Lindfield Life

Local village talk, by the village

March 2010 Issue #12







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Lindfield Life



Cover image by Paula Clark.
High Street Crocuses.

Got a great cover picture? See we

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AT LONG LAST signs of spring are pushing through. I noticed the first green shoots of the daffodils that will soon be in full swing along Black Hill the other day and there are already cyclamen and crocuses in full flower around the village. Mother Nature has begun to shed her winter wardrobe in favour of the new spring collection. If you want some hints and tips with your own wardrobe, then Victoria Verner is back with the fashion news from the catwalks to the High Street for spring and summer 2010.

As the weather begins to warm the air, many of us will be thinking about getting out and about on foot once again. The countryside surrounding our village is beautiful and is easily accessed via the many public footpaths we have in this area. Lindfield Life has been to meet local farmer, Alison Eggert-Hobbs, in Village People this month. Many of the public footpaths to the east of the village are maintained by Alison and her family and she shares with the us the joys and perils of being a farmer in a village community. Fulling Mill Farm wou ld have looked very different today if the Ouse Valley Railway had been built and Phil Ladd, a local expert, brings us the history of Lindfield's abandoned railway.

Regular columnist Gabrielle Hall is taking a well-deserved break this month. Anyone frequenting the High Street will have noticed some movement as Heart & Soul has moved from the shop on the corner of Hickmans Lane to become next door neighbour with its sister shop on the other side, 66 High Street, a little farther up from the Red Lion. We wish Gabrielle all the best in her new premises – do take the opportunity to pop in and have a look around.

With Mothering Sunday falling in March this year, we've been back into the history books this month to find out more about its origins and traditions. Lindfield has plenty to offer, from flowers to gifts, so why not visit our local shops in search of that little something for your mum?

Emma Tingley, Editor

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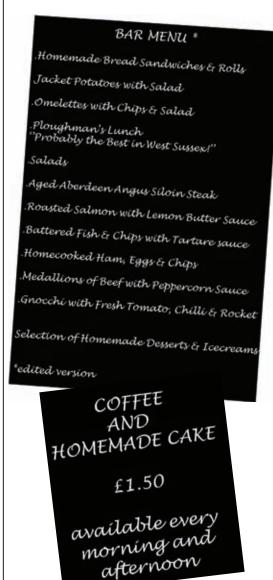
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Advertising: David Tingley <ads@lindfieldlife.co.uk>

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We'd love to hear from groups, organisations and individuals about what's happening locally. Include a photo if you can. Email your stories to editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

What's on for Lindfield Horticultural Society

THE MARCH EVENT will be a Demonstration of Floral Arrangements by Robert Tunks. Robert, who lives locally, is a well-known national judge who is also a good friend of Lindfield Horticultural Society. He acts as the main judge for the Flower sections of the Shows and is always a very popular presenter. The arrangements he produces during the evening are usually raffled at the end. The talk will take place in the King Edward Hall on Wednesday 10 March at 8pm and costs 50p for members and £1 for visitors.

Don't forget to start thinking about entries for the Spring Show, which will take place on Saturday 3 April.

Organ Recital - All Saints

TIGER ARTS PRESENTS Jonathan Hodgson (organ)

Wednesday 10 March at 1pm. Light lunches served in the Tiger Lounge from 12.15pm. Admission free, collection to help cover expenses. Next month - 14 April, Sara Gourlay (mezzo soprano).

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Lindfield Spring Fair

Stuart Marsh, LCCH Trustee

WHERE WILL YOU be on Saturday 6th March between 10.30 and 12.30? It's the first weekend of Spring, meteorologically, so hopefully you'll be popping into the United Reformed Church in the High Street to enjoy the first Spring Fair in aid of Compton House Nursing Home.

The Fair will have something for everyone:-

- Arts and crafts : see what talent our village has
- Delicious cakes, scones, quiches etc.
- Jewellery
- Fairtrade items
- Homemade refreshments

In case you don't know much about Lindfield Christian Care Home (its full name), it is owned and supported by the three churches in Lindfield. Despite its title, it is open to everyone without priority. There are some vacancies at this three star Nursing Home at the moment so why not pop in to the fair to find out more about Compton House or phone (01444) 482662. We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate (maybe) the arrival of Spring!

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Rotary provides power in Nepal

By David Wilson

THREE INTREPID ROTARIANS from the Cuckfield & Lindfield Club flew via Delhi to Nepal to inaugurate a project the Club had funded. They were hosted by their local partner - the Rotary Club of Charumati, Kathmandu. The 30 km journey to the poor, remote hillside village of Gurje took over three hours by 4-wheel drive vehicle, then on foot. The beneficiaries were a school, a medical centre and a feeding base.

As a result of the project, electricity is now provided by the combination of a small hydro-electric generator powered by a mountain stream, together with a solar panel system. This not only provides schoolchildren with lighting and computers but it enables evening adult education classes in health, hygiene, literacy and agricultural improvement to take place. A bio-digester unit was also funded which turns cow dung into methane gas, plus a bonus of soil conditioner at the end. The gas is used for cooking meals for some 90 children each day. Rotarians Alan Hancock, Mike Kirk and David Wilson served the food during their visit - to the great delight and amusement of the children.

The school, medical centre and feeding base are run by Sol-Himal Umbrella Nepal, an organisation which rescues war-displaced children from ramshackle, unofficial



orphanages. They currently house and educate some 300 children in Kathmandu but they have plans to move their entire operation to Gurje.

The Cuckfield & Lindfield Club donated £2093, which was almost magically turned into £13,684 by joining together with their partner club of Karlstadt Arnstein in Germany and getting matching grants from The Rotary Foundation. The project was managed by the local club, which also kept a professional account of the financing. At the final meeting in the famous Shankar Hotel in Kathmandu, the Rotary Assistant District Governor of Nepal complimented the three clubs on accomplishing a fine example of a truly international Rotary project.

For more information about Rotary please visit www.rotarysussex.org

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Mind that hole!

THEY HAVE BEEN more common than the iPhone, have been talked about almost as much as the weather, have caused grief to many a motorist and serious mischief to bicycle wheels, not to mention injury to their riders and... there is probably one near you. Yes, it's the humble pothole.

According to potholes.co.uk they are a major contributor to vehicle axle and suspension failure, accounting for a third of mechanical issues on UK roads and costing motorists an estimated £2.8 billion. It is estimated that Highway Authorities pay out more than £50 million in compensation claims every year due to poor roads. The CTC, the UK's national cyclists' organisation, estimates that potholes are responsible for 12% of compensation claims by its members. They are more than just a nuisance, they are a danger to anyone on two wheels, and that includes motorcyclists, and to pedestrians.

They are usually formed when water penetrates the cracks which occur in asphalt as a result of trafficking and ageing, weakening the layers underneath. The process is accelerated following a period of frost, when ice crystals form, expanding and hastening the breakdown of the surface. Our recent exceptionally cold and snowy weather will certainly have exacerbated the situation. The characteristic pattern of cracks resembling an alligator skin is the precursor to eventual failure. When the surface starts to break up, it's not long before we have our infamous pothole. So, what can we do about them?

For public highways in Lindfield (private or unadopted roads excluded) maintenance is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council. With literally thousands of miles of highway to monitor and maintain they do rely on us, the good upright citizens of Lindfield, to report defects such as potholes. Of course, there are inspectors out there inspecting as a matter of course, but they can't possibly be everywhere. So when I saw three nasty specimens appearing in the road not far from my house I picked up the telephone and called the County Highways Authority on 01243 642105, where a nice lady called Sheila, based in offices in Bognor, talked me through the reporting process.

