

EAST HOATHLY & DISTRICT
PRESERVATION SOCIETY



SUMMER
2021

The Society is:

**Affiliate Member of the CPRE
Associate Member of the Sussex Wildlife Trust
Supporter of the Sussex Butterfly Conservation Trust
Associate Member of the Woodland Trust**

Committee

ACTING CHAIRMAN

Chris Pellett

SECRETARY

Marion Beal

TREASURER

Linda Butcher

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Chris Pellett

2021 EVENTS SECRETARY

Marion Salmon

Community Liaison, Communication and Social Media Secretary

Sue Redshaw

WEBSITE & IT

Leycester Whewell

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Jenny Pellett

Additionally, we thank all our members, as well as many others who come forward and 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

Email:

ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

ACTING CHAIRMAN – Chris Pellett**FREE COMPETITION WITH A PRIZE!**

Our wildlife garden certainly appeals to the animals.
We found this guinea fowl under the gooseberry bush!
As a bit of fun I thought we could have a competition.
Can you guess how many eggs she's sitting on?
Answers need to be in by the start of the Preservation meeting on
September 10th when the result will be revealed.
There's a bigger picture at the end of the newsletter

As the newsletter is late.
The Wings Museum trip has happened.
Our walk and visit to West Hoathly was surprisingly dry (except for those
that went early and got caught in the thunderstorm)
And we have the Knepp walk on August 22nd to come – details further on.

Our talks WILL resume in September, on Friday 10th but with a change to
the programme.
We now have Trevor Weeks MBE, founder of WRAS, giving an undoubtedly
passionate presentation on behalf of hedgehogs.

Incidentally, for most of June WRAS, at Whitesmith, has been working with members of the White Stork Project at Knepp following the rescue by WRAS of an injured white stork found at Mayfield. The ringed bird had been released from Knepp last year and was known to be near Wadhurst.

Because of its injury surgery was needed. The fracture was too severe and gangrenous to be fixable resulting in the damaged section of wing being amputated.

On 3rd July 2021 the stork was finally transported back to the [White Stork Project](#)'s facilities in West Sussex to be released into a 6 acre enclosure to live with other storks as part of a breed and release programme.

"This is certainly a first for WRAS" said Trevor Weeks MBE founder of East Sussex WRAS, "thank you to the finder for calling us, plus the White Stork Project for their support and a huge well done to our vet, Care Team and volunteers for working so hard with him and helping him to recover."

East Sussex WRAS's total cost of the rescue, operation and recovery is expected to reach just over £1,200, of which the White Stork Project are contributing towards this cost.



September will be our first time back in E.H. Village Hall since March last year and so we will be celebrating with wine and there will be a few other things happening, including a raffle, the proceeds of which will go to WRAS, to help make it a real Friday night special.

The AGM and other administrative reports follow but will be kept brief so that you can get straight on with reading the more fun stuff.

AGM REPORT – Chris Pellett

13 votes for the motion that we carry on as we are, none against
35 responded to the various emails that formed part of the AGM.
18 gave apologies for not taking part on Friday 11th June.
All wished the society well.

We still have some money in the bank, a good number of members and just about enough volunteers for the society to tackle another year.

The quiz for which, in the manner of QI, marks up to 10 were given for correct answers, marks deducted for silly wrong answers and extra points added for interesting and entertaining justifications was entered by sixteen of you. Amazingly Katherine Gutkind and Marion Salmon both scored 29 points and so were joint winners, each receiving hand painted vases as prizes!

DINNER

13 takeaways from the King's Head were delivered and eating ours with Fred & Sue Carter we had hedgehog cabaret which included hide & seek, and sitting on the food bowl!

Post AGM Committee Meetings – Chris Pellett

The various suggestions made by members were put to a hastily convened committee meeting and discussed further at a second so that we can develop in a way that reflects your wishes.

Meetings will be more varied.

The Newsletters will be more widely distributed in print.

We will be advertising our activities better.

Trips and walks will generally be closer to home.

We will look to increase our support of other organisations and community activities.

Chris ehdps@hotmail.co.uk

SECRETARY'S REPORT (for Maz Beal)

More accurately a report on the Secretary:

Maz had the bewildering task of taking minutes at our first committee meeting for over a year, whilst our acting chairman digressed, rambled and mumbled.

I am sure you will wish to, with the committee, extend your gratitude to Maz for taking on the role and thank her for helping hold the fort together.

TREASURER'S REPORT (for Linda Butcher)

Again, more thanks go to Linda, whose essential role has not been made easier by the erratic passing of cheques, cash and banks that would prefer to do it all online.

MEMBERSHIP – Jenny Pellett

Amazingly we are now up to sixty nine paid up members!

Thank you to those who are still renewing their membership and to new members alike.

See you soon, I hope!

Jenny.

Membership Secretary

COVER PICTURE – Pressed Flowers

[Wildlife Watch](#) is the junior section of the Wildlife Trust.

To be honest I find plenty of their activities just as good for us oldies as they are for kids!

It's all about getting involved and raising awareness.

Anyway, they run an award programme.

It starts with the Hedgehog Award, then the Kestrel Award and finally the Nature Ranger Award.

Our cover picture is of a pressed wild flower display by Isla from Laughton created during #30DaysWild and as part of her Kestrel Award.

In case you were wondering, 30 Days Wild is a fun, feel-good challenge run by The Wildlife Trusts every June, for everyone, demonstrating that by taking small actions we can collectively have a big impact! From little things like feeding the birds, to giving up single-use plastics for a month or digging a pond in your garden: Just make a note of one thing a day.

Back to the Kestrel Award, it's based around four wildlife challenges:

Create it!

Do it!

Record it!

Shout about it!

