

# East Hoathly and District Preservation Society

## Autumn 2017

The Society is:

Associate Member of Action in Rural Sussex  
Affiliate Member of the CPRE  
Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust  
Associate Member of the Woodland Trust

### Committee

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

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

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

Website address:

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

## THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE PONDS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Pete the Pond

**Peter**, with an extensive knowledge of aquatic species and flora, will talk about the importance of wildlife ponds in our environment, how the latest scientific research is helping to underpin developments in pond design and management. He is Alan Titmarsh's pond doctor and has a regular slot on Sussex radio. Samples of live flora & fauna will be brought along for all to see.

**Friday 13th October 2017 at  
7.30pm East Hoathly Village  
Hall**



**ADMISSION IS FREE TO MEMBERS - WHY NOT INVITE A FRIEND**

**VISITORS VERY WELCOME @ £4**

**Toni Whewell 01825 872460**

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Toni



Sussex Chair - [Gale Clemans Art Historian](#)

Hello members,

I hope you all had a lovely summer and a chance to enjoy yet another amazing newsletter.

A brief account of our trip to the Giants of Brede at the beginning of July is included further into the newsletter.

On the worst night of the year, Janie Ramsay, Director Emeritus of Sotheby's, pitched up along with our intrepid members. Well done to all who made it. Both were not disappointed. Janie told a wealth of stories from behind the scenes. We learnt about the characters in the trade, the honour and the dishonour. Lots of laughter and more than a bit of naughtiness followed. So do read Leicester's piece in the newsletter to appreciate what you missed if you didn't venture out that night!

Next month, on Fri 13<sup>th</sup> October, Pete the Pond will explain why wildlife ponds are so important to our environment. He also has

impressive credentials as Alan Titchmarsh's Pond Doctor and talks regularly on Sussex Radio for Alison Fern's Sound Advice Programme.

Now for something a little different: we have tweaked the usual formula for the Social Evening on the 24<sup>th</sup> November, so come prepared!

Alan and Marion Salmon will be bringing along various antiquities to amuse, bemuse and enthral us.

David Burrough will be reminiscing and sharing lots of amusing tales in his role as Sven Svensson, an expert teller of "Scroeta" (Viking Bus Jokes), the sad demise of funding of the arts and transport systems! Get ready to laugh. As David says: *Sven was given opportunity by the lately Michael Bogdanov to appal before a captive audience at the Phoenix Theatre in Leicester in 1975 alongside The Great Soprendo (Spanish Magician) and has been retiring since 2000, so maybe a little rustic. He will be trying to regurge some of his most famous Viking "Scroeta"*

Jose Losemore will be launching her childrens' community book named Barnabas Birdy Book with individual stories and artwork about birds visiting the garden bird table. I am hoping that you will buy a copy or two as a Christmas gift as I now seem to have taken on a new role as her literary agent and I wouldn't want to not impress!

Excellent party food, along with a donations bar will all keep the party swinging!

So, as always, I look forward to seeing you soon,

Kind regards

Toni

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter



[William Hartnup Farthing](#)

Bank current account    £1492.89  
Bank deposit account    £632.36  
Cash                            £216.74

We are on target for a surplus for year ending 31 December which indicates that subscription rates will remain as they are for 2018.

Regards,  
Peter                    Hon. Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP - Jenny



*BBC Archive*

As we enter the last quarter of 2017 it is understandable that there is hesitation from potential members in joining the society and some will want to wait until January to get the full benefit of their annual membership. However there is still what will be an amazing evening with radio celebrity Pete

the Pond, three more Sunday walks and the renowned Annual Social still to come.

A much reduced membership fee is on offer for any of your friends wishing to join us this autumn.

Membership currently stands at just under eighty, an encouraging number in these demanding times and it is especially pleasing to welcome those new to the various village communities East Hoathly and District encompasses..

Paid up members will be able to renew for next year at our next two meetings if they desire, it'll be one less thing to think of after Christmas!

Jenny Pellett                    Membership Secretary

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

## VILLAGE CONCERNS - Kate Richardson



[East Hoathly Congestion](#)

The potential of major or inappropriate Housing Development has not gone away. It remains a Village Concern.

The Wealden Local Plan Sites Landscape and Ecological Study Reports for East Hoathly have been updated.

