Fruits of the Forest
From the Editorial Team . . .

The royal wedding and the April/May heat wave are now distant memories, but the Jigsaw Puzzle and the Summer Colours Arts Festival have given us excellent community events to enjoy.

As for the weather, the news from Somalia has put our earlier mini-drought into perspective, and June/July have surely washed away the vestiges. Let’s hope that St. Swithin is wrong for once and someone turns the tap off (or deflects the jet-stream) for the summer holidays.

As mentioned on the Parish Council page, the Council is calling a meeting on 14th September to get and pool any ideas that individuals and organisations in our community might have for celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in June next year. The Council hopes that, arising from people’s ideas, a real parish-wide festival can be developed involving many people from our different communities. Anyone and everyone is most welcome to come and contribute their thoughts at this informal evening.

Rain or shine, at home or away, we wish you all a happy and fulfilling summer.

From Peter, Anne, Kathy, Marion & Kay

The Chronicle

is published six times a year by St. Margaret’s Church, West Hoathly for the benefit of the communities of West Hoathly, Sharpthorne, and Highbrook.

The publication is edited, printed and distributed entirely within the parish by a dedicated team of volunteers. We welcome reports of regular and one-off events and meetings, notices of forthcoming activities, reminiscences, poems, line drawings, short stories, individual viewpoints, letters, information and news of other matters. Items for inclusion should be sent by e-mail to all four editors; typed or short handwritten items can also be delivered to any of the editors.

We reserve the right to edit any articles submitted.

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PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Goo Coomber at 01342 810298 leads the production team, collating all copies in the church on the Thursday afternoon before publication.

Rosemary Watson at 01342 810800 heads the team of distributors, and she can arrange for the Chronicle to be delivered to your home, or posted to you. Some copies are also put out in the local churches and shops for purchase at 70p a copy. Annual subscription - £3.

ADVERTISING

Brian Lavery at 01342 810508 or Bill Merry at 01342 810771 handle boxed business advertisements, which can be included for £30 annually.

Marion Jones at 01342 810143 deals with Small Ads, which cost £1 per issue for two lines of copy.

Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply any form of approval of the quality of the services offered.
Thoughts from the Vicarage

St. Margaret’s Patronal Festival.
On the 20th July we celebrated the 921st anniversary of St. Margaret’s Church, West Hoathly. Thank you to all who came along and to Derek and Lindsay for opening their home in the evening for a Bring and Share meal to celebrate this special occasion.

Thank you to Derek Slater
At a special evensong on the 10th July we all gathered to say a huge thank you also to Derek Slater, the out-going Chairman of the Friends of St. Margaret’s Churchyard Trust. Derek has been the Chairman for over 25 years. We presented him with a gift from the Parish and enjoyed some refreshments after the service. Derek’s closing words in response to the tribute by Paul Brown and the gift from the church was a reminder to us all that “it was all for the glory of God”.

Who was St. Margaret?
St Margaret of Antioch was one of the most popular saints in medieval England. So, therefore, it is perhaps not surprising that, when this church was established first on this site in 1090, it took this dedication. The story goes that when she became a Christian at the age of 15, her father turned her out of her home and she lived as a shepherdess. When she rejected the advances of Olybrius, prefect of Antioch, he denounced her as a Christian and she was then tortured and eventually beheaded. One of the ordeals she is said to have endured was being confronted by Satan in the form of a dragon who tried to devour her, but the cross of Christ she was wearing swelled up so large in his mouth that he could not swallow and she emerged unscathed. That is why our symbol shows a cross in a dragon’s mouth. The feast day of St. Margaret of Antioch is on July 20th, so we celebrate our patronal festival on the nearest Sunday to that date.

I think that it is important to remind ourselves of the lives and deaths of the saints and martyrs which have been remembered by the Church over the centuries, lest we forget the sacrifices which have enabled us to worship in freedom today and given us a glimpse into the lives of people whose dedication and love for Christ has exceeded most of what we can imagine; and in respect of Margaret, to remind ourselves of the important role women have played in the life and ministry of the Church throughout our history.

Margaret certainly fell into that category when she died a martyr’s death on 20 July 304 A.D. The background to her death was the dangerous period when the Roman Emperor Diocletian began persecuting Christians throughout the Roman Empire. The reason was probably to try to restore the Roman public morality and reinforce Imperial authority. This was to be done by attempting to rid the Empire of the Christian religion which, in the context of 4th century Roman society, was seen as morally and socially disruptive. So, today, we need to be mindful of the fact that Christianity has always been, to a greater or lesser extent, counter-cultural. When a ruling “elite” tries to marginalize Christianity on the grounds of it not being socially acceptable, remember that the Christian faith is NOT always the easy or “politically acceptable” option. Christian faith comes at a price, but thankfully not in this country at the moment the sort of price that Margaret paid in 304 A.D.

However, as a result of promises she is reputed to have made just before her death, to assist anyone, especially women in childbirth, she is also remembered as the patron saint of pregnant women and women in childbirth. In the Middle Ages, some women would fasten strips of parchment bearing the story and prayers of St Margaret around their abdomen when in labour.

What can we learn from her example in the 21st century? Perhaps that our mission is to reach out to anyone in need – whether in childbirth or not – and to reach out and welcome everyone who comes into our community.
HOSANNA! 8pm, 10th August, 14th September, St. Margaret’s. We meet monthly in a more informal manner to worship the Lord through song and prayer. (PLEASE NOTE Hosanna! now meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month)

RIDE & STRIDE takes place on Saturday 10th September. Bill and Cathy Merry are kindly organising the route. This is always a good day out to walk with friends and visit churches along the way - more details elsewhere in this issue.

HEALING SERVICE Sunday 11th September, 6.30pm, St. Margaret’s. If you have attended any of these you know they are very special services. We are hoping to have a guest speaker; during the service there will be the laying-on of hands. Come for healing for yourself, for family and friends.

HOUSEGROUPS FOR THE AUTUMN
The St. Margaret’s Housegroups will start up again this autumn; so far, 3 groups are planned:-

**Wednesdays fortnightly** at Courtlands, starting 7th September. To study the 2nd letter of Peter. Contact Derek at 810780

**Thursdays weekly** at 7, Home Platt, starting on 1st September. To study the letter to the Hebrews. Contact Lindsay at 810780

**Thursdays, normally fortnightly**, at Old Timbers, North Lane, starting on 15th September. The ‘Explorers’ Group’ will study a booklet “Christ in us Today” by CANA (Christians Awakening to a New Awareness). Contact Peter at 811238 – limited space so you need the book!

GATHER ROUND will NOT meet in August BUT will resume again 25th September at the Sharphorne Hall with a ‘BRING AND SHARE’ barbecue.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES AT ST. MARGARET’S, WEST HOATHLY & ALL SAINTS, HIGHTHROOK**

ADVANCE NOTE - HARVEST FESTIVAL.
This will take place on 2nd October. St. Margaret’s will celebrate at 10am with a Jubilate Family Harvest Communion and All Saints will celebrate their Harvest at 6.30pm. The Village School will have their Harvest Service in St. Margaret’s probably on Thursday, 29th September – all are welcome at this service - watch for details.

TUESDAY LUNCHES AT SHARPTHORNE HALL, monthly, starting 13th SEPTEMBER.
‘food for thought’
On the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12.30 we intend to start soup and sandwiches, or ploughman’s lunches, depending on the season, with hot and cold drinks and maybe a little something sweet to follow. All are welcome, up to the hall’s seating capacity of 40, and a small charge of about £3 is requested. After each meal there will be a very short talk (five mins. max) on something from our Christian Faith which will provide “food for thought” - different speakers each time. Transport within the Parish can be arranged; please contact Cathy Merry 810771 or Ingrid Sethi 810085

FROM OUR REGISTERS:

**Baptisms**
4th June: Erica Paige Mason, grand-daughter of Frank and Margaret Mason
5th June: Freya Edith Hearne-Hughes
26th June: Conner Jay Hill
9th July: Simon Brett Chalk and Charles Wardby immersion in nearby swimming pool!
16th July: Albert John Comber
23rd July Sophie Amelia Walton

**Weddings**
11th June: Christopher Bruce McClellan and Sarah Anne Rush
16th July: Adrian John Parker and Emily Jane Reece. Emily is the eldest grand-daughter of Tom and Ann Buckley of Hook Farm.

Valerie Fyans and the Editors
West Hoathly Village Shop

IF YOU WANT ONE, WE HAVE TO ACT NOW! CALLING ALL PIONEER INVESTORS!

I would like to bring you up-to-date on where we are with the Village Shop project and what urgent action we need to take.

As reported in the last Chronicle, the Village Shop Committee has developed a concept for a new shop on the North Lane Recreation Ground – supported, in principle, by the Parish Council.

