

Plumpton & East Chilington News

March 2024



Z. R. LANDSCAPES

Landscaping
Fencing
Hedge Cutting and Treework
Turf Laying
Driveways
Patios
And More

Zac Robins

landscape@nsza.co.uk

CONTACT FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

07949 220721

HILLS

OF PLUMPTON

DRIVER TRAINING

CAR, LGV, PCV, FLT, HIAB

40 East View Fields
Plumpton Green BN7 3EF
Tel: 01273 890410
www.hillsofplumpton.co.uk

Eastwood Heating & Plumbing

Keep your energy bills low by making sure your boiler is serviced regularly. A well serviced boiler keeps your energy consumption low and can Identify faults early, avoiding expensive breakdown cost.

Plumpton Green based Heating Engineer
for all Oil and Gas appliances
please call James on 07876 294262 or 01273 890526



104339 528262

Plumpton Stores & Post Office

Your local village store is now open:

6.00am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday

7.00am to 7.00pm Saturday

7.00am to 1.00pm Sunday

8.00am to 1.00pm Bank Holidays

01273 890229

P.A. Brooks **SON**

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICES

Ravenoak, 46 Allington Road, Newick
East Sussex, BN8 4NB
Tel (01825) 722895 (By Appointment)
35 Wivelsfield Road, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex, RH16 4EN
Tel (01444) 454391



FUNERAL PLANS FROM
Golden Charter



info@brooksfunerals.co.uk | www.brooksfunerals.co.uk



RICHARD SOAN ROOFING SERVICES

Flat & Pitched Roofing

Award Winning • Domestic • Heritage • Commercial • Education • Industrial

All advice free and without obligation

Tel: 01273 486110

Email: enquiries@richardsoan.co.uk

www.richardsoan.co.uk



PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

March 2024

Page

Plumpton Parish Council	2	Plumpton & East Chiltonton Good	
East Chiltonton Parish Council	4	Neighbours	20
Maria Caulfield	5	Caption Competition	22
Sausage Quiz raffle tickets	7	Arts Society	22
Plumpton School Update	9	Plumpton & East Chiltonton	
DR's Diary	10	Wildlife	24
Spring Market	12	Footpath Detective	27
Plumpton PC Job Advert	14	Birds	28
Foot Path Soc.	14	Chailey Commons Society	31
Rev. Anne Dunlop	15	Citizen's Advice	32
Church Services	16	Clubs & Societies	33
Events Calendar	17		
Crossword	18		
Flower Club	19		
Scouts	20		

Happy Circle

Thursday 14th March

2 - 4pm in the Annex

Lindsey Smith

Painting and Drawing

For more details contact:

Cherie 01273891592

Jumble Sale

Plumpton Athletic Junior Football

Saturday 16th March

Village Hall, 2pm

COPY DEADLINES

16th March for April

15th April for May



Copy to The Poplars, Station Road
or email: pecncopy@gmail.com or Telephone: 01273 891 427



Plumpton Parish Council

www.plumptonpc.co.uk

Housing Need Survey

Plumpton Parish Council has decided to take advantage of a government grant which will fund 80% of the cost of a housing needs survey. The results will help us accurately respond to the next stage of the Lewes Local Plan process – scheduled for later this year. Your answers will affect the future of the village, and your say is important. The survey forms will be distributed, gathered and analysed independently by local charity, Action in Rural Sussex.

The survey data will also help us update our Neighbourhood Plan, so it is vital we know how many affordable homes are needed in our area to plan for the future. Affordable homes are properties made available for those unable to afford housing on the local open market. We are asking every household to complete the survey, the more support we get the better we can meet the needs of our community. The survey should arrive on your doorstep in early March and need to be returned by 15th March. There will also be the opportunity to respond on-line.

Nolands Farm – road access plans

The Parish Council would like to thank our District Councillor Daniel Stewart-Roberts for meeting on site with a representative from Lewes Planning department to express our concern at the road changes proposed for the Nolands access. ESCC Highways have also offered to meet the Parish Council on site once they have received an access proposal from the developer, although currently Highways appear unwilling to consider any change. We will keep trying.

The Parish Council have also been asked by the developer to suggest a marketing name and street names for the new site. Any ideas would be welcome.

Pavement Parking

London is currently the only area in England where pavement parking is banned but there are moves to extend the ban to the rest of the country. The Parish Council would welcome this as pavement parking on Station Road causes inconvenience for pedestrians often forcing them to walk out on the road. It is especially inconvenient for those with pushchairs or using a wheelchair and the PC would urge residents to remind their visitors not to park on the pavement.

Percys Patch – New Gate

The Parish Council thanks the Monday Group for fitting the new gate at Percys Patch. The gate was co-funded by the Parish Council and the Farmer - Hopefully this will keep the sheep and cattle away from the cricket pitch in future.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

If you want to contribute and have a say in how your village runs and engage with the community then why not sit on the Parish Council. Please contact our Clerk Anita Emery if interested.
anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **March 12th 19:45hrs** at the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

FLORAL ART

Mobile Florist - Wide Delivery Service

NICHOLA MASSINGALE

Phone: Plumpton (01273) 891301

Mobile: 07970 462337

- Weddings • Funerals •
- Special Occasions •
- Contract • Dried •

Rupert Thacker

Furniture Restoration Services

*Including Furniture repairs, Polishing etc. of
Antique, Contemporary, and Reproduction
Furniture*

Fletching, E Sussex, TN22 3TQ

Tel : 01825-713111 (Workshop)

Mobile: 07950-035044

Email: sales@rupert-thacker.com

Website: www.rupert-thacker.com

A clean carpet isn't all we

guarantee.....
Servicemaster Clean

- Carpet Cleaning & Repairs, retufting & reweaving
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Rug Cleaning including Wool & Silk
- Curtain Dry Cleaning on-site-at-the-window
- Carpet Moth Treatment Service
- Fire & Flood Clean-Up Service

Now celebrating 24 years of providing 1st class service

in Plumpton, Plumpton Green, East Chilmington, Lewes & Brighton.

Call Paul or Liz on 01273 733339

For a free no-obligation quotation

Or email paul@servicemasterbrighton.co.uk

See our website for special offers

www.servicemasterclean.co.uk/plumpton-green



- All aspects of tree work
- Hedge maintenance
- Planting
- Fruit tree pruning
- Traditional hedge laying
- Woodchip supplies

Contact Oliver Marlow

07507 523748 / 01273 891702

oliver@newleaffreesurgery.co.uk

newleaffreesurgery.co.uk

Treats by Post - Brownies - Gift Boxes
Hand Painted Cookies - Cupcakes
Celebration Cakes
Wedding Cakes

The Crafty Cake Lady

We Bake with Love

www.thecraftycakelady.co.uk



FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
07725979297 / 01273 891067



The Greenhouse

B&B in the heart of Plumpton Green

Separate annex, sleeps 4

Previously known as 'Edgington Cottage'

To book please call Clare

07747 036049



Website

The new East Chiltonton website is now live. You can find it at www.eastchiltonton.net. Do take a look, it has lovely photos of parish events and scenes as well news about what is going on and information on your local counsellors amongst other things. If you have information you would like to publish, or changes you think should be made to the website, then please get in touch with Jenni the Parish clerk via the Contact Us page.

Events

The East Chiltonton Trust (TECT) held an event at the Jolly Sportsman on January 29th so that residents could have their say on the use of the TECT land, particularly now there are sheep grazing in the field. Based on the meeting it was decided a flyer will be distributed to the whole Parish explaining the options regarding grazing and fencing which will ask for comments in support or against this approach. TECT trustees believe this is a sustainable way to manage the field, particularly now DEFRA funding is ceasing. It seemed that residents who attended the meeting were also broadly in favour of this approach.