The Village concerns group has had its AGM:

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Despite a rainy night over 20 people attended. Kate Richardson, Chair, gave a recap of the changes in planning policies and Local Plans produced by Wealden District Council, particularly in the last 4 years. She showed how these changes had affected East Hoathly and Halland, in particular in terms of development boundaries and number of houses allocated for future development. After several different allocations, at the moment East Hoathly has an allocation of zero houses and a tightly drawn boundary around existing development, Halland has an allocation of 30 houses and a defined core area.

The number of houses in Wealden as a whole has been reduced because scientific studies have shown that the Ashdown Forest is being damaged by nitrogen oxide gases from car exhausts. As yet it is unclear what the future holds. Wealden are continuing to gather evidence for submission to the delayed draft Local Plan to the Council. No date as yet for this submission.

Agents, such as Parker Dann, have been asked to wait until September 29th 2017, when more information may be available before pursuing determination of their submitted plans whilst WDC move forward with the draft Local Plan. Submitted plans in this location include Hesmonds and Buttsfield Lane (East Hoathly could still be threatened by the potential 205 new homes on Stud land); Bramblebank and Hop Garden for Halland.

Kate also outlined the work that Village Concerns has been doing since May 2016. From these early beginnings, there is now a Steering Group of 11 members and over 250 supporters. Kate thanked everyone for their hard work.

Things could change again and we need to be ready for this but hopefully there is now a window when both Villages can look positively at planning for their future. The

Neighbourhood Plan is well underway - an excellent way forward.

Jonathan Walker then spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan updating us on where the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan is at now. This was added to by Diane Knill, Parish Councillor and Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee who was present.

David Dobbs presented the Treasurers report on what we have had to spend these past 18 months, this primarily being on the Planning Consultant and the Barrister.

Please consider helping Village Concerns financially; Cheques should be made out to 'Village Concerns' and sent to: David Dobbs, Bank House, 8 High Street, East Hoathly BN8 6EB.

Kate Richardson was re-elected as the Chair.

Since Village Concerns' AGM, WDC have issued an update. It appears that there is more delay for the Local Plan as evidence is not yet ready for submission. We are not sure how this will affect the plans on hold in East Hoathly and Halland. Much will depend on the actions / patience of developers.

[Village Concerns](#) is an East Hoathly with Halland Parish Action Group, and remains active on our behalf.

On October 12th The Wealden District Council have perhaps their first substantial planning meeting since the air pollution of the Ashdown Forest took precedence over developers' pockets.

Of particular interest to East Hoathly residents will be the application to revert the Foresters back to the residential use it had 150 years ago. See Below

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KEEP THE FORESTERS OPEN - Stephanie Evans



*EH&DPS Archive*

Michael Evans has put together an application to Wealden district council for the Foresters Arms to be considered as an Asset of Community Value. Which he has been working on with the support of a number of other people in the village.

Given that the Parish Council has chosen not to apply, a group called [Keep the Foresters Open](#) has been formed and are applying as "an unincorporated body" which needs at least 21 individual members (and through the powers of social media had 435 followers at the last count!). We believe that The Foresters is a pub of great value to our community, and that it is possible for it to be financially viable and that it should remain open.

The ACV addresses a number of points:

- why the Foresters Arms is an asset of community value to the Village
- what differentiates it from the Kings Head and why they are both important to the village
- why we believe it is financially viable - this is particularly important given the narrative in the planning statement in the Harvey's application

It is clear that Harvey's have given up on the Foresters and we believe that the best option for everyone is for them to sell it off as a pub to another operator. We believe that there would be interested parties out there to do this.

However should this fail then we would see what we could do as a group to keep it open and would explore the range of options that are available.

We are hopeful that by putting in the ACV we can postpone the planning process and enable one of these options to be pursued.

The ACV is now in and will be discussed by the planning committee on October 12th.

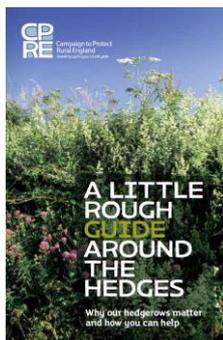
We have a list of names / members and potential members - there are 131 confirmed supporters, 10 people who objected to the planning application who we have not yet been able to contact regarding supporting the ACV - if you would like to be on the list (if you're not already on it!) or if you know people who you think will support this cause, can you tag them in and get them to provide their address and email. That's all we need to collect for this application.



