

# Plumpton & East Chiltington News

April 2024



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# PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

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## Happy Circle

Thursday 11th April

Lunch at the Bistro

For more details contact:  
Cherie 01273891592

## Spring Flower Show

**Saturday 6th April**  
in the Village Hall.

Please come and exhibit  
and come and look around

Schedules in the local shop.

## ***COPY DEADLINES***

***15th April for May***

***17th May for June***



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## Plumpton Parish Council

[www.plumptonpc.co.uk](http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk)

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Plumpton Racecourse on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7:30. More details next month.

The Council welcomed our new councillor, Joe Morecroft, bringing our number up to 7. There are still 2 councillor positions available, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

There was an update from the racecourse management team on their plans to sell the northwest corner of the racecourse to a developer to build 9 houses. All proceeds from the sale will go into the running and development of the racecourse.

### **Pavilion/Playing Field**

Confirmed work schedule for the playing field with Bourne Sports for 2024/25, the significant amount of work undertaken on the playing surfaces in the last few years has greatly improved their condition.

The Playpark painting and new swing seats work has been completed.

New Pavilion working group meeting has been scheduled for later in the month.

Drains at the Pavilion have been unblocked.

### **Village Hall/Village Green**

The very muddy area on the back twitten has been referred to the electricity company as, following works carried out, they have not re-installed an acceptable footpath. Awaiting their response.

2 small sink steps have been put into the toilets to enable children to be able to

reach the sinks.

Quotes have been received, and approved, to fix the leaking gutters and repair fire doors.

Replacement of the 2 lapel mics was approved.

Meeting concluded at 9:50pm.

Next Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7:30pm

### **Applications for Grant or Donation Funding for local charities/groups and societies from Plumpton Parish Council 2024/25 are now open.**

An application form can be found online at [www.plumptonpc.co.uk/financial-documents](http://www.plumptonpc.co.uk/financial-documents) or email the clerk on [anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk](mailto:anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk) Please send applications to the Parish Clerk, by email or in writing to, Parish Office, Village Hall, 1 Westgate, Plumpton Green, East Sussex BN7 3BQ no later than 6th May 2024. Applications will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at the 14th May 2024 meeting.

**Eco Home Extravaganza** at Lewes Town Hall on 18th May from 10am to 3pm (entrance on Fisher Street). Free community event with lots of information about making your home warmer and more sustainable, giving advice on saving money, grants and other tips and support. Speak directly with architects and installers of heat pumps and solar panels in a relaxed environment. Family friendly event, café and a range of other local sustainable businesses. Everyone welcome !

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### Website

The East Chiltington Parish website is now live. If you would like to receive news automatically about the Parish you can do so by subscribing to the website on the Community Information page here: <https://eastchiltington.net/community-information>.

### Litter Pick

Many thanks to all those that came to the litter pick on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a good turn out and many black bags of litter were collected from our verges and roadsides as can be seen in this photo with our youngest litter picker! There is discussion about whether we should have a litter pick twice a year with a potential date for a second one on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Watch this space for more information nearer the time.

### TECT Field

You should be receiving a questionnaire about the use of the TECT field. We encourage you to share your views about this. Also, a gentle reminder, as there are now sheep in the field, please do keep dogs on leads. There were a large number of dog waste bags collected recently from the TECT field, so please do bag your dog waste when walking dogs in the field.

### Events

The date for this year's **Village Day is Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>**. Hopefully the sun will be shining and as many people can come as possible. Updates

about activities for the day will be published nearer the time.

The Parish Council is discussing with neighbouring Councils the plans for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>. It is possible there may be a beacon lighting at the beacon on Black Cap to commemorate this special occasion. Details will be published once we know more, please keep a look out for news on our website.

### Roads

With all the recent rain, there has been flooding on Novinton Lane. The Council have asked ESCC to reposition the flood markers to mark the deepest part of a flood. So far we have not received a response. Also on Novington Lane, the Council has reported damaged bollards and damage wild flowers caused by vehicles driving on the verges. We are waiting for a response from ESCC.

### Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be the AGM and will take place at Beechwood Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm.





## **Maria Caufield**

Losing a baby at any time is tragic. But for parents who lose a baby before 24 weeks gestation, up until now, it has been impossible to formally recognise their baby. In my role as Minister for Women's Health I recently announced the government scheme to allow parents to record and receive a certificate to provide recognition of the loss of their baby before 24 weeks gestation.

This is part of the wider work we are doing around baby loss by firstly reducing the number of still births and neo natal deaths but also ensuring bereaved parents feel supported through their grief and recognise their loss, acknowledging their pain and ensuring they feel heard. The new baby loss certificates will not be compulsory - it remains the choice of all parents to manage the difficult time of a loss, however they see fit.

The new baby loss certificate is available for either or both parents to register the name and date of their baby's death and after registering this on the Government website a certificate will be sent to parents in roughly 14 days time. It is just available in England and to start with will go back to 2018 with the intention of opening this up to all parents shortly.

