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October 2024



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PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

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Happy Circle

Thursday 10th October

**Trevor Weekes
Wildlife Rescue
2 - 4 pm**

For more details contact:
Cherie 01273891592

Jumble Sale in Support of the Village Hall

Saturday 26 October 2.00 - 4.00

Please bring Jumble to the Hall before
10.00


We cannot accept electrical items,
duvets or large items of furniture

Refreshments, Tombola and lots of
bargains

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***15th October for November
17th November for December***

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Plumpton Parish Council

www.plumptonpc.co.uk

After the summer break there was a packed agenda for the Parish Council at our meeting on Tuesday 10th September. As always the minutes are available to all on the Parish Council web site.

New Pavilion Project

Our planning application has now been validated and is live on the Lewes District Council website; the application reference is LW/24/0565.

The target decision date is given as 30th October. Assuming the plan is approved the hard work of fund raising can begin. The Council are contracting with a Quantity Surveyor to get as accurate an estimate of cost as possible.

Plumpton Hub – Land south of the Plough

Ben Ellis from Bedford Park Developments came to our last council meeting to update us on the plans for the site. The initial S106 agreements required between the District Council and Bedford Park Developments are nearing completion. The plans for the site look very impressive and will include fewer large units but more units for small businesses plus a wellness centre and café/shop.

Approximately half the field will be vineyard and an area in the northwest of the site will be leased to the Parish Council as a community space. A lot of thought has gone into making the site sustainable and ecologically friendly with solar panels used where possible and surface water run-off used to maintain a green wall and create landscaped new ponds. Ben introduced the possibility of a future planning application to provide a few small eco-lodges to be used as holiday accommodation to the northeast of the site where vines could not be planted.

Ken Beard – Postcard Collection

Ken Beard, who lived in Plumpton all his life and died earlier this year aged 97, collected early photographs and postcards of Plumpton and East Chilington. There are over 200

postcards in the collection, and it would be nice for the collection to stay in Plumpton and to be kept together. If you would like to make a donation to keep the postcard collection together for the village then please contact Lee Stevens on 07887562721 or email plumptonvillagesociety@gmail.com

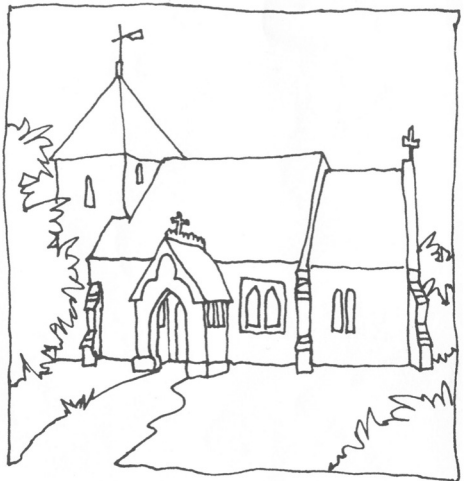
PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

We are sad to report that Councillor Joe Moorcroft has resigned from the Parish Council. We thank Joe for his service during his time with us.

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 **October 8th, 19:45hrs** at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend





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Housing Update

On 30 July 2024, the District Council received a letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, regarding the Government's consultation on a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Parish Council at its next meeting is going to discuss how best to respond to this. There have already been several very well supported consultations which have made the case that the Parish is not suitable for large scale development due to a number of reasons, but particularly transport infrastructure, and we will be discussing again how best to respond to the Government about the particular circumstances of our local area. The battle now is to help LDC convince the Government that an increased housing target in the district is unrealistic due, amongst other issues, the restricted amount of available land.

For those that want to express their views directly on the NPPF, there is a form via Citizens Space through which individuals as well as organisations can input their responses to a series of questions. The deadline to do this is September 24th 2024. The link is: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/planning/planning-reform/consultation/subpage.2024-07-30.2126027039/>

In related planning news earlier this Summer one of our counsellors attended a meeting with Lewes District Council (LDC) and asked a question about the potential impact on planning applications due the LDC being placed in 'Special Measures'. The response from Neil Collins (Head of Development Management LDC) was it means developers can now submit applications direct to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) without going through

LDC, without right of appeal from LDC or the developer, ie taking the planning decision away from LDC, which might encourage developers to submit speculative plans. However, applications for Lewes district need to have a linked CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy); and applications going direct to the planning inspectorate (PINS) will not have this and will as a consequence be rejected. Developers are therefore being advised that they should submit plans through the usual District Council route to ensure the CIL is included. What this rather technical point means is it would be an extremely risky (and expensive) route for the North Barns Farm Partnership (Eton Town/Wellbeck) to submit a speculative application direct to the Planning Inspectorate, and if they were to do anything it would need to be direct to LDC, and as we know LDC has previously said the site is not deliverable or developable.

Parish Events

We are going ahead with the container to house the marquees and tables and chairs for future parish events. We will first need to lay a foundation to hold the container which is going in the field near the playground.

