

EVENTS DIARY

Events taken from www.cuckfield.org – visit the website for more information about these & other events.

November

Thursday 15th 7-10pm: Ladies Night at Warden Park.

Friday 16th 7.30 for 8.00pm: Cuckfield Museum's "Champagne Lecture". By Dr. Annabelle Hughes.

Saturday 17th 11:00-1:30pm CEA Beaujolais Brunch - - The Old School, Cuckfield.

Wednesday 21st 8pm: Jazz at The Talbot.

Friday 23rd 7.30 for 8pm - Cuckfield Society Winter talk at the Queen's Hall – Sarah Robinson of the CPRE on current issues affecting Cuckfield and our local area.

Friday 30th 9.30am-1.00pm Queens Hall: Cuckfield Crafts & Market.

December

Friday 7th The ISOC "Old folks' Christmas Lunch", in the Queens Hall.

Friday 7th 6 to 8pm Late night shopping in Cuckfield High Street plus Christmas Tree festival preview.

Saturday 8th to Sunday 9th Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Trinity Church.

Monday 10th 10.30am Cuckfield Museum's Members' Christmas Coffee Morning.

Wednesday 19th 8pm: Jazz at The Talbot.

January

Saturday 5th CEA -12th Night Party - 7:30 pm Queen's Hall.

Friday 25th 7.30 for 8pm Cuckfield Society Winter talk at the Queen's Hall – Nick Rowe on Charles Kempe.

Website news

Cuckfield.org has now been up and running for over a year and is going from strength to strength. The average number of pages visited per day rose from 18 in September 2006 to over 150 in September 2007. Popular areas of the site have been the Cuckfield Society, local information, village events, business pages and the museum.

New features include a list of regular events which take place around the village. So whether you are interested in yoga, table tennis, dog training or painting, take a look as there is sure to be something of interest. We are also delighted that the Independent State has joined the site and now have their own pages including all the news from the recent Mayoral Elections.

In January we will be launching a monthly competition on the website through which you could win a unique "Cuckfield Shopping Voucher" so be sure to log on and find out more. We try to update the home page monthly and information is being added throughout the site all the time. We are also always looking for new content so any input from you is most welcome.

Get it fixed!

A new website has been set up allowing people to report local problems and eyesores to the appropriate body in one easy step. Visit www.communityfix.co.uk and using google maps you can pinpoint problems such as graffiti, fly tipping or broken streetlights and the site will automatically report it to the appropriate local authority. Once the incident has been 'fixed' the specific department can 'clear' the incident from Community Fix which sends the resident an email to inform them.

Registered Charity 249110

Patron: Sir Richard Kleinwort

President: Mr S Cockburn

Vice Presidents: Katie Stewart and Nick Rowe

Christmas Window Display Competition

Again this year your Society is running a Window Display Competition for all businesses throughout the Village. Displays should be in place by Monday 3rd December and judging will take place on Friday 7th December with cash prizes for first, second & third place being awarded at the Christmas Shopping Festival in the evening.

We look forward to another set of wonderful windows this year and to see what our newer businesses will come up with!

Christmas Shopping Festival

We are hoping for a lovely crisp seasonal evening on 7 December as the High Street closes to traffic and opens to the smell of mince pies and mulled wine and the sound of Santa ho ho hoing.

As well as stalls from local charities you will be able to pop into some of the shops to warm up and then wander down to the old school via Santa's grotto to visit the craft fair and take on refreshments before you head in to the church for a special preview of the Christmas Tree Festival.

The Charity Stalls will be open from 6pm to 8pm so please come along and bring your children, family & friends to what is becoming a highlight of the festive season in Cuckfield.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions will be due in January and whilst rates for existing members who pay by standing order have not been changed, at the last AGM it was agreed that after 5 years, the rate will be increased slightly for new members or those NOT paying by standing order to £6 for individuals or £9 for families. So if you pay by cheque or cash please make a note in your diary or, better still, why not complete a form to pay by bank standing order (at the old rate!). One less thing to remember and it will save you money and the Society considerable administration.

If you wish to make payment, check your subscription rate or if you require a standing order form, you should contact the Membership Secretary Lisa Westbury at Somners, South Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex, RH17 5LB or on 411420 or lkwestbury@aol.com

A number of items of crockery and two children's hats were left behind after the village show. To reclaim them call Jo Roche on 452187.

