

East Hoathly and District Preservation Society

Summer 2016

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, Russell Brown, Gill Ford, as well as quite a few 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

QUIRKY SUSSEX - Kevin Gordon

[Look out for a man with Spatterdashes](#)

by [sussextalks](#)



I am always interested in early reports of crime and disorder especially in the early 19th century when the Police were still in their infancy. Sussex had no uniformed force to deter and arrest criminals. There were parish constables of course, but they were used by the parish vestry (a form of early local government) for minor matters. These men were untrained and usually held other jobs.

In the early 1800s a number of societies were established across the country in order to secure the arrest and conviction of felons by the offering of rewards. They were called Prosecution Societies and there were quite a number here in Sussex. They were usually a collection of local citizens (often farmers who were particularly susceptible to theft and arson) who paid an annual fee to cover the cost of private prosecutions. They would also circulate descriptions of wanted criminals and sometimes provide insurance. One of the earliest was established in Horsham in 1785 with a membership of thirty people.

In East Sussex one of the first was the Eastbourne Prosecution Society (which met at the Lamb Inn) which was founded in 1800. The Brookside Prosecution Society represented the villages in the Ouse Valley to the south of Lewes and there were also societies in Laughton, Newhaven, Warbleton, Chailey, Maresfield, Ditchling and Lindfield. The Alfriston Union Prosecuting Society and the Uckfield Equitable Prosecuting Society had a similar role.

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

In 1811 the Lewes Society was offering a ten guinea reward for information leading to the arrest of the 'evil-disposed person' who killed a swan on the River Ouse and were also offering a five guinea reward for the arrest of a Mr Munn who had stolen a horse. Prosecution Societies would regularly publish descriptions of wanted criminals. John Harris, wanted in 1813 for the theft of money and 'absconding from his master's service' is described as being 44 years old dark sharp eyes and with a smallpox mark on his nose. He was wearing a striped waistcoat, dark cord breeches and leather spatterdashes (spats) He was also wearing a round hat and a red and yellow handkerchief.

The Firle, Beddingham and Glynde Prosecuting Society (based at the Ram Inn) was established by 1812 when it offered a £10 reward for information leading to the arrest of a rural thief who stole riding equipment from Tilton's Farm in Selmeston.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Toni



Hello,

We were very privileged to hear Tony Penrose's exploration of Lee Miller's life. It was a very powerful performance, which really stunned the audience, we were too

busy digesting such a comprehensive coverage to even ask a question. It was raw, atmospheric and at times harrowing. All superbly executed.

The AGM was also well attended, with a lovely and buzzy atmosphere, so thank you to all who came and made it such a pleasant evening. 39 of us tucked into Denise's fine cuisine with her infamous Strawberry Pavlovas. Not only were they colour coordinated to match Jenny's Royal colour scheme but they were also very yummy as revealed by the smiley faces! It was also great to have some more offers of help, so thank you to Margaret, Q, Sue, Fred and Richard.

We did debate changing the name of the Society, as we cannot truly say we are a preservation society, nor are we just a history society. Does that put a potential attendees off? The names "discovery" and "interest" had also been suggested, along with "heritage", which had been previously considered. Members were asked to mull this over dinner on the understanding that if we could not find a better name then we should stay as we are. A vote was taken and the majority who voted preferred changing to Heritage (18), for staying as we are (5). Also, considered was whether East Hoathly and "District" accurately reflected our target catchment. East Hoathly and Chiddingly was suggested as an inclusion to the name but members also come from other parishes. Last year, the majority came from East Hoathly (47), then Chiddingly (12) and about 20 from other locations (including Uckfield, Waldron, Pevensey and Mayfield). Since the meeting I wonder if the name "Wealden Heritage Interest Group" should be considered, as this would

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

give us WHIG as our strap line. Or possibly "Village Heritage Society"? Ideally, the shorter the better. Please give it some thought and let me know of your preference. We need a name which takes us into the future, help us attract new members and reflect our aspirations. There will be some costs involved in changing our name, which we shall ascertain and inform you of before proposing to make any changes. We do need to feel confident that we have picked a winner!