I thought Isla's pressed flower creation was well worth shouting about. So well done Isla and I'm sure it'll serve as a reminder to us all of how precious the natural beauty of the world is.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust are particularly active both with [Go Wild at Home](#) and with events such as the monthly Saturday Nature & Bushcraft Groups for children aged 5+ which are listed on their own Wildlife Watch page.

FUTURE MEETINGS – 2021

TALKS & VISITS 2021 Fridays 7.30pm at East Hoathly Village Hall unless stated otherwise. Usually on the SECOND Friday of the month but not always.	
JULY 7 TH WEDNESDAY 2pm	Visit to WINGS AVIATION MUSEUM BALCOMBE <i>Personalised Tour and a Grand Day Out!</i>
AUGUST 22 ND SUNDAY	Visit to KNEPP , West Sussex. <i>See the Walk; The Burrell Estate Rewilding Project</i>
SEPTEMBER 10 TH	Trevor Weeks MBE ; Hedgehogs and how to care for them
OCTOBER 9 TH	Ros Black; The Temperance and Hope Movement. <i>Including the story of Sarah Robinson who lived in East Hoathly.</i>
NOVEMBER 27 TH	Social Evening <i>Usual shenanigans</i>

As the newsletters are still running late the Wings trip has passed and a thoroughly good day out trip it was.

Next to come is the visit to Knepp

KNEPP at DIAL POST

In recent years we have taken to having two days out, one, this year the visit to Wings Museum, where the emphasis tends towards the programme of talks and one which is more akin to the monthly walks.

Knepp, covering 3,500 acres obviously falls into the latter category.

Do not worry, the walk will be easy (and only cover a very small portion of the estate and rewilding area).

If you ever get the chance to hear Isabella Tree from Knepp talk please take up the opportunity, and failing that do read her book; [Wilding](#).

There is a wonderful Pub at Dial Post, [The Crown Inn](#), which is rightly award winning. In view of the fast changing situation we find ourselves in, booking lunch has got to be very much a personal thing and so Jenny & I are taking a picnic and will eat in the [Knepp Walkers Car Park](#) field, Swallow Lane, RH13 8NN.

We will be there by 12.00 midday.

There is a £5 per car parking charge.

As the journey is 55 minutes each way, we are starting the walk at 1.00pm so as not to be too late getting back.

The walk will be within the public southern area finishing at the on-site tea counter. It is all flat, no stiles and is suitable for dogs on leads.

Like all the walks this year it's a well-being walk with an exploring attitude; Look and Learn. The Purple Emperor butterfly is one we will be looking out for.

Please email or give us a ring if you are coming

Jenny 01825 872830

East Sussex WRAS

Trevor and the team at WRAS do a marvellous job, rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife of all types, from tiny bats to impressive stags and all species in between. The breadth of their knowledge and experience proves invaluable on a daily basis. Recent call outs have included rescuing fledglings, foxes, seagulls, grass snakes, ducklings and of course hedgehogs. Throughout the pandemic, although major adjustments and cut backs to working practices had to be made, the team continued to help wildlife as much as they possibly could. Their services are free, but with call out costs averaging £85, they are always grateful for any support.

Hedgehogs have been voted the nation's favourite mammal and with their numbers declining at an alarming rate, every successful rescue and recovery is vital.

We are delighted that Trevor, WRAS's founder, is coming along on FRIDAY 10th SEPTEMBER to talk to us about hedgehogs and how we can help them.

This promises to be a very special evening - Our first talk for 18 months. An opportunity to learn how to help an iconic animal. A time to catch up with each other over a glass of wine to celebrate being together again.

WRAS's 24 Hour Rescue Line: 07815-078234



To donate over the phone and all other enquiries please call: 01825-873003

This year is WRAS's 25th Year as a voluntary group.

“To help us celebrate this remarkable achievement we have some 25th year mugs for sale. They cost £5 each and are available from our Charity Shop at 192 Terminus Road Eastbourne, as well as from our Casualty Centre or at our Ebay Shop using the link below!”

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/333868606602?hash=item4dbc1ea48a:g:JtEAAOSw0WdgDsei>

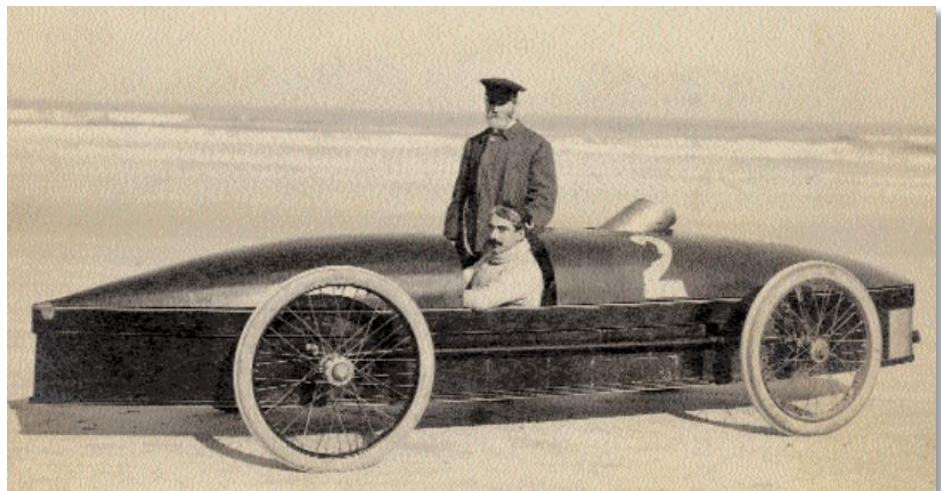
FUTURE MEETINGS The World's Fastest Steam Powered Car

Bruce Moore DEFERRED

Please Note: This talk will now take place in February 2022

I'm sure that I won't be giving too much away by saying that the land speed record for a steam powered car set in 1906 at 127mph remained unbroken for over 100 years. The talk, now deferred to next February will be the story of the British team, in a British car, with the name and motive of Inspiration, that broke that record.