We are also planning a future litter pick day. The date has not been decided yet but it is likely to take place next March.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th September, 2024 at 7:00 PM

This meeting will be held at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

TECT have been informed by the farmer in the last week that he hopes to have sheep grazing on the TECT field from around mid October. At the moment we do not have any more information than that but will endeavor to keep you updated as and when we receive information. Please for now be prepared for possible sheep grazing on the field from mid October. The length of time is to be determined. Please check the TECT website and local Facebook groups for further updates.

Is the Parish of Plumpton rich now that the Rectory and the glebe land has been sold?

An interesting question and one that may have crossed your mind at some point as you pass the Rectory Meadows building site. As a result of this development, the Parish received a new Rectory, which will be much easier to heat and maintain and £30,000. The remaining proceeds go to the Diocese, who owned the glebe land, and will mainly fund clergy salaries.

All Parishes make a contribution to the work of their Diocese (the Parish Share) and in addition are responsible for the maintenance of their buildings and land. This Parish has three churches to look after: St Michael, over 1000 years old grade 1 listed and on the Heritage at Risk Register; East Chilton, around 800 years old grade 2 listed; and All Saints. You can appreciate the repair and maintenance costs are extremely high and this money will help towards ongoing care.

We hope you agree that the presence of the church is of great importance to the community and a focal point at special times of the year. All Saints is open every day as a place of quiet and reflection - even if it is just a few minutes on a busy day.

We aim to be an integral part of the community. If you would like to help in any way, big or small, you will be most welcomed.

Contact Churchwardens: Janice Doran (jncdor@gmail.com) or Howard Wood (hawood167@hotmail.com) for further information.

Plumpton Flower Club

We are pleased to welcome

Lucinda Knapman

Who will be giving a demonstration entitled

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On

Wednesday 16th October

At Plumpton Village Hall
Commencing at 7.30pm
Members £3, Visitors £8
Including refreshments

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IN THE COMMUNITY**



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From approx 12.15pm
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We will have 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, supplied by Ashurst Organics, that will be auctioned off to raise funds for our chosen charity, Ripple Effect, that is helping people in parts of Africa to cope with climate change and relearning how to grow their crops for food.

If you are planning to come to the lunch, it would help if you could let us know so we can make sure we have enough food and drink for everyone.

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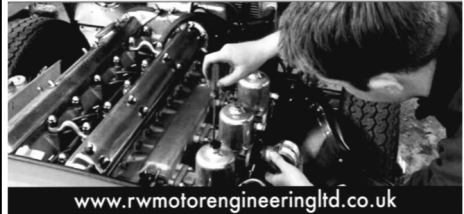
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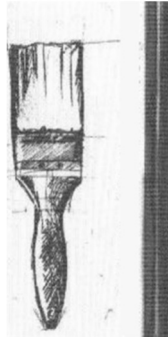
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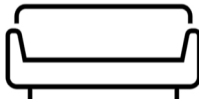
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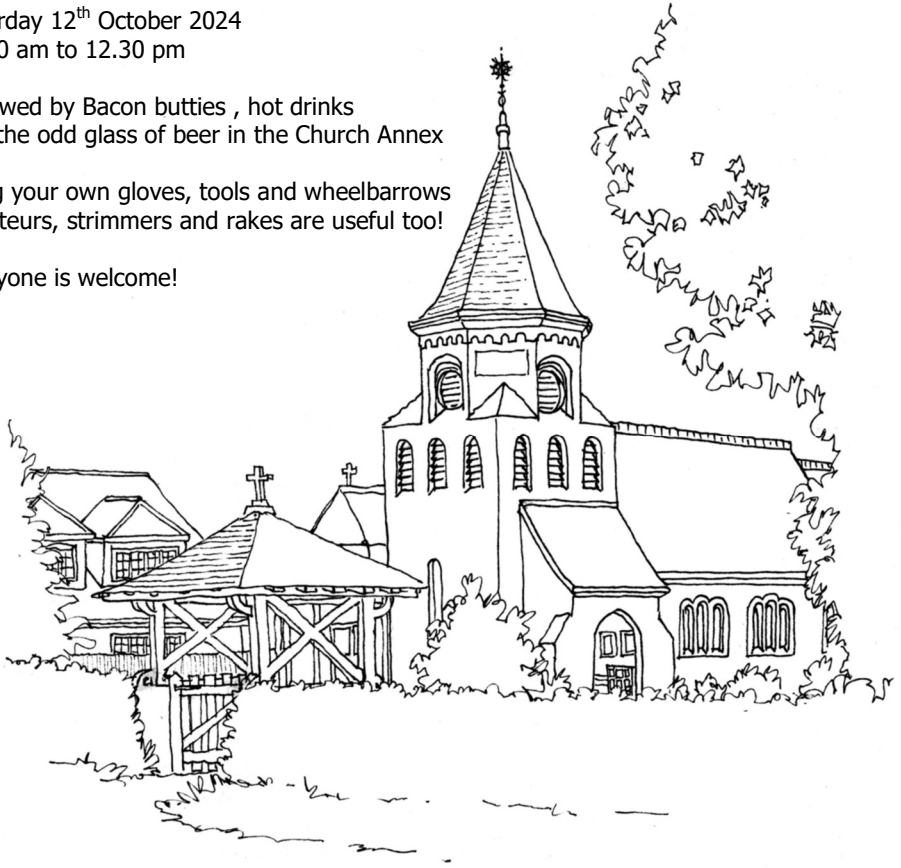
All Saints Churchyard tidy up