Other measures as part of the baby loss review include, ending the three miscarriage rule where women had to have three miscarriages before they were entitled to medical help and now they will be assessed after a first miscarriage, ensuring that every maternity unit has a bereavement suite and access to a bereavement midwife and rolling out Early Pregnancy Units in trusts so that women having problems with a pregnancy can attend these rather than A&Es. While nothing can take away the pain of losing a baby, the way we support parents can make a difference to how they cope. Anyone who wants to register for a baby loss certificate please click on the link below.

More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/request-baby-loss-certificate>

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## **Sarah Osborne - County Council Report February 2024**

### **Budget**

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2024/25 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on 6 February 2024. Councillors approved a £538m net revenue budget for 2024/25 with no new cuts to services. The decision not to reduce services was taken despite the rising cost of providing them and funding not keeping pace. In setting a balanced budget, Councillors agreed to use £14.3m of the Council's limited financial reserves to meet the shortfall and to increase council tax by 4.99%.

### **Older People's Housing**

In my role as Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board at the Local Government Association I chaired a session at the National Conference for Children's Services and Adult Social Care into Older Persons Housing. In this session some vital work (and of particular importance in our area given the aging demographics in East Sussex) by The Older People's Housing Taskforce was presented. Their aim was to investigate and understand the existing housing market for older people in England and look at options for the provision of greater choice, quality and security of housing for older people. I am hopeful that this will provide the evidence and ideas to improve and provide much needed housing for our residents in the future.

### **More Homes for Ukrainians needed**

With Ukrainians still being forced to flee their homes, and those already in the county looking for settled accommodation, residents are being asked to consider becoming a host family for those seeking refuge.

Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, more than 800 host families have welcomed over 1800 guests to the county, with local groups and organisations providing support and services to help them settle and achieve independence. Hosts have played an invaluable role in helping Ukrainian guests to build an independent life in this country.

More information about the scheme can be found at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/supporting-refugees/ukraine/could-you-provide-a-safe-home-for-ukrainian-guests>, alternatively residents wanting to find out more can email [ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk) or call the advice line between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday on 01273 337010.

### **Daniel Stewart-Roberts - District Councillor**

You may be aware of the financial problems that many councils are facing currently. I'm pleased to be able to report that Lewes District Council's finances remain relatively healthy. In the face of increasing costs, it has been necessary to increase council tax by 2.99%, the maximum increase allowed without calling a local referendum, but the Council has been able to set a balanced budget for the coming financial year without having to make any service cutbacks.

Continued on page 9

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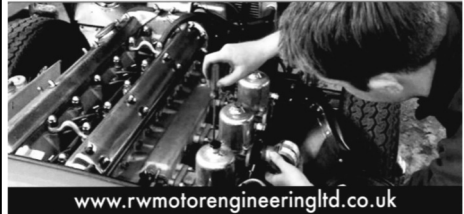
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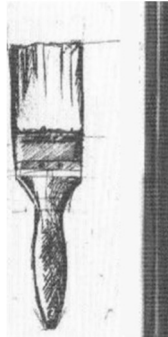
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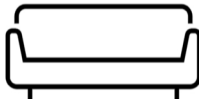
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## Daniel Stewart-Roberts - District Councillor cont.

You should by now have received your new wheelie bin. I have helped a small number of residents to fix problems they have had with the rollout, but I believe it has gone relatively smoothly. If you have any unresolved issues, please get in touch. I know that the need for this expenditure has been questioned by some people – I was initially one of them. It is all about ensuring safe working conditions for the waste teams. Where the contents of a bin is light enough you may still see team members putting bags into the truck, as they have done in the past, but if we all have wheelie bins that can be attached to the truck, they will never be faced with having to risk putting their backs out lifting heavy loads by hand.

On the subject of waste I recently had the opportunity to see what happens to it after it is collected, on a visit to the Newhaven Energy Recovery Facility. Like many I wasn't in favour of it when it was first built but I was impressed to learn that it generates enough electricity to power the District's households without once to date having breached the tough emissions standards to which it is subject. I also visited the Woodlands In-Vessel Composting Facility, where our food waste collections go. As well as seeing what great compost they make for farm and household use, my main learning there was how much better it is for the environment for food waste to be kept separate from general waste. We already have some of the best food waste recycling rates in the District but if you are not yet part of the scheme I would really encourage you to join.

There has been an unfortunate increase in flytipping incidents recently, with Streat Lane being particularly badly affected. Do please use the Love Clean Streets phone app to report any incidents you see. It really does work.

Email: [daniel.stewart-roberts@lewes.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.stewart-roberts@lewes.gov.uk)  
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## Skylark Federation – School News!

Plumpton Primary School have just completed another very successful February *Fundraising Fortnight*.

All the children participated in a range of fundraising activities to raise food items for our local foodbank including classes exercising all day and completing laps of the playgroup on wheels of their choice

## ***DR's Diary...***

### **Tax Free! The Kids Will Love You For It!!**

I was fortunate to work in Mayfair for several years, its a very rich area in more ways than one. I'd pass former homes of Lord Nelson, William Blake, Jimi Hendrix, the Bee Gees and where George Frederick Handel used to tickle the ivories. I'd pass lots of swanky art galleries on my way to work. Occasionally they'd host exhibitions and I'd pop in . I remember being impressed by Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood's paintings. I've spent many happy lunch hours in Sotheby's. Their Banksy and Versace auctions stand out. Surveys reveal that the first thing visitors ( burglars?) look at are the pictures on your walls. The 2nd is the size of your TV.

