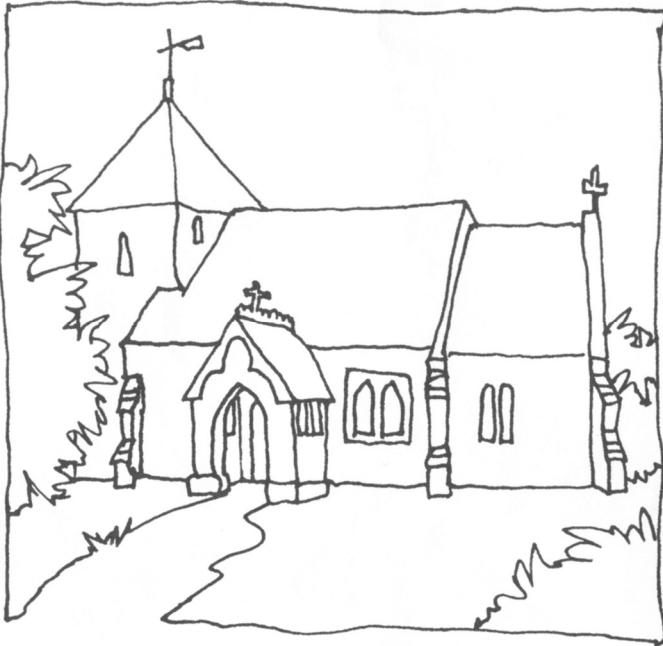


# Plumpton & East Chiltington News

## August 2024



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# PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

## August 2024

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## Happy Circle

Thursday 8th August

**Singing with Ruth**

For more details contact:  
Cherie 01273891592

## 'TECT Tidy' Volunteer Group

Sunday 4th August 2024

Meet at the orchard at 10am (finishing around 2pm). Drop in as you feel. Instruction will be given on the day of the area/s we'll aim to tackle.

Please bring your own gloves and gardening tools.

## ***COPY DEADLINES***

***18th August for September***

***17th September for October***



**Copy to The Poplars, Station Road  
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## Plumpton Parish Council

[www.plumptonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk)

### New Pavilion Project

As reported in the May edition the Parish Council has formed a working group to oversee the new pavilion project. The working group now consists of four parish councillors, two members of Honeybees preschool and two members representing the sports clubs.

To get more feedback on the project Plumpton Parish Council opened three short online surveys for residents, users and neighbours respectively. The results of the surveys can be found on the Parish Council Website. At the same time the Parish Council agreed to commission Architect, George Pottinger, to provide a structural appraisal of the existing building to see if it would be financially viable to refurbish rather than build new. Having had the report it was agreed by the Parish Council at their meeting in May 2024 that it was not financially viable to refurbish the building as the foundations do not meet current building regulations and bringing these foundations up to standard would be more costly than demolishing and rebuilding. We subsequently asked George to provide initial designs for a new building.

A two-storey design was rejected since the extra cost and space required to provide a lift (a requirement for disabled access) and the staircase meant the useable space gain was minimal for the extra spend. We therefore are at the stage where the working group with the architect are progressing a single storey design which we will present at two consultation events to be held in the Pavilion on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August for Sports club users and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August for residents. Please look out for times and agenda details on the Parish Council website and notice boards.

### Overgrown Hedges on Station Road

The Parish Council has been made aware of the many overgrown hedges along the length of Station Road and asks homeowners to show consideration to pedestrians and make sure they cut back their hedges to the edge of the

pavement. On some sections overhanging brambles makes it difficult to walk, especially if walking with a small child and/or pushing a buggy, and we have had reports of people being injured by overhanging brambles.

### PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

- Plumpton Parish Council require a skilled handyperson to undertake a wide variety of repairs and maintenance tasks across the Council's properties and street furniture. The role will average at a minimum of 5 hours per week over the course of the year, with seasonal peaks in workload. For more information, please contact the Clerk.
- 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](mailto:anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk)

We do not meet in August and therefore the date of the next Parish Council meeting is **September 10th, 19:45hrs** at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.





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### **Village Party**

The annual East Chiltington Village Party, which took place on Saturday July 6th on Hollycroft Field was a great success. The first appearance of the village's two splendid and recently acquired marquees was greeted with admiration all round. The superhero theme of the day was embraced with enthusiasm by many of the participants, both human and canine, in the various events including the dog show and the obstacle race. Some magnificent (and delicious) cakes were baked for the cake competition by children and adult competitors alike and were then sold off to raise further funds for the new storage facility. Later, after the barbecue and with the bar going gangbusters throughout the afternoon and evening, the Ceilidh and the dancing which followed were a great success. A huge thank you to everyone who did so much to organise and deliver a tremendous day - and to the rain clouds for holding off on us.

Picture shows

Parish councillor Mark Marsh gets a cream pie in the face

### **Village Marquees and storage facility**

The village's new marquees and the quantity of tables, benches, chairs etc which also belong to the village are currently stored securely in buildings belonging to members of the village, which means that when they are used they need to be transported to and from the Hollycroft field whenever they are needed. Happily, with the aid of grants from SDNP, TECT and others, the Parish Council is about to acquire and fit out a shipping container to be placed on Hollycroft and shielded by new hedging. This will enable all the marquees, other Parish Council assets and

TECT equipment, to be stored safely and securely on site. An update will be given in a future issue of the newsletter.

