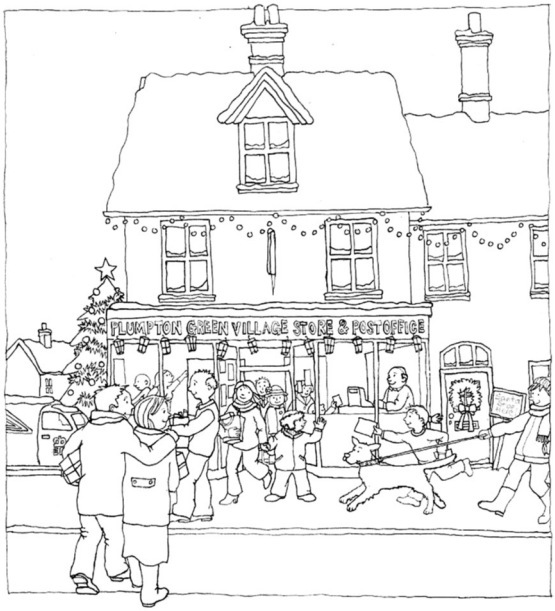
Plumpton & East Chiltington News

December 2021



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PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

December 2021

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Season's Greetings !

It is good to have a magazine full of events for the festive season as well as projects for the new year. With markets, carols and church services we hope you can enjoy the holiday season.

Next year is looking busy too, starting with the ever popular Plumpton Pantonmine. Also see how you have help bring full fibre broadband to Plumpton and how you can get involved with the Platinum Jubilee celebration day next June.

Thank you to all our contributors, our advertisers and our band of distributors, led by Christine Millum, who make sure your copy is posted through your door each month.

Church Coffee Mornings

Join us in the church annex on Saturday 4th December

10.30 - 12.30

There will be a Tombola to tempt you!!

COPY DEADLINES

10th December for January
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Plumpton Parish

www.plumptonpc.co.uk

Notes from the Parish Meeting 9th November 2021

Budgets 2022/2023
Cllr Paul Burford advised Council the Finance Committee had met earlier to discuss the final draft of the budgets. In light of the current economic climate and cost of living increasing it was recommended by the FC to limit the increase on precept to 2.76%. Based on a tax band D rating this equated to an increase of £0.21 a month per household.

Plumpton Village Society
Cllr Alison Gardiner reported that the first Events Committee meeting has taken place. Plumpton Village Society (PVS) were nominated as the working party. Plans were presented by PVS in line with the schedule provided to PPC in September with organisations on track. It was agreed that the funds PVS have raised from their events be transferred to PPC so there was no ambiguity over who was running the event.

Village Hall
Cllr Jim Brown will remove the dogwood by the bridge and clear the undergrowth where the wildflower meadow will go. The Village Hall Committee decided the Platinum Jubilee tree will be a Liquid Amber and will be planted where the dogwood is removed from. Pigeon guards will be put up week commencing 21st December. Quote received for clearing 75% of the bullrushes in the pond

Playing Field
Cllr Ron Jury reported that the roof is being repaired at the pavilion.
Grass contractor has done final light cut. Clerk to look at cuts v number of request to cut this year.
Cllr Jim Brown reported he will be starting the path on 18th November clearing the section by the gate in time for the concrete. He has two very experienced volunteers to help. When that section is completed he will start the next section with several other volunteers to help, hopefully this should be completed by Christmas.

Cllr Alison Gardiner will be the new liason between the Council and the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a successful 2022.

Next meeting is at 7:45pm on the 14th December 2021.

Plumpton Flower Club Xmas 'wreath making' FREE workshop

Once again we are having our annual Xmas 'wreath making' workshop on Wednesday, 15th December from 6.30pm in the village hall.

Please bring your own foliage and a plate of food. Tea/coffee provided.

If you need to order an oasis ring please contact sueakers@hotmail.com before Wed, 8th Dec.
Help will be on hand to assist.
There is no charge for this event. Look forward to seeing you there.

Any questions please contact Frances Gazzard at francesgazzard@gmail.com or 01273 890422.

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EAST CHILTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Eton New Town Proposal

The Parish Council continue to await any news from Lewes District Council on the consultations of specific sites and their suitability for inclusion in the plan. Suffice it to say that as soon as any news is received it will be passed on to parishioners and the next stage of responses as to why the Parish Council is opposed to any development on this scale will commence.

At the recent Nov Parish Council meeting Cllr Nurse asked if the press reports around government changes to their planning policy will have any affect on the number of houses Lewes District are having to plan for. MP Maria Caulfield says the numbers are not a target but government planning inspectors will still be looking to see if Lewes District can accommodate the increased numbers as produced by the 'standard method'. Cllr.Milligan said Michael Gove is unlikely to make any decisions this year.

Whilst not in our Parish, Council discussed two applications for housing in Wivelsfield totalling nearly 150 properties. Council agreed with Wivelsfield parish council that these sites were not included in the Wivelsfield neighbourhood plan and that they will be car dependant as Wivelsfield has few services or employment opportunities. ECPC will object to both applications as they will also impact on East Chiltington through increased traffic

Plans for the Jubilee 2022 will be discussed at the January meeting . The Beacon will be lit with Hamsey PC, the parish party will be held in June and there could be a jubilee tree planting. Plumpton are producing a Jubilee photo album and need historical photos from around the parish if anyone has anything they feel might be of interest.

Fast Fibre Broadband

You will notice over the coming weeks contractors who will be working on behalf of Openreach to start the installation of the cable needed throughout the village to connect to superfast broadband. The date of completion is at present promised for March 2022.