There is no doubt that the Rec concept would be a long drawn-out project to secure financing, funding, planning permission, etc. and in view of the fact that the old shop has now come back on the market, the Committee has taken the view that this, including the garage at the back, would in principle be a viable alternative. As reported last time, we have submitted an expression of interest in buying the property.

However it is my understanding that there are other interested parties; we are told that as soon as the Estate Agent has an acceptable offer, they have to publish this price and that any other interested parties have then a period of 7 days to improve on this offer, if they wish to do so. In other words this leaves us with only a very narrow window to raise the necessary funds to enable us to make an acceptable offer. My best guess, and it is only a guess, is that we would need approximately £85,000 including any legal fees. We have estimated that once the property has been bought we would need another £40,000 to fit out the shop which would be raised later from stakeholders in the wider community.

Our immediate task, therefore, is to raise £85,000 to buy the property and we are seeking potential PIONEER INVESTORS for this. Such an investment will have the property as the underlying security which will limit any significant downside risk. I am the first one to agree that this is not an ordinary financial investment but more a social investment for the benefit of the community as a whole. I am not shying away from saying that this investment is not very liquid and will only pay social dividends.

At this stage the pioneer investors will only have to pledge their investment and no upfront cash is required. The pledges will be put into a legal document which will also serve as proof of funding. Cash will only need to be drawn against the pledges at the time of exchange and completion of contract. The pioneer investors will remain the owners of the shop proportionally to their investment. The Plunkett Foundation is advising us how to go about this procedure as this process has been used for other community shops; we are not reinventing the wheel!

So it’s Crunch Time. Simply put, we urgently need Pioneer Investors to the amount of £85,000!

Any amount is welcome but I would like to suggest not less than £1000 per investor. I would be happy to discuss this personally with any interested investor or in a general investment presentation. I cannot stress enough that time is of the essence to take advantage of this small window; I have no further information at this stage how other interested parties have progressed and indeed whether we still have a chance. I hope that what will count in our favour is that the shop will remain a village shop to the benefit of the community. If we miss this opportunity then I am not sure whether there will be another chance.

As you may have seen we have also posted this message on the Hoathly Hub and we had some very positive responses but we are not there yet.

If you are interested in becoming a Pioneer Investor please give me a call as soon as possible on 01342 811332/07785394195 or email to robert@mensinga.com.

Robert Mensinga, 16th July 2011

PS: We still need legal cum financial advice, so if there are any people in the community with these skills please contact me.
Roundabouts, Kerbs, Highways…. But it isn’t all about roads this month!

Dizzy Spells in North Lane Rec?
Ready for the summer holidays, the children’s roundabout in North Lane Recreation ground has just been renovated – so DON’T jump to the wrong conclusions if you see someone looking unsteady on their feet in that area!

Our Enthusiasm distinctly “Curbed”
Your Parish Council is very unhappy with the result of the WSCC Highways repairs to the granite kerb outside West Hoathly Primary School carried out in February. They are unsightly and inappropriate to a designated statutory Conservation Area and, more importantly, in our view, potentially dangerous in a key safety zone where vehicles and children need to be kept separated. We have enlisted the help of our Mid-Sussex and West Sussex Councillors to get an urgent and satisfactory outcome.

Highways and Transport – Finding a way ahead!
We know from the 2009 Futures Survey and many subsequent discussions that traffic related issues are one of the the main concerns of parishioners. Whilst some progress has been made over recent years there are still some serious hotspots of concern which need to be addressed. We are engaging the services of an independent highways consultancy to analyse these situations and then to arm us with realistic proposals that we can progress with the County. Your Parish Council is determined to find solutions to try to ease the traffic concerns residents justifiably have.

Summer Colours in the Parish – Parish Council sponsored Art weekend
Over the weekend of 16/17th July the artistic talents of the Parish were out in force despite the weather – see the article elsewhere in this Chronicle. Here’s one of the winners - “Newt” by Annabelle McMenemy.

So – What else is Your Parish Council doing?
Your Parish Council wants to do more to improve the ways in which we keep everyone informed about what we do and how our part of your Council Tax is spent (the Parish precept). We have therefore embraced the new “Speak Out” facility on www.HoathlyHub.info. You may know of the type of thing as a “Blog” or Web Log. Basically this means that we can tell you in clear terms what we are doing and you can tell us what you think! Whenever there is a new topic you will be notified though you chosen Hoathly Hub route – ie email, Facebook or Twitter. PLEASE let us know your thoughts, and ideas on Speak Out. Of course you can still email, write to or phone us too. Over half the Parish households now receive the Hoathly Hub news in one form or another. If you still aren’t why not join now!? 

2012 Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Forum – All welcome
The Parish Council is hosting a forum on 14th September at 8pm at WH School for groups and individuals to bring their ideas for a Parish-wide celebration over the weekend 2-5th June 2012.

We’re all going on a summer holiday….
Lastly as it is the Summer holidays there will be restricted Parish Council office opening hours in August to Thursdays only 9am to noon.

Parish Clerk: Helen Schofield - The Parish Office, North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4QG
T: 01342 811301    E: clerk@westhoathly.gov.uk
Website: www.westhoathly.gov.uk
The office is open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and noon (except in August see above. Messages can be left at all other times on answer phone or email.
Worth Abbey Open Day

As many readers will know, the Abbey Church has had a full ‘make-over’ and it now looks very smart indeed. The walls have been refreshed, the roof improved, and new seating installed for the monks and for the congregation.

In celebration of this, the Abbey is holding an OPEN DAY on Sunday 4th September from 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come and see the refurbished Abbey Church, to wander through the grounds (maybe even visiting the ‘Quiet Garden’) and to see many of the activities that this lively Benedictine community gets up to. There will be talks, if you want them, and ‘Question Times’ for anyone to ask questions of members of the community – however easy or difficult, these might be, we are promised replies!

Do take up this chance to visit, in a relaxed way, a beautiful place that is so near to us.

Peter Hartley

Summer Colours in the Parish

In reality, summer colours in the Parish were multiple shades of grey. These reflected in the brimming puddles and overflowing drains throughout the weekend of 16th-17th July. Happily not so in the eyes of the villages’ artists, whose enthusiasm was undiluted and participated in the Parish Council’s Art competition as hosted at the School. Denied the pleasure of painting in open air, of being interrupted by ice cream and refreshing fruit cordials whilst being warmed by July sunshine, creative painters and illustrators creatively retreated to paint images of summer from their own resources. Memory, photographs and imagination were exploited to make the weekend a success despite the fickleness of the English summer. Thanks to their resilience, an exhibition was successfully mounted on the Sunday afternoon with over 50 artistic works entered and displayed for the enjoyment of appreciative visitors.

Additional artistic dimensions were provided by other creative talents including some captivating storytelling led by Mary-Anne Patterson and her two companion instrumentalists and evocative live music from a piano and clarinet duet performed by Jennifer Kirk and Elaine Short. Visitors to the exhibition also had an opportunity to view, and be consulted on, a proposal for the new stained glass window for St. Margaret’s.

Judging of the competition took place following public viewing. Difficult and challenging decisions were made after some intense deliberation and certificates and awards were presented for the pieces of art considered to best capture the spirit of the event. The winners to be warmly congratulated were:-

- Ebba Wilson (Stubbs category)
- Anabelle McMenemy (Turner category)
- Cate Schofield (Hogarth category)
- Emily Methven (Constable category)
- Terry Cooper (Gainsborough category)

Winners of the Constable and Gainsborough categories were chosen to be professionally framed by Pheasant Framing and will be displayed with the artists’ consent in the Village Hall until the end of summer.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who supported this rewarding event in its conception, promotion, realisation and participation with such enthusiasm.

(Paintings submitted for the event can be collected from the Parish Office)

Bob Darvill

Please Note:
Meeting on ideas for Diamond Jubilee weekend 2-5 June 2012
Wednesday 14 September, 8 pm in West Hoathly School—see page 6.
Pre-School

Could we take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, Sarah Watts and Nicola Hobbs, as the new co-chair persons of West Hoathly Pre-School. It has been a challenging year and we would like to thank our retiring Chairperson, Claire Martin, for all the hard work & effort she has put into the pre-school, especially during this time. To aid us all in getting the best out of our pre-school, we have also taken the decision to employ Natalie Emms as Admin/HR manager and we also welcome her.

We would like to officially say thank you and goodbye to Tess who left Pre-School a few weeks ago, and to welcome her replacement, Natalie Turner. Since starting in January, Jo, our co-supervisor has done a brilliant job of keeping pre-school running smoothly. We were delighted by the recent ‘Good’ grading from Ofsted. Well done to Jo and to all that contributed to achieving that grading!

The children have been as busy as ever and have been involved in some fab activities over the last few months! The Zoolab visit went particularly well and I think some of the children surprised us, as they all seemed to quite like the giant bugs that were brought in, and were quite happy to share their school with big hairy spiders for a morning!