### **Damaged verges**

Disappointingly the assurances the Parish Council have received regarding the replacement of damaged and lost posts that should be protecting our roadside verges with their precious wildflowers have yet to translate into action. We will continue to press East Sussex County Council Highways Department and hope to see action being taken in the near future.

### **Overgrown Paths**

The Monday Group have been busy clearing overgrown paths in the area. At this time of year, it's hard to keep up but if you come across a particularly difficult path please do get in touch through the clerk to the council - [clerk@eastchiltington.net](mailto:clerk@eastchiltington.net). As always, we are so grateful for the work these volunteers do.

### **Flexible transport for all**

There seems to be a misconception that the 'dial a ride' or Flexibus is only for elderly or disabled. It is actually a service available to anyone for the same cost as a normal bus fare. Bus passes can also be used enabling free rides to those of pension age. The service is available to book by phone on 01273 078203 or with the app: [eastsussex.gov.uk/ESCCFlexiBus](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/ESCCFlexiBus).





## James MacCleary MP

As I write this I have just finished my first week as your local MP. I want to thank those residents across Plumpton and East Chiltington who supported me. I held a meeting during the election at Plumpton Village Hall and my thanks to those who attended, it was really helpful to hear local views.

I will work as part of the local team with County Councillor Sarah Osborne and District Councillor Daniel Stewart-Roberts to get things done for our area. This includes fighting over development, putting the pressure on the County Council to repair the potholes in our roads faster and more efficiently and putting pressure on the new government to provide more funding for it; and to raise concerns over local access to GPs and Dentists.

Many people do not realise that when you start as a new MP it is literally just you and a laptop. There is no office waiting for you and no staff. Hopefully by the time you read this I will have an office set up; please bear with me while all this takes place.

If you would like to be in touch then email me [james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk) and I will do my best to help, or write to me at James MacCleary MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

---

## Daniel Stewart-Roberts - District Councillor

Council business is emerging from the strange limbo (commonly known as Purdah) that politics, and all that is politics-adjacent, goes into during an election period. The task of managing elections falls to District Councils and many of LDC's officers have spent much of their time since the election was called preparing for and administering the voting process, no least manning all the polling stations for 15 hours non-stop plus set-up and take-down time and counting the votes until the early hours of the morning – a level of effort that deserves recognition and thanks.

Having been a cog in the very impressive and enthusiastic machine that worked to secure his election, I'm very pleased that James MacCleary is now our new Liberal Democrat MP. Having worked with him on the Council since my election last year, I know that he will do a great job. If you would like to contact him, his email address is [james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk). He is working on his plans for surgeries for constituents and I will publicise these once they are available.

On a very different note, the Council's Policy & Performance Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, has been paying close attention to the problems residents experience contacting the council. We recently received an encouraging report from the responsible officers: The vacant positions in the call centre team have been filled and the new staff have been undergoing the extensive training needed to equip them to deal with the wide variety and complexity of issues that residents call in about. We should therefore hopefully soon see a reduction in call waiting times. The AI-powered Ellis Chatbot has also been receiving training and is becoming increasingly effective. One useful piece of advice we were given is that Ellis responds better if you talk to it like a human. Apparently if you just say key words to it, you won't get the best out of it (Who knew!). I have to say that I am a bit of an AI cynic myself (maybe it's my age) and I would be keen to hear your experiences of using it – good and bad.

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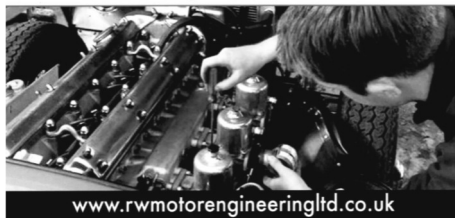
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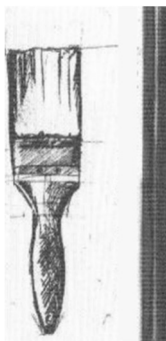
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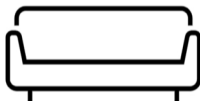
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## **Plumpton Green Bowling Club**

### **Autumn / Winter Season 2024 / 2025**

Have you ever fancied having a go at Short Mat Bowls ? It's fun, entertaining, sometimes frustrating, not too energetic, open to all age groups and genders from inside or outside the village and, we are a friendly welcoming bunch at Plumpton. Our season begins on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September in Plumpton Village Hall from 7.00pm until 9.30pm** and each Thursday, unless otherwise notified.

Short Mat Bowls is played indoors on 40ft mats, compatible with the English Short Mat Bowling Association laws and regulations. Our Club is a member of the Wealden Short Mat Bowls League which, in turn, is part of the East Sussex Short Mat Bowls Association. There is absolutely no obligation for members of the Club to take part in league games but, suffice to say, we finished runners- up in Division 1 last season.

A small weekly attendance fee is only charged after three 'taster' sessions, and a club membership fee is levied annually. Our weekly sessions are in two halves with a tea/ coffee break about 8.30pm. There are occasional additional weekly sessions for the enthusiastic bowlers amongst us, which are notified in advance. For those aspiring to be selected for a league match, home and away fixtures are notified a few weeks in advance by our Match Secretary / Captain.