[Uckfield FM](#)

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## HEDGEROWS - CPRE Guide



### **A little rough guide around the hedges** *Why our hedgerows matter and how you can help*

The guide can be downloaded from here:

[A little rough guide around the hedges \(6.3MB PDF\)](#)

Or obtained in print from the CPRE office at Brownings Farm, Blackboys..

This guide is a celebration of hedgerows. We wanted to share our passion for them and encourage more people to care about them too. And to entice you further, we've included a handy hedgerow plant identifier for when you're next exploring our beautiful countryside.

## PAST MEETINGS - Leicester



*Photo by Leicester*

**Without Reserve**  
**Presented by Janie Ramsey**  
**Fri 8th September 2017**

Hurricane Irma was giving the Gulf of Mexico a severe lashing; a rain storm over Sussex was doing its best to emulate it. Committee members, who turned up early to set up the village hall for the evening's talk, were wondering if anybody was brave (or silly) enough to venture out to attend. Fortunately, a good turnout ensued to hear Janie Ramsey deliver a wonderful and amusing talk about her time in the antiques trade and some of the events that took place at Sotheby's, where she was a director for ten years.

She hadn't intended on becoming an antiques dealer, as the original plan in 1975 was to set up a book shop with her partner in Tunbridge Wells. Between acquiring the premises and opening for business, it had morphed into an antiques shop, something that she really came to love. It was a continuous learning curve of all the items that came her way and the development of very keen observational skills and an ability to quickly assess people and their intentions. There were both good and bad sides to the business. Trust was very important as over 80% of the business was dealer to dealer, either directly in the shop or at fairs or via 'runners', so items would be exchanged and the financial deals settled at a later stage, sometimes after the original purchase had already been sold on. Those who reneged on a deal would soon find to their cost that word had gone round like wildfire and that could put them out of business. Theft and trickery was a problem too that afflicted shops and home owners alike, the latter being subjected to cold calling 'knockers'. The 'ringing' that took place at auction houses defrauded both the auctioneer and the seller, although that's been overcome by those houses who require all bidders to submit bank details prior to each sale.

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Come 1990, Janie had the opportunity to join Sotheby's in Bond St. and that opened up a whole new world of items bought and sold by the rich and famous. She related tales of how the behaviour and attitude of those people varied so much, with some being reviled by their exploits and others praised for their openhearted kindness. True haggling over items didn't happen in the rarefied atmospheres of these locations, something that she did miss at times.

Rising to director in 1998 she would oversee the dressing of galleries for important sales, such as the Versace collection from Lake Como and the Duchess of Windsor's collection.

The sales rooms had a number of moving walls, which make it far easier to portray a particular setting for the items. The organisation of preview events was a challenge, particularly when royal visitors were involved; even those occasions were subject to mishaps that wouldn't be out of place in a Laurel & Hardy sketch.

In 2008, Janie retired from full time work at Sotheby's but continues in a consulting role. She gives a number of talks about the world of antiques and given the enthusiastic response to this one, we'll be certainly looking forward to another such occasion.

Leycester Whewell, EHaDPS secretary, 10 Sep 2017

## SUMMER OUTING - Toni

### Giants of Brede & lunch at the Red Lion. 1st July 2017

Our outing to the Giants of Brede was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The Red Lion beforehand also proved to be a huge success with its quirky ambience and

extensive menu. The photos prove the point that our preservation society certainly likes its food!



*Picture by Leycester*

Twenty one members took up the offer of visiting. Sadly, our planned guided tour with the founder and Chairman John Foxley MBE proved not to be possible but his wife Diane kindly took up the reins. We were efficiently split into four groups, to be taken around the site by knowledgeable and enthusiastic volunteers. We were told the story of how water was supplied to the Hastings area from the steam days of 1904. The Giants (originally a pair of triple expansion steam driven pumps) are huge and reach over 9 metres (30 feet) high. They are located in tall brick engine houses that display striking architectural features in the baroque and art deco styles.



*Picture by Leycester*

An impressive collection of engines were in operation for us to enjoy and appreciate British Engineering at its best. We certainly shared their passion! We then rather unexpectedly ended up in the 1980's nuclear fallout shelter!

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

<p>Fri 13th October</p>	<p>The importance of Wildlife ponds in our environment Pete the Pond SEE FRONT PAGE</p>
<p>Fri 24th November</p>	<p>A Social Evening SEE CHAIRMANS REPORT</p>

Next Year; there will be music, wine and other fine evenings of entertainment loosely embodied by the term Preservation Society with the aim of maintaining the wellbeing of the local village communities.