The next annual litter pick will be held on Sunday March 3rd. If anyone feels like coming along to clean our road sides of litter that gets thrown out of cars/vans, then please join us at 10.00am in the Hollycroft Field. Thanks too to those who regularly collect wine bottles, cans and

general rubbish that gets thrown out on our lanes. If you come across fly tipping then please do report it on the Lewes District Council website (<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/litter-and-street-cleaning>). It's easy to use and enables the council to come and remove any rubbish. There is also an app which the Council uses and this can be downloaded on an iphone or Android and used to identify the location where the fly tipping has occurred. It's called Love Clean Streets.

Bin Changes

On the subject of rubbish, LDC are moving to wheelie bin refuse collections from Monday 4th March. Wheelie bins are being phased in across the District. These will be free and come in three sizes to accommodate the different space residents have to store bins. They provide a safer way for waste crews to collect the rubbish and are also less susceptible to attacks from gulls and other animals. If you do not have a wheelie bin already you can request one through the LDC website (<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/wheeliebins>) and also request that your old bin is taken away, or alternatively you can choose to keep it and use it for something else such as composting, a water butt or as a planter. There is no change to bin collection frequency and all residents should have received a bin collection calendar sometime during February.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th March at 7.00pm at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



Maria Caufield

This month I am encouraging local residents to take part in a government consultation on two key social housing reforms.

Firstly as a constituency MP I am contacted regularly by residents affected by unsocial behaviour of neighbouring tenants and while in the private sector this can be tricky to deal with, in social housing landlords have more steps they can take. Now the Government is consulting on giving councils and other social landlords powers which could ban those who blight communities and repeatedly make their neighbours' lives hell through anti-social behaviour or evict them through a 'three strikes and you're out' policy, as part of the new consultation.

The second change being looked at are new measures which will change how social housing is allocated, requiring people to be a British citizen, Irish citizen, Commonwealth citizen with a right of abode in order to be able to apply for social or council housing. With waiting lists locally growing significantly for social housing it is important that local people are able to stay in the area where their friends, family and support networks are in order to better promote and support extended family networks. Too many local families are having to move away to access affordable housing.

The reforms include new UK and local connection tests to determine social housing eligibility, with applicants required to demonstrate a connection to the UK for at least 10 years and their local area for at least 2 years. Prospective tenants on higher incomes could also no longer qualify for social housing, although existing tenants will not be affected.

As part of the reforms, people who have unspent convictions for certain criminal anti-social behaviour or have been subject to certain civil sanctions could be disqualified from social housing for up to 5 years. The government is seeking views from the public, councils, social housing tenants and providers and wants to bring forward the reforms as soon as possible.

This sits alongside the £11.5 billion Affordable Homes Programme, helping to deliver more of the affordable, quality homes this country needs, which will unlock a further £38 billion in public and private investment in affordable housing. It builds on the government's record since 2010 – with over 696,000 new affordable homes delivered, including over 172,000 for social rent.

The consultation will close on the 26th March 2024. Details on how to respond can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-reforms-to-social-housing-allocations>

TREE WISE

Tree Surgery • Hedge Maintenance
Fire Wood

Stump Grinding • Strimming
Woodland Management Schemes

Experienced • Insured £5m
Free Quotation

BSc (Enviro Mgt) • LOLER Inspector
NPTC

Charlie Layfield

Office: **01825 724655**

Mobile: **07888 838423**

www.treewise.co.uk

Checkatrade

Help You can Trust

Services Provided: Companionship, Dementia Support, Domestic Duties, Medication Assistance, Gardening (basic), Personal care, Transport services, Meal preparation, Post hospital care, Respite care, Secretarial and Administrative assistance, Shopping assistance, Social activities.

Contact: Anna Rummeli

Mobile: 07511 351 807

Email: aowellness1@gmail.com



Member of the National Association of Care and Support workers

Advertise Here !!

Contact

pecntreasurer@btinternet.com

Or

Phone

01273 891427

Heath Farm Holiday Cottages South Road, Plumpton Green

Three 4 star cottages sleeping
two, four and six.

Suitable disabled

Minimum 2 night stay

Regret no smoking or pets.

01273 890712

www.heath-farm.com

Plumpton Pilates

Morning and evening group classes
in Plumpton Village Hall.

1:1 Pilates at home also available.

Please contact Charis 07881 825007

charispilates@gmail.com



N.L.S

NICK LANAWAY SERVICES



Garden and Ground Care Machinery

Service and Repair

Quad Bikes

07503 891335

nicklanawayservices@yahoo.com



SPRING RAFFLE

In support of St Peter and St James Hospice
Raffle to be drawn at the Sausage and Mash Quiz

23 March – Plumpton Village Hall

1st Prize – Hotel Chocolat Classic Cabinet + many other lovely prizes.

We have taken the liberty of enclosing two books of tickets with this month's magazine, which we hope you will purchase. Counterfoils and money can be taken to The Village Shop, "Fyndings" Station Road (next to Woodgate Meadow - Karen and Kelvin Speirs) or

2 School Cottages, East Chiltington before **the 22 March**. Extra tickets can be obtained from 30 West Gate. Please make cheques payable to Mrs S A Akers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ken Beard

Linda, Malcolm and Families would like to thank everyone for coming to Dads funeral last Friday.

It was well attended and even the sun shone.

Also for cards and messages of condolence, they were really appreciated.

E A S T
S U S S E X
B A C H
C H O I R

**East Sussex
Bach Choir**

**J.S Bach's
St. John Passion**

**Saturday 9th March, 2024
Lewes Town Hall**

Christus - Sir John Tomlinson
Evangelist - Nick Pritchard
Soprano - Alexandra Kidgell
Mezzo Soprano - Rebecca Leggett
Baroque Collective led by Alison Bury
Directed by John Hancorn

Tickets eastsussexbachchoir.org

P. M BUILDERS

5 School Cottages,
East Chiltington

**For all your
building
needs**

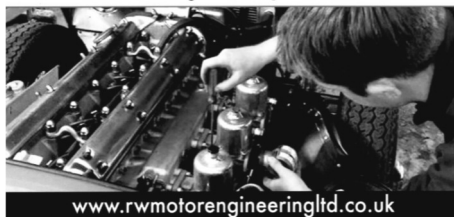
Tel: 01273- 890964
Mobile 07813 114470

YOUR LOCAL BUILDER



Your local friendly family run garage with over 40 years experience in all aspects of vehicle repairs, old, new, classic, sports & prestige.

All Makes & Models • M.O.T's & Servicing • Repairs
Diagnostic Specialists • Wheel Alignment
Tyres & Exhausts • Clutches • Cambelts • ECU Remapping
Air Conditioning • Brakes • Brake Disc Skimming
Welding & Fabrication • Engine Tune-ups
Petrol Injector Testing & Servicing • Diesel Specialists
Carbon Cleaning • Courtesy Cars Available



www.rwmotorengineeringltd.co.uk

Unit 1, The Old Brickworks,
Station Road, Plumpton Green
East Sussex BN7 3DF

Tel: 01273 891393
Email: rwengineering@live.co.uk



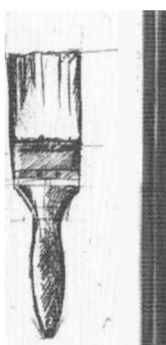
Amy Cooper

physiotherapist BSc (hons), MSc, HCPC,
MCSP

Physiotherapy assessment and treatment in
the comfort of your own home.

**-Massage/Sports massage/Deep tissue
massage -Manipulation/Mobilisation -
Exercise Rehabilitation -Posture
Rehabilitation/Re-education -
Electrotherapy**

Telephone 07866 762999
accooper362@gmail.com



Painter
Decorative Paint Finishes,
Domestic, Business
& Building Trade
Michael Webber

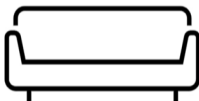
michael.webber6@yahoo.co.uk
01273 890779
07880 558 556

2 School Cottage
East Chiltington
Lewes BN7 3AY

SUZANNE'S UPHOLSTERY

(AMUSF Qualified)

- ❖ Bespoke Upholstery
- ❖ Chairs
- ❖ Headboards
- ❖ Footstools
- ❖ Soft Furnishings



Email - suzannes_upholstery@hotmail.com
Mobile - 07738 305342
Instagram - @suzannes_upholstery

Deadly Serious

Pest Control
James Otway



07702 208475
deadlyseriouspestcontrol@gmail.com
Odintune Cottage
East Chiltington, Lewes
East Sussex, BN7 3AN



Skylark Federation – School News

The Year 6 children had a very interesting school trip learning all about railway safety and travel.