I recently attended 2 lectures about today's art market. The morning was facts and tips about art as an investment, the afternoon was specifically 20th art which is having a bit of a boom. Apparently, art has overtaken vintage wine and classic cars as blue chip investment.

Something that was news to me? Unlike property, art works are not subject to inheritance tax ( or capitol gains tax ) which is a big consideration, especially at the asset rich top end of society.

'Only buy what you like and gives you pleasure' our expert advises. Sounds obvious but too often people are influenced by projected trends or what may not be your taste but has investment potential. Also, think of the environ you are going to hang it. Do you want 'harmonious' or something that 'leaps out at you?'

A painting's value can rocket overnight if it becomes famous. There are 5 da Vinci's in The Louvre but after it was stolen in 1911, it is the Mona Lisa after

massive global publicity that carries the worlds highest insured value, \$900 million !

In 2017 a world record auction price was achieved for another da Vinci, the Salvatore Mundi. Sold at Christies in New York for \$450 million.

A few years ago a major US collector decided to send one of his Picasso's ( just how many did he have ??) to auction. Unfortunately he tripped on the stairs while carrying it and put his arm through the canvas. This made big news in the worlds press and really raised its profile. He spent \$1 million on a lengthy restoration. It subsequently sold at triple its pre trip estimate. Talk about 'market falls!'

Buy originals if that's possible without upsetting your bank manager, but for most of us, a limited edition print is more realistic. Make sure the 'limited edition' does not run to thousands, the lower the better, say 200. It is illegal to do more print runs once an artist has signed a contract, also from their perspective, it maintains customer demand. Always check its provenance ; a gallery stamp and label of authentication are good. Remember, you may want to sell it one day.

So! The moral being, sell your estate in Sussex , move into a caravan and spend the cash on lots of fine paintings. It might be a bit cramped but one day the kids will thank you for it, even if the tax man doesn't !

\* next month: Street Art or graffiti ?

### **Horses for Courses!**

Apologies to DR for missing the last paragraph of March's article.. ED.

*if you find yourself searching for a holiday read in WH Smiths do so in the knowledge that you are on the site of the old winning post where fortunes were won and lost.*

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\* Artelium Experience - 25th April from 3pm. £130 per person to include vineyard tour & tasting & 5 course tasting dinner with wine

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**The Plumpton Support Group for  
St Peter & St James Hospice**  
are looking for participants for the bi-annual

## **Village Open Garden Trail.**

This is to be held on **Sunday 23 June – 2.00 – 5.00**

Refreshments will be served at "Bryndon", Station Road (opposite The Fountain)

Your garden does not have to be big or landscaped.

This event is always well supported, and it gives visitors an opportunity to see what can be grown successfully in local gardens, no matter what the size.

You may already have opened your garden in the past and would like to take part again.

If you would like to take part, please contact Sue Akers - 01273 891701  
or email [sueakers@hotmail.com](mailto:sueakers@hotmail.com).

Plumpton & District  
Footpath Society

### **PROGRAMME FOR April 2024**



**Wednesday 3rd April** - Meet 10.30 at the car park in Jevington - Map Ref 014 562 - for a 7 mile circular Downland walk, linking Jevington and Littlington. Lunch at the Plough and Harrow.

Walk Leader: Bernie Kempton 01825 722649 / 07791247025

**Sunday 7th April** - Meet at 2.00pm at

Chanctonbury c/p BN44 3DR (from A283 turn down Washington Bostal past Frankland Arms pub. In 3/4m, just before A24, sharp left up rough road to c/p) for a 5.5m circular walk - Buddington Bottom and Chanctonbury Ring

Walk Leaders: Alan and Jenny Greening 01273 890414 / 07929713739

**Saturday 20th April** - Meet at 2pm at the Village Hall for a 4m local circular walk followed by Cream Tea at 2 Strawlands.

Contact number: Jo Taylor 01273 890450 / 07870142108



## Rev. Anne Dunlop

I write this on Saint Patrick's day, 17th March. This year it fell on a Sunday and 'Lord of all hopefulness' to the Irish tune Slane was sung and the music to 'Saint Patrick's breastplate' played at the end of the service. There is at least one person of Irish descent in our congregation and I hope they found that a fitting tribute.

Patrick is Ireland's most prominent patron saint, important in Irish culture as much as in the country's Christianity. Brought as a slave to Ireland from Wales in the 5th century, he went on to introduce Christianity. Many miracles surround him, but he is probably best known for banishing all snakes from Ireland.

He is buried alongside two other Saints, Columba and Brigid. This year is the celebration of the 1500th anniversary of Brigid's death and she has officially been elevated to the status of Ireland's 'matron saint' alongside its patron Saint Patrick. A new Bank Holiday has been instituted in her honour, the 1st of February. Perhaps we can petition for Saint George's day to be a public holiday also?

In her early adulthood, Brigid founded a monastic community at Kildare, which became one of Ireland's most important Christian centres. The monastery was unique for its time, as it housed both monks and nuns in separate establishments under Brigid's leadership.