Chapel Lane

Cllr.Matthew Milligan had asked ESCC to inspect the condition of Chapel Lane. Despite the poor state of the road they say it is not deemed dangerous so nothing will be done until it deteriorates further. Cllr. Milligan said that ESCC has money available for road repairs so it is possible that something could be done.

Reports have been received from parishioners regarding cars parking across the entry to EC1A, the bridleway from South Road to Beresford Lane. Horses cannot get past the cars which still park despite ESCC signs. It now needs posts installed to prevent the parking. Cllr.Milligan was asked to find out from highways what was needed before posts could go in.

The remembrance service at St Michaels Plumpton was well attended and the wreaths from the P.C and British Legion have now been laid at the East Chiltington war memorial at the church.

It was agreed that a Sweet Chestnut tree would be planted to commemorate the life of John Anderson a long serving Parish councillor who passed away earlier this year.

The next Parish meeting will be : January 10th 2022 (subject to conditions at the time). Meetings to begin at 7.00pm.

Station Partnership

The Station Partnership Team would like to thank the following for their generous support for our winter floral displays at the station

Plumpton Racecourse
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Hills of Plumpton
The Jolly Sportsman
Scoopsweb
RW Motor Engineering
And a kind sponsor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Maria Caulfield MP

Women will benefit from cheaper and easier access to HRT to relieve symptoms of the menopause as one of the first decisions I made as a new health minister following a recent debate in Parliament

Working with NHS England, the government is looking to implement longer prescribing cycles, in line with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines, so women receive fewer prescriptions, reducing the need to pay frequent prescription charges.

This could mean women would only have to pay one charge for up to a 12-month supply of HRT, saving up to £205 per year as a result.

To further improve access to HRT prescriptions, the government has also committed to look into combining 2 hormone treatments into one prescription, which affects approximately 10% of women accessing HRT.

Under current rules HRT is sometimes classed as 2 medicines if it contains both oestrogen and progesterone meaning women may be charged twice for one course of treatment.
We have heard loud and clear from women across the country and MPs that menopause support is a key issue we as a government need to do more to address. As a woman and a nurse, I am acutely aware of how challenging the symptoms of the menopause can be to live with.

Cutting the cost of HRT – which can be a lifeline to women severely impacted by menopause – is a great stride forward, but there is more to do. I look forward to further addressing the menopause as part of the Women's Health Strategy and working with MPs from all political parties on improving support for women across the UK.

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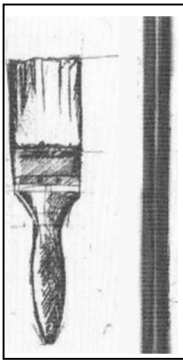

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County Council Parish Report November 21

Buses The Conservative administration running ESCC have stated their intention to launch new Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) schemes for all rural communities, with an objective of providing all residents with access to a 'bus' (shared transport) service. They say there will be improved services for rural areas however I have concerns that passengers may end up paying more for their journeys and if they are not able to book ahead, may not have any available public transport if it replaces current timetabled services . In their "Bus Service Improvement Plan 'it states that "We expect fares charged for DDRT journeys will have a small premium compared with standard bus services" and I have not yet seen details of how this DDRT scheme will work. I shall do my best to seek more detail on exactly how our bus service will be effected and report back.

Warm Home Grants People who struggle to keep their homes warm can get support and advice through the council's warm home check service. The service offers advice and support to anyone who finds it difficult to afford to heat their home, providing information on keeping homes warm and reducing energy costs as well as the financial support available for heating. Residents on low incomes may also qualify for a free COVID-secure home visit, which includes a home assessment to help identify how to keep warm, and assistance with minor improvements such as improved insulation and boiler repairs.

The warm home check service is available all year round.

I encourage residents who struggle to keep warm to apply for a free warm home check as soon as possible to see if they are eligible for support to help them heat their homes this winter."

To find out more and to apply for a warm home check visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk/keepwarm, text WARM to 80011 or call 0800 464 7307.

District Council Parish Report November 21

Lewes District Local Plan This decides what development goes where. As I write, there are no details of the new planning law from the government. Until and unless that happens, councils have to follow the current government rules on developing local plans including the timetable and the housing numbers each area is expected to take. Feedback from the first stage of the consultation (the "issues and options" stage) is expected soon from Lewes District Council.

Fly-tipping and street signs I got LDC to remove the redundant oil drum in Hollycroft, reported wonky/overgrown signs at and near the Novington Lane/South Road/Honeypot lane junction and have asked for the wooden bollards at the north end of Station Road in Plumpton Green to be replaced

East Chiltington to Chailey bus I am supporting a local parent's appeals objecting to the county council refusing free school transport for schoolchildren in East Chiltington and have written to ESCC inviting them to walk the route if they think it is safe. So far they have dodged the question but I am asking again.

Planning applications I submitted comments about the planning application by Millwood Homes at The Glebe, as detailed in last month's parish magazine. We are finally expecting a decision on 86 houses at Nolands Farm this month. If it comes to the District Council's planning committee that is set for 8th December, 5pm at County Hall (but these dates can sometimes change). I continue to press objections including the impact on landscape.

Broadband I have been supporting a group of residents in north of Plumpton regarding localised full fibre broadband including contacting the county council on their behalf.

Footpath behind the Fountain I contacted ESCC who have in turn contacted the landowner regarding trying to improve the drainage after a complaint from a Chapel Road resident.

Plumpton College I've visited the College to hear of the work they are intending for the future alongside Cllr Christine Brett, District Council chair.

robert.banks@lewes.gov.uk 07986 755246

DR's Diary

Back ! By popular demand. Its CHRISTMAS!!