All you need to start with is to bring along trainers or similar, with clean soles, to avoid damage to the mats. We have sets of woods (bowls) available to initially try your hand at the game, and further information can be obtained from Malcolm Beard on 01273 890826

---

### **Sussex produce well received in Normandy and delivered by vintage tractors.**

The last weekend of June saw a friendly invasion of some 60 plus vintage machines organised by **Chailey Classic & Vintage Tractor Club**, comprising many tractors supported by vintage cars, a 1930s Sentinel steam lorry and even one of the organising team trying his luck by cycling.

The British contingent crossed from Newhaven to Dieppe and direct to Gournay en Bray, some 50 miles south of Dieppe. The town is twinned with our last market town in Hailsham.

Accepting the importance of rural communities, agriculture and feeding the world however was like minded with our French colleagues.

The British contingent came with friendship, respect and gifts comprising good Sussex produce.

CCVTC is grateful for the support and kind contribution of Harvey's and Longman Breweries, Bluebell Vineyard, Southdown Cider and High Weald Dairy for cheese.

Fair to say that British beer, wine, cider and cheese were very well received by our French friends who were extremely complimentary.

## ***DR's Diary...***

### **A SPECIAL PLACE**

I recently went to an art exhibition entitled 'My Special Place'. The brief was for the artists to paint their 'special place.' Predictably, coastal scenes and landscapes were popular. Others had chosen favourite holiday destinations abroad. Each painting was accompanied by a short summary by the artists.

It made me wonder if everyone had special places. For some it may be where they met their future wife/husband/partner or perhaps where they went on honeymoon?

For others it may be their favourite pub, a concert venue, football /cricket/ rugby ground. You may be surprised how many 'knots' are tied in the centre circle (or ashes scattered in goals).

What constitutes a 'special place?' Scenic beauty? Fond memories? Or maybe that quiet place for when we need to reflect?

What's a special place for one may be the polar opposite for someone else. My dad was always retailing tales of his family holidays 'down 'opping' in the hop fields of Kent as a boy. When he met my mum he took her once. Let's just say he never went back as a married man!

There must be lots of country folk in their sleepy villages longing for trips to the bright city lights, but like my dad, this 'city boy' was always drawn to England's green and pleasant land. My special place (and that of many of my numerous cousins) is where we spent many wonderful holidays as children. We played in the woods, swam in the old pool the club members had dug by hand and played shuttlecock on the grass (hardly a lawn!). We stayed in an old cottage that was owned by my dad's club. Not the sort of club you find in

Piccadilly, this was on the other side of town and was set up by philanthropists from Oxford for the less fortunate. The cottage was actually donated by the local brewery owner. No gas, no telephone, no hot water, no bathroom and an outside loo that housed lots of spiders. We thought it was wonderful!

If I booked it now via Air B&B, I'd sue!

The cottage was sold off in the late 1970's and now has all the facilities it lacked in our day. In fact, I'd need a win on the lottery to buy it now.

Occasionally, I go back. I walk around the village, I'll have a picnic on the green. I might go in the pub, if I'm 'lucky' there'll be something going on in the village hall or on the green. I sit on dad's bench. It always amazes me, everywhere else is changing but this doesn't. It's my Shangri la.

I'm sure some of you reading this may have 'special places'. I hope you feel uplifted too.

### **Plumpton Flower Club**

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## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Many people, especially those that live in rural areas, are aware of harvest time, but very few will remember the origins of harvest celebrations.

**Harvest Thanksgiving** can be traced back to the times when roaming groups of labourers would seek employment from farms at the start of the harvest season; in Norfolk they would drag their sickles along the floor to announce their arrival. A 'Lord of the Harvest' would be appointed and oversaw negotiating rates and conditions of labour. Leading his workers ('reapers') as they scythed the fields, he would be served first at mealtimes. The church festival that is the most common harvest celebration still held today originated in Morwenstow, Cornwall in 1843, when Reverend Robert Hawker invited the parishioners of his church into his home to receive the Sacrament in "the bread of the new corn." Whether from the Divine, the elements or the mystical, all help was gratefully received. Now that most of us neither sow nor reap what we eat, it is almost impossible to imagine how crucial this time of year was in the calendar, but by knowing a little of the history and keeping these traditions alive we are honouring those who depended upon it. An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognized officially in the Church of England in 1862. Since then, many local traditions for the celebration have developed which often includes the tradition of bringing to church gifts of fresh produce and other foodstuffs.

Harvest suppers were traditionally hosted by the farmer. They brought together the community of people who had helped bring in the crops as a way of saying thank you and celebrating a successful growing year.

But is there a tendency in this country to take the harvest a little too much for granted? After one of the wettest winters on record and a wet start to Spring, many UK farmers have had to deal with flooded fields and waterlogged ground which went on for weeks and weeks. This hindered planting of winter and spring crops, with knock-on implications for the yield and quality of produce such as grains and vegetables. The National Farmers Union have said that flooding and extreme weather linked to climate change could undermine UK food production and security in the future.

Simultaneously, some countries across Europe have been grappling with severe drought. Countries such as Spain and Italy, traditionally major suppliers of fruit and vegetables to the UK, experienced water shortages and usage limits leading to diminished yields and smaller harvests earlier this year – just at the time when we wanted them.

It makes you think, doesn't it? Eating seasonally might help solve some of these issues.

As a species, have we lost touch with the seasons? Has globalisation meant that we can eat whatever we want, whenever we want? Have we lost the link with growing local, sustainable, flavoursome food? Can we reconnect with nature?

