

EVENTS DIARY

Saturday 7 July –

Summer Show, Queens Hall

Saturday 8 September –

Village Show, Cuckfield Park

Friday 23 November –

Winter Lecture, Queens Hall

Friday 7 December –

Christmas Shopping Festival

Friday 25 January 2008 –

Winter Lecture, Queens Hall

Friday 28 March 2008 –

AGM, Queens Hall

BROOK STREET- Cider Party 2007

Following last year's success, this year the Brook Street Apple Society will be holding the Cider Party in Opal's Field, Sparks Lane, Cuckfield on Sunday 24th June, from midday to 5.00 pm. There are several barrels of free cider to be drunk along with a licensed cash beer & wine tent and free soft drinks. With a Tug-of-War Competition, Bale-Tossing, Face-Painting and Splat-the-Rat, you can be assured of fun for all the family! Tickets will be on sale at the Cuckoo Fair and also at Wealden Stores and Window Scene for £4.00 each (entry free for accompanied under 16's). Tug-of-War Teams must register with Sarah Fry on 07977 530663, prior to the event. Bring a picnic and enjoy the day! Sorry no dogs allowed as livestock in field.

Registered Charity 249110

Patron: Sir Richard Kleinwort

President: Mr S Cockburn

Vice Presidents: Katie Stewart and Nick Rowe

Katie Stewart's Recipe LEMON BARLEY WATER

This old fashioned summer soft drink has a wonderful flavour. The use of barley softens the acidity of the lemon without taking away any of the lemon flavour. This means you can use less sugar to sweeten which makes homemade lemon barley water very refreshing.

100g (4oz) pearl barley

4 lemons

75g (3oz) castor sugar

Makes a generous pint.

Measure the barley into a small bowl. Scald the barley by pouring over boiling water to cover; stir and strain, discarding the water. Turn the barley into a saucepan.

Add 1 litre (1 ¾ pints) of cold water and the pared rind of 2 lemons (use a vegetable peeler) to the pan. Bring to the boil, then lower the heat to a gentle simmer and cover with the pan lid. Cook very gently for 50 minutes, when ready the barley will be plump and soft. Strain into a bowl, reserving the liquid and discarding the barley and lemon rind. You should have a generous 600ml (1 pint) of liquid. While hot add the sugar and stir to dissolve. Cool before adding the squeezed juice from all the lemons. Pour into a jug and chill. Store in the refrigerator until required – barley water will keep for a week or more.

Stir up before serving - lemon barley water is cloudy and tends to settle. Serve well chilled just as it is - nice with ice.

New committee list:

Officers

Chairman Bernadine Burnell
01444 454427 baburnell@aol.com

Vice-Chairman Bryan Mayou
bryanmayou@btinternet.com

Hon. Secretary Marie Dormer
dorjo27@btinternet.com

Hon. Treasurer Robin Whyte
whyte@ledgersmeadow.freeserve.co.uk

Membership Secretary
Lisa Westbury lkwestbury@aol.com

General Committee

Trish Denyer pdenyer@wsgfl.org.uk

Stephanie Gilpin sgilpin@tiscali.co.uk

Jo Roche (Newsletter Editor)

01444 452187 jo_roche@btopenworld.com

Sally Marsden sally@copyhold.force9.co.uk

David Dickson dickson@btinternet.com

Nick Rowe (Chair of Heritage) 01444 452235

nicrowe@tiscali.co.uk

www.cuckfield.org



Summer 2007 Issue 136

Thoughts from the Chair

Hello from me as I enter my 2nd year at the helm of The Cuckfield Society committee. The AGM was held at the end of March, and I would like to thank everyone who came along on the evening. Whilst attendee numbers were a bit down on last year, those who did come along participated eagerly throughout the evening!

We said farewell to Andy Harrison (Heritage), Bridget Wallace (Vice Chairman and Hon Secretary) and Roy Amey (Membership), we welcomed some new committee members, namely Sally Marsden, Lisa Westbury, David Dickson and we saw the return of ex-chair Nick Rowe who takes over as Chairman of the Heritage Sub-Committee. So, lots of change within our committee and we are all looking forward to getting to know each other over the coming months. Our newest members have written a few words about themselves, which is contained within the newsletter, so that you can get to know them too!

At the AGM, a request was made for Cuck Soc to convene a village meeting to discuss the current sale of land at Laines Farm. Whilst this land is not 'zoned for development' currently in the MSDC plans, these run only until 2016, after which time, development could become a possibility. By the time you read this newsletter, the meeting will have taken place (25th April), however, we will update you via the website as soon as possible on the outcome of the meeting and next steps, if any are decided.