I'm a sucker for a good magazine. In the olden days (pre covid) our doctors and dentists waiting rooms were full of 'em. Everything from Good Housekeeping to Paractical Classics. Depending on your inclination (or how long you were kept waiting) , you could get tips on anything from how to crochet a table runner to rebuilding a gearbox on an MG. I'd usually choose to go (wannabe) house hunting in Country Life magazine, always had a penchant for a Georgian rectory, of which there are many in CL. Those Georgian rectors certainly knew a thing or two about stylish living!

At this time of year all the lifestyle mags are full of tips on how to make Christmas decorations, festive wreaths for your front door to mouthwatering seasonal recipes. This year I've detected a desire to make up for the spartan conditions of 2020, towns and villages have lots going on from festive fairs and Christmas markets to magic lantern trails and carol services ,all thanks to church choirs, rotarians and other industrious groups.

This year we are returning to our more traditional festivities for the first time since December 2019 , sadly, during this period lots people and businesses have endured severe difficulties .Most charities have experienced not only a huge loss of revenue but an increase in requests for assistance.

OK, so a lot of us may feel that its all become too commercialised , but without advocating we spend more than we can afford, I think we should take a moment to reflect on the past couple of years. Its been a tough time , each festive purchase made, whether it be from the local turkey farm, a crafter at the festive fair or a gift made in a distant factory, each one is supporting someone somewhere. In various ways we are interdependent on each other. Spare a moment for all the good work done by the volunteers at food banks and homeless shelters throughout the year but Christmas in particular.

Its so easy to dwell on all that's wrong in the world but there is also a lot that's good too.

This really is the season of goodwill, in whatever form it may take, let's do all we can to spread some more.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Uckfield Lewes and Newick Arts Society
December 8th 2.30
Civic Centre Uckfield.

Art Inspired By Wine: John Ericson

It is so nice to welcome John Ericson back in person, having last time seen him over Zoom with his lively talk on Pub Signs. This lecture is all about the numerous wonderful paintings of wine being drunk, wine being made and its part of so many still life portrayals. However wine also has led to many a wicked cartoon and some very striking posters. Do come and enjoy what should be an excellent lecture and one that should definitely put you in the Christmas Spirit.

John is a most experienced speaker, and all his talks are entertaining, highly informative, very well illustrated and presented with warmth and humour.

We look forward to welcoming you, members do not need to book, guests are welcome £7 on the door and be assured the Civic Centre is run strictly to government regulations.

Annette Shelford, Uckfield Lewes and Newick Arts Society
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Rev. Anne Dunlop

November is always a busy month in the church's year. All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance and the final service of the Church year, Christ the King, and then we begin again with the First Sunday of Advent. Quite a bit of careful liturgical colour changing from white, to green then to gold and then purple!

In the background are all the preparations for Christmas. But how special it will be to 'have' Christmas this year after missing so much last year. Choirs around the country are beginning to come together again to prepare Advent and Christmas services. This year we can sing carols and hymns – which really mark and make the season.

When I look through my family photo album (rarely) I note that almost all the photos are those from Christmas gatherings. We did not take pictures then as we do now. Then it was quite an effort. You had to buy the film, make sure you have enough, then remember to send it off or take it to the chemist to be developed. It was quite exciting when weeks after the event you collected the photographs which came with their negatives so you could get a reprint of a good one to send to Nan and Grandad.

Inevitably at least four or five of the 20 or so photographs, were out of focus, or you had put your finger over the shutter. I guess that is why it only happened occasionally - holidays and the yearly family get together at Christmas. I have lots of pictures; lots of unidentified and unremembered views and beaches. And of course, the Christmas dinner and us grinning manically at the camera.

Yet just that one picture of a Christmas dinner can evoke so many memories: the children so young and the people now gone. A marker of the passage of the years preserved on a small square of paper.

Christmas especially seems to cause us to take stock of how things have changed since the last one. Yet what changes is just us in relation to a date on a calendar. The focus of Christmas is timeless.

For Christians it is always the extraordinary event of the 'Word made flesh and dwelling among us', the incarnation of Christ. The vulnerability of a birth in poverty and of a child. The moment when time and eternity came together, and God became man.

Rev Anne Dunlop

revannedunlop@gmail.com

Parish Office 01273 890006

Plumptonfest, 16 Oct 2021

Wow, what a great evening that was. We had a real variety of musical styles over the course of evening. Thanks to all – performers, crew, helpers, and audience who made the event such a success – it would not have worked without all your valuable support.

We made a moderate profit from the evening of just over £470 which is being split between the Village Society, Ladybirds baby and toddler group and the Scouts.

Thank you all.

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East Chiltington

Plumpton Pantomine Society

After a year away from the Village Hall rehearsals for Plumpton Pantomime Society's next outlandish adventure are well underway!

Our charity fundraising Virtual Panto production was great fun and raised a lot of money for our chosen charities but we're really looking forward to getting back on the stage! So come and join us for a swashbuckling family adventure as we set sail across the sea in search of gold and silver buried on Treasure Island. Adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel, we follow the adventures of Mrs Hawkins and her son Jim, who've obtained a treasure map courtesy of old pirate Billy Bones. To make the journey Squire Trelawney needs to assemble a crew, a task he leaves to that salty seadog Long John Silver who recruits a most unlikely band of cut-throat buccaneers. This hugely inventive version of everybody's favourite piratical classic brings you all the very best of traditional pantomime and absolutely no opportunity missed to press-gang the audience right into the thick of the seafaring action!

