local Plan. The initial round of consultation on the Local Plan has closed with over 2,000 individuals and organisations commentating. It's a lengthy process and there will be more opportunities to comment in due course and the Council are particularly keen to hear from younger people. If you want to be kept up to date with the process then you can join the mailing list through this link: www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/keep-me-posted

Nature in Sussex

People are invited to share their experiences and observations of nature and wildlife in Sussex as part of a new, nationwide initiative to address declining habitats and species. East Sussex residents are being asked what aspects of nature and wildlife are important to them and what changes they have noticed locally to help inform the Local Nature Recovery Strategies being developed for Sussex. Sussex is home to many iconic wildlife species and has some of the rarest natural habitats in the world. However, one in six UK species are at risk of extinction and urgent, locally coordinated efforts are needed to reverse this decline.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new initiative being rolled out across the country to address the problem. Two strategies are being developed by the county councils, one covering East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and another for West Sussex.

The easiest way for residents to get involved is to complete the [residents' survey](#). This asks questions about how and where people connect with nature, the habitats or species they value, any changes they've noticed, and any wider benefits they'd like to see in their local area. The survey takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete and will close on June 30.

East Chilmington Parish Summer Party!

Saturday 6th July, Hollycroft field. Save the date!

Daniel Stewart-Roberts - District Councillor

You may have seen that the Government has put Lewes District Council's Planning function into "special measures". This has happened because Lewes has lost too many major planning appeals, such as the developer's appeal that overturned the Planning Committee's refusal to grant planning permission for the Nolands Farm site. This shows very clearly the difficult path that the Council's officers and the Planning Committee have to navigate between the National Planning Policy Framework's "Presumption in favour of sustainable development" on the one hand and protection of residents' interests on the other. The effect of the special measures is that for the next year developers have the right to have their applications for projects of 10 or more houses to be determined directly by the Planning Inspectorate (PI) rather than by the Lewes planning team. In practice, it is hoped that developers will not generally choose this option, as, if they do so, they have no right of appeal against the PI's decision.

I know I am not the only person saddened by the recent felling of a large, apparently healthy, oak tree at a residential property on Plumpton Lane. I have since discovered that there are no legal protections for trees unless they are in a conservation area or are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. The Wildlife and Countryside Act does, however, forbid any tree felling that could cause damage to birds' nests in the nesting season, so that no tree should be felled without first ascertaining that no birds are nesting in it.

I find it quite hard to believe that a year has passed since you elected me as your district councillor. One of the main things I have learnt during that time is that while LDC has many dedicated officers keen to support residents, they are let down by the Council's less than perfect communications channels: a clunky website and long call waiting times on the enquiry line. If you experience any problems getting through to the right team or person at the Council, do please contact me, as I will usually be able to put you in direct touch with the right person.

Email: daniel.stewart-roberts@lewes.gov.uk

Telephone/text: 07966 338429



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All funds raised will support the children and young people at Chailey Heritage Foundation.

Full details: [Music for a Summer's Evening with Lea Graham Entertainments \(chf.org.uk\)](https://www.chf.org.uk)

Buy your tickets here – [Music for a Summer's Evening](https://www.chf.org.uk)

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Plumpton & East Chiltington News

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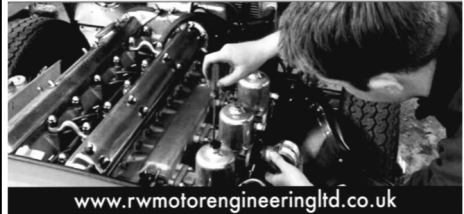
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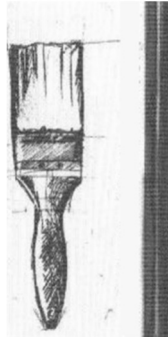
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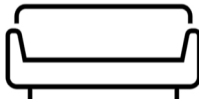
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The East Chiltington Trust

TECT Field Survey Results and Next Steps

A really big thank you to everyone who completed and returned the TECT field questionnaire. In total 41 responses were received (about a 20% response rate). The TECT Trustees manage the field on your behalf, so all views and comments are extremely important.

Eighty percent of respondents supported the proposals to allow limited grazing, 67% supported the proposals for some permanent fencing and 87% supported our proposals for natural regeneration and limited planting on the Ferring's side of the field.

The surveys also returned plenty of comments, all of which are really useful. It is important to state that the proposals put forward in the consultation are a compromise approach, which we believe will increase the wildlife potential of the land whilst, importantly, maintaining the whole site for community access and enjoyment. Moreover, the proposals will not prevent future trustees and our community from pursuing other forms of management in the future. A few of our compromises are explained below.

There were comments suggesting that sheep are not the best 'rewilding' tool. We agree. We have not put forward these proposals as a 'rewilding project', but more a renaturing project with some rewilding elements. The compromise here is to use sheep initially, as they are available to us, to slowly improve the grass sward and diversity of the field, whilst allowing in the future, full rewilding if the community supports this or returning to hay cutting if this is supported.