As I mentioned last year, Mid Sussex is continuing to come under pressure where new development opportunities (for residential housing) are being sought out and so we must continue to remain vigilant to this. If you see an ominous 'For Sale' sign and want us to find out more about it, please let us know by contacting us at any of the e-mail addresses listed or by telephoning us.

You will no doubt be aware that Ockenden Manor are appealing against the MSDC decision to refuse planning permission for their extension and remodelling. Whilst a date has not been set yet, we expect the public inquiry will be held later this summer.

Preparations are now in full flow for the Summer Show. Full details are contained within the newsletter. We are advised that this is an event not to be missed and it promises to be great fun!

Well, that's about it for now from me, except to say that I look forward to representing the members of the Cuckfield Society over the coming year and to meeting you at the various events throughout the period. This is your village Society, so do please contact us if you have a view to share with us on things that we can do better. The more you communicate with us, the better we will be able to act on your behalf when issues arise that require a response from the Society. As always, our contact details are listed at the back of the newsletter.

Enjoy the summer!

Bernadine Burnell Chairman

Website competition

Last issue we gave details of a competition on the new [cuckfield.org](http://www.cuckfield.org) website. This was won by Jennifer Constable who was rewarded with life membership to the Cuckfield Society – well done Jennifer!

Subscription Reminder

Can we please remind those members who have not yet paid their subscriptions that these were due in January! We hope that during the coming year and beyond you will wish to continue to support the Society in its important objectives, not to mention receiving the regular Newsletter and getting first dibs on those coveted Summer Show tickets. Unfortunately if payment is not received in the next month, this will be the last newsletter that you will receive, so hurry and keep our new membership secretary Lisa Westbury busy! (Contact details on back page)

As mentioned in "Thoughts from the Chair" we have several new faces on the Committee so to introduce them to our members here are a few words from each of them.....

David Dickson

Since the mid 1970's I've been working in environmental conservation and protection, initially on research in marine science, particularly salt marshes and coastal biology in the UK and Northern Europe. This research into coastal conservation and protection facilitated a hobby in history, marine underwater archaeology and in excavating shipwrecks off Portsmouth and North Wales. The interest with conservation, protection of the environment and history persists and I now work as an independent health, safety and environmental scientist servicing large developments onshore and offshore.

Since moving to South Street Cuckfield at the end of 2003, the pen has been busy writing a cascade of letters to the MSDC Environment Directorate commenting on various planning proposals. There are potentially more incipient developments at hand. Moving here is not dull, but the very grist to the mill of the environmentalist.

Certainly, the older fabric of Cuckfield has changed little from its origins in the 16/17th century, and the photographic record from the late 1850's illustrates this preservation. The historical context of the village, as evident today, must be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations, in the way that those who came before us had the insight to conserve the old and maintain the open countryside in the way that we all now enjoy.

Lisa Westbury

I am married to Paddy and we have 4 children aged between 16 years and 8 months. We moved to Cuckfield from Croydon in 2001. Having both grown up in small villages, myself in Kent and Paddy in Plumpton, we felt we wanted to live somewhere with a greater sense of community.

I trained and worked as a nursery nurse up until 9 years ago. I have been a member of 3 school PTAs, including Holy Trinity primary school and have been involved with several organisations concerned with supporting children with special needs.

I feel it is important to protect and preserve the beautiful village in which we live and to maintain the strong sense of community it has. I feel strongly that we should ensure that our children experience this sense of community, and carry it forward to the future.

Sally Marsden

I was born in Galway, Ireland, the eldest of 13 children. I left Ireland to train as a nurse but on a return visit met my husband Anthony who was living in Haywards Heath. After a few years working abroad exporting hospital equipment and a period running my own catering business, I returned to my first love of nursing in 1980 and worked at both Cuckfield Hospital and at the Princess Royal as a Theatre Sister.

I enjoy walking in the many areas around Cuckfield where I have lived for the last 28 years with our gundog Tarka and am involved with several racing syndicates at Newmarket. I also enjoy salmon fishing and my largest salmon landed was 16 ½ lbs which was thrilling! I am a committee member of both the League of Friends at the Princess Royal and the Haywards Heath Ceramics Group which is extremely interesting.

Nick Rowe

Married to Diana, we made our home here in Cuckfield in the early 1970s. Our three daughters; Hannah, Alex and Lucy were all born and brought up here in the village, and went to Cuckfield Primary/Holy Trinity/Warden Park schools. And on Easter day, a grand-daughter arrived!