We will shortly be holding a fundraising meeting with the aim of getting as many new and exciting ideas as possible, so look out for updates and have your purses/wallets at the ready!!!

One fundraising event we will be holding during the summer holidays is a Car Boot Sale. Some of the committee members will be heading to Pease Pottage with bags of old toys, clothes, books and generally any unwanted items (as they say one man’s junk is another man’s treasure) to try and raise as much as we can. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the pre-school for the Car Boot Sale please contact Sarah on 810 364.

We wish all of the Cygnets good luck in moving up to the BIG SCHOOL (as my daughter calls it!) in September and we hope they don’t cause too many problems for their new teacher!!!. It was lovely to see them all ‘graduate’ on sports day, all with flying colours of course!

Sarah Watts & Nicola Hobbs

Guides

Gemma Farley, from Crawley, has received Girlguiding UK’s top accolade, the coveted Queen’s Guide Award, presented to her by Girlguiding UK’s Chief Guide Gill Slocombe – herself a Queen’s Guide – at a special ceremony held at Rockingham Castle in June. More than 20 young women from around the UK joined Gemma in receiving their Queen’s Guide. The award recognises a number of exciting areas including developing a personal skill, working within pioneering community action projects, and overseeing ambitious outdoor pursuits.

Gemma, who is leader of the 2nd Crawley Down Guides and whose Queen’s Guide achievements included a seven-day cruise along canals around the south-east of England and serving meals to the homeless as part of a community outreach project, said: “The biggest personal challenge for me was completing the Award in two years rather than three. My Mum’s friend who died in 2007 had run a Guide Unit, so this inspired me to do something significant in Guiding. Having completed my Award I’m even more aware of the opportunities that Guiding can and does offer to myself and other young women. The modules of the award I completed and the like-minded women I met gave me new-found enthusiasm to be even more involved in Guiding and to take on further challenges. I have gained considerable knowledge and skills which have enabled me to develop into a confident young adult and proud of all that I do.” The Queen’s Guide Award is the most prestigious guiding award open to members between the ages of 16 and 25. Other recipients undertook challenging and innovative programmes such as working with the homeless, leading trips to countries such as Italy and Croatia, and raising money for national charities.

Chief Guide Gill Slocombe added: “Over the years the Queen’s Guide Award has given many young women an amazing sense of empowerment and confidence. I hope they will serve as an inspiration to many more young women all over the country who are thinking about getting involved in guiding. I’m sure the experience of the presentation itself will be just one of the happy memories they will look back on in years to come.”

Brenda Farley
Rainbows and Brownies

West Hoathly Rainbows and Brownies planted a Harkness Girlguiding UK Centenary Rose in the grounds of West Hoathly School to commemorate the Guiding Centenary in 2010. The rose is a lovely raspberry and white following the theme of the centenary colours. A plaque was put next to the Rose for prosperity.

West Hoathly Rainbows and Brownies have places available for girls from September.

Contact Brenda 01342 811020 Rainbows Christine 01342 870276 Brownies

Sharpthorne WI

We have had two very entertaining meetings these last two months, full of fun and interest. The first one in June when Jennie Rayment, dressed in her own designer patchwork clothes and wearing thigh length, red patent leather boots with six inch heels, gave us a hilarious talk on nipping and tucking under the heading of ‘Tinkering with Texture’. In fact, it was about how she began doing patchwork and gradually made it her career, intermingled with her life history, dotted about with amusing accounts of her mishaps, adventures and encounters along the way. She ended up doing a strip-tease (not quite but nearly)!

In July, Val Gunn (one of our own members), told us, under the heading of ‘Vine Design’, how she became interested in French wines and then invited us to taste a white and a red wine that she had selected, while demonstrating floral arrangements to capture the essence of both the red and the white wines and one lovely, bubbly arrangement for champagne, of which sadly, we did not get a taste! It was a really friendly, social evening with two very brave men being the wine waiters!

On a more serious note, Viona reported on the NFWI’S AGM which she attended in Liverpool. She told us that, of the two resolutions debated, the one calling for a campaign against library closures was supported almost unanimously. The other, against large-scale intensive farming, provoked an animated, noisy debate on the issues surrounding wide-scale farming enterprises from both sides and, after much uproar and booing, it was proposed to move on to the next item on the agenda without a vote, an almost unique occurrence at an AGM.

Our next meeting in West Hoathly Village Hall will be on the 12th September at 8pm when Maggie Stredder will entertain us with ‘My Life in Show Business’. This will be an Open Meeting so do come and join us. This year Sharpthorne WI is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding!
Music happening in our area

Acoustic Sussex (folk, blues, instrumental)

For details see www.acousticsussex.org.uk

Jazz
Second Monday in every month at the
‗Haywaggon‘, Hartfield

Sharpthorne Organic Cafe
Live music on Saturdays 12.00-14.00

Village walks

25 Sept Andy Campbell
Walks start at 10.00 am from Finche Field

Bluebell Railway

13/14 Aug Vintage transport weekend
5 and 26 Aug Fish & Chip Evening Supper special
19 Aug Rail Ale evening
9 and 23 Sept Fish and chip evenings

For more information see http://www.bluebell-railway.co.uk/bluebell/events/index.html

West Hoathly Local History Group

21 September Lewes Castle Sally White
19 October Quiet Corners of the Sussex Coast Geoffrey Mead

All meetings are in Sharpthorne Church Hall, Station Rd and start at 7.45 pm.
Entrance £3.00 per meeting including coffee, or £13.50 for the year.

Pericles Saturday Market

Saturday 24 September, 10 am to 4 pm
Crafts, table-top & bric-a-brac
Sharpthorne Community Hall (next to Organic Cafe).
Tables available £10
Tel: 01342 718963

High Beeches Family Centre

Vehicle and Toy Library Service

Wed. 17 August, 2-3 pm
in West Hoathly, next to School
Tues. 23 August, 9.15-10.15 am in Ardingly
St.Peter’s Pre-School, Street Lane

Stay and Play
Fri. 26 August, 10.00-11.30 am, Ardingly,
St.Peter’s Church rooms

Contact: 01444 255477 or acd.ruralbolney.e&fc@westsussex.gov.uk

Royal British Legion Flower, Vegetable and Fruit Show

Saturday 27 August, 2.30 pm
West Hoathly Village Hall
In addition to the flower/fruit/ veg, there are categories for floral art, cooking, handicrafts and photography, plus a children’s section. Full schedules and entry forms are available from local shops or from Janet Wilkinson, 17 Hamsey Road, 01342 810885

The Cat

Owing to refurbishment, the Cat Inn will be open only during the evenings between
1st and 12th August.
No food, but there’s an offer of real ale at £2.90 a pint on Fri/Sat. 5/6 August!
Sunday 21 August is Classic Car day.

Forest Row Film Society

Starts again in September
Films in Freshfield Hall, Forest Row. Doors open 19.30 for 20.00 start.
For more information see http://www.forestrowfilmsociety.org
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GOOD CAUSES

The Balcombe Walk
Sunday 11th September 2011

Hundreds of walkers from all over Mid Sussex are expected for the annual Balcombe Walk in aid of St Catherine’s Hospice. Nearly £1/4 million has been raised for the Hospice over the years and organisers hope a record £25k can be raised this year.

During the 12¼ mile walk participants will be able to enjoy the stunning countryside of the High Weald Landscape Trail with views of the Ardingly Reservoir and the magnificent Victorian railway viaduct at Balcombe.

Walkers can start from Victory Hall, Balcombe between 09:00 and 10:30 on 11th September. The walk is set mostly on footpaths and quiet country roads, and those less active can ‘retire’ after 3, 6 or 8 miles. Lifts back to Victory Hall will be provided, where tea and home made cake awaits. For the first time this year we will be holding a grand raffle, so don’t forget to bring some cash for raffle tickets!

This year walkers can pre-register by going to www.stch.org.uk where a form can be downloaded, or by contacting Barbara Dryden at St Catherine’s Hospice on 01273 447319. There is no pre-registration fee; we just ask that walkers raise sponsorship or make as large a donation as they feel able to give.

For further details contact Joan Moon on 01444 455420.

Ride and Stride for Sussex Historic Churches
Saturday September 10th

Best foot forward for Ride and Stride 2011, a sponsored walking/cycling event organised by the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. The trust gives grants and loans for essential repairs and restoration to churches of architectural or historic interest throughout Sussex.

The idea is for us to visit some of the wonderful churches in Sussex on foot or by bike and also to welcome visitors on their own Ride and Stride to our churches on the day.

In previous years we have walked from Lewes to Newhaven, visiting churches along the way. Our route this year is yet to be confirmed but will probably start with a bus ride from Handcross to Bolney and take in the churches at Slaugham and Staplefield on the way back, an overall distance of not more than 8 miles.