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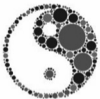
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## Rev. Anne Dunlop

### 'OPEN CHURCH'

It may have come to your notice that on the first Sunday of the month we have a different kind of 'church' happening at All Saints. It is held in the Annex from 10.30 a.m. where you can have a late breakfast or, as someone says in the 'Hobbit', 'a second breakfast' (croissants, muffins etc.) This is followed by – yes – the 'god-stuff', but hopefully a bit different.

We have held 'Open Church' twice with our own congregation iron out any blips (first time too many croissants, second time, not enough!), and are now inviting people from the village to join us.

Entering the church building can feel a bit daunting to some; an unusual space and what goes on there? Hence our move out into the Annex although judging by the squeeze we are thinking that the small village hall may suit better.

The word 'church' will, for most, mean a building, but the use of the word in Biblical understanding refers to the people, not the building. It is the people who are the 'church' and can meet anywhere and in any number (Jesus mentioned two or three meeting together was enough!). However specific buildings are useful and become rich with meaning over time.

In rural settings the church has always held a central place in a village, although most people never attend. If you have lived here for years, it is the place where you may have married, or had children christened and relatives are buried, so has a strong connection. The church is part of the 'village ideal', pub, post-office, shop, church (probably in that order). I am sure if I were to put up a 'For Sale' notice and Tesco bought the land it as a convenience store, or it was bought for yet more houses, most of you would not be pleased.

All Saints, and the other two churches in the Parish, St Michael and All Angels in the College and East Chiltonington, are both a burden and a blessing. As a burden, it is their continual upkeep, but as a blessing they are the repository of meaning, memory, and a communal space where those of faith 'look together in the same direction'.

The Christian faith speaks of believers as becoming one body, members of one another, and that has been my experience of 'church' generally. People who would not connect socially find themselves all in it together. Friendships develop and a care for one another that goes beyond that usually found in other clubs and situations. There is a communion, a coming together to have a shared life.

Alongside this is the journey of faith exploration. We each come with different conceptions and understandings, backgrounds, and histories. None has all the answers and many questions but together we explore how faith in Jesus Christ sheds light on these and what faith means and how we may respond.

Speaking to someone today I asked what they believed about life and death – big questions. I do not believe that people do not ask big questions. "What is life about, does my life have any meaning?" "How do I deal with trouble and tragedy, is there any 'compass' or 'anchor'?" We all ask these questions - if we think at all.

My hope is that people may come to 'Open Church' to see if faith has anything to offer. To stay with us a while and allow the God who gave us life to help us understand how to live it well.

My only worry, as this bit is my responsibility, is getting the number of croissants right!

Rev Anne Dunlop

[revannedunlop@gmail.com](mailto:revannedunlop@gmail.com) 07929 571522





**ON SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER**

**HARVEST LUNCH**

**At 12.15**

**in Village Hall**



Join with Plumpton Churches to celebrate the Harvest, with a locally produced buffet Harvest Lunch.

Come to lunch and, if you feel able to, please do bring food you have made, using produce from your own garden or from local sources.

**Come and celebrate this year's harvest  
Let's come together as a community to celebrate localism and  
sustainability**

**OPEN TO ALL**

We hope to have available apple juice pressed from locally harvested apples, locally produced beers and wines, and breads made from locally milled wheat.

We will also have a hamper of fruit and vegetables that will be auctioned off to raise funds for our chosen charity, Ripple Effect that is helping people in parts of Africa to learn to grow crops in areas suffering from climate change.

If you are planning to come to the lunch, please let me know, and whether you would like to bring a main course or dessert. (Please remember to provide a label with the ingredients).

Carole Nicholson: [carolenicholson3@outlook.com](mailto:carolenicholson3@outlook.com) 01273 891722

### **Tuesday Lunch Club**

This meets in the church annex at 12.15pm for 12.30 p.m. and offers food and friendship weekly. The lunch 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 have skills to offer, join our team of volunteers or perhaps you might contribute an occasional dish. Your help would be gratefully received. Please contact The Rev Anne Dunlop in the first instance, or one of the Churchwardens.

## Church Services for August 2024

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b> All Saints church Annex	<b>Trinity 10</b> 10.30am.	Open Church
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b> All Saints	<b>Trinity 11</b> 11.00am.	Family Communion
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b> All Saints	<b>Trinity 12</b> 11.00am.	Family Communion
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b> East Chiltington	<b>Trinity 13</b> 11.00am.	Family Communion
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> All Saints church Annex	<b>Trinity 4</b> 10.30am	<b>Creation 1</b> Open Church

**From May to September the service on the fourth Sunday in the month is at East Chiltington**

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

**Every Tuesday - A weekly time of reflection and a short Communion Service is held at All Saints Church at 11.30 a.m**

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

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

East Chiltington - Janice Doran 07484 348341 [jncdoran@gmail.com](mailto:jncdoran@gmail.com)

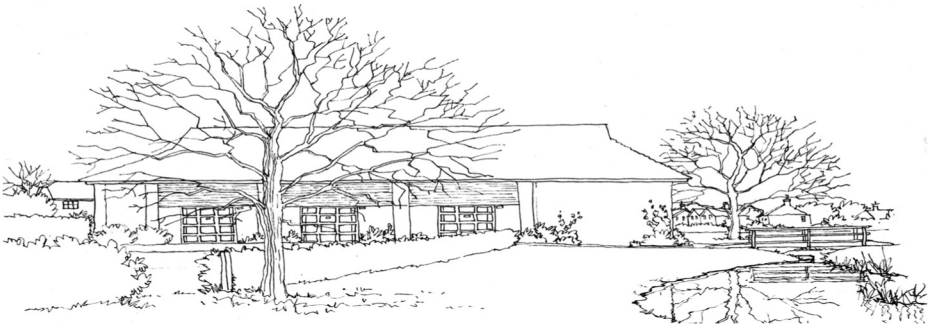
Plumpton Howard Wood 07794484373 [hawood167@hotmail.com](mailto:hawood167@hotmail.com)

### Help Needed

Can you volunteer? We are looking for additional volunteers to transport members of our congregation to church for services; or to become part of the team caring and cleaning the churches and Annex ; to help with hospitality and coffee after the services.