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: Plumpton Pantomime Society are more than aware of the risks involved with staging a show during a pandemic, so we will ask that our audience consider the health of everyone involved and NOT attend if they are feeling at all unwell. We have removed 25% of the seating in the Village Hall to create more space for the audience and if you would prefer to wear a face mask while you're in the hall then please do so. We're glad to be back and really want everyone to enjoy the show in a safe environment.

As we have cut the number of tickets available please book early to guarantee a night full of fun, laughs and great musical entertainment. Staged at Plumpton Green Village Hall public performances start on Sunday 16th January and conclude on Saturday 22nd January 2022. Tickets can be booked online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/plumptonpanto or bought in person - see the back page or posters or flyers in the village for more details.

Plumpton Camera Club

Plumpton Camera Club has continued this year with all our club evenings on Zoom. We have managed a couple of field trips during the summer and have listened to some fantastic guest speakers, presenting a varied range of topics.

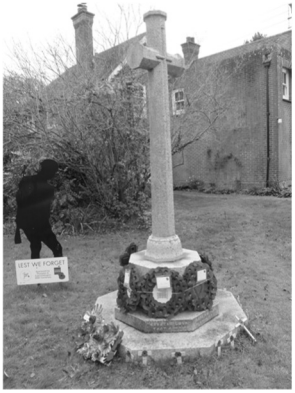
2022 Calendar
Back by popular demand, we are in production of our 2022 Plumpton Calendar. To order your copy, please visit our website https://plumptoncamera.club/calendar or email our club secretary tim@honess.info
The Calendars will be available for collection towards the end of November, and will also be available to purchase at the festive fair on the 27th November in the Village Hall.

We always welcome new members of any ability, so if you would like to join us or find out more, then contact our club secretary Tim on 01273 890582 - email tim@honess.info or visit the enquiry page on our website https://plumptoncamera.club

News from All Saints

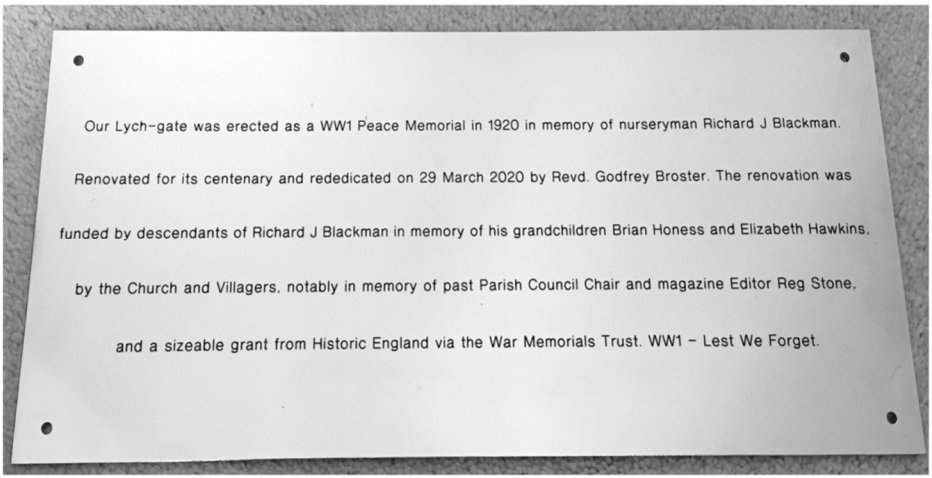
After last year it was very good to be able to hold a Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance at All Saints church. Wreaths and crosses were laid by the young and the old to cause us to remember - Lest We Forget.

There was a very special wreath made by the children from Honeybees Nursery.



The church porch has been improved with a new board on which are displayed the plaques commemorating the restoration of the Lych-gate in 2020.

This restoration was funded by the village and church and a sizeable grant from Historic England via the War Memorials Trust. The Lych-gate was erected in 1920 as a WW1 Peace Memorial.



Wings
Join Wings Youth Theatre
for a festive sing-along
on Plumpton Village Green
8th of December at 7:30pm
Doors open and refreshments
served from 7.15pm
Mulled Wine
Hot Choclate
Mince Pies
Admission free : cash donations appreciated

VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR

VH = Village Hall **HQ** = Scout HQ **TC** = Tennis Club
StM = St Michael's **ANX** = Church Annex **PAV** = Pavilion
ECC = East Chiltington Church **Sch** = Plumpton School **ALC**= All Saints Church

BOOKINGS

Village Hall & Pavilion: Jane Donovan 07747 050903 or 01273 891036
Church Annex Howard Wood 07794484373

2021

3rd December -	Plumpton Primary School Xmas Market 5 - 7pm	SCH
4th December	- Church coffee morning 10.30 - 12.30	ANX
4th December	- Scouts Over 60's Christmas Party 2.15pm - 6pm	VH
8th December	- Wings Youth Theatre Xmas Carols on Village Green, 7.30pm	VH
9th December	- Happy Circle Christmas Party 2 - 4pm	ANX
15th December	- Plumpton Flower Club Wreath Making Workshop	VH

2022

16th - 22nd January	- Plumpton Pantomime Soc. Treasure Island	VH
5th June	- Plumpton Platinum Jubilee Event	