Historical note: The East Hoathly and Halland Preservation Society was formed on the 3rd April 1964 to oppose ugly and unsuitable development because of the unfortunate example of the new terrace of houses at Ringmer. The Society then changed to East Hoathly and District Preservation Society as the membership changed.

I do hope you are able to join us on the 17th July to the Lavender Line at Isfield for an all-day event (or that which suits).

Our summer outing, starting at 2pm on Sun 28th August, to 'Quirky Lewes' costs £5 each. For those who just want to join us for tea we shall finish at Southover Grange Gardens and we would love you to join us here.

If neither of these floats your boat then I look forward to seeing you on the 9th September, when David Homewood will be telling us about "Talking Machines". In the meantime have a great summer.

Kind regards, Toni

TREASURER'S REPORT - Peter

The Society made a loss of £68.42 in 2015. Obviously this was disappointing but not problematic.

2014	<u>Income</u>	2015
£		£
764.00	Subscriptions	719.00
96.00	Visitor fees & refreshments	66.00
532.00	AGM receipts	609.00
307.25	Social receipts	250.00
41.00	Donations	14.00
0.21	Bank interest	0.14
1740.46	<u>Total Income</u>	1658.14
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
411.60	VH hire & speaker fees	474.20
458.00	AGM expenditure	538.00
130.56	Social expenditure	151.89
18.00	Printing/stationery	49.47
6.00	Postage & telephone	
168.00	Donations/subscriptions	266.00
175.00	Insurance	175.00
84.00	Web site	72.00
1451.16	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	1726.56
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015		
2014	<u>Liabilities</u>	2015
£		
1157.26	Balance Accumulated Fund b/f	1446.56
289.30	Excess Income over Expenditure	-68.42
1446.56	Closing balance 31/12	1378.14
2014	<u>Assets</u>	2015
340.19	Cash in hand	466.49
698.96	HSBC Current account	503.89
407.41	HSBC Deposit account	407.76
1446.56	Total assets 31/12	1378.14

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

As has been said before, the Society benefits from having subs paid as early in the year as possible to pay the fixed costs without having to dip into the reserve fund.

A few extra memberships would help greatly.

At the AGM it was proposed and agreed that the committee would be able to raise the subs to £4/visitor, £20/couple, £12/single, should it be necessary.

At the moment our 2016 finances stand thus:

C/A £1087.49 D/A £631.84 (up by Foasa div) Cash £344.99

Regards, Peter Hon. Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP - Jenny

Membership of the society has remained about the same as last year with 79 paid up members. A few renewals have come through since the last newsletter, it would be good to get the last ones in - it's always better to get cheques in the post than bills!

It would be great to see our numbers increase and for our society to grow. 100 is an achievable target, so if you have a friend or neighbour that may be interested please invite them along to one of our walks or meetings, or pass this newsletter on.

Membership remains the same as last year - £10 for single, £18 for joint membership. Your continued support for the society is greatly appreciated

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

Jenny Pellett Membership Secretary

PAST MEETINGS - Leycester Whewell

Ditty Box Yarns

Presented by Cdr Roger Payne RN.

Fri 08th Apr 2016

The speeches given to the society are presented in a wide variety of styles, which typically reflect the nature of the topic for that evening. Roger Payne's presentation was definitely at the humorous end of the scale as he recalled events of the earlier part of his working life.

After leaving school he joined the navy as a rating and spent the following 28 years working his way up the ranks, before leaving holding the rank of Commander. One of the first things that a new recruit gets is a ditty box, in which all personal belongs and odds and ends are stowed. They appeared in the 1890s in the form of a wooden box, made by apprentices. Later, they were replaced by leather attaché cases in the 1930s, with the owner's initials being embossed on the front. A ditty is also the name for a collection of stories, which gives rise to the title of the talk.

