

# East Hoathly & District Preservation Society



Autumnal 2018

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 Linda Allsop, Fred Carter, John Deane, Kate Richardson, 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 hosts expert speakers, outings, monthly guided walks and issues seasonal newsletters.***

**Website address:**

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

**Email:**

[ehdps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ehdps@hotmail.co.uk)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Toni

2018 is unusual in that we had two outings. Firstly, to Harvey's Brewery in July which, not surprisingly, sold out very quickly.

Then in August Argos Hill windmill following lunch at the Rose and Crown in Mayfield.

As we were well behaved at Harvey's brewery, I am delighted to say that we have gained another place should we wish to go again. This time I shall ask the owner himself to do the honours. Would 2020 suit?

The September walk around the Rathfinny Estate was perfect in its timing and the weather was truly glorious. Since then I have had the opportunity to hear Richard talk about the estate which is now definitely branching out and gin is certainly the local tippie rather than their international wine business!

For the September talk Ben Cross came all the way from Arundel to enthuse about buying British blooms and as the following day was my birthday; Leicester kindly bought me six bunches to celebrate.

A visit to Crossland's Flower Nursery is now being planned for next year!

We won't talk anymore about honey bees. In November we have the social evening, where the competition that I would urge you to contribute to is to guess who is in the members wedding photographs that have been brought in, a short film and an Indian military chest from the days of the Raj, plus all the usual social niceties. What fun!

Best Wishes Toni



## TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Brooke

### Treasurer's Report (July)

The forecast for 2018 is based on conservative estimates as usual and the end of year surplus is expected to be in the region of £350-400 although this could be more or less, dependent on memberships and me getting the expenditure about right.

### General Data Protection Regulation

The ICO registration checklist has been completed and there is no obligation for the Preservation Society to be registered as we 'process' data for recreational or domestic purposes.

Our website does not have any personal data stored on it other than static contact details for the committee. Membership data is processed on a home personal computer which is not publicly available and this is protected by physical measures, anti-hacking software and password protection.

We have a privacy statement which is available to upon request or can be read at our meetings (there is a copy in the Russell Room at the Village Hall)

## MEMBERSHIP – Jenny Pellett

Our membership continues to slowly rise through the year. Welcoming Steve and Lesley Jepp during the summer takes us to 86.

More top quality speakers are already booked for 2019 so we hope that some regular visitors will recognise the saving to be made by being members.

Subscriptions are remaining the same for 2019 and renewals can be paid by telephone or internet banking as well as the old fashioned ways of cash or cheque at the social in November or in the New Year.

Jenny Pellett

Membership Secretary

## PAST MEETINGS – 26th July Harvey's Brewery Tour LEWES - Toni

Harvey's Brewery Tour, not surprisingly, sold out very quickly. What a lovely tour for the 25 of us who went. We enjoyed a fluent, humorous and knowledgeable dialogue from the owner's son. Hot weather made the brewery's beverages even more attractive and many a pint was supped in the interest of quality assurance. More beer and pork pies followed in the pub afterwards.



<https://www.harveys.org.uk/about/what-goes-into-a-pint-of-harveys/>

### BEER TERMINOLOGY

<b>Grist</b>	Brewers' term for milled grains, or the combination of milled grains to be used in a particular brew. Derives from the verb to grind. Also sometimes applied to hops.
<b>Liquor</b>	The brewer's word for water used in the brewing process, as included in the mash or, used to sparge the grains after mashing.
<b>Mash</b>	(Verb) To release malt sugars by soaking the grains in water. (Noun) The resultant mixture.
<b>Wort</b>	The solution of grain sugars strained from the mash tun. At this stage, regarded as "sweet wort", later as brewed wort, fermenting wort and finally beer.

**PAST MEETINGS – ARGOS HILL WINDMILL - Toni****12th August Outing: Argos Hill Windmill**

The [Rose & Crown in Mayfield](#) provided a private room and fabulous food for the 20 who then visited the [Argos Hill windmill](#). Our excellent speaker certainly enthused the group and we enjoyed seeing all their hard work in restoring the structure to best effect. It was the best day ever for the volunteers as they had 88 (including our 22) visitors that day. Josie Loosemore was delighted to see the windmill which she remembers her dad, a former Rotherfield resident, telling her about. We further boosted their coffers by helping to drink their tea & coffee and eat their homemade cake, thanks in part to our member Debs. New members who had just recently moved into E.Hoathly, Steve & Lesley Jepps were welcomed on their first outing with the group. We certainly had an enjoyable time, with the rain holding off and despite the vagaries of parking in a very uneven field, a threat of a legal challenge that prevented us arranging a date well in advance and also a road closure on the day.



This picture shows the patent sweep adjustor mechanism, which allows the angle of the shutters to be altered to suit wind speed with the sweeps still turning. The centre spindle is a pushrod which is moved in or out via the large chainwheel visible high up on the outside of the mill. The chain from the chainwheel passes down into the spout floor where it is operated to adjust the torque from the sweeps to suit the needs of the milling process.

**PAST MEETINGS – UK Cut Flowers**

British Alstroemaria and the UK cut flower industry by Ben Cross  
Fri 14th September 2018



Ben's great grandfather started the family business after being involved in a program run by the Land Settlement Association which was set up in 1934. The LSA had 20 locations around the country where those leaving depressed industrial areas could make a new start in agriculture. Ben's family moved to Sidlesham, south of Chichester, the largest of the LSA sites.

Come 1957 the family moved to Arundel on part of the old Barnham Nursery site and began to grow alstroemaria, of which there are over 50 types. They are what's termed a 'cool' plant to grow, in that they only

require heating to +13°C in order to succeed; ideal when oil for heating was cheap. Flowers are grown in 30m by 1-2m greenhouse beds and the plants can last 20-30 years. That reduces the amount of replanting required and thus saves on sterilisation processes and labour. Regulations have now banned the use of substances like bromine and so alternatives such as Basamid are used.

Licences have to be paid for each plant that is grown; it's not permitted to split the plants nor sell the flowers without one as the genetic rights belong to the plant breeder.

The greenhouses don't use any artificial light, so the flowers grow up towards natural sunlight, occasionally reaching 7'. Maintenance involves cutting, tucking the plants back in the wire supports, thinning and weeding. Growth peaks come in the spring & autumn; the heat and dryness of the summer limit development.

The nature of the business has also changed over the years. Less is sent to supermarkets these days and there are more direct orders to the nursery, with next day delivery available. Harvested flowers are stored at 6°C, not 0.5°C as done by many other organisations in order to artificially prolong the shelf life. Chemicals are not sprayed on to them either, nor onto the packaging. Those techniques of maximising shelf life often fail with the result that stems end up mouldy and rotten.

Ben also brought along some wonderful blooms of various colours for the audience to buy. The ones we bought lasted over two weeks, a real benefit of having them cut that day and not kept in chilled storage. We certainly wish him well with his passion for producing high quality English flowers with minimal impact on the environment.

<https://www.facebook.com/CrosslandsFlowerNursery>

Crosslands Flower Nursery, Barnham Lane, Walberton, West Sussex,

BN18 0AX

[Get Directions](#)

Tel:07712 332241

**FUTURE MEETINGS****2018**

Fri Oct 12th	Honey Bees: Oliver St. John.
Fri Nov 30th	Social evening.