The location and description of each hole (area, depth,

By John Barling





position in road) was duly recorded and the details then forwarded at the speed of light to a highways Inspector. He or she would assess the hole on site, prioritise and then assign a job number for the Authority's Contractor to carry out the repair. Sheila told me that hundreds of potholes are being reported every day throughout the county and went on to explain the Council's policy. Under normal circumstances, potholes more than 50mm deep would be targeted for repair within 28 days, whereas any assessed as 'dangerous' (which I reckoned 'my' potholes were) would be repaired within 7 days. If I wished, I could call the hotline again, simply quoting my postcode, to check on progress or to update the holes' status.

Anyway, I left their fate in the capable hands of our public servants. Any potholes etc, including those in footpaths, may also be reported online at www.westsussex.gov.uk. Alternatively one could use the CTC facilitated site www. fillthathole.org.uk. Motorists might alternatively choose to use the potholes.co.uk website.

Together we shall beat them, but I am told it may take years to clear the backlog of repairs to get our roads up to scratch. That's one for the politicians and the pockets of all of us. In the meantime, pick up that phone!

Footnote: Wow! Just 10 working days after reporting 'my' potholes two men from the County Highways Depot turned up in a flat bed truck and plugged the holes with a hot mix macadam supplied by one of Tarmac's batching plants. Well done lads... and thanks!



home front

By Jacqui Smith, interior designer

Splashing out

Gone are the days when planning a bathroom was a relatively straightforward plumbing exercise. Today we are spoiled for choice in not only sanitary ware, taps and tiles but the growing selection of state of the art technology. Whether you are planning spalike opulence or an invigorating wet room, here are a few things to consider.

Look closely at the space and consider its function. Is it to be a family bathroom, do you need space for a laundry bin and will the mirror be used for make up? Correct placement of your fittings is key. It's worth starting with a perfect world scenario when it comes to ideal space for bath and so forth since plumbing can, to a certain extent, be moved. Consider the door into the bathroom – would re-hanging it on the other side or having it open towards you rather than into the room, free up some valuable wall and floor space?

When it comes to lighting you have bags of scope to create some drama here – task lighting around the mirror, mood lighting which could take the form of up-lighters or fibre optics or some feature lighting in the form of a back-lit bath panel. LED lights offer exciting possibilities such as transforming the flow of water from your shower into a multicoloured waterfall, controlled by programmable key pads. You can even have heat sensitive lights within your taps so hot water flows red and cold water flows blue. A qualified electrician will be able to advise on the most suitable fittings and ensure that the IP rating of the fitting is adequate.

Bathrooms attract clutter more than most rooms, well certainly in our house! Fitted storage is very easy to work in since there are invariably odd spaces around fittings where boxing in can be extended to afford a little cupboard here and there. There is a wide range of wall cabinets on the market, wide and shallow with mirrored doors so you get the storage and the function of the mirror. Indeed for small spaces large mirrors, ideally fitted with anti-mist pads, really come into their own and positioned correctly can give you the effect of a bathroom twice the size.

Wall coverings will need to withstand humid conditions – kitchen and bathroom paint is a popular choice. When it comes to flooring I would avoid carpet or sea grass; as they are simply less practical. Travertine and limestone are becoming more popular with under floor heating giving a warm treat to tired feet. Vinyl has come a long way in the past few years with brands such as Amtico and Karndean stealing a march as market leaders, offering a vast array of wood effect, stone and tile finishes. Manufactured tiles such as porcelain and ceramic offer an enormous choice of colour and texture. Having re-vamped your bathroom you then have the perfect excuse to indulge in one of my (sad but true) favourite pastimes, shopping for new towels!

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Good Food...

By Caroline Young

The month of March is simply full of "special days". March 1st celebrates the patron saint of Wales, St. David, followed by St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, on the 17th. In between we have Mothering Sunday on March 14th, then Palm Sunday on the 28th. This year Good Friday and Easter fall in April. All of these days are associated with traditional foods so why not celebrate being British this month?

Irish Potato Cakes

Makes 4 servings. Well wrapped, they may be refrigerated for up to 4 days. Allow a little longer cooking time to allow them to heat through.

Boil 750g potatoes until soft then drain well. In a little water cook a handful of finely shredded green cabbage until tender then drain well. Mash the potatoes beating in a little hot milk and a generous knob of butter to make a smooth but firm mixture. Stir in the cabbage and seasoning to taste. With floured hands shape into balls about the size of a tennis ball and flatten slightly. To serve: fry in a little oil plus a knob of butter until golden brown on both sides. Serve piping hot – great with some grilled bacon rashers or sausages.

Welsh Leek Soup

Makes 4 generous servings

Clean and thinly slice 700g leeks. Peel and thinly slice 1 large onion. Thinly slice 2 celery sticks. Melt a generous knob of butter in a large pan, add the vegetables and cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until soft but not brown. Add 600ml well-flavoured chicken or vegetable stock, bring just to the boil, cover and cook over low heat until the vegetables are tender. Cool slightly then buzz in a processor until smooth (or push through a sieve). Return to the pan and stir in 150ml whipping cream. At this point the soup can be chilled or frozen. To serve: warm to serving temperature over low heat but do not allow to boil. Season to taste. Serve topped with one or more of the following - chopped chives, shredded ham, diced chicken, grated cheese, croutons or shrimp.



Apricot Cake

Preheat the oven to 160°. Butter and line a 20cm round cake tin. Beat together 100g caster sugar and 100g soft butter until light and creamy. Beat in 2 medium eggs and 2tsp almond essence. Sieve over 200g self-raising flour and gently stir in together. Briefly warm 6ths (use a measuring spoon) apricot jam to soften it, then stir into the cake batter. Spoon into the tin and level the top. Bake for about 30 min or until the cake tests cooked. Cool in the tin for 15 min before turning out onto a cooling rack.Stir just enough fresh lemon juice into 3tbs sieved icing sugar to make a smooth thin icing. Drizzle over the cold cake and decorate with a few tiny fresh flowers. To make a smaller cake, halve the ingredients and use a small loaf tin. Bake for 20-25 min or until the cake tests cooked. Ice as above.

Simnel cake was the traditional gift to mothers on Mothering Sunday. It is a very rich, moist fruit cake with a thick layer of marzipan (almond paste) through the centre. For a lighter cake try this apricot flavoured recipe.

Welsh Rarebit

Makes 4 generous servings. Well wrapped, may be refrigerated for up to 3 days.

Put 1tbs milk, 1tbs plain flour and a pinch of English mustard into a small pan and beat until smooth. Stir in 175g finely grated mature Cheddar cheese. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until the cheese has melted, the mixture is smooth and leaves the sides of the pan. Cool slightly then beat in 1 egg yolk and seasoning to taste.

To serve: divide into 4 portions and pile on top of hot unbuttered toast, English muffins or crumpets. Slip under a hot grill until a rich golden brown. Serve topped with poached eggs if wished.

Or spoon each portion over freshly poached fresh or smoked haddock portions and grill as above. Extra delicious if the fish is on a bed of cooked spinach. Poached salmon or chicken breasts could be used instead of haddock.