Like all saints, miracles surround her history and, over time fact and embellishment weave together an elusive figure but there is sufficient consistency in her story for us to draw from them her voice. What emerges is timeless and changeless and relevant to us. She demonstrated open hospitality and especially in moving towards the 'other', those whom we may regard with suspicion and even enmity. She was deeply connected with the natural world and had great respect and love for animals. Irish people make a cross out of simple rushes which they hang in their homes in her memory and for blessing. Her religious faith was earthed and homely, embracing the very best elements of human connectedness.

One of the legends attributed to Brigid is that she is said to have turned water into beer for

a visiting clergyman and his companions. This story reflects both her hospitality and her divine abilities.

In a world where women had no legal status and few rights and little voice, or status Brigid stands out as a woman of courage and authority, although both hard won. She is often associated with Patrick. While Patrick is more widely recognized outside of Ireland, within the country itself, Brigid's influence is equally significant. Both saints have contributed to the distinctive character of Irish Christianity, with Patrick representing the missionary and evangelising aspect, and Brigid embodying the nurturing and monastic tradition.

When living in Exeter I was fortunate to know the hymn writer Brigid Pailthorpe. I can remember how protective she was about her name. Anyone calling her Brigit was swiftly corrected, "My name is Brigid!" After learning a little about Saint Brigid I can understand why it mattered to her. Like Brigid, this Brigid loved the natural world and wrote hymns about creation and our care for it. Her hospitality was renown, opening her home to all sorts, even me, and giving her time and encouragement. She mirrored Brigid's concern for the marginalised helping establish pastoral care in the church and training people in counselling. I did not hear much about beer production but perhaps she kept quiet about that!

We need saints in these days, we should not be disparaging about remembering and honouring them, it is not old-fashioned or quaint. Rather, learning about them can be a vibrant joy, an example to emulate and a companion along our way.

I leave the last words to Saint Patrick, part of his prayer for God's protection:

I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, his might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, his shield to ward;  
The word of God to give me speech  
His heavenly host to be my guard.  
(Saint Patrick 372-466)

Rev Anne Dunlop  
[revannedunlop@gmail.com](mailto:revannedunlop@gmail.com)

## Church Services for April 2024

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b> All Saints	<b>Easter 2</b> 11.00am	<b>First after Easter</b>	<b>Low Sunday</b> Family Communion
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b> All Saints	<b>Easter 3</b> 11.00am	<b>Followed by Annual Church Meeting</b>	Family Communion
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> All Saints	<b>Easter 4</b> 11 .00am	<b>Third after Easter</b>	<b>Vocations Sunday</b> Family Communion
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b> All Saints	<b>Easter 5</b> 11.00am	<b>Fourth after Easter</b>	Family Communion
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b> All Saints	<b>Easter 6</b> 11.00am	<b>Fifth after Easter</b>	<b>Rogation Sunday</b> Family Communion

**From October to May the service on the fourth Sunday in the month will be held at All Saints Church and NOT East Chiltington. Where there is a fifth Sunday in the month the service is at St Michael's Plumpton. Please note that a short Communion Service and time of reflection precedes the Tuesday Lunch Club in All Saints Church at 11.30 am each week.**

If you are unable to make your way to any of our church services then please contact one of our churchwardens who will arrange transport. For general church matters please contact Rev Anne Dunlop 01273 890006 in the first instance or one of the Churchwardens.

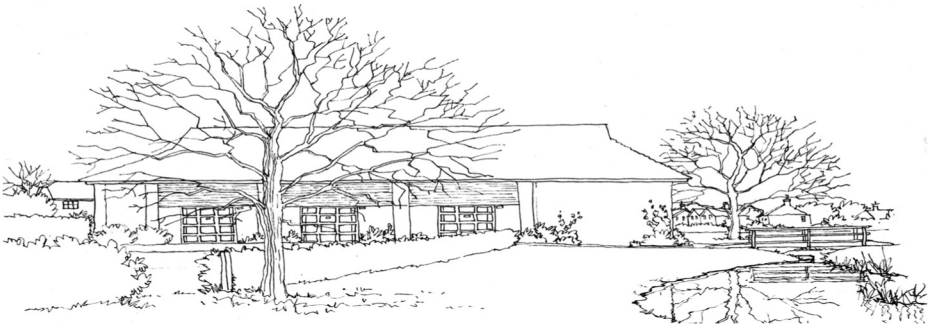
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Plumpton                      Howard Wood 07794484373

### **Tuesday Lunch Club**

This meets in the church annex at 12.15pm for 12.30pm and aims to offer food and friendship weekly. The lunch is open to **everyone** and you will receive a warm welcome and the chance to chat whilst partaking in a hearty meal. There is a choice of meat based, vegetarian and gluten free dishes, served with vegetables, French bread and green salad. A variety of puddings are complimented by tea, coffee, cheese and biscuits. If you feel that you have skills to join our team of volunteers or to contribute an occasional dish your offer would be gratefully received. Please contact The Rev Anne Dunlop in the first instance, or one of the Churchwardens.