The question about planting versus natural regeneration was also raised. Again, planting is a compromise. If we were only concerned with long term biodiversity, natural regeneration is the way to go, however, there is much to be said for the benefit of engaging and inspiring the community through planting and nurturing native trees and shrubs. We need to inspire the next generation to connect with our environment.

At the TECT trustee meeting held in May the trustees agreed to start to work towards implementing the proposals set out in the community consultation. This will not happen overnight. The first steps will be to review all the costs and grants available.

The final thing to stress is that our proposals set out a broad management plan for the land, but important detail and fine tuning will be ongoing and co-developed with you the community. Please look out for events and volunteer work parties going forward. Keep up to date by visiting www.theeastchiltingtontrust.org or email us at any time at theeastchiltingtontrust@gmail.com

Thank You from Mick

I would like to say a huge thank-you for the wonderful send off you gave me, for the amazing gifts, cards and messages! I was truly overwhelmed!

Thank-you to all of you who were involved in providing a wonderful array of food, cakes and drinks for all to enjoy. I certainly won't forget that day or the kindness you have all shown me.

Mick (gone fishing!)

DR's Diary...

IN PRAISE OF BBC (Balls, Blooms & Cake)!

Well, what a month May was .
Eurovision!

Given the amount of air time the beeb gave it (TV & radio) leading up to the big day, I'm not surprised lots of us were reduced to a state of sequined hysteria, similar to my state of being when I drive to Morrison's and there's no queue at the pumps, minus the sequins, of course. Sadly, I missed it. I flicked the RCD and told my wife there was a power cut. Apparently, Israel and Australia are in Europe, Morocco were once (1980) but after they flopped, they left licking their wounds and have not been seen since. Obviously the BBC know how much we love a good sing song, its good for our well being and freed up air time normally taken up with Ukraine, the war in Gaza and global warming.

The last bit's not actually true, just me being a grumpy old bloke.

So now we know how much May is going to be a hard act to follow, what does June hold? Fear not, Europe , once again delivers in the form of the UEFA championships. No doubt, once again , the media will have us (well, maybe some of us?) in another state of hysteria similar to a few weeks back, minus the sequins of course. Although have you seen how much gold jewellery some premiership players wear these days?

We mustn't forget our friends north of the border have qualified this time. The Scots always turn up with high levels of optimism, maybe due to high levels of McEwans? Sadly, they soon discover that their European opponents are less compliant in allowing the ball into there goals than they are used to back home. As for the English, well we're a

pessimistic lot, our expectations are always low. We struggle in the first match, usually against an unfancied team, we scrape through the group stages and that's when we start believing all the hype in the sports pages and become convinced that (finally) football really is 'coming home'. Pride comes before a fall and no doubt glory will be snatched from our grasp by VAR, penalty shoot outs or just bad luck.

Away from football, we have the long sunny days (hope springs eternal) of June, the month when everything starts to come together in the garden (more eternal springing) , the air is heavy with the heady scent of roses, honeysuckle and burnt fat from a neighbours barbeque. June is Open Gardens month, all over the country folks will be clearing away bits and bobs that have been lying around for ages, dead heading spent blooms and putting up signs warning visitors that if they fall in the pond they'll come out green.

Of course, the 'real' work is done in the kitchen, baking all those delicious cakes and making jam & marmalade to sell, thus making lots of dosh for good causes.

We have a small, hardworking team in Plumpton raising much needed funds for the local hospice. We have several Open Gardens on 23rd June, some have not been seen before. Ditchling have theirs on 8th June, it will be interesting to see how they compare to ours.

My feeling is they'll know the Latin names and speak posher but well do 'em on the Victoria sponge!

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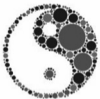
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June Crossword 2024

Andy Starling, May 2024

1		2		3		4		5		6
	■		■		■		■		■	
7			■				■	8		
	■	■	9				10	■	■	
11					■	12				
	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	
13				14		15				
	■	■	16					■	■	
17		18	■		■		■	19		
	■		■		■		■		■	
20										

Clues Across

- Somewhat drab coloured songbird (11)
- Coloured like a Rottweiler, black and --- (3)
- Male possessive pronoun (3)
- Soup containing meat or vegetables (5)
- "Red-breasted" garden bird (5)
- The Dunnock is sometimes called a ---- Sparrow (5)
- Bird like a Heron or a Sandpiper (5)
- Predominant colour of the Tawny Owl (5)
- English surgeon who gave his name to a disease of bones (5)
- Blue, Great or Long tailed, perhaps? (3)
- Short word for excrement (3)
- Creature that is able to fly backwards! (11)

Clues Down

- Charitable foundation promoting animal welfare (11)
- Juniper berry spirit (3)
- Prickle or spine, especially on a plant (5)
- Opposite of south (5)
- British tree that has winged seeds (3)
- The Royal Sussex County Hospital is found here (7,4)
- Upper arm muscle (5)
- Shape of a Barn Owl's face? (5)
- Jewish teacher (5)
- Homo sapiens = Human ---- (5)
- Male cat (3)
- Tyre pressure which is the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet (3)

Rev. Anne Dunlop

What's in a name?