Saturday 12th October 2024
10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Followed by Bacon butties , hot drinks
and the odd glass of beer in the Church Annex

Bring your own gloves, tools and wheelbarrows
Secateurs, strimmers and rakes are useful too!

Everyone is welcome!



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.



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From 12 noon till 4.00 pm

£1 entry, children under 14 free

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Father Christmas (from 2 pm)

As part of the event, we will be holding a Grand Raffle with a first prize of £100 and many other lovely prizes. Look out for books of raffle tickets in November's issue.

We would appreciate bottles of wine for the "Wine and Water" stall. Deliver to 30 West Gate.

There are a few tables still available. If you are interested in having a table, please contact: Sue Akers – sueakers@hotmail.com. 01273 891701.

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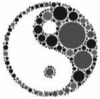
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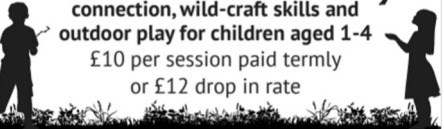
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24th October - Vineyard Collaboration with Ridgeview - Tour, tasting and paired dinner - £90 per head from 4pm

***Please note from 1st October 2024 - 31st March 2025 we will be closed for Sunday dinner service and ALL DAY TUESDAYS. Breakfast will also no longer be available to the public any day of the week**

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Rev. Anne Dunlop

This last weekend (14 September) the annual Ride & Stride event took place. Noble souls are sponsored to walk or ride (bike, horse, car, electric buggy) to churches across the county and explore some of Sussex's unique historic buildings and raise money for the church or chapel of their choice as well as for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Fifty per cent of the funds raised goes to the participant's Church (or choice of organisation), and 50% goes to the Sussex Historic Churches Trust who work to preserve historic places of worship, of all denominations, throughout Sussex.

My church volunteer now organises this from the comfort of his office chair, apart from the time spent placing the sign-up sheets in our five churches for these noble folk to sign their names to prove their visit. However, I understand that in the past he was very much involved. On one occasion he organised a mini-bus and took people from Plumpton to Chichester to visit the churches in the city, spurred on, no doubt, by the promise of a splendid tea in one of the city's cafés before setting off back home.

Many of the Sussex churches are well worth a visit and I am often contacted by individuals and groups who are doing an 'historic church tour' with a request that one or another is opened. Keeping churches open is not simply about meeting the requests of 'church-visitors'. There is a theological and missional imperative for keeping churches open in towns and villages, as much as possible.

One of the most uncomfortable things in the pandemic were the many months when church buildings were closed. In retrospect this was perhaps unnecessary and unwise, but much that happened during that extraordinary time, dealing

with the unknown, could be in that category.

All Saints in Plumpton is open daily. A church is a physical representation of God's presence with his people. An open church invites people to come in, just as God invites us to find and meet him in our everyday life. Someone has commented that "If a church is closed, it may as well not be there."

Churches explain faith through their buildings, the architecture and furnishings. One of the barriers for people coming to church for the first time is an anxiety about what to expect. Being brave enough to come on a Sunday morning can be a bit too much, so an open church during the week gives an enquirer a chance to get to know the space.

Importantly the building provides a space for the grieving, lonely, lost, or distressed. The act of lighting a candle or simply sitting in silence can be a deeply healing one. The building is a form of ministry that does not require any human intervention.

Having the church open also speaks about vulnerability; the church is not a place of power or prejudice but an open space for all. This is common ground where everyone belongs.

The Church of England is custodian of thousands of sacred spaces, set apart for life-changing encounters with the God to whose glory they were built and consecrated.