### **Help Needed**

We are looking for additional volunteers to transport members of our congregation to church to services, or , or by joining the All Saints Church cleaning rota or to offer hospitality by providing Sunday coffee after our service. Please contact a churchwarden if you can help or Bob Doran 07484 138203



## 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:  
Church Annex

Jane Donovan 07747 050903 or 01273 891036  
Bob Doran 01273 890211 or 07484 348341

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>6th April</b> - Hort. Soc. Spring Flower Show. 2pm.                     | VH |
| <b>11th April</b> - Happy Circle Bistro Lunch                              |    |
| <b>21st April</b> - St. Peter & St. James Bluebell Walk at the Hospice     |    |
| <b>27th April</b> - Spring Market on Village Green 11 - 2pm                | VH |
| <b>25th May</b> - Village Hall Funds Jumble Sale 2pm                       |    |
| <b>8th June</b> - St. Peter & St. James Fabric Sale                        | VH |
| <b>15th June</b> - Village Fair  | VH |
| <b>23rd June</b> - St. Peter & St. James Open Village Gardens              |    |
| <b>3rd July</b> - Rude Mechanicals   |    |
| <b>6th July</b> - Model Railway Show 10 - 4                                | VH |
| <b>27th July</b> - St. Peter & St. James Jumble Sale                       | VH |
| <b>3rd Aug</b> - Hort. Soc. Summer Flower Show.. 2pm                       |    |
| <b>21st Sept</b> - Apple Pressing Day                                      | VH |
| <b>21st Sept</b> - Hort. Soc. Autumn Flower Show. with Apple Pressing. 2pm | VH |
| <b>28th Sept</b> - Model Railway Show 10 - 4                               | VH |
| <b>22nd Nov</b> - Hort. Soc. AGM 7.30                                      |    |
| <b>30th Nov</b> - St. Peter & St. James Festive Fair                       | VH |



**St Peter & St James Hospice**  
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## **A walk through the Bluebells**

The Plumpton Support Group for St Peter & St James Hospice invite you to join Reg Lanaway, an expert on flora and fauna, for a leisurely guided walk through the Bluebell Woods at St Peter & St James Hospice, North Common Rd, North Chailey, Haywards Heath BN8 4ED.

**Sunday 21 April**  
**Start time 2.30 p.m**

Please wear sensible footwear as it may be muddy in places.

There will be a collecting bucket for donations. Thank you for your continued support.



# Plumpton Flower Club

We are pleased to welcome

## Graham King

Who will be giving us a demonstration  
entitled

### "Be Creative"

On

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April

Club AGM will commence at 7.00pm

Demonstration will commence at 7.30pm

At Plumpton Village Hall

Members £3, Visitors £8

Includes refreshments

There will be a raffle at the end of the evening, with a chance to win one of the fabulous displays!

## JUMBLE SALE

Raising Funds for the Village Hall

SATURDAY  
25<sup>th</sup> May

2.00 pm – 4.00 pm  
Refreshments and Tombola

### PLEASE BRING JUMBLE TO THE HALL BEFORE 10.00

**NO** large items of furniture, electrical items or duvets will be accepted.

Help is always appreciated on the day and any items for the Tombola can be delivered to 30 West Gate.

## MICK NEWMAN

### THE END OF AN ERA

Anyone who has travelled by train or walked through Plumpton Station in the last 17 - yes seventeen - years will have met with Mick Newman's helpfulness and wit and hopefully, been sold the right ticket!

Mick has been a feature of village life since 2007 in his role at the station and he is retiring.

To mark the occasion - great for him, not so good for the rest of us - the Station Partnership team is holding a celebratory coffee and cake event at the station on Thursday 11 April at 11.00.

Everyone is welcome to come along and wish Mick all the best and give our thanks for all he has done for us.

Enquiries  
Paul Nicholson  
[pwn5403@icloud.com](mailto:pwn5403@icloud.com)

## March Crossword

### Answers

C	L	O	C	K	S		M	A	R	S
U		W			A		X		O	
P	A	L	E		T		L	I	O	N
D		S	Q	U	I	R	E	S		G
A			U				A			
Y	E	T	I	S		S	P	O	O	F
			N		A		I			R
L		R	O	A	R	I	N	G		I
A	P	E	X		I		G	O	O	D
M		A			E			L		A
B	E	L	L		S	U	N	D	A	Y



## CHAILEY REPAIR CAFÉ

We were seriously busy at the last Chailey Repair Café, where we tackled a seized up printer, a Henry Hoover, an elephant, a helicopter, a laughing buddha who had lost his hands and more than 80 other challenging repairs. Our talented fabrics team will always do their best to repair clothing and zips. Please note that, although we don't have time to do zip replacements, we can nearly always fix them for you!

As we head into Spring, we'll now start seeing your cycles which have been loitering in sheds and need some attention, as well as mowers and garden machinery such as trimmers and hedge cutters (you know - those ones where you have accidentally cut through the lead...??!!)

Bring us your garden tools which need sharpening and our state of the art sharpening machine will soon sort those out, as well as your kitchen knives and workshop tools.