Church Services for December

Sunday 5th December	Advent 2	
All Saints	11.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 12th December	Advent 3	
All Saints	11.00am	Family Communion
Monday 13th December		
All Saints	10.00am	Honeybees Nativity
Wednesday 15th December		
St Michaels	6pm	Carol Service
Sunday 19th December	Advent 4	
All Saints	11.00am	Family Communion
Friday 24th December	Christmas Eve	
All Saints	4.00pm	Blessing of the crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Saturday 25th December	Christmas day	
All Saints	11.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 26th December	Christmas 1	
East Chiltington	11.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 2nd January	Christmas 2	
All Saints	11.00am	Family Communion

If you are unable to make your way to any of our church services then please contact one of the church wardens who will arrange transport for you.
There will be a Carol service at St Michael's church on Sunday 12th December at 6pm followed by refreshments in the college. **Happy Christmas to all in our community.**

For general church matters please contact one of the Churchwardens
East Chiltington - Amanda Inglis 07941 241148
Plumpton - Howard Wood 07794484373 David Dawson 01273 890134

How to get involved in Plumpton's Big Event for Platinum Jubilee

Plumpton is planning to hold a Big Event to mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee on Sunday 5 June 2022 and every villager is invited to get involved.

Every village group is invited to provide a float for the procession through the village. Many will recall the colourful and creative floats created by everyone from Honeybees Pre-School to the Scouts for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration. Plumpton Village Society hopes to go even better this time as we celebrate the first time a British monarch has reigned for 70 years.

The Society is also keen to hear from anyone with a classic vehicle who would like to join the procession. Plumpton's thriving community of cyclists are also invited to get involved.

Anyone can join in the procession whether they be on foot, bike, tractor or lorry. Please start planning now how your group can get involved.

One of the main attractions of the jubilee celebration will be the soap-box derby, a gravity-fuelled race featuring DIY cars built and driven by you - members of our wonderful Plumpton community.

Four wheels, a base, steering wheel, brakes and a seat are all you need for a basic soap-box racer. It's then up to you whether you go for aerodynamics, or comedy. Those interested in getting involved should Google: Red Bull Soapbox Race for inspiration.

The Big Event itself will take place on the race course and feature food and drink, music, a funfair and other entertainment. So please keep **Sunday, 5 June** free, to join this historic village celebration. It will be a fantastic opportunity for the community to come to together and celebrate what makes Plumpton a special place to live.

For the Platinum jubilee pageant to be a success Plumpton Village Society needs:

Volunteers who can help on the day

Clubs, societies and individuals to join the procession

And intrepid folk to build and race soapboxes.

For more information about all of this, including technical specifications and entry forms for the soapbox race and contact information for volunteers, visit the Plumpton Village Society website:

http://villagesociety.plumptonpc.co.uk/platinum-jubilee/

PLUMPTON AND EAST CHILTINGTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS

DECEMBER

Your local Good Neighbours group has been going for four years now and our volunteers have helped a large number of our residents in many ways. Anyone living alone can suddenly find themselves needing help or, just someone to talk to. Our volunteers can help clients with simple day-to-day tasks, which may have become too difficult for them such as, posting letters, help with shopping and appointments, changing light bulbs, or putting bins out. We also offer friendship by regular visits to either chat or play a board game or, to simply stay in touch by telephone. The choice is yours; we are here to help you.

To register with us, either as a client or a volunteer please telephone one of our Co-ordinators, either Linda on 07478 524152, or Pam on 07786 152215.

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Plumpton Full Fibre Broadband

Have you ever wondered whether you could get a better broadband service in Plumpton? With full fibre broadband being rolled out across the country it's now possible to upgrade to a much faster and more reliable service for the village. Since 2015 we have enjoyed super-fast broadband in Plumpton but the speed and reliability can vary depending on how far you live away from the green cabinets which are dotted around the village and are the distribution points for internet into your home. It is based on fibre to the cabinet (fttc), which is delivered into your house via copper cable telephone lines. The problem is that the further you live from the cabinet the weaker the signal can be. If you are lucky enough to live close by to the cabinets, with the right provider you can enjoy speeds up to 75 Megabytes per second (Mbps). That's great if you are streaming ultra-high definition films or the kids are gaming on line. But the further you live from the cabinet your signal can degrade quite dramatically, with speeds sometimes slowing down below 5 Mbps. Typically, you should be averaging around 20 to 30 Mbps, which should be sufficient. If you are living in a high-density part of the village, or you live in a large family where everyone may be using the internet at the same time, bandwidth may be under pressure and you may struggle to get a good service. If you are home-working - and many more of us are - then it can be a real pain.

So, what can we do to improve things? We can apply to BT Openreach to replace our current super-fast service with a much faster system called full fibre to the premises (fttp), which can deliver speeds uniformly up to a Gigabyte per second (Gbps) or 1000 Mbps which is incredibly quick. As a village we are eligible to this set up under what's called a Community Fibre Partnership. It may take a little time to organise but there's no time like the present to get started and future-proof our village to new technology.

How much will it cost? Bringing full fibre into the village won't be cheap but the good news is that we can cover all the costs by applying for government-backed vouchers which can be used to pay for the scheme. Under the Community Fibre Partnership scheme, every household in the village is eligible for vouchers worth £1,500, while businesses are eligible for £3,500. Even better news is that East Sussex County Council will top this up by an additional £1,000 raising the totals for homes to £2,500 and £4,500 for businesses.

Our aim is to meet the whole cost of installation through the voucher scheme. The more people who commit to joining the scheme the better the chances fibre can be fully funded at neutral cost to Plumpton. Right now, full fibre broadband is already being installed by BT Openreach for free into new housing schemes like Sigma Homes, but it's something that should be going into all of our homes. It should be there for everyone to benefit and enjoy.

