From the Editorial Team . . .

Welcome to the August/September edition of the Chronicle. Whilst writing this I am wondering whether we will have any summer this year, although it was pretty much a certainty that as soon as a drought order was issued the heavens would open; the trouble with the rain is it never knows when to stop. But we live in hope that the sun will soon start shining again and we can get out the BBQ and start to enjoy the summer.

The West Hoathly, Sharpthorne, Highbrook and Selsfield Road Diamond Jubilee celebrations were a great success despite the weather. I think that this weekend will be talked about for a long time; for a small group of villages we did very well and thanks must go to the organisers who put a lot of time and effort to make sure that everything went smoothly. The pageant on Monday was a real spectacle and it was lovely to see so many people participating and turning out to cheer and wave. When was the last time we saw a tank lumbering up the main road? St Margaret's Church has sponsored the production of a souvenir booklet containing photographs of the weekend which is included with this edition. Please accept our apologies if your favourite photos are not included, they were all wonderful but there was not enough room to use them all.

Off to get my running shoes on now in preparation for the Olympics. I think we will all need a good rest by the time autumn arrives.

Please take note of the earlier deadline of 10 September for articles for the October-November issue, this is due to holidays.

From Peter, Anne, Kathy, Marion & Kate

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 five 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 & SMALL ADS

Sue Billings at 01342 810049 handles boxed business advertisements, which can be included for £30 annually, and also the 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.
Dear Friends,
It’s been a strange summer, hasn’t it! First the drought and the hosepipe ban and then the rain that never seemed to let up and the forecast that there is still more to come!

In spite of the rain during the Jubilee celebrations, the whole village was able to “pull-together” and have a great time. Do have a look at the pictures of the celebrations! What an amazing effort on the part of the organizing team and everyone who participated.

As I write this article the Olympic torch is making its way around the country and we are all anticipating the Games and the feast of sport that it will bring into our homes and lives. How privileged we are to live in a world where we have so much!

However, let us remember that there will be people in our villages all on their own during these festivities. Why not invite them around to watch the box with you. One of the sad comments made by someone at one of the many street parties that I attended was: “Isn’t it nice to meet our neighbours?” (Some had lived in the same street for years and not met those living next door or in their own street?) Is that not strange? Sad?
I’m not suggesting that we should live in each others pockets, but simply that we should learn to get to know one another, to care for one another and to help each other especially those who don’t or can’t get out much.

Response to Christian Aid Appeal.
I had a thank you letter from Christian Aid and I want to add my thanks to all who gave so generously to our appeal and to all the kind folk who helped with the distribution and collection of your gifts. I’m constantly amazed at the generosity of so many people especially when many are struggling to make ends meet.

Seeing: Isaiah, the prophet, is being encouraged to by the Lord to “see” what he might not have seen before (and to “see” in a number of different senses.)
Firstly, to see what most of our society would rather not see; the reality of powerlessness and deprivation. To see what so many in our society encourage us to ignore. Part of our calling as a Church is to draw attention to those areas of deprivation around us that need to be brought into the light.
And secondly, also on the positive side to see what the church and society at large is doing. I’m astounded by what tiny congregations, villages throughout this land are actually doing with limited resources all around the world and in our own community. I think that we often “sell ourselves short” when we fail to see what is being done.

The Gospel encourages us constantly to see ourselves honestly. To see also how our love has often grown cold and how we have perhaps lost the vision. Jeff Strong, in his book Mere Disciple says: “I believe that most of the time all God needs from us is honesty. Once he gets that, he’s able to do the rest.”
When we’re honest with ourselves we can then allow the grace and revolutionary love of God to turn us around so that we can make a new beginning and then perhaps we will see what we really are capable of. Because of God’s mercy when we are able to see ourselves truthfully we see not only our sins and failings but we see also the image of God in ourselves and have the capacity to let love come alive in us. Finally, we begin to see as He sees; we see with the eyes of Christ; that is to see the heartbreaking infinite value of all those God has given us, all around us.

With my best wishes to you all,
HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
AT ST. MARGARET’S, WEST HOATHLY
& ALL SAINTS’, HIGHBROOK

From our records

Wedding: Karol Jones and David Taylor were married at All Saints Church on 16th June; Karol and David, and their many guests celebrated their wedding in true Village style with a full church (about 250 guests) followed by a reception in the marquee in a field next to the church. What a lovely, friendly atmosphere....much joy and happiness.