Speaking from memory, with the aid of a few notes but no slides, he recalled various incidents that occurred during those years, some of which aren't repeatable in polite company (most notably the sea shanties).



<http://www.jackstaxi.net>

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

One particular yarn took place during the Iceland cod war that began in September 1973 and involved aggressive approaches by their Navy toward British trawlers. The RN was sent in for support but [HMS Lincoln](#) was damaged and had to head back to Chatham for repairs. Returning to the yard after pub crawl, a fellow sailor noticed something on the ground that would help protect the ship from further assaults: a 200ft piece of railway track. After due approval, it was mounted across the forecastle with about 50' overhanging each side. The nickname HMS Porcupine soon followed. Following the next mission to the disputed fishing ground, it was decided to paint said rail red since HMS Lincoln was the only RN ship to bear red painted gunnels. It was a tradition dating back to 1693 when the first ship of that name claimed the right to mount her guns on 'Lincoln Scarlet' in memory of [Robin Hood](#), who purportedly favoured the colour. A race between a rating and an officer was set up to compete for a case of beer, so Officer Payne volunteered. All went well until he dropped the paint brush into the sea and had to clamber back for another, that delay led to the loss of the race, and the beer. Clutching to a rail wobbling over the sea by one's inner thighs, with paint pot in one hand and brush in another, was particularly uncomfortable and the resulting damage led to suspension of "domestic duties" for several weeks after he arrived home.

Numerous other tales from Roger that evening left everyone in no doubt that life in the Royal Navy had its ups and downs, with humour and stories to match, to live on for many years to come.

Leycester Whewell, Secretary

Backstage at Farley Farmhouse Presented by Tony Penrose.

Fri 20th May 2016

We get very accustomed these days to having information and stories being disseminated in the media almost instantly. All too often, the material is blazed across the airwaves only to be forgotten almost as rapidly.

Tony Penrose's talk about his mother, Lee Miller, her life and legacy, to a well-attended audience, is a tale that represents the converse. Her life as a pioneering female war photographer went largely unnoticed, compounded by the post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) as we now know it that blighted her life in the years that followed. It probably contributed to the near abandonment of her collection of photographs, largely taken on 2.25" Rolaflex film, which had been left in the loft at Farley Farmhouse.

They were only re-discovered after her death. That triggered a lifetime's work for Tony, of analysing and piecing together the story behind his mother's 10,000 vintage prints and 60,000 negatives and creating a fully cross-referenced archive of material. Some prints had been lost, as is inevitable with such a collection, but there were so many of historical significance that they had to be brought back from obscurity and made known to the world. That was best done by creating exhibitions at famous galleries around the world, not a trivial process by any means. Sheer determination and some serendipity in finding the right contacts were key to starting the ball rolling. Initially,

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

various well known galleries in the US politely listened to Tony's plans before seeing him off their premises, it took years for word of mouth and the successes elsewhere for them to reverse their stance.

The task of developing, researching, maintaining, coordinating and preserving the archive is far too large for one person, so a whole team of experts had gradually been built up over the past 3 decades to carry out these functions. One of the most critical requirements was to prevent the physical deterioration of the film and prints. They had already been transferred to acid free housing, but a dedicated air-conditioned repository was really required. Reluctantly, some duplicate images were sold off to the likes of the J.P. Getty Museum in the US to help fund it. A process of digitising the images has also been undertaken, partly to help interface with our modern electronic world and partly as insurance against any further image degradation or loss.

Tony's talk also covered some of the many people in Lee Miller's life, most notably Pablo Picasso, who painted her six times and some of his exploits around Chiddingly. Also, of some of the harrowing events that she witnessed during the war, including the grizzly discoveries made at the concentration camps. Historical research and cross referencing additional material has enabled some descendants of those photographed to identify their forebears and thus add another piece to the jigsaw of Lee's life. She was always ahead of the pack and had reached Hitler's Berghof whilst the Allies were still several miles away, exposing herself to great danger from snipers and booby traps. A photograph of her in Hitler's

bath, with her boots placed prominently on the floor facing towards it as a mark of victory, was particularly interesting. Souvenirs, such as Eva Braun's powder puff, offered a surreal sensory link to that era.