East Chiltington have already successfully applied for full fibre broadband and installation should apparently be completed by March 2022. BT Openreach have said that Plumpton's application for full fibre could take up to 12 months but typically might happen sooner within 8 to 10 months if all goes to plan. The time is right to get the ball rolling.

If you are interested, then please register your details with Plumpton Parish Council by email to plumptonfibre@plumptonpc.co.uk . Please tell your friends and neighbours and help spread the world. The only way we will get full fibre off the ground is to work together as a community.

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OUR SURVEY SAID!?

Yes, we've done a survey of our club members and the results are in! A third of our adult club members responded and we were very pleased that nearly 90% of those responding rated the value for money from membership as excellent or good.

We'll be working hard to get that as close to 100% as possible next time round and the club's committee is looking closely at the useful comments and suggestions made by members. Already we have improved access to the floodlight operation and have plans for even more coaching sessions and more opportunities for competitive play amongst our own members. With safety in mind the club has also recently installed its own defibrillator and will soon embark on a programme of CPR training. More details about the survey outcomes are on the news page of our website.

Meanwhile, did you know our coaches go into 6 local primary schools to do introductory tennis sessions (including Plumpton)? These are really popular and give children the earliest opportunity to experience the joys of tennis! If you know of any other schools that are interested, please let us know.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the disappointment of some villagers who were looking forward to our Jumble Sale and Quiz this year. We do want to be sociable and inspire village events but not this year due to Covid concerns. Please note that we'll be back next year with our Open Day on the 8th May and the Quiz on the 19th November 2022…and more. We would obviously hope to see you before then and would encourage you to come down and play some winter tennis to keep fit and healthy over the festive season and hone your game for the spring. Pro rata discounted memberships are available.

If you want to find out more, get involved or even come down to the club for a try out, then contact Lesley Satchell on 07590 354420, e-mail info@plumptontc.org.uk or go to www.plumptontc.org.uk

Best wishes for Christmas

Plumpton Tennis Club

Play | Enjoy | Improve

The Fletching Singers

Advent Concert
Saturday 4th December at 7.30 p.m.
Parish Church of St Andrew and St. Mary the Virgin
Fletching
East Sussex TN22 3SR

All welcome with Free admission.
There will be a charitable collection on behalf of Chailey Heritage.

The Fletching Singers Celebrate Advent with music including Vivaldi's Gloria and a selection of favourite carols (in which audience participation is welcome and encouraged)

The concert is directed by Michael Fields, with guest performers including sopranos Iris Korfker and Ansy Boothroyd, Julia Bishop on baroque violin, Catherine Black playing baroque cello and Howard Beach on harpsichord and organ.

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Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife

The Robin

The robin is undoubtedly the nation's favourite bird. In a 2015 survey it was reported that *'37% of British people say the Robin should be Britain's national bird. This is more than three times as many as vote for the runner up, the barn owl, on 11%'.*

The robin is also one of the most common – with more than six million breeding pairs. It doesn't migrate, being mainly sedentary and not moving more than 5km, so it is here with us for every month, and every season, of the year.

As the Christmas season is fast approaching, it seems appropriate to ask why can we expect a number of the cards that we might receive to depict a picture of the robin – almost certainly with a background of snow and or holly. The link between robins and Christmas was given a major boost in Victorian times. The postmen of those times wore bright red uniforms and were nicknamed 'Robins'. As the Christmas season approached people would eagerly await the arrival of the postman, and as a result greeting card artists would start to design greeting cards with this theme. It was a short step to swap the postman in his red uniform for an actual robin – to begin with depicted with a card in its beak. Some think that there is a hint of paganism in our choice of robin for our Christmas cards – Mark Cocker in 'Birds Britannica' says 'like the holly wreath with its bright-red berries, it provides a splash of living colour in a dead world'.

Many people think that the robin they see in their garden is the same one revisiting time and time again. Sadly, mortality is high in robins and its causes are many and varied. Only about 40% of fledged birds will survive from one year to the next, with the average life span being no more than 1 year, 1 month. However, the good news is that high levels of mortality are compensated for by high productivity, with many pairs having up to three nests per year – such that the robin population has increased by over 40% since 1970.

Severe winter weather can have a major negative impact on robins. A robin can use up to 10% of its body weight during one cold winter's night, and unless able to feed well every day to replenish its reserves, a prolonged cold spell can be fatal.

So, bird tables can make a big difference to the survival of robins. The favourite bird table treat is mealworms. Other useful foods are dried fruits, cake and biscuit crumbs, fats, cheese and meaty kitchen scraps.

So go on – put out the bird table and give the robin a Happy Christmas too!

And don't forget to buy bird seed, fat balls and peanuts well ahead, ready for **Big Garden Birdwatch** during the weekend of 28th-30th January, 2022.

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Ladybirds Playgroup

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Plumpton Village Hall
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£2.50 per family (first session is free)
ladybirdsplumpton@gmail.com

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Footpath Detective's Diary:

A Footpath Detective's Diary
December 2021
Marathon Support

Don't be alarmed by the title, this route is not 26 miles, it isn't even 13 miles. The title comes from a lovely route I explored whilst supporting runners doing this year's Beachyhead Marathon. Heavy rain a few days before the event caused the organizer to abandon the best bits of the beautiful Beachyhead Marathon course and instead use the comparatively benign half marathon route as a two lap course. This omits most of the big climbs and much of the visual delights. However as a supporter it presented me with a different route to explore as I moved across the South Downs just west of Eastbourne to cheer my Clubmates on at many different parts of their course. I think I had the more interesting route and one that makes for a nice walk at any time of year.