## HALLAND



[Halland Community Facebook Page](#)

Old Hartfield - An account by Douglas Alexander Stewart, who lived at Old Hartfield as a child.

The house is what I remember as the estate office for the Chichester Estates. These were owned by the Earl of Chichester. I was born there in 1948 when my father, Donald Stewart was estate manager. Margaret and Joan are my sisters.

As far I am aware the house was estate manager's residence back in the 1910s when my Grandfather, Alexander Stewart, was appointed Estate manager. My father moved into the house in 1944 after his marriage. His father Alexander had passed away in the late 1930s.

The house continued as estate Office until 1953/4 when we moved into a new house and office on the road between Park Corner and Stone Cross. As far as I remember the house and old sawmills were then sold off. My father died in 1959 and a new manager was appointed

The Estates were subsequently sold and the Earl now has an Estate in Hampshire.

## WALDRON



[Waldron's Telephone Box](#)

The residents in the East Sussex village of Waldron have clubbed together to find a use for this old telephone box. It now houses a defibrillator and collection of pocket books for people to read and swap whenever they like. -Tony Whithers

FOUR IN A BAR: The concert by the acapella group "Four in a Bar" which had to be rescheduled earlier in the year will now take place on November 22 at All Saints Church Waldron, and will be followed by the village photographic competition and exhibition.

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## CHIDDINGLY ORAL HISTORY GROUP



[Chiddingly Shop](#)

Presented by Friends of Chiddingly  
Village Shop & Café  
Keeping you in touch with your  
community

From the Journal of William Jefferay.

Chiddingly hath a most excellent church. Herein are laid some early members of our family.

The earliest inscription to any of our race is on a small brass plate to memory of John and Agnes Jefferay.

Agnes was daughter and heir of Richard Melward.

It was Richard Melward's ghost that was verily believed (in my childhood days) to walk the old manor-house o'nights, and in particular that chamber whereunto his daughter was brought a bride. A few who were bold enough to seek repose in that room certes never gained it there, if confused stories and affrighted looks be taken as any evidence. The clearest tale of this walking was most misty, and here is the best I can piece together of it from the account one gave me who tried to sleep

there. He did at first gain some rest, but was awakened by a chilling air, and then through the darkness did take notice of some gentle movement in an ancient tapestry hanging at the side of the room opposite where he lay. This movement came at intervals quite regular, and always with so deeply sounding a sigh as almost seemed a groan. This pitiful sound, and the movement of the tapestry as if from a mighty heaving of these sighs, did so affect him that he pulled the clothes over his head to stop both eyes and ears.

Still he could hear the noise, though fainter, finally stopping altogether; yet worse came, for anon a hand as cold as ice slowly crept adown his neck and moved back the clothes, showing to his affrighted eyes a tall, grave man, arrayed

In full armour, who looked most sadly at him a moment, then shook his head slowly, and passed away with but one mighty sigh more, as if in disappointment at not finding his daughter.

As the ghost vanished it was seen that he carried two roses in his left hand, one white, the other red, thus foretelling that peace between York and Lancaster which come finally with King Henry the Seventh. So two things seemed to cause this walking; one the grief at the loss of an only daughter from his hearth, and the other a message of peace to come. That he did miss his daughter when she left him for another home, 'tis true, but his grieving might well have been tempered in the thought that she had been taken to a good man's heart, who would care well for her when he was gone.

Yet walk he did, if honest witnesses are to be taken fairly in what they did declare.

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## THE WOODLAND TRUST

### THE TREE CHARTER PRINCIPLES

We believe in:



#### Thriving habitats for diverse species

Urban and rural landscapes should have a rich diversity of trees, hedges and woods to provide homes, food and safe routes for our native wildlife. We want to make sure future generations can enjoy the animals, birds, insects, plants and fungi that depend upon diverse habitats.



#### Planting for the future

As the population of the UK expands, we need more forests, woods, street trees, hedges and individual trees across the landscape. We want all planting to be environmentally and economically sustainable with the future needs of local people and wildlife in mind. We need to use more timber in construction to build better quality homes faster and with a lower carbon footprint.



#### Celebrating the cultural impact of trees

Trees, woods and forests have shaped who we are. They are woven into our art, literature, folklore, place names and traditions. It's our responsibility to preserve and nurture this rich heritage for future generations.