# Honey Bees

BY

## ~~Oliver St. John~~



Oliver will need more protection than that hat if Toni ever catches him!

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**ADMISSION WAS FREE TO MEMBERS**

**VISITORS WERE STUNG FOR £4!**

**BE SURE NOT TO MISS THE ACTION PACKED SOCIAL EVENING**

**Friday 30th November**

## HEDGEHOGS

Frequently in the news at the moment is the serious threat to hedgehogs, the nation's favourite mammal. The reduction in their numbers is at best a major cause for concern, at worst potentially catastrophic.



Thankfully there are plenty of things we can all do to help turn the situation around and make things easier for our prickly hedgepigs.

The single most important way to help is to create Hedgehog Highways, to ensure they can pass freely from garden to garden. All they need are small holes in the fence measuring approximately 13 x 13cm

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

Also vital is a good supply of insects and a suitable habitat for nesting and hibernation in a quiet corner of the garden.

Any or all of the following will help:-

Create a log pile

Leave a leaf pile

Have an overgrown area with standing vegetation.

Natural & semi-natural sites for setting up home are best but there are a wide selection of hedgehog houses available to buy, or if you fancy building one yourself instructions are here: [Hedgehog-Street-Hedgehog-houses](#)

Or for a simpler one see below.

As hibernation time is fast approaching, they need to build up fat reserves to see them through until spring, again helping is easy.

Leave fallen fruit for them.

Put out a bowl of cat or dog food (wet or dry) each evening.

Only feed mealworms infrequently or in very small quantities, as they cause problems with the hedgehog's natural balance of phosphorous & calcium and can lead to serious bone and teeth problems.

Never give them milk as they are lactose intolerant and can become dehydrated if diarrhoea is severe.

A clean water source is all they need.

If you have a pond, make sure they can climb out easily should they fall in.

Far more detailed expert advice & information is available from sources such as Hedgehog Street, Sx Wildlife Trust and the [Peoples Trust for Endangered Species](#).

## Make a simple hedgehog house



**You will need:**

- Medium-sized plastic storage box
- Stanley knife
- Leaf litter
- Dry grass or straw
- Carrier bag
- Twigs and dry leaves

- 1 Cut two side air vents and an entrance into the plastic box.
- 2 Put some leaf litter inside the box, with clean, dry grass or straw on top.
- 3 Tuck the box near a hedge (with the entrance facing south if possible).
- 4 Put an opened-up carrier bag over the top of the box, then cover with twigs, dry grass and leaves.

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

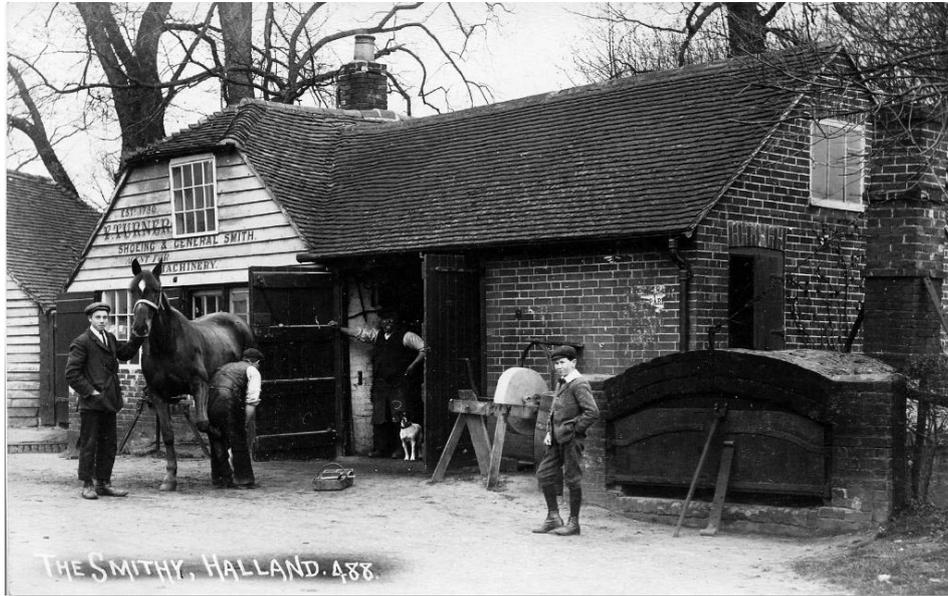
[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/>

For help with injured, sick, or vulnerable hedgehogs, contact Trevor Weeks & his volunteers at WRAS (Wildlife Rescue Ambulance Service) on 07815 078 234

**HALLAND**

The Halland Forge was established in 1780



Looking through the planning history, it gained permission to be converted to a bungalow in 1953 and tea rooms were added soon after. Applications to add a market garden, restaurant and a filling station were all refused until 1961 when the restaurant finally materialised. I assume that the cottages, Holmes' Garage and tea rooms that once stood facing the A22 were demolished about his time.



But I could be wrong. If any of you can remember, confirm or correct me, please let me know.

I'm also trying to remember when the roundabout was first constructed.

The motel with staff accommodation appeared in 1963 with extensions to this and the restaurant throughout the 60's and 70's.

Then in 1981 the restaurant was all but destroyed as fire ripped through the roof of the restaurant.

The motel part of the business was unaffected and the restaurant building was re-constructed as a replica of the original.

Further permissions for expansion were sought and approved between 1988 and 1991 however not a lot has changed and these permissions have been renewed regularly ever since.



The latest application is to use the overall footprint of the proposed additional rooms, but for residential rather than hotel use.

Whether it remains as a commercial site or becomes housing, clearly there has to be changes.

This picture (left) appears in a Trip Adviser review May 2018 showing lamp and clock radio hard wired into the ring circuit!

The drawing below is of the proposed new build of 21 flats



## CHIDDINGLY COMMUNITY SHOP



Apologies to long-time volunteer Toni Whewell (pictured above) who recently undertook the task of replacing our unused DVD swap shelves with a lovely display of quality preloved books. In our recent July/August newsletter, Toni's surname was misspelled as "Whelan". So sorry for the weird typo Toni, and thank you again for all you do in our shop and for our community! 🙏😊👏

The Shop acts as a village hub, with regular activities such as weekly French conversation classes, a monthly Gallery Wall showcasing work by local artists, a cafe with free Wi-Fi, and a postal point (with daily royal mail collection), providing information on community events, green issues and local producers.

The shop stocks produce from; Golden Cross Cheese Company, Flint Owl Bakery, Windmill Bakery, SF Smithers meats, Hale Farm eggs and Ouse Valley preserves to name a few.

The shop also promotes an ethos of responsible packaging and recycling by stocking refill items like quality olive oil and Ecover washing liquids and having their own 'bags for life'.

This not for profit co-operative is run by a paid manager and a wonderful team of village volunteers.

New volunteers (and customers) are always warmly welcomed!

<http://www.chiddinglyshop.org/>

## WALDRON



One of the best representations of English country life in its entirety. [The Waldron Steam gathering](#) brings together all ages and walks of life.

The names of fifty-four local men who died in the Great War are on that memorial, and whilst their sacrifice didn't end all wars children can play and their parents have only known peace in their lifetime.

A pub full of hospitality.

Patience by modern car drivers as they confront the awesome power of 100 year old machinery.

800 traction engines were used in the First World War, only 80 remained in service when WW2 broke out.