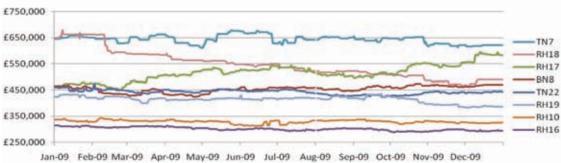




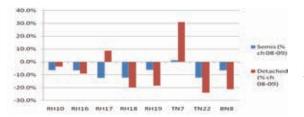
Property market quarterly



Ave. asking prices in 2009



Change in sold prices 2008 to 2009



Comment:

- 1. Are we through the worst? Everyone clearly hopes that 2009 marked the nadir of the recession and we're now on the up, but the parlous state of UK plc's public finances mean there are risks to this recovery. In terms of our local property market, the data just in for last year would confirm that most of us felt some pain unless, as chart 2 suggests, you were lucky enough to be selling something large in RH17 or TN7!
- 2. What's really going on here? Lack of supply continues to be the major issue. In almost all areas volumes of available stock have continued to shrink since we reported in the autumn, by up to a third in some areas. Notwithstanding the usual slowdown for Christmas, we start this year with a chronic shortage of people prepared to sell their houses, which may be distorting asking prices. Chart 1 shows asking prices last year held up in most areas except RH18 where they fell almost 25%, yet in RH17 asking prices actually appeared to rise over the year by a similar amount - just goes to show asking prices are notoriously difficult to rely on and interpret! The resilience of different postcodes is better borne out by movements in sold prices which, as illustrated in Chart 2, shows that most people had to accept reductions last year in order to do a deal. So the moral of the story is: if you are asking too much or

- your agent has widened your eyes with over-generous appraisals to win your precious instruction, your house might simply sit around. This is borne out by the fact that the average time to sell is continuing to rise quite sharply. Most buyers won't and can't pay over the odds, so opportunistic selling will not really be the name of the game in 2010.
- 3. Where next? OK, we'll stick our neck out here....the debate is all about inflation/interest rates and hoped for expansion in bank lending. Higher than expected CPI and oil prices doubling in 2009 are balanced by continuing weakness in the economy. The question seems really when, not if, rates start to rise to head off inflation. We think the property market will remain stable but with moderate activity until the election. Despite current political posturing, we think the pain will start in the second half whoever wins - the money tap will be slowly turned off and inflationary pressures on interest rates will return, stunting economic recovery just as public spending hits the wall. Economists are pencilling in the first rate hikes any time from April to the end of the year. Whatever the timing, the reality is that house price to earnings ratios are still historically high in the South East and we fear the market is too expensive to absorb too much fiscal and monetary austerity, especially as the banks are not showing much appetite to lend again.
- 4. So what to do? Price sensibly for a start. Ask agents to give reasoned evidence to support their appraisal figures and don't necessarily go for the agent who quotes the highest number. Secondly, don't delay if you have near-term plans to move and sell into traditional spring strength. If interest rates start to tick up towards the end of the year (which the market believes) life could get tougher again for us all. Our advice would be to focus more on price differentials between what you're selling and buying than a fixed sale figure alone if you want to successfully conclude a move this year. We look forward to being able to advise and help you on the way.



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Fifty years on, in the village

By Bill Nicolle

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE to Haywards Heath, Cuckfield and Lindfield of 1959 is the source of much comparative interest and surprise. The picture of the cars parked in

South Road is remarkable not only on a nostalgic basis for the cars we once drove but also for the apparent total absence of parking restrictions (fig.1). As for the driver of vehicle TLP876, it would appear that fifty years ago the High Street in Lindfield near the pond was one way only judging by its position in the road (fig.2)! Will anyone admit to ownership or knowledge of this vehicle provided freedom from prosecution is assured!

The Post Office was open until 6.00 pm daily and even on Good Friday and Boxing Day (stamps only). Letters for delivery could be posted on the day itself and, amazingly, apology was seen as necessary that on Good Friday and Christmas Day only one delivery

of letters and parcels would take place. Railway ticket prices to London for a quarterly season (second class) were £15 .12s 9d and an ordinary day return to London a mere 12s 8d (63p!) A cheap off peak day return to

London was 3s. 2d (15p!) The price of the 'Middy' was 4d.

And how about this for a bit of advertising license? The Hayworthe Hotel, formerly adjacent to Haywards Heath station, describes itself as follows 'The Hayworthe Hotel is framed by wooded countryside and rolling downs which ensures a marvellous 'countryside-cum seaside' holiday'! No wonder we never needed to go abroad, especially when the Mid Sussex Laundry

was also in operation beautifully washing our linen and 'drying it in the open country' (fig.3). All this was just fifty years ago and this writer can only wonder (since he will not be here to witness) how 2059 will compare with today? Perhaps better not to think about it!





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Alex Mackenzie



Spring Summer 2010 - Ready to wear?

By Victoria Verner

AT THE TIME of writing, I look out of my window and all I can see is grey – even the grass looks grey having suffered under the inches of snow that have finally melted away. So when I hear that the high street is trying to entice us all with displays of Spring Summer Chic, I wonder if they've all gone a little mad?! With whispers of more snow on the horizon, I certainly don't feel like whipping off my lovely warm leggings and throwing on a skimpy floral number... and I don't think my legs would appreciate it given they've been hidden under layers of clothes for the last few months!!

However, we mustn't be depressed....... because Spring will eventually arrive and, when it does, won't it be nice to have a few perfect items in the wardrobe ready to wear and dazzle your friends with? So read on to find out what's hot for Spring Summer 2010.

No more 80s!

Many of you will be pleased to hear that there is a definite shift away from the retro 80s dressing that has been so popular over the last few seasons. Shoulder pads did not last too long and have now retired to the back of the wardrobe, perhaps to be brought out for one of those fancy dress parties we love so much! There's still the odd sequin to be found but then who can resist a little sparkle here and there?

Nostalgic Romance

The mood on the high street is definitely one of romance and you'll find pretty ruffles, frills and delicate fabrics will be a key feature of many items. Lingerie-inspired dressing may not suit everyone but you could try mixing it up with denim, another essential look for this season.

Designers have not forgotten those of us who cannot go about in lacey tunics all day, with a return to cleancut casual wear and an emphasis on military looks and sportswear influences. 'How does that translate into something I can wear?' I hear you say. Well, here are a few ideas for what to look out for this summer.

Military looks

Many of the key items this season fall into the 'military' category- don't panic – I'm not suggesting you rush out and buy some camouflage gear! But you might like to try a casually-styled military jacket or skirt. The casual jacket, in cotton canvas, is ideal for warmer weather and comes in all shades of khaki and sandy neutrals. The military skirt, either in a youthful cropped shape or more contemporary longer-line pencil style, looks great teamed with a simple t-shirt in the new season's pastel shades.

The dress



Summer shorts

Another essential item for Summer is shorts. And I'm not talking standard, slightly boring cotton shorts. For a more modern style, for those of you who've visited the beauty salon for this year's first St Tropez, are less than 20 years of age and don't mind causing a stir, there are the evolutionary, Bridget Ionesinspired knicker-style shorts. Extreme though they may be, they are already on the High Street in lycra, jersey an even leather....ladies of Lindfield, lookout!

Not everyone's cup of tea I'm pleased to say, so fortunately for the more conservative of us, who prefer something a little less extreme, shorts this season will abound in softly rounded shapes with drawstring waists, or the more commercial look with pleats and tucks in smooth cotton and linen. Continuing with the



romantic trend there are also cami-shorts inspired by the Boudoir, which feature lace trims made in silk fabrics or lightweight cotton. The other thing you could do, is dig out a pair of your old jeans and cut them off and voila, you're bang on trend!

New Trend

Speaking of trends, it makes me feel really old now that designers are taking inspiration from the decade of my youth - the nineties - and have created a new trend called 90s Nirvana. This encompasses a grunge look, with mismatched layering, festival-inspired style - think dirty denim, anoraks, tube skirts and gilets. I don't remember any of that but it doesn't sound like we washed much... I wonder what the Noughties will inspire?!

Print and Pat ern

Moving on swiftly, the colour palette of tinted pales and neutral colours is challenged by the opposing looks in prints and pattern. Spots and stripes are a staple for British summer trends. They appear in many

variations to bring them up to date, with spots being placed more haphazardly and with different colours mixed together. Stripes too are less rigid, with zigzags, waves and even broken stripes and look great on a simple jersey summer dress.