Please contact a churchwarden if you can help or Bob Doran 07484 138203

**'Open Church'** is a new venture for All Saints church. On the first Sunday of the month (starting 4<sup>th</sup> August) from 10.30 a.m. we meet in the Annex for Coffee and croissants (or alternative!) followed at 11.00 a.m. with an informal service of song, hymns, drama, and craft (but not all at once!) which ends at 11.30 a.m. For those who wish to stay on, there follows a short service of Holy Communion in the church. You are most welcome to join us.



## 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

- 3rd Aug** - Hort. Soc. Summer Flower Show.. 2pm VH
- 7th Aug** - Plumpton Flower Club Afternoon Cream Tea 2.30pm 30, Westgate
- 8th August** - Happy Circle - Music with Ruth 2 - 4pm 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
- 6th Oct** - Harvest Festival Lunch 2.15pm VH
- 22nd Nov** - Hort. Soc. AGM 7.30 VH
- 30th Nov**- St. Peter & St. James Festive Fair VH

Plumpton & District  
Footpath Society

### PROGRAMME FOR July 2024



**Wednesday 7th August** Start 10.30 for 9m circular walk. Meet at North Street car park, Lewes. Walk to Barcombe and back with lunch at the Royal Oak (tbc)  
Walk Leader - Clive Washer

**Saturday 10th August** Start 10.30 for a 4.1m walk. Meeting place to be arranged. The walk is alongside the River Adur.  
Walk Leaders: Sue Sampson (07792175599) /Ann Clarke (07791041338)

**Sunday 25th August** Start 2.00 for a 4m local Village walk. Meet at the Village Hall.  
Walk Leader: Jo Taylor (tbc) 01273890450 / 07870142108

***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](mailto: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.

The Annual General Meeting of Good Neighbours will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm in the Church Annex. Light refreshments will be available.  
All welcome.

**Uckfield, Lewes & Newick  
Arts Society**

No lectures in August but we have great plans for our new season. We will start in September with Daniel Robbins 'A Private Place of Art, Leighton House.' Now dare I mention our Christmas and our lecture in December? Of course I will as we are having a most entertaining lecture by Jamie Hayes on Gilbert and Sullivan and their topsy turvy world. Jamie is a stage Manager, Director, Producer and promoter of young talented singers. He has been engaged by major opera Houses like Glyndebourne, Kent Opera, the BBC, RSC and West End theatres.

In the New Year you can choose between visiting the Crystal Palace or learning about Art in Poland. Perhaps you are interested in Monuments and their place in our history? Or Jewellery? We do think we have something for everybody.

Our lectures are in the Civic Hall Uckfield on the second Wednesday of each month except for July and August. If you want to become a member please contact me for more information. We are a friendly group and would love to welcome you. Meantime enjoy the rest of the summer, if it ever comes that is!

Annette Shelford  
[annette@shelford.net](mailto:annette@shelford.net)

## **SURVEY RESULTS – POSSIBLE COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF THE FOUNTAIN INN**

There were 47 responses, of which 3 were considered “spoiled”

Of the remaining 44, 90% of respondents said that keeping a pub in the village was important or very important

97% of respondents indicated they would visit the pub at least occasionally; 41% regularly

70% of respondents expressed a desire for regular food offerings

Of the extra services suggested by respondents, the most popular was regular live music (45%)

67% of respondents were over 65

### **Notes of meeting in Village Hall on 16 July**

Graham Meheux gave a summary of action so far, explaining that the (possible) project was still at an exploratory stage.

Nick Beecroft, former chair of the Community Benefit Society formed to purchase the Half Moon in Balcombe (now community owned) gave a brief history of the society’s formation, experiences in buying the pub, and outline of the present (healthy) situation for the Half Moon.

There was general agreement that the foundations of a good village pub for Plumpton (whoever owns it) were opening hours that are adhered to and regular availability of all drinks and inexpensive “pub grub” advertised; failure to provide these basic requirements was agreed to be a major factor in the relatively low current use of the pub compared to previous tenancies.

Now that some data is available, it should be possible to form a steering group to undertake the following tasks:

Creation of a suitable business entity (e.g. Community Benefit Society, which is one of a number of options available)

Drawing up a business plan

Investigating fundraising and investment opportunities

Establishment of appropriate communication channels with interested parties;

Plumpton Parish Council, Punch Taverns (current freehold owners) and organisations/charities able to provide assistance.

The questionnaire contained a section for respondents to indicate a willingness to become involved in the enterprise; a sufficient number did so, and a steering group is likely to be formed very soon. If any resident wishes to put him/herself forward for such work and has not had the opportunity to do so, he/she is invited to email fountainpurchase2024@gmail.com to register interest.