As food shortages at home grew, engine drivers, mechanics as well as ploughmen could apply for exemption to tend the land:

Chairman - "Have you tried ladies on your farm?"

Applicant - "Yes, they have been given a very good test up our way"

Chairman - "Have you had some?"

Applicant - "Yes, they come in to help empty your pocket on Saturday night, but are not much use for work"

Six weeks exemption granted! (Extract from "[Waldron and the Great War](#)").

**WW1 REPORT****FOR GAS ATTACK USE ONLY**

Kindly lent to us for photographing by James Bushell this rattle or clacker was brought back to East Hoathly from the Western Front. It is 1917 issue.

The first use of poison gas during the First World War took place at the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium, in 1915. Looking to break the stalemate of trench warfare, the German Army released large volumes of deadly chlorine gas.

From 1915 onwards, both sides used deadly gases as weapons.

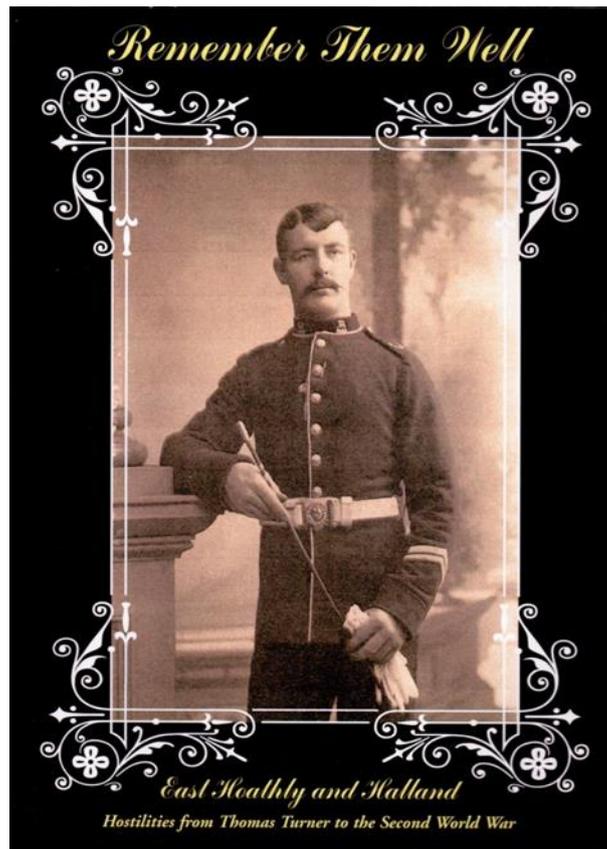
Installing bells, gongs, or air horns in the trenches was a relatively simple matter, but a way to spread the alarm was also required on roadways and temporary positions further to the rear. The gas alarm rattle offered a good solution, because it was lightweight, portable and had a simple, inexpensive design.

East Hoathly remembers two servicemen whose deaths were most likely caused by gas attack.

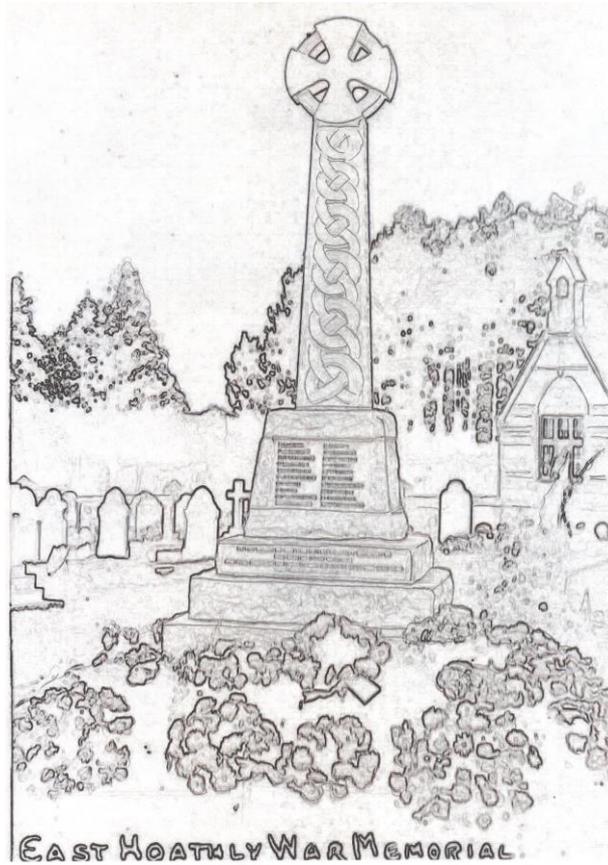
George William Lindsay, a Canadian was badly gassed whilst serving in France but survived and married local girl Frances Carley at East Hoathly on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1918. Frances gave birth to a son they named George William but who tragically only lived for seven hours on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1920. Frances lost her husband George William less than two months later, reportedly from the effects of gas.

William Partridge, the son of the innkeepers who ran The Kings Head for thirty five years, narrowly escaped death as a result of a gas attack at the front in 1917, he returned to live at the pub until his death in 1928 aged only 39, most likely the result of injuries from the gas attack.

These details come from the book; [Remember Them Well](#), compiled by and available from Jane Seabrook.



## East Hoathly War Memorial



A letter home to Waldron.... but it was the same for all our men.

“Nobody in England who has not been here... is ever likely to realise what it is like out here.

It is impossible to give a realistic idea of a man’s feelings while surrounded with ruin and devastation. Can you make yourself think of our little village... in ruins... the majority of the inhabitants having left – but just one or two of the old inhabitants who absolutely refuse to leave what has always been their home. Can you imagine the Church in ruins & the graveyard ploughed up in places by Bosche shells? Now add to your imagination a scene say ¼ mile away where everything is missing & the whole of the ground one tremendous pitted area of shell holes. Add to this the continual scream and explosion of shells falling... very often among all that remains of these ruined villages. I’m afraid all this will give you a very poor idea of the awful state of things out here.”

Frank Leney - Waldron and the Great War, edited by Val Chidson & Irene Flynn.

Available via [Friends of Waldron Churches](#)

