



# CUCKFIELD EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## PALAUVER & PAVLOVA A Stunning AGM – and Desserts!



Presiding with his usual style and wit, our President, Sir Clive Whitmore, opened the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February in The Old School by complimenting the Association on the high turnout - over 50 members and potential members. The meeting was as usual characterised by the lively contributions and interruptions from the floor.

There were two significant events in our twinning for the year. First was the decision by the Aumale twinning committee to put us on hold, unless we paid for them to visit us; and second the altogether happy and enjoyable visit by our Karlstadt friends. As to Aumale, it was decided by 86% in a postal vote of the membership that we continue our efforts in a low key manner and encourage informal visits in the foreseeable future. In contrast our link with Karlstadt continues to burst with ideas and opportunities for the future.

Our money raising efforts during the year did not cover our costs. The committee's cautious proposal to increase the annual subscription was overturned by an uprising of the membership who substituted a much more radical proposal from the floor.

So, from next year, there will be one rate (no ageism here against Senior Citizens!) of £10 per person, with a maximum of £20 per household. Existing members were encouraged to top up their current level of subscription to the new rates ahead of next February. Another, sadder, economy measure introduced by the committee was to remove the free glass of wine included in ticket prices.

In a final burst of stunning democracy the membership moved the AGM to the last week in February 2011 to allow more time for the accounts ending on 31 December to be ready.

Despite the several collective rushes of blood to the brain, the meeting ended with the committee intact, except for the retirement of Neil Sadler. Andrew Symonds will continue as chairman for another year to the delighted relief of all.

A ploughman's supper followed and Lulu Gilland ended the proceedings with a "puddingfest" of desserts of her own creation. Introducing the pavlovas, tiramisu, and bread pudding she described the farmyard of eggs and the churns of double cream that went into their creation. They were duly devoured with the same gusto and delight with which the membership had previously despatched your Committee, this time without a thought for the inevitable sugar and cholesterol rush to follow. Given the buoyant mood of the membership, what was one more rush between friends?



*At least Peter Lovett saw the funny side of it all ...*



*.. while others were more properly restrained*

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## SUCCESSFUL XMAS EVENT

The last event of a busy autumn was the Christmas Party held at The Old School on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. About 70 people squeezed in to hear the popular husband and wife duet of opera singers, Joanne Appleby and Andrew Rees. They came with a

professional pianist who brought the local piano to life and reminded it of its potential.

As usual the programme was mixed, with audience participation in the singing of carols and traditional Christmas songs. The buffet supper was to a high standard and much appreciation was voiced of the whole event.

A good send off for another active year for the Association!

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## Brook Street Rowing Club: Fact - or Myth?

*A question posed at the AGM raised the old concern about this august and sometimes secretive body: how come a place, supposedly without a river and no sign of boats or a harbour, has a Rowing Club? In a **CEA EXCLUSIVE** a Deep Throat from within the Club finally blows their cover to reveal the **FULL SHATTERING TRUTHS** about this clandestine organisation ...*

Cuckfield is built on a hill, on the south side of which runs the River Adur, which laps the old and much revered Cricket Club; and on the north side flows the River Ouse on which is based the BSRC, founded in 1840 by Grace Darling, the Victorian heroine, who in later life came to live in Diamond Cottages (her uncle was the inshore life boatman at Barcombe). The Ouse was wider at this time due to its canalisation for the importation of bricks while the viaduct was being built. Unfortunately all the records (and alas the boats) were destroyed in the Great Fire which engulfed the boathouse during the Second World War when one of the first doodlebugs landed in Brook Street.

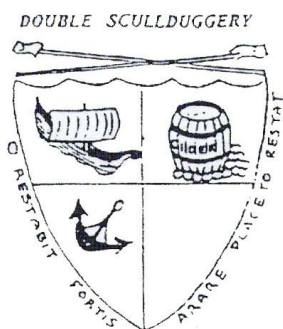
Nowadays the twinning with Karlstadt has opened new opportunities for "Old Blades" who still wish to row (the club even boasts a Cambridge Blue) and we have rowed with the veterans of the *Karlstadt Ruder Club 1928* on the Main, the Oder and the Danube and on Lake Balaton on a trip to Csurgó in Hungary. We have also, with a combined Brook Street/Karlstadt crew, raced three Austrian teams down the Thames from Oxford to London, in quads, over 5 days, stopping at

various rowing clubs and signing in at Leander!

