

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Autumn 2015

The Society is:

Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex

Affiliate Member of the CPRE

Member of the Sussex Federation of Amenity Societies

Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

Committee

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

Additionally, Kate Richardson and Fred Carter write reports and have input regarding hedgerows and wildlife. Jane Seabrook and Gill Ford have volunteered their services to manage the Russell Room and archives.

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

Website address:

www.easthoathlypreservation.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Toni

Note from the Chairman

Hello

What a fab summer, some glorious warm days but unfortunately this warmth didn't seem to hold until nightfall. One magical day was the 2nd August, which was extremely lucky as the previous Sunday had monsoon qualities and the archaeological site was closed due to being underwater! Our guided site visit of the Culver Archaeological Project at Bridge Farm, Barcombe Mills, with the founding Director Rob Wallace and Deputy Director David Millum, was a real treat. So much to see, so much enthusiasm and knowledge, and all local! Brilliant photos captured our time at the dig. We also raised £96 for their coffers along with a further £51 from the subsequent WI group. I certainly look forward to hearing more in due course and I hope you do as well.

Despite many pleas we have still not had any interest in joining the committee. Without some more support the Society will flounder. Surely, there must a few more who could join us especially in the Treasurer's role.

I look forward to seeing you at our Autumn events.

Kind regards,

Toni

TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter

I WILL BE STEPPING DOWN FROM THE TREASURERS POST AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Jenny Pellett has kindly volunteered to take the duty of Membership Secretary BUT someone needs to bank the money. A small job for someone with accounting experience but an essential one for the society.

There is still about £50 to come in subscriptions which is needed in order to book the best speakers for next year

If you think you might not have paid this year's subs please give me a call now so that next year can start on a financially sound footing.

Tel: 01825 841218

We are, as ever, very grateful for your continued support.

Peter Brooke Hon. Treasurer

A VIEW OF LAUGHTON

The Domesday Book records numerous salt-works where sea-water was evaporated to make salt. Some were surprisingly far upstream, for instance at Laughton and Ripe on the Glynde.

At the end of the 11th century there were probably the nuclei of two settlements, one on the marsh at the moated site, pre dating the tower, and another to the North on higher ground. There is evidence of sporadic infilling until, in the late 13th century, the old system of fields and holdings was abolished by a redistribution and rearrangement of holdings. With it came a detectable increase in legume sowings, synchronizing with a broad trend across England of agricultural experimentation. At Laughton legumes were insignificant until about 1340. Peas and beans were merely garden

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crops at Chalvington in 1278 and as late as 1295 they were only being grown 'on small pieces of ground'.



The Pelham's held the manor from at least 1401, adding the tower to their rebuilt Manor house in 1534. The purpose of the tower is a matter of conjecture, but it would have served as a lookout, either defensive or pleasure, possibly to shoot deer driven past. However by 1580 Sir Thomas Pelham had built a new house at Halland Park, and reusing much of the fabric of the Laughton Manor the Laughton dwelling was downgraded to a farmhouse. Woodland, agricultural clearings and marsh would have reached an equilibrium. Agriculture survived, while on the higher ground brick making thrived. Plans to engineer the drainage in the eighteenth century and a proposed railway in the nineteenth came to nothing and mains water was not available until the 1950's.

The view from the tower will change again when the Laughton Levels Solar Park is installed but the land underfoot has barely changed in a thousand years.

PAST MEETINGS - Leycester Whewell

Site Visit to the Culver Archaeological Project at Bridge Farm, Barcombe Mills.

Hosted by Rob Wallace and David Millum

Sat 2nd Aug 2015

The last weekend of July had been a washout, resulting in the site being flooded and unworkable. Given that the archaeological team were entering the penultimate of their annual six week allocation on site, this was not welcome. In the run up to the visit we were therefore expecting that it may have to be postponed or even cancelled. As it turned out, a few dry days and baking sunshine on the day itself meant that shorts and tee shirts were the order of the day instead of wellies and macs.

David started off by showing a selection of this year's finds in the farm building that has been assigned for their use. Notable amongst them was a tray of coins from various periods in Roman history. The amount of coinage lost must have upset a number of people at the time. As expected, a wide selection of pottery had been recovered, some of it having been identified as being made in France and other bits from further afield. Going outdoors, he showed us a large scale site map and how this year's activity related to the overall settlement. Some things that they were looking for in particular were a main road leading north and boundary ditches.