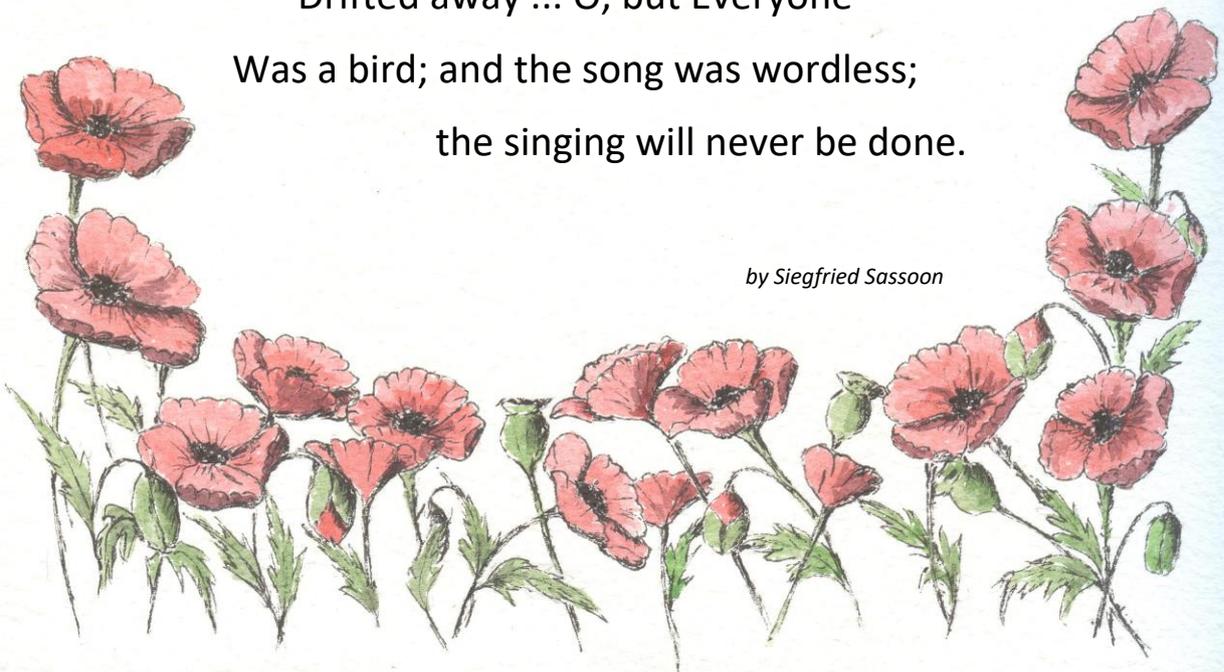
## POEM – Marking the end of the Great War

## EVERYONE SANG

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;  
And I was filled with such delight  
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,  
Winging wildly across the white  
Orchards and dark-green fields;  
on - on - and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;  
And beauty came like the setting sun:  
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror  
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone  
Was a bird; and the song was wordless;  
the singing will never be done.

*by Siegfried Sassoon*



**MUD - The Sussex Vocabulary**

Clodgy - muddy and wet, like a field path after heavy rain

Gawm - especially sticky, foul-smelling mud

Gubber - black mud of rotting organic matter

Ike - a mess or area of mud

Pug - a kind of loam, particularly the sticky yellow Wealden clay

Slab - the thickest mud

Sleech - mud or river sediment used for manure

Slob - thick mud

Slough - a muddy hole

Slub - thick mud

Slurry - diluted mud, saturated with so much water that it cannot drain

Smeery - wet and sticky surface mud

Stoach - to trample ground, like cattle; also the silty mud at Rye harbour

Stodge - thick puddingy mud

Stug - watery mud

Swank - a bog.



## VERT WOODS COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

[Vert Woods Community Woodland](#) is made up of 171 acres of mixed woodland, near Lewes in East Sussex. We want to protect this lovely place but also make it easier for people like you to visit – and experience the benefits of a stronger connection with nature. Our aim is to create a social enterprise and working woodland that benefits both the local community and the local ecology.

Upper Vert Woods is central and accessible by footpath from Laughton, East Hoathly and Chiddingly. It enhances the adjacent butterfly reserves of Park Corner and Rowland Wood, working with Plumpton Agricultural College and individual tutors it increases opportunity for education and training, and in conjunction with the [Circle of Life Rediscovery Woodland Project](#) it gives immeasurable wellbeing benefit to some of those most in need.

### Want to help?



### BECOME A MEMBER OF VERT WOODS COMMUNITY WOODLAND CBS

This is a Membership Share offer for Vert Woods Community Woodland (VWCW) CBS. It is not an Investment Share Offer (which we anticipate may be made available in 2019). If any interest is to be offered with any future Investment Share Offer (this is not a commitment from VWCW at this stage), then any Membership Share holder will be allowed to participate in this. The Terms of the offer are shown below.

This initial offer closed on 28th September 2018, but after the Annual Members Meeting (equivalent to an AGM) in early November 2018, the Membership Share Offering will be opened again until any future Investment Share Offering announcement is made.

## VERT WOOD - East Sussex Tree Wardens

### THE TREE COUNCIL AND TREE WARDENS

The Tree Council founded, co-ordinate and manage the Tree Warden Scheme. We are volunteers, appointed by Parish Councils, Tree Officers or other community organisations, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects related to the trees in their locality.

The Tree Council's Annual South East Regional Tree Warden Forum was held in Laughton and hosted by the East Sussex Tree Wardens. About 60 Tree Wardens from the South East attended.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, we spent the morning in the woods and the afternoon in Laughton Village Hall – in the dry!

We started at Keeper's Gate and parked off the lane down the newly-laid forest road into Vert Woods, an area of hard standing intended as a turning area for timber lorries. This is the first time the forest road has been used, which made it another 'first' for the East Sussex Tree Wardens as, back in June, we witnessed the unveiling of the first information signage for Vert Woods Community Woodland.

The Tree Wardens were split into two groups of 30 each. One group was accompanied by Jon Stokes from the Tree Council, Hugh Milner, an ex-Forestry Commission manager and me – to make sure they did not get lost! The other group were escorted by Jim Smith-Wright from the Woodland Trust, Hilary Hinks, a volunteer with the Woodland Trust and Stewart Boyle, who is on the Management Committee for Vert Woods Community Woodland.

We headed off to the East through an area where Plumpton students have been trained on their Chainsaw Courses. Over one 100 students have passed through these woods during a period of about two years. Their approach has been to stack the brash in piles for wildlife habitat, a practice not possible in larger commercial felling operations. We skirted the pond to the North and crossed into the Eastern parts of Vert Woods. Here commercial harvesting has been undertaken by Euroforest, thinning the poorly-grown Pines and creating racks through the woodland. These Pines

had been planted on this Ancient Woodland Site (this is termed PAWS) some 40 to 50 years ago. The seeds of the flora, once prolific in the original environment, will still be viable in the ground and should regenerate once the sunlight is allowed to shine through. Hugh spoke of the woodland management he could observe on the ground and Jon pointed out the value of fungi, especially the mycorrhizae fungi, which attaches to tree roots and is of great value to the trees' health and well-being.

The two groups met at Chestnut Corner on Vert Lane, so called because we have run Chestnut Coppicing Courses here. Also, at this site, is the Yew sapling planted by Laughton School children in January 2017

At this juncture the Tree Wardens from Jim's Group joined Jon and vice versa. I also switched and went back on the other route with Jim, Hilary and Stewart. Hilary is our History expert and she spoke about the importance of the wood banks alongside Vert Lane, which would've kept the peasants' livestock out of the magnates' Deer Parks! Hilary also mentioned the Podcast that she made from her interviews with Tony Warburton about his memories of Vert Woods during the Second World War and through the 50s and 60s. Sadly, Tony died last January and Hilary and I attended his funeral. We have fond memories of Tony – he always made us laugh – so it's good to have his broad Sussex voice on the Podcast and good to have captured this piece of recent history.

Jim pointed out the open area where nearly 400 saplings supplied by the Woodland Trust were planted in March. I, of course, had to point out the Oaks that we planted on my birthday in January. These I grew from acorns off the Oak in our garden (Mayfield House). We also drew attention to the Tyne Oak, a mature tree adopted by a local man in memory of his brother. There is a simple bench with a plaque beside the tree. Stewart Boyle spoke about the governance now set up to manage the Community Woodland.

We returned to the Village Hall for lunch. Refreshments were all provided by the East Sussex Tree Wardens, mainly from Seaford, for which many thanks.