Confirmation: Christine Graystone, Charles Ward and Simon Chalk were confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation service at All Saints in Lindfield on 28th June by Bishop Alan Chesters, assistant Bishop of Chichester. What a wonderful turnout from friends and family from St. Margaret's. (See photo)

Baptism: Mimosa Rosie Jemima Thorowgood was baptized at St. Margaret's on 6th July. She is the daughter of Max and Azelle Thorowgood from Chiddinglye (they also celebrated a 40th birthday on the same weekend).

Funeral Services:
Douglas Browning died this week and was buried at St. Margaret's on 17th July. Many of you will remember his wife Pauline (also buried in the graveyard) and their daughter Tania Bull and Lance.
Peter Hutchings of Ardingly Road died towards the end of May, after a long illness, and his funeral service was at St. Margaret’s on 22nd May. An appreciation appears later in this issue. Please think of Chick in your prayers.

Coming events

Clive Simmonds is a Lay reader in training at Cuckfield. As part of his final year’s training he has to spend 6 months in a different Parish and so we will welcome him amongst us – his first Sunday will be 16th September when he will preach. Clive is an Assessor for the EDRT Engineering Education Scheme. Please welcome him to the Parish.

“Rooted in Jesus” is the title given to a course which is based on “Alpha” but developed for use in this country and in Africa. There are 12 modules of 4 weeks each – you can get on and off as you wish! I plan to offer this on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings every week from September.
Please let me know if you’re interested.
With my best wishes to you all, Lionel

And many thanks to Sue Billings, Marion Jones and Sylvia Downe for producing the Jubilee Souvenir Album enclosed with this issue of The Chronicle. And, of course, to IDentity Consulting for designing it.

ADVANCE NOTICE – QUIET DAY
THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER

It seems a long time away but the summer may pass far too quickly and then we are into the September and October study season.

This year I’m offering to lead a Quiet Day at Worth Abbey on:-
- Space
- Stillness
- Silence

I hope that this will provide an opportunity for a small group of us to discover how silence can bring a sense of peace to our lives, in our noisy, fragmented, and busy world.
Please let me know if you’re interested. Ring 01342 811238.
Peter Hartley
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF JOINING THE BRITISH LEGION

The West Hoathly Branch of the Royal British Legion is looking to attract more 
Members, particularly YOUNGER people.
The Royal British Legion was formed on 15 May 1921 bringing together four National 
Organisations of ex-Service men that had established themselves after the Great War of 1914-1918. Membership was extended to serving members as well as ex-Service personnel of Her Majesty's Forces, in 1981. Now ANYONE can become a member of The Royal British Legion. We welcome men and women of all ages, whether or not they have served in the Armed Forces. Today we are joining with other charities such as Help4Heros to raise funds. We have a thriving community in this area with many clubs and activities. Why not come and join the British Legion and help to make it another vibrant and energetic part of our community whilst supporting our armed forces.

Membership is only £13 per year

We are obviously well known for our Poppy Day work but below is a list of our current planned activities, most of which are free to members :-

- The Annual Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show
- We are holding an indoor games afternoon in the autumn
- We have a Christmas Evening in December
- A trip to Dover Castle in September

We are also hoping to arrange further social evenings such as quiz nights and talks and would be glad to hear of any other suggestions.

If you are interested in joining or require any further information please contact Laurie Gausden (01342) 810751 for an Application Form

THE WEST HOATHLY BRITISH LEGION FLOWER, FRUIT & VEGETABLE SHOW

Date: Saturday 25th August 2012
Time: Doors Open at 2.30 pm
Venue: WH Village Hall

Apart from Fruit & Vegetables Classes include:
- Photography
- Jam & cake making
- Arts and crafts
- Children’s Classes

Tombola & Raffle

Schedules and entry forms from:
Laurie Gausden on 01342 810751, or
Gary Coxall on 01342 810697, or
Local Businesses
Jubil-tastic!
The Parish Queen’s Diamond Jubilee events were an unprecedented achievement and fantastic success for our whole community and the Parish Council congratulates and applauds everyone who organised this spectacular feat and all those who joined in and enjoyed the events.

As the Jubilee weekend approached, some 50 scarecrows sprang up throughout the entire Parish as part of the Parish Council’s annual competition. Many were obvious ‘royal’ scarecrows, some less obvious and one or two decidedly strange (but probably very effective as scarecrows!). Pictures of many of them were displayed in the marquee and then on the Hub with many other weekend photos (www.HoathlyHub.info/Jubilee) – thanks to Bob Trusson for the photos, and, of course, to the judges, David Kemp and Simon McMenemy.