We arrived at Plumpton Station to discover that our train had been delayed due to an electrical fault. This train was then cancelled! This provided us with the opportunity to have a guided tour of the Plumpton station and a railway talk from the station master, Mick.

Mick at Plumpton Station saved the day by getting a train to make an unscheduled stop at Plumpton Station to get us all to Lewes.

We had a tour of Lewes station before returning to Plumpton. The children reported really enjoying the trip.



DR's Diary...

Horses for Courses!

I've mentioned previously in this column of my interest in visiting auctions, flea markets, etc,...

on one of my excursions I spotted a set of old cigarette cards in an album, they were in good condition and contained all the Derby /Grand National winners from 1907 - 1932. On one side was the horse/jockey in their colours and the back had race details, owners, trainers & jockey info. Cigarette cards are quite a specialist field, the stallholder's 'speciality' appeared to be house clearances. While I'm not very knowledgeable, at a few quid it seemed worth a punt, if only for interest value.

At home, I realised that it was a 'marriage', the cards were from Players, the album from Wills. This would bother a serious collector but not me. On closer inspection I discovered that the Grand National had to be re- located after the government aquisitioned Aintree during the Great War to Gatwick racecourse. This was a big surprise to me as I didn't know there had been a racecourse there. This made me want to research more. Land here was acquired by the de Gatwyck family in 1241. They built a manor house and held the land for the next 4 centuries. In 1696 a Mr William Jordan purchased the land and built a new manor house which survived until 1950.

A search was on in the 1880's to build a racecourse between London & Brighton, this was to replace Croydon racecourse (didn't know that, either!) which was 'attracting undesirables from London '. Land was purchased and Gatwick racecourse opened in 1891, it had its own station and sidings to receive racehorses. The original racecourse bandstand now stands in memorial

gardens in Crawley. Gatwick was compared to Ascot; such was its status. Subsequently it was chosen to host the War Grand Nationals in 1916,17 & 18. Prize money in 1916 & 17 was donated to the blinded soldiers fund. The winner of the 1918 National (and 1919 back at Aintree) was Poethlyn at 5-1, ridden by Earnest Piggott, grandfather of Lester. The trainer was Mr H Escott of Lewes. There are some lovely old Pathe/ Gaumont news films you can watch on YouTube.

A small airport was opened on a strip of nearby land in 1930 by The Surrey Aero Club. This was taken over by the RAF in 1939 until 1945 and the terminal was painted in camouflage paint to protect it from the Luftwaffe. The racecourse closed for good in 1940.

In 1952 the government approved plans to develop Gatwick as London's second airport and was opened by the Queen in 1958. Apart from a few local road names nothing remains of the old racecourse, however, if you find yourself searching for a holiday read in WH Smiths do so in the knowledge that



The bandstand, now in Crawley

Sean Mannion Carpentry 07958647918 seanmannion67@gmail.com

Skilled carpenter with 30+ years' experience.

Services include: Bespoke fitted furniture
Garden decking
Door hanging
Understairs storage solutions

Heritage timber building restoration
Raised garden beds
Timber cladding
First fix carpentry

Harrods trained, I pride myself on quality of workmanship and reliability. I can provide a portfolio of previous work on request. Fully insured.

www.seanmannioncarpentry.co.uk

SPEAK FRENCH ...

... SPEAK ITALIAN

Small local classes (max 4)
Flexible times Beginners & Intermediate
Individual FaceTime lessons £25
NEW! Walk and talk Conversation small
groups; "Promenade" & "Passeggiata"

Contact Sue Strong **07900 594375**
email: seegreenwaitrose@gmail.com



LEARN HOW TO SHOOT A BOW

Plumpton Bowmen hold **Beginners' Courses** twice a year in April and October on the Playing Field.

We hold **Have-A-Go** sessions the 3rd Sunday of the month from April to August from 2pm to 3.30pm.

For further information see:
www.plumpton-bowmen.org.uk

HOME CHARLES CARS

Plumpton Based

Private Hire Taxi Company

- AIRPORT TRANSFER SERVICE
- PRESTIGE VEHICLES
- COMPETITIVE TAXI PRICES
- CORPORATE ACCOUNTS
- CREDIT CARDS WELCOME
- SALOONS AND ESTATES
- PROFESSIONAL, RELIABLE DRIVERS

077 344 89222

homecharles@btinternet.com

Guy Sumners

Window Cleaning

J&B Services

- Conservatory and roof
- Fascia
- Gutters clearing
- Cladding
- Solar panels
- Patio Jet washing etc.

Betty: 07941 899324

Jerry: 07941 899754

email: info@jandbcleaning.co.uk

website: jandbcleaning.co.uk

Facebook: J&B Cleaning Services



Saturday 27 April

Plumpton Village Green

11 am to 2pm

Stalls and Refreshments

Come along and support the
Community

Any queries or if you want a stall, please email
Plumptonvillagesociety@gmail.com



M: 07711562905
T: 01273890582

Traditional home baking: classic bakes, cupcakes & celebration cakes; or Afternoon Tea in the comfort of your own home.

Find me on Facebook

Andy Westgate

Local plumpton based gas safe registered plumbing & heating engineer



07415529656

awestgateheating@hotmail.com



Tai Chi with Jo

Tai Chi Classes in Plumpton Green & Lewes

Beginners welcome

No experience necessary

tel: 07986 713974

email: jo@taichiwithjo.co.uk

web: www.taichiwithjo.co.uk

Joe's Bees

Have you always wanted honey bees but always felt too inexperienced to keep them? How about a personal beekeeper then! Hiring Joe from Joe's bees to manage your hives is the perfect way to solve this issue!

What this entails...

- He will teach you how to look after your bees
- He will manage your bees for an hourly rate of £25 (4 hours a week max in summer)
- He will harvest and jar your honey (jars will come free!) you will be charged a 2 day rate
- He will help you set up and collect your bees at the beginning of the season for a fair price!

Joe's bees is all about working with nature and wildlife in an environmentally friendly way. Not only is Joe a beekeeper he also does extra work such as: creating wildflower meadows, soil management, gardening advice and environmental farming advice.

So you will be in good hands!



Instagram - @_in_the_hive_

Joethebeeman@gmail.com

07842862709

Forest Friends

Woodland crafts, music, nature connection, wild-craft skills and outdoor play for children aged 1-4
£10 per session paid termly
or £12 drop in rate

Now on Fridays: 10-11.30am

By the Ferrings Lake in East Chiltington

contact Sarah on 07980 006680 or sarah@littleseeddesign.com



THE JOLLY SPORTSMAN

The Jolly Sportsman

Idyllic, cosy, country pub with rooms

- * Breakfast / brunch every day from 8.30am - 10.15am
- * Wine Society - Old vs New Wines - 21st March at 6pm £30 per head (booking essential)
- * 4 course Taste of France with Vinny - 22nd March from 7pm £45 per head

The Jolly Sportsman is the perfect venue to host weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, christenings, wakes or any family/friend gathering!

hello@thejollysportsman.com 01273 890400 www.thejollysportsman.com

Chapel Lane, East Chiltington, Lewes, BN7 3BA



Plumpton Parish Council HANDYPERSON REQUIRED

Part-time: Minimum 5 hours per week average

12-months initial period – potentially permanent thereafter

Salary Scale Point 9 (£13.06 ph – pay award pending) plus pension and mileage

Starting April 2024 or soon after

Reporting to Clerk to the Council and liaising with the Village Hall Manager

Plumpton Parish Council require a skilled handyman to undertake a wide variety of repairs and maintenance tasks across the Council's properties and street furniture. The role will average at a minimum of 5 hours per week over the course of the year, with seasonal peaks in workload. Specific days of work are open to negotiation, though the Council will need a flexible and reliable person to adapt to the demands of the role.