All are welcome to walk with us by signing up on the sheet at the back of the church or by contacting Bill or Cathy Merry on 810771. You can also support the event by sponsoring the team on their walk. A bright yellow sponsor form will be appearing shortly alongside the sign-up sheet!

Loiyangalani Trust Quiz Night
with Fish & Chip Supper
Saturday 8th October
West Hoathly Village Hall
Licensed Bar opens at 7pm for 7.30pm start

All proceeds to the Loiyangalani Trust – a local charitable trust committed to enabling the further education of children in the North Kenyan village of Loiyangalani.

Team size: maximum 8 people. Book your own table, or enter as individuals and we will arrange a team for you. Magnificent harvest raffle. Tickets £10 per person to include Quiz entry and fish & chip supper served at 7.30pm. Tickets to be purchased in advance by contacting: Carole Houston 01342 810075 email carohouston@yahoo.co.uk Carolyn Bentley 01342 810815 email carolynbentley@waitrose.com Ruth Pitcairn 01342 810631 email ruthpitcairn@btinternet.com
Tea at Sharpthorne Club

A very big thank you to everybody who contributed towards our fund raising afternoon tea on 2nd July, to Don and Nora at Sharpthorne Club for letting us use the premises and for all their help and support, to all those who made cakes and scones and helped cutting cakes, laying tables, making pots of tea, running the raffle and serving, to Laurie Gausden for being our Master of Ceremonies, to Enid Cridland for the lovely table decorations and finally to all those who turned up and generously donated.

The afternoon started quite slowly with tables laid, a selection of cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and scones with jam, cream and strawberries awaiting the ravenous hordes. Would anybody come?

First two people arrived, then another two, four more, Lionel and Sue, and before we knew it the hall was full and we were desperately trying to seat everybody. To our surprise everyone stayed all afternoon and the place was alive with chatter and laughter interspersed with announcements from Laurie. The raffle was a great success with some wonderful prizes generously donated, including a two course meal for two at The Cat and a family ticket for the Bluebell Railway.

In all we raised just over £400 which we split between the Royal British Legion and Help4Heroes.

Thank you all once again for making the afternoon such a success.

Marion Jones

Christian Aid: a big thank-you.

The door to door Christian Aid Collection this year raised £2,091.85. (It was £2,153 in 2010 and £2,141 in 2009) Well done to all that contributed and an extra big thank you to those who collected! None of us are keen to do door to door collection but we all agree that no amount of coffee mornings could raise this wonderful amount. The actual amount will be much more than this as some tax payers gift aided their donation which painlessly adds another 25p per £1 donated. This probably doesn’t sound like much but when you add this up over the whole country Christian Aid in 2010 gained another £1 million through gift aided donations!

For these economic times this is an incredible amount! Many thanks!

Valerie Fyans

Cow races for Life

In the guise of a black, white and pink cow, seven women from West Hoathly and Sharpthorne took part in the Race for Life at the Ardingly Showground on 16 July. Over £2000 was raised for Cancer Research.

Night walk

What went ‘BANG’ in the middle of the night?

Did you know that around 230 people walked through part of our villages during the night of 11th June?

They walked down North Lane, then along Sandy Lane, Garden Mead and then, we think, along Top Road through Sharpthorne; the Village Hall was used as a Marshall’s Base. It was part of a 24-hour walk from Richmond Park to Brighton – 100 km approx. in 24 hours, so quite a challenge! - in aid of the St. Dunstan’s work with blind servicemen and women.

They probably raised over £75,000.

Peter Hartley

Anyone interested in participating next year, contact one of the editors for details.
The Friends of West Hoathly Churchyard Trust

Following over 25 years of loyal service to the Trust, Derek Slater has stood down as Chairman and Trustee and been replaced by Paul Brown. At Evensong on Sunday 10th July, friends joined together to pay tribute to Derek for all he has done on our behalf and he was presented with a special gift by the current Trustees. Thank you Derek, you will be a hard act to follow.

It’s pleasing to report that work on the third terrace is now complete. The cost of this project has been met by the Trust which is now looking at what work is required on terraces five and six. Work of this nature often costs a couple of thousand pounds and would be difficult to fund by St Margaret’s PCC. We are very fortunate to have such a lovely Churchyard with its fine views across the Downs enjoyed by our visitors and villagers alike. This kind of project can only be achieved through generous donations to the Churchyard Trust and we would like to thank those who kindly contribute to such projects.

The Trust is now working on a specification to submit to the PCC for mounting memorial plaques in the Churchyard. We are keen to see this kind of work undertaken to a set standard to prevent plaques from falling from the terraces and repairs required. We are also investigating the possibility of producing some willow weave waste bins to improve the collection of rubbish around the Churchyard and to keep a traditional country feel to the environs.

In 2012 the Churchyard Trust will celebrate its 50th Anniversary and we are looking at ways to mark this marvelous achievement. The Trust was originally set up by four local men who realized the Churchyard was growing and that the cost of its upkeep would be difficult to meet from Church funds alone. Their foresight has enabled so much work to be done over the years leaving us to enjoy one of the finest Churchyards in Sussex.

If you would like to make a donation to the Churchyard Trust we would be most grateful as this would allow more projects to be undertaken. Please contact Brian Couchy on 01342 810561 or take a look at our pages on St Margaret’s Church website or The Hoathly Hub.

Thank you for your continuing support

Tim Baker

West End to West Hoathly, thanks to Una Voce.

On 1 July, one of the few really lovely summer evenings of the year, about 80 people enjoyed picnicking in Andrew and Sally Slater’s transformed garden, before a light-hearted musical evening’s entertainment. Una Voce were in their most informal style, singing songs from West End shows, including an audience participation Mama Mia selection, with great gusto.

Lorna Nye, who replaced her mother at the last moment, has a voice so appropriate for “I feel pretty”, John Noyes “Ol’ Man River” was Robesonian, Margaret Watson on the harp always charms, and we all turned to look at the sunset and cornfields as the choir sang “Fields of gold”. Sadly the promised barn owl was not performing near Barn Cottage that evening.

How fortunate to live in a parish where in the same week an excellent and unusual local history play, and an evening of much-loved music, were performed. Thank you, Sally and Andrew, for your hospitality and hard work.

We look forward to Una Voce’s next appearance, an hour of music on 13th November for Remembrance Sunday, at Highbrook Church, with Karl Jenkins Choral Suite from the Armed Man forming the centrepiece.

Ingrid Sethi

And also ….

Interested in trying out the Una Voce approach to singing? Our next event allows you to do just that with a workshop session led by Steve Dummer, guest conductor at the above performance.

‘Another Day with leads us through a day of singing on Saturday September 10th at Leam’s End in West Hoathly from 10:30am to 4:30pm. We’ll be working on Joseph Horowitz’ ‘Summer Sunday’.

Dummer promises to be great fun as Steve Contact Andrew Slater on 01342 810734 for more details and to register your interest.

All Saints’ PCC Members

(following St. Margaret’s PCC, printed in last issue)

Chairman: The Ven. Lionel Whatley
Churchwardens: Hugh Bennett, Tony Osborn
Treasurer: Simon Witheridge
Secretary: Molly Cooper
Lay members: Susan Chapman, Monica Moore, Rory Clarke
The Jigsaw Puzzle

An evening’s entertainment solved:
It didn’t rain, which was a good start for an evening of (mainly) outdoor entertainment.

We, the audience, congregated outside the church door in anticipation. It wasn’t long before we were joined by the cast, dressed in their 1910 outfits, the vicar and his wife, the laundry lady, the maid, the estate workers, the pub landlady, the prim and proper lady and various women of the village with their assorted children all discussing the day’s events. Suddenly an older blind lady made her way through the audience; and so the performance began. Mrs. Francis, the old lady, was, in fact, the mother of Mrs Goodwin King, and it was she who had encouraged her daughter to set up the Stoneland Players; in this play she also acted as the narrator.

The action takes place in three areas, in the churchyard, inside the church and in the garden of the Manor House, and revolves around rehearsals for the first play performed by the Players, the Greek tragedy Hippolytus by Euripides, whose cast ranged from serving maids to landed gentry. We are then presented with a story within the actual play of unrequited love.

The leading roles are performed by a servant girl and the son of a gentleman. As happens in all good stories the servant girl falls in love with her leading man, mimicking the unrequited passion of Phaedra for Hippolytus. Knowing that there is no future in this relationship, the girl decides to leave the village, despite being encouraged to stay by the old lady. As the story unfolds and the rest of the cast hear what has happened, the son vehemently denies he has encouraged the girl and confirms her feelings are not reciprocated. After falling out with his father over this matter he rushes away and, consequently, crashes his car. He is not badly hurt, but the full story then comes out, the serving girl returns and all passions are laid to rest. Mrs. Francis dies just before the first performance, just as she did in real life, and after some debate it is decided that the play will go ahead that evening.