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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

Once again, we were blessed with great weather for this year's Village Show. The larger marquee accommodated the large number of entries and enabled people to view the exhibits in comfort. We are delighted to congratulate Jennifer Constable on winning the Cup! I would also like to offer my thanks to our local businesses for their generous support in donating prizes for the raffle. We are also very grateful to our hosts, Bryan & Sue Mayou - surely there can be no finer setting than Cuckfield Park!

The summer has been fairly quiet with regards to heritage matters, so we have taken the opportunity, through the newsletter and website, to inform and remind our members about the process that we go through when considering planning applications within the village.

By way of update on significant developments/proposals, we can report that building is now well underway at The Copse (aka Meadowlands, aka Ashburnham Drive). We endeavour to keep an eye out for any impact on the immediate area (for example, the paviers on the footpath have been laid at the wrong angle, which we have reported to the council as they need to be re-layed!). Meanwhile, a date has not been set yet for the Ockenden Manor Public Inquiry, which will consider the hotel's appeal against MSDC's decision to reject their development proposal back in August 2006. An article in the Middy earlier this year indicated that a new application would soon be lodged (to run alongside the Public Inquiry). Heritage Committee has not seen any new plans, so can offer no further update. Watch this space...

Stop press! update just as going to press.....

The latest application is about to be formally processed by MSDC, which we expect to be listed w/c 22 October. At the same time, a date has now been set in late November for the Public Inquiry, which OM are attempting to get deferred. Given that all the previous proposals have generated such public debate, we will ensure that we keep the website up to date with further information as and when we receive it.

Other things that have been keeping the committee busy in recent months include www.cuckfield.org which has now been up and running for about a year and new links are being added all the time. Do take a look and let us know what you think of the site. We have also been involved in the revision of the Parish Plan which looks at, amongst other issues, traffic and planning in the village. Finally we

hope to introduce a New Residents' Pack via the village Estate Agents before Christmas. This will give people new to the area information on just what our great village has to offer.

Now, almost before we can blink, autumn is upon us, the children are back at school and the evenings are drawing in earlier every day! This is my favourite time of year and to fully appreciate it, we try to go walking as much as possible by taking to the public footpath network around Cuckfield. The Society has updated and reprinted a series of 12 walks which are now on sale for £3.50 from Wealden Stores, The Post Office and at Society events. The scenery around Cuckfield is truly amazing and I hope that the Walk Leaflets will enable you to explore new routes and stroll through countryside that you may not previously have seen!

The village's autumn schedule of activities has begun in earnest over recent weeks, with the ISOC Mayoral Elections having taken place in mid October, ahead of the annual Firework Display at Cuckfield Park and the London to Brighton Vintage Cars in November. Following the success of last year's Winter Talks, we are delighted to confirm that we will again be running a series of talks this year, the details of which are contained in the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

In the meantime, we continue to work on behalf of our members and to uphold the objectives of The Cuckfield Society. If you have any views about issues in Cuckfield or any aspect of the work of The Society, do please let us know.

Bernadine Burnell *Chairman*

Did you Know?

I'm sure that everyone knows where the name Cuckfield comes from (Open land haunted by the cuckoo), but have you ever paused to ponder about the origins of some of our neighbouring villages' names? Well for your interest here is a selection taken from the Oxford Dictionary of English Placenames:

Ansty – Narrow or lonely track

Ardingly – Woodland clearing of the family or followers of a man called Earda

Balcombe – valley of a man named Bealda or possibly evil valley!

Bolney – Island or dry ground in a marsh of a man called Bola

Brighton – Farmstead of a man called Beorhthelm

Handcross – poss Cross used as a signpost or cross-roads where five roads meet.

Haywards Heath – Heath by the enclosure with a hedge

Lindfield – open land where lime trees grow

Slaugham – homestead or enclosure where sloe or black-thorn grows.

Staplefield – poss clearing with a pillar of wood or stone

Wivelsfield – probably open land of a man called Wifel but poss weevil infested land

The Cuckfield Sing Club (yet to be named officially) is a new group to join for anyone who can sing or who would like to but perhaps lacks the courage. The club is open to all, and the emphasis is definitely about having fun, being creative musically, having a go and developing the voice in a healthy and free way. We will be exploring a wide variety of music including ethnic, light, jazz and more classical. You don't need to read music to join in. Wear loose, comfortable clothing.