The Council thanks all who took part and congratulates the prize-winners who were:-
1st Prize – “Bus Stop” by Lucy Comber, Horsted Lane (who noticed the mounted guardsman peering over the hedge?)
2nd Prize – “Queen and Corgi” (again with a watching guardsman) by the Juniors of West Hoathly Primary School
3rd prize – “Queen Elizabeth I” by Catherine Nash, Highbrook

North Lane Sports Pavilion
The PC has agreed to support the WH Football Club in their "self help" project to improve the sports pavilion building on West Hoathly North Lane Recreation Ground. At its meeting in June, the Council agreed to provide some funding towards materials and facilitate a summer project to be undertaken by the Club. This will provide suspended ceilings, insulation, improved showers and wall linings as a first phase of improvement prior to building extensions which will, pending planning consent, increase the changing spaces for all teams using the building. The improvements will make the building more useable and by including insulation it should reduce both running costs and the risk of winter maintenance repairs. The Council appreciates the construction work which will be provided by the Football Club members themselves.

“Our Plan” – West Hoathly Parish Neighbourhood Plan
Another key formal step has been completed with the District’s approval of our plan area which is the complete West Hoathly Parish. We now await the analysis of the Housing Needs Survey sent to households in June.

An essential part of the plan process is to set out the Parish’s objectives for the plan’s policies. These local policies will form the “meat” of the eventual Neighbourhood Plan. The objectives are contained in the so called “Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report” which the Council will evaluate for approval at the end of July. Once approved it will go for consultation with the necessary bodies (such as Natural England, MSDC and the water companies). The plan objectives, a flowchart illustrating the project’s progress and other information can be found at www.HoathlyHub.info/OurPlan.

Dog Control on North Lane recreation ground
Following reports of dog problems on NLR your Parish Council has been evaluating the possible use of legal restrictions such as mandating the use of leads and fines for not picking up dog faeces. On balance it has been decided that, for now, putting a formal Dog Control Order into force is not warranted due to the restrictions that it would place on even the most responsible dog owners. Also the likely costs and administrative load of enforcement could not be justified. The Council asks all dog owners who use NLR in particular to ensure their dogs are under control and ensure that faeces are bagged and put in the provided bins.

Parish office opening through August
During August the Parish office will be open on Thursday mornings only.

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. Messages can be left at all other times on the answer phone or by email.
West Hoathly School

This has been a very busy term at school with each class focusing on the unique events happening in the UK this summer.

Our infants have had trips to London. The reception children went to the Museum of London after an adventurous train journey whilst years 1 and 2 enjoyed a trip on the river and a visit to City Hall. The juniors have explored the topic of Ancient Greece and the very first Olympics, designing their own torches and holding chariot races.

All the school got in the mood for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, successfully entering the parish scarecrow competition and having a Diamond Jubilee Tea party before enjoying the weekend of parish events.

This year was the School Association’s biennial fundraising ball, which raised £7,100. The School Association invited the whole school to a special Olympic ball in the marquee on the Friday afternoon. All the children had much fun and there was even a special visit from the ice-cream man.

On 16th July the school spent a day at the Chequer Mead Theatre rehearsing their Golden Grecian Odyssey before performing on stage in the evening for family and friends.

Building on the Olympic theme our Festival of Sports included an opening and closing ceremony (much shorter but I am sure no less extravagant than the ceremonies for the 2012 Olympic Games). As well as competing in year groups for the first time, races were held between the different houses. After hard fought contests the winners from each year came up to the podium to receive their bronze, silver and gold medals. The children also had the opportunity to see the Olympic Torch travel through the local area. The whole school then celebrated this occasion along with the end of another successful academic year by sharing an ‘Olympic Picnic’ together in the afternoon.

A mention should also be given to the 6 members of our hockey team (a sport taken up for the first time this year) who represented Mid Sussex in the Sussex School Games held at K2. This was an amazing event with 1,300 competitors from Primary and Secondary schools across East and West Sussex, Brighton and Hove taking part in a number of sporting events. Our hockey team earned a very creditable 9th place.

Finally, we must say farewell to our year 6 pupils. We wish them every success as they move on to their respective secondary schools and hope, like many of our ‘graduates’, they stay in touch and come back to see us.

Sarah George
Chair of Governors

Adam Earle
Headteacher

Post Script
Good news on numbers! West Hoathly Primary School will see pupil numbers increase by over ten percent in September. In addition to a bumper Reception year – the largest for over 10 years – there are several in-year admissions in the older years.

We are seeing an increasing number of applications from parents who are keen for their children to experience a traditional village school – something that we are in a perfect position to offer. We are delighted that the school is able to increase the numbers in this way but yet retain smaller than average class sizes and our distinct and welcoming family environment.

Work will take place over the holidays to prepare the classrooms and the children start back on Thursday 6th September.