Throughout the action we are treated to local legends and stories as told by the villagers, Anne Tree who was burned for her faith, the murderer who supposedly hid up the chimney in The Cat Inn, the use of sanctified candles to drop wax in our enemies’ footprints and various other superstitions. In one particularly entertaining scene several people took the parts of different generations of one family relating the story of a poor farmer who manages to work his way to affluence and then loses it all, ending up as a poor farmer again.

The play managed to convey the difference in social standing whilst showing that class is not necessarily a barrier to creating a united village working towards one end. The cast included four professionals, and the Stoneland amateurs rose nobly to their standard. Our thanks go to all concerned for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

I’d like to say how much I enjoyed the Jigsaw Puzzle. Having enjoyed connections with the Stonelands Players over a period of about forty years it was good to have a play about them. The actress who played the part of Mrs Francis bore an uncanny resemblance to Ursula Ridley (Mrs Francis’s granddaughter) as I remember her. By the late fifties when I began to take part, the upstairs/downstairs aspect had largely disappeared, and the local paper ran an article commenting on the great mixture of occupations of the people taking part. We did hear of the past, when the principle characters were the house party guests and the chorus were from the village, but that was obviously a convenient working arrangement. There was also a story that some of the
young ladies who were ‘co-opted’ into the chorus were not very enthusiastic until a certain handsome gentleman was involved!

Oddly enough my first contact with the Players must have been when I was still at school and our English master introduced us to various contemporary writers including Angela Thirkell and her book, August Folly. She had lived in the village and the story was of a pre-war production of a Greek play. I was particularly interested to see the violinist in the recent production, because in one of the local history plays I had appeared back-stage providing sound effects of a fair in which Ancient Streeter, who was hoping to recruit suitable young men to support the parliamentary party, ended up in Bow Pond with his broken drum! I also remember using my class at school to make papier mache shields for When the Saxons Came, using a dustbin lid as a mould. Then there was the occasion in Henry IV during a battle scene when I was sitting on Anthony’s sink unit tolling the bell by pulling on a rope that passed through an open window while also operating the wind machine. I also remember well starting Prometheus in a traditional way by strokes of the ‘great smiter’ on something suitable to the sharp intake of breath of one of the audience sitting just the other side of the still closed curtain. Great days!

Bill Fish

Bluebell Railway Songs of Praise

The Bluebell Railway held their annual summer “Songs of Praise” on Sunday 17th July. The service was led by Father John Twisleton, Rector of Horsted Keynes and Chaplain to the Bluebell Railway, together with Cannon Clive Everett-Allen, Vicar of St Swithin’s East Grinstead and assistant Chaplain to the railway.

294 people boarded the train at Horsted Keynes station for its ten mile round trip to Kingscote, where the service took place on the station platforms. During the service two Bluebell volunteers were interviewed about what they do at the railway and the importance of God in their lives. One volunteer is involved in the extension work taking place to empty the cutting at Imberhorne and re-lay the track into East Grinstead, and the other is restoring four Victorian carriages back to their former glory, much to the enjoyment of the many thousands of people who take a ride along the line each year.

Guest speaker was Father James Clarke of All Saints Lindfield, who gave a rousing and at times very funny talk about his introduction to trains (his grandfather once worked on the locomotive footplate of the old Great Western Railway). He spoke about how train journeys can be relaxing and a peaceful time to think about life’s journey and the enjoyment and difficult times we all have to face. We were very pleased to be accompanied by a number of young musicians from All Saints to lead us in our singing which helped make for a perfect English summer evening of song and praise.

The train ride was free but a retiring collection for the Bluebell’s extension to East Grinstead raised a massive total of £806.00 for which the railway is most grateful.

Tim Baker

West Hoathly Lawn Tennis Club

> We have just recruited our hundredth member of the tennis club so it looks like being a busy summer this year. Our court booking system is now on-line which should make it easier for members to reserve a court. Gary O’Leary has organised and men’s and ladies’ ladder, which will give members the opportunity to get to play with other people.

If you would like to join the Club, contact Terry Cooper on 01444 892649 for more details.

Molly Cooper

Did you know?

The world’s oldest primary school pupil was 85-year-old Kimani N’gan’ga, a Kenyan who started school in 2004. See the film "The First Grader."

Africa’s first elected woman President is Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.

Courtesy Action Aid
Weather Watch

Dry season breaks in June

My local rainfall records show that the two-month period of April and May this year was by far the driest 2-month spell in the past 32 years. We had just 18 mm of rain when the local average for these two months together is 100 mm. Fortunately for us vegetable gardeners whose crops had been stunted by the dry weather, we had 17 days with rain totalling 93 mm in June compared with a local average of 67 mm, and the first half of July has given us 24 mm more, almost an inch. The warmest days in May did not match up to the sunniest days of April, but there were no damaging frosts in May to harm fruit blossoms. So far the English summer here is keeping up its reputation for being very mixed!

Statistics for May and June 2011

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</tbody>
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Basil Cridland

Garden Notes

Plentiful rain in June and July has caused a burst of growth – grass, cultivated plants and of course weeds! Our autumn raspberries are a foot taller than normal and flowering well – signs of a good crop we hope. Leeks and brassicas that were struggling to establish and grow back in early June have flourished, beautiful heads of Calabrese, cauliflower and cabbage now ready.

Potatoes, carrots, perpetual spinach and beetroot have all thrived with heavy yields, and the runner and french beans, relishing the recent rain and warmth, are starting to crop well. If you haven’t already done so, harvest shallots and onions for drying and storing as soon as the tops have gone over. Prune summer raspberries as soon as the crop has finished, cutting out old fruiting wood and tying in this year’s new growth, likewise with tayberries, loganberries and other hybrid berries. Gooseberries, black-currants, and other bush fruit should be pruned as soon as possible. Strawberries will need attention – either take runners and start a new bed or remove runners and keep the existing plants for another year in situ. Continue feeding and removing side shoots from indeterminate types of tomatoes (non-bush sort) and cucumbers, watching out for whitefly, red spider mite and other "lurgies", using biological control (natural predators) where possible.

There’s always plenty to deadhead in the flower garden – roses, alchemilla mollis, delphiniums, lupins, campanulas, and anything that seeds readily becoming a nuisance. Meconopsis cambrica (welsh poppy) is one of our culprits – you can have too much of a good thing! Shrubs that have finished flowering, e.g. Weigelia, Deutzia, Philadelphia, Escallonia, Spirea and Hebes should be pruned to encourage strong wood for next year’s flower rather than allowing a tangled mass of stems with inferior flowers to develop. Stake dahlias and other tall perennials such as Michaelmas daisies that can flop, especially in heavy thundery rain or strong winds. Hedges (privet, hawthorn, leylandii, yew, holly, escallonia and general mixed ones) can be cut any time from mid-July to mid-September, and climbing or rambling roses, honeysuckles and wisteria can be pruned or tidied up and dead-headed. Bulbs and bulb catalogues are appearing now, so, if you want to increase spring colour and fill in gaps, buy now and plant when ground conditions permit.

Lindsay Shurvell
History of Pericles

Following on from the article in the last edition of The Chronicle, here is a brief history of Pericles, when and why it was founded, how it grew and developed and its aspirations for the future.

The name “Pericles” derives from the first of Shakespeare’s resurrection plays, and since its inception in 1992, its theme has been one of communication (Pericles Translations and Research), development (Pericles Training, Work and Therapy) and social and cultural change. (Pericles Theatre Co).

Pericles Translations and Research had its inauguration in 1992 and Pericles Training Work and Therapy opened in May 1997 within the Hoathly Hill community, a housing association of about 70 people of all ages, some of whom were interested in Rudolf Steiner’s ideas and all of whom were drawn to trying a new way of being neighbourly on this magnificent estate on the top of the hill, responsibility for which is shared between all who live there.

Pericles Training Work and Therapy originally grew from a lunch club providing wholesome lunches and company for Hoathly Hill and also other local elderly residents and growing fresh vegetable and herbs for it. West Sussex Social Services asked us to use these activities as a basis for a training and work situation for adults with special needs, which we – with the support of Hoathly Hill Community started in 1997. As more students arrived two purpose built craft workshops were opened in 1999 to provide training in a variety of arts and crafts, together with the work in organic horticulture, catering and estate work.

When the Pericles lunch club was successful by providing catering training to a high standard and serving fresh organic produce, it acquired the Sharphorne village shop, which for some time had been empty and an eyesore in 2004, turning it into the Organic Cafe, with accommodation for an extended family and 3 residents with special needs.

The craft workshops specialize in using recycled and local materials to make beautiful and useful objects which are on display and for sale in the Organic Cafe. These activities encourage self-confidence and self-esteem whilst providing opportunities to develop specific skills and create marketable products.