Candidates will need access to an appropriately insured vehicle and travel between sites will be reimbursed at 45p per mile. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment will be provided.

This is a new role within the parish council and the skilled handyman will be an important element of the Council and the successful candidate will be supported by other Council staff where possible to settle into the role and establish a sensible work pattern. The position will primarily be working alone and you will be required to be DBS checked.

The Council is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (East Sussex Pension Fund – employer contribution is currently 19.2%) and all its employees are entitled to join if they request to do so. The position is initially for a 12 month period, but with potential to convert into a permanent position.

To apply, a completed application form must be submitted by the deadline date. This can be by email or post.

Closing date: 18th March 2024

Interviews are planned to be held on 25th March 2024. The role will start as soon as possible.

For further details on the job description and person specification please visit www.plumptonpc.co.uk or email the clerk for the advert and application form – anita.emery@plumptonpc.co.uk

Plumpton & District
Footpath Society

PROGRAMME FOR March 2024



Wednesday 6th March - There will be a walk on Ashdown Forest led by Norm Warren

Sunday 10th March - Janet Black is leading a walk

Wednesday 20th March (13.45 for a 14.00 start)

TALK by Mak Norman 'Folk Song in Sussex' 19th-20th Century, The Collectors, The Singers, The Songs' in Plumpton Village Hall

Saturday 23rd March Starting at 10.30 Ann Clarke and Sue Samson are leading a walk in Burgess Hill - part of the Green Circle. (Distance and assembly point details to come.)

Rev. Anne Dunlop

I write this after having just spent an hour 'chatting' to a pleasant and helpful person, Gopesh from AVG, trying to sort out my computer security. All this was done on 'chat', me typing my problem and he responding. I have no idea where Gopesh is. I imagined him(?) in some sunny clime, the wind gently wafting through the window, perhaps he works from home? Or maybe he is in some awful anonymous building crammed with others in a tiny space glued to a computer and people's queries, problems and perhaps receiving abuse as they complain; a poor wage and a dreadful job.

All of this, of course, the product of my wild imagination eliciting my compassion for such an exploitive situation. Truth to tell it was probably some air-condition skyscraper in Dubai, and he earns megabucks.

However Gopesh and I became almost friends as he carefully disentangled my mangled description of the issue. I discovered I had to learn a different language, differentiate my activation code from my account ID (that took several attempts), and my product from my package, my app from my account. As our chats progressed, he must have realised the paucity of my understanding and started speaking to me the way the young talk to the elderly – slowly and in simple short phrases. If I could have heard him, I am sure he would have carefully enunciated each word, giving each a capital letter and, of course, spoken louder.

All of this to ensure my computer is protected adequately from every possible evil intention of the 'world out there' to capture every jot and tittle I type. Best of luck there, I thought as it is always church 'stuff'. Perhaps this could become a new way of evangelising – preaching the gospel through my computer being hacked. My sermons could go viral! Oh dear.

What struck me in doing this is how we are fed fear to make us part with our money. I must buy every AVG product to protect myself! How strange. This computer, which when we all first got them, was supposed to make our lives easier. We would be able to whip through communications. Complete

work in no time. The world is open to us with every possible question answerable by Google.

The reality as we know is the ever-present possibility of being scammed – or worse – losing our entire life if not stored safely on the Cloud. We are now at the mercy of the pesky thing. We also spend (waste?) hours of our lives on them in one form or another.

All of which brings me to my Lenten 'giving up something'. For the last few years it has been television. The first week is mildly angst ridden but by week three I have found 'interesting things to do' and barely miss it. It is not a complete rest from noise as I will have the radio on occasionally. Do you know there are some great programs?

Giving it up makes me question why I resort to it. What void is it filling, what am I avoiding by spending a few hours each evening watching what is most often repetitive and trivial, (repeats of Bake Off).

Withdrawing from television and not replacing it with other noise, is difficult. Silence is proverbially described as golden yet only a few of us would choose to possess it for more than a few moments. Silence is not always golden, it can be painful, even negative. Entered well and bravely it can be restful, a place of self-discovery, and healing.

In the religious life silence is the wordless union, the communication of the soul with God. I know I have never engaged with silence at the deeper levels that some do, I can always find an excuse not to. But six weeks of relative quiet is something. Fasting from TV also means not seeing the images it brings before us. We become affected, moulded by what we see and hear – even manipulated. Previously I found myself disinclined, after six weeks without it, to go back to the habit of just switching it on for the sake of the noise.

If all I gain from giving up TV produces a restful few weeks, so be it. I don't think I can claim a rebate on the licence though!

Rev Anne Dunlop

revannedunlop@gmail.com

Church Services for March 2024

Sunday 3rd March All Saints	Lent 3 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 10th March All Saints	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 17th March All Saints	Lent 5 Passiontide begins (St Patrick's Day) 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 24th March All Saints	Palm Sunday, Process from the shop 10.50 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Family Communion

THE TRIDUUM (The three days) of Easter

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
At St Peter Offham (combined service with Plumpton) 8.00 p.m.

Friday 29th March Good Friday Holy Communion
 All Saints 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 30th March Vigil of Easter Eve Holy Communion
At All Saints (combined service with Offham) 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 31st March Easter Day Family Communion
NOTE - All Saints 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 7th April Easter 2 Low Sunday
 All Saints 11.00 a.m. Family Communion

From May to September the service on the **4th Sunday** of the month is at **East Chiltington at 11.00 a.m.** On the occasional **5th Sundays** in the month we meet at **St Michael and All Angels** in the grounds of Plumpton College at 11.00 a.m. (not March due to tractor festival), June 30th, September 29th, December 29th 2024.

For general church matters please contact Rev Anne Dunlop 01273 890006 in the first instance or the Churchwarden

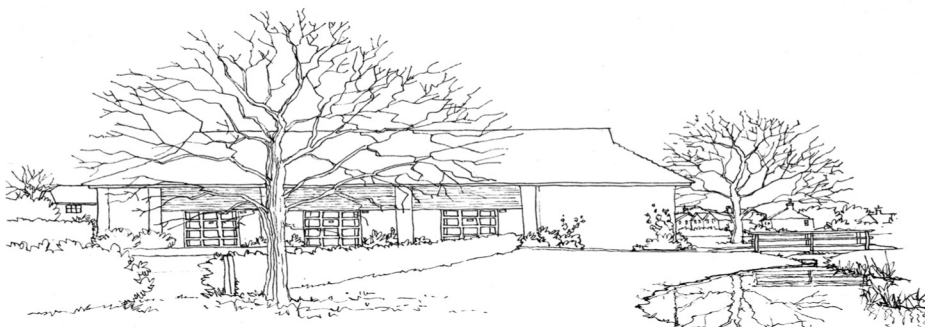
All Saints: Howard Wood 07794 484373. **East Chiltington:** Vacancy.

If you are unable to make your way to any of our church services, then please contact the Churchwarden who will arrange transport.

A short Communion Service and time of reflection precedes the Tuesday Lunch in All Saints Church at 11.30 a.m. each week.

Tuesday Lunch Club

This meets in the church annex at 12.15.p.m. for 12.30.p.m. and aims to offer food and friendship weekly. There is no charge. 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 which includes vegetarian and gluten free dishes. If you feel that you could join a team of cooking volunteers or to contribute an occasional dish your offer would be gratefully received. Please contact Rev Anne Dunlop in the first instance, or the Churchwarden.



VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR

VH = Village Hall

StM = St Michael's

ECC = East Chiltington Church

HQ = Scout HQ

ANX = Church Annex

Sch = Plumpton School

TC = Tennis Club

PAV = Pavilion

ALC = All Saints Church

BOOKINGS

Village Hall & Pavilion:

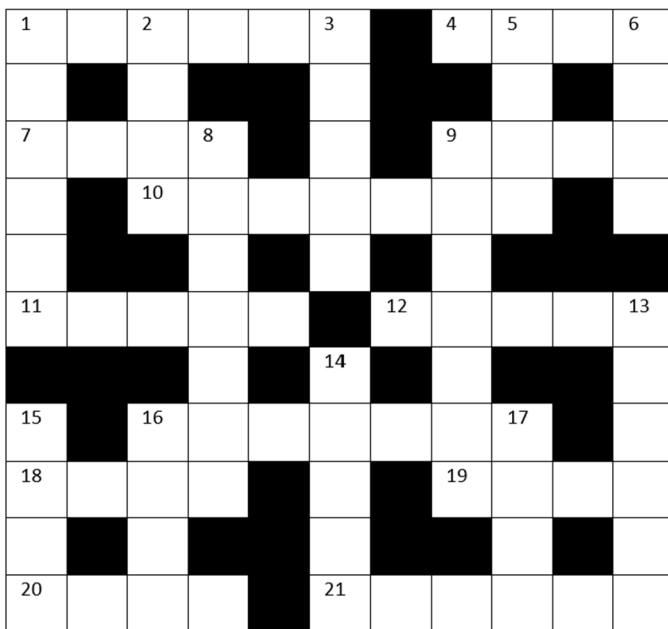
Church Annex

Jane Donovan 07747 050903 or 01273 891036

Bob Doran 01273 890211 or 07484 348341

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 14th March - Happy Circle - Lyndsey Smith Painting & Drawing 2pm | ANX |
| 16th March - Plumpton Athletic Junior Football Jumble Sale 2pm | VH |
| 20th March - Plumpton & District Footpath Soc Talk 'Folk Song in Sussex 2pm | VH |
| 20th March - Plumpton Flower Club 'Crowning Glory' 7.30pm | VH |
| 23rd March - St. Peter & St. James - Sausage and Mash Quiz | VH |
| 6th April - Hort. Soc. Spring Flower Show. 2pm. | VH |
| 11th April - Happy Circle Bistro Lunch | |
| 21st April - St. Peter & St. James Bluebell Walk at the Hospice | |
| 27th April - Spring Market on Village Green 11 - 2pm | VH |
| 25th May - Village Hall Funds Jumble Sale 2pm | VH |
| 8th June - St. Peter & St. James Fabric Sale | VH |
| 15th June - Village Fair | VH |
| 23rd June - St. Peter & St. James Open Village Gardens | |
| 3rd July - Rude Mechanicals | VH |
| 27th July - St. Peter & St. James Jumble Sale | VH |
| 3rd Aug - Hort. Soc. Summer Flower Show.. 2pm | VH |
| 21st Sept - Apple Pressing Day | VH |
| 21st Sept - Hort. Soc. Autumn Flower Show. with Apple Pressing. 2pm | VH |
| 22nd Nov - Hort. Soc. AGM 7.30 | VH |
| 30th Nov - St. Peter & St. James Festive Fair | VH |

March Crossword



Clues Across

- They go forwards at the end of the month (6)
4. Roman god after which this month is named (4)
 7. Usual skin shade at the end of the winter for most of us (4)
 9. This month comes in like a ---- (4)
 10. Noblemen who served knights before becoming one themselves (7)
 11. Abominable snowmen (5)
 12. Something that's exaggerated as a joke (5)
 16. Like 9 across? (7)
 18. Highest part (4)
 - 19 and 13 down. The day Jesus died (4,6)
 20. One of many rung in celebration at Easter? (4)
 21. Easter -----, celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead (6)

Clues Down

- See 17 down
2. Ghostly birds of prey? (4)
 3. "Nights in white -----", the Moody Blues (5)

5. The earth's is tilted at 23.5 degrees (4)
 6. Musical composition for the voice (4)
 8. In Spring this will be on 20th March (7)
 9. Bounding (7)
 13. See 19 across
 14. Star sign for the latter part of March (5)
 15. This month goes out like a ---- (4)
 16. Genuine (4)
 - 17 and 1 down. Cheltenham, Friday 15th March (4,3,3)
- Andy Starling.

Plumpton Flower Club

We are pleased to welcome

Michelle King

Presenting a demonstration

entitled

"Crowning Glory"

on

Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm

At Plumpton Village Hall

Members £3.00 Visitors £8.00 including
refreshments

There will be a raffle with a chance to win one
of the fabulous flower displays!

Please bring your friends along.



1st Plumpton Scout Group Needs YOU!

1st Plumpton Scout Group is one of the biggest scout groups in the area. We are over 100 years old and currently provide scouting opportunities for girls and boys aged 4-14. We have thriving Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, run by a group of dedicated voluntary leaders. All sections are now operating waiting lists.

Currently, we are facing the possibility of having to close or curtail some of the sections due to a lack of adult assistance. We have to recruit more adults to join us as assistant leaders and regular helpers so that we can continue to grow the group and provide valuable opportunities to the youngsters in our community.

We will be holding a meeting for anyone interested in finding out more on Wednesday 13 March 2024, 7pm at the Scout HQ, North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green. Please come along, find out more and show your support for 1st Plumpton Scout Group.

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: pecgoodneighbours@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.

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN ?

KJB ELECTRICAL LTD

Your local electrician, based in Plumpton Green.

Part 'P' compliant & Fully Insured
For a free no obligation quote,
Call or Email Ken

T. **07766455378**

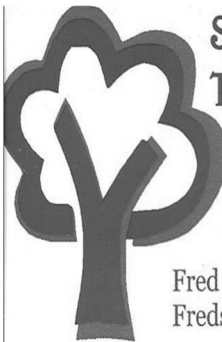
E. kjbelectrical ltd@gmail.com

LOVE YOUR CLOTHES

GET READY FOR THAT
SPECIAL OCCASION/HOLIDAY
JUST REVAMP, SHORTEN, MEND

**I make cuartains/cushions, kids
stuff & lots more. GIVE ME A RING**

FRAN 01273890731



SYMES TREE SURGERY

ALL ASPECTS OF TREE
SURGERY

HEDGE CUTTING

LOGS AND WOODCHIP

Fred Symes 07889420474
Fredsymestree@gmail.com



Experienced • Insured
Reliable

For a free friendly quote
phone Nigel Clough
on Newick 01825 723138
or **07504224335**

- Fencing
- Gate's
- Patio's
- Path's
- Hedge Cutting
- Rotovating
- Planting
- Shed
- Bases
- Lawn
- Mowing
- Turfing

C LEWRY GROUND WORKS



**Driveways, Patios & Paths
Fencing & Walls
All hard landscaping
Footings & bases
Other ground works**

Contact Chris Lewry
(01273) 890131
07854 787545

FULLY INSURED

chrislewry1980@yahoo.com

John Church electrician

Professional, Courteous

Local Electrician

For all your electrical needs

Fully Qualified - Part P Registered
All Work Guaranteed - Fully Insured

Call John

01273 900251

info@johnchurchelectrician.co.uk



OJH ROOFING

FOR ALL OF YOUR ROOFING REQUIREMENTS

07469944765

OJHROOFING@OUTLOOK.COM

WWW.OJHROOFING.COM

3 HOLLYCROFT
EAST CHILTINGTON, LEWES
EAST SUSSEX BN73AZ

Caption Competition



'Looks like we need drainage on our noticeboards too'

Simon Ward

JUMBLE SALE

Raising Funds for the Village Hall

SATURDAY
25th 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.