The American 1906 Stanley Steamer car wasn't just the fastest steam car of its time, it was the fastest car. The world record was not beaten by a petrol engine until 1910 when Benz turned up with a 21 Litre c.c. monster.



The Stanley Steamer was also available as a road car. Within the veterans (pre 1904) 9-12 steam cars, including 4 Stanleys, regularly take part in the London Brighton Veteran Car run.

600-800 Stanleys remain in existence out of nearly 11,000 originally built. The 1906 Stanley Steamer Gentleman's Speedy Runabout was a 65mph road going car, killed off only by the cheapness of Henry Ford's Model T.

Perhaps the future isn't electric after all.

HOW WE ARRIVED Chris and Jenny**I REMEMBER WHEN**

We drank tea in a very empty space. Upper Vert Wood had just had a large swathe of pine harvested and our new home was no more than a shell. With tiles, ceilings

and floorboards removed we could watch the stars from the lounge!

In fact we spent November 1989 until Easter 1990 in an antiquated mobile home.

With little insulation we were being woken each morning by finches and tits. There were eerie sounds from



owls, foxes and badgers at night but when the house bathroom was ready the charm of finding goldcrests flitting from rafter to rafter whilst brushing our teeth confirmed that this was to be a very special home.

WINGS OUTING – Wednesday July 7th Richard Beal[Wings Museum](#)**Balcombe**

Have you ever passed a sign to something and said to yourself that I should go there and have a look? Well I have been passing the signs to the Wings Museum for near on 30yrs and every time said 'I should go there and have a good look round!'

All I needed was a good shove and this came about through the Preservation Society day out on the 7th June. And a very good day out it was too.

The Wings Museum is an aviation museum. It is housed in a 12,000 square feet (1,100 m²) hangar-like former farm building in Brantridge Lane, between Handcross and Balcombe. The museum displays mainly World War II-related flying memorabilia and equipment which have been donated, or which have been recovered and restored by volunteers.

Mostly the artefacts are largely unrestored. Cleaned of the mud and debris from recovery sometimes way down 6-12' deep. Sometimes it takes years to locate items, obtain the necessary clearances from the landowner and the MoD. Apparently if there is a member of crew with the artefact it then becomes a war grave and cannot be disturbed. Amazingly exhibits have been secured from all over the world. Russia, Japan and other Asian countries as well as Europe.

As mentioned there is little actual restoration and therefore one gets a real insight into the destruction canon fire wreaks on an airframe. In many ways the unrestored exhibits are much more enlightening and have a real story behind them. Other exhibits such as a rear turret out of a Lancaster give you a real sense of the discomfort a tail gunner endured. You certainly couldn't eat many pies and still manage to get in let alone function! Usually one gets to see something like that as part of a complete plane and therefore not so close up. The noise of the guns chattering away as well as the wind and engines must have been horrific as well as being extremely lonely. Some were frozen to death or found to have been injured only upon return to base. We have no idea of the bravery needed to fly and fight from

our very cosy 21st century existence even with the trails of a very nasty virus.

The radio shack was a gem. The guys running the show there were very enthusiastic to say the least. Happy to explain in detail all aspects of radio including morse code. Did you know people still use morse today? Mostly for personal satisfaction but there is apparently a thriving morse community. Most of our communications and GPS are run by satellite today. However some have realised that if there is a blow out we are in the deep brown stuff. With that in mind a system based on the German 1940's grid navigation beacons is being implemented to allow planes to continue flying in the event of a catastrophic event.

If like me you have been passing those signs for a while - don't wait 30yrs! Get yourself along to the museum and spend a few hours soaking up the history.

Thanks Chris for arranging a great day out

Richard

Wings is situated at: Bucklands Farm, Brantridge Lane, Near Balcombe, West Sussex [RH17 6JT](https://www.balcombe.co.uk/visiting-the-museum)



SUSSEX ENDANGERED CRAFTS FUND

The Endangered Crafts Fund was launched in 2019 to increase the likelihood of endangered crafts surviving into the next generation. In March 2021, nine new grants were awarded, four in Sussex, to help safeguard some of the UK's most endangered craft skills.

Funded by [The Heritage Crafts Association](#) (HCA) and the [Sussex Heritage Trust](#) (SHT), Dominic Parrette, from Horam, has received a grant to build shave horses to allow him to teach trainees how to make Sussex trug and Devenon stave baskets.

There are seventeen recognised professional Sussex Trug makers, only seven of which list trug making as their main source of income and there is only one trainee.

Some crafts, such as traditional Cricket Ball manufacture, are now extinct in Britain.

Among the endangered list is [Martin Frost of Worthing](#), one of only four UK based Fore Edge painters remaining probably in the world (yes I had to look it up too!)



Dominic's work can be seen here <https://www.sussexwillow.co.uk>

THOMAS TURNER HOUSE - Chris

When Thomas Turner died 6th February 1793, his son Philip took over the business until his death in 1829 and then the property passed to Phillip's daughter and son in law, the surgeon Henry Holman. Nearly eighty years of owner occupier came to an end.

Whilst Thomas Turner was one of few recognised as socially improving during the latter part of the eighteenth century within our rural community, Phillip seems to have been content to remain a village shop keeper whilst his contemporaries moved to Regency Brighton and the like where trade was brisk and profitable. Single streets were being built each with a population greater than our entire village and each regency townhouse, the property of a gentleman, requiring and willing to pay for the services they were offered. Napoleon's remark in 1794 that we were a nation of shopkeepers was not untrue.

This change from his Lordship's self-sufficiency on the estate to the reliance on multiple shops at his townhouse created a vast increase in and reliance on cash transactions.