Rev Anne Dunlop
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166: LEWES - PLUMPTON - WIVELSFIELD - HAYWARDS HEATH

Valid from 24th July 2023

Mondays to Saturdays

	<u>NS</u>				<u>SO</u>	<u>NS</u>
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Nevill Road, Nevill Crescent	0736	0936	1223	1433	1711	1711
Offham, Blacksmith's Arms	0739	0939	1226	1436	1714	1714
Plumpton College Grounds	0746	....	....	....	....	1722
Plumpton, Half Moon	0748	0946	1233	1443	1721	1725
Plumpton Green , Station	0753	0950	1237	1447	1725	1729
Plumpton Lane, The Plough	0756	0953	1240	1450	1728	1732
Wivelsfield Green, Coppards Close	0758	0956	1243	1453	1731	1735
Wivelsfield Green , The Green	0759	0958	1245	1455	1733	1737
Wivelsfield, Ote Hall Chapel	0801	1000	1247	1457	1735	1739
Fox Hill, Fox & Hounds	0803	1002	1249	1459	1737	1741
Princess Royal Hospital	0809	1006	1253	1503	1741	1745
Haywards Heath, South Road	0811	1008	1255	1505	1743	1747
Haywards Heath , Perrymount Road	0813	1012	1259	1509	1747	1751
Haywards Heath, Sainsbury's	....	1014	1301	1511	SO	1749
Cuckfield, Warden Park School	0828	Sch	....	....	....	....

	<u>NS</u>				<u>SO</u>	<u>NS</u>
Cuckfield, Warden Park School	....	....	....	....	1525	Sch
Haywards Heath, Sainsbury's	....	1016	1303	1515	1538	1753
Haywards Heath , Perrymount Road	0845	1018	1305	1517	1540	1755
Haywards Heath, South Road	0849	1022	1309	1521	1544	1759
Princess Royal Hospital	0851	1024	1311	1523	1546	1801
Fox Hill, Fox & Hounds	0855	1028	1315	1527	1550	1805
Wivelsfield, Ote Hall Chapel	0857	1030	1317	1529	1552	1807
Wivelsfield Green , The Green	0859	1032	1319	1531	1554	1809
Wivelsfield Green, Coppards Close	0901	1034	1321	1533	1556	1811
Plumpton Lane, The Plough	0904	1037	1324	1536	1559	1814
Plumpton Green , Station	0907	1040	1327	1539	1602	1817
Plumpton, Half Moon	0911	1044	1331	1543	1606	1821
Plumpton College Grounds	0914	....	....	....	1609	....
Offham, Blacksmith's Arms	0920	1050	1337	1549	1615	1827
Nevill Road, Nevill Crescent	0922	1052	1339	1551	1617	1829
Lewes, School Hill	0927	1057	1344	1556	1622	1834

Sch - Schooldays only

NS - not Saturdays

SO - Saturdays only

Church Services for October 2024

Wednesday 2nd October
St Michael's

Harvest Festival at Plumpton College
2.30pm Do come and join the students.

Sunday 6th October
All Saints

Trinity 19 Dedication Sunday/Harvest Festival
11.00am. Harvest Festival Communion

Sunday 13th October
All Saints

Trinity 20
11 .00am. **Prisons Sunday**
Family Communion

Sunday 20th October
All Saints

Trinity 21
11.00am. **Healthcare Sunday**
Family Communion

Sunday 27th October
All Saints

Trinity 22
11.00am **Last after Trinity Bible Sunday**
Family Communion

Sunday 3rd November
All Saints Church Annex

Trinity 23
10.30am **4 Before Advent**
Open Church

The service on the 6th October will be followed by a Village Harvest Festival lunch and auction of produce in the village hall. Please join us if you can.

From May to September(only) 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 in the first instance or one of the Churchwardens.

East Chiltington - Janice Doran 07484 348341 jncdoran@gmail.com

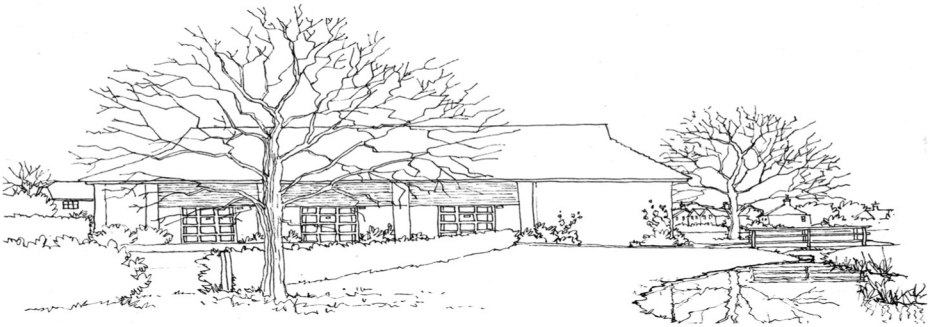
Plumpton Howard Wood 07794484373 hawood167@hotmail.com

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

Want to hire the Church Annex? Please speak to Bob Doran



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

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 6th Oct - Harvest Festival Lunch 12.15pm | VH |
| 10th Oct - Happy Circle talk 'Wildlife Rescue' 2 - 4 | ANX |
| 12th Oct - All Saints Tidy Up 10am | ALC |
| 16th Oct - Flower Club 'More Flowers Please' 7.30pm | VH |
| 18th Oct - Footpath Soc AGM 7.30pm | PAV |
| 26th Oct - Jumble Sale in aid of Village Hall 2 - 4pm | VH |
| 16th Nov - Plumpton Tennis Club Quiz Night 7pm | VH |
| 22nd Nov - Hort. Soc. AGM 7.30 | VH |
| 23rd Nov - 'Journey of the Magi' 6.30pm | VH |
| 30th Nov - St. Peter & St. James Festive Fair | VH |