Such was the detail and breadth of material covered, as well as the clarity in which it had been presented, that when the talk ended there were no questions! It had been raw, atmospheric, sometimes harrowing and yet absolutely fascinating. Everyone sat there busily digesting all that had been presented and it took a while for questions to be raised subsequently. This write-up is but a brief summary and everyone agreed that the evening had been a remarkable success for the Society.

For further information about Lee Miller visit <http://www.leemiller.co.uk/>.

Leycester Whewell,

Secretary

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FUTURE MEETINGS - Toni

Outing to:

Quirky Lewes

Presented by Kevin Gordon

Sunday August 28th

Kevin Gordon will be escorting us on a tour of Lewes for about 90minutes. Starting at 2pm on Sunday the 28th August in-front of Lewes Railway Station and taking you into some quirky corners of our county town. There are graveyards, monuments and even some interesting walls to look at. On the tour he will point out building styles, some strange graves and talk about some of the interesting people associated with the town, including one with Jack the Ripper connections!

We will finish at Southover Grange Gardens in time for afternoon tea! What a treat as these gardens are a little hidden gem and the cakes are yummy! The cost of the tour is £5 per person and we will pay him individually on the day.



<http://www.bestinengland.com/gardens/southover-grange-gardens/>

For those who just wish to join us in the gardens we would love for you to do so at 3.30.

If you can let me know who will be joining us that would be extremely helpful.

Kind regards, Toni Whewell 01825 872460

East Hoathly and District Preservation Society presents:

Talking Machines

Presented by David Homewood

Friday Sep 9th



A look at the invention of the Phonograph, Gramophone and record industry, with demonstrations on original wind up machines mostly over 100 years old playing recordings from the past.

East Hoathly Village Hall, Friday 9th September 2016 at 7.30pm.

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

Toni Whewell 01825 872460

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

MEETING DATES 2016	
Sunday July 17 th	Outing: LAVENDER LINE Isfield
Sunday August 28 th	Outing: QUIRKY LEWES with Kevin Gordon
Friday Sep 9 th	TALKING MACHINES. Dave Homewood.
Friday Oct 14 th	THE WILDLIFE OF THE OUSE VALLEY. Michael Blencowe.
Friday Nov 25 th	SOCIAL EVENING In the Village Hall

The talks begin at 7.30pm so please arrive early if possible!

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

HALLAND

Halland Village Community now have a facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/HallandVillage/videos/280033372331588/?permPage=1>

CHIDDINGLY ORAL HISTORY GROUP

The oral history group isn't meeting again until early next year but Chiddingly in '100' Objects - old lives, houses and farms on Monday 23rd May was as well attended as all their other meetings. The Community shop at Muddles Green remains a great place to buy local produce, meet interesting people and find out about local history and events.

Best wishes,

Caroline caroline@chiddinglyshop.org.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SUSSEX BRANCH



Silver-studded Blue [Colin Knight](#)

Butterfly Conservation is beginning a new drive to help the **Silver-studded Blue** in East Sussex and would like people to look for them around Ashdown Forest. Please get out to Ashdown Forest through June and July and report your sightings [here](#).

The Ashdown Forest **Silver-studded Blue** population represents the smallest and most isolated population in South East England and the only population in East Sussex after

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

the Chailey Common colony became extinct in 2005.

We want survey the whole of the forest and not just the known sighting areas. We will be offering a small prize to the person who finds **Silver-studded blues** in the most unexpected place.

 [Download a Silver-studded Blue Ashdown Forest distribution map as a PDF](#)

For more information contact swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org.

www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/

VERT WOODS A COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Did you know that in the early 20th century Vert Woods used to be the best place to see butterflies in the south of England? Sadly as the native broad leaves trees were replaced by pines after the Second World War, the canopy closed and much less life-giving sunshine reached the forest floor. Now most of the butterflies have gone and those that remain are confined to the track edges and small glades rather than flying free through the whole wood. We hope though that our restoration program for the woodland means that one day the whole site will be aflutter again.