Coins were not in shortage but most were forgeries. George III had discontinued the making of copper coins in 1775 because of this.

Forging banknotes became a capital crime.

Although in 1796, no one in Britain was hanged for forgery, by 1818, in London alone 313 people had been sent to the gallows, with a further 512 transported to Botany Bay for passing forged notes. The conviction rate was very high but the

figure pales in comparison to the 300,000 forged notes the Bank of England received between 1797 and 1834.



In rural areas trade tokens saw a revival. At first with their value on, then when crown coinage resumed in 1821 they usually omitted the wording "Farthing" or "Penny" and were deemed advertising tokens.

I believe such tokens have been found at Thomas Turner's House.

BIO BLITZING

BioBlitzing is the modern way to get the public interested and aware of biodiversity.

Within a designated area, usually quite small, and over a set period of time, BioBlitzing is an intense period of biological surveying, learning about and recording all the living species that are found.

Usually it is a group of like-minded students taking part and there are professionals or knowledgeable volunteers on hand so that identifying the plants, fungi and creatures as well as answering questions can be as instant as possible.

It has been found that this, almost information overload, stimulates a long lasting wow factor and interest in the workings of the environment.

I Remember When Fifty years ago we did it differently:

[Jack Hargreaves](#) said, “what you do is you look over a farm gate and you have a look at everything that’s there, and the next time you come down you look over the same gate, and you keep looking, looking over the same gate until you can identify every single thing that you can see in the landscape in front of you and after you have done that then you start the whole thing again and you continue to look over the farm gate at all the things that you now recognise and you start asking yourself why they’re there. That, in fact, is how you learn about the countryside.”

Whether you subscribe to the modern or the traditional method we should all look, take in what is there, and ask why.

A bigger picture then emerges and we learn the importance of maintaining biodiversity within our living environment.

LAWNS

Grass - It's the most grown crop, and it's not one that anyone can eat; its primary purpose is to make us look and feel good about ourselves.

Lawns are supposedly indicative of success and a reflection on their owner.

The goal is to attain a patch of uniform green to the exclusion of all other plant life. It should be no more than an inch and a half tall, and neatly edged. This means you must be willing to care for it. It must be watered, mowed, repaired, and cultivated.

There is a significant industry that exists around lawn care and management. From equipment to chemicals to seed, lawns require knowledge, time, and money.



“We don’t let grass get tall enough to go to seed, but we also water and fertilize it to keep it from going dormant. We don’t let it die, but we also don’t let it reproduce.”

Is this sensible?

Have we been duped into unnecessary spending by the industry and advertisers? Is one monotonous green really better than the multitude of exciting flowering plants that would occur naturally?

Are those stripes really more important than the diverse entomological ecosystem you are suppressing?

If you answer Yes, we will remain friends but have to agree to disagree!



SPRINGHAM GROVE - BIODYNAMIC FARMING - Chris

A sister project to the Vert Wood, Laughton Greenwood community woodland, [Springham Grove](#) will be a regenerative farm.

The soil conditions have been assessed and a grazing scheme recommended. Animals will be introduced to the farmland in August and the land will start to be

self-maintaining.

Very much in the mould of Knepp, the farming practice will revolve around what the environment naturally lends itself to do best, rather than artificially changing the environment to suit a particular crop or beast.

Obviously irrigation and other modern aids will have their place in the management plan but nature is a far greater force than the invasive species; man.

Grassland, pasture, meadows is but one aspect.

The importance of grasslands is being underlined by a campaign to promote their role in biodiversity, water management and carbon storage. Plantlife are part of the consortium and are also sponsoring some of the meadow management at Springham through the Meadow Makers project. Support grasslands on this link if you can

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/launching-grasslands-campaigning-to-protect-the-planets-grasslands/?fbclid=IwAR0mTw_p5FiuV50A2PbFObZ6Y28A2Ia4rx-IGTEFv4I71SzFsz9b7jTuevI

LAUGHTON - WILLIAM RANGER'S ARTIFICIAL STONE



'Ranger's Artificial Stone', patented in 1832 and 1834, was invented by William Ranger (1799-1863), a second generation Laughton-born builder, who by 1824 was working in Brighton for the architect Charles Barry.

Unlike other concretes that were just coming into being following the advent of Portland cement, Ranger's product was lime based, but with the setting time speeded up by careful addition of hot sand, silicates and aluminates. I suspect he recognised these properties living close to the Laughton brickworks and using their fresh hot waste as an aggregate.

Ranger's material could be moulded into blocks or cast in-situ as a solid

mass, thus making him a pioneer of both concrete block and monolithic construction. His Brighton projects form a unique repository of the material's experimental development of which one, the Secret Garden of 32 Sussex Square for Laurence Peel, the prime minister's brother, is reported to be the earliest (1830) known to survive.

The most prominent structure built of Ranger's stone in Brighton is affectionately known as the Pepperpot, in Queens Park Road. Elsewhere it occurs at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, a number of other local sites and further afield at the Royal College of Surgeons building in Lincoln's Inn Fields, at the Palace of Westminster, in Regent's Park and for guard's houses in Bird Cage Walk.

William Ranger was accomplished in many aspects of building and architecture; drainage, sea defences and the original Norfolk suspension bridge at Shoreham. His place in the history of early nineteenth century construction and architecture has yet to be properly identified. More research is required.

CHIDDINGLY SCARESROWS - Toni

The winners and cake



TEAROOMS – OLD AND NEW Sue Redshaw**LOCAL CAFES THAT WE LIKE**

It would be great if anyone who has a favourite café within a 15 mile radius of East Hoathly could write a short piece for the EHPS Newsletter.