Plumpton & District
Footpath Society

PROGRAMME FOR September 2024



Wednesday 9th October

Meet 10.30 at Millbrook Forest car park for a 6.5 m circular walk around Nutley
Walk Leader: Bernie Kempton 01825722649 / 07791247025

Friday 18th October -

AGM - 7.30 - in the Sports Pavilion

Sunday 20th October

Meet Ansty Rec., Deaks Lane (RH17 5AS) for a 5m walk through woods and fields and some country lanes.

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: peccgoodneighbours@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.



Uckfield, Lewes & Newick Arts Society

**October 9th 2.30 in the Civic
Hall Uckfield**

History of American Art in 25 Iconic Works: Marie Anne Mancio

The Key moments in American history, the Gold Rush, Civil War, Civil Rights Movement these all found expression in painting, sculpture, land art and photography. Through 25 iconic works by indigenous First Nation peoples, Edward Hopper, Kara Walker, Andy Warhol, Dorothea Lange and many others Dr Marie Anne Mancio will be giving a most interesting and entertaining lecture.

Dorothy Lange, was a documentary photographer notable for her striking images of the Depression in America. Andy Warhol's American Cowboys and Indians series was a subject which had fascinated him throughout his life and career. Warhol loved watching Hollywood Westerns, but also wanted to show more about the true, un-glamorised history of Native America.

Dr Marie-Anne Mancio trained as an artist before gaining a PhD in Art and Critical Theory from the University of Sussex. She has written and presented courses for Tate and Dulwich Picture Gallery; writes reviews, catalogue essays and historical fiction; and is a frequent visitor to Italy. She is currently writing a book about Caravaggio.

If you want to become a member of our society, please contact me for further information. Visitors of course are always welcome, £8 on the door please.

Annette Shelford annette@shelford.net

SPRINGS
DANCE COMPANY

Journey of the Magi



23rd November 6.30 p.m. Plumpton Village Hall

Journey of the Magi is a professional production of dance, theatre, song and poetry. It is a family show: accessible for all, fun and thought provoking, full of warmth, hilarity and delight. It offers a wonderful opportunity to laugh and reflect. This popular Christmas production is loved by everyone for the enjoyable, nostalgic, easily relatable story and outstanding performances by world class dancers.

"Forget The Nutcracker, Springs Dance Company's Journey of the Magi is the best Christmas show I have ever seen! I went along to see it one dark, wet and dismal night in Birmingham, and I came out having been touched, amused and moved to tears. Journey of the Magi looks beyond the tinsel and trappings and reveals the real meaning of Christmas." Sir David Bintley CBE

Tickets: Adult £10, Under 12s £5. Family ticket – £25 (2 adults 2 children)

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DVUI>

(or contact 01273 890006)

Doors open 6.00 p.m. **Performance** 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Refreshments and raffle

Proceeds to support the upkeep of our Parish churches.





NOW WE ARE 6!! CHAILEY REPAIR CAFÉ BREAKS ANOTHER RECORD!

Thanks to all who came to make our 6th birthday such a great success – we hit an all-time record for August of 88 repairs, one of which was a superb model Ferrari battery operated car. See the photo on Facebook!

Amazingly, in 6 years we have tackled more than 5000 of your items – we now have 40 volunteers, including a range of talented repairers, not forgetting our brilliant reception and legendary refreshments teams.

Many folks have been kind enough to write to congratulate us on our achievement – we were one of the very first Repair Cafes in this part of the country and only the 66th in the UK. There are now at least 30 throughout the South East and more than 300 in the UK – we are in a growth industry!

We'll be delighted to see you and your broken stuff – please try to help us by bringing any connecting leads and if the item connects to speakers, bring one with you. Remember to check any batteries to make sure they aren't flat!!!

We're all set for the rest of 2024. Don't forget we can get very busy, so be prepared to wait and enjoy some refreshments while you do so. Only one item at a time please (although you can go round again if there's time) and try not to arrive too late as we may not be able to accommodate you!

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 normally on the second Saturday of each month (14th September, 12th October and so on) between 1000hrs and 1300hrs where we have a full Café service including our legendary cakes!

Not sure if we can fix your broken item? Contact us at chaileyrc@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

See you very soon!!