After lunch we had various speakers: Sara Lom, the Chief Executive of the Tree Council, spoke about the importance of Tree Wardens and plans for

the future. Sara came to our Tree Wardens' meeting back in June. It was her first date following her appointment as Chief Executive. Another 'first'! Hugh Milner spoke about Woodland Management, which we had seen in practice in Vert Woods.

Some of the Tree Wardens – Audrey Jarvis and Keith Blackburn from East Sussex amongst them – spoke of their experiences in their Tree Warden roles. These roles vary enormously depending on whether the location is rural or urban. Seaford, for example, is mainly concerned with planting street trees, which involves diplomatic relations with residents! Audrey, in Lewes, has been involved in creating the Lewes Arboretum. For me it is woods, woods, woods!

Kristina Jansons-Binns, from the Tree Council, was the driving force behind this event and she came down for a visit a week or two beforehand to see the venue and visit the woods.

I hope everyone had a really good day. I understand that feedback has been positive! I have to say it was fairly exhausting being in the frontline of the organisation involved. I'm rather glad that next year it will be at a different location and I shall be able to sit back and just enjoy it.

*Sue Redshaw, Laughton Tree Warden*



*East Sussex Tree Wardens in the Community Woodland*

## BIODIVERSITY

What is it? What does it mean? And where are we at?

The term was first used in 1985 – a contraction of “biological diversity”

It is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms; genes, individual species, communities of creatures and entire ecosystems, (such as forests) and how they interact with one another.

The air you breathe, the water you drink and the food you eat all ultimately rely on biodiversity.

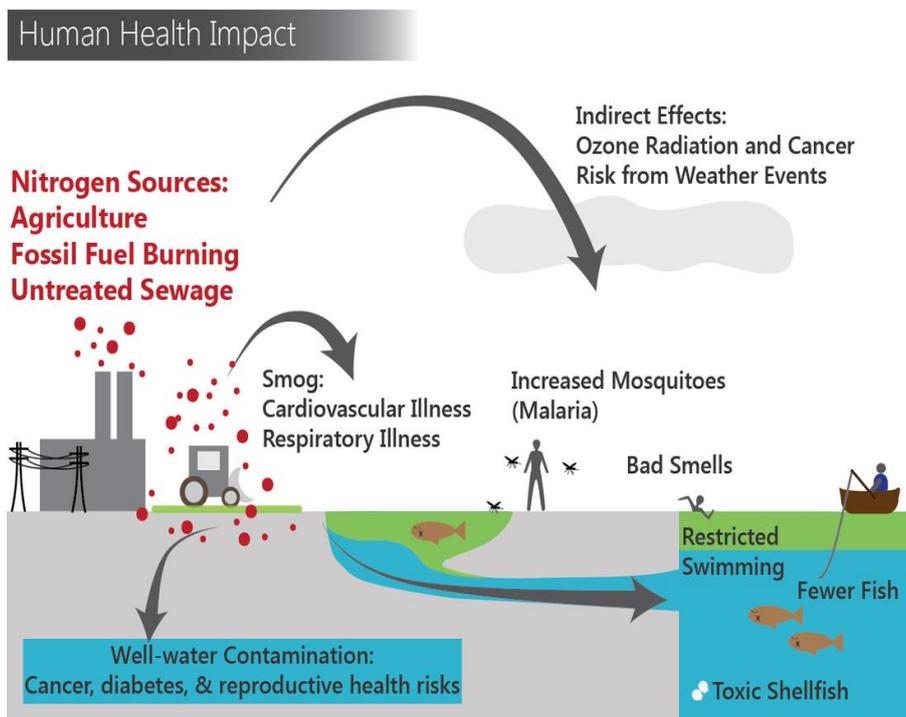
Biodiversity is dominated by human activity.

One estimate suggests that, by weight, 97% of the world’s vertebrate land animals are now either humans or our farm animals – just 3% are wild.

Within the UK, a House of Lords Select Committee, set up to review the effectiveness of current legislation, concludes that rural communities are being failed by the government.

The Government has now responded (weakly):

“It should be noted that the NERC Act (The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) biodiversity duty is not the only means for delivering our ambition for biodiversity.



Currently the recognition of the impact of increased nitrogen levels in the soil on biodiversity is the big topic.

## WOODLAND TRUST- Tree Charter day

You can celebrate Tree Charter day on 24th November by visiting any one of over 50 separate woods within a 10 mile radius of East Hoathly, seven are owned by the Woodland Trust.

Following its launch last year, the last Saturday of November each year is now to be Tree Charter Day – a day for the whole of UK society to unite in celebrating the value and importance of trees and woods to people. A culmination coinciding with the end of Tree Week

Communities, schools, organisations and individuals will be marking Tree Charter day with activities and events that celebrate and reinvigorate the relationship between people and trees.

The trees that touch us most are those that live among us, along our street, in the local park, beside our school or place of work. Like us, they grow and change, need space to breathe and support to thrive. Trees give places their distinctive character. Trees provide long-lasting good, so take guidance on planting, felling and replanting from skilled professionals. Good landscapes of the future depend on care for trees today.

From roots that bind and enrich the soil to leaves that shade and shelter, from locking carbon into timber and purifying air and water, trees make our landscapes better. Rising water swells and floods, so strengthen riverbanks



with roots. Bare hills need trees to keep the soil stable, to slow the flow of nature's deluge, to shelter sheep or shade the cattle. The right tree in the right place earns its keep again and again. As farmers and landowners benefit from woods, the country will be strengthened in the years ahead.

Trees guide us on our way.

## INTERESTING INSECTS – Field Digger Wasps

Digger wasps are considered beneficial insects and generally can be left alone. They are great pollinators, prey on the grubs and larvae of a number of garden pests, and you could say they help aerate the ground and assist drainage.

You may have seen them, particularly early in the morning, flying low over lawns looking for grubs to paralyse with their sting, take back to their nest and use as a host for their eggs.

Incidentally they are extremely docile and only the female has a sting which is then not used in anger, so you won't get stung (unless you are a very irritating little oik!)



You will have seen their nests, as they burrow into edges on the lawn and create a hole surrounded by a mound of earth like a mini volcano.



Although there are lots of nests close together the wasps are solitary and each hole is a separate nest.