Moving on to the dig itself, an area set in the middle of a field of ripe maize, we saw a patchwork of half a dozen trenches scattered across a shallowly excavated site, with piles of spoil heaped up around the edges. It was fascinating to see for ourselves how the Roman ditches and roads had been created and the way they had changed over the centuries. Parts of a road surface looked as though it was sloping, but it was merely the fact that it had subsided into the backfill of an earlier ditch. The position and orientation of every feature provides valuable information as to events gone by, which is why it seems to take so long to make progress. For example, the shape, size and whether ditches are multiple is used to determine whether they had a military purpose or not.

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Metal detectorists had used brightly coloured clothes pegs to mark the location of their finds for later removal. A ground penetrating radar (GPR) machine was also being wheeled across the site in an attempt to confirm the presence or absence of what was thought to be the base of a building. Such techniques allow the team to help pinpoint key areas of interest, so that as much as possible can be learned from the least physical effort. Spray paint is used to mark the outline of GPR features so it's easier to see the bigger picture on the ground. Team members were painstakingly trowelling away in the holes, sieving the scrapings for finds then then tipping their buckets into a barrow for disposal at the edge of the site. Even the spoil heaps were regularly monitored by metal detectors, just in case something had been missed.



Looking at soil profiles on a Time team TV program only illustrates coarse features, one really needs to be on site to see the subtle changes in texture and composition and deduce what activity had taken place. The site at Barcombe is unusual in that Roman remains only have been found, there has been no medieval activity to complicate the interpretation of finds. Therefore, the historical window being investigated runs from about 100AD to 400AD.

The final part of the tour was to a finds tent, where everything uncovered is recorded and catalogued, before going off to storage or, as in the case of many metal objects, for cleaning. It

was fascinating to be able to see and hold 1800 year old pots that were largely complete as well as other domestic items from pins to jewellery; that doesn't happen in museums!



Everyone who visited said how much they were impressed by what they saw and were very grateful to Rob and David for their time spent in guiding visitors around. Of the 33 in the group, about half were members of the Preservation Society, a quarter were non-members and the remainder had seen it advertised locally or had ended up joining the wrong group.

The dig was scheduled to stop at the end of the following week, at which point the site would be back filled and returned to agricultural use, possibly for another crop of maize! The process of formally documenting all that had been found and then planning work for 2016 would then keep the team busy. Only small sections of any one site are ever excavated so that fresh material remains until such time as better instruments or techniques are available to gain a better understanding of the archaeology. A number of

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year's work lie ahead at Barcombe, which has proved to be far bigger and more significant than anyone had originally anticipated.

We look forward to Rob and David returning to the Preservation Society, probably in 2017, to talk about the latest developments and discoveries made on the site.

All monies raised went directly to the Culver Project, who rely totally on grants and donations for their work.

For further information, please visit their website at <http://culverproject.co.uk/>

Leycester Whewell, EH&DPS secretary,
8Aug2015

Behind the Scenes at the NATIONAL GALLERY

by Sara Berry

Friday Sep 11th

Sarah's career at the National Gallery began almost by accident. She worked there initially whilst as a student in the photographic department. Later, she returned in a full time capacity following a chance meeting in a street with a member of the Gallery, starting off by covering leave in the photographic department, moving on to the retouching department. Her final role in her 20 year tenure was head of the photographic department.

Her fascinating talk and slides highlighted a whole range of activities that take place within the organisation: from that of curator, conservator, the scientific dept., art handlers, framing dept., the registrar's dept., the library & archive dept., the visitor services & security dept. through to the education dept. Many of these we don't think about on a day to day basis,

but when mentioned it's obvious that they are required.

Many of the functions are inter-related. For example, photography is used to determine the authenticity of many pictures and to learn more about how they were originally produced. Photography using infrared light can pick out paint at different depths from the surface and can be used to confirm an artist's style across a range of works. It also reveals changes to paintings, where the artist had a change of mind and altered the posture of the subject or details in a landscape. Raking, in which the pictures are lit from the side is used to detect surface features such as brush strokes, again to confirm authenticity. UV light will pick out the different pigments used in the paints as well as varnishes - this has uncovered artist's experiments with different paint mixtures. X-rays will reveal the damage suffered by a painting, for example if it ever got wet.