* * *

First up is the [GREEN FINGERS CAFÉ](#) on the B2026, which goes through Duddleswell on to the Ashdown Forest. The Café is part of the Ashdown Forest Garden Centre and has to be one of my favourite Cafés. It is housed in a converted Dutch Barn and opened in 2004. It is unpretentious and good value for money.

You can sit inside or outside undercover. They extended their outside seating area in response to the pandemic, so there's plenty of space and shelter from rain or sun. You can take the dog – in fact, I think they like dogs more than people - and your canine friend will be given biscuits and water and a fuss.

Inside they have a large selection of Emma Bridgewater goods (if you like that sort of thing), paintings by local artists, local honey and preserves and a selection of Pashminas and greetings cards: an eclectic mix!

The food is freshly prepared and of a high quality. There are savoury lunches, featuring homemade quiches and soups, plus puddings and cakes. I've promised myself I will try the Lemon Meringue Pie one of these days as it looks delicious. Shelley particularly likes the Bakewell Tarts. Their Big Breakfast is worth working up an appetite for!

Outside, of interest to me as a Tree enthusiast, is the 400-year-old Sweet Chestnut. Reputedly it took root around 1589, during the reign of Elizabeth I. It is truly magnificent.

This café is worth visiting just for the tree but you could have a cream tea and really make your visit worthwhile. Maybe go after you've had a walk on Ashdown Forest, not forgetting to take the dog!

TEAROOMS – OLD AND NEW

Chris

LOCAL CAFES THAT WE LIKED

It would be great if anyone who had a favourite café reasonably local but now long gone could write a short piece for the EHPS Newsletter.

* * *

Perhaps the most iconic tea gardens that I can just about remember are those at Wannock. Not so much for the tea as for the water otter and the Chimpanzees' Tea Party.



Looking at old postcards reminded me of the bizarre animal grave epitaphs, the wishing well that was too high for me to clasp my hands over as the instructions commanded, and the witches garden where there was a chromium plated sphere which was no longer shiny or impressive when my father showed it to me.

I have no recollection of the model village, perhaps it was gone by the 1960's?

W.I. East Hoathly – Wartime recollections continued

I REMEMBER WHEN

The Army was with us all the time, but as an Institute we looked for links with the Navy too. In 1944 the annual report mentions a great knitting campaign of socks and jerseys, and gathering together of books and games for the men of H.M.S. Lydd, our Hailsham Rural District Minesweeper.



Illustrator: R P Jemmett Museums Victoria

<https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/items/411188>

And then there was “Bert”! We found Bert under the lonely sailors’ scheme and undertook to write to him and send him parcels of comforts. After that Bert could hardly describe himself as a lonely sailor any more.

The report of 1944 mentions forty four letters, and parcels of books, playing cards and cigarettes, sent to him between March and November. In his letters Bert described how his shipmate’s eyes glistened when his parcels arrived, and even sent the Institute a description of himself as “passably good-looking, five feet ten inches tall, with blue eyes and fair hair.” After that Bert was referred to in our reports as the Institutes “PIN-UP BOY”. But then one month Bert’s letters ceased abruptly and we never knew what happened.

Prisoners of war were thought of and worked for through weekly collections for the Red Cross and the sending of occupational parcels. All sorts of rules and regulations had to be observed in the sending of these parcels and they mostly consisted of pieces of material all cut out and tacked together with cottons etc. all ready for the prisoners to work on. The report of 1944 gives the number of these parcels sent off from the institute as forty-nine.

LAUGHTON GREENWOOD – at Upper Vert Wood

The Management Committee of the woodland has been busy during the pandemic strengthening the CBS and thinking about the next steps for our future.

Most of you will be aware that in 2020 we changed the name of the project to Laughton Greenwood following consultation with our membership and wider supporters. Since then we have been looking to develop opportunities to access the woods, increase our profit-turning activities to support our sustainability – including with new buildings and signage in the woods – and consolidate our Management Committee. We are delighted to have recruited a new Chair and Secretary in the first half of 2021.

There is lots we want to make happen, and we want and need your help to achieve this! If you have ever thought about getting more involved in helping make Laughton Greenwood a valuable community resource and biodiversity success story, then now is the time! Please read on...

BRING YOUR SKILLS TO
[LAUGHTON GREENWOOD](#)

We are recruiting for new members of the Laughton Greenwood Management Committee, as well as for our advisory board and other volunteers.

As an active member of the Committee you will be involved in the fascinating detail of managing and developing Laughton Greenwood as an



area of increasing biodiversity, a sustainable woodland-based business, and a valuable resource for the local and wider community

We meet around once a month, in Lewes or Laughton or, where possible, in the woods. We have lots of ideas about where to take the project but we are looking for yours as well. Skills from woodland expertise, business management and fundraising to community engagement, project administration and beyond are all welcomed.

A priority for us at the moment is to recruit a new Treasurer who can support our sustainability and help with the smooth operation of our financial administration. With new infrastructure in the woods providing new commercial opportunities focused around community and engagement, it is a very exciting time to get involved.



As well as the Management Committee we are looking to revive our advisory board, a more informal circle of supporters with particular expertise we can draw on, and who may attend some Committee meetings as well as supporting at events and with raising our profile.

We also need anyone who may be able to offer some time as ad hoc volunteers in a range of areas – e.g. events, fundraising, public communications and developing our Membership.

If you would like to know more don't hesitate to express your interest by writing to us at info@laughtongreenwood.co.uk.

Please spread the word!