We are open every 2nd Saturday of each month between 10am – 1pm Please remember that we can get very busy, so be prepared to wait and enjoy some refreshments while you do so. Only one item at a time please (although you can go round again if there's time) and try not to arrive too late as we may not be able to accommodate you!

Our 2024 posters and flyers with all our dates are available at the Café, so you won't forget. And don't forget to pick up a free car sticker and one of our smart new bamboo pens so you can spread the word!

Chailey Repair Café is part of a world-wide movement where volunteer experts repair things free of charge – although a donation towards running costs is invited. Anyone can bring along broken items or clothing needing repair from home, and have a cuppa and a cake while they wait.

Not sure if we can fix your stuff? Contact us at [chaileyrc@gmail.com](mailto:chaileyrc@gmail.com) and we'll see what we can do to help.

See you very soon!!

Bryan McAlley and the Chailey Repair Café team

## ***Plumpton & East Chiltington Good Neighbours***

**Telephone Contact 07478  
524152**

Do you need help or someone to talk to? We are a group of local volunteers who offer a befriending service and help with everyday things such as shopping and simple household jobs, to anyone needing support. We can help on a regular or one off basis and, there are no charges associated with our help, with the exception of travel costs if we transport you somewhere such as to the doctors or another similar appointment. All our volunteers are DBS checked.

It doesn't matter what age group you are in or whether your family is local. If you feel you would like our help or, to talk about how we may help you, please phone Gina or Alison on the above number or, you can email us at:

[peccgoodneighbours@gmail.com](mailto:peccgoodneighbours@gmail.com)

New volunteers are always needed and very welcome. If you are interested in joining our team please get in touch on the contact details above.

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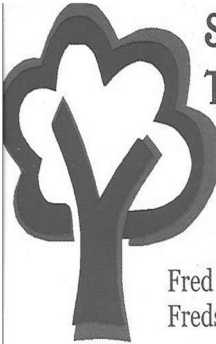
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## **Uckfield, Lewes & Newick Arts Society**

The Civic Hall, Uckfield,  
April 10th 2.30

### **Brian Stater: World Famous Photographer Images that Shaped our Culture.**

We all have our favourite family photographs, mine is of my mother aged about six playing with the family dog on a sunny sandy beach in Wales. Photographs have a tremendous power to take you back to long forgotten times.

Brian Slater will be asking us if photographs can ever be regarded as fine art. The image of the famous 'Girl with Green Eyes' from Afghanistan is certainly beautiful but because we know of its context it compels us to think of the situation there and wonder what happened to her. In any case are the pictures true? With modern technology everything can be changed and misrepresented.

Portraiture, landscape and still life all these genres will be examined. Brian has exhibited at UCL where he is a Senior Teaching Fellow. Like his great hero Henri Cartier Bresson he uses a pre-war Leica camera.

We are in the Civic Hall Uckfield, parking is free and the lecture will start promptly at 2.30. The cost is £7 but if you are interested in joining, please contact me. We are a very friendly society, so please think about it. The cost is, as we are half way through our programme reduced and for that you get all the lectures, our newsletter, the Arts Society Magazine and the opportunity to go on one of our specially organised visits.

Annette Shelford

[annette@shelford.net](mailto:annette@shelford.net)





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## Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife

### The Year of the Bird

The Wildlife Group's activities over the years have included surveys and conservation actions for a variety of species flora and fauna, including toads, bats and dormice. We still plan to carry out annual surveys or, for example, harvest mice habitats and have been active since January in the evening escorting migrating toads with no road sense - usually in the pouring rain. However we also decided that 2024 would be 'The year of the Bird', with more than the usual focus on the birdlife in our local area.

It is generally agreed that British birdlife is in decline, with the RSPB reporting that since 1980 one in six birds has been lost, an estimate of 600 million breeding birds. Those most in serious decline are the Song Thrush, Skylark, Lapwing and House Sparrow. Declining numbers are particularly noted among farmland birds, such as skylarks, with loss of habitat and intensive farming practices being cited as the main reasons for their disappearance.

Not all bird species are declining. According to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) the number of some birds including Carrion Crows, Magpies and Jackdaws, stock and collared Doves, Woodpigeons and Buzzards has increased. Also truly non-native exotica such as Ring-Necked Parakeets - which have been spotted in Plumpton - and the Egyptian Goose. It is assessed that doves and pigeons have benefited from increased areas of brassica crops, particularly oil seed rape and corvids from changes in game management practice. Also birds traditionally thought to be 'woodland' such as Nuthatch and Long-tailed Tit are increasingly recorded in gardens, probably as a result of increased feeding opportunities.

The Wildlife Group is planning a number of events throughout the year which we hope will encourage residents to be more aware of the bird life around the area and spot what's here and what's missing, such as recording the date of the first summer swallow and hearing the first cuckoo. This will really help to ascertain how loss or change of habitat and farming practices, climate and weather events are affecting our local bird population and promote advocacy of bird friendly practices such as retention of wild, uncultivated margins in arable fields and sensitive hedge trimming. The Wildlife Group's website has more information about how the record bird sightings including the BTO's Birdtrack and, of course, local information can be sent for our records using the contact form. There is also details of local bird surveys. The Year of the Bird kicked off with the January Big Garden Birdwatch, held at Old Mill House, the results from this, and previous years, are available on the website.