You can find out more about us on our [Facebook Page](#) or [Twitter](#).



Thank You! For all who came and supported our Bluebell Walk and Picnic.

We'll update you on exciting developments in the new Community Woods, with opportunities for volunteering, visiting and getting involved.

Contact Sue Redshaw for more information smredshaw@btinternet.com

THE WOODLAND TRUST

Is Britain in for a Sloe Gin Drought this Christmas? By [George Anderson](#)

A cold damp spring may have exposed Britain's blackthorn trees to fungal infection - and that could mean sloe berries are in short supply this autumn.

Blackthorn trees are the source of the purple berries used to flavour the traditional festive tippie, but early indications suggest that many of this year's sloes may be deformed and unusable potentially resulting a sloe gin drought this Christmas.

Pocket plum

The culprit is a fungus called *Taphrina pruni* which causes a condition known as pocket plum. This leads to strange distorted fruit. The fungus stops a stone from forming and the fruit never ripens. The name 'pocket plum' comes from the fact that the infected berry often ends up the shape of a shallow cup rather than plump, round and juicy.

We asked our Nature's Calendar volunteer nature recorders around the country to check on their local bushes to get a fuller indication of how widespread the problem is. The network usually assesses the abundance

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

of berries when they ripen later in the year but indications of widespread pocket plum have led to an early sloe inspection.

Reports have come in from Scotland to as far south as Buckinghamshire with particularly nasty outbreaks in Yorkshire and Lancashire.

It is possible that weather conditions early in the year may have given the fungus a boost in 2016. Cold and damp conditions when the trees are in blossom allow it to enter the tree and take hold.

About blackthorn

Blackthorn was long associated with witchcraft, and it is said that witches' wands and staffs were made using blackthorn wood. It has been used to make walking sticks, and was the traditional wood for Irish shillelaghs.

In ancient times sloes were buried in straw-lined pits and left for a few months to ripen and make them sweeter. A pit full of sloe stones was found at a Neolithic lake village in Glastonbury.

These days of course the berries are best known for their winning partnership with alcohol. Ripe berries harvested in autumn are steeped in spirits with lots of sugar for a few months to produce sloe gin.

So fingers crossed this isn't a disastrous year for one of our most highly prized wild harvests!

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

PAST WALKS - Chris 'n' Jenny

SUNDAY 17th APRIL - The Star, Waldron.

Walking has so many things going for it:

It gives a new perspective on familiar places, enhances appreciation of the environment and wildlife, keeps you fit and is good for well being and the soul. And is a pretty good way of catching up with friends and trying new pubs.

The Waldron walk is the quintessential english countryside walk, past ponds with ducks, through woods with bluebells, over stile and across meadow it couldn't have been more relaxing.

SUNDAY 15TH MAY The Cuckoos Rest, Hellingly

Of course the pub, the Cuckoos Rest has been demolished! However the Cuckoo trail itself remains as popular as ever.

Our walk soon took us off the main trail and past Lealands, a manor house created by the Hancock family.

The Hancocks invented the rubber masticator enabling the recycling of rubber and the British Rubber Industry to lead the world with the "India Rubber Company".

It is a great shame that only remnants of the great gardens remain.

We headed towards Rock Harbour and West End Farm with connections to the Onion Pie murder but turned sharp right back towards and through Wellshurst Golf Club.

Crossing the road took us alongside Winkenhurst, one time spiritual home to the English Bull Mastif and also home to a Buick dubbed the most romantic car in the world. The owner Edmund Giffard Oliver used the car to ferry King Edward VIII to Downing

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Street where he announced to Prime Minister Baldwin his intentions to abdicate the throne for the love of his life, Mrs Wallis Simpson.