Forestry work and maintaining traditional woodland skills made it possible for those wishing to be more active and outdoors through the generous welcome of the farmers at Plaw Hatch and Tablehurst and the trustees of St. Anthony’s Trust. This expanded training opportunities in practical land based activities such as Greenwood turning, charcoal making, coppicing, willow growing, wattle fencing, straw bale and traditional round house building, while sometimes being allowed to help the farms in other ways.

Therapeutic activities such as painting, eurythmy, sculpture, drama, music and speech help form a dual approach to personal development by encouraging self-expression, creativity and personal development.

Pericles Theatre Company was founded in 2000 to give people with long term unemployment and/or special learning needs the opportunity to work alongside professionals in the theatre disciplines and showcase the work of promising artists. Since then, a number of successful productions have been staged locally, around the UK as far as the Brighton and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals, in our own Chequer Mead Theatre in East Grinstead and abroad for international conferences.

Recent funding cuts have meant that overall numbers who regularly attend Pericles have reduced from over 60 to around 50, and this has resulted in the medium to long term future of Pericles being in doubt. Parents/carers have recently formed a Friends of Pericles Trust with the objective of raising funds to top up the funding shortfall from West Sussex County Council and ensure that the fantastic work that Pericles and its staff do for these less fortunate members of our community can continue long into the future.

If anyone reading this article feels that they could help in any way, by volunteering, donating, etc we would be delighted to hear from you. Please visit the Pericles website – www.pericles.org.uk or telephone the office on 810133. Please also look out for notices of forthcoming events/ fundraisers on our microsite on the Hoathly Hub.

And don’t forget our Saturday Market of crafts, table top and bric-a-brac on 24th September at the Sharphorne Community Hall between 10am – 4pm.

David Comber
The High Sheriff’s Year

What job is it that finds you out with Arun Angels on the streets of Bognor Regis all night one moment and processing in full uniform complete with frills and hat down the aisle of Chichester Cathedral the next? Simple – High Sheriff of West Sussex.

I was lucky enough to do this job for a year and handed over to my successor at the end of March 2011. I was following in a long and unbroken line which dates back 1,000 years; I was also following in Colin Field’s footsteps as many of you will know.

The Sheriff’s role began as a Royal official, able to enforce the King’s interest in the country. The land was the King’s and he was due levies on it, as it was his duty to do justice and keep the peace. Originally the office held many of the powers now vested in Lords Lieutenant, High Court Judges, Magistrates, Coroners and local authorities. The High Sheriff remains the sovereign’s representative in the county for maintenance of law and order, although, thankfully, these responsibilities are now delegated to the Police.

The office of High Sheriff is non-political and comes with no support of any kind. The office last year was my kitchen worktop and the secretary/driver/caterer was also the High Sheriff! The appointment is not very democratic: new High Sheriffs are nominated by their predecessors. However, in modern times there is a small panel to advise and oversee these nominations.

My year started in March 2010 being sworn in, together with the new HS of East Sussex, in Lewes Crown Court by my husband, Hugh, then a High Court Judge. The declaration is made in a long and complicated statement in wonderfully arcane language. From then on it hardly stopped, except for a brief respite in August.

You can contact anyone anywhere in the county, explain that you are the High Sheriff, and ask if you could come and see what they do. The incredible thing is that, without exception, every such call was greeted with enthusiasm and welcome. I did go out with Arun Angels (and Worthing Street Pastors) helping those who have had one too many get home safely; I visited the prisons in Lewes and Ford; spent wonderful hours with Police and Fire & Rescue Services all around the county; joined the dog handlers and firearms teams at Gatwick Airport, went out with Sussex Sea Fisheries and the Shoreham Life Boats and announced the result of the general election in Bognor Regis.

There was a great welcome from small organisations doing unsung and essential work like the group who have a tea party and activities for adults with learning difficulties every single Saturday of the year in Lancing; the young mums who run youth groups in West Durrington; the retired boxer who gives a powerful message of fitness and discipline to the young people he trains in Chichester; the homeless groups in Chichester, Bognor Regis, Crawley, Worthing and Littlehampton. The list is unending. At each organisation I found a warm welcome and an enthusiasm to talk about their work. There are some remarkable people out there: we just don’t hear enough about them.

A major part of the High Sheriff’s job is presenting Awards: to members of the Armed Forces and Cadets, Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Scouts and Guides and members of the public who have been put forward for Court Awards. Meeting the recipients of these awards is awe inspiring.

Another important part of the role is supporting the magistrates and judges. There are few judges sitting in West Sussex, but the magistrates, all volunteers, hear more than 95% of criminal cases. They work incredibly hard and give up so much of their time. The system does not always treat them as it should and some of the cuts proposed are giving them great concern. I spent several days with magistrates in Haywards Heath, Crawley and Worthing, watching them at work.

Some of the best days were spent with civic leaders in West Sussex. They were generous with their time and keen to show me around their areas. We visited businesses like Butlins, a local brewery, Fontwell Racecourse, a vineyard, pepper growers, yacht builders and Rolls Royce. We met the people who create jobs, provide apprenticeships and contribute so much to the area.

I spent time in East Grinstead with the remarkable Museum there. If you haven’t been: go. It’s fascinating, run entirely by volunteers and has just been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. I went to civic church services in the county and particularly enjoyed those in our area, where I
met the people who do so much to make our neighbourhoods work. At all of these occasions, there were the British Legion. What a team they are. I got to know some of their standard bearers well as I met them all around the county. One very special moment was Remembrance Day itself in Crawley Mall, when the whole building fell silent for those 2 minutes and a short service was held in the centre of the Mall itself.

Equally moving was Armed Forces weekend. Processing, on a beautiful June day, along the sea-front at Littlehampton accompanied by 4 bands of all ages from the youngest cadet to the oldest ex-serviceman, and seeing the huge crowds come up off the beach and stand in silence, was a remarkable experience.

I had a wonderful Christmas Day shared with Crawley Open House, Southwell Lodge and the Salvation Army in Horsham after a glut of great Christmas parties and carol services.

I visited schools and colleges all around the county, chatting to enthusiastic young people about their work and aspirations. Brinsbury College welcomed me and a group of young people who were “shadowing” me for a day; Chichester and Sussex Universities were equally welcoming and I spent several days with each.

It is impossible to get everything in. It was a fascinating, inspiring and very special year and an enormous privilege to have the opportunity to find out about this county in which I have lived all my life.

Liz Bennett

Jewish Refugee Children at Bulldogs Bank in 1945

Compiled by Pauline Ralph in 2007 from the West Hoathly Local History Archive

In 2007 Derek Peckham of Surrey wrote to the Archive enquiring about Bulldogs Bank where his relatives used to live. Subsequently the story about Jewish refugee children housed there came to light.

A conveyance document shows "Bull Dogs Bank Farm" in Hammingden Lane transferred from James Edwin Mace to Walter and Frances Sarah Hancock on December 29th 1925. Part of the farm, "Beerhouse Shaw", became the present day Bulldogs Bank where the first house was built in 1954.

The farmhouse was replaced in about 1939 by a house now called Sun House built by Leslie Nye. This house was still called Bulldogs Bank when it was occupied by soldiers during WW2. They left early in October of 1945, and on October 15th 1945 six young Jewish children, whose parents had been gassed in a concentration camp, arrived.

Before WW2 Gertrud and Sophie Dann were qualified state registered nurses in Germany. After their father was imprisoned in 1939 because of his faith the sisters left Germany and came to England. They worked at the Hampstead Nurseries during the war where they were trained by Anna Freud and Mrs Burlingham to care for children separated from their parents. At the end of the war the Home Office gave permission for 1000 orphaned children to be admitted into this country under the care of the Jewish Refugee Committee. The six youngest children, John, Ruth, Leah, Paul, Miriam and Peter, came to Bulldogs Bank. They were from the concentration camp of Terszin at Theresienstadt in Moravia. Bulldogs Bank was lent to house them by Lady Clarke, the wife of Sir Ralph Clarke, MP for East Grinstead and the Dann sisters were in charge of the children there. The Foster Parent's Plan for War Children, INC., New York, adopted Bulldogs Bank as one of their colonies. They provided the necessary equipment as well as financing the upkeep. The children were at Bulldogs Bank for eleven months and then went to join older rescued children at Weir Courtney, in Lingfield before being adopted.

In 1975 the oldest child Jackie (John) Young returned to Bulldogs Bank, now Sun house, with his wife and two daughters. He also visited Lady Clarke at Brook House to thank her and asked the Dann sisters to thank all villagers for their help and kindness.