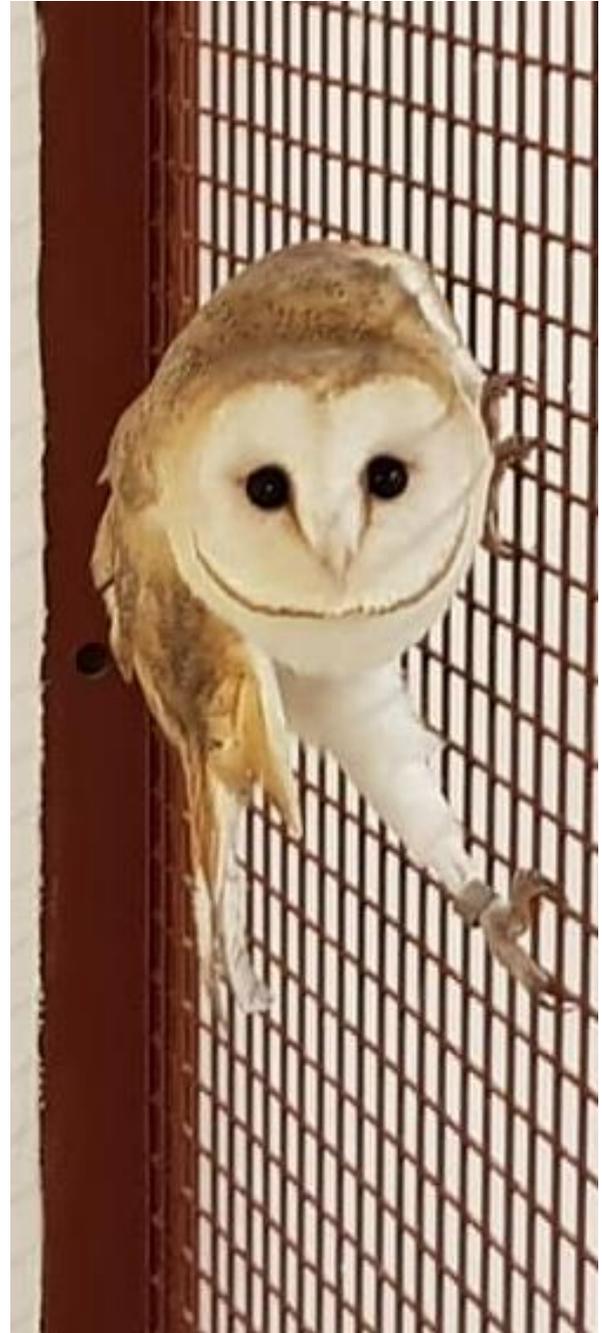
So don't think of them as a pest but enjoy and just be fascinated by their excavating skills

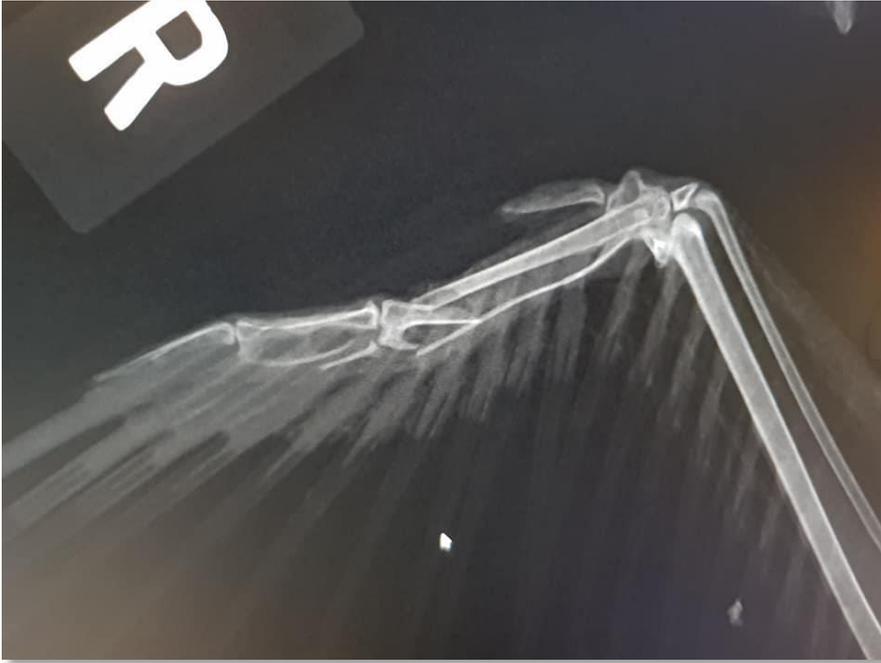
**WRAS**

**WRAS's Rescue Line: 07815-078234 PUT THIS NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE**

[WRAS](#) has had to make a very difficult decision to temporarily stop its overnight rescue service due to how ill both of WRAS's Duty Rescue Co-ordinators, Trevor and Chris have been recently. WRAS has not taken this decision lightly, but necessary before anything more serious happens. Our out of hours service between 10pm and 9am will remain out of action for the next few weeks and this will be reviewed around the end of October. If you find a casualty out of hours and it needs emergency veterinary treatment please take the casualty to your nearest emergency veterinary clinic or call the RSPCA on 03001234999. Vets do not charge members of the public for basic first aid. Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time.

At the end of July WRAS were delivered an injured barn owl who was found, caught by his wing, above the hinge of a barn door. The owl was brought to our hospital and our care team and vets took emergency X-Rays and gave emergency first aid. The X-Ray revealed a very poor prognosis. The owl had suffered a nasty double fracture to two bones in the wing. The bones were quite displaced, trying to repair the bones was looking impossible. Our care team decided to give it one shot of splinting the bones.





Using a coffee stirrer a folded bit of cardboard and some tape, a suitable splint was measured and created. The splint was applied to the fractures and a second X-ray was taken. Through mostly luck the second X-Ray revealed that the bones had aligned

enough to give the owl a chance. The wing was very carefully strapped and placed into our ICU unit for one on one care and to reduce the handling.

After 2 weeks the bones had started to knit together but sadly not enough. Our Vet team wanted to try a little longer, so the wing was once again restrapped and given a little more time. 3 weeks later the wing was once again reassessed and the bones had calcified nice enough to remove the splint and the bandages.

After a few days the owl was moved into our indoor flight pen to start to build up strength and for the team to make sure the owl was flying well and silently. Barn owls have to be silent fliers to be able to catch their prey. The owl went from strength to strength and was moved to one of our large outdoor aviaries for the last stage of rehab.

A last assessment gave the owl the green light we never expected we would ever be able to see. He was cleared for take-off. It was taken back to his home range. After being released it flew straight on to a gate looked around, got its bearings and flew off into the night sky. It would be safe to say there were tears in our eyes when he went off.

Thank you so much to [Henley House Vets](#) and our on call vet Mike.

**CPRE**

We urgently need your help!

In July, the Government released a new National Planning Policy Framework with new rules, including a Housing Delivery Test, which together with the requirement for Councils to demonstrate a five year housing supply, tips the balance yet further in favour of developers and away from communities.

This opens the door to more speculative development – potentially destroying yet more of Sussex’s valuable countryside and going against the plans of its local communities.

CPRE Sussex has submitted an extensive response to the Wealden Local Plan.

<http://www.cpresussex.org.uk/news/news-from-sussex-districts/item/download/899>

Sussex is home to some of the most beautiful, but threatened, landscapes in the country.

Much of the iconic wildlife of Sussex is in decline due to the pressure for new development, new roads and changes of land use. This is threatening some of the England’s most important wildlife habitats. For example, the county is home to one of the UK’s largest Nightingale populations and it provides internationally important and irreplaceable habitats for rare crested newts, club-tailed dragonflies and wetland birds. However, despite this, even our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are now being critically eroded by unsustainable urban sprawl. CPRE Sussex is now urgently appealing for funds to continue vital work to ensure that Sussex’s irreplaceable green fields, woodlands and unique biodiversity receive the protection they deserve and that its rural communities have a positive future.

Please [donate to CPRE Sussex via the Charities Aid Foundation](#).

**WILDLIFE REPORT - Toni**

This is a first for me!