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – EDIBLE ENGLAND – September 10th/12th

In addition to the usual open houses and gardens, this year Edible England has been added as a theme and at Baxters Field, Lewes you will be able to sample autumn fruits and berries, and learn about edible and poisonous plants. For this one booking is required through Heritage Open Days or Friends of Lewes. There are also six self guided walks and numerous open houses to see. The printed guide is at the Lewes Tourist Information Centre or can be downloaded from here: [Lewes Heritage Open Days Leaflet PDF](#)

Which leads us nicely on to;

WOODLAND TRUST - RECIPE FROM THE WOODS– George Anderson[Making your own bramble whisky](#)

Ingredients:

Blackberries

Sugar

Whisky

Method:

1. Place your blackberries in a sealable jar and add about a tenth of their volume in granulated sugar.
2. Top up with whisky to cover the fruit. A middling supermarket own-brand will be perfect. Definitely don't use an expensive single malt or a premium brand!
3. The next part is the hardest. You have to leave it for six months somewhere cool and dark, giving it only the occasional shake.
4. After six months have passed, strain the liquid out of the blackberries. A muslin cloth will catch all of the solids. And have a taste. You can add more sugar at this point. But my advice is to add as little sugar as possible. You want the fruit coming through not just sugary sweetness. You can add more sugar later but you can't take it out. So gradually does it.
5. Now bottle your brambly booze



WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN - Powers and Duties

Powers and Duties was a phrase and bureaucratic methodology (reinforced by the ultra vires doctrine) much abounded in the 1990's. With the words of government now so much more available to the general public the phrase seems to have been toned down to sound less authoritarian. Functions and Responsibilities now categorise the actions of Councillors, officers and committees.

It shouldn't be a bad method but it seems, to me, to have resulted in a fear of noncompliance among officers such that they do not use their powers but spend all their effort in proving that their duty to follow government guidance has been effected.

For instance, with public consultations they have a duty to engage with the public. They will even extend the consultation period to ensure they have robustly complied. They then have, in theory, the power to act on that consultation, but choose not to for fear of repercussions and accusations that they have failed to follow government guidance (a duty).

The 1947 Town and Country Planning Act was arguably the most successful environmental legislation of recent times. Unfortunately there has been a shortage of housing ever since. The 1991 change to a plan led system, supposedly giving more power to the local authorities, has failed. Their duty to produce a Local Plan has become nigh on impossible not least because of the internet enabling vast unforeseen representations to be submitted by the public and pressure groups, and the inability of the council to appease them whilst fulfilling their duties.

What is the answer? I do not know. But the current "tweaks" promised by central government to the current white paper and proposals by Wealden for their revised local plan do not Save Wealden from Over Development.

VILLAGE CONCERNS

[Village Concerns](#) report:

June 2021

Hesmond's Application for 205 homes

A Decision Notice has been issued for approval of the application for Hesmond's 205 new homes. Village Concerns has decided to go forward with the first step of a Judicial Review (JR) challenging this decision. This first stage is called a Pre-Action Protocol PAP letter. The PAP is based on a number of legal issues which need to be challenged. There is a six-week window to do this. Thank you to numerous residents of the Parish who have helped to fund this stage of the JR. We will keep you up to date.

Please note the Decision notice is accompanied by a Legal 106 agreement, which is concerned with issues of quantum of affordable housing, green spaces and other such issues.

This document is not to be confused with the 106 regarding the land on Hesmonds Stud. This 106 is subject to the Planning Application WD/2020/2660/PO to lift / break the 106 on the land for the 205 houses. NO DECISION has been reached on this 106. The decision has been delegated to a Planning Officer alone.

The Appeal for South Street for 55 new homes has been allowed, by a Planning Inspector, on July 27th.

This means development at the other end of East Hoathly, at the bottom end of South Street.

We cannot challenge the merits of the Planning Inspectors decision. We could only challenge if a legal error is made and that is not the case.

Village Concerns will be studying the Inspectors Report, particularly the implications of the conditions imposed – the conditions begin on page 17 of the Report. This will be vital for when the application reaches the Reserved Matters stage when the details of the application come before Planning Committee South. We will be able to comment at that stage.

THE INDUSTRY OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL – Chris Pellett

The main purpose of development control is to ensure the orderly and rational development of land to create sustainable human settlements that accommodate a variety of land uses to meet the needs of the people who live in these settlements¹.

From the viewpoint of Local Government, development control requires a Local Plan to provide consistent guidance. The Local Plan has a housing need dictated by central government and consists of policies to accommodate that need in the most sustainable way.

But the industry of development control has a darker side: The professionals that work with the speculators. With the knowledge of how councils make planning decisions, they provide invaluable assistance for lawyers, developers and planning consultants in gaining planning permissions. To them the local plan can be a hindrance.

The method used by development control specialists is to produce a roadmap. If they are working for the council they will have an objective very different to that of when they are working for a developer.

In all cases they will obviously engage with the local council officers, possibly with tempting advice on how to satisfy central government's housing directive without falling foul of the policies of the Local Plan.

I do not think that our council officers are incompetent or deliberately corrupt.

I do think it quite feasible that they have been groomed and duped by some of the most successful development control professionals, and I do believe that the 2019 Local Plan submitted was designed to fail and thus be withdrawn in order to enable the passing of planning applications for the fulfilment of the housing number requirement and the greed of the speculators.

Development control professionals undoubtedly provide an indispensable tool for local authorities, planning consultants, lawyers and developers.

¹ The Importance of Development Plans/Land Use Policy for Development Control
Dr. Deborah Thomas, Land Use Planning Consultant

S.O.A.P. SUDS

A “SUBJECTIVE OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT & PLAN” look at SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Developers need to get planning permission. They cannot rely on architects to have answers to the more difficult questions and so they employ experts. Not necessarily experts in the subject field, but experts in obtaining planning consent.



Take for instance the question “Where is all the rainwater going to go when everywhere is concreted over?”

The reply by the developer will be **Subjective** and submitted by their expert.

Their hope is that the expert status will be enough and judgement will be made without question.