## **CHAILEY REPAIR CAFÉ CELEBRATES 6 YEARS OF TEA, CAKE AND FIXING!!**

Yes – Chailey Repair Café will be celebrating 6 years of fixing your stuff this August!!

None of us thought when we first opened our doors on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018 that we would grow so quickly and achieve so much. In those days there were only 2 other Repair Cafes in East Sussex – now there are over 27 in West & East Sussex and Kent, with more springing up all the time...

We have now attempted early 5000 repairs, including over 400 during the Covid lockdown, when we carried on repairing your items in our homes and our work has been the subject of numerous articles in the local press and radio. None of that could have been possible without the support of the local community and of course the tireless work of our 38 hard working volunteers – they are simply the best!

We now have a huge stock of specialist tools and many spares which enable us to tackle some really obscure items – as long as you can carry it, we'll look at it! (But no microwaves please – they have a dangerous bite!!)

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 repair 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 (13<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> September and so on) between 1000hrs and 1300hrs where we have a full Café service including our legendary cakes! We get very busy nowadays, so please don't leave it until the last minute to call in !!!!

Not sure if we can fix your broken item? Contact us at [chaileycrc@gmail.com](mailto:chaileycrc@gmail.com) and we'll see what we can do to help.

See you very soon!!

### **Horticultural Society Flower Show**

August 3rd

Please support us & enter your flowers, vegetables, fruit, cooking or handicrafts.

**YOUR SUPPORT  
IS NEEDED!!.**

### **Plumpton & East Chiltonton News**

Would you like to contribute to village life of Plumpton & East Chiltonton?

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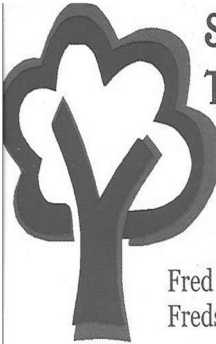
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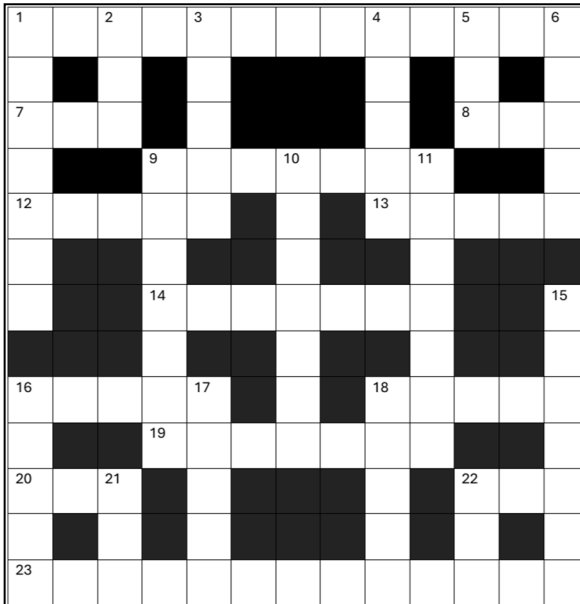
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# Not the European Cup Election Crossword, 2024



## Clues Across

1. They lost the election (13)
7. ... Labour, before Tony Blair (3)
8. English Breakfast, or Earl Grey? (3)
- 9 and 15 down. It was at the village hall on 4<sup>th</sup> July (7,7)
12. ....- in, if the ball crosses the touch line (5)
13. Like Eisenhower, or Johnson (5)
14. A whole number (7)
16. Subject, or theme of a chocolate bar? (5)
18. Roman goddess of the hunt, and the moon (5)
19. Club of Cole, goal scorer for England! (7)
20. Employ (3)
22. Needed for some Winter Olympic sports (3)
23. Lovely village in east Sussex! (8,5)

## Clues Down

1. Lost to eventual winners and went out in the group stage of the Euros (7)
2. Harry did this to score a goal in the Euros (3)
3. Provide (5)
4. .... Bridge. Cricket ground in Nottingham (5)
5. The standard rate is currently 20% (3)
6. Beat England in the Euros final (5)
9. Strangely (?) this word means sensible! (7)
10. .... Democrats, won 72 seats in the House of Commons (7)
11. Appeared at their first Euros this year (7)
15. see 9 across
16. Survived an assassination attempt in July (5)
17. Foolish person (5)
18. Fix software errors (5)
21. Flightless bird (3)
22. The cat's mother? (3)

Andy Starling. July 2024



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## Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife

### The Ladybirds of 1976

If you are over 50, and ruminating on your youth with others of a similar vintage, chances are that the long, hot summer of 1976 will eventually crop up in conversation. Alongside sharing bath water and the merry tinkle of ice-cream vans, I have no doubt 'all the ladybirds' will be noted.

Ladybirds are distinctive insects in a number of ways. They are brightly coloured and have good PR as a 'friend to gardeners'. There are 50,00 different species globally with many colours and patterns. Some have spots, stripes, or no markings at all. There are 46 species of ladybird in the UK, the most familiar being the seven-spot ladybird with its shiny, domed red and black body. A ladybird's bright colours act as a defence mechanism, warning predators as when threatened they secrete an oily, yellow fluid from the joints in their legs, which apparently doesn't taste too good.