#### A thriving forestry sector that delivers for the UK

We want forestry in the UK to be more visible, understood and supported so that it can achieve its huge potential and provide jobs, forest products, environmental benefits and economic opportunities for all. Careers in woodland management, arboriculture and the timber supply chain should be attractive choices and provide development opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses.



#### Better protection for important trees and woods

Ancient woodland covers just 2% of the UK and there are currently more than 700 individual woods under threat from planning applications because sufficient protection is not in place. We want stronger legal protection for trees and woods that have special cultural, scientific or historic significance to prevent the loss of precious and irreplaceable ecosystems and living monuments.



#### Enhancing new developments with trees

We want new residential areas and developments to be balanced with green infrastructure, making space for trees. Planning regulations should support the inclusion of trees as natural solutions to drainage, cooling, air quality and water purification. Long term management should

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

also be considered from the beginning to allow trees to mature safely in urban spaces.



## **Understanding and using the natural health benefits of trees**

Having trees nearby leads to improved childhood fitness, and

evidence shows that people living in areas with high levels of greenery are 40% less likely to be overweight or obese. We believe that spending time among trees should be promoted as an essential part of a healthy physical and mental lifestyle and a key element of healthcare delivery.



## **Access to trees for everyone**

Everyone should have access to trees irrespective of age, economic status,

ethnicity or disability. Communities can be brought together in enjoying, celebrating and caring for the trees and woods in their neighbourhoods. Schoolchildren should be introduced to trees for learning, play and future careers.



## **Addressing threats to woods and trees through good management**

Good management of our woods and trees is

essential to ensure healthy habitats and economic sustainability. We believe that more woods should be better managed and woodland plans should aim for long term sustainability and be based upon evidence of threats and the latest projections of climate change. Ongoing research into the

causes of threats and solutions should be better promoted.



## **Strengthening landscapes with woods and trees**

Trees and woods capture carbon, lower flood risk, and supply us

with timber, clean air, clean water, shade, shelter, recreation opportunities and homes for wildlife. We believe that the government must adopt policies and encourage new markets which reflect the value of these ecosystem services instead of taking them for granted.

## **Help shape the future**

Be a part of history, sign your name and we'll plant a tree

[Sign the charter](#)

**Whatever you want to plant, whether it's one tree in your garden or a whole wood, the Woodland Trust can help.**

Every sapling that we provide is UK sourced and grown to minimise the risk of importing and spreading tree pests and diseases.

Seeds are collected and stored in the UK, and they are all coded and batched so that we can track an individual tree.

**Over the next 10 years, we're aiming to plant 64 million trees and we can't do it without you.**

[Something for Christmas](#)

(link to the Woodland Trust Shop)

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## VERT WOODS COMMUNITY WOODLAND with THE WOODLAND TRUST

### The Tree Charter Launch - Lewes

Wed 15 November 2017 19:00 - 22:00  
Kings Church  
Brooks Road  
Lewes  
BN7 2BY

Come and support the Launch of the Tree Charter for Trees, Woods and People in Lewes. The Tree Charter initiative is led by the Woodland Trust, plus more than 70 other organisations, and greater than 100,000 people who have signed the Charter. Launched 800 years after the original Forest Charter, the new Charter will help redefine our relationship with trees and woods. At a time when UK tree planting has fallen to a 50-year low, this is an important time to come together and push for greater protection and use of woodlands.

Our main guest speaker will be Robert Penn. Rob is the best-selling author of 'The Man who Made Things out of Trees' (all about the amazing ash tree), a broadcaster and community woods activist. He will be interviewed by a surprise local comedian in a fun interview about Robert's fascinating life. Rob is also a very keen cyclist, having cycled in 50 countries and is owner of a wooden bike! He has resurrected a community woods in the Brecon Beacons and has inspired thousands to actively engage with their local woodlands. He is President of the Small Woods Association. Compering the evening will be local personality Michael Blencowe of Sussex Wildlife Trust. Hosting the evening is Vert Woods Community Woodland (VWCW) and the Woodland Trust. VWCW is a beautiful 171 acres woodland 15 minutes from Lewes. We'll be announcing during the evening how you can become a member of the new VWCW Community Benefit

Society and invest in owning and running the woods.

It will also be an evening full of music and creativity - the local Zu Choir will entertain us with special tree songs, and Dirk Campbell the well-known local musician will amaze us with his collection of wood instruments. We'll also have some exciting films to show.