Tina Allen, Bursar

‘Food for thought’ lunches

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for a soup and sandwich lunch with a brief ‘food for thought’ Christian talk from an invited speaker, usually from our own community. We meet to enjoy tasty food, friendly company and a faith-inspired ‘thought for the day’.

Forthcoming dates for your diary are: August 14th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th and December 11th. Contact Cathy Merry on 810771 or Ingrid Sethi 810085 for more details or to arrange transport.

Snippets

Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through.
Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

One cannot judge the value of an opinion simply be the amount of courage that is required in holding it.
George Orwell (1903-1950)
West Hoathly WI

Our meeting in June was much appreciated by everyone present. We had an excellent talk from James Masters, Head Gardener at Standen. This outlined the extensive restoration of the garden to how it was when the Beales lived there. A planting of hundreds of tulips has taken place, and more plantings of many colours are planned. The many trees and shrubs which were lost in the late 1970s are being replaced where possible, though many were rare specimens from around the world. The lavender beds are now at their peak. Beehives have been introduced and honey has been produced. The kitchen garden is being restored and the resulting fruit and vegetables are used in the restaurant. James was thanked for his comprehensive and brilliant talk, a most enjoyable “visit” to the gardens at Standen.

In July we welcomed a return of Elizabeth Bridges for an illustrated talk on the language of flowers and romance in the Victorian and Edwardian ages. In these times magazines gave tips for girls and women on good health, clothing fashions and decorations in the home. These involved the use of flowered fabrics and wallpapers in many ways. Different flowers have different meanings which were known by the many people who grew or bought them. They were illustrated on postcards, greeting cards and in books. Red roses were for passion, other colours were for courtship, faithfulness, and love and friendship. Elizabeth was warmly thanked by Ingrid for her interesting talk.

The Victorian posy was won by Val, with Carolyn second, the flower of the month by Ingrid with Viona second. Our next meeting on 1st August will be our annual luncheon and silent auction, when we invite other Institutes from our Group. The WI visit to Highgrove Glos, home of Prince Charles, will be on 4th September.

West Hoathly WI enquiries to Frieda please on 01342 811980 for all details of our many activities.

Enid Cridland

Jubilee celebrations: We began on 1st June with the Music Group’s Formation Dance Team and then Sing-along with Abba, both of which brought the house (marquee, actually) down. Many of us attended Songs of Praise, where we enjoyed our choice of hymn, ‘Dear Lord and Father of Mankind’ as well as many other favourites. Then on Saturday came the Pageant, with a WI float on the theme of Royal Ascot. Many members donned thermals under their finery and looked wonderfully festive on the float. They later doffed the finery to help serve teas and cakes to a constant stream of appreciative customers. It was a wonderful 4 days in the villages.

June meeting: Harry Townsend spoke about his trip around the North Island of New Zealand, accompanied by his wheelbarrow, George. This was one of many events he has organised to raise funds to help beat melanoma, so he has a serious purpose, but gave a very amusing talk, accompanied by interesting slides, specially those of some of the more eccentric buildings in small towns on the island.

July: 14 of us made a very enjoyable visit to Gravetye Gardens on the 6th. We were shown round by the Head Gardener, and were thrilled at the beauty of the gardens and how much has been achieved in the last 2 years. At our July meeting Dallas Barnes-Hughes told us how to ‘Make the Most of Yourself’. As an ex model and fashion advisor for Vogue, she plainly knows what she is talking about, and looked terrific. She gave us lots of advice - who knew that medicated shampoo can remove misguided hair colouring - and filled the room with laughter, as we recognised our figure and postural failings. She really is a brilliantly funny speaker.

August will give us time to recover with no meeting, but energetic members plan to walk from Highbrook or Sharpthorne to Horsted Keynes on 2 August, followed by lunchtime refreshment at the pub, and our normal meetings will resume on 2 September when Barbara Bartlett will talk about Chinese Freshwater Pearls. There will be a chance to buy so do come along. We always give a warm welcome to visitors and potential new members.

Elizabeth Tamburrini

Sharpthorne WI

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Elizabeth Tamburrini

Community transport

Just a little reminder that the Community Transport is provided for all villagers to use for getting to the doctor or dentist. This service is provided by volunteers (see back page for rota) and no charge is made but donations are welcome to help with fuel cost.

Kathy and the transport team.
West Hoathly Community Shop – update

Perhaps out of sight but definitely not out of mind. Your Community Shop committee has been working hard in the background and I am happy to be able to report that slowly but surely we are making progress in trying to reopen a community shop in West Hoathly for the wider Parish including Sharphorne, Highbrook and Selsfield.