Saving the best till last...

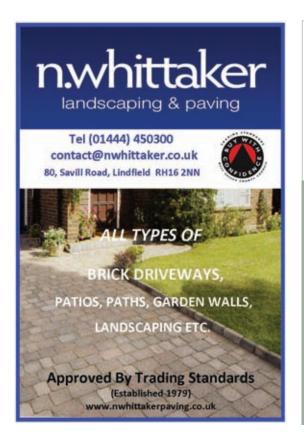
And what to wear with all those lovely dresses, shorts and military skirts??? Why of course the trusty flip-flop. It's at this time we start to remember the lovely sandals and summer shoes we bought in the end of season sales and threw in the bottom of the cupboard because it was too cold to wear them.

You could invest in the flip-flop update – the Japanese geta sandal; a traditional shoe made up of a sole supported by two wooden blocks, brought into the 21st century with platform soles and straps around the ankle.

Or maybe you have a pair of summer shoes that have been with you through many seasons, which you just can't bring yourself to throw away, even if they have lost some of their sparkle?

Whichever it is, its time to book in that pedicure!









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Lindfield's Lost Railway

By Phil Ladd

LINDFIELD NEARLY HAD a railway station. To be sited at the foot of Town Hill it would have been the first stop on the London Brighton & South Coast Railway's Ouse Valley Line authorised on 23 June 1864. The route would have commenced just south of the Balcombe Viaduct on the Brighton line, followed the Ouse to Uckfield and then towards Hailsham where a line from Polegate, opened in 1849, would have given the LBSCR a second route to Eastbourne, supplementing the line from Keymer Junction to Lewes. In 1865 the St Leonard's Railway was authorised

to continue to Hastings. These might appear to be legitimate expansions but the LBSCR only intended these lines to block invasion threats from rival companies.

The origins of the OVR and StLR lie in the troubled relationship between the London &

Brighton Railway, as it was initially called, and the South Eastern Railway, and later, the expansion plans of the London Chatham & Dover Railway. Under the L&BR's Act of 1837 the SER was directed, for the sake of economy and disturbance to the countryside, to share its line with the L&BR southwards from a new station near Norwood to Redhill where it branched due east to Dover, a long way round. Northwards from Norwood both railways had to pass over two recently incorporated railways, the London & Croydon, from Croydon to Corbett's Lane Junction, and then over the London & Greenwich, to whom all three paid tolls, into London Bridge, the only terminus at the time permitted to the capital. In 1846 the L&C was amalgamated with the L&BR, becoming the London Brighton & South Coast Railway and the L&G leased to the SER the following year. The tolls remained.

On 12 November 1847 they signed an Agreement, legalised on 10 July 1848, under which the one ceased to pay tolls to the other for its own traffic over the route of the other's newly acquired railway. But they were still to pay each other tolls over the former L&C or L&G as appropriate for traffic conveyed to or from the other's "sphere", basically outlined as eastwards of Redhill as the SER's and southwards, the LBSCR's, and any new lines built either side of a boundary drawn from Redhill to Hastings. No mention was made of the "sphere" westward of the Redhill-Corbett's Lane boundary.

which proved significant as the battle for control of south-east London and access to the

West End developed. The Agreement was invoked by both companies for the next twenty years when disputes arose. Two such matters in the Beckenham area have a bearing on the MAR

From 1851 the LBSCR had been concerned by proposed lines from Beckenham to their main line and Croydon, useful to the SER for an independent access and a West End terminus. In 1853 the LBSCR, seeking its own terminus, had agreed to work the West End of London & Crystal Palace Railway's line between Battersea and Crystal Palace, linked by the LBSCR's branch from Norwood Junction. The LBSCR and the SER opposed the WELCPR's proposed eastern extension to Farnborough via Beckenham, each fearing the other gaining territorial advantage. The LBSCR wrote to the SER that in the fair spirit and construction of the 1848 Agreement "neither company should make any arrangement or give any direct or indirect assistance to any new company in the other's district without the previous written consent of the other". In the event the line, authorised that year, avoided Croydon, passing over the



main line north
of Norwood.
In 1858 the
WELCPR
proposed extending
it to the newly formed
East Kent Railway, the London,

East Kent Railway, the London, Chatham and Dover Railway from 1859.

The LBSCR agreed not to influence the WELCPR but the SER conceded that the area west of the Corbetts Lane-Croydon boundary (that included the WELCPR and Victoria) belonged to the LBSCR. By the end of 1860, Victoria was shared between the LBSCR, the Great Western Railway and the LCDR; the LBSCR had purchased the WELCPR, whose Norwood-Beckenham extension went to the LCDR. The SER had been thwarted in both its objectives.

Outside London both companies had reached Eastbourne and Hastings by 1851. In the early 1850s the LBSCR supported two local companies, the Three Bridges-East Grinstead and the Lewes-Uckfield Railways, both to be single tracked, evidence of its continuing suspicions of the SER. In the early 1860s the LBSCR was involved with the Surrey & Sussex Junction Railway from Croydon to Groombridge and Tunbridge Wells and an SER line from Eastbourne to Crovdon, a shorter service to London than the LBSCR's via Lewes. Both objected to the other's lines, starting in one territory and entering another. The Eastbourne bill was withdrawn under an Agreement of 2 March 1864 whereby neither company would build inroads into the other's. The LBSCR were poorly rewarded for its objection, when under the Tunbridge Wells & Eastbourne Railway Act of 14 July, it was directed to build the line. Under the S&SJR Act of 6 July 1865, it was also required to build this line, despite the 1864 Agreement. The projected reduction in its Eastbourne revenue was one of the reasons for the Ouse Valley Railway, or "Eastbourne Direct Railway", Act.

But an attack was also building from the north. In 1862 a local company promoted a Beckenham, Lewes and Brighton line, starting in SER's territory, cutting through the LBSCR's to Lewes, and entering Brighton via Kemp Town. The bill failed twice but this threat not only contributed to the

LBSCR's promotion of the Ouse Valley Railway but also

a "defensive" branch to Kemp Town, authorised on 13 May 1864. The BLB re-emerged as the West Kent Railway, clearly supported by the LCDR, which of course was not party to any Agreement but was withdrawn in 1865, The SER then joined with the LCDR for a fourth bill, the London Lewes and Brighton, with branches to Hastings and Newhaven, already served by the LBSCR - a blatant invasion of Brighton's territory as well as its "capital".

INDFIE

The LBSCR now faced considerable opposition from 9,000 Brightonians and the Brighton Council, which, announcing that the LBSCR "cared only about expresses and excursions", voted unanimously in favour of the LLBR which was authorised on 6th August 1866. But by then events in the City were bringing matters to a head. In May the banking house of Overend & Gurney had failed. One of its customers, Peto & Betts, improvement(LBSCR) and line (LCDR) contractors went bankrupt. The LCDR, facing the same fate, could not support the LLBR and the SER, unable to continue alone, also withdrew. Although committed to several new railways and improvements, the LBSCR began work on the OVR. But all work had ceased by 4 December 1867, when the Board wrote to a Mrs Beard of Lewes who had sold it land, requesting her to "accept the Company's notice to abandon the Ouse Valley Line".

The Ouse Valley, the St Leonard's and the London, Lewes & Brighton Railway were all repealed on 13 July 1868.

Lindfield and its "abandoned" railway had played their part in the most dramatic period of the Brighton railway's history. If you want to know more about the Ouse Valley Railway, please email Phil on philadd60@yahoo.co.uk

A map detailing all the lines is available to download from the Lindfield Life website: www.lindfieldlife.co.uk

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Plants worth considering...