Uckfield, Lewes & Newick Arts Society

The Civic Hall, Uckfield,

March 13th 2.30

Behind the Scenes at the National Gallery. Sian Walters

The National Gallery is celebrating its 200th birthday this year. Sian will be showing us many of the Nation's favourite paintings and taking us behind the scenes to watch how the sometimes very difficult and delicate conservation work is carried out. Sian is an art historian and has been a lecturer at the Wallace Collection and the National Gallery for over 20 years. Recently she was a Highly Commended finalist in the World's Best Guide Awards.

Siân studied music as well as art history: she was awarded a choral exhibition at Cambridge University and a 1st for her dissertation. She often arranges art tours which have a musical element, such as an evening at the opera, tickets to a concert or a visit focusing on the musical heritage of a city.

Siân ran a series of free, live lectures during lockdown in 2020. These can still be viewed online for free at any time just click on Art History in Focus.

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 do need new members 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

Shades Of Sussex

High Spec female Painter & Decorator

Competitive Quotes
References Provided
Fully Insured
07874 603503

Keystroke Associates

Est. 1994

Specialists in
COMPUTER 'HOW TO' & SUPPORT - MID SUSSEX

07752 684733

jan@keystrokeassociates.co.uk
www.keystrokeassociates.co.uk

- * Internet, WiFi & Email Issues
- * Online Safety & Security
- * NHS Online, Online Shopping & Bookings Safely
- * Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp

- * Word Processing
- * Spreadsheets
- * Label Mail Merge for Xmas Cards
- * Scanning & Printing
- * File & Folder Management

- * PC Healthcheck - Windows 11
- * Purchasing/Installing New Devices
- * Troubleshooting & Virus Removal
- * Backup, Upgrades

PC • LAPTOPS • SMARTPHONES • TABLETS
DIGITAL CAMERAS • KINDLE

One to one
tutorials in
your own home,
on your own
devices



Be
prepared
don't let the
scammers,
scam
You.



YOGA CLASSES

with Andrew

Mixed and men-only classes for all levels in
Plumpton Green



Contact 07932635778 for more details.

Lucy Locksmith

24hr Callout
No Callout Charge



Rapid Response

No VAT

Checktrade
Always Before you use them

Police checked

Locks Changed & Upgraded (To BS3621)

Free Estimates

Discount for Senior Citizens

Have you just moved?

Who else has a set of your keys?

For peace of mind do you need your locks changed?

Do your locks comply with your home insurance?

Friendly female staff

Lock outs, Break ins, all makes of locks

07780 840462

"Store this number on your phone,
you never know when you will need it"

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Interior/Exterior
Fully Insured - Reliable
for a free estimate please call

Steve Dartnell

07707806920
stevedartnell84@gmail.com



Woodstock Construction

Kitchens Bathrooms
General Building

We specialise in Kitchen & Bathroom
refurbishment.
Liaising closely with our Clients to
obtain the best possible results.

Over 35 years experience.
Call David for a free survey or further
information.

Mobile: 07961123084
Email: Woodstockcons@gmail.com



Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife

To continue the theme of the Wildlife Group declaring 2024 as the 'Year of the Bird', this month's article focuses on Birds of Prey, also known as raptors. These elegant birds are a delight to see in the countryside hunting for prey or soaring on summer thermals. As predators, they are found towards the top of food chains and are important indicators of ecosystem health. If their populations are healthy this suggests that the other levels of the food chain are plentiful. Conversely, problems in the environment can be reflected in raptor populations. This was clearly evident in the 1960s when peregrine falcon populations declined due to the build-up of the pesticide DDT in their bodies. This chemical affected their fertility by causing the eggshells to be very thin meaning that the eggs often broke before they could hatch.

There are 15 species of raptors that breed in the UK with the most common species being the kestrel, sparrowhawk, buzzard and peregrine falcon. The most common ones to see around Plumpton and East Chiltington are kestrels and buzzards but sightings of red kites are increasing as this species spreads across the country after being successfully reintroduced to England and Scotland. There are an estimated 4,600 breeding pairs of red kites now in the UK.

Two other species of raptors have been reintroduced into the country after being driven to extinction, the osprey and the white-tailed eagle. The latter is the largest bird of prey in the country with a wingspan of up to 2.5 metres. There are thought to be around 150 breeding pairs (2020 estimate) with most of these found on the west coast of Scotland. In 2019 a project to reintroduce white tailed eagles to England from the Isle of Wight was started by Forestry England and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation. The plan is to release 60 eagles with the hope that 6 - 8 breeding pairs will become established. The released eagles are fitted with satellite trackers and have roamed widely over England with sightings reported

from West Sussex, East Anglia, the West Country as well as northern Scotland and even as far as southern Sweden. In the summer of 2023 one pair successfully reared a chick in southern England, the first white tailed eagle to fledge from a nest in the wild in England for more than 240 years! More information on the project and for individual eagles is available on the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation's website.

Sadly, raptors are still persecuted across the country. Birds of prey have been protected by law in the UK since the introduction of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in 1981. Anyone harming a raptor or its nest can be prosecuted. However, it is often difficult to obtain enough evidence to prosecute. The RSPB reported that there were 61 cases of raptor persecution in the UK in 2022 but only two prosecutions that year. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the incidents occurred in connection with land managed for gamebird shooting (RSPB Birdcrime Report 2022). Intensive management on some gamebird estates includes the illegal killing of birds of prey. A range of raptor species are lost in this way including more common ones such as buzzards and peregrines but also rare species such as hen harriers and white tailed eagles. To date, five white tailed eagles have been persecuted by poisoning in the UK, including two from the re-introduction project in England. One of these was poisoned on a pheasant shooting estate in West Sussex after ingesting a highly toxic insecticide. This was the first confirmed case of illegal persecution of a white tailed eagle in the country since their reintroduction. Suspected raptor persecutions can be reported to the RSPB using their raptor crime hotline (0300 999 0101) or via the RSPB website.

Simon Harding



Angelo Spadaccini

Oil fired boiler and Aga service engineer

01403 741600

Fully experienced and insured

Info : www.facebook.com/angeloilfired

CHARLES WYCHERLEY

INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENTS

56 High Street, Lewes

01273 069006 or 07912 935889

Email: office@charleswycherley.co.uk

Living locally in the East Chiltington/Plumpton area.

Competitive rates for locals

Estate Agent and Chartered Surveyor

ELECTRICIAN

DEAN FERGUSON

YOUR LOCAL CHAILEY BASED

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Registered with NAPIT to certify to part P

No job too big, no job too small (labour VAT Free)

Tel: 01825 723661

MOB: 07754000147

Email: deanfergusonelectrician@hotmail.co.uk

Advertise Here !!

Contact

pecntreasurer@btinternet.com

Or

Phone

01273 891427



LEE'S LOCKS

NO CALL OUT CHARGE!

All locks fitted to insurance BS3621

Window Locks • Supplied & Fitted
Fully Guaranteed • O.A.P. Discounts
Insurance Work • UPVC Specialist

Digital Locks • Break ins
Garage Door • UPVC/Patio
Police Checked • No VAT!!!



**LOCKED OUT? DOOR JAMMED?
LOST KEYS? NEED EXTRA SECURITY?**

**Store this number in your
phone NOW! You may need it**

Tel: 01273 803 084

Mob: 07921 068564

Email: lee@lees-locks.com

FREE
PHONE

0800 44 88 147



**Always
Checkatrade**
Before you use them



Plough Inn

A friendly family pub, open all day everyday from noon. Quality meals made from locally sourced produce, served daily in a friendly relaxing atmosphere.

We pride ourselves on our cask marque real ales.

Rooms available for functions & our beautiful meadow is available for camping.

Always a warm welcome.

Call Nicole on : 01273 890311

theploughinnatplumtongreen@hotmail.co.uk



Ladybirds Playgroup



Come and join in the fun on Wednesdays!

Babies, toddlers and pre-school children all welcome at this community run playgroup.