The photographic department itself has undergone a tremendous transformation over the years. The original thin and delicate photographic plates of early archives were at great risk from the environment they were housed in, as well as those wanting to knock through the space in which they were kept. Persistent work by Sarah and her team eventually paid off in that they now have their own environmentally controlled storage area. The move from plate to digital photography was no less dramatic, it took 18 months work to digitally photograph the whole collection, mounting them on a special stand and scanning sections at a time. Even the Anrep mosaics in the entrance to the Gallery have been carefully digitised, although the camera had to come to them. Parts of Sarah's talk also covered the background history of the gallery. That and information on current exhibitions can be found at <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>
Leycester Whewell, EH&DPS secretary,

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CHIDDINGLY ORAL HISTORY GROUP

Dear All,

Following our Summer break the Oral History Group is back with a full programme for the Autumn/Winter months.



Formerly one house called The Park which as the name suggests was built on the site of a medieval park. Boltwood House is to the left and Park Farm House to the right.

The first meeting was on Monday 28th September at The Village Shop. The topic was Park Farm and both Gail and Ashley Giles were present to lead the discussion.

The October Meeting of the Oral History Group will be discussing Burgh Hill Oast and Oast houses in the Parish, and the talk will be led by Nigel Braden. This meeting will take place on Monday 26th October at 10.30 am in the Chiddingly Village Shop.

Everyone is welcome and please bring friends or villagers who may be interested. Please let the shop know if you are attending.

There will be a small charge of £5 to cover tea/coffee and a cake.

best wishes,
Stuart

FUTURE MEETINGS - Toni

Trevor Weekes MBE

Will be talking about the work of East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS), which is currently celebrating its 20th year, its 10th year as a registered charity as well as his 30th year. He has just launched a book called "The Fields were my Theatre" to celebrate the past 30 years helping wildlife in need and will bring some copies. WRAS is an award winning community charity, run primarily by volunteers and receives over 3000 calls for help every year

East Hoathly Village Hall Friday 9th October 2015 at 7.30pm.

Admission is free to members and guests welcome at £3 admission charge.

Enquiries: Toni Whewell 01825 872460.

MEETING DATES 2015	
Friday Oct 9 th	WRAS East Sussex Wild Life Rescue and Ambulance Service by Trevor Weekes MBE.
Friday Nov 27 th	SOCIAL EVENING In the Village Hall

We are keen for New Ideas for the Social Evening

Email

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

with your ideas.

Meetings begin at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Members are not charged and visitors are welcome for a modest charge of £3 per person. To help subsidise the cost of speakers Toni is kindly organising raffles. Please do buy a ticket if you can and stop for a coffee/ tea and biscuits after the talk and catch up with the various activities and opportunities that our society affiliations offer.

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PAST WALKS - Chris 'n' Jenny

SUNDAY 19TH JULY - Kings Head, E. Hoathly

Retracing T Turner's journey to Lewes

We looked at the map when planning our TT walk to Lewes and thought that we could comfortably do it in three hours or so- however, it took our group of 13 and one very well behaved dog almost that long to get to Ringmer.

Much of the route was along an ancient narrow pathway, - the parish boundary no-man's land, flanked by old hedges and was full of tree roots and rabbit holes ready to trip the unsuspecting traveller. How Turner negotiated it, sometimes in the dark, quite possibly under the influence of drink, without injury is something of an achievement.

Having got as far as the Green Man, by mutual consent, we decided to walk no further but enjoyed welcomed drinks and good company before heading back, by car, to E. H. Church where following tea and cake, David Burrell gave us a short but very interesting talk about Thomas Turner's role in the village before evensong. Thanks to Elly, Sue and David for the refreshments.

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST - Hartfield



Yes we did play Pooh Sticks!

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER - Roebuck, Laughton



We don't normally promote the Pubs we visit as we can't visit them all so it would be unfair, however, the newly refurbished Roebuck does warrant special mention for the tremendous effort they have put in to it which seems to have paid off with excellent ambience, food and beer. The walk to the tower we chose approached it from the East, the signage wasn't good and footpath diversions were misleading. It was however, beautifully warm and sunny, with the hedgerows full of blackberries, sloes and rosehips. The Tower itself never fails to amaze

FUTURE WALKS - Chris'n'Jenny

PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2015 EVERYONE WELCOME

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER - Arlington Reservoir

We will meet in the reservoir car park at 2pm. In past years avocets and black tailed godwits have been seen at about this time so bring your binoculars.

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SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER - Wessons

Café, Horam

The theme will be steam trains on the Cuckoo line but to make it circular there are some interesting hidden paths that will hopefully not be too muddy.

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER - Lewes

(Streetwalk)

Back due to popular demand but with fresh stories of Lewes past and trivial facts. Particularly suitable for children of all ages.

For further details please contact Chris & Jenny Pellett 01825 872830

EAST HOATHLY RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP - John Deane

MID WEEK WALKS

Have continued throughout the summer exploring all the footpaths and bridleways within the parish boundary and beyond.