By Martin Higgins, Lindfield Horticultural Society (LHS)

MOST PEOPLE WHO know it consider that Primula "Don Keefe" is a lovely plant. It has large red flowers from March to May, pulls itself up to 23cm in height and just looks a classy plant full of elegance. With the latter attributes it ought to have a female name or can Don also be short for Donna? What led me to thinking about it was that I wanted to cheer myself up on a particularly miserable January day. To have ventured out into the garden to attempt some of those tasks I have not got round to yet was beyond the call of duty. So I started to muse about some plants I ought to try to fit into the garden this year.



Next up was Salvia concolor which has long inflorescences of deep blue flowers which it displays from July to November, grows 2m in height and is reported to be hardy to -8c. I saw this last year at the Kent Hardy Plant Society Show at Great Comp's Garden (by the way this garden is being visited by Lindfield Horticultural Society in August) and was won over, room must be found!

This is just the time of year to take notice of Hellebores which are the jewels of the winter and spring months. They associate particularly well with snowdrops, Erythronium, Primula, Pulmonaria and Tiarella. The one which has particularly caught my eye is Helleborus x hybridus "Picotee", which has petal edges looking as though they have just been dipped in strawberry jam. It grows to about 40cm in height and flowers from January to March and will do best in moist dapple shade. If you are tempted, it is best to buy one from a nursery when it is in flower. This way you can be sure that the colour is what you are expecting, for the offspring of Hellebores can have interesting, and not always the anticipated, characteristics.

Dreaming on, I recalled seeing one of the coneflowers, Echinacea purpurea "Fatal Attraction", which had been highly recommended by Jennie Maillard of Usual and Unusual Plants near Hailsham. A recommendation from Jennie being something that is not given lightly, I had been looking out for it. Well it has bright purple pink flowers on stems which are dark red bordering on black. It is the sort of plant that you cannot help but "notice"; flowering between July and September it stands 1m proud and likes full sun. There are many other Echinaceas from which to choose, including some which have a much more low key range of colours, but it is good to have the occasional plant which shouts "I am here!"

Finally there just had to be at least one Geranium – but which? I am usually reluctant to try plants which are very recent introductions, better to let someone else find out they are not all they are cracked up to be. But Geranium 'Sandrine' has now been around in the UK for at least three years and so I think I will take the plunge. It has large blooms up to 4cm across which are an intense deep purple with a black centre, which display themselves from May to October. Golden lime foliage emerges fresh in the spring, turning green in summer and is great for suppressing weeds. Unfussy about soil conditions it is happy in sun or partial shade and will grow to a height of 45cm with a spread of about 90cm.

All I now have to do before buying them is to get on with a lengthening list of jobs - dry weather I need you now....



BOOK REVIEWS If you'd like to have a go at writing a book review, or are part of a reading group and would like to review a book together – do get in touch at editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk

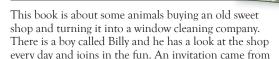
Master and Commander by Patrick O'Brian

Andrew Foster

THIS IS THE first of twenty Aubrey/Maturin novels, widely regarded as the greatest naval historical novels ever written. It introduces Captain Jack Aubrey RN and his ship's surgeon Stephen Maturin, who it reveals also acts as a spy for the British Empire. The historical detail accurately portrays the lives of sailors aboard a Nelsonic ship. It encapsulates their daily routines including the food they are, the many hardships endured and the dangers they faced whether from the elements or the Spanish or French navy. Patrick O'Brian has packed the novel with excitement and the pace is unrelenting. However, he does not achieve this at the expense of excellent characterisation. Captain Jack Aubrey is a likeable, gregarious, honest, and brave officer with a childlike naivety and insensitivity who is clearly respected by his crew. He is complemented by Stephen Maturin who is an eccentric intellectual with a scientific interest in plants and animals. They are bound together by a love of music and a deep respect for each other's abilities. The film of Master and Commander, with Russell Crowe well cast as Jack Aubrey, does great justice to the book. Should you read this book, it will leave you wanting to further follow the fluctuating careers of Aubrey and Maturin and their many adventures on the high seas.

The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl

Phoebe Collins (age 10)



the Duke of Hampshire to go and clean his windows. While cleaning the Duke's windows, the pelican catches a burglar in his beak. The burglar is known as the cobra. As a reward the Duke asks the animals to come and live with him on his lavish estate. Billy and the Duke change the shop back into a Grubber Shop (sweet shop).

I liked the names of the characters and I enjoyed the bits about the giraffe's neck stretching to clean the high windows, and the Pelican's huge beak which was used as a bucket.





March 2010 21

Village people



By Emma Tingley

AS SPRING ARRIVES the brighter days and warmer sun invite us to get out and about and many of us begin to enjoy the countryside that surrounds our village. Many of our public footpaths run across farmland and Lindfield Life has been to meet local farmer Alison Eggert-Hobbs and her husband Max-Charles, to find out about the joys and perils of farming in a village community.

Alison's family have been farming at Fulling Mill Farm in Lindfield since the 1920s. Having grown up on the farm, Alison left when she was 21 to pursue her studies and a career in advertising, working with many big names for over fifteen years in London. The passing away of a family member when she was thirty prompted her to return to the family farm, initially juggling a four-day week in London with three days working on the farm. Two years ago, Alison left the London life for a seven day week as a full-time farmer on the family farm. You don't have to spend long with Alison to realise that she hasn't looked back – she's incredibly passionate about the farm and clearly has an amazing knowledge of her livestock.

Up until nine years ago Fulling Mill was a dairy farm but now it runs a suckler herd and produces beef. The farm is a member of the FABBL farm assurance scheme, ensuring

that the high standards of

animal husbandry and

welfare meet

nationally

agreed

levels

best practice and give consumers confidence that the product is safe. In reality this means that the welfare of the herd is paramount, with natural feeding and natural birth being a priority. The herd are housed in massive barns with plenty of space to move around freely during the cold winter months, then in the spring they are turned out into the fields. Alison describes the farm as 'unusual' – they grow the majority of their own food for the herd actually on their farm, so they mix beef and arable farming, producing all their own grass and maize silage for their winter feed, along with crushed barley and wheat feeds. The straw is used for the winter bedding and hay for feed too.

There is no such thing as an average day for Alison, although it does always begin bright and early! The first job of the day is to feed the herd, then let them out and check all 120 cows and 38 heifers, their 145 off-spring and the two bulls, Ambrose and Lionel. One of the roles of the farmer is that of first line vet. It is important to check their health, so she has a look at the eyes and feet of each of the animals and checks them for signs of pneumonia or changes in behaviour. If necessary, she is able to administer any routine injections and carry out procedures such as ear-tagging. "I spend so much time with them I know them all by name and number and when you're there to deliver a calf, you get to know them really well" says Alison, "And when you see a healthy calf after a difficult birth, you think 'I had a part in that'. It is so rewarding." All the cows are trained to come when they hear Alison's whistle, so during the spring and summer months when she is out in fields on the quad bike, they will follow her when she blows the whistle. This skill came in extremely useful on her wedding day when she got a phone call at 4am to say some of the cows had got out. She jumped on the quad bike and quickly managed to reverse down the track, blowing her whistle and the

30 heifers, along with the escaped bull, followed her back into the field. "It's a farmers life!" laughs Alison, but it was some of their guests who started the day by shovelling the muck off the lane!