Bryan McAlley and the Chailey Repair Café team



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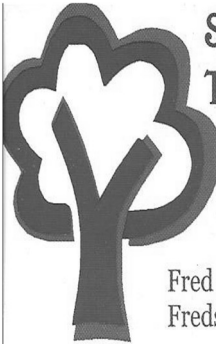
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Plumpton Green Bowling Club

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 and open to all age groups and genders from inside or outside the village. We are a friendly welcoming bunch with sessions are on **Thursdays in Plumpton Village Hall from 7.00pm until 9.30pm**, 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 charged only 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.

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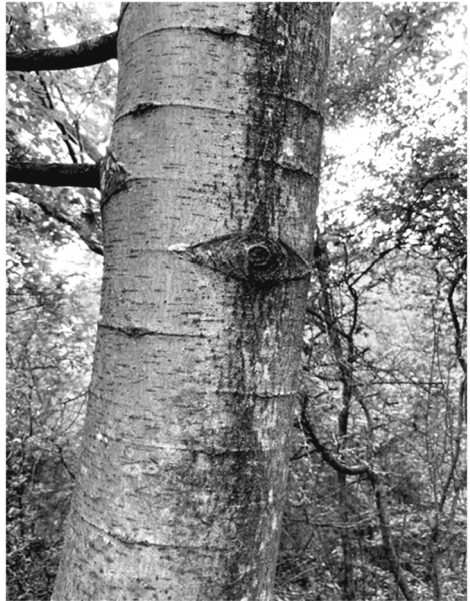
Trees with Eyes

Don't be alarmed, readers. I am not about to embark on a creepy story fit for the month of Halloween. This month's article explores the arboreal feature known as 'Southern Eyes' - although, as will be revealed, they aren't always on the Southern side.

Trees lose twigs and branches regularly, a process called abscission. As a tree grows new branches these can cast shade on the ones below. A branch that doesn't help leaves to harvest light to allow the tree to grow and thrive serves no purpose, and will be shed by the tree. When a branch is no longer productive, the tree will shut it down and use resins and gums in the wood to form a seal at the junction with the trunk, protecting the opening in the trunk from pathogens that could enter and kill the whole specimen.

When the join between the branch and trunk is securely sealed, the branch is cut off from water and nutrients and dies soon afterwards. With smaller twigs and branches, the process of shedding can be completed in one or two years. With a larger branch, its shedding process is naturally slower. Branches become bare and bark-free. Fungi growth further weakens their hold until they snap and drop, leaving a stump which rots and withers away.

The bark of a mature tree will reveal the places where dead branches once grew, and these marks are different to the clean cut of a mechanically removed branch. They resemble 'eyes' in a number of species, and are easier to spot on smooth-barked trees such as



beech, aspen and birch - the latter usually showing an array of eyes from an almost continual shedding process. The description 'southern eyes' arises from the fact that trees grow more branches on the sunniest, brightest side. As the tree gets taller, they inevitably shed more branches from that side too.

The prevalence of tree eyes facing south is cited as a natural navigation tool for those eschewing Google maps and all its works. However, some trees may be shaded on their southern aspect by other trees and man-made structures so the 'eye' will reveal the direction where that particular specimen receives most light.

Please share your tree eyes photos with the Wildlife Group website and cite whether they are actually looking south. There are some wonderful examples around the area.

Jean Stewart

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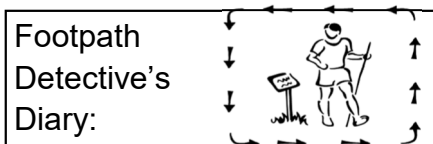
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A Footpath Detectives Diary October 2024 A wander in Kent and a Roman Villa

This little wander is in the Darent Valley in north west Kent and is a little under 5 miles. My starting point was by the old bridge by The Lion PH in the village of Farningham. Said 'bridge' is constructed of brick and flint with three arches with wooden hanging 'gates' but doesn't connect anything in particular and so has been the subject of much speculation as to its purpose and origin. The Farningham Parish Council website says "the structure is in fact a cattle screen, built to prevent cattle from wandering downstream whilst crossing the ford". The River Darent (sometimes spelt Darenth) is a shallow tributary to the River Thames. Its waters are fed by springs that run through chalk and so are very clear. My little wander took me up the valley a little through a couple of places I knew in my teens.

I headed up the High Street to pass the Church on my right. It is dedicated to St Peter and St Paul and was built in the 13th Century most probably on the site of a Saxon Church. Farningham has a long history of settlement going back to Neolithic times, and the Romans settled there too. At a footpath sign on my right I followed a path that soon took me into Oliver Crescent, and then another path on my left that led into Till Avenue.

At the Eynsford road I turned right for a short stretch on the main road and then onto a path parallel with it. Before long I was on Eynsford High Street passing the little terrace house that some friends moved into over 40 years ago, and I can still remember shivering at the house warming BBQ in the middle of winter. The house having been almost gutted meant that a BBQ in the garden was the only option. Opposite The Eynsford Parish Church of St Martin I turned right onto Riverside, the lane

that fords the river. This little place is much photographed being very scenic and on sunny days there are many families enjoying a paddle and a picnic.