The first club meeting was on Monday 29th October from 7.45 - 9.15pm and it will run every Monday until Christmas at the Cuckfield Baptist Church Hall, Polestub Lane, Cuckfield. Jane Houghton who will be leading the club is a professional singer and workshop leader. For any further details please call Jane on 01444 417269 or Mobile 0777 171 4031

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE VOCAL FUN!

2007 Cuckfield Village Show

After a wash out of a summer, the sun finally shone in September as villagers young and old turned out for the second Cuckfield Village Show. With a wonderful display of produce, food, photos and many other items the show marquee proved to be a great spectacle, whilst outside the Mid Sussex Brass Band kept us entertained and the WI and Scouts kept us fed and watered! As if that was not enough, there was also face painting, jam and plant stalls, a raffle and auction of produce.

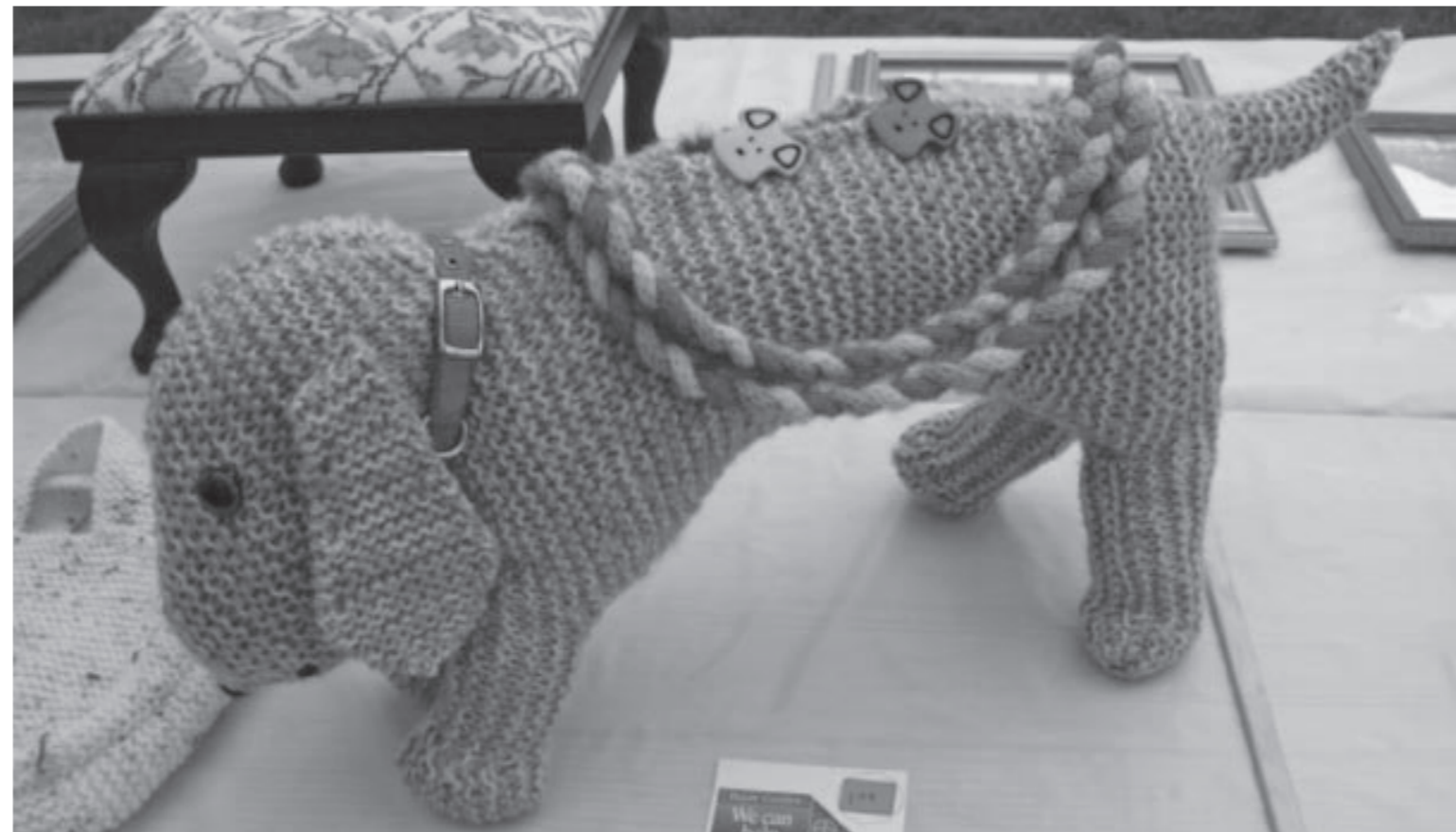
Overall Best in Show was Jennifer Constable who won a silver trophy donated by the hosts of the show Sue & Bryan Mayou. Classes ranged from the traditional horticultural such as heaviest pumpkin (a whopping 17lbs 6oz) and tomatoes (from those who hadn't suffered from blight!), to junior classes which were very well entered; photography, the most popular; food & drink and crafts such as a knitted bag. Most surprising was the lack of entries into the floral art classes. The men managed 6 entries for their class, but for a village with 2 flower clubs there was amazingly only one entrant in the other classes and although Diane produced some superb arrangements I'm sure she would have liked a little competition, so come on ladies, the challenge is out there!