Quite a lot. I can remember being embarrassed by my name during school years and reluctant to reveal it. Anne was OK, but Cecilia – really? It sounded quaint and old fashioned. In my day girls were all Barbara and Janet and occasionally Wendy. But over time I have grown into it especially when I found more about their meanings. Anne, deriving from the Hebrew, Hannah meaning grace (God's graciousness) not that I am in the least graceful, and Cecilia, the patron saint of music (equally not a musician). So I felt it sort of fits me OK.

As for messing with Anne - 'Annie' – horrors! Only acceptable from my Australian friend because – poor things – they find English difficult and must shorten words if they can. In the past she has visited and stayed for a time and communication at times was incomprehensible. For example, "Brekkie Annie?" (question with uplifted cadence), translation "Have you had a cup of tea yet and would you like me to prepare some toast." "Shall we take snags to the barbie this arvo?" translation, "Shall we bring sausages to the repast at the church this afternoon". However, in time she worked at longer sentences and I developed an Australian tang. In addition, we Anne's are very fussy about the 'e'. 'Ann' is just not acceptable to me, I refuse to respond to it, and I expect the reverse is true.

All very fussy you might think, and it probably is. Which why it is so dehumanising to have your name taken from you as happens to those who by circumstance are reduced to a number. You may remember the series *Roots*, a dramatization of author Alex Haley's family line from his ancestor Kunta Kinte and the scenes where he refused to accept his slave name. By doing so he would lose himself.

Changing names does have some connection with ownership or significant change. Often rehomed pets have their names changed by their adoptive owners. Perhaps signifying a break from the past and entrance into a different place.

Not meaning to make a connection between rehomed pets and marriage! But there is a connection here. It is usual for the woman to take her husband's surname although she can

choose not to. Here it signifies a significant societal change although it always strikes me as very one sided. Fred Smith is born and dies Fred Smith for Mary Brown there may several name changes through changing circumstances. There is also the recourse to Deed Poll to change your name, which is important to those who understand themselves in a different way. In the religious life it is common to take a new name if entering a community of Religious. Similarly, this can happen for us at Baptism or Confirmation. To take a Confirmation name is more usual in the Roman Catholic Church where you choose a name of a saint you admire, can relate to, or aspire to be like. This saint will be bonded to you spiritually and will be your model in life and can be the one you turn to for guidance and protection and it is the name in which you would be Confirmed.

Throughout the Bible, there are examples of people taking on new names, dating back to the Old Testament. God changes names of many to reflect the special roles they were to play throughout history. For example, God changed Abram's name to Abraham and his wife Sarai, to Sarah. This name change signified that God was associating them more nearly to himself giving a part of his name to them. God makes a covenant with Abraham that would make him the first of God's people on earth. In the New Testament, Simon's name is changed to Peter, meaning "rock" (Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ), "And upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:17-18).

Talking of changing the names of pets – here are some silly ones.

New dog cross breeds. The following new cross breeds are now recognised by the Kennel Club (allegedly!)

Collie and Lhasa Apso: The Collapso, a dog that folds up for easy transport.

Pointer and Setter: The Poinsetter, the traditional Christmas pet.

Pekingese and Lhasa Apso: The Peekasso, an abstract dog.

Terrier and Bulldog: The Terribull, not a good dog.

Bloodhound and Labrador: The Blabador, a dog that barks constantly.

Deerhound and Terrier: The Derriere the dog that is true to the end.

Rev Anne Dunlop
revannedunlop@gmail.com

Church Services for June 2024

Sunday 26TH May All Saints	Trinity Sunday 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 2nd June All Saints	First after Trinity 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 9th June All Saints	Second after Trinity 11.00 a.m.	Barbabas the Apostle Family Communion
Sunday 16th June All Saints	Third after Trinity 11 .00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 23rd June East Chiltington	Fourth after Trinity 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 30th June FIFTH SUNDAY St Michael	Fifth after Trinity 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion

From May until the end of September the service on the fourth Sunday in the month will be held at East Chiltington Church.

Where there is a fifth Sunday in the month our service is at St Michael Plumpton at 11.00 a.m.

If you are unable to make your way to any of our church services, please contact one of our churchwardens who will arrange transport.

Every Tuesday All Saints Church at 11.30 a.m. – 12.00

A time of quiet reflection and a short Communion Service.