A lovely way to meet local people in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Plumpton Village Hall

Wednesdays (Term Time) 9.30 to 11.30am

£2.50 per family (first session is free)

ladybirdsplumpton@gmail.com



ATKINSON PLUMBING & HEATING Ltd

07973 550114

01825 791232



- Kitchens & bathrooms
- General refurbishment
- Carpentry service available
- Woodburners
- Boiler installation/ servicing
- Central Heating

We cover West Sussex & surrounding areas

Our customers have rated us 10 for Workmanship and Courtesy on

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

PAY LESS TAX

Formerly with the world's largest accountancy firm for many years, I am now available freelance, to deal with all tax/accountancy matters, at a fraction of company rates. Ring for a free meeting.

LAWRENCE FLOWERS

School House

Plumpton Green, Lewes BN7 3DP

Tel: 01273 891505

Email lawrie8f@gmail.com

Advertise Here !!

Contact

pecntreasurer@btinternet.com

Or

Phone

01273 891427

REFLEXOLOGY

Auricular acupuncture

RESTORATIVE FACIALS

Natural non-toxic manicures

AROMATHERAPY

Hot stone neck, head massage

EYELASH TINT, BROW THREADING

Skin products, face enhancing

YOUTHFUL FACIAL ACUPUNCTURE

Ear seeds - Acupressure release

STEPHANIE SLADE

Skincare

07835 927868

stephanieslade.co.uk

pomme@theFirs Beresford Lane, Plumpton, BN8 4EN



honeybees
PRESCHOOL

Community run Preschool in the heart of Plumpton Green

Ages from 2 to 5

Flexible hours available between
8.30 - 3.30 Monday to Friday

Now offering 30 hours funded childcare

OFSTED rated 'GOOD'

The Pavilion, King George V Playing Field,
Plumpton Green, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3PD

Email hello@honeybeespreschool.co.uk
or phone 07786 615686

Find out more at www.honeybeespreschool.co.uk



simon cooper

scoopsweb
web solutions

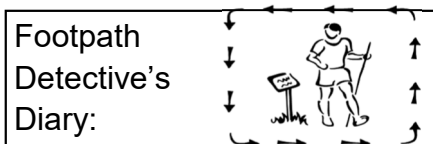
Plumpton-based web designer

tel: 07870 570050

email: simon@scoopsweb.co.uk

web: www.scoopsweb.co.uk

**For all your website and
digital marketing needs**



A Footpath Detectives Diary

March 2024

Finding Römerweg

This walk is in Gsiesertal, a valley in the Süd Tirol (Alto Adige) province of Italy. The route I did is about 13 miles and is best undertaken in summer but I did it in February when there was deep snow on the higher parts and snow shoes would have made it a more manageable trek.

My starting point Inner Förra, a small Masi or milk farm where I stay with a lovely family. The farm is on the sunny side of the valley and each day I enjoy the view across to the hills of pine forest. For many years I have looked to the high ridge where I know that there is a path called Römerweg (the Roman way). So on a wet Sunday when the weather couldn't decide whether to rain or snow I decided to have a break from the cross country skiing go in search of Römerweg.

I set off heading east on Talblickweg to Henzig, a small hamlet on the western edge of the village of Pichl. Just after Binterhof I turn right onto the snowy track to descend to Binta Pub by the main valley road. Across this road I take the lane through Durnwald and then left onto Talblickweg on the otherside of the valley and into Unterplanken. At the Hotel Stoll I follow the path sign number 91 and begin to climb on a track that runs parallel with the stream Finsterbach. This beck is in a deep ravine most of the way. In winter this track is most likely to be snowy or at least ice and snow. The climb is quite steep at first and gradually eases as I climb towards a natural saddle / pass.

Just off the side of the track I see that a few of the trees have what look like woodpecker holes on their trunks. One has been used to place a carving of a small bearded woodland figure. My track climbs and turns a bit before reaching a junction with some signs on of which says zum Römerweg and another has 61 and Frondeigen. I make the choice to follow this even though snow is now falling

with thick flakes.

The path takes me onto the pass and a nice option from here is to drop into the Valle Silvester above Toblach but that is for another day one summer. At about 1620 metres of altitude I come to a clear junction of several paths. Again one sign says zum Römerweg and at this point I follow it on path 60A also marked to Aufkirchen. I have to say that in winter its quite surreal to come across these signs in the deep snow when many of the paths themselves are invisible. I trust myself to route 60A, a track covered in knee deep snow and heading west with a gentle climb through Hinterwald.

At 1722 metres altitude I reach my high point of the day, I am at Sattel and on a clear day (this was not one of those) a view of the Dolomite peaks would be enjoyed. Here at last I met the path I have been searching for and I take the right turn onto Römerweg number 41 on my map. Until now I had been on tracks that at least at some point had been used by tractors possibly a month ago so the snow was a little compacted. Römerweg proved to have been unused for a long time. The snow was deep and fluffy, great fun for a short way but without snow shoes it proved challenging. I was in the company of forest animals only and even they only provided their recent foot prints. Most were deer and chamois but I do know that at least 13 wolves have now established themselves here.

For the next 5km Römerweg heads west, mostly keeping at about 1700 to 1600 metres altitude. As I got to a point where I was opposite the farm I was staying at the very low cloud cleared just enough for me to see Inner Förra and above it the hamlet of Schindelholz. I was delighted at this view because it was the first real chance to know exactly where I was even though it did confirm I had quite a way to go.

As Römerweg comes towards the end of that particular line of hills it descends to the castle above Welsberg (Monguelfo). This would make a fitting finish with a visit to this historic castle built in 1140. A bus stop is near to make an easy return up the valley. Alas as I descended I saw the last bus head off so for me a long walk back on Talblickweg.

EJH



Bird Watch

I recently heard that some Ring-necked Parrakeets had been seen locally and I consider that is not really good news. As with many non-native species, when they get a foothold in another country, expand their numbers rapidly if there are no natural predators to control them. These colourful birds, bright green with a rosy ring around the neck, are widespread in the Home Counties and their range is expanding. Over a hundred of them communally roost each evening in trees on an island in a lake near Crawley. Having a powerful beak and being about the size of a Magpie, they dominate local species competing for cavity nest sites.

There are several theories as to how they got here, one of them being that they were released at Elstree Studio after the film "African Queen" was made, where they were used to give authenticity to some of the scenes. I don't know if that is true or not but it shows how carefully we should think before releasing anything that is not naturally here, even if we think of it as a kindness, as the effect of them on local birds can be devastating. Other foreign species that have had a major impact on indigenous species are Mink that were foolishly "liberated" causing devastation to the Water Voles and the young of waterfowl, and Grey Squirrels that we know are so much of a problem.

It has been a good winter for the thrushes that come to us as it is less cold than where they breed farther north. We have had ringed birds, in the winter, that have been recovered from Norway and Finland in the summer. Many Redwings and Fieldfares have feasted on the large supply of Hawthorn berries that have lasted longer than in some years. When they have all been eaten, these birds will probe the fields where the grass is short, for worms. The grey rumps of the Fieldfares very obvious as

the fly away and a sure identification. Redwings are like small dark song thrushes, their eye stripe often more easy to see than the red which is more under the wing on the flank than on the wing itself. They will return north in April when they can be sure weather conditions will have improved and a food supply available. While on holiday, I have seen Fieldfares nesting in the trees of a carpark, in the forks on the trunk, just as Mistle Thrushes did when they were common here.

By the end of the month, with more hours of daylight, it should feel more like spring. The first returning summer visitors will show up towards the second half. First will be Chiffchaffs calling in the woods. Some more northerly birds of this species will have wintered here but the ones claiming territory will have spent the winter in North Africa, and so with not huge distances to travel, arrive before those that spent the winter further south and have to cross the Sahara. Next will be Blackcaps, their melodious song such a welcome sign that the season has progressed. Sometimes Sand Martins and Swallows are seen, usually over water as that is where flying insects on which they feed will be. If but some arrive early it always seems a bonus to get an early Swallow. However, if conditions deteriorate, they can suffer. We all know the saying "one Swallow doesn't make a summer" and this is very true as some succumb in poor weather which often comes just when we think we have got through the worst of it.