Ladybirds lay their eggs in clusters or rows on the underside of a leaf, usually where aphids have gathered. Ladybirds' reputation as an aphid controller is well-deserved. In its year-long life a single seven-spot ladybird can eat more than 5,000 aphids. And in 1976 the warmer than average spring, which had followed a very hot summer in 1975, and mild winter, saw larger than usual populations of aphids, creating more food for ladybirds. Another reason arose from changes to cereal production in the 1970s particularly the release of Maris Huntsman wheat in 1972, lauded for its fungi resistance but which aphids were rather partial to eating.

However the hot, dry summer meant plants matured and dried early, leaving aphids without food and their predator ladybirds moved on in swarms.

The British Entomological and Natural History Society estimated that by late July 23.65 billion ladybirds were swarming on the south

and east coasts of England searching for something to eat. When well-fed, ladybirds are able to travel up to 75 miles (120km) flying at altitudes of more than 1,000m above sea level allowing them to travel to and from continental Europe. But in July 1976 the insects were too tired and hungry to go any further. There were reports of thirsty ladybirds biting humans, even being attracted by ice-cream because of its high sugar content.

After a couple of weeks the swarms subsided. The British Entomological Society identified that explosions in the UK ladybird populations typically happened about once every 15 years during the 20th century, but not after 1976. There are a multitude of factors which lead to rapid increases in the size of ladybird populations but this in itself make it more difficult to predict when it might happen, and decrease the chance of it happening. Factors include the availability of food sources, the amount of sunshine in early summer and temperatures in the preceding winter. Ladybirds tend to thrive after a consistently cold winter. Warmer temperatures cause their metabolic rate to rise, burning off stored fat and causing more deaths.

1990 saw suitable weather conditions for such an explosion, including an early, hot spring, but a parasite destroyed many ladybird pupae and the anticipated numbers did not materialise. A surge of aphids in Norfolk in 1979 and 2009 was followed by large swarms of ladybirds, but this did not 'break out' nationally.

So the great summer of ladybirds, never yet repeated, remains in the folk memory alongside Elton John and Kiki Dee and dried-up reservoirs.

Jean Stewart



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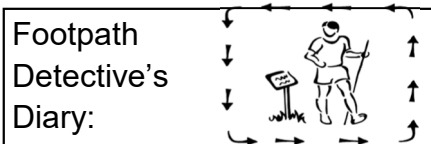
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## A Footpath Detectives Diary August 2024 Exploring Ciudad Rodrigo

Yes I've been out on the local paths but nothing that I've not already written about here so you've got another one from my foreign travels. The time of this little walk, about 4 miles, was June and unseasonally cool but no doubt its probably a little warmer in mid summer.

Ciudad Rodrigo is a walled city in the province of Salamanca in Spain. It is only 25km from the border with Portugal. It is a small city with a rich history that makes it an interesting place to explore easily. Our starting point was the campsite on the south side of Rio Agueda. Spain can look very brown and dry but by this river it is green with lots growing and an abundance of wildlife. We crossed the river using a narrow stone road bridge called Puente Antiguo, the ancient bridge. It gave us a good view into the water where we could see what looked like rainbow trout. The walled old city is perched on a rocky rise above the river with distinct Vauban style fortification of ditches and walls. We walked up a street called Nogales Delicado to enter through a gate, Puerta de la Colada, near the castle, Castillo de Enrique II, a very high prominent structure that would be very visible from the river valley.

The site has been occupied since Neolithic times. Then Celts established a village called Mirobriga. As with much of Europe the Romans came and conquered and it was called Augustobriga. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century King Ferdinand II of Leon re-populated the town and built defensive walls, and it became a part of the diocese of Santiago di Compostella. It sits on one of the many camino di Compostella, the trails that pilgrims walk to that famous pilgrim site in north-west Spain. Construction of the city's cathedral began in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century.

We walked into Plaza del Castillo where in the branches of some large pine like trees were several stork nests. The young were standing

up and trying out their wings, one managed to get airborne by a foot or so before plonking back down in the nest. The adult birds were flying in, feeding the young, and heading back to find more food. Lots of swifts were flying around the high castle walls where they had their nest sites.

In the Plaza del Castillo we saw a granite carving of a creature that we couldn't quite determine. It looked a bit like a large pig. It is one of many 'verraço' (Spanish) or 'berrao' (Portuguese) meaning boar. They are the Vettones's granite megalithic monuments, sculptures of animals as found in the west of the Iberian meseta - the high central plain of the Iberian peninsula. They appear to have just been left to stand where they are for centuries which I found rather nice. Passing the castle we walked on to the city walls which provided an ideal route around and an easy way to view the city within and the landscape without. We circumnavigated in an anti-clockwise direction. Some care had been taken to set out the towns history with steel cut out representations around the walls, for example medieval knights jousting. From our vantage point on the walls we could easily see the key historic buildings and venture in to take a look and then return to our route around the walls. Such sites included the chapel dedicated to the Franciscans Descalzas, the church of San Isidoro built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, and the large cathedral that is a mix of Gothic and Romanesque architecture.

Further around the walls we found canons from the time that the town was a strategic site during the Napoleonic wars. It suffered a 24 day siege by the French in 1810. The siege delayed the invasion of Portugal by a month. Then in January 1812 British General Wellington began his campaign by storming the town.

We then enjoyed refreshments in the central square, Plaza Mayor, before descending to a verdant trail along the river. This trail led us onto some green islands where locals were walking in the cool evening. From the long grass came some strange noises, frogs or possibly toads calling to each other. Our return was through Parque del Calistenia and over a footbridge by some old stepping stones back to the south side of the river. All well worth exploring if you are travelling that way.