**SUNDAY 19TH JUNE - The Forge
Halland**



There is always mud to be found at Halland!

FUTURE WALKS - Chris

PROPOSED WALKS FOR 2016

**SUNDAY 17TH JULY - The Lavender Line
Cafe, Isfield**

**SUNDAY 21TH AUGUST - Six Bells,
Chiddingly**

**SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER - Mount Harry
Offham**

**SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER - Stanmer Park,
Brighton**

**SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER - The Green
Man, Ringmer**

**SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER - East Grinstead
(Streetwalk)**

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

AND AS A BONUS:

The July walk will follow a morning tour, ride, talk and lunch at the Lavender Line Steam railway. - So that's a Grand Day Out!

Exact details have yet to be confirmed but all are welcome to just do the railway visit in the morning or the walk in the afternoon.

Cost will depend on numbers, but the walk will be free!

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

MID WEEK WALKS

**East Hoathly Rights of Way Group Round Up
JUNE**

2016

The Group has been extra active in recent weeks. Some pretty violent weather has served to change the face of some of our local footpaths and bridleways.

The combination of higher than usual temperatures over much of the past three months coupled with copious amounts of rain has led to plenty of rapid growth affecting our parish ROWs. In the main the local paths are now again unobstructed and usually dry enough underfoot, with one or two notable exceptions, eg Vert Wood.

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Our most demanding task has been to remove a fallen tree from the footpath between Moat Lane and Hawkhurst Farm. Fortunately it was possible to dismantle this obstruction piece by piece with our hand tools and stow it alongside the path.

We have also received some requests from the County to assist in neighbouring parishes, where there is no volunteer ROW support. This is proving an interesting addition to our usual tasks, encouraging the Group to explore areas that they are less likely to choose to walk.

In general our work is not arduous and has assisted us to build a feeling of camaraderie, whilst we help to keep the public footpaths and bridleways fit for use in this area of East Sussex.

I have been asked on several occasions recently to report progress on the opening of the diversionary footpath route at Blackberry Farm. The ROW office originally hoped that the obligatory Public Objections Period, enabling official comment upon the new proposed route, would take place during March and April. In the event, for reasons of pressure of other diversionary work and lack of cooperation from the landowner, this POP requirement was delayed until the present time. Thus the hoped for completion date is now expected to be towards the latter half of August. All I can comment is that for a running battle, which has been under way since 2011, this further minor delay, irritating though it may be, ultimately seems of no great consequence.

A different diversion order, which has recently been confirmed, effects the footpath which links Old Whyly, Annan Court and the Halland-Blackboys road, close to Pilgrim Hall. This footpath will be rerouted into Slay Wood and then loop south again towards Pilgrim Hall; so don't be surprised by some new signs and unexpected turns as

the new path will follow a somewhat circuitous route.

Finally, if you feel that you would like to join this Group in our ROW activities please contact me at dixiewalks@hotmail.com You will be made welcome.

John Deane

CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)

[Response to Wealden Local Plan](#)

CPRE Sussex objects most strongly to the housing targets forming the basis of the strategy of the Draft Local Plan. We seriously question the way they have been justified and assessed. In particular we consider that the environmental impacts, as illustrated by the large areas of greenfield land proposed for allocation, have not been consistently and fairly assessed in the development of future scenarios.

We actively support the need for our local villages and towns to remain economically vibrant and self-sustaining. We encourage the development of a strategic plan that will advance sustainable growth and development that is sensitively planned for its environment and is of good quality. In the case of Wealden, the plan must recognise the district's largely rural character and meet local need within the environmental and infrastructure constraints of the district's geography and economy. The consultation draft, as it currently stands, fails to meet this requirement

Yours faithfully,

David Johnson
Chairman
CPRE Sussex

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

WILDLIFE REPORT - Fred Carter

Birds of East Hoathly.



Winter. The Long Tailed Tit.

A common visitor to the garden, particularly when the weather turns to cold and its favoured food of insects become hard to find. We get them every year and their easily recognised pink, white and black body together with the unmistakable long tail sets them apart from other members of the tit family.