The Cuckfield Society, who organised the whole event, would like to thank everyone involved in the day, especially all the judges who gave up their time and, most particularly Martin Ingebretsen who's announcements kept the day flowing and made the auction such a success

Results

Horticulture. Best in Section -- Jim Turnbull, 3 onions over 250g. Class 1. 6 Runner Beans – Jim Turnbull; 2. Longest runner bean – Jim Turnbull; 3. 3 Carrots – Britt Rice; 4. 6 Cherry Tomatoes - Aolfe Rice aged 7; 5. 6 Tomatoes (non cherry) – Jennifer Constable; 6. Most unusual selection of tomatoes – Carolyn McIlvride; 7. Heaviest marrow – Mrs S Mulligan; 8. 3 parsnips – Britt Rice; 9 3 chillies – Aolfe Rice aged 7; 10. 5 onions, under 250g each – Jennifer Constable; 11. 3 onions, over 250g each – Jim Turnbull; 12. Posy of mixed herbs judged for variety – Judy Cockburn; 13. 2 Lettuces with roots – butterhead, Cos or Crisp – Fred Bayfield; 14 Heaviest pumpkin – Robin Upton; 15. Ratatouille selection – Emma Gosling; 16. 1 Cabbage – Robin Whyte; 17. 3 Courgettes – Jem Lee; 18. Unusual vegetable – Aolfe Rice age 7; 19. Selection of 4 different vegetables of the same colour – Britt Rice; 20. 4 white Potatoes – Fred Bayfield; 21. 4 coloured potatoes – Britt Rice; 22. Most amusing vegetable – Britt Rice; 23. 3 dessert Apples – Jean Sedgley; 24. 3 cooking Apples – Robin Upton; 25. plate of soft fruit – Stephen Cockburn; 26. 5 Plums – Linda Dixon; 27. A plate of exotic fruit – Rosemary Harding; 28. one vase chrysanthemums, 3 blooms disbudded, any variety – Jim Turnbull; 30. 3 Dahlia blooms - Cactus/semi cactus – Diana Mackenzie; 31. 3 Dahlia blooms - pom pom/ball; Stephen Cockburn; 32. 3 Dahlia blooms - any other variety – Jim Turnbull; 33. 1 specimen Rose bloom – Lin Wood; 34. 3 Gladioli stems – Martin Buck; 35. Mixed perennials – 6 stems, not shrubs (minimum 3 varieties) – Mary Crouch; 36. Mixed annuals – 6 stems (minimum 3 varieties) – Jennifer Constable; Floral Art Best in Section– Diane Stenning, Autumn Shades. Class 38. 'Autumn Shades' – Diane Stenning; 39. Arrangement in a basket – Diane Stenning; 41. "Cheers!" – for men only – an exhibit of foliage or flowers in a beer tankard. Graham Hopkinson; Food & Drink Best in Section – Jane Burke – 3 shortbread pieces. Class 42. Jam filled Victoria sponge – Jennifer Constable; 43. Family's favourite biscuits – Alison Sinclair; 44. lemon drizzle cake to recipe given in schedule – Tessa Boyer; 45. 3 fruit scones on a plate – Diane Stenning; 46. 3 chocolate brownies on a plate – Matthew Oliver; 47. 3 Shortbread pieces on a plate – Jane Burke; 48. treacle tart using home made pastry – Barbara Hopkinson; 49. 4 cheese straws – Jennifer Constable; 50. 6 Chocolate truffles to recipe given in schedule – Jenny Spear; 51. 1 jar Chutney any recipe – Matthew Oliver; 52. 1 jar Lemon curd – Britt Rice; 53. 1 jar soft fruit jam – Joan Sturt; 54. 1 jar fruit jelly – Diane Stenning; 55. 1 jar marmalade any flavour – Stephanie Gilpin.