Much work was done on the upbringing of the six children at Bulldogs Bank, including nine monthly reports by the Dann sisters. An article, entitled "An Experiment on Group Upbringing", was published by Anna Freud and Sophie Dann and a film entitled "The Orphans from Terezin" was made. Two contributions by Jackie Young appeared on the internet, one on the BBC website "WW2 People's War" and one on www.movinghere.org.uk/stories. A DVD about these children made by Beatrix Schwehm and Peter Stockhaus, Film Produktion, Hambourg is available from the Archive.
The Good Companions

Who are we, where do we meet, what do we do, or can you help?,
For many years, a group of up to forty retired people from the parishes have met monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month, to make and meet friends, have a good chat and afternoon tea... Members have visited Eastbourne by coach, enjoyed trips to the theatre, and lunched at local hostelries, most recently the Cat. It’s such fun that even after moving away, several of the group continue to return for meetings, to continue old friendships.

Recently a popular move has been to hold the winter meetings at the Bowls Club with lunch provided at a small cost. The fish and chips from Master Fryer in Pound Hill are scrummy, and home-made shepherd’s pie or chicken casserole followed by a pudding has ‘hit the spot’. During the summer months meetings have been generously hosted by people able to share their homes with the Good Companions, and the English climate being what it is one never knows whether its tea in the garden, or in front of a log fire. The highlight of the year has always been Christmas tea at Gravetye Manor, with Carols, and service fit for Royalty.

All this and a chauffeur service provided by people who often stay to talk, eat, and help any slightly less able members.

If you would like to join we’d love to have you. The membership is £3 annually.

If you could host a meeting between May and September don’t feel shy, you have lots of help and experience to call on, and the pleasure given to members is well worth the effort, and you’ll be amazed at the history of the parishes and their residents that you’ll discover.

For details please phone Liz Bennett on 01444 892731 or Ros Williams on 01342 810944.

A 21st Century window for St. Margaret’s

The provisional design for a new window to replace the decaying one in the north wall has been approved by the P.C.C. The design represents the four seasons and is based on verses from Genesis: “While the Earth remaineth, seed time and harvest time, and cold and heat, and day and night shall not cease.”; “I do set my bow in the cloud and it shall be a token of a covenant between Me and Earth”.

Suggestions for improvements and alterations will be incorporated in the finished design by Michael Coles, N.D.D., A.R.C.A., an experienced artist whose studio is now in Lindfield. The Diocesan Advisory Committee has to give its approval before the commission can be carried out. With the Vicar’s permission, the provisional design will be displayed in the church at an appropriate time. Please look out for it and let us have your views.

Kay Coutin

Christian Vision for Men

I had been looking forward to the camping trip ever since February. On Friday 24th June four of us men from St Margaret’s Church travelled to a field in ‘the middle of nowhere’ in Swindon for the Christian Vision for Men’s (CVM) Gathering. This was a weekend for men to worship God and have fun. In the field there were two huge marquees, one for worship and the other a beer tent. There were approx 500 men, there, from all different Christian denominations and some who were yet to believe in God.

There was worship on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday, completed with communion. We sang worship songs along with Graham Kendrick and his band—500 male voices booming out & praising God, what an incredible sound. In between came darts matches and arm wrestling competitions and, on Saturday, a 50 a side football match and inflatable poles to bash each other over the head with, very Christian! There was also the largest inflatable assault course in Europe. We of course decided to have a go at all 3. In the course of the worship we heard some incredible testimonies where the individuals have been rescued by God from desperate lives. We were also privileged to witness the launch of ‘First Man Standing’ which is part of Restored, a global Christian alliance committed to ending violence against women. Friday night was rounded off with a comedian & some beers (can Christians be funny? Of course they can!) and Saturday night with ‘tins & hymns’ where we sang old and new hymns whilst we slurped on our tins of beer, which I found actually improved my singing voice—not difficult! What a fantastic week-end!

Before becoming a Christian, not all that long ago, I thought that Christian men all had beards, wore sandals with socks and played the guitar. Well there was none of that during this weekend, it was a great time for men to be men and worship together.

We have a local Christian men’s group which meets at the Sharphorne Club every second Monday of the month at 8pm. It would be great to meet you, beards, socks and sandals welcome, but please leave your guitars at home.

Simon Chalk

Check out the CVM website; www.cvmen.org.uk
Historical Feature Mapping in Local Woods

East Sussex County Council’s archaeology section has initiated a project to map out archeological features across the High Weald. The project makes use of volunteer groups to conduct surveys by walking through woodland making notes of any features and their possible cause. As part of this initiative, the Council has conducted a LIDAR survey over the High Weald. LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) uses pulses of light to measure distance using a light aircraft flying over the Weald. The data was acquired in the winter, when the leaves had fallen from the trees. The LIDAR, as used by the volunteer groups, are images of the surface which highlight features on the ground. In the case of the woods and fields around West Hoathly, they highlight indentations and mounds such as old sunken tracks, iron mining pits, charcoal sites, old boundaries and a large number of quarry-like features of unknown origin.

Last winter a group of us from the West Hoathly Conservation Working Group conducted a survey in a small part of Gravetye Wood. This first West Hoathly survey was undertaken to establish what was required and whether it was something we wished to pursue further. It was also used by the Council to test out their procedures/instructions. We were the first group to do the surveying without the direct help of a council representative. The results were positive for both parties, the council being pleased with the results and the group having an enjoyable and constructive morning recording measurements and discussing possible causes of hollows in the ground. The survey consists of walking side by side through the woods in straight lines covering the whole area. Any significant feature is recorded. The features size, location (using GPS) and possible origin are noted along with a sketch and pictures. To identify the origin, flow diagrams provided by the Council are used. Features on the LIDAR images are checked and recorded. All the details are then sent for storage in the Council’s archaeological files.

In future the data could be used to help study the history of the area. It will give a better general local knowledge of many archaeology sites in the parish, and for my part gives an added interest when subsequently walking through the woods.

This winter we plan to carry on with the surveying and want to encourage other volunteers to take part. It would also be interesting to get together with people who know the local history and in particular can help identify the origin of features such as bomb craters from WW2.

For further information on the council project go to http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/pressoffice/pressreleases/2009/07/pr2452.htm

To get involved please contact Andy Dawson at 811107 or John Downe or Peter Hartley

The big day

One by one they start to arrive...
Some of the guests have been travelling since five.

The flowers look so beautiful done up in sprays.
Roses and carnations adorn the bouquets.

The groom and the best man appear bleary eyed,
boy, what a stag night that was last night,
no wonder they are feeling so tired.

The bride feels so nervous as she steps from the car -
so many people here, not sure who half of them are.

Bridesmaids and Pageboys line up without a care
The Bridesmaids are wearing rose pink with pretty flowers in their hair.

Now the church organ begins the bridal march
as the Bride and her father appear from behind the arch.

Her mother is watching and remembering her own big day.
Though many years have past now it still seems like yesterday.

As father and daughter approach the altar now he looks so proud, as he says to her "wow"

And she squeezes his hand as if to say "thanks, dad, now its time I made my way".

Gill Grainger
August

4th Thursday
11.30am Communion at Horncastle

7th 7th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
10am Jubilate Family Eucharist, St. Margaret’s
6.30pm Evening Prayer, All Saints

8th Monday
8pm Men’s Pub Gathering, Sharpthorne Club

10th Wednesday
8pm Hosanna!, St. Margaret’s

14th 8th Sunday after Trinity
9 am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
6.30pm Evening Prayer, St Margaret’s

24th 9th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
9am Matins, All Saints
10am Jubilate Family Disciples Service, St. Margaret’s
6.30pm Evensong, St. Margaret’s

26th Wednesday
8pm ‘Heart & Soul’, St. Margaret’s

28th 10th Sunday after Trinity
9am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s

September

1st Thursday
11.30am Communion at Horncastle

4th 11th Sunday after Trinity/
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
10am Jubilate Eucharist, St. Margaret’s
6.30pm Evening Prayer, All Saints

6th Tuesday
7.45pm St. Margaret’s PCC, Vicarage

10th Saturday
“RIDE AND STRIDE” - CHARITY WALK

11th 12th Sunday after Trinity
9 am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
6.30pm Healing Service, St. Margaret’s

12th Monday
8pm Men’s Pub Group in Sharpthorne Club

13th Tuesday
12.30pm ‘Food for Thought’ lunch,
     Sharpthorne Hall

14th Wednesday
8pm Hosanna!, St. Margaret’s

18th 13th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
9am Matins, All Saints
10am Jubilate & Puppet Service, St. Margaret’s
6.30pm Evensong, St. Margaret’s

25th 5th Sunday after Trinity
9am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
4.30pm ‘Gather Round’, Sharpthorne Hall

28th Wednesday
8pm ‘Heart & Soul’, St. Margaret’s

30th Friday
3pm ‘Saints and Angels,’ St. Margaret’s

ADVANCE DATE - Sunday, 2nd October
Harvest Festivals in both Churches

ALL ABOUT CHANGE

“To live is to change.
To live fully is to change often!”
    John F Kennedy

“A hand moves, and the fire’s whirling takes
   different shapes:
   All things change when we do.”
    Kūkai – Japanese Abbott, 9th Century