Tuesday Lunch Club 12.15 for 12.30 church Annex

This meets weekly and offers food and friendship. It is open to **everyone** and you will receive a warm welcome and the chance to chat whilst enjoying a hearty meal. There is a choice of meat based, vegetarian and gluten free dishes, served with vegetables, French bread and green salad. A variety of puddings are complimented by tea, coffee, cheese and biscuits. If you would like help with Tuesday Lunches on a rota basis, or perhaps contribute an occasional dish. Please contact The Rev Anne Dunlop in the first instance, or one of the Churchwardens.

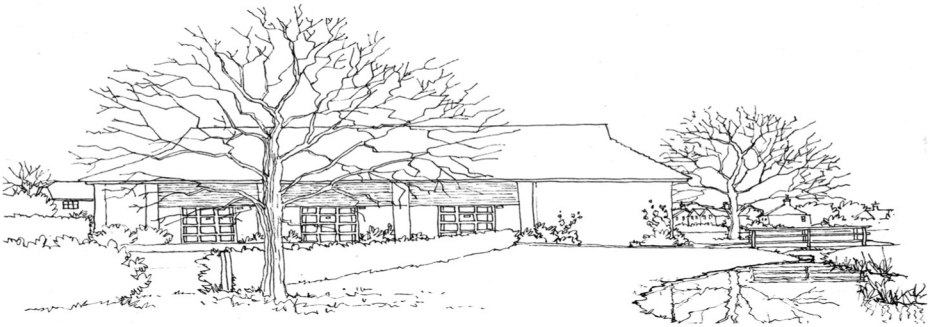
You are most welcome to join us.

Can you volunteer? We are looking for additional help to transport members of our congregation to and from church for services; to become part of the team caring and cleaning the churches and the Annex; and to help with hospitality and coffee after the services. Please contact a churchwarden or Bob Doran 07484 138203 bobdoran74@gmail.com for further details.

For general church matters please contact Rev Anne Dunlop 01273 890006 revannedunlop@gmail.com in the first instance or one of the Churchwardens.

East Chiltington
Plumpton

Janice Doran 07484 348341 jncdoran@gmail.com
Howard Wood 07794 484373 hawood167@hotmail.com



VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR

VH = Village Hall

HQ = Scout HQ

TC = Tennis Club

StM = St Michael's

ANX = Church Annex

PAV = Pavilion

ECC = East Chiltington Church

Sch = Plumpton School

ALC = All Saints Church

BOOKINGS

Village Hall & Pavilion:
Church Annex

Jane Donovan 07747 050903 or 01273 891036
Bob Doran 01273 890211 or 07484 348341

- 2nd June** - RAF Chailey Memorial Service 3pm
- 8th June** - St. Peter & St. James Fabric Sale VH
- 13th June** - Happy Circle - Sue Acker's floral arrangement 2 - 4pm ANX
- 15th June** - Strawberry Fair VH
- 22nd June** - Church Jumble Sale 2pm VH
- 23rd June** - St. Peter & St. James Open Village Gardens
-
- 3rd July** - Rude Mechanicals VH
- 6th July** - Model Railway Show 10 - 4 VH
- 27th July** - St. Peter & St. James Jumble Sale VH
-
- 3rd Aug** - Hort. Soc. Summer Flower Show.. 2pm VH
- 8th August** - Happy Circle - Music with Ruth 2 - 4pm VH
ANX
-
- 21st Sept** - Apple Pressing Day VH
- 21st Sept** - Hort. Soc. Autumn Flower Show. with Apple Pressing. 2pm VH
- 28th Sept** - Model Railway Show 10 - 4 VH
-
- 22nd Nov** - Hort. Soc. AGM 7.30 VH
-
- 30th Nov** - St. Peter & St. James Festive Fair VH

Letters to the Editor

Views and opinions expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team or Magazine Committee.

Scam Warning...

My parents in law, June and Jim Potts, Acorn's, Station Road had a scam caller who claimed they had a blocked drain. Luckily June, who had a blocked drain previously, knew the symptoms and knew that she didn't have one. He tried to get June to pay him £100. Luckily she said that she didn't handle money.

We were just wondering if an article could go into the parish magazine. Also, my husband mentioned how farmers in Petworth ring each other to warn them when they are scammers around. I am not sure whether such a thing would be worth instigating in the village where they ring the next person in the list.

Regards
Rosie Potts



St Peter & St James Hospice
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Fun Dog Show

To be held at the Strawberry Fair

Saturday 15 June

Entries by 2.00 pm

£2 per class

Judging 3.00 pm

Classes

Cutest/Cuddliest Dog/Bitch (any age)

Best Dog/Bitch under 7 years

Best Veteran Dog/Bitch over 7 years

Dog/Bitch with smartest/bling collar

Uckfield, Lewes & Newick Arts Society

The Civic Hall, Uckfield, June 12th 2.30

Kirsty Hartsiotis: The Arts and Crafts movement in England's Churches

Kirsty gives talks on both art history and folklore, her two great passions. She studied history of art at Warwick, medieval studies at York – where she was a member of the Lords of Misrule theatre group – and museum studies at Leicester. She is a storyteller and writer with a special interest in history and the heritage industry, in which she's worked for many years as a curator and educator, organising many exhibitions.