The SUDS expert will talk about risk and mitigation, waffle on about permeable paving, swales, filter strips and ponds. They will say that pollutants can be effectively filtered out and sewage overflows stopped therefore

reducing flooding. They will state the advantages to the systems in providing ponds on developments providing a spin off benefit for wildlife and aesthetic contributions to the environment. They will propose systems designed to collect the excess water, clean it and then release back into the environment in a controlled and effective way.

An **Objective** study has to have detail. All the factors that may have a bearing on the success or failure of the developers proposed scheme have to be included here or there can be no measure of their effectiveness later. Many new developments are using SUDS techniques effectively and correctly applied there are few disadvantages. However the SUDS needs to be extensive enough to cope with more frequent unpredictable weather patterns and increases to the amount of building in the future. Invariably on clay non-permeable soils, on floodplains or where combined surface water and sewage drains, common from 1850 – 1970 are still in use, the SUDSs proposed are rarely sufficient. The objective study needs statistics to show this.

Only with a good objective study can a reliable assessment be made.



This picture shows the inadequate SUDS attenuation lake for Cuckoo Meadows Hailsham under construction. It is now filled with raw sewage which is having to be transported away by lorry.

The **Assessment** is an opinion, which must show reasoning, clarity and insight, and be consistent with the analytics submitted with the objective study. It is the all-important counter submission to that of the developer's expert.

Finally the **Plan**, or when applied to a development proposal, the direction or decision made by the authority.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION - Hairy caterpillar guide



Left: Sycamore moth caterpillar

Below: Garden tiger moth caterpillar

For more hairy caterpillars visit the [Woodland Trust Hairy Caterpillar Guide](#)



Above: Oak eggar moth caterpillar

Right: Vapourer moth caterpillar



MELLOW YARROW - Jenny

Yarrow, whose botanical name *Achillea Millefolium* alludes to its prolific feathery foliage meaning 'a thousand leaves', is commonly found in temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. It has been used by the ancient Greeks, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and is still commonly used today by herbalists around the world. In Australia and New Zealand it has been introduced as a feed for livestock.



A plant commonly seen from Mid-Summer until early Autumn, it can be found on roadside verges, in field margins, meadows and coastal areas. It has many colloquial names, including Nose Bleed, Old Man's Pepper, Soldier's Woundwort, Stauch Weed, Sanguinary and Devil's Plaything. In ancient times, as the names Soldier's Woundwort and Stauch Weed suggest, it was widely used for its ability to staunch bleeding on the battlefield.

Herbalism should only be practised by those trained to do so, but in knowledgeable hands Yarrow has a multitude of uses, including fever relief, aiding digestion, alleviating diarrhoea, speeding up blood clotting, soothing rashes, easing haemorrhoids and its natural antiseptic qualities help to ease cystitis. Chewing on the leaves can also help relieve toothache. Its widespread benefits are used for both humans and animals alike.

Not only used for medicinal purposes, it can also be used in salads, soups and sauces where its peppery tasting foliage adds delightful aromatic and enriching flavours. The dried leaves of Yarrow have also historically been used as a substitute for tobacco, but whether it is potentially more or less harmful is not clear.

Although Yarrow has so many beneficial applications, it can be a cause of skin irritation in some people, so should only be used with guidance and caution. It is best avoided during pregnancy and when breast feeding.

INTERESTING INSECTS - LACEWING

In the UK we have 18 species of Lacewing, but the most common is the green. Active between May and August, they are quite frequently seen indoors. Outside, however, they can be harder to spot due to their green colour and delicate transparent wings, but they can be found in flower borders, hedges, shrubs, herb gardens, woodland, meadows, greenhouses and sheds, in fact almost anywhere they are likely to find their soft bodied prey. They are more active at night but can be spotted during the day too.

The eggs, which hatch in approximately 4 - 5 days, are laid individually on a fine strand of mucus which hardens in the air and hangs below leaves. Each female can lay up to 200 eggs. It takes 4 weeks to mature from newly laid egg until emergence as an elegant looking adult. The larvae, however, do not look so elegant and are alligator like with fierce jaws and voracious appetites, gobbling their way through their own body weight of pests every day. During this larval stage they grimly suck out the juices of aphids and other doomed prey, frequently using the drained bodies to hide beneath before selecting their next unfortunate victim.



Both the larvae and adults are carnivorous and as such are a much valued form of biological pest control, making them very good friends to gardeners wanting to ditch indiscriminately harmful broad spectrum pesticides in favour of a more wildlife friendly approach to pest control.

If this far less harmful approach to caring for your patch is something you wish to achieve, the Lacewing larvae can be purchased from a number of mail order sources.

MOUNT HARRY from PLUMPTON - Sunday 23rd MAY



It should have been Mount Harry but we settled with the ascent to Black Cap. It was a beautiful walk with fabulous views from the bottom, the top and all points in between.

From the start, at the foot of the Downs on the Plumpton Road, there was a marvellous view over farmland with grazing cattle, looking towards East Chilmington and Cooksbridge and as we made our unhurried way up the steepish path we were joined by a number of sheep and their lambs. Our pace was relaxed and easy going and on reaching the top of the hill we turned left and stopped at Black Cap where there was a copse replanted in 1953 to commemorate the the Queen's coronation. We took time to enjoy the spectacular and far reaching views before finding shelter from the wind and enjoying cake, hot chocolate and each other's company.



On the way back down we took time to enjoy the various wildflowers and butterflies and by the time we got to the bottom I think we had all enjoyed the benefits of fresh air, exercise and a natter. The four dogs that accompanied us all went home tired and happy too.

ROWLAND WOOD BUTTERFLY RESERVE– Sunday June 27TH

Not the best weather for looking for butterflies but following the published transect route we were able to see how the management plan had created different habitats to increase diversity and maintain its ongoing conduciveness to certain species.

There were a few butterflies but star of the show was a teneral damselfly drying out before its first flight. With a still soft exoskeleton it was almost transparent with no colour to help identify its species.