Our new bird feeders have brought much joy and easy watching of nuthatches, various tits, tree creepers and two families of woodpeckers. Further excitement, a large bird landed on one of our squirrel proof bird feeders. Shouted to Leicester to come and see rather than try the new binoculars. Alas the large bird ripped the smaller bird to shreds! On asking about the evil one. I was reliably informed by Jenny that this was a female Sparrow Hawk. YUK! I am delighted to say that I do not have photographic evidence to show the carnage!



*I do! – Ed.*

On visiting Minsmere RSPB sanctuary they were also pleased to announce that this was a good sign as we must have lots of birdlife to attract such a visitor. I am now wondering do I want to risk attracting such lovely small birds if their fate is going to be the same?

## LARGE BLUE BUTTERFLY

I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,  
There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,  
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;

*Spoken by Oberon, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 2, Scene 1*

Although written before this butterfly was first recorded in 1795 as a British species, Shakespear's Titania could be the Large Blue.

Due to the loss of suitable habitat, and the lack of understanding of the biodiversity it needs, this endemic subspecies of Large Blue became extinct in the British Isles in 1979, the last site being on Dartmoor in Devon.

Reintroduced in 1984 to Somerset and Gloucestershire using stock from Sweden, this year, 2018, saw record levels.



*Keith Warminqton Photography*

Quite remarkable when one considers its elaborate lifecycle.

The Large Blue lays its eggs on Wild Thyme.

Having fed for three weeks on the flowerbuds, the caterpillar drops to the ground and produces scents that trick red ants (*Myrmica sabuleti*) into believing it is one of their own grubs and is carried underground into the ants' nest and placed with the ant brood.

The caterpillar is fed and nurtured by the ants but the caterpillar shows no gratitude spending the next 10 months feeding on the ant grubs before pupating in the nest the following year and then emerging to crawl above ground as a butterfly.

The Large Blue is the largest of the UK's blue butterflies but despite its name still only reaches a 2" wingspan.

In the 1960's the Large Blue was still to be found in Sussex adjacent to the suburbs of Brighton on the calcareous unimproved grassland.

Whilst it is hoped that they will one day return to the Downs, the butterfly reserves closer to here and on the Ashdown Forest are unlikely to see its return because of pollution and the high nitrogen levels that Wild Thyme cannot thrive in.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The consultation on the Wealden Local Plan closed on 8th October. The Neighbourhood Plan group via the Parish Council has made comments and meets with the Wealden District Council on 9th October to discuss some factual discrepancies and queries.

The allocation of new applications for homes in East Hoathly & Halland is 48 which have to be built within development boundaries, where we know there is no spare land at present.

The Foresters planning application has been approved by WDC. There is a new application for 74 homes on South Street been submitted but which would appear to fly in the face of the emerging local WLP.

The PC has objected to this.

Halland Forge have submitted an application for 21 homes, the PC has supported this.

The Consultation Groups are in the throes of being set up and I lead the Health and Wellbeing group plus being the de facto lead on the Countryside and Environment group.

Peter Brook: 3 October 2018

## VILLAGE CONCERNS

With so much suddenly happening all at once and at all levels, with regard to potential developments and planning strategies, little can be reported other than that Village Concerns are scrutinising it all and with the knowledge learnt since they first came together in June 2016 can confidently respond fairly and honestly to threats of over development that are unwanted in our communities, and will do so.

If you have concerns about developments affecting our communities contact [Village Concerns](#)

## PLANNING - Colin Adams – Save Wealden from Overdevelopment Team

A letter from the South Downs National Park Authority Director of Planning has been posted to the Wealden Local Plan Consultation website.

Significantly the response appears to be a joint statement of common ground from the SDNPA, Lewes District Council, and Tunbridge Wells confirming that these Local Planning Authorities' consider that the draft submission Local Plan is neither legal nor sound.

In addition Rother District Council has raised objections in regard to policy AF1 (Air Quality and Wealden Local Plan. Environmental Protection) and AF2 - Air Quality Mitigation.

They (SDNPA, LDC and TW) conclude that the Habitat Regulations Assessment and approach is fundamentally flawed.

Clearly it follows that the restrictive approach that underlies the skewed distribution of housing targets is not supported by the evidence base that they have, separately, commissioned.

Given the broad argument advanced, generally in line with many major developers (with their own financial interest), it is difficult to see how WDC can proceed to submitting the local plan in its current form.

It would seem impossible to proceed with the strategic disposition of housing targets within the district whilst this restrictive approach is 'justified' by a flawed HRA and approach (in their judgement).

The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is to identify any aspects of the emerging Local Plan that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites (Pevensy Levels), and to identify appropriate avoidance and mitigation strategies where such effects were identified.

There is a legal requirement for all Local Plans to be subject to a HRA. The need for HRA is set out within Article 6 of the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and interpreted into British law by the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010".

Could be back to the drawing board yet again and no plan in place before 2021.

## **EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

A Steering Committee assessing the true need for affordable, sustainable housing in East Hoathly with Halland

Who are we?

We are a not for profit, community-led organisation seeking to develop sustainable, affordable housing to be held in perpetuity for the people of the parish of East Hoathly with Halland. We are formed by villagers wishing to provide a positive, workable solution to the real threat of inappropriate over-development in the parish.

What is our aim?

Our aim is to create an exemplar zero-carbon housing development in keeping with the historical heritage, local landscape and vibrant community

fabric of the parish, with a legacy of affordable homes for those who can demonstrate an ongoing link to the local area.

What are we doing?

At this stage we are seeking to establish what the true housing needs of the community are. For example, this could mean young families who have ties to the parish but find themselves 'priced out' of the housing market, retirees looking to downsize but remain in the locale, or previous villagers who are having difficulties meeting their housing needs and may have had to move away.

Please answer the two questions below so we can see the genuine picture.

1. Do you yourself, or do you have friends or family, who have a strong link to East Hoathly with Halland but who are having problems meeting their housing need here?

Yes/No

Comments

2. Would you like to be kept informed about the East Hoathly with Halland Community Land Trust's formation and progress?

Yes/No

If Yes, Please Enter Your Name and Email Address

And use this link to send your answers

<https://www.easthoathlywithhallandcommunitylandtrust.com/contact>

For more Information or to contact us please see our website:

[www.easthoathlywithhallandcommunitylandtrust.com](http://www.easthoathlywithhallandcommunitylandtrust.com)

Or our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/EHHCLT/](http://www.facebook.com/EHHCLT/)

**EAST HOATHLY BIRDS**

### Tawny Owl Survey

Most of us are familiar with the hooting and calling of Tawny owls, but very rarely see them and probably don't know a great deal about them.

From now until the end of March 2019 the British Trust for Ornithology are conducting an ongoing Tawny Owl Calling Survey, with the aim of exploring the impact of light pollution & urbanisation on the owls.

The survey is simple and flexible and will help build up part of a bigger picture.

You can take part by several means:-

By registering online at [www.bto.org/owls](http://www.bto.org/owls)

By emailing for a paper copy from [gbw@bto.org](mailto:gbw@bto.org)

Or just by calling 01842 750050

## More EAST HOATHLY BIRDS –

"God help old England in the day she must depend upon the pigeon as a messenger of war," wrote John W. Logan after the persistence and success of Captain H. T. A. Allatt in getting the government to adopt them as an adjunct to the national defence.

Although used throughout history and in particular at the siege of Paris in the Franco Prussian war 1871, it was from Stanmer House in 1885, the final year of Henry Pelham as Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, that Allatt released messenger pigeons to show the value of these birds in warfare to our Generals and Ministers.