During the summer months, shepherding the cattle can take anything up to six hours a day, with the herd scattered across fields between the north of the village and Walstead. Whilst she is checking the herd, she is also checking all the fences that surround the fields. Sadly they have been, like many farmers, targets for vandals and fences have been cut, leaving both the herd and the general public at risk. Cows can be very protective of their young and will charge if they feel threatened. Also a cow on the road could cause a major accident for motorists.

down to form a good seed bed) before being drilled (sowed). As and when necessary, but as minimally as possible, the crops are fertilized. Then later in the year comes the harvesting. Soil compaction is a big issue for farmers and can reduce the overall crop production area on a farm by many acres. It occurs as a result of being walked on or trampled down. When you have invested so much time and energy into the preparation of the soil and production of the crop, it can be heart-breaking, and very costly, to see it trampled down. You can see why it is so vital to keep to public footpaths and if you're unsure where they are, then it is important to get hold of a good map of the area. Last year Alison's cows contracted dog worms as the result of dog faeces contaminating the grass fields that were then harvested as hay and grass silage for their winter feed. This caused the cows distress as they had to undergo treatment that could easily have been avoided by owners cleaning up after their dogs.

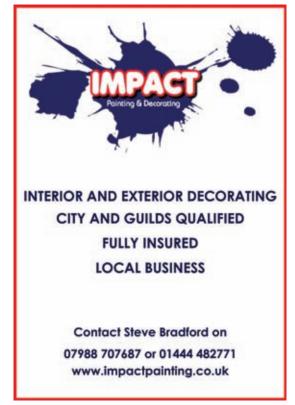
Although farming has entered the digital age, from intelligent, GPS-based, fertilising systems, to microchipping and database herd management, Alison also has to spend some time each day keeping on top of the paperwork. Each calf that is born has to be registered online and has its own passport. She showed me one for a calf that was born on Christmas Day – a farmer's life really is 365 days a year. Each time there is any cattle movement on public highways, such as a trip to market, there are four different sets of legal paperwork that have to be filled in, including Trading Standards and DEFRA, as well as the farm's own herd records. This ensures that all the beef is fully traceable.

Along with the technological advances in farming practice, Alison's family still follow some of the old traditions too. Crop rotation, the subject of many a school child, still plays an important part in modern farming, providing a natural method of fertilisation and disease control. There is much more to farming that I ever imagined and Alison is grateful for the support that they receive from family, neighbouring farmers, as well as their vet. "I love it – it's a passion not a job. We're not farmers, we're guardians of this patch of land for our lifetime and so we look after it" says Alison, "It is so rewarding, you really do reap what you sow!"

Alison's day ends when all the jobs are done and during the calving season this can be anything between 4pm and midnight! That doesn't leave much time for other things, but Alison and Max-Charles, like many farmers, have also had to diversify to stay on top of the cashflow. Between them they also run www.lawn-events.co.uk, based at the farm, and a hog roast business. And it doesn't end there, Alison enjoys horse riding and socialising with a great network of friends down at her local, The Stand Up Inn. Both she and Max-Charles are also members of The Bonfire Society and firm believers that Lindfield has a great community heart that they are proud to be a part of.



Pictured above: Alison Eggert-Hobbs



He's got a lot of bot le!

LOCAL MILKMAN, Jim Marsh, is in training once again for a marathon. For the last three years he has run the London Marathon to raise money for St Peter & St James, our local hospice and continuing care centre. Their mission as a registered charity is to provide specialist care, love and support for those living with progressive, life limiting illnesses from East and West Sussex. They endeavour to meet the needs of each patient, together with their family and friends, aiming to encourage and enable all patients to live their lives to their full potential despite their illnesses. Last year they provided care for more than 400 patients and their families. All of the Hospice services are free of charge and they receive less than 20% of their funding from the Government. This means they have to raise more than £1.4 million every year through fundraising. That's £4,000 every single day.

Jim has raised over £22,000 for the hospice since he started running the marathons. This year he will be running in Brighton's first ever full marathon in April. This will be his 4th marathon. So at current prices Jim, with the support of all his customers, has funded the Hospice for 5½ days! That is such an incredible achievement.

"This really will be a big challenge for me as it is a new route with plenty of hills" says Jim, "I would love to beat last year's time in the London Marathon, which was 3 hours and 54 minutes".



"St Peter & St James are so grateful to Jim Marsh for the dedication he has shown in raising money for us. He is a true gentleman and we value his support greatly. Please do help him to raise as much as he possibly can!"

Gill Cronin, Head of Fundraising

So if you live in Lindfield's rural parish in Scaynes Hill, look out for Jim on his milk round so that you can sponsor him. Alternatively visit www.virginmoneygiving.com/jimmarsh to make a donation to your local hospice.









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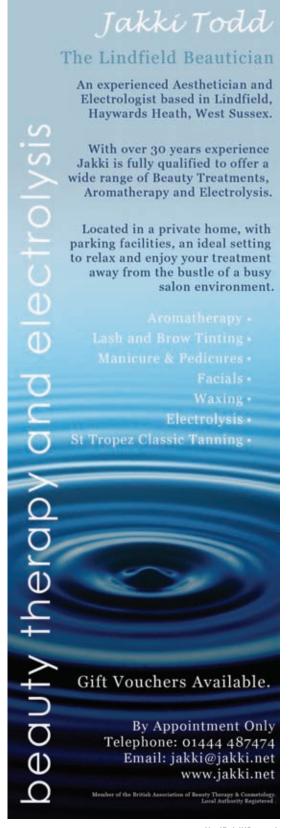
Good 4 (you)

By Christian Bates

APART FROM PATIENTS attending the clinic for osteopathic treatment of spine pain, I would say that stress is the next most common complaint I see at The Perrymount clinic. Stress is a word often used and associated with a wide variety of conditions, from neck pain to anxiety, but if the stress is long term then it is very likely to also be the cause of tiredness and fatigue. So what is stress? Many would think it is purely emotional, things like deadlines, late trains, traffic jams, no bonuses! But the body sees stress as this and more. How about bowel complaints due to poor diet, joint pains from arthritis, blood sugar fluctuations from sugary foods, being tired from late nights out, toxicity from smoking and drinking? All of these are stressors on the body and it has to work hard to correct them. Each of the articles I have written. has described a stressor to some extent and each must be looked at individually to create health in the whole person. Osteopathy for aches and pains, individualised food plans such as Body Biotyping or Metabolic Typing, exercise to improve circulation and good rest for the mind through meditation and relaxation.

When stress has gone on for too long and the body has started to fatigue, the organs that are actually tiring are the adrenal glands. It is these glands, sitting on top of the kidneys, that produce the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline in high amounts in reaction to stress. After a long period the levels of these will fall as the adrenal glands become exhausted. The symptoms of adrenal fatigue are vast and include: fatigue and tiredness as mentioned, poor sleep quality, poor memory, weight gain especially around abdomen, hormone imbalances and difficult menopause, poor sugar handling - so sugar cravings and "dips" after sugar, lowered immunity and low thyroid function.

There are two points I find fascinating with adrenal fatigue. Firstly, that these stress hormones and all the reproductive hormones (osestrogen, progesterone, testosterone) are made out of cholesterol. Yes you read that right, the dreaded word cholesterol! So in fact without cholesterol we would all be in big trouble. So low fat diets (I'm talking good fats here) are very detrimental to people who are highly stressed and also those who need their hormones to be working properly, for example through the menopause. The second point is that the thyroid gland will try its best to support the adrenal glands in times of stress, so an under active thyroid gland often comes AFTER the adrenal glands have fatigued. Therefore, to really help yourself from poor thyroid function the adrenal glands need to be supported and helped too. There are many ways to help the adrenal glands, hormone imbalances and thyroid problems through diet and nutrition. If anything in this article seems to fit problems you have then email goodforyou@lindfieldlife.co.uk



Easter Lilies memorial

EVERY EASTER the flower arranging team at All Saints Church decorate the whole Church with flower arrangements using Easter Lilies.