The emphasis of the shop has shifted from merely a convenience store offering where possible local produce to a more inclusive and encompassing community hub including a cafe offering social services such as WiFi, mini workshop facilities, parcel drop-off facilities and others as they become desirable or needed.

The currently proposed location would be on The Rec, more or less opposite to where the old Hilltop Stores used to be. The building would be a wood framed, environmentally friendly construction. The new shop would also offer much needed additional parking space in the village. We have always been in dialogue with the West Hoathly Football Club who are fully supportive of this exciting project.

We are working closely together with the Parish Council in developing this project and they gave it formal approval earlier last year. In the meantime we have already applied to the FSA to incorporate the shop as a not-for-profit IPS (Industrial Provident Society) which would facilitate the fund raising and grant application.

The last step before a full planning application will be a comprehensive community consultation survey to obtain the agreement of the community as a whole that we can proceed with the shop on the Rec. We intend to do this in September after the holiday period.

Some of the next steps will be discussed and decided during the next Parish Council Meeting on Monday 30 July at 8 pm at the Village Hall and we would welcome any support. You can attend as a “member of the public”.

The planned opening would be the summer of 2013. Watch this space!

We still need local people with specific legal, financial and website construction skills. If you can offer any of this, please contact Robert Mensinga tel. 01342 811332 or email robert@mensinga.com.

West Hoathly Pre-school

We have had another term packed full of fun. We had our very own Jubilee Street Party in the Village Hall and joined in the village Scarecrow competition with our Corgi entry. At the end of June we visited our local National Trust site – Standen. James Masters the Head Gardener led the children on a bug and creature hunt with nets, magnifying glasses and containers, some of the items we have been lucky enough to obtain from a ‘Grassroots Grant’ for outdoor equipment. The children also made bark rubbings, visited the Plantation via the Secret Quarry Garden and hung up the wooden butterflies they had decorated earlier in the month in the woven maze for families to come back and see in the future. The visit then ended in hill rolling (children, parents & staff) followed by a picnic lunch. A huge thank you to James and all at Standen for making this fantastic visit and experience possible.

Our Cygnets (the children who are starting school in September) have continued their weekly visits to ‘big school’ and have been enjoying their time getting to know the school, their peers, the staff and the delicious hot meals that Mrs Staples has been dishing up. We hope now that their transition into school life in September will be as smooth as possible.

On the Monday before term ended, we were very fortunate to be invited to The Cat for lunch by one of the children’s parents who is the Head Chef there. All the children, staff and parent helpers enjoyed a most delicious meal and it was a real treat for them all. The children were well behaved and we all would like to thank Max and all at The Cat for such a generous gesture.

Rachel Rush, Co-Chair

We currently have spaces available for September 2012. We have a fantastic Pre-school with a ‘Good’ Ofsted report. We are also now able to offer places to 2 year olds. For more details, a Prospectus or to arrange a visit, please call:

Natalie Emms (Admin Manager) – 07854 410841
**Music happening in our area**

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

*Sharpthorne Organic Cafe*
Live music on Saturdays 12.00-14.00

**Village walks**

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<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>No walks</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 September</td>
<td>Tony Johns</td>
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**This walk will be start and finish in Ardingly.**
Please either meet at 10 am prompt, Finche Field (lifts available) or at 10.15 am at the car park, Street Lane, Ardingly (close to the Ardingly Inn and Baker’s shop). If there is no room in the car park, then there should be space further along Street Lane.

**West Hoathly Local History Group**

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<tr>
<th>19 Sept.</th>
<th>Loitering in the Literary Landscape</th>
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<td>Peter Anderson</td>
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<td>17 Oct.</td>
<td>Contrasting Sussex Communities</td>
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<td>Geoffrey Mead</td>
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All meetings are in Sharpthorne Church Hall, Station Rd and start at 7.45 pm. Entrance £3.50 per meeting including coffee, or £15.00 for the year.

**Bluebell Railway**

| 10 Aug | Murder mystery evening |
| 17 Aug | Rail Ale evening |
| 3 & 24 Aug | Fish & Chip evening |
| 25 & 27 Aug | Afternoon tea on board |
| 7,14,21,28 Sept | Fish & Chip evening |
| 8,15,22,29 Sept | Afternoon tea on board |
| 14 Sept | Murder mystery evening |

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

**British Legion Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show**

on Saturday 25 August, from 2.30 pm
West Hoathly Village Hall
Details are given on page 5 of this issue

**Forest Row Film Society**

| 7th Sept | Even the Rain |
| 28th Sept | Monsieur Lazhar |
| 29th Sept | Silent comedies |