These British pigeons of the Racing Homer breed came into their own during the Great War but it was not until 2014 were they officially recognised, receiving the PDSA Dickin Medal as an honorary award.



Locked in combat in the mud of the Battle of Passchendaele in October 1917, British troops needed to get an urgent signal back to their headquarters from the front line.

A messenger was despatched on a journey which should have taken 20 minutes. But shortly after setting off, while near the Menin Road – a notoriously vulnerable ridge – the courier came under fire. A

bullet broke his leg and passed out of the body through the back.

Despite the horrendous injuries, the messenger dutifully continued, until finally completing the mission, delivering the message, after an agonising journey of more than 21 hours – before dying the next day.

This feat of endurance and perseverance was achieved not by a soldier but by a pigeon, known only as 2709, one of thousands to serve – and die – in the First World War.

If you find a stray ringed homing pigeon please see <http://www.homingpigeons.co.uk> on how best to look after them and reunite them with their owner.

## SX WILDLIFE TRUST

# Fungi Detective



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

Waxcap by Philip Precey / Chicken of the woods, Brain fungus, Dead man's fingers, Birch bolete, Earth fan, Fly agaric, Shaggy inkcap, Yellow spindle coral and Stinkhorn by Les Binns. REMEMBER - never eat any fungi you find unless you're with a qualified expert.

November can reveal a wonderful array of mushrooms and toadstools. The part of the fungi you will see are the fruiting bodies - the main part of the fungus, the mycelium, is underground or hidden under rotting matter. Fungi play a vital role in breaking down organic material such as leaf litter and dead animals, returning the resulting nutrients back to the soil.

Some of our showiest fungi are waxcaps. With a spectacular colour range they're found on grassland where the soil has been undisturbed for a long time and has received little or no fertiliser, such as grassy churchyards. With names including snowy, scarlet, parrot and ballerina, this family of colourful fungi goes by the name of *Hygrocybe*, meaning 'moist head'. Many of the mushrooms in this group have shiny, sticky or greasy caps that make them stand out, but it's their thick waxy gills that give them their common name.

We are always pleased to hear about your wildlife sightings, please visit [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/sightingsform](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/sightingsform) or phone our free information hotline WildCall on 01273 494777.

**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION**

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, arrive at 8.30 am for 9.00am start 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.

Contact: Jonathan Squire - Email: [squirejmn@aol.com](mailto:squirejmn@aol.com)

## RIGHTS OF WAY

Continuing on from the summer report about the work of the Monday Group, there is the opportunity to get some ideal Christmas gifts and help support them with their work:

### Bird Boxes for Fundraising

To raise funds for the Monday Group, Jim Edwards makes and sells bird nestboxes of various types, bat boxes, hedgehog houses, beneficial insect habitats, bird feeders and other related items.

ALL of the money from the sale of these items goes to the Monday Group funds in order to buy the materials and tools needed to continue the Group's valuable work.



Bluetit  
nesting  
box  
£14.50

To see other nest box choices take a look at the [Monday Group Website](#)

To purchase or enquire about a nestbox, you can email:

[jim.edmail@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.edmail@btinternet.com) or send a message on the [website contact page](#), with the subject "Wildlife Habitats".



Ladybird  
Hotel  
£9.50

If you would prefer to order through the Preservation Society, call Jenny or myself on 01825 872830 and we will happily place the order and collect them for you.



Double  
Batbox  
£24.50

Cheque payments made out to "Monday Group"

## CHIDDINGLY WALK



On what was one of the hottest days of the summer, our plan was for a longish walk from the Gun but as the route offered little shade, we decided on a much shorter option and went over the fields heading for the Six Bells. We may not have walked very far but we were all pleased to sit in the shade and enjoy long cold drinks and good company before heading back to the Gun for more refreshments.

Trivia:

[The Gun](#) The inn dates back to the 15th century and once served the workers of the nearby Wealden iron foundries some of whom produced cannon, hence the name. The inn itself gave its name to the small hamlet that grew up around it and was for a time used as a local courthouse by the travelling magistrates.

The first recorded licensee of [the Six Bells](#) pub was a Mrs Grey. In the records it says that at the age of 60 she married a 26 year old!

## NEWICK WALK

August saw a change in the weather and we set off from [the Crown at Newick](#) in rather dingy conditions. In the most part, we walked over land that few of us were familiar with.



It was very varied with an interesting mix of old buildings, farmland, wild flowers, hops, and a stretch along the Ouse at Barcombe where part of the old canalised section of the river and its lock are gradually being restored.

This as quite a long walk and we were all very pleased to stop along the way for tea and cake at the studio of artist [Michael Cruickshank](#) whose parents John & Rita, some of you will remember from their involvement with the society a good number of years ago.

## ALFRISTON WALK

Our September walk at Alfriston took us over very varied terrain and we could not really have had better weather. The first part was along the river from where we climbed the hillside with its sheep and magnificent views of the Cuckmere valley, the meanders and the iconic coastguard cottages.



On a day such as we had I really appreciated the beauty of Sussex and felt very grateful to call it home.

Carrying on after crossing the Alfriston Road at High and Over we walked through conservation land into the [Rathfinny Wine Estate](#) with its row upon row of beautifully tended vines. The surrounding downland is sympathetically managed for wildlife and on both our try-out and on the walk itself we were treated with a good number of butterflies, wild flowers, birds including a peregrine falcon, and a slow worm. The vinyard is extensive and after passing through we returned to Alfriston where ESCC were in the process of installing temporary traffic lights as a trial, aimed to improve the traffic flow – something it seemed the villagers thought unlikely to work. Perhaps time will tell....

## REMAINING WALKS FOR 2018

Usually start at 2pm after lunch in the designated pub

SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER	<a href="#">The New Inn, Hadlow Down</a>
SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER	<a href="#">Little Cottage Tea Room, Glynde</a>
SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER	<a href="#">Crockstead Hotel, Halland</a> Our Doorstep Gem

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

CONTACT [CHRIS & JENNY PELLETT](#) 01825 872830

EVERYONE WELCOME

As we are concious that the last few walks have all taken longer than expected, in future we will be deliberately focusing on our original aim, which was:

“The walks (for everyone, not just members) are leisurely, relaxed and very friendly, with the emphasis on enjoying the company as much as the beautiful countryside around our village, rather than serious hiking”, and this will be reflected in future walks.

### IMPORTANT

Lunch numbers for the Tea Rooms at Glynde need to be known in advance. We have booked a table for 12.45, call Jenny or myself on 01825 872830 if you want to join us for lunch.

**EDITORS NOTES – Chris Pellett**

The illustration of Huckleberry Finn on the cover might seem a bit random, and I guess it is!

The vague connection is that the East Hoathly War Memorial dedication service was presided over by the Rector of Buxted, the Rev. T C Twitchell. Twitchell was the son of Reverend Joseph Hopkins Twichell, who, for over forty years, was the best friend of Mark Twain, creator of Huckleberry Finn. Twitchell is the character Harris in “A Tramp Abroad”

I’m glad we call this the Autumn newsletter and not the October edition, fortunately summer has gone on longer than expected!

The advantage, in being late, is that I have been able to edit much of the intended content to bring it bang up to date.

Enjoy the sunshine

Chris [ehdps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ehdps@hotmail.co.uk)