The Church offers the opportunity to remember loved ones at this time by making a donation towards the cost of the lilies. The collection is made in the weeks leading up to Easter and when the Church is decorated at Easter with these lilies a list of those to whom the lilies are dedicated is placed in the Memorial Chapel of the Church

This year we would like to extend this opportunity to anyone in the village who would like to remember their loved ones.

If you would like to do this you will find Easter lily envelopes on the table by the entrance at the back of the Church. Inside the envelope is a small form for you to complete and place inside the envelope with your donation. Please post the envelope through the letter box at the front of the Tiger before 31st March.

The list of donations will be placed at the front of the Church at Easter. Services on Easter Day will be at 8am, 9.30am, 11.15am and 6.30pm

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Lindfield welcomes newcomers

By Brenda Johnson

HERE IN LINDFIELD we are privileged to live in a beautiful area of Sussex. Residents who have been in the village for many years have seen changes as the village expands and for many people life becomes more hectic

and busy. But there is still space to try and retain the community feel and promote friendship, particularly towards newcomers. In order to do this there has been a Road Wardens Scheme within Lindfield for about 40 years. The scheme is run by myself, the co-ordinator, and I maintain a bank of the leaflets at home, updating and renewing the supply as needed. There are around 60 people on my list each one representing the road or part of the road where they live. Whenever there is a house move imminent I can immediately supply an up to date pack containing leaflets

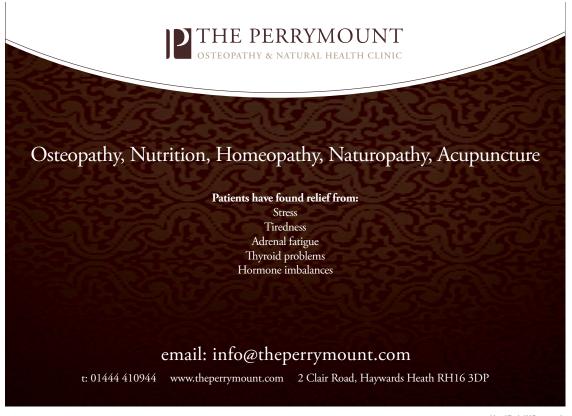
about the village, a copy of our local village diary and information about many of the activities available.

Now I know there is always room for improvement and perhaps you are reading this article and are saying, "well, no one came to visit me when we moved in!" for which I apologize but we do not claim to reach everyone. I

am always looking for more people to cover roads such as Brookway, Pelham Road and West Common Drive. This low key, small, neighbourhood awareness scheme is run at zero cost but maintains that it is very often the little things in life which count and practically everybody who has ever received a smile and a welcome pack from someone within the Road Wardens is very pleased with that initial offer of friendship. If you would like to become part of the Road Wardens I would be very pleased to hear from you.

You can contact Brenda via editor@lindfieldlife.co.uk or 01444 884115. We will pass your details on to her.







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Mothering Sunday - It's all in the name

'I'll to thee a Simnell bring 'Gainst thou go'st a mothering, So that, when she blesseth thee, Half that blessing thou'lt give to me.'

Robert Herrick 1648

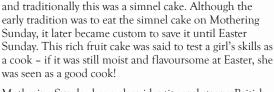
THE EMERGING SPRING flowers often remind me that Mothering Sunday is on its way. This year ot falls on 14th March. I have memories as a child of venturing into the garden early in the morning armed with a pair of kitchen scissors. The grass still damp with dew and my bare feet feeling rather cold and wet. There would always be a few daffodils waiting for the snip and any other unsuspecting flower would join them in a homemade bunch which would be placed on the tray along with the cold tea, most likely overdone toast and cereal floating in a sea of milk. My mum, probably waiting in trepidation, knowing that something was likely to be arriving at some unearthly hour, always greeted me and my partner in the crime, my big (and hopefully much wiser) sister with what appeared to be total surprise and wholehearted gratitude, although I expect thoughts of the carnage in the kitchen below and the state of the garden passed momentarily through her mind. I can also remember thinking 'when is children's day going to come'?! I now realise that it does come, pretty much most days.

Mothering Sunday has its origins deeply rooted in the history books. Like many of our celebration days, the church played a central role in establishing the tradition, but the earliest customs can be traced back to the spring celebrations in ancient Greek and Roman times, with festivals honouring their Mother of Gods. Records from the 16th century church however already had Mothering Sunday or Mid-Lent Sunday as it was known, as an established date in the calendar. Falling on the fourth

Sunday in Lent, half way between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, it also went by another name - 'Refreshment Sunday'. It was a day when the fasting rules of lent were relaxed and the Bible readings for that day in the Book of Common Prayer were the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand and an epistle reference to Jerusalem as 'the Mother of us all'. Those passages are thought to have prompted people to make a point of visiting their 'Mother' or home

were baptised, once a year - a custom known as 'mothering'. As children often worked away from the home in service or as an apprentice from as young as ten years of age, this custom would inevitably become an family reunion and was the beginning of servants being given the day off to visit their family. The cook would let the girls bake a cake to take home as a gift

church, the one in which they



Mothering Sunday has a clear identity and strong British heritage, but it has for many become muddled with Mother's Day, a modern day national holiday in many countries that is celebrated at different times of the year depending on the country.

In 1907, in the USA, a private Mother's Day celebration was held by Anna Jarvis in memory of her mother and an intense letter-writing campaign began to gain the support of congressmen and businessman in declaring a national Mother's Day holiday. She felt that children often neglected to appreciate their mothers while they were alive so hoped that the national holiday would increase respect for parents and strengthen family bonds. By 1911 it was being celebrated in almost every state, with President Woodrow Wilson making the official announcement in 1914 that the national holiday was to be held on the second Sunday of May each year.

Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, Belgium, Canada and Japan also celebrate the same day. In Argentina, Mother's Day is on the second Sunday in

October, in Norway it is on the second Sunday in February and Lebanon observes it on the first day of spring. France and Sweden set aside the last Sunday in May, with the French tradition also including the presentation of a cake to mothers. In Spain and Portugal celebrations are closely linked to the church and it is observed on 8th December when tribute is paid to the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. Costa Rica and Thailand have a public holiday during August with Samoa observing the public

holiday on the second Monday in May, when they celebrate the contributions that mothers make to the Samoan society. In Serbia, Mother's Day or 'Materice' is celebrated two weeks before Christmas. Unlike my childhood memories of waking my mum up very early, the children tiptoe into their mother's bedroom early in the morning and tie her feet up with ribbon or string.

Tradition says that when she awakens she is surprised to find herself tied up and begs the children to untie her, promising to give them little gifts which she has hidden under her pillow. So the children receive gifts on Mother's Day, not the mum! I'd better not tell my children about this one.

Mothering Sunday nowadays has become a day to honour mothers and other mother figures. It is most touching to receive that unique homemade card from a child, but also a great excuse to either

mooch around the shops in search of the perfect gift for your own mum. For me though, you can't beat a bunch of hand-picked flowers and breakfast in bed. Something simple that says 'you're great!'.



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Lindfield Rural Parish Council Newslet er

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Emergency Planning for Severe Weather

A MEETING ARRANGED by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) was held on 8th January to discuss the above subject.

Councillors from Lindfield Rural Parish Council attended that meeting, as did other members of Parish Councils, Town Councils, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), MSDC, Emergency Services personnel, Rt. Hon Nicholas Soames MP, Contractors and other stakeholders.

We were regaled by various authorities as to the action being taken and proposed for the future. It was, however, disappointing to note that only scant reference was made to the problems experienced by residents living in minor roads. We think self-help featured strongly and reference was made to what is expected from residents in Detroit.