Volunteer Footpath Maintenance

As a Right of Way (ROW) assistance group the Mid Week Walkers lead the way with a hands on approach to improve our environment. Actively seeking out rampant briars to be scateured or neglected stiles to be stabilized. Used by the County Council as an example to encourage other parishes with positive action in removing brambles, briars and nettle, and of course instigated the reinstatement of lost RoWs.

If you have an interest in this type of voluntary activity please contact me at dixiewalks@hotmail.com

With my good wishes,
John

WILDLIFE REPORT

Sussex Wildlife Trust Campaigns:

Badgers and bovine TB

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is very conscious of the hardship that bovine TB causes in the farming community. As livestock owners ourselves, we understand the impact of this disease and want to eliminate it. However we are convinced by the scientific evidence presented that killing badgers is not the answer.

Fracking

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is deeply concerned about the impact that fracking could have on the species and habitats of Sussex

Climate change

There is now a great scientific consensus that our climate is changing and human activity is the most likely cause. What will be the effect in Sussex?

Ash Dieback

The highly destructive Chalara dieback of ash trees caused by the Chalara fraxinea fungus is a serious threat to the tree health of Great Britain

Living Landscapes

Living Landscapes is a new way of thinking about our natural environment

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/campaign>

WRAS Maternity Ward for Hedgehogs



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Can you help WRAS set up and kit our new Maternity Ward in Uckfield?

Thanks to Skinners Sheds WRAS is setting up a Hedgehog Maternity Ward in Uckfield. There are currently three hedgehogs with babies in the shed which needs about £4000 spent on kitting it out and buying equipment to have it up and running properly. These three young hedgehog were some of the first born in the new facility in Uckfield, which provides a quiet and more relaxing area than the main hospital at Whitesmith.

Donations can be made online at www.wildlifeambulance.org or via phone 01825-873003

Trevor Weeks - East Sussex WRAS
01825 873003 or 0793 152 3958

HEDGEROW SURVEY - Kate

•Hedgerows are the most widespread semi-natural habitat in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over large parts of the lowlands they are the main surviving semi-natural habitat, and are critical to the existence of numerous plants and animals. They are particularly important within areas of intensive farming, and for the survival of widespread yet declining species which are dependent on woodland edge, scrub or rough grassland habitats.

•Hedgerows facilitate movement through the landscape for a wide range of organisms. They are particularly important for flying insects like butterflies which need warm sheltered conditions to be able to gain, and retain, the heat necessary to fly. Green lanes, typically two hedgerows in parallel separated by a vegetated track, provide particularly favourable conditions.

•Overall, the length of hedgerow in GB has remained stable over the last decade. However during this period there has been a 7% decline in the number of classic shrubby hedgerows and a 9% increase in the number of hedgerows that have developed into lines of trees or relict features. This is having a significant impact on the landscape and reflects lack of appropriate management.

•Most of the UK's hedgerows are in poor condition, reducing their ability to deliver environmental services and putting their dependent wildlife at risk. Local hedgerow surveys suggest that only 41% of hedges are in favourable condition even without

taking nutrient enrichment into account, and the true figure is likely to be lower than this. Nutrient enrichment is the single most important reason for poor condition, 38% failing on this criterion. The other main reasons for poor condition are excessive gaps and hedgerows being too low or too thin.

•Over 125 priority BAP species are closely associated with hedgerows, 11% of all such species. Although very few are wholly dependent on hedgerows, the loss of hedgerows or a decline in their quality will have a significant adverse impact on their populations.

•A high proportion of these BAP species are widespread within the UK but have been recognised as priorities for conservation action because their populations have declined rapidly in recent decades. For example, 51 out of the 71 widespread and common moths listed as priority BAP species because they have declined hugely in recent decades feed as caterpillars in hedgerows and their associated herbaceous margins. This confirms the importance of hedgerows for wildlife as a whole, not just for rare species.

•Hedgerows are of particular importance for the conservation of farmland and woodland birds, and for mammals. As many as 16 out of the 19 birds included in the Farmland Bird Index, as used by Government to assess the state of farmland wildlife, are associated with hedgerows, with 10 using them as a primary habitat. All 35 woodland indicator species frequently occur in hedgerows or their trees. In addition, 10 out of 18 terrestrial mammals listed as priority species in the UK BAP make significant use of hedgerows, for food or to enable them to move through the landscape.