Rob and Verne revisited a few days later:

“We had another walk around the butterfly woods this afternoon and were quite excited by some of the extra things we saw - I have attached a couple of photos.



As well as the meadow brown and gatekeeper we also saw and photographed a painted lady, a ringlet and a silver Y moth. It was only on checking the photos that we were able to identify these different butterflies/moth as they all look like brown fluttery things in the field!

We also saw a young adder and grass snake under their black boards on the ground. All in all a very interesting place”.

WELL-BEING WALKS FOR 2021 - Dates for your Diary

Walks 2021 Walks start at 2pm, usually after lunch in the appropriate pub. This year they will usually be on the FOURTH Sunday of the month but please check	
JANUARY 24 th	West Park, Uckfield <i>Cancelled</i>
FEBRUARY 28 th	Chiddingly, meet in car park. <i>Subject to restrictions</i>
MARCH 28 th	Ashdown Forest Visitors Centre, Wych Cross <i>Subject to restrictions</i>
APRIL 25 th	Cross in Hand (Flask & Cake Walk)
MAY 23 rd	Mount Harry, Plumpton (Flask & Cake Walk)
JUNE 27 th	Rowland Wood Butterfly Reserve (Flask & Cake)
JULY 25 th	West Hoathly, Possibly including Priest House
AUGUST 22 nd	Knepp Estate, Dial Post
SEPTEMBER 26 th	Seaford Head
OCTOBER 24 th	Hellingly Cuckoo Loop
NOVEMBER 21 st	Holywell, Eastbourne,
DECEMBER 12 th	Lewes Street Walk, <i>Meet outside W H Smith</i>

Restrictions may be in place requiring more of our walks to be cancelled. Please check with us before venturing out and of course heed Government guidance.

If you want to do any of the walks in your own time we have the details of most of them printed out, so feel free to ring Jenny or myself on 01825 872830 and we will let you have a copy.

FUTURE WALKS – West Hoathly, including Priest House

July's walk was the [West Hoathly Heritage Trail](#) on Sunday 25th July.

The famous Cat Inn was unfortunately not open and, as a result, the Fox Inn was extra busy.

So we were to meet in the car park at the bottom of Church Hill, on the right.

We took a picnic and ate it in the car whilst thunder, lightning and torrential rain spoilt the view. Marion & Alan had already started walking and Lucie had eaten her sandwich at the Church before coming down to the car park at Finche's Field to find us.

The rain miraculously stopped on queue for the 2pm start and Jenny and I remained dry for the entire walk. I think the others were dried out by 3pm!



The walk started with a tour of the [Priest House](#).

We then simply walked from Queens Square to the fields beyond the delightful school in North Laine and returned on the other side of the road until we reached St Margaret's Church.

The heritage trail points out about fifteen items of interest including the toilets!

The views from the terraced graveyard were to die for!

I printed out more handouts of the full route than were needed and so if you wish to enjoy the West of Hoathly in your own time just ask.

FUTURE WALKS – SEAFORD HEAD Sunday Sept 26th

We will be meeting at The South Hill Barn Car Park which is on the track going South from the end of Chyngton Way, Seaford. There is a [Coffee Bar \(Cotton's\)](#) there in the sheltered barn courtyard with delicious cake!

Or if you want a hearty Sunday lunch I suggest booking for midday at [The View](#) restaurant at the entrance to Seaford Head Golfcourse, it'll mean driving up to South Hill Barn afterwards to make the 2pm start of our walk.

The blackberries will be ripe and so bring a bag if you need some to make Bramble Whiskey.

EAST HOATHLY BIRDS – Jenny

When thinking about memories and then what birds to focus on for this newsletter, guinea fowl became the obvious, if slightly odd choice.

I REMEMBER WHEN

When we arrived in Whitesmith at the back end of 1989, there was an established pheasant rearing and shooting enterprise in the woods opposite our wreck of a house.

We started hearing strange sounds, sometimes reminiscent of a squeaky wheelbarrow in desperate need of oiling, other times a cacophony of rapid almost machine gun like noise.

At the time we had no idea what was the cause, but one day when we walked our dog through Vert woods, we had the living daylight startled out of us by what we now know to be guinea fowl, when the sight of us and the dog set off the most awful panic driven racket I've ever heard!

It seems their loud and dramatic response to disturbance makes them a useful alarm system to gamekeepers, as they alert the not very bright pheasants to danger.

At a similar time, a number of guinea fowl were also kept by someone living on the corner of Church Marks Lane. For a while it was not uncommon to find their distinctive spotty feathers (and sometimes more) on the road. Presumably, the pre-bypass traffic was responsible for reducing their numbers and sadly they gradually disappeared.

And now.....we happily have daily visiting guineas who wander through the fence, mooch around and abandon eggs here and there before wandering back through the fence again. One of our welcome visitors has gone broody and is sitting on an egg mountain underneath our gooseberry bush. She hisses protectively when I pick the fruit, but talking nonsense to her seems to keep her fairly calm.

We have a vague idea of how many eggs she is sitting on. Take a look at the picture following, let us know your guess and in due course there will be a prize for the closest, but don't worry, it won't be a guinea fowl!



Although it's great fun producing the newsletter, I've never been a writer and so I'm truly thankful when an article gets sent in. This edition includes contributions from Rob Heath, Sue Redshaw, Richard Beal, Maz Beal, Toni, Village Concerns and my wife Jenny.

The Vapourer Moth Caterpillar is courtesy of Vincent Oakes of Eastbourne. For an uplifting summer edition cover I couldn't be more pleased than to be able to use Isla's pressed flower collage – extra thanks for that.

If you would like to help with the Autumn Newsletter just send in a picture, poem, article or suggestion, or if you are short on ideas I've got plenty so give us a call and I'll give you a task! Please.

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