I continued along Riverside and onto Lullingstone Lane where I found a path signed to my right that headed uphill through a wheatfield. Soon I had a view of the nine arched red brick Eynsford viaduct that carries the railway line across the Darent Valley. My path peaked to cross a tiny lane near the Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation and then continued at the edge of the next field. I had lovely views of fields of wheat ripening and hedgerows, the Kent countryside I enjoyed as a youngster.

At the end of the field I turned left to enjoy a downhill stretch to the river at Lullingstone right by the Roman Villa. Construction of this villa began in the 1st century and it was subsequently expanded in around 150AD. It was destroyed by fire in the 5th century and forgotten. In the mid 20th century it was rediscovered, excavated and the remains put on display. I remember visiting on a school trip when it was newly opened to the public and we were told how exciting the mosaic floor was, I'm not sure we were that impressed at the time, typical teens. From here it is possible to continue to Lullingstone Castle and The World Garden, a manor house that is only open to the public on event days so if you want to visit check their website

I couldn't find a clear path right by the river and so from the villa I followed Lullingstone Lane back towards Eynsford passing through one of the arches of the viaduct as I went. Before getting into the village I turned left onto Sparepenny Lane that is on a ridge above the river with more glimpses of Kent countryside. This little lane with a funny, if rather old fashioned name, took me back to Farningham where a right turn led me back to the Lion Inn and a large Sunday roast.

EJH



Bird Watch

Recently, I had a report of, what was described as a huge bird of prey with broad wings and a white tail. It was without doubt a White-tailed Eagle and about that date, one was recorded on the Sussex Ornithological website in the Lewes area. With a white tail, it must have been an adult. These birds mature slowly and do not attain breeding plumage until five or six years of age. It was almost certainly from the birds released a few years ago on the Isle of Wight. Historically, they are known to have been there up until the end of the 1890's but had been persecuted to extinction in this country. They are indeed enormous. One of their main prey species are geese of which there is no shortage. It was said that Canada geese became so numerous because they had no natural predators. Perhaps this changes that.

In those days any bird with a hooked beak was mercilessly sought and shot by gamekeepers or the nests destroyed. As a species became rarer, it would become a target for egg-collectors, who in those days sought and took the whole clutches and the rarer the species, the greater the trophy. In more recent years, efforts have been made to re-introduce them to their original range from young birds from Scandinavia where they were still abundant. With a species that matures so slowly, it would take a long time but White-tailed Eagles have now successfully bred in West Sussex so they should become a more regular sight.

Another species that has been successfully re-introduced is the Red Kite. In previous centuries, they were abundant, keeping towns sanitised as they were scavengers feeding mainly on carrion. Having a hooked beak, they too were almost eliminated from the country apart from a few pairs in mid-Wales where the nests were guarded from egg-collectors, by volunteers and the tiny population survived. Then, in the Home Counties, a re-introduction plan, release a number in the Chilterns. From

there they have spread and can regularly be seen in Sussex.

Ospreys, also absent from Britain for many years, re-introduced themselves to Scotland in the late 1950's. Even then, one of the early nests was victim of egg-collectors who stole the eggs from one of the first sites. As they feed exclusively on fish, were the target of those running salmon and trout fisheries which led to their demise. Now, though most are found breeding in Scotland, some also breed on the big reservoirs further south. In spring and autumn, on their migration to and from West Africa they are regularly reported over lakes or estuaries in Sussex.

Another species that has been introduced is more contentious. The White Stork now thriving in West Sussex has never been persecuted in this country and hasn't got a hooked beak as have the previous species and there is little evidence that they were ever in Britain. I am told that Storrington, the name derived from "the town of the storks", is the only very tenuous connection with that species. Let's hope they do not upset the balance of indigenous species as other alien introductions have.

It is the season that many of the farm and roadside hedges are cut and I would like to make a plea for the recommendations for trimming them for the best for wildlife be followed. A hedge with a flat broad top is no good for birds or for the welfare of the hedge. The code of practise is a roof-shaped hedge so that there is a depth of cover for the birds to nest. A flat top leaves no cover and the new growth goes outward, leaving the centre weak and, if we were ever get heavy snow again, could collapse.

R.J.L.



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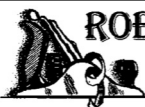
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Our summer events help people get closer to nature on the commons: Following our night-safari and the popular butterfly and nightjar walks, the August bug hunt saw a small group of children shaking branches of trees over a white sheet spread on the ground to spot aphids, shield bugs, grasshoppers and spiders. We also enjoyed good sightings of dragonflies and damsel flies at the new pond on Pound Common.