The finest Arts and Crafts church is probably to be found in Brockhampton, Herefordshire. It was commissioned not by the Church of England but by a Bostonian lady, Alice Foster, who happily for those concerned had married the local Halifax Mill owner. The superb altar tapestries are by Burne-Jones and made in the workshops of William Morris.

Other churches include Holy Trinity, Sloane Squire with, for example, its Great East Window, again the work of Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris. Not surprisingly John Betjeman described Holy Trinity as the 'Cathedral of the Arts and Crafts movement'.

We are in the Civic Hall Uckfield, parking is free and the lecture will start promptly at 2.30. The cost is £7 but if you are interested in joining, please contact me. We look forward to welcoming you.

This is our last lecture of the season. We start again on September 11th and I will be telling you all about our exciting new programme next month, so watch this space!

Annette Shelford

annette@shelford.net

Open Forum Meeting The Fountain Inn 20 May

Approximately 30 residents came to the meeting on 20 May to discuss the possible community purchase of the pub.

This was an exploratory meeting to establish

- 1 What level of interest there would be among residents in the possibility of communal ownership of the Fountain
- 2 What knowledge existed about how this could be done
- 3 What steps should be taken at this stage to move towards possible communal ownership.

Many of those present made positive contributions to the discussion, and there was a very positive atmosphere, with several offers of participation during and after the meeting. A number of issues were clarified, as detailed below:

Contact has been made with Punch Taverns (owners of the Fountain), who are aware of local interest in a purchase. It was agreed that it was essential to establish good communications with the company.

Information should be sought from other community pubs (such as the Half Moon at Balcombe), which have been through the experience of a community purchase., to find out what needs to be done by Plumpton residents who want to pursue the idea.

There should be a well publicised meeting in the Village Hall to enable Plumpton residents to find out more about a possible community purchase, at which speakers with knowledge and experience of buying a community pub would be invited to speak.

The previous work of Plumpton Parish Council in registering the Fountain with Lewes District Council as an Asset of Community Value was acknowledged, and it was agreed that PPC should be kept fully informed and given the opportunity to become involved.

Discussion also centred around corporate structures that could be used for the purchase and operation of a community pub; what other community uses the building could be suitable for; and the possibility of obtaining grants to help with purchase/development (although it was noted that the Government's final allocation (under Levelling Up policies) of funds to assist communities with such purchases is about to expire, and would therefore not be available in this instance.

Any local resident who wishes to help with any aspect of community purchase of the Fountain Inn is welcome to contact fountainpurchase2024@gmail.com to express their interest.

Plumpton & District
Footpath Society

PROGRAMME FOR June 2024



Sunday 2nd June - Meet 2.30 in the car park at Ardingly Reservoir (Map Ref. 334 286) for a 5.5m walk to Balcombe Viaduct, returning via Stone Hall.

Walk Leader: Diane Ellis (01825 723716 / 07895720839)

Wednesday 5th June - Meet 10.30 at North Street car park (pay), Storrington (Post Code RH20 4NZ) for a 7.25m circular walk. Bring a packed lunch.

Walk Leaders: Sue and Robin Akers (07775423361)

Saturday 15th June - Meet 10.30 at Herstmonceux castle (Map Ref. 653 102) for a 5m walk taking in Wartling Wood and Wartling Village. Possible lunch afterwards at The Lamb, Wartling

Walk Leader: Bernie Kempton (01825722649 / 07791247025)

Sunday 30th June - Meet at 10.30 in Plumpton Racecourse car park for a 4m walk south of Plumpton

Walk Leaders: Geoff and Gill Medhurst (01273890055 / 07505626074)

CHAILEY REPAIR CAFÉ – MEET THE GENERALS!!!

Our April Repair Café was seriously busy, with some really excellent work being done by all our talented volunteers – more than 100 of you visited and you brought us some really tricky stuff!! Our 27 volunteers tackled 73 repairs in 3 hours, with a 77% success rate.

So – who are our Generals? Well, if it's not an electrical item or something that needs sharpening or a fabrics repair, you'll be in the hands of our amazing General Repair team, which includes a joiner, a clock repairer (not always there, so please check first!), a ceramicist and jewellery repairer, a legendary engineer and a superb model maker. There's not much they can't successfully take on!!

We are doing a brisk trade in sharpening garden tools and getting those pesky lawnmowers to start and we can even fix those broken sunglasses, as we now have those tiny screws which hold them together... It's also now time to blow the dust off that bicycle in the shed and bring it to us to have a once over – we can also fix those kids' bikes which are so prone to going wrong at the hands of your little darlings!