The Emergency Planning Officer for MSDC confirmed that their emphasis was in ensuring that the public were their main priority in this period of extreme weather but that was clearly for people living on a road classified by WSCC as Priority 1 or possibly Priority 2. Minor roads were not treated and emergency vehicles were certainly unable to access those roads.

We believe that Government and Public Authorities need to evaluate whether it is cost effective to grit all public roads and areas owned by public authorities (schools) not only in the financial sense but for the wellbeing of the communities they serve.

As a minimum the following questions should be asked and the answers assessed:

What increase in cost to the NHS (hospitals and GPs) would be attributable to residents injuring themselves when falling on untreated surfaces?

How much does it cost businesses when personnel are unable to attend for work or children's education suffers through lack of schooling? (We have noted certain fee paying schools paid private contractors to clear access around their schools).

What is an acceptable heath and safety risk when the emergency services are unable to access residential areas?

Should we allow refuse to remain uncollected from residential roads for a protracted period?

What cost to the community in the order of increased insurance costs where damage to vehicles and people is substantially increased?

We trust all the above has been considered and we appreciate WSCC's dilemma particularly concerning ever-decreasing funds within the County. Additionally, of course, we have the added factor that we may not experience such a hard winter for another 25 years but can we take that chance again?

We still believe, however, that if all the extra costs were evaluated (it may not be possible in some cases) we would receive a substantial benefit for a small investment by Government (in proportion to the whole) and, at the same time, alleviate most of the type of hardships experienced by the public over those weeks.

Most of the capital equipment that would be required for this enhanced effort is available in the private and public sector and by dint of planning on a just-in-time basis we should be able to achieve our objectives as and when required. (e.g. we could have paid the farmers to assist in the endeavour).

Our Parish awaits MSDC's guidance to how parishes can assist in the future. As far as our Parish is concerned Emergency Planning is back on the agenda.

WHAT DO RESIDENTS BELIEVE SHOULD BE ORGANISED FOR THE FUTURE - SHOULD MORE BE ACHIEVED BY CLEARING ALL ROADS INCLUDING THOSE IN RESIDENTAL AREAS?

Fingerposts

RESIDENTS MAY HAVE noticed that most of these historic directional road signs are in dire need of repair or replacement. There are nine such signs within the Parish but, although West Sussex County Council (who are responsible for them) are keen to repair them, they need financial assistance from the Parish Councils. We believe that the funding arrangements are now in place and we can commence the refurbishment work within the next few months. For the future, the Parish Councils will then take full responsibility for their maintenance.

All Change for Scouts

For many years Scout groups in our area have been part of Haywards Heath Distrisct. A new district of Mid Sussex is to be formed on the 1 April 2010 comprising Lindfield, Scaynes Hill, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill and Hurstpierpoint. A new District Commissioner and a new district executive will be appointed. The groups are always looking for enthusiastic new leaders to make scouting possible.

Keeping our Common Safe and Clean

In Scaynes Hill we are very fortunate to have a large unspoilt common that is used by many people. Children play there and locals walk their dogs through the area. Until recently these two activities have co-existed happily side by side. More recently however there has been a significant problem with owners not cleaning up after their dogs. In order to keep the common safe for our children to play please would all dog owners be particularly conscientious when walking their pets over areas where children may play. Many thanks!

Renewed landfill threatat Freshfield Lane Brickworks (FLB)

In April 2007 following a 16 day Public Inquiry the FLB was refused planning permission to use their site as a non-inert waste landfill.

In December 2008, FLB volunteered their site to be considered as an INERT landfill site.

The issues raised by the current proposals were examined EXHAUSTIVELY at the 2007 Public Inquiry - why are they now, apparently, being ignored by West Sussex County Council?

In one aspect this new proposal is more intrusive to a wider area as WSCC will have no control over the movement or size of vehicles - they could include articulated lorries and arrive from roads all around the district which includes Lindfield and Scaynes Hill.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ARE INVITING COMMENTS AND ALTHOUGH LETTERS/EMAILS SHOULD HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY 12TH FEBRUARY 2010, WE SUGGEST YOU CONTINUE TO VOICE YOUR CONCERNS TO:

Mineral and Waste Policy Team, WSCC, County Hall, Tower Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RG

Scaynes Hill Village Plan

The Steering Group to develop the village plan is now in place and responsibilities have been agreed! During the coming months the group will be collecting the views of villagers about the direction that they would like the village to go over the coming years. What facilities are needed, how we could improve village life etc. The success of this exercise will depend largely on the involvement and efforts of everyone. Already we have had lots of great ideas.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 12th April 2010

At the Millennium Village Centre, Scaynes Hill at 20.00hr. This meeting will afford residents the opportunity to meet the Councillors who will report on this year's business. Our guest speaker will be Carolyn Collard, Chair of Sussex Crimestoppers. There will be an opportunity for residents to raise any questions. A glass of wine will be offered from 19.45hr and all residents are welcome.

Your Parish Councillors:

Your Parish Council	.015:		
John Dumbleton (Chair)	Tel: 482633	Ray Jones (Newsletter Editor)	Tel: 453868
Sheila Hobbs (Vice Chair)	Tel: 483396	Steve Minter	Tel: 831786
Brian Bunt	Tel: 831636	Christopher Snowling	Tel: 482172
Chris Hersey	Tel: 482270	Stephen Windsor	Tel: 484796
Margaret Hersey	Tel: 482270	Parish Clerk: Karin Milne	Tel: 831499
		Assistant: Irene Nicholas	Tel: 831499

Lindfield Rural Parish Council Office is open to the Public on Tuesdays 12.30 to 13.30 and Thursdays 10.00 to 11.00

What's on at King Edward Hall

- 2nd Mid Sussex Wine Society's 'Tasting of Southdown Wines'. 8pm (Angela Seward 484447)
- 4th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 6th Haywards Heath Lions Club Jumble Sale (Mandy Dembrey 01273 890777)
- 7th Ruwach Christian Church Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 10th Lindfield Horticultural Society Guest Speaker (Mrs Alison Elliott 483039)
- 11th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 11th King Edward Hall Film Show Evening (Gillian Alderman 483181)
- 12th Blackthorns Primary School Fundraising Disco for Parents (Zoe Richardson 451531)
- 13th Ruwach Christian Church Youth Service (Ruth Hollis 459025)

- 14th Ruwach Christian Church Morning and Evening Services
 (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 16th Lindfield Preservation Society, Illustrated Talk by Ian Gledhill on 'The History of the Tram' 2.30pm (David Macmillan 453608)
- 18th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 18th Rural Haywards Heath Children & Family Centre. Young Children's Stay and Play Session. (Joanna Warrington 255449)
- 19th Lindfield Crafts & Market (Beverley Smith 440274)
- 21st Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 22nd Ruwach Christian Church Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)
- 25th Country Market (Sheila Hobbs 483396)
- 26th Lindfield Club Annual General Meeting (Roger Pickett 484372)
- 28th Ruwach Christian Church Morning and Evening Services (Ruth Hollis 459025)

Please refer to the King Edward Hall notice board for additional information regarding the above events.

If you would like to hire the King Edward Hall please contact the Bookings Secretary for further information on telephone number 01444 483266 or by e-mail on bookings@kingedwardhall.org.uk

Mid Sussex Choir Spring Concert

THIS WILL TAKE place on Saturday, 27th March at Perrymount Road Methodist Church, Haywards Heath, at 7.30pm. The varied programme includes the Chorale Suit from Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man", and excerpts from a number of musical shows and light opera - "The Phantom of the Opera", "Die Fledermaus" and some Roger and Hammerstein favourites.



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