EJH



## Bird Watch

To most people, birders or not, Swallows are iconic and recognisable birds. Sadly though, their numbers have fallen so much in recent years that they are now quite scarce and I cannot understand why. Until a few years ago, the local stables each had half a dozen pairs and now none. Nothing much has changed, the permanent grass paddocks are grazed by the same number of horses. The dung heaps are in the same place encouraging flying insects on which the swallows feed and in the buildings, the old nests remain intact. No doubt "changes in farming practises" will be quoted as the reason but here nothing has changed and no one there could be accused of trying grow something to support the nation by producing food!

The food supply for their young is flying insects that are available throughout the summer. Most pairs will have two broods of between four and six. Some may even have a third and it is not uncommon to see young in the nest well into September. So, on arrival, a pair of birds in spring may account for about ten by autumn. Next spring, to keep a level population, only two of them need to return. Studies have shown that half of the adults survive but only one in eight of the young birds is likely to return. In recent years, much less than this is the case. Perhaps something disastrous is occurring at the other end of the migration in Africa.

Predation of Swallow nests is much less frequent than for other species that breed in vegetation where they can be vulnerable to many that feed on eggs or nestlings. Our nest recording over the years, has found that those Swallow nests that do fail, do so because jealous unpaired males kick out eggs or chicks trying to secure breeding rights. Another cause for failure we found was, where the nest was in a position close to a corrugated iron roof, hot weather was too much for the nestlings and they couldn't survive but these instances were uncommon and most nests produced young.

It is a welcome sight to see young Swallows around the buildings soon after they have fledged especially if we have ringed them so that their movement and live span may be known. They are one of only a few species that return to the nest for a few days at night. At this stage their only threat until they fly strongly can be a predator like a Magpie which I know this year accounted for three of a brood of five. When fully independent, the first broods will leave the nesting area so there is no competition for food while the parent birds raise another family. These teenage Swallows will then rove the countryside forming flocks that will roost in reedbeds or maize before being the first to depart south.

I have just heard of a pair of Blue tits feeding young as late as the first week of July in a box that had previously contained a brood of Great tits. This is very unusual as the food on which they feed their young, defoliating caterpillars, have mostly pupated by now, but good luck to them. It does show how resilient Nature is attempting to adjust in a poor season.

Recently we held a reunion for (Very) Old Plumpton Students at the college from the 1950's. I was delighted, when we were taken up to the top of the Downs to see the pedigree Sussex herd extensively grazing near Black Cap. For the first time for years I enjoyed the singing of Skylarks all round us. This may be for two reasons, firstly it is a long time since I was in a favourable place to hear them and secondly my hearing aid now works!

**R.J.L.**



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## Chailey Commons Society

[www.chaileycommons.org.uk](http://www.chaileycommons.org.uk)

At last summer has arrived and we are able to enjoy the long light evenings. After a brief hot spell, it cooled off for a while.

The Bat Walk was well supported led by Jess from the Sussex Bat group who brought along several bat detectors to help with the evening. Suitably equipped we set off to go round Red House Common taking a route to encompass woodland edges, large oak trees and a pond area. Luckily it was a fine evening and although nothing was heard initially, there was a good result in the lower section by the stream and pond. Having several bat detectors picking up on the sound of the bats we were surrounded by a symphony of sound when the bats were flying low over us. Thanks to Jess for leading a rewarding evening.

The nightjar surveys were completed on a fine evening with the groups of volunteers going out for a second time to the same places. Memorial Common proved to be active again with good sounds and sightings and Romany Ridge and Pound gave results with sightings. We were puzzled with Red House as this has been a strong hold in the past but not this year. We were grateful to receive reports from those living nearby as this gives more detail on the timings and consistency of the movements. Thanks to Izzy Kennedy and her helpers for organizing this survey, and all the volunteers for turning out in the late evenings. We also saw glowworms - do let us know if you see them as it would be interesting to see how widespread they are. These can be reported in our email  
'sightings@chaileycommons.org.uk.'

Thank you to those who have seen adders sunbathing on Memorial and Romany Ridge commons and taken pictures. Do report any sightings to us in the email box as above. Care should be taken now as dogs will not be aware and can be bitten. Attention should be given immediately, and a vet's help is often required.

We look forward this month to our annual bug hunt on Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup> starting at the Pound Common car park at 10.00.a.m. for a fun morning looking for creepy crawlies and other interesting wildlife. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome to come along with nets, pots, and magnifying glasses.

For further information, visit our website – [www.chaileycommons.org.uk](http://www.chaileycommons.org.uk) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/](https://www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/) or [friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com](http://friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com)

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Use websites, local estate agents, or friends and family to find a rental. Never pay money before seeing the property, and take someone with you when viewing. Avoid subletting from existing tenants, as they might not have the landlord's permission. Ensure you get the landlord's contact details if a tenant shows you around.

To ensure the property is suitable, ask the landlord or agent key questions:

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Inquire about tenancy deposit protection, included furniture or appliances, and pet policies. Request that obvious problems be fixed before moving in.

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Advertising & Admin: Barry Luck

Email: pecntreasurer@btinternet.com 01273 891 427

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Penny Acton

Email: pecncopy@gmail.com 01273 891 427

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