Old Tree Brewery will be quaffing our thirsts with organic non-alcoholic natural drinks and you will have the chance to win some great prizes including some trees. Our supporters include Transition Town Lewes, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Alternative Lewes, Special Branch, Lewes Arboretum, School of the Wild and others.

Tickets are £12 (£10 for concessions)

From [Eventbrite](#)

Laughton Village Shop

Or contact Sue Redshaw for more information

[smredshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:smredshaw@btinternet.com)

[Vert Woods Family Days](#)

### 2017 WALKS - Chris

#### PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2017

Usually start at 2pm after lunch in the designated pub

SUNDAY 22 <sup>TH</sup> OCT	Six Bells Chiddingly
SUNDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> NOV	Horse & Groom Rushlake Green
SUNDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> DEC	Kings Head East Hoathly (Streetwalk)

CONTACT [CHRIS & JENNY PELLETT](#)

01825 872830

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

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## WALKS - Jenny



*Pellett*

### **July, The Hare & Hounds Framfield**

Our summer might have started with high temperatures and glorious sunshine but when we walked from the Hare & Hounds at Framfield in July, we had heavy rain. Despite being wet it was a super walk with some particularly magnificent trees, beautiful rolling meadows and habitat rich fields, which, sadly due to the weather were devoid of the large numbers of butterflies Chris & I saw when we had tried the walk the previous week.



*Pellett*

### **August, Abergavenny Arms Rodmell**

In August the walk started in Rodmell and I think one of our loveliest. The views over the Ouse valley towards Lewes & the castle were fantastic. Starting from the Abergavenny Arms, we made our way over farmland towards the river. Looking over towards Beddingham and the downs, the only thing that gave away the location of the excellently landscaped landfill site was the presence of numerous vent pipes. Had it not been noticed by Rob, I don't think any of us would have noticed.

Although a very good job seems to have been made of disguising it, it is a sad fact that so much of our throwaway society will always be there lurking under the surface.

Continuing on our way, we passed the swing bridge at Southease, where we left the river and headed up through this beautiful hamlet and stopped to look in the church, a very small but a very special place and well worth a visit.

### **September, The Buxted Inn Buxted**

Buxted is not an area we know much about, other than what we see when passing through on the way to somewhere else (or the Doctors' Surgery). Tucked away behind a fairly recent development of houses there is a footpath and bridge that enchantingly cross a steep sided stream before opening up onto beautiful open countryside. Lanes and footpaths led us past beautiful tucked away houses and interesting buildings. There is a lot more to Buxted than we realised and we were also pleased to find that the pub does a really good Sunday roast.

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## WILDLIFE REPORT - Living with Birds

The House Martin.



[House Martins Basil Ede](#)

It seems a bird eminently suitable for all grades of urban, suburban and indeed royal castle life. For its natural tendencies is to live a communal existence, beneath sheltering eaves, detached, semi-detached or terraced! A modern take of the bird's ancestral home of mountains and coastal cliffs.

It takes approximately three weeks and 1000 sorties to collect clay to build the nest. The adult birds mate inside the nest bowl, but consequently, three quarters of nests contain chick's fathered by other males! Clutches of four or five are normal. The parents share incubation, with earlier broods assisting with feeding duties. Indeed, the birds have a commendable sense of duty, where more than two adult birds may be feeding the young in one nest box. The birds sleep in the nest, which will eventually include the first and second broods.

The preferred habitat is open country with low vegetation, pasture, meadows and farm land.

The House Martin`s nesting association with Man was well know to Shakespeare, "no jutty, frieze, buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird hath made his pendent bed..Macbeth, Act 1, Scene 6!

And;

Banquo calls attention to Duncan on seeing the Martins at Macbeth`s castle;

"This guest of summer,

The temple haunting martlet, dose approve

By his loved masonry that the heavens breath

Smells wooingly here, No jutty, frieze,

Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird

Hath made his pendant bed and procreant cradle;

Where they most breed and haunt. I have observed

The air is delicate." [Macbeth Act 1, scene V1].