We analysed the nightjar information recorded by our team of 18 volunteers on the evening of 1st and 22nd June and are pleased to find that five territories have been recorded this summer, where male birds have been defending areas of heathland for breeding. At the end of August, as the breeding season finished, we removed the Wildlife refuge signs and main path closures on Red House Common and Memorial Common. Thank you to everyone that cooperated with the wildlife refuge path restrictions and prevented dogs entering these areas set aside for ground nesting birds during the summer.

In August, our small herd of Exmoor ponies was joined by three new ponies, now totalling seven mares grazing on Red House Common throughout the year. Their grazing is essential to keep the heathland, its paths and rides open and to maintain some short turf areas too. We have noticed that the new ponies do appear more interested in people, but they must be left alone to function as an independent free ranging herd. So please just enjoy them from a distance. Feeding these hardy free ranging ponies will harm their health and

can be fatal through choking. This also encourages greedy behaviour with risk of dogs or people being kicked. The ponies are here to do conservation grazing and have plenty of rough forage that they thrive on, and our team of pony checkers monitor their condition daily.

We will be making traditional besom brooms this month using the birch branches that we cut on Red House Common in January. The birch was tightly bundled and stored over the summer and our brooms will be good for Halloween fun and to sweep Autumn leaves. We hope to sell some at fetes and stalls. Do look out for these sustainable local brooms.

We look forward this month to our next meetings –

Sunday 6th October – Autumn Bird Walk with Adrian. Meet at Pound Common car park at 9.000.a.m

Thursday 10th October Indoor meeting Chailey Village Hall – Talk on the Lost Wood Project.

Friday 18th October – Fungi Walk with Martin Allison 10.00.am – 12.15 p.m. Meet at Pound Common car park – cost: £5. Booking essential to 'members@chaileycommons.org.uk'

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

15 – 19 Chapel Street
Newhaven
BN9 9PN
@Lewescab1

www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk

Contact : Sophie Hoffman 01273 007556

Citizens Advice is issuing the following advice for those worried about changes to the Winter Fuel Payment:

You might be eligible for Pension Credit if you have a low income. You've got until 21 December to apply and still receive the Winter Fuel Payment if you're successful.

The Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) will only be paid to those claiming Pension Credit and pension aged people in receipt of income support, Universal Credit, income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income Support and tax credits. This will cover mixed age couples and people who are working/responsible for children and who are not in receipt of pension credit, so it's really important to check whether you are eligible.

A pensioner in receipt of tax credits will need to make a claim for a WFP (it should be automatic for people in receipt of the other benefits).

To find out more about eligibility for Pension Credit and how to apply you can go to the Citizens Advice website.

Details of how to claim Pension Credit and Universal Credit by phone, post or online via the gov.uk website.

Please contact Lewes District Citizens Advice if you would like support in checking eligibility or making an application www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk or to talk to a local adviser call freephone 0808 278 7892 Tuesdays – Thursdays 10am to 3pm. Please note we are a charity and demand for our service is currently exceptionally high, thank you for your patience.

EAST CHILTINGTON



Societies

Clubs

Groups

For changes or new entries:

phone:

01273 891427

Email:

pecncopy@gmail.com

Baby & Toddler Group	Charlotte	01273 891086
British Legion	Reg Lanaway	890070
Brownies	girlguiding.org.uk	
Chailey Commons Society	William Coleman	01444 831923
Cricknet Club	Kelvin Speirs	890785
Flower Club	Sue Akers	891701
Football Club	Paul Manville	07813 114470
Footpath Society	Judy Lawrenson	01273 472277
Guides	girlguiding.org.uk	
Happy Circle	Cherie Winchester	891592
Honeybees Preschool		07786 615686
Horticultural Society	Lin Pilfold	01273 475594
Hospice Support Group	Sue Akers	891701
Junior Football	Darryl Bailey	07792 686673
Oil Buying Group	Diane Marks	07929 336065
Pantomime Society	Penny Acton	01273 891427
Plumpton Activity Scheme	Becca Baker	
	plumptonactivityscheme@gmail.com	
Plumpton Bowmen	Mark Piercy	07799 467997
Plumpton Camera Club	Tim Honess	01273 890582
Plumpton & East Chiltington		07478 524152
Good Neighbours	Gina Hawthorne	
Plumpton Rude Mechanical	Lee Stevens	07887 562721
Theatre Co. Friends		
Plumpton Short Mat Bowls	Malcolm Beard	890826
Plumpton Tennis Club	Lesley Satchell	07590 354420
Plumpton Village Society	Lee Stevens	07887 562721
PPTFA	Marie Leviston	891497
Plumpton Vol Driving	Gill Medhurst	01273 890055
	Bookings - Jackie	07855213947
Rainbows	girlguiding.org.uk	
Rugby Club	Mike Allen	890076
Scouts	Rodney Hills	890410
Southdown East Pony Club	Mike Nichols	01444 452295
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Turning Pointe Dance Classes	office.turningpointe@gmail.com	
Wildlife Group	Jean Stewart	
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