They are happy to mix it with the other smaller birds at the fat ball dispenser and add a certain elegance to the proceedings.

Their nests are beautifully constructed and take up to two or three weeks to build. Oval shaped and built by both the male and female, woven with moss, hair and cobwebs and covered in lichen. Then lined with up to two thousand feathers!

The female can lay up to 20 eggs! The parents have a keen sense of family loyalty to their offspring and will often stay with the young after they have left the nest.

Summer. The Chiffchaff.

This summer visitor from the Mediterranean, having dodged the guns of Malta, is an early arrival. Its unmistakable song of "chill chaff" repeated over and over can be heard from mid-march onwards.

The chiffchaff is one of "the little brown birds" that grace our woodlands, where they favour the high branches and build their

nests. Heard but mostly not seen! They feed entirely on insects.

Dome shaped and somewhat bulky the nest is made of leaves, moss and grass and lined with feathers with a side entrance. Six to eight eggs are laid, white, speckled with red and brown streaks.

This sociable and cheerful bird sings all summer long, a joy to hear.



The Gold Finch.

I admit to this being my favourite little bird. Its collective noun, a "Charm" of goldfinches, illustrates not only its name but also its spectacular colouring and dainty, graceful and fluttering flight. An entirely social bird, when flying they twitter continuously!

Their remarkably constructed, cup shaped nest is made from dry moss and grass and thistledown by choice. Four to five eggs are the norm. The young bird is sometimes called "Greypates! The parents feed the chick's regurgitated food.

They have attracted many colourful names, such as: King Harry, Sweet William, Goldie and Red Linnet!

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

However, they have also suffered a great deal in times past. Their sweet song and ease of capture took a heavy toll on the species, thanks to its popularity as a caged song bird. Subsequently they were given protection and have thrived since.

The Tawny Owl.

Strictly nocturnal, frequently heard but rarely seen, they prefer both dense plantations of conifers or clumps of ivy on trees as favourite nesting sites where they confine themselves by day. Emerging in the evening to noiselessly and deliberately quarter the open countryside, hunting for voles, field mice, rabbits, moles and other small mammals.

A powerful bird with sharp talons and fearsome beak they are virtually silent in flight. Prey is snatched without warning from the ground and generally taken back to the owl's station where the site is sometimes indicated by ejected pellets.

This Owl is the "hooting owl"! Described by Shakespeare as "The staring owl, that nightly sings tu-witt, tu-who, a merry note." And "the clamorous owl that nightly hoots." Not quoted by Shakespeare, they also emit a cacophony of screams, gurgles, coughs and whistles.

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Mythically rare and painfully beautiful!



[The Sycophant Graeme Lyons](#)

"I found it walking along the 50 cm or so gap of bare ground between a winter wheat field and a set-aside margin, it wasn't a particularly interesting part of the site, just at the bottom of a chalk grassland slope with scrub. I think it's very unlikely that this represents a population, I didn't see any more and in it's home territory, it is more of a woodland species preying on the larvae of processionary and tussock moth larvae"

It was last seen alive in the UK 23 years ago at Thursley in Surrey and last recorded as fragments representing a breeding population 19 years ago near Thetford. There were only two other records in the 19th Century but it is stated that it was much more frequent as a vagrant in the 18th Century where it was recorded from East Sussex. So it's not a county first but it is the first in Sussex since the 18th Century.

AIRS (Action In Rural Sussex)

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) became one of the earliest embodiments of the EEC and then the EU. preventing shortages, and was a mechanism to ensure the survival of Europe's small farmers.

Without it the "flight from the land" the UK experienced in the interwar years would continue, rural areas lose population, farming land becomes derelict and suburbs grow. This gave rise to the creation of County Rural Community Councils in the 1920 and '30s. We were set up to support rural communities and help overcome the poverty that, at the time, was synonymous with rural life.