**And next, not a bird but my favourite Beetle:**

**The Devil`s Coach Horseman.**

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*Devil's Coach Horse - Pellett*

The Latin species name *olens*, meaning smelling, refers to the two white stinking glands on the abdomen.] This beetle has been associated with the Devil since the Middle Ages. Hence its common name, which has been used at least since 1840. Other names include Devil's footman, Devil's coachman and Devil's steed. It is sometimes also known as the cock-tail beetle for its habit of raising its abdomen. One dictionary proposed the name developed in parallelism with ladybird and its Norse cognates. In Irish, the beetle is called *dearga-daol* or *darbh-daol*. British folklore has it that a beetle has eaten the core of Eve's apple, and that a person who crushes such beetle is forgiven seven sins.

It is a long-bodied black beetle. At about 20-32 millimetres (0.8-1.3 it is one of the larger British beetles. Its wing covers (elytra) are short, covering only its thorax, exposing the abdominal segments. The abdominal musculature is powerful and the abdominal segments are covered with sclerotized plates. It is capable of flight, but its wings are rarely used. It is covered with fine, black hairs. It is well known for its habit of raising its long and uncovered abdomen and opening its jaws rather like a scorpion when threatened. Although it has no sting, it can give a painful bite with its strong, pincer-like jaws. It also emits a foul-smelling odour, as a defensive secretion,

from a pair of white glands at the end of its abdomen.

## Biology and diet

It is a predator, hunting mainly by night, feeding on a range of invertebrates including worms, slugs, spiders, small moths and woodlice, as well as carrion. The prey is caught in the mandibles which are also used to cut and together with the front legs to manipulate the food into a bolus. The bolus is repeatedly chewed and swallowed, emerging covered with a brown secretion from the foregut, until it is reduced to a liquid which is digested. Skin (in the case of earthworms) and hard materials (from arthropods) are left. The larvae are also carnivorous with similar eating habits.

## Reproduction

*Ocypus olens* mates in autumn. Females lay their eggs from 2-3 weeks after first mating. They are large (4 millimetres or 0.16 inches) and white with a darker band and laid singly in damp conditions under moss, stones, cow pats, or leaf litter. After around 30 days, the eggs split and the larvae emerge, white with a straw-coloured head. The larva lives largely underground, and feeds on similar prey to the adult and has the same well-developed mandibles. It adopts the same display with open jaws and raised tail when threatened. The larva goes through three stages of growth, the final stage ranging from 20 to 26 mm in length. Around 150 days old, the larva pupates for about 35 days and emerges as an adult with its final colouring, fully formed except for the wings which cannot be folded neatly beneath the elytra for several hours. Adults can survive a second winter, some by hibernating.

Fred Carter - Wildlife Observer

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH

### Rowland Wood and Park Corner Heath

The adjoining reserves of Rowland Wood and Park Corner Heath are a part of Vert Wood, which was once a woodland and heath which teemed with wildlife. Large parts of the wood were planted with conifers in the latter part of the 20th Century. The reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and has been one of the few remnants of Vert Wood's previously more extensive heathland.

### Conservation work parties

Volunteers will be required for scrub clearance and coppicing throughout the autumn and winter months. We meet on the second Sunday of each month, starting at 8.30 am and continuing until lunchtime. You are welcome to come along for as much or as little of this time as you wish. Work will be with hand tools only, which will be provided, but please wear stout footwear and bring work gloves and protective glasses if you have them.

[www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/](http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/)

## MID WEEK WALKS & MORE - John



[Community Speedwatch](#)

### RIGHT OF WAY GROUP REPORT

Our walks have continued throughout the summer period with generally good attendance. We have been fortunate that

owing to regular usage the need to cut back undergrowth has been limited.

We have explored the Community woodland, Vert Wood, and found it to be a very varied and interesting site. The scenery offers a wide range of trees from semi mature pine to mature broad leaf areas with many particularly impressive specimens, notably the majestic Austrian Pine.

Apart from the public footpaths crossing Vert Wood there are plenty of broad firebreaks which can be followed, thus offering many alternative routes.

Wild life is also a feature of this Wood, particularly the groups of deer, often to be seen at a distance gliding between the trees. Planning a route to discover this excellent walking area is strongly recommended. Visitors will not be disappointed.

Rowland Wood is another area that we have visited twice. Especially interesting because of its plentiful wildlife including the rare Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly. Deer too are often to be seen in this wood, as is also a variety of bird life. Reptiles and small mammals can usually be found beneath the covers, which are scattered around the Wood. Less frequently, and for the vigilant observer, they can also be spotted in the open areas of the woodland.