Films in Freshfield Hall, Forest Row. Doors open 19.30 for 20.00 start. For more information see [http://www.forestrowfilmsociety.org/](http://www.forestrowfilmsociety.org/)

**East Grinstead Local Heritage Week**

Events celebrating the history and cultural heritage of East Grinstead, presented by *East Grinstead Society* during the week of 1—9 September

Programme of events, visits, guided tours, etc., available from the East Grinstead Museum, Library and High Street Bookshop, or [www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org](http://www.eastgrinsteadsociety.org)

**Mansion market- Forest Row**

Saturday 8 September at Michael Hall School, 11 am-4 pm
Over 70 stalls selling crafts, books, toys, plants, organic foods. Children's entertainments. Taster sessions of healing skills. Cafe open for meals and drinks.

**Forest Row Bike Club**

Meets on Sundays at 9.30 at ‘Future Cycles’, Forest Row.
For more info see [http://www.frbc.info](http://www.frbc.info)

**Scout Jumble Sale**

This will be in the Village Hall on Saturday 22 September, 1 pm to 3 pm
The Loiyangalani Trust is delighted to announce that the international singer/songwriter Gerard Kenny will be performing in a LIVE CONCERT – Friday October 19th at West Hoathly village hall.

More familiar with such UK venues as the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, London’s Café Royal, Ronnie Scott’s, and the London Palladium, we are very excited that Gerard is supporting our locally based charity committed to providing education for the children in the remote North Kenyan village of Loiyangalani.

Many well known singers including Shirley Bassey, James Last, Sacha Distel, and Johnny Mathis have performed songs written by Gerard with two of the most well known being ‘I made it through the rain’ written for Barry Manilow, and ‘I could be so good for you’ written as the theme song for the TV series Minder and performed by Dennis Waterman. His own hit singles include ‘New York, New York – (so good they named it twice) and ‘Fantasy’.

Do log on to the gerardkenny.co.uk web site and see the amazing talent of performing and musicianship that is on offer to us in our village surroundings.

Tickets are available via carolyn.bentley@gmail.com or 01342 810815 and should be booked in advance. Cost £15 per person.

St. Catherine’s Hospice: - Balcombe Fundraising Walk

Sunday, 9th September
The Fundraising Walk for St Catherine’s Hospice is a 12¾ mile circuit from Victory Hall, Balcombe. It takes you through beautiful Sussex countryside on footpaths and quiet lanes and is suitable for both casual walkers and seasoned ramblers.

The route is clearly marked and there are Marshals, four drinks stations, and three checkpoint and drop-out points.

You walk at your own pace and can opt to finish at 4, 7 or 10 miles, with free transport provided back to Balcombe.

Dogs are very welcome but need to be kept under control. They may need to be lifted over stiles.

There are four drinks stations en route but it’s a good idea to bring some bottled water, particularly if it is a hot day. Tea and home-made cake will be waiting when you return to Victory Hall.

For further information please call John on 01444 440452 or email John at johnk@uwclub.net

Do come and join us on 9th September!

Crawley Open House

A special thank you to all the COH helpers for your continuing support for our two teams of cooks. If any new villagers would like to join our teams cooking for the homeless once a month or even on an occasional basis we would welcome your help. Help on the day is also welcome if you don’t fancy cooking.

Contact Kathy 811866
**Christian Aid**

The door to door collection this year raised **£1,896.95**! 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 taxpayers 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 2011 gained another £1 million through gift aided donations! For these economic times this is an incredible amount! Many thanks!

Valerie Fyans

**Book Stall—Jubilee Fair**

Thank you to all who supported the Book Stall by donating books and buying on the day. We had a very good afternoon and made £85 to share between RNLI and ‘Smile Train’. The remaining books went to ‘Knowles Tooth’ for their next book fair.

Kathy, Paul, Shirley, Barrie and Martin

**Family Support Work**

A BIG THANK YOU to all who supported Latchett’s Garden Opening for Family Support Work in Sussex. It was windy but dry, and everyone I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed the gardens and the teas. We were very pleased with the proceeds of £2,700.

The next FSW occasions are the Open Day at Knowles Tooth on **Sunday 9th September**, and the Mammoth Book sale at on 16th, 17th and 18th November.

Ingrid Sethi

**British Legion Afternoon Tea**

A very big thank you to everybody who contributed towards our fund raising afternoon tea on 7th 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 such a lovely selection of cakes and scones, to those who helped cutting cakes, laying tables, making pots of tea, running the raffle and serving, to Laurie Gausden for being our Master of Ceremonies, to Viona Hopwood for the lovely table decorations and finally to all those who turned up and generously donated.