Now that Brexit is a commitment, lobbying from landowning interests will be to press government to commit itself to honouring all current 'contracts' entered into with landowners for current environmental programmes.

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

With a long term aim to retain a similar level of public funding but probably aimed at subsidising the business part of their activity and seeking to avoid some of the bureaucracy.

The contrary view is being put by environmental campaigners who will want to see a more rigorous regime by which money only reaches landowners in return for strong environmental benefits.

However, there is an alternative approach that should be pursued by the RCC movement and other like minded rural organisations (AIRS etc.).

Britain's rural and natural environment is one of our defining characteristics. We lose it at our peril. Market forces alone manage the land in a way that retains these characteristics. Equally, market forces will continue to force the closure of rural services, push up the price of rural housing, fail to deliver good digital communications to rural people or improve access to education for rural young people.

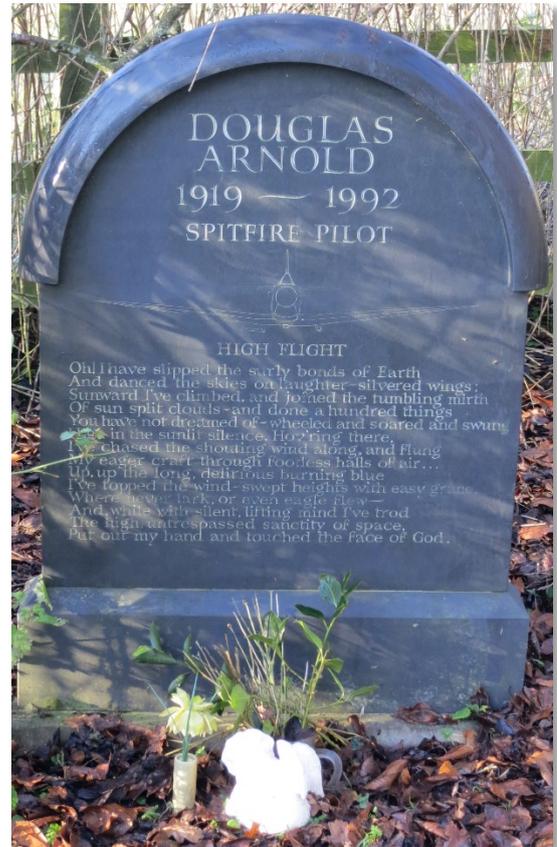
If we want a secure, home, food supply then we may need to intervene in the market for agricultural output; if we want a clean and secure water supply, but not to flood, then we will also need to intervene in water catchment areas. And, by the same logic, if we want a peopled rural landscape we will also need to intervene to make this possible. Intervention where the market fails is needed to tackle disappearing commercially provided services.

Jeremy Leggett

The opinions expressed here are my own but they are informed by the work of Action in rural Sussex

www.ruralsussex.org.uk

GRAVESTONE PHOTOGRAPHIC RESOURCE PROJECT



Just a quick reminder that when you go on holiday or visit a church yard this year take a photo of the church and another of its name board as a record of its location. And then take pictures of as many headstones as possible.

We can then transfer them from your memory card and submit them to help with the [Gravestone Photographic Resource Project](#)

HEDGEROW SURVEY

For more information

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EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - Chris

I'm pleased to have been able to include a little more variety within this newsletter, I apologise for it being late, I hope the content makes the wait worthwhile.

Village expansion, not only for East Hoathly and Halland is the concern for many.

The Preservation Society will have members both for and against and therefore will try to remain impartial but informed and informative.

To that end:

<http://www.easthoathlyandhalland.co.uk/events/news-in-brief/31-cpre-meeting-follow-up>

And the Save Wealden from Over Development Team: [SWOT](#)

If you have not received an electronic (PDF) version of this newsletter please let us know. It seems quite a few Email services consider it junk. If you look and find it there it may be necessary to add the EHDPS@hotmail.co.uk address to your trusted safe sender list.

Deadline for content for the Autumn newsletter is September 14th.

Many Thanks
Chris