On March 27th Reg Lanaway is presenting an illustrated talk Through the Season's in Sussex.

There will be more events in the spring, keep and eye on your in-0box and the website.

**Nightingale Walk and Sausage Supper** - date to be advised, once the Nightingales are back and singing! Join an evening walk to hear these wonderful summer visitor's atmospheric song.

**Downland Dawn Chorus Walk** - rise and shine to hear the bird chorus and enjoy a bacon sandwich after a Downs yomp. Again date to be advised.

The Group plans to install swift boxes in East Chiltington Church tower to encourage these summer visitors to return to a previous roost. There will also be an annual survey of rook nesting sites.

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## Ladybirds Playgroup



Come and join in the fun on Wednesdays!



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atmosphere.

Plumpton Village Hall

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ladybirdsplumpton@gmail.com

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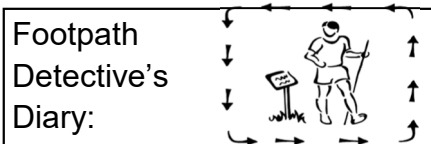
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## **A Footpath Detectives Diary April 2024 Wandering in Yorkshire**

Hopefully by the time you read this we might have had some days without rain and the ground might be drying up a little but at the time of writing everywhere just seems sodden so I have had to look back to last October when I did a lovely 10 mile walk from the village of Rylstone, Yorkshire. This little village is about 7 miles north of Skipton but the route of this walk is not one used by a lot of tourists. The members of Rylstone and District Women's Institute were the inspiration for the 2003 film 'Calendar Girls'.

We started our walk from by the village pond heading west on Rakes Lane and after crossing the railway line that takes the quarried limestone from Swinden Quarry we turned left onto a bridlepath that took us to Hetton. This is a small unassuming village made popular by The Angel Inn, a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Inn that is a Michelin starred restaurant. I have yet to sample the food but I am told it is excellent. More a restaurant than a pub though.

Where our path met the main street at Hetton we turned right and continued along the road, passing The Angel Inn and then took a left onto Moor Lane, a track that climbed steadily and straight with walled grazing fields either side. When up on the moorland we had a view to our left of Winterburn Reservoir which was constructed between 1885 and 1893 to maintain the water levels of the Leeds - Liverpool canal.

We met a crossing of five paths by a stile and we took the bridlepath heading straight on and descending to the point where Hetton Common Beck feeds the reservoir. Once across the beck following the path became a bit difficult. It looked like it might follow the edge of the water for a bit but my map showed a path that climbed a little to High Cow House so in the absence of any clear

signs that is what we did. From High Cow House we followed a track to Way Gill which we crossed on a little wooden plank bridge. Here was a sign saying that the footpath had been formerly diverted in 1990 and another saying that the farm track that we had just used was not for public access. We should indeed have followed the waterline and not the path on my map which I now realise was printed in 1985. Time for a new one!

Back on a proper footpath we climbed a little to farm buildings called Way Gill and then still on the footpath descended gradually to Winterburn Wood Farm. Our path continued to Winterburn Beck and then we were on a track into Winterburn, described as a village but really a small hamlet. At Winterburn Hall we turned right onto the lane and then stayed left on Winterburn Lane until we got to Friars Head Hall. The original building at Friar's Head was said to be a hunting lodge for the abbots of Fountains Abbey. The present structure was built by Stephen Proctor around 1590. At the time we walked past it was having extensive roof repairs.

We turned left onto a bridlepath that climbed a little between Scarnber Hill and Banks Hill. On the west facing flank of Scarnber Hill are a number of pillow mounds that are marked on the map as Giants Graves. The fact is they are not so exciting but a medieval purpose built breeding place for the management of rabbits and hares. Each mound has a slight ditch along both sides and across the east end at the top of the slope. The occupants would have been bread for hunting. Similar mounds with the same origin can be seen locally on the Ashdown Forest.

At the highpoint of this bridlepath we turned right onto a footpath, not an easy one to find with very little signage so some good map reading was required. The path took us to Flasby, another small and attractive hamlet. At Flasby Beck we took the path leading to Flasby Moorside where we met some attractive Highland cattle. We stayed on the path that took us through Hull Gap Plantation and across the railway line to arrive back in Rylstone near the pond. Not many refreshment opportunities but lots of nice views to enjoy whilst having a picnic.  
EJH



## Bird Watch

With spring here, we are entering, for me, the most exciting and interesting time of year. Years ago, all through the 1970's, I undertook the Common Bird Breeding Census over part of the college estate. This is an excellent way of learning about the nesting season and records the various species that have occupied territories. We had to visit at least eight times between April and August. Using largescale maps, sightings of each bird was recorded using the initial codes for each with accurate plotting of any nests found and males singing to defending their patch. After a few visits, I found the same birds were to be found in the same places and could be relied upon. It also revealed any unusual birds. I found the first Reed Bunting's nest locally during one visit. At the end of the summer, all maps were sent to the British Trust for Ornithology where they were analysed and results co-ordinated.