So, as a club with no boats and no boat house we act as a vehicle to bring the community of Brook Street together at our packed annual dinner at the Ship Inn, when all residents are invited to attend. Here many speeches are made recounting past exploits and the club song reverberates from the hill.

*Anonymous*

#### BROOK STREET ROWING CLUB



CUCKFIELD'S OLDEST AND MOST TRADITIONAL ROWING CLUB

**Ulrike Jaeger has invited the BSRC to join a Karlstadt Rowing Club event, 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June, rowing downstream towards Frankfurt. In the new mood of openness, pioneered exclusively here, all CEA members interested in joining this visit are invited to contact the CEA Secretary who will put you in touch with Ulrike for more details ....**

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## COSMOS TO VISIT AUMALE

Paul Ruse reports good progress with the planning for the *Cuckfield Cosmos FC* team visit to Aumale, hopefully for the first weekend in June. Paul says "I am, as ever, awaiting confirmation replies from the French side".

The team has received official approval from the English FA and the boys will be accompanied by three parents who coach the Cosmos team. They have reserved a 17-seater, self-drive mini-bus and will also take a car, in case of emergencies. The CEA is sponsoring the venture.

Paul Ruse and Jim Grieve are also hoping to be in Aumale that weekend to give them some

support and assistance. The parents are very keen that the team don't just go for the football but that they experience some of the French way of life and are therefore hoping that the boys can be accommodated by the parents of the French players.

The CEA urges all members who have friends and contacts in Aumale to try to visit Aumale that weekend in support of the COSMOS – and in order to show the French COJAC that, at the grass roots level, friendships can still abound and flourish ...

Paul and Jim hope the Middy will be on hand to take a team photo with the mini-bus at Whiteman's Green before the departure. We wish them well in this particular endeavour and hope it will bear fruit after all their hard work, not to mention the unflagging enthusiasm of the COSMOS for an exchange.

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## ST GEORGE'S QUIZ NIGHT!

### There'll always be an England

How much do you know about "this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, **this England**"? Now is your chance to show us! Come along on **Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** for our Quiz on all things English. Run by those quintessential Englishmen, Mike Littlejohns and Peter Brown, this promises to be an evening of fun and frivolity. Teams will be grouped in sixes, so either make up your own table or just come along and take pot luck with others.

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, The Old School, Cuckfield**  
**7.15 for a 7.30pm start.**

**Tickets £10 (to include supper) - open to all**  
**Tickets from Windowscene and Wealden Stores**

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## KARLSTADT IS COMING TO CUCKFIELD ...

**The next visit to Cuckfield by our Karlstadt friends takes place over the long weekend Friday to Monday, 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September.**

We are expecting a large group and offers of accommodation are requested: please contact the Chairman Andrew Symonds, or Janine Watts, at the earliest opportunity to be welcomed on to that particular list.



By popular request, we are delighted to announce that we have arranged for the return of **The South Coast Stompers** to play for us.

Mike Harris has once again generously allowed us the use of his beautiful garden at **Old Beech Farm**.

Timing will be 7.00 p.m.-11.00 p.m., so put the **3rd July** in your diary now. Get a party of your friends together, bring a picnic, some wine, table and chairs to what will be a truly lively evening! We hope to have the tennis court on which to position our table and chairs.

*More details will follow nearer the time*

## **FUTURE EVENTS ...**

***Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> November***  
*The Beaujolais Brunch: 11.00 a.m. -1.30 p.m.*  
*The Old School*

***Beaujolais Brunch!***

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
@ The Old School • Cuckfield  
11.00 a.m.-1.30 p.m.



***Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December***  
*The CEA Christmas Event: 7.30 p.m.*  
*The Old School*



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Sir Clive Whitmore, GCB, CVO

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