I started from the car park a little south of Friston Church and trotted along Willingdon Road and Friston Dencher toward Willingdon Hill. This track is on a ridge above the villages of Friston and East Dean, both have ancient origins and their churches are worth a visit with a variety of old architectural features. More frivolous history is that Erica Morcombe of Morcombe and Wise fame (real name John Eric Bartholomew) is descended from John Bartholomew resident of Crowlink and latterly East Dean in the mid-19th Century.

As I trotted NNE the first of the marathon runners came into view from Willingdon Hill and as they ran along the ridge with the pale sunrise behind it made for a nice silhouette photo. Having cheered my mates and many more through that section I turned through a footpath gate near some old small farm buildings. The path is not shown on my rather old O/S map but it is marked as a path at the gate and it took me from Willingdon Hill down into Eldon Bottom to join the path heading SW through Chapman's Bottom to the outskirts of East Dean. I kept to the east of the village on the bridlepath that climbs Eastdean Down, crossing the A259. Just past the ancient field system a right turn took me toward Birling Farm.

From Birling Farm I went south, passing Cornish Farm and heading for Belle Tout, the decommissioned lighthouse on top of the cliff. I remember this building being moved back from the eroding cliff edge in 1999. Look now and you can see it is once again at the edge. I headed west along the bridlepath below Belle Tout cheering on the runners that were running east.

At Birling Gap I paused to watch with many other spectators, all family and friends waiting for 'their runner' and it was nice to soak up the atmosphere. If doing this as a walk there is a café at Birling Gap (well at least at the moment because this too is now very close to the crumbling cliff edge). Some of the iconic coast guard cottages remain and in the National Trust café and shop are photographs of the hamlet and details of the various works done to battle the coastal erosion.

I continued west over four of the Seven Sisters to the sarsen stone memorial that commemorates the purchase of Crowlink for the benefit of the public. In 1927 Arthur Beckett and Colonel Mathias of the Sussex Downsmen saved the area from a building syndicate by raising funds to buy the land. Go and enjoy this beautiful landscape and thank the foresight of these people. From Brass Point it is possible to see the remains of the 633 ton Coonatto on the beach at low tide, the ship run aground at Crowlink Gap in 1876 and luckily most of the crew and cargo were recovered. Its remains look like the ribs of a large beast as they poke out from the chalk and sand.

From the stone I turned inland along the dry valley to and through the hamlet of Crowlink with its houses nestled in the valley and around Crowlink Manor. In the 18th Century the beach at Crowlink Gap could be reached and smugglers hid their haul in the cellars in the hamlet. The gradual ascent on the track provided me with more opportunity to cheer along the runners as I trotted back to Friston.

EJH

Bird Watch

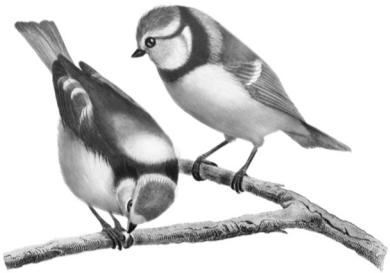
As already discussed, certain bird species are in serious decline and there are so many theories and suggestions as to why this may be. The latest I heard about was the idea that feeding birds in winter was a great advantage to some, while detrimental to others. There is no doubt that, with winter feeding, the variety that take advantage of this food, results in more of them surviving the winter.

One of the suggestions was, that more Great and Blue tits are surviving and that they may be the reason the smaller Marsh and Coal tits are so scarce, being bullied out of their previous territories and having their nest sites taken over. There are only a certain number of defoliating caterpillars available in spring and the more dominant species have the advantage. Another theory was that although most of the birds we feed in winter are seedeaters, they need some high protein food, in the form of insects, to feed newly hatched chicks. With more of them surviving to do so and starting to nest before some of the summer migrants arrive, the visiting warblers have less of a chance. This does not hold water as Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs, both warblers, have increased their numbers in recent years. Both of these migrate only to the Mediterranean region or north Africa and do not have to undertake the rigours of crossing the Sahara unlike many other species that are not doing so well. Perhaps something is not as it should be at that end of the migration. So many ideas keep coming forward I do not know what to think!

Locally, whereas a pair of Spotted Flycatchers was found in any good-sized garden a few years ago, they have been absent in recent times. Swallows have decreased in most of the local stable yards from five or six pairs to just one if any at all and House Martins numbers, as previously discussed, have halved. These all migrate well down into Africa and feed on flying insects, so that points to a problem. There seemed to be plenty of midges and flies about last summer. Certainly, the reasons for the decline in these species are complex and varied. Science will provide answers which hopefully will not be too late to improve matters. The more we can do to record what we observe, the more the changes, whether of increase or decrease can be measured accurately. How about making a list of species you identify from the beginning of the new year? It will sharpen your identifying skills and be of use for comparison against lists made in future years. A monthly list of what is seen from your house or garden, settled or overflying would be a suggestion.

Earlier in the year, it was reported nationally that Blue Tits, owing to the wet period when they were feeding their young, had had poor breeding success. There seems no shortage of them in my garden. In about an hour and a half I ringed nine new birds, all first year and re-captured just one, ringed as a juvenile last August. Of the eight Great Tits ringed, and only one an adult. This is an interesting if sometimes painful study. They do attack figures! Look out for Siskins. These small green streaked birds have had a very good breeding season in countries to the north. They have been arriving in large numbers from across the North Sea and will spread to many other parts of the country. They readily come to feeders.

R.J.L.