All around us, evidence of breeding is there to be seen without having to find nests. The best signs are, males regularly singing in the same place, adults carrying nesting material or food for their young, disposal of dropping sacs. Often we find eggshells on the ground and so long as we are sure of the species, can be a sure indicator that there is a nest close by. If the egg has been neatly cut with the top removed, it has hatched successfully, look for the place the egg tooth made the first incision. Always interesting to do and adds to our knowledge. Other eggshells may tell us that a nest has been predated and a hole bashed in the side and the contents eaten is evidence. Again, it

proves the record of a breeding attempt even if unsuccessful and quite likely another will be made in the same area. We must always be sure of the species before submitting records.

I wonder how many have noticed the Magpie's nest in a tall tree at Green Cross opposite the southern entrance to the racecourse. They started building early in February and each time I passed, more had been added until there is now a really solid structure, though I never once saw the birds. They were most likely active early morning and very wary of people. A nest such as this is so well built that it will survive several years. It is Nature's way of providing nest sites for those species that do not build their own like Kestrels, Tawny and Long-eared Owls.

Recently, I watched two male Kestrels having a sparring match while the female watched, seemingly unimpressed, from a nearby tree. They were very agile, hovering, diving and grabbing each other's talons. One appeared to be a full adult with spotless blue/grey on the head and tail while the other, a younger bird, with less pristine plumage. I did not see the outcome but I expect the older bird would have seen off the teenager. It is good to know that they are several locally. They readily accept an open-fronted nest box, sited away from the prevailing wind, quite high up and, as they do not carry nesting material, a covering of peat or wood chips is necessary, as would be found in a natural tree cavity.

Our study of Goldfinches goes on. Over a hundred have been ringed this year already. When each bird is weighed, the time of day must be recorded. This reveals the importance of regular food supplies as the weights vary from 13 to 15 grams early, but 17 to 18 in the afternoon. The excess they will lose overnight.

**R.J.L.**

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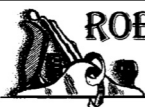
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## Chailey Commons Society

[www.chaileycommons.org.uk](http://www.chaileycommons.org.uk)

At last, a break in the winter rains, and how good it is to see the sun shining brightly. There has been an amazing show of daffodils, and the bluebells are showing strongly in the woodlands. These, together with wood anemones, wild snowdrops, and the yellow Lesser Celandine make a wonderful show, using the light from above before the tree canopy grows over and makes the woodland floor darker again.

We have held the AGM which included a raffle table by the local Guides Rangers, an update on her Ashdown Forest Nightjars Project from Izzy Kennedy and another magnificent display of local old maps and photographs and postcards staged by Tony Turk. This gives us a lovely opportunity to get together afterwards and meet and exchange memories.

Down at Markstakes Common the volunteer group, meeting on Mondays, have continued the winter work of clearing brambles and birch seedlings from another glade. Whilst it has been very wet, this has softened the ground which makes digging easier to remove the roots, using special forked tools, which is an essential part in successful clearing.

Our meetings continue this month with firstly a new special Easter Trail meeting at 2.00.p.m. on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at the Sports Club pavilion on Memorial Common. Members and families and children are invited to come along and try a circuit of the common following clues in words and pictures to discover

and learn more about the commons. Secondly, we have a spring bird walk with Adrian on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 8.00.a.m. at the Pound Common car park. We will be looking and listening for both the resident birds and the early migrants so bring binoculars.

Thirdly, I will be leading a spring walk on Pound Common on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 2.30.p.m. from the car park. A leisurely stroll of about a mile when we will be looking for the early flowers and plants growing again and anything else which might be of interest.

For further information, visit our website –

[www.chaileycommons.org.uk](http://www.chaileycommons.org.uk) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/](https://www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/) or [friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com](http://friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com)

William Coleman  
01444 831098





# Lewes District Citizens Advice

15 – 19 Chapel Street  
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[www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk](http://www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk)

Contact : Sophie Hoffman 01273 007556

## **I've just got my first payslip from a new job. How do I know what it means?**

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Your payslip should show your and your employers' details and the date you will normally receive your pay.

Your National Insurance (NI) number is used to make sure all your NI contributions are recorded and so you can get any state benefits you're entitled to, including state pension later in life.

Your payslip might show a tax period, the tax year starts in April and ends in March. The number here corresponds to the period in which you're being taxed.

Your tax code is decided by HMRC and is used to work out how much Income Tax to take from your pay. Make sure you're not on an emergency tax code otherwise you'll be taxed more than needed.

Gross pay is the amount you've earned before anything is deducted. Deductions are amounts taken from your gross pay, common ones include: income tax, national insurance, pension or student loan payments. Your net pay is the amount of money you will receive after all the deductions.

Taxable pay is the amount of your salary, to date in the current tax year that has been subjected to tax.

If you have any concerns about your payslip you can contact Lewes District Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7892 - lines are open Tuesday - Thursday 10am-3pm

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<b>British Legion</b>	<b>Reg Lanaway</b>	<b>890070</b>
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<b>Chailey Commons Society</b>	<b>William Coleman</b>	<b>01444 831923</b>
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<b>Flower Club</b>	<b>Sue Akers</b>	<b>891701</b>
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