Blackberry Farm continues to be an area of interest. The long awaited diversion is available and partially way marked. Completion of the way marking has perforce been delayed awaiting the final inspection by the County ROW team. This inspection has been promised as soon as their workload permits; for our Group it cannot come too soon for, as you may recall, this particular battle has been in progress for at least the past five years. We believe that the end is nigh!

JD Oct 2017

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Following an initiative set up at Halland and concerns about speeding motorists in East Hoathly John, as Parish Councillor, has added the coordinating of Speed Camera operators to his portfolio. There are lots of opportunities for volunteer work in the parish, John is a good point of call whether it's for the East Hoathly Rights of Way Group or an official council initiative.

## Contact

[dixiewalks@hotmail.com](mailto:dixiewalks@hotmail.com) You will be made most welcome.

## WRAS - Jenny

### Trapped Hedgehog

I think most of us are aware of the WRAS (Wildlife Rescue Ambulance Service) based at Whitesmith, and recently I have twice had cause to call on their services.

A small underweight hedgehog was found in a deep brick gully at the village works in EH and had no way of getting out. We took it along to Trevor and his team of volunteers. Thankfully it seemed there was nothing much wrong with the little chap that food, water and rest wouldn't put right.

A week or so later we made another trip to Trevor and team - this time with a Great-tit that had crash landed into a tub of water. Seemingly blind and unable to fly, the bird was in a sorry state. It was found to have a large tick on its back, the prognosis was not good and despite all their best efforts the bird died overnight.

There was however better news on the hedgehog - it was gaining weight and would soon be ready for release. This, I understand, has now happened, so fingers crossed for a safe and accident free life.

Volunteers and donations are what keeps WRAS up and running, if you can help with either (or both) give them a call on 01825-873003 or visit their website [www.WRAS](http://www.WRAS) they will be thrilled.

## Insects - Chris



*Pellett*

### The Common Two Toothed Door Snail

Each year debris falls from a birch tree onto my shed roof with what look like husks from the flower buds amongst it. Now thirty years later I find that these small (usually just 8mm long) husks are in fact live animals!

*Clausilia bidentate*, like most door snails has a Left Hand Thread! (The spiral goes round the other way to most other land snails). It is also named, not because of where it lives, but, because it has a sliding door that it can close to avoid being eaten by beetles.



*Four Beetles Pellett*

### Rose Chafer Beetles

And talking of beetles, how many Rose Chafers can you see here? Many people consider the Rose Chafer a pest and some Chafer grubs can be, but like most species the Rose Chafer grub feeds on decomposing vegetable matter and can be a useful composter.

# EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## Bird Boxes - RSPB

It's not essential but it is a good idea to give your nest boxes a clear out once a year, and it's also interesting to take a look inside at the nest.

It's only legal to disturb nests between September and January and even in September they mustn't be disturbed if still in use.

Cleaning the box ensures that nothing untoward is lurking in there over the winter months to infest the new nest next spring.

You can sometimes get parasites and insects that will lie in wait for an unsuspecting brood of chicks, reducing their chances of survival. Take the box down and open it up. If there is a nest in there you can dispose of it in your compost bin or as you see fit.

Any dead chicks can also be put in the compost as can any unfertilised eggs, but legally, the eggs should be destroyed.

Brush out any loose material, and pour boiling water throughout the box.

You may need to give it a scrub and second kettle of boiling water but don't use chemical cleaners.

Allow it to dry completely before putting the box back together and back in place for another year.

Once it is thoroughly dry, a small amount of clean hay or wood shavings in the bottom may encourage small mammals to hibernate there or birds to use it as a roost, but don't use straw as it will go mouldy.

RSPB bird houses and nest boxes are made from sustainable, durable FSC timber, so they're safe for birds and the environment. See them online [here](#), or call the RSPB Shop on 0345 034 7733 for a catalogue.

## BOOKS - Chris

**Lend, Borrow or Buy.**

As you know, Jane Seabrook is responsible for publishing several books on East Hoathly, not least of all the Thomas Turner diaries. At the Social, as well as Josie Loosemore's marvellous new book, it is hoped to have copies of some other books with local community interest for sale as ideal Christmas presents.

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Chris



[For Sale on Ebay](#)

I make no excuse for the newsletter containing so many items that require you spending money. Everyone needs it - especially the charities and various community initiatives if we wish our rural way of life to thrive, which is the purpose of our society.

Keep sending in articles or ideas of what you would like from the society.

[Chris Pellett](#)