Being an architect, the first time I was persuaded to a Cuck-Soc committee was in the late '70s, and I was chairman for three years in the '80s. That's what happens when you are passionate about a place and want to support its preservation – a dangerous word, never to be linked with aspic! But Cuckfield is unique and very special, and I hope we can keep the fabric of the village and its setting secure for the future.

I am a chartered architect and both live and work in the village. A large proportion of my work is on churches and listed buildings. I have therefore the great privilege, and get much enjoyment, from working on some of the most beautiful and historic buildings around and with conservators and specialists whose skill and knowledge is fascinating.

HERITAGE

Ockenden Manor

Following rejection of their planning application by MSDC, hotel owners Historic Sussex Hotels have lodged an appeal with the Secretary of State against the decision. This will be considered by Public Enquiry some time this summer. We have made representations to the Enquiry against the application along the same lines as those made to MSDC and await the decision of the appeal with interest.

Land at Laines Farm & surrounds

A public meeting was held on Wednesday 25 April, organised by the Cuckfield Society to gauge public opinion on the potential threat to the village caused by the sale of land to the South of the churchyard surrounding Laines Farm. The land is for sale in 5 lots, and although not currently designated for development in the Structure Plan, this only runs until 2016 after which it could be reconsidered.

The meeting was very well attended with over 45 residents all of whom participated in a lively debate and tabled lots of useful information and suggestions. Those present were supportive of a proposal to attempt to purchase/secure packages of land for the benefit and protection of the village and an action group is being formed, led by Cuckfield Society, to investigate possible proposals for funding an offer to the vendors for at least one lot.

A further public meeting will have taken place as this newsletter is being produced so please do check the website at http://www.cuckfield.org/cucksoc_planning.php for more information. This is a very big issue for the village and needs the support and input of all Cuckfield Society members so please keep up to date with developments and do what you can to help.

Get In The Groove...

Swinging Sixties

(with a touch of the Seventies)

Cuckfield Society Summer Show

7th July 2007

The coveted application form for tickets to this year's Cuckfield Society Summer Show is enclosed within this newsletter. Tickets are on a first come, first served basis and you will need to complete the form and send it to Bill Morrison along with your payment and an SAE.

There has been much interest from non-members and therefore we are giving Society members priority in obtaining tickets, however we will be offering tickets to non-members from Monday 18th June. The show is always a sell-out so, if you want to be there, do get your application in as soon as possible. There is an increase in this year's ticket price as we have brought in the services of an outside caterer. However, we are allowing members to enjoy a reduction in the price of the ticket at £19.50, non-members will be charged £21.00 (if they can get their hands on any tickets!).

The evening will kick-off with an hour's Pimms Party kindly hosted by Stephen and Judy Cockburn at Marshalls in the High Street. Your first Pimms is included in the ticket price and further glasses are available on a donation basis. Please also have plenty of change available to buy your raffle tickets and show programme!

You will then saunter up the road to the Queens Hall where a cold supper will be served and there will be a bar for your evening drinks. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and you will be able to enjoy your supper in the garden of the Queens Hall so do bring a rug if you wish.

Once you have enjoyed the delectable supper our show will begin at 9.00pm. We are really pleased to be welcoming many new faces to this year's show and we know that our wonderful audience will give them the usual warmth and hilarity from the floor.

The buzz has definitely started with the various cast groups deep into their planning and, dare I say, rehearsing?! We know it's going to be a great night and lots of fun. We look forward to welcoming you to Cuckfield's night of the year!

Lindy Elphick

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Cuckfield sits on the Southern edge of the High Weald AONB which was designated as such in 1983. Weald means wilderness or forest derived from the German word "Wald" from Saxon English. It was once an untamed, wooded area, with patches of wild grassland and heathland. By Doomsday (1086) the High Weald remained the most densely wooded area of England and now boasts the highest proportion of ancient woodland in the country, of which New England Wood is a part. It is a historical countryside of rolling hills draped by small, irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes. It is a unique landscape full of surprises. A closer look reveals flower rich meadows, orchards, steep wooded ravines called gills with their secret streams and hammer ponds - remnants of the Wealden iron industry.

The constantly changing height and terrain give an ever-changing view of this patchwork countryside, created and maintained by traditional farming. The picture has remained almost the same through the last five centuries. The High Weald is, essentially, still a medieval landscape. This can be said of few other places in the country.

AONB's were created under the same legislation as the National Parks – the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Further regulation and protection of AONB's was added by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Designation demands that planning policies and decisions should focus on the conservation and enhancement of the landscape. AONB's are described as the jewels in the English landscape. There are 36 in all covering 15% of England and they are designated for their landscape and scenic beauty and are now of equal importance as National Parks.

To find out more about the High Weald AONB visit www.highweald.org