All tables were full and, from the sound of the chatter and laughter, a good time was had by all. We again held our raffle with gifts which were so generously donated including a family ticket for the Bluebell Railway and 2 bottles of Pimm’s together with bottles of wine, boxes of fruit and biscuits and many smaller items; the amount of prizes meant that there were more chances of winning. Laurie Gausden was his usual ebullient self, announcing the winning numbers and offering thanks to everybody for coming, helping or cooking.

In all we raised just over £278 which will go towards supporting our wonderful armed forces. Thank you all once again for making the afternoon such a success.

Marion Jones

**Mysteries of History in Sussex**

This book, by Philip Pavey, explores historical questions in Sussex. Did Canute order the waves to retreat at Bosham? When did Christianity first arrive in Sussex? There is apparently a focus on West Hoathly in chapter 11.

Copies (price £5.99) may be obtained from ‘The Bookshop’ in East Grinstead or from the publisher’s website (for e-purchases by paypal): http://www.pomegranate-press.co.uk/sussex/index.html>
Rainbow and Brownie Guides

Jubilee Concert
The Rainbows and Brownies of West Hoathly came together for fun and friendship and enjoyed being part of the once in a lifetime experience. For weeks before the Village Show we had rehearsed all our campfire songs and actions over and over again, under the watchful eyes of Pauline Comber. Even on a day activity at Blacklands Farm the Rainbows took it upon themselves to practice their songs, singing all day! The night of the show arrived and with great excitement we gathered in the ‘big marquee’ to perform to an audience of 250 All the Girls and Leaders were in smart uniform. We were the second act on. Keith and Duncan set the stage with a campfire and many woodland animals. Tony Johns expertly accompanied us on his Guitar and we had a drummer too. Brenda narrated between the girls singing … and the audience joined in too with the animal noises. We sang many songs that had been sung for over a hundred years, evoking memories of times gone by. The audience loved them too. The girls had a wonderful time and the applause was tremendous! Many thanks to all who made it such a memorable experience.

Carnival Day
As we were the only group to walk we led the parade from Top Road. The Girls and Leaders looked so pretty dressed as Princesses. Our new Rainbow Banner and the Brownie Flag accompanied us. The village people came out in force to cheer us on…what an exciting experience! And so to the Fete and our ‘Crown Jewel’ Stall. We were housed in a small marquee due to the windy and potentially inclement weather!! Our Stall looked very regal. We would like to thank all who gave us their Jewels to sell. The girls, their Leaders, two Trefoil Guild Ladies, Gemma an ex-Rainbow Guider and a bevy of parents along with Nicholas and Sophie (Brenda’s son and his new Fiancée who had volunteered him!) all helped on the stall and we made a grand total of £127.80.
The Rainbows also joined in the Scarecrow Competition, and of course they chose Princess Kate in her wedding dress! Songs of Praise and “One More Step Along the World I Go” was an appropriate hymn for the Girls.

Many thanks to all those who put in such a lot of hard work to make the Celebrations happen.
We have places for both Rainbows (girls aged 5-7 years—contact Brenda 01342 811020) and Brownies (girls 7-10 years—contact Christine 01342 870276). Come and join us for Fun and Friendship

Brenda Farley

The Friends of West Hoathly Churchyard Trust

The annual “inspection” of the Churchyard by the Trusts Trustees took place on a wet and blustery Longest Day, 21st June—all downhill to Christmas! The Trustees looked closely at two projects they would like to see completed over the next two years.

The first relates to the two sets of steps leading from the Church down to the Churchyard and lower Churchyard which require attention to the flagstones. These need levelling and removing of sharp edges and tripping hazards. In some cases the original flagstones will be removed and relayed upside down. These two steps were highlighted when the risk assessments were undertaken and the work is expected to cost in the region of £2k. The Friends of WH Churchyard Trust agreed to oversee the cost of this work.

Our next major task is to obtain quotes for the complete repainting of all handrails around the Churchyard (and there are many of them). It’s expected to actually carry out this work in the spring of 2013.

The Trust celebrated its 50th Anniversary at a special evening service at St Margaret’s on Sunday 13th May. It was especially pleasing to welcome back to the village some of the family and friends of those who originally formed the Churchyard Trust back in May 1962.

We have received many donations this summer towards the Trust activities. Thank you very much to those who have contributed. This helped us to agree to pay for the work above for the benefit of the many visitors to our delightful Sussex Churchyard.