Chailey Repair Café is part of a world-wide movement where volunteer experts repair things free of charge – although a donation towards running costs is invited. Anyone can bring along broken items or clothing needing repair from home, and have a cuppa and a cake and then watch while your repairs is done in front of you..

You'll find us at St Peter's Church, Chailey on the A275 at Chailey Green on the second Saturday of each month (11th May, 8th June, 13th July and so on) between 1000hrs and 1300hrs where we have a full Café service including our legendary cakes! We get busy, so please be patient if you have to wait for a while!

Contact us at chaileyrc@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

Bryan McAlley and the Chailey Repair Café team

Plumpton & East Chiltington Good Neighbours

Telephone Contact 07478 524152

Do you need help or someone to talk to? We are a group of local volunteers who offer a befriending service and help with everyday things such as shopping and simple household jobs, to anyone needing support. We can help on a regular or one off basis and, there are no charges associated with our help, with the exception of travel costs if we transport you somewhere such as to the doctors or another similar appointment. All our volunteers are DBS checked.

It doesn't matter what age group you are in or whether your family is local. If you feel you would like our help or, to talk about how we may help you, please phone Gina or Alison on the above number or, you can email us at:

pecgoodneighbours@gmail.com

New volunteers are always needed and very welcome. If you are interested in joining our team please get in touch on the contact details above.

We are having a pitch at the Strawberry Fair on 15th June so come along and play one of our games or, just come and have a chat with one of our volunteers.

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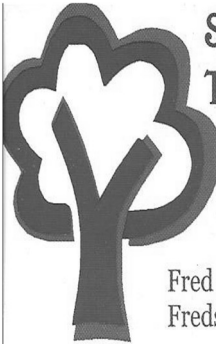
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Wild East Chiltington started in autumn 2022. We received lottery funding to plant a children's forest and create a 'forest from seed' tree nursery from local seed on the TECT land in East Chiltington. The project is intended as a positive antidote to climate change, and for the next generation to dream into a positive future for themselves and the children of all species. We would love for as many local children to be involved as possible!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Beltaine celebration on Sunday 28th April. We had 60 people join us at various points throughout the day - helping to plant the seedlings, tend the trees, drink hawthorn tea, weave Beltaine crowns, dance the Maypole and enjoy the amazing folk music and tales around the Beltaine fire. It was a wonderful start to the summer!

Our next community session will be on **Sunday June 23rd 2-4.30pm** to celebrate the **Summer Solstice**. We will be at the 'Forest from seed' nursery in the TECT field planting out the tree seedlings. The family friendly session will also include games, nature craft, fire lighting and a story around the fire and is suitable for all ages. The solstice celebration is free thanks to 'The People's projects' lottery funding. Please let us know you would like to come by emailing wildeastchiltington@gmail.com or responding to our WhatsApp message.

You can join our broadcast only WhatsApp group by scanning the QR code here with your phone or visit:
chat.whatsapp.com/C7E3kA2ufaG4dV4O8D7kUi



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Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife

Species Lists: Birds

To continue the theme of the Wildlife Group's 'Year of the Bird', this month's article focuses on the species lists that have been added to the Group's website recently and in particular the list of all the bird species that ever recorded in Plumpton & East Chiltington.

The list has been compiled from data received from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC). The SxBRC hold wildlife records for all species recorded in Sussex and they provided the Group with summary data for all records they hold for both Parishes back in early 2023. You can find more about the SxBRC at <https://sxbr.org.uk/>.

This article is about the bird species list, which you can find at <https://plumptonwildlifegroup.weebly.com/birds.html>. The list contains an impressive list of 163 species and it's interesting to take a closer look at some of those records.

You can sort on the Last Record Date by clicking anywhere on that column heading (or on any of the other column headings). Top of the list is the rather surprising Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin last seen in September 1854. This species primarily breeds in dry habitats across southern Europe and North Africa so it's presence in our area not once but twice is completely unexpected!

Also interesting are the two records for Corncrake, the last in October 1972. At the end of the 1800s the distinctive crex crex call of the Corncrake was a common sound but as agricultural practices changed to more mechanical harvesting their numbers crashed to the extent that they are now only found in the more remote parts of the UK such as the Outer Hebrides.

The single record of a Great White Egret in February 2020 and 36 records of Little Egret shows the other side of the coin as both these species are relatively new arrivals to the UK. The first significant arrival of Little

Egrets occurred as late as 1989 and first bred in 1996. There are now over 800 breeding pairs and is now a fairly regular sight in our locality. The first breeding record of Great White Egret occurred in the Somerset Levels in 2012 and there are now around 30 pairs breeding and their range is expanding. This is a species that is likely to be encountered again in the not too distant future.

White-tailed Eagle is another species with an interesting history. They were once widespread across the UK but driven to extinction by the late 1700s. Following a number of successful reintroductions, notably in Western Scotland, a reintroduction scheme was started on the Isle of Wight which culminated in the first breeding success in England last year. That programme will have contributed to the 5 records seen in our locality, probably over the South Downs as that route has been taken by a number of dispersing juveniles. Whenever you're near the Downs it's worth regularly looking up as you never know what you might see!