Crafts. Best in Section – Katherine Whyte – Counted Cross Stitch. Class 57. Counted cross stitch or embroidery item – Katherine Whyte; 58. Piece of tapestry/needlepoint – Jennifer Constable; 59. a knitted bag – any material, any design! – Judy Cockburn; 60. Item in any other medium – Jude Burney; 61. Handmade greeting card – Lavinia Wylie; Art & Photography Best in Section– John Walkley, Other landscape. Class 62. Animal portrait – any medium – Amanda Smith; 63. Sussex scene – any medium – John Walkley; 64. Other landscape – any medium – John Walkley; 65. Still life - any medium – Barbara Hopkinson; Photography classes 66. Happy Holidays – Peter Burnell; 67. "Reflections" – Carolyn McIlvride; 68. "Global Warming" – Janet Bushby; 69. Transport – Jo Roche; 70. Cuckfield Characters – Barbara Hopkinson; Junior classes 71. Garden on a plate (maximum 25cm diameter) – Anna Burke age 9 & Emily Church age 5; 72. 3 chocolate cereal cakes in paper cases – Gabriel Moore age 6 & Luke Mitchell age 9; 73. 3 Decorated biscuits – Julie Donders age 6; 74. Edible necklace – Alice Burke age 10 & Tom Burnell age 8; 75. An animal made from vegetables – Kieran Mulligan age 9 & Aolfe Rice age 7; 77. Painting – Aolfe Rice age 7 & Anna Burke age 9; 78. "My favourite animal" – Kate Robinson age 6 & Alice Burke age 10; 80. "Buildings" – Sebastian Moore age 8 & Matthew Bowen age 10; 81. A clown's face using a paper plate – Heather Gosling age 4; 82. an underwater picture – Harvey Roche age 4



PLANNING, BOTH LARGE AND SMALL MATTERS

How we represent the Society

In the last Newsletter I wrote a substantial article on the guidelines adhered to by the Heritage Committee (known as the planning subcommittee in the past) when considering planning applications, and there is currently a good summary on the website.

Basically, we look at applications to see whether they conflict with the Society's aims, using the guidelines built up over four decades. We do try to be impartial and not to get personally involved as far as possible, it is so easy in planning to take "sides" - finding neighbours with opposite views both seeking our support, and passionate opinions which are not about planning.

Current major concerns # 1 - land south of the churchyard
After so many rumours, it sounds as if this potential threat to the setting of the village has receded with the good news that most of the lots are being purchased with the object of not developing them. This is still in process, so more news when it is confirmed. The concern is always precedent and unforeseen implications - we have open land on all the other three sides of the village which could be threatened.

Current major concerns # 2 – Ockenden Manor
The most recent application was refused by the District Council last year, and is currently awaiting a date for the Public Inquiry to be set (see note in chairman's letter – ed). The Parish Council and the Society also objected to the application, the main reasons being around its location – ie outside the built-up boundary (with the precedent that would set), and the impact on the Cuckfield Conservation Area and Ockenden Lane in particular.

There are tremendous planning restraints all round Cuckfield, but development can take place. Even our guidelines include exceptions to the rules, notably the Beech Farm barns which we agreed should be converted to residential use to save them from dereliction, contrary to policy. Similarly, development outside the built up boundary could be an exception to national policy, if the proceeds were to save the fabric of an ancient building.

25 years ago the Society clashed with the parents and governors of the primary school, who wanted to alter and extend their (then) listed buildings. At that Public Inquiry, the Society was represented by a barrister to ensure that their objections were heard. No appointment has been proposed by the Society since then, and has not been proposed for the Ockenden Public Inquiry. However, to ensure that their voice can be heard at an Inquiry, parties have to register with the Government Department, and we understand this has been done.

Current minor concerns # 1 - Church Platt

The Parish Council has done much hard work this summer on the Parish Plan. One place the Heritage Committee does want to push for improvement is Church Platt, a focal point for many an occasion. Who can, or is able to put wheels in motion? we hope to find out.

Nick Rowe chair, Heritage