CHURCH SERVICES
AT
ST. MARGARET’S (West Hoathly)
AND ALL SAINTS (Highbrook)
THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

August
Friday, 5th
Bluebell Railway Fish & Chip Evening
Real Ale at £2.90 per pint at Cat Inn
Saturday, 6th
Real Ale at £2.90 per pint at Cat Inn
Monday, 8th
Jazz at The Haywagon, Hartfield
Saturday, 13th
Vintage Transport Weekend
at Bluebell Railway
Food starts again at Cat Inn
Wednesday, 17th
2 pm Toy Library Service next to
West Hoathly School
Friday, 19th
Bluebell Railway Real Ale Evening
Sunday, 21st
10.30am Classic Cars at
The Cat Inn
Tuesday, 23rd
9.15 to 10.15am Toy Library Service
Street Lane Ardingly
Friday, 26th
10 to 11.30am Stay & Play St Peter’s
Church Rooms Ardingly
Bluebell Railway Fish & Chip Evening
Saturday, 27th
7.30 pm Highbrook Barn Dance
Highbrook Village Hall

September
Friday, 2nd
WH school Inset Day
Monday, 5th
WH School Starts
WHPC Planning Meeting
Wednesday, 7th
2 pm WH WI Village Hall
Friday, 9th
Bluebell Railway Fish & Chip Evening
Saturday, 10th
10.30 to 16.30 UNA VOCE
Choral Workshop, Leams End

RIDE & STRIDE
Visit to Historic Churches in Sussex
Sunday, 11th
9 am Balcombe Walk in aid of
St Catherine’s Hospice
From Victory Hall, Balcombe
Monday, 12th
8 pm Sharphorne WI Village Hall
Jazz at the Haywagon, Hartfield

DEADLINE ARTICLES FOR NEXT CHRONICLE DUE

Wednesday, 14th
8 pm PC Meeting for Queen’s Diamond
Jubilee, WH School
Friday, 16th
9 am WH School Association AGM in
School Studio
Friday, 23rd
Bluebell Railway—Fish & Chips Evening

Next Chronicle Available
Saturday, 24th
10 am to 4 pm Pericles Saturday Market
Sharphorne Hall
Sunday, 25th
10 am Village Walk
Monday, 26th
8pm PC Meeting Village Hall

COMING IN OCTOBER
Charity Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper
In aid of The Loiyangalani Trust
Saturday 8th October WH Village Hall
7 pm for 7.30 start
See Good Causes P15 for details
### Clubs and Organisations in the Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>Helen Schofield</td>
<td>811301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beavers</td>
<td>Bev Duncanson</td>
<td>810709</td>
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<td>Bellringers</td>
<td>Rachel Edwards</td>
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<td>Book Club</td>
<td>Rachel Whittam</td>
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<td>Bowling Club</td>
<td>Trevor Swainson</td>
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<td>British Legion</td>
<td>Laurie Gaudsen</td>
<td>810751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownies</td>
<td>Christine Perkins</td>
<td>870276</td>
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<td>Cricket Club - West Hoathly</td>
<td>Peter Johnson</td>
<td>810660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cricket Club - Highbrook</td>
<td>Patrick Mcghan</td>
<td>01444 892243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cercle français</td>
<td>Bob Darvill</td>
<td>810443</td>
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<td>Cubs</td>
<td>Pandy Dart</td>
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<td>Football Club</td>
<td>Kirk Howick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Priest House</td>
<td>Rosemary Watson</td>
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<td>Garages - Sharphorne</td>
<td>Andy Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>- West Hoathly</td>
<td>Jim Denne</td>
<td>810402</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Companions</td>
<td>Liz Bennett</td>
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<td>Gravetye Manor</td>
<td>Amy Gleadow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands Together</td>
<td>Ingrid Sehi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Note Stage Academy</td>
<td>Sarah Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karate Group</td>
<td>Dorian Fretwell</td>
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<td>Kindergarten – Hoathly Hill</td>
<td>Jean Kingsley-Monks</td>
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<td>Local History Group</td>
<td>Tony Hunt</td>
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<td>Local History Archives</td>
<td>John Ralph</td>
<td>810458</td>
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<td>Neighbourhood Watch</td>
<td>Sophie Hill</td>
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<td>Parish Council Clerk</td>
<td>Helen Schofield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Chairman</td>
<td>John Downe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pericles</td>
<td>Paulamaria Blaxland-de-Lange</td>
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<td>Pre-school (Village Hall)</td>
<td>Sarah Watts</td>
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<td>Priest House Curator</td>
<td>Antony Smith</td>
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<td>Pubs - The Cat Inn</td>
<td>Ian Huxley</td>
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<td>- The White Hart</td>
<td>Dottie Esdaile</td>
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<td>Rainbows</td>
<td>Brenda Farley</td>
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<td>School</td>
<td>Christine Lyford</td>
<td>810302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scouts</td>
<td>Colby Mager</td>
<td>01825 763257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shop - Sharphorne</td>
<td>Carol Johnson</td>
<td>810234</td>
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<td>Sing &amp; Play</td>
<td>Liz Shannon</td>
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<td>Stoneland Players</td>
<td>Julia Piqué</td>
<td>01435 868245</td>
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<td>Tennis Club</td>
<td>Terry Cooper</td>
<td>01444 892649</td>
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<td>Theatre Goers Group</td>
<td>Marion Jones</td>
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<td>Toostie Time</td>
<td>Sara Rush</td>
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<td>Una Voice</td>
<td>Andrew Slater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village Hall Bookings:-</td>
<td>Helen Schofield</td>
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<tr>
<td>- West Hoathly</td>
<td>Alastair Duncanson</td>
<td>810709</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Highbrook</td>
<td>Nickie Mason</td>
<td>01444 891352</td>
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<td>W.I. - Sharphorne</td>
<td>Mary Mays</td>
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<tr>
<td>- West Hoathly</td>
<td>Frieda Boyd</td>
<td>0770 9377 424</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writers Group</td>
<td>Rachel Whittam</td>
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<td>Youth Groups - Emmaus</td>
<td>Lindsay Shurvell</td>
<td>810780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of WH Churchyard</td>
<td>Brian Coughy</td>
<td>810561</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please notify any changes to Marion Jones.

### The Churches and Services

#### St. Margaret's, West Hoathly, and All Saints, Highbrook
- **Website:** [www.westhoathly.org.uk](http://www.westhoathly.org.uk)
- **Contact:** [www.highbrook.info](http://www.highbrook.info)

**Vicar**

Venerable Lionel Whatley, The Vicarage, North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4QF

**Church Officers at St. Margaret's**
- Churchwardens: Valerie Fyans, Tel: 01342 810848
- Derek Shurvell, Tel: 01342 810780

**Church Officers at All Saints**
- Churchwardens: Tony Osborn, Tel: 01444 892191
- Hugh Bennett Tel: 01444

Main Services at both of these churches are listed on the inner back pages.

Prayers are said most mornings in St Margaret’s church at 8 a.m. Mon- Sat

#### Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Dunstan’s
- **Website:** [www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk](http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk)

**Parish Priest:**
- **Father James Cutts,** Tel: 01342 710313

Sunday Mass is said at 11:30 am every Sunday

### St. Margaret's Community

#### Transport

If you would like a lift to a local hospital or doctor/dentist, please contact:
- **Monday:** Margaret Mason 811320
- **Tuesday:** Valerie Fyans 810848
- **Wednesday:** Kathy Brown 811866
- **Friday:** John Trueman 810612
- **Thursday:** Catherine Goodridge 810937
- **Anyday:** Bill Merry 810771
- **Barbara Polhill** 810877
- **Valerie Fyans** 810848
- **Robin Ingham** 810160
- **Carol Houston** 810075

Please remember that these kind volunteers are only available on the day stated.

**Post Office opening times at Costcutters**

- **Monday:** 9am - 2pm
- **Wednesday:** 9am - 1pm
- **Friday:** 9am - 1pm

**Small Ads**

Small Ads are found on the Community Calendar Page. To advertise in the next issue please contact Marion Jones.

Tel: 810143 or e-mail marion_jones@talk21.com

### The Cover

Many thanks to Monica Moore for the cover of this issue of the Chronicle.

Please keep those creative ideas and artwork coming!

Please send cover designs to Kathy Brown.

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**St. Margaret's Community**

#### Police Community Support Officer

Stuart Clough  
T: 0778 9168791  
Email: stuart.clough@sussex.pnn.police.uk

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**Next Issue**

The next issue of the Chronicle will cover the months of October and November 2011. Latest date for the submission of articles is **12th September 2011**. Printed copies will be available on **23rd September 2011**.