R.J.L.



A. C. TAX SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY
& TAXATION SERVICES

Kelvin Speirs

Fyndings, Station Road

Plumpton Green

Lewes BN7 3BX

Tel: 01273 890785

Email: kelvinspeirs60@gmail.com



GOAT GRID



AGROFORESTRY

**Food Forest and Agroforestry
Consultation, Design and Planting.
Wide range of trees, shrubs and herbs
available for winter.**

CASPARDICKINSON@ME.COM

+447527305939

INSTAGRAM : GOATGRID

Therapeutic Yoga - 1:1 tuition

20+ years experience

Movement and Stillness for body and mind for people living with

Learning and Physical Differences

Neurological Conditions

Dementia

Frailty

For more details contact Amber

07795 170803 / ambertheward@hotmail.com



Traditional & Power Sweeping
Tel. 01273 858568 Mob. 07889 485832
Fully insured Friendly & Reliable

GUMTREE 4x4 Ltd

01444 241457

Unit 17

Ditchling Common
Industrial Estate



**Land Rover, Range Rover, Discovery
and 4x4 Specialists.**

MOT testing, servicing and repairs.

Recovery, collection and delivery service available.

**A.M
Appliances**

- Washing Machine Repairs
- Dishwasher Repairs
- Electric Cooker Repairs
- Tumble Dryer Repairs
- Spare Parts

Domestic Appliance Repairs 


Allan Mansfield
01273 890917
01444 391112

www.amappliances.co.uk
service@amappliances.co.uk

Part of the
Checkatrade.com
Checkatrade.com is a leading authority on home services

 Find us on **facebook**



 **ROBERT BRADSHAW**
CARPENTER / JOINER

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Newick

Purpose-made Wardrobes •
Doors / Architraves •
Cupboards / Shelving •
Kitchens •
Property Maintenance •

Mobile: 07811 224400
Email: robcbrad@gmail.com

**COME AND JOIN US
AT YOUR LOCAL, FAMILY FRIENDLY
TENNIS CLUB**

- LTA QUALIFIED COACHES
- ADULT/JUNIOR COACHING
SATURDAY SESSIONS FOR JUNIORS OF ALL AGES
- CLUB NIGHTS/RUSTY RACQUETS/TEAM PLAY
- CHILDRENS' EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS
- JOIN IN WITH OUR COACH RUN CARDIO
SESSIONS A GREAT WAY TO KEEP FIT
- AWARD WINNING CLUBHOUSE
- FLOODLIGHTS

 **Plumpton Tennis Club**

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
CALL LESLEY SACHELL ON: 07590 354420
OR EMAIL: info@plumptontc.org.uk

MPS Electrics

For all your electrical needs

Local Electrician
Fully qualified/insured

Contact Marcus on

Tel: 01273 525545
Mob: 07546505447
email: mpselectrics@gmail.com

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



A.CHRISTIE

Plumpton Property
Maintenance Services

a.christie@btinternet.com
07775 911409

12 Southdowns, Plumpton Green.
BN7 3EB

Garden maintenance



Phillip 07812 364395
Professional, Experienced, Reliable



Chailey Commons Society

www.chaileycommons.org.uk

It is good to welcome March as it brings forth spring flowers. They have made an early start again and the snowdrops and primroses are out, and the daffodils are showing well. These take over from the winter flowering shrubs such as the Arrowwood (e.g. *Viburnum × bodnantense*) and the Witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) which have been glorious.

The commons, although still in late winter mode, are showing those browns and mauves so typical of this time of year. The ponies on Red House Common are still very woolly in their winter coats but they will soon be losing these.

Once again, we completed our birch harvesting sessions and made bundles of tightly bound tops for storing and prepared the off cuts into more bound bundles to go to the Wilder Ouse Project for use in the streams and riverbanks.

Our indoor meetings have continued with a talk on Nightjars from Greg Conway, and we are inspired to redouble our efforts to see and hear these amazing birds again this year.

For a fun time, we were grateful to have been able to use St Peter's Church as our venue for the bird box making session for children. It was rewarding to be creative and benefit nature in this way. Thank you to our friends at the church, especially Peter and Brenda for organizing everything.

We will have our Annual General Meeting in the Chailey Village Hall on Thursday March 14th at 7.30.p.m. and this will be followed by a display of maps and old

photographs by Tony Turk and a Raffle table by the Guides Rangers. This is a lovely opportunity to meet and enjoy the fascinating items about the locality. Refreshments and parking and visitors welcomed. Come along and meet the members and the society.

And lastly - on a Lunar note - Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year) happened this year on Saturday, February 10, 2024. This year ushers in the year of the Dragon! For us, this month the Full Moon will be on March 25th and is the 'Worm' Moon! The "Worm Moon" got its name because in March the soil begins to warm and the very first signs of life begin to return as earthworms, beetle larvae, and grubs emerge from their winter dormancy.

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
@Lewescab1

www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk

Contact : Sophie Hoffman 01273 007556

Damp and mould has built up in our house this winter. We've reported it to our landlord, but they haven't done anything. What should we do?

Information on our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk can help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do.

Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example, this could be if it's affecting your health.

Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like rotten window frames.

If your landlord is responsible but doesn't do anything, there are steps you can take, like reporting them to the local authority. As a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

Condensation is a key cause of damp. Keeping homes well-heated and well-ventilated is the best way to prevent this, but high energy costs make this very difficult. If you're finding it hard to insulate and heat your home, check our website to see if you're eligible for support.

You may reach the point where you just want to get out of your tenancy agreement early, but this can be difficult.

If you're feeling stuck, you can always speak to a local adviser by calling our Adviceline on 0808 278 7892 for personalised support.

EAST CHILTINGTON



Societies

Clubs

Groups

*For changes or new
entries:*

phone:

01273 891427

Email:

pecncopy@gmail.com

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	Sue Akers	891701
Football Club	Paul Manville	07813 114470
Footpath Society	Judy Lawrenson	01273 472277
Guides	girlguiding.org.uk	
Happy Circle	Cherie Winchester	891592
Honeybees Preschool		07786 615686
Horticultural Society	Lin Pilfold	01273 475594
Hospice Support Group	Sue Akers	891701
Junior Football	Darryl Bailey	07792 686673
Oil Buying Group	Diane Marks	07929 336065
Pantomime Society	Penny Acton	01273 891427
Plumpton Activity Scheme	Becca Baker	
	plumptonactivityscheme@gmail.com	
Plumpton Bowmen	Mark Piercy	07799 467997
Plumpton Camera Club	Tim Honess	01273 890582
Plumpton & East Chiltington		07478 524152
Good Neighbours	Gina Hawthorne	
Plumpton Rude Mechanical	Lee Stevens	07887 562721
Theatre Co. Friends		
Plumpton Short Mat Bowls	Malcolm Beard	890826
Plumpton Tennis Club	Lesley Satchell	07590 354420
Plumpton Village Society	Lee Stevens	07887 562721
PPTFA	Marie Leviston	891497
Plumpton Vol Driving	Gill Medhurst	01273 890055
	Bookings - Jackie	07855213947
Rainbows	girlguiding.org.uk	
Rugby Club	Mike Allen	890076
Scouts	Rodney Hills	890410
Southdown East Pony Club	Mike Nichols	01444 452295
Stoolball Club	Jo Taylor	890450
Turning Pointe Dance Classes	office.turningpointe@gmail.com	
Wildlife Group	Kate Gold	
	plumptonwildlife@gmail.com	

Plumpton & East Chiltington News

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

Printed By;

Devon Print Ltd. 077955 66066

Plumpton & East Chiltington News

**If you have a business providing services
in the Plumpton and East Chiltington
area and would like to advertise in this
magazine please email:**

pecntreasurer@btinternet.com