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Chailey Commons Society

www.chaileycommons.org.uk

During 2021 there was a tremendous amount of lush growth on the commons and, although the grazing is part of the overall management, the autumn mowing has cleared the more open areas. The grasses and flowers were able to grow strongly and flower through to setting seed and there were lovely displays of orchids earlier in the year and the summer flowers such as Devil's Bit Scabious, Saw-wort, Tormentil and the Heathers all did well.

Recent activities have included our autumn bird walk which was well supported. Adrian Podmore took us on a circular route around Red House Common, pausing to look and listen, with the Robins emphasising their strong presence, and we studied, quite closely, a small group of Meadow Pipits hunting for food both in the birch trees and on the ground.
We also really enjoyed an indoor talk by Ian Seccombe on his travels around Sussex seeking local butterflies and attaining his target. Stunning pictures and detailed descriptions made for an amazing evening enjoyed by all.

Our Besom Broom making continued again in October, making effective use of the stored birch material from January. Our thanks to those involved for their help, especially Carole and Kevin at Townings Farm where the brooms have been on sale alongside the pumpkins. We will be going on with this in 2022 and hope to have birch cutting days in January on Sundays 9th and 23rd between 10.00.a.m. – 3.00.p.m. Look out for details and come along and help us.

At Markstakes the Monday morning working party has been busy tackling the considerable number of willow saplings and bramble in the Mire area. Often wet underfoot after the rains this makes for softer ground to dig out the roots. This can be a slow process, but real progress is being made. There are a few larger willows to be coppiced once again and the harvested cuttings will be recycled into the dead hedge around the High Pond.

There is no indoor meeting in December so our next one will be on Thursday January 13th, 2022, at 7.30.p.m. in Chailey Village Hall for a talk by Rachel Paget and Pete King from the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust on the River Ouse Catchment Area.

I wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

For further information, visit our website – www.chaileycommons.org.uk or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/ or friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com

William Coleman
01444 831098

Lewes District Citizens Advice

15 – 19 Chapel Street
Newhaven
BN9 9PN

Southover House
Lewes
BN7 1AB

37 Church Street
Seaford
BN25 1HG

Contact : Jackie Wilkes 01273 007556 @Lewescab1

Energy saving tips to help save money this winter?

Normally we would suggest switching however, we wouldn't recommend that now so here are other small ways to keep your bills down.

- Turning off televisions and other electronic devices and not leaving them on standby.
- Washing clothes on a lower temperature at off-peak times.
- Only fill the kettle with the water you need.
- Turning down your main thermostat by 1 degree saves around £60 on energy bills.
- Spend one minute less in the shower each day; a family household could save £75 a year on energy and water bills. The Simple Energy Advice website has more tips.
- Improve insulation. If you're renting, ask your landlord to do this. Or you may get financial support to help insulate your home under the Energy Company Obligation scheme. Contact your energy supplier for information.
- If your house is not connected to the gas grid you may be able to receive help under the Home Upgrade Grant scheme through your local authority.
- If you're a pensioner with a low income, receive Universal Credit or other means-tested benefits, you may be eligible for the Warm Home Discount of £140 a year to go towards your bills.

The Government recently announced a £500m fund to support households this winter, so watch for announcements about how this could help you. It will be distributed by Local Authorities.

Call us on 0808 278 7892 for advice about energy costs and staying warm this winter.

EAST CHILTINGTON

Societies
Clubs
Groups

Baby & Toddler Group	**Charlotte**	**01273 891086**
British Legion	**Reg Lanaway**	**890070**
Brownies	**girlguiding.org.uk**	
Chailey Commons Society	**William Coleman**	**01444 831923**
Cricket Club	**Kelvin Speirs**	**890785**
Flower Club	**Gill Wells**	**890561**
Football Club	**Ian Earl**	**891099**
Footpath Society	**Judy Lawrenson**	**01273 472277**
Guides	**girlguiding.org.uk**	
Happy Circle	**Cherie Winchester**	**891592**
Honeybees Preschool		**890885**
Horticultural Society	**Ken Beard**	**890572**
Hospice Support Group	**Sue Akers**	**891701**
Junior Football	**Darryl Bailey**	**07792 686673**
Oil Buying Group	**Diane Marks**	**07929 336065**
Pantomime Society	**Duncan Taylor-Jones**	**01273 649259**
Plumpton Activity Scheme	**Jacqui Wallis**	
	plumptonactivityscheme@gmail.com	
Plumpton Bowmen	**Mark Piercy**	**07799 467997**
Plumpton Camera Club	**Tim Honess**	**01273 890582**
Plumpton & East Chiltington	**Linda Watson**	**07478 524152**
Good Neighbours	**Gina Hawthorne**	**07595 894425**
Plumpton Rude Mechanical	**Lee Stevens**	**07887 562721**
Theatre Co. Friends		
Plumpton Short Mat Bowls	**Malcolm Beard**	**890826**
Plumpton Tennis Club	**Lesley Satchell**	**07590 354420**
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PPTFA	**Marie Leviston**	**891497**
Plumpton Vol Driving	**Gill Medhurst**	**01273 890025**
	Bookings - Jackie	**07855213947**
Rainbows	**girlguiding.org.uk**	
Rugby Club	**Mike Allen**	**890076**
Scouts	**Rodney Hill**	**890410**
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Turning Pointe Dance Classes	**office.turningpointe@gmail.com**	
Wildlife Group	**David Philips**	**07768 886358**

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Advertising & Admin: Barry Luck
Email: pecntreasurer@btinternet.com 01273 891 427
Typesetting: Penny Acton
Email: pecncopy@gmail.com 01273 891 427
Distributed by: Christine Millum 01273 890854
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