•Rare or threatened species closely associated with hedgerows include several European Protected Species, notably dormouse, most species of bat including the greater horseshoe bat, and great-crested newt. These species require well connected networks of hedgerows, rather than individual hedgerows, emphasising the importance of hedgerows at a landscape scale for biodiversity.

•A wide range of other threatened species are dependent on hedgerows, including a few that are very rare and specially-protected such as round-leaved feather-moss, starved wood-sedge, Plymouth pear and barberry carpet moth. Other species of particular conservation concern closely associated with hedgerows include five species of uncommon and rapidly declining bumble bee, two scarce butterflies,

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the brown and white letter hairstreaks, the rare ciril bunting and the declining turtle dove.

•Much of the biodiversity of hedgerows is associated with hedgerow trees, in particular with veteran individuals. Over half (55%) of the priority BAP species associated with hedgerows are dependent on, or partially dependent on, hedgerow trees [6]. The presence of hedgerow trees in areas targeted by agri-environment schemes increased the numbers of larger moth present by 60% and the diversity of such moths by 38%.

•The scarcity of young hedgerow trees to replace mature ones when they die is a major cause of concern: across Great Britain, the number of isolated hedgerow trees fell by as much as 3.9% just between 1997 and 2007. A further 15,000 -20,000 new hedgerow trees need to be recruited to the population each year just to keep the population stable.

East Hoathly Preservation Society work with the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre on the Sussex Hedgerow Inventory Project.

For more details speak to

Kate Richardson

01825 840082

kathrynrichardson@gmail.com

SOLAR FARMING - Chris

Please note that the Cuckmere Solar Farm the Berwick Solar Farm and the Laughton Level Solar farm are three different developments

[The Cuckmere Community Solar Company invite you to a community information drop-in event to find out about plans to build the first community owned solar farm in Sussex.](#)

Dicker Village Hall, Coldharbour Road

Friday 9th October from 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 10th October from 9am - 12pm

Swift Tower at Berwick Solar Farm

Back in July the Cuckmere Community Solar Company held a community eco day at the Berwick solar farm. It was organised in conjunction with the developers of the commercial solar farm. The star attraction was the UK's first ever Swift tower to be erected on a solar farm. Swifts are exceptional birds, being the fastest UK bird in level flight, and they never land other than to have their young which they do in the UK. After nesting, they fly all the way to Africa for 9 months and then come all the way back before landing again.

Chris Powles, one of the directors of Susenco, is a Swift enthusiast and he led this project. Swifts are in decline, in part due to the sealing up of old buildings which removes their nesting sites. Hence this Swift tower! The Community group also started putting up bird and bat boxes and are delighted to announce that Swifts were circling the tower late this summer so are hopeful they will nest there next year. More opportunities to contribute to the ecological management of the area will be coming up in the form of making bug hotels, choosing wild meadow grass and planting trees. Please be in touch if you are interested in that or if you wish to be involved in the ecological aspects of what the Cuckmere Community Solar Company are aiming to do

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Chris

We are looking for ideas to include in next year's pages.

Any contributions are exceedingly welcomed!

I have learnt that some Email security settings may block this attachment and indeed the accompanying message.

Please ask your fellow members if they have received this newsletter as, if they haven't, they won't know until they find out.

If you think you are among them please email ehdps@hotmail.co.uk and I'll resend. If you would like a paper copy call 10825 872830 and I'll post you one.

Many Thanks

Chris

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FOSAS

From Alfriston to Worthing FoSAS member societies bring together a wealth of resources. However at the last FoSAS meeting it was agreed the Society was unable to continue. It was decided to sound out other similar bodies for a possible amalgamation and failing that to wind up FoSAS.

AIRS (Action In Rural Sussex)

Championing Community Partnerships (linking voluntary community groups to government decision makers)

CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)

CPRE Sussex is urging all Sussex MPs to challenge the Government's new fracking laws after a "serious U-turn" in legislation puts some of the county's best loved beauty spots at risk.

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

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

A Walk at Abbots Wood (01/12/15) Tuesday, 1st December 2015 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

A walk lead by Ecologist, Dr Sarah McKenzie to help us identify trees in winter.

For further information please contact John East, Eastbourne Regional Group Secretary by e-mail at:

secretary-swteastbourne@hotmail.co.uk

WOODLAND TRUST

Ash dieback (also known as chalara dieback of ash) is continuing to spread, but planting a mixture of alternative native trees can help. We're offering subsidised Disease Recovery Packs to landowners in affected counties, and free trees for communities and schools

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH

We share close links with the Sussex Moth Group, an independent group dedicated to the promotion of the study of moths in Sussex.