This is an extremely brief rundown of a few of the species on that list and there are many more interesting species that are worthy of closer inspection. The list essentially only contains those records up to the end of 2021, although it is intended to refresh the list soon, probably within the next year.

Hopefully it will inspire you to add to the list! Perhaps the simplest way to do this is by using the BirdTrack service provided free by the BTO. Search for BTO and BirdTrack to find out more. There is a very simple app you can use on your phone to make records as you're out and about. There are regular feeds from BirdTrack into the SxBRC's database so your records will make it into this list.

www.bto.org/our-science/projects/birdtrack

Chris Chapman



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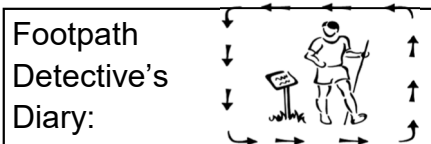
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A Footpath Detectives Diary

June 2024

Whitebread Hole or Whitbread Hollow

Whitbread Hollow to the west of Eastbourne is the location of the route explored. I last walked this route with a friend late last September and just thought about it again as June will be a lovely time to enjoy the wild flowers and the wildlife they attract. The route is about 4 miles and involves one quite strenuous climb. It largely explores what I know as Whitbread Hollow although I see on my O/S map that it is marked as Whitebread Hole and this caused me to do a little more reading. There is reference to it having been called Whitebread Hole in 1694 (and no my map is not that old), and in 1450 it was known as Wycombe. There is also reference to a William Whytbred in the area in 1485. Whitbread is a name of Anglo-Saxon origin and an occupational name of a baker of the finer sorts of bread.

We started our walk in Helen Garden at the west end of the Eastbourne promenade. This is a lovely place to sit in the sun and enjoy the view across the bay. We headed west to the tea kiosk just past St Bede's School and took the track to the left of the kiosk. The track led us over the top of the low cliff above Holywell Ledge, a band of rocks that can be seen at low tide and create a sheltered swim area with lovely rock pools.

The track becomes a footpath that led us into Whitbread Hollow, a grassy valley sheltered by the chalk hill above. We skirted along the south east edge above the cliff. The Hollow is used as a summer sport ground by the school and sometimes even has a running track marked out. There is a lovely flat area with short grass nibbled by rabbits. It is on chalk and well drained and very typical of the Downland. The land was donated to

Eastbourne Council in the 1920s. In 1915 it was used as a training area for the Royal Army Medical Corps, this was of interest to me as my father served in RAMC. The site has also been used for allotments. In the 1930s a proposal was made for houses to be built there but thankfully that was rejected as was a ski slope proposal in the 1970s. Now it can be peacefully enjoyed by the wildlife and also us humans.

We continued along our path staying on top of the cliff edge. It is possible to drop down on a path to Cow Gap but that was not for us on this particular day. Just above the point where below us was Head Ledge the path turned right and we began the steep ascent in warm sunshine with a cooling sea breeze. The path is on short grass and very visible. It leads straight up towards a trig point. At the top of the climb our path met the South Downs Way (SDW) and we took a breather to turn and admire the view of the sea and the coastline of Eastbourne, Pevensey Bay and across to Hastings.

An optional left turn along the SDW for a few hundred metres took us to the view point above the Beachy Head light house. We then turned back east along the SDW. I find it lovely to walk along the short nibbled grass between the gorse and enjoy watching the birds, butterflies and small mammals that thrive in this chalk grassland. There have been occasions when I have enjoyed a bit of barefoot running along these paths too.

Where the SDW curves right and begins its descent back to Eastbourne we continued straight for a while until we met the zig-zag road. We crossed the road and onto a path parallel with Meads Road. Using this we descended and then took a right turn onto Darley Road. We did a little detour off through the Eastbourne Campus and back to Darley Road before another right turn onto Meads Street. This is the Meads area of Old Eastbourne. Where Meads Street meets Hollywell Road we came to the Pilot Inn. Realising that we were too late for tea back at the kiosk we opted for a pint at the Inn.

EJH



Bird Watch

It is extraordinary how things emerge. Last month I wrote about Long-tailed Tits and the way that ringing birds can reveal how long they survive. Shortly after this, the Ringing Office published the latest longevity updates. A Long-tailed Tit had been ringed as a full grown bird of unknown age one December. Nine years and eight months later it was controlled by a ringer, fit and well, only a few kilometres from the original site. It must therefore be at least ten years old and who knows for how much longer it will thrive.

In mid-April I went to Arlington Reservoir to see if there were any early Swallows. In just over an hour, by scanning the water at a distance, over thirty made their way north in twos and threes flying low over the surface. Last week a pair was flying in and out of the donkey shed at the Hospice, a regular breeding site for them. As they flew close to the donkeys, I thought how a few weeks ago they would have been hunting insects disturbed by the large animals of the plains in Africa. These are some of the early arrivals. Others will not get here until well into May, according to the weather conditions they encounter on route.

Goldfinches are still yielding us interesting information from the ringing results. An adult male was ringed in West Sussex in January this year to be controlled by another ringer in the Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway in April. This once again verifies the north to south movement they follow in winter, returning in spring. The other followed the same

pattern. A juvenile, as yet to get its red face, was ringed in the same garden at the end of summer three years ago, and is likely to have been hatched locally, was controlled well down in France this February, wintering there. Though we see Goldfinches all year round, it is unlikely that they are the same birds. I am fortunate that they enjoy a constant supply of sunflower hearts and I have them almost daily and I often wonder how far they will have flown in the year, north to south and vice-versa.

I went with a group of conservation students to the Hospice woods so that they could get an idea of making a bird hide. I pointed out to them a Mistle Thrush singing high in the trees. They had already identified it through their wonderful app on their phone, that can do so. We talked about its use and it seems that they would be happy to check it on their phones every time they hear a bird sing and do not see the need to remember it. It appears that they would prefer to have information at their fingertips rather than knowledge stored in their brain. I know I am old-fashioned and getting grumpy in my old age but I think it is an opportunity lost. The satisfaction of learning, knowing and remembering is to me important and satisfying.

R.J.L.



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Chailey Commons Society

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Over the Easter holidays the society helped to raise money for Chailey St Peters Primary School with a crafts day at the sports pavilion. Things being made were spring wreaths, chicks and nests and we also chatted to visitors about the Society and the common. There was also a trail on Memorial Common where children had to spot pictures of plants and animals and then re-arrange the first letters of each to spell 'nightjar.' As well as raising money for a good cause this was a great opportunity for everyone to see and learn about the wonderful wildlife on the Common.

Our early spring bird walk was held in ideal conditions, and we saw or heard twenty species of birds including a lovely yellowhammer and an obliging stonechat both perched close by for several minutes to be photographed. The fine morning was filled with bird song which we all enjoyed.

The cattle have moved onto Pound, Memorial & Romany Ridge Commons. There are currently no cattle on Red House or Lane End Commons. The 4 Exmoor ponies remain at Red House Common.

The wildlife refuges continue in position on Red House and Memorial commons. There are signs and maps showing the areas and we are grateful for everyone's help in keeping these refuges clear for the ground nesting birds. As the bracken grows and the season progresses it is important that these refuges are respected, so thank you for helping us.

Our meetings continue this month with a Nightjar walk on Thursday 13th June

starting at the Sports Clubs car park by the A272 at 9.30. p.m. We will cross Memorial and Pound commons where they have been previously seen and heard. As always, we will finish in the dark, so torches are essential and good footwear for the damp ground.

In addition to this, we are planning to do surveys this year with a group of volunteers all out at the same time tracking the movement of these mysterious birds. If you would like to volunteer for the Nightjar Surveys to be held on the evenings of Saturdays June 1st and June 22nd meeting at the Memorial Common car park at 8.30.p.m. do let us know - 'mail@chaileycommons.org.uk'.

Another activity for June will be a Bat Walk starting at the Sports Clubs car park at 8.15.p.m. on Monday June 24th. Jessica Lewis from the Sussex Bat Group will lead us, and we will have bat detectors to help us track the bats during their hunt for food.

For further information, visit our website – www.chaileycommons.org.uk or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/ or friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com

William Coleman

01444 831098



Lewes District Citizens Advice

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BN9 9PN
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www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk

Contact : Sophie Hoffman 01273 007556

I am on a really low income and struggling to make ends meet, I don't know if I am entitled to any benefits. How do I check?

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's easy to overlook the support systems that could be available to you. Whether you're facing financial difficulties, navigating a life change, or simply curious about what assistance you might be eligible for, understanding your entitlements is crucial. At Citizens Advice, we're dedicated to ensuring everyone knows their rights and can access the support they deserve.

Various benefits exist, both means tested and disability related. The first step is knowing where to seek assistance. Online resources like Turn2Us and EntitledTo provide a convenient means to assess likely eligibility. By inputting details such as income, living situation, and employment status, you can receive a personalised breakdown of potential benefits.

In addition, you can visit citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits for detailed benefits information including application processes and our specialised universal credit Help to Claim service. At your local Lewes District branches, we have trained advisers, a universal credit specialist and benefits caseworkers, so if you need help call our local Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7892 - lines are open Tuesday - Thursday 10am-3pm.

Remember, entitlements can change based on circumstances such as starting a new job, facing health issues, or changing your living situation. Life is dynamic, and so are the benefits you might qualify for. Citizens Advice is here, without judgment, working alongside you to find a way forward.

EAST CHILTINGTON



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Clubs

Groups

For changes or new entries:

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