If you would like more details of the Churchyard Trust, look out for our new leaflet in the Church this summer or check St Margaret’s website at www.westhoathly.org.uk

Tim Baker, Trustee
West Hoathly Cricket Club

Match v. The Griffen C.C., 23rd June
At last, the rain abated and for the first time this season, West Hoathly were able to take to their home pitch for a game of cricket, and what a game it turned out to be. West Hoathly skipper, David Scott, lost the toss and The Griffin put the home team into bat. Opening with Rick Blackwell, David Scott quickly made runs with a flurry of boundaries. Rick was finally caught bringing Adrian Ward to the crease, scoring 27. David was superbly caught on the boundary as he top scored with 78. There followed a flurry of wickets as 5 went down for 17 runs with West Hoathly finishing their 35 overs on 151 for 9. The Griffen’s reply started confidently enough until JJ Burrows broke the opening pair with some accurate bowling. With 2 down and less than 20 on the board, things were looking good for West Hoathly until The Griffen put together a mighty partnership that appeared to put the visitors in command. At 131 for 4 with only 20 overs gone, a miracle was required and it came in the form of Freddie and Axel Fithen with 2 wickets each. The Griffen were reduced to 144 for 9, requiring 8 to win and West Hoathly needing just one wicket. With the spectators and the visiting batsmen on the edge of their seats the runs came, one by one, until, after surviving a number of scares the last men in scored the winning runs to cheers from beyond the boundary rope. All agreed that it had been Village cricket at its very best played in a wonderful spirit.


Match v. Ashdown Forest CC, 8th July
In a rare away game West Hoathly scored their first victory on a damp, but thankfully playable pitch in Chelwood Gate. The home side batted first and were reduced to 101 all out by some solid bowling and most unusually dependable catching in the field, including two sharp efforts in the slips. After being treated to a Spitfire flypast after tea, WHCC were a man down early on as Rick Blackwell was beaten by a fast one that stayed low but some fine batting at the surviving opener rapidly took us to 50 for 3 and the remaining runs were knocked off with little alarm.

As ever, WHCC is in need of players, whether they be skilled and experienced or merely enthusiastic with a love of the game. If you would like to know more, please contact me on 810394.

Richard Ward,  
Membership Secretary  

Weather Watch

The wettest place in these Islands?
Sunday 8th July was the day when Roger Federer beat Andy Murray in the Men’s finals of the tennis championships at Wimbledon – interrupted only briefly by rain because of the use of the new roof. But that Sunday was remarkable weather-wise for something else – that there is some evidence that West Hoathly may have been the wettest place in these islands that day. The daily papers on the next day reported that Met office figures showed that not one of 64 widely-scattered places throughout the UK and Ireland had more rain than Hove, which in the 24 hours to 6pm on the Sunday had 28mm. Most of that rain fell overnight in the small hours hours of Sunday morning and I am grateful for the information that three local observers that I consulted reported 40mm of rain, well over Hove's 28mm. They were: Derek Shurvell at Sharpthorne, Rory Clarke at Cinder Hill on the way to Horsted Keynes, and Carol Hart at Wakehurst Place.

Here at West Hoathly there was also a torrential shower at about 11am on the Sunday and I recorded a total of 50mm in the 24 hours to 6pm.

I report briefly on the two previous months. May was very wet at first, but warm and sunny for a week near the end (easily forgotten!). June was “the coolest June since 1991, the dullest since 1909, and the equal wettest with June 1860” - a quote from Becky Newham of MeteoGroup. Also remarkable!

Basil Cridland

Statistics for May and June 20

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Garden Notes

Many superlatives can be used to describe the summer so far.....unbelievable, incredible, phenomenal, record breaking (and that's not Andy Murray's performance at Wimbledon!)...but one adjective that fits us keen gardeners is the word "challenging". Thanks to the wettest June on record in some places following one of the wettest Aprils, not to mention the wind which has bashed everything about, it hasn't been easy. Have we ever had such a windy May/June/July? Consequences of seemingly incessant rain have been lush growth, hedges particularly, so there'll be plenty of material to clear up, likewise shrubs that need pruning after flowering – Deutzia, Philadelphus, Escallonia, Hebe, etc.

In our experience vegetable and fruit crops have fared very variably with excellent broad beans, peas, spinach, carrots, leeks and gooseberries, but impeded growth for runner and french beans and courgettes. Strawberries have suffered with many rotten fruits, but black and red currants are good where the birds haven’t sneaked under the nets and pinched them. The local pigeon population seems to be in on the increase, birds spying out any unprotected brassicas, rocket and peas and stripping plants bare. This damp weather is ideal for potato blight, so keep a watchful eye and cut off the tops as soon as you see blotches, but there is a good crop beneath thanks to the moisture. Shallots and onions should be lifted by the beginning of August and put somewhere dry to store. Prune raspberries, currants and de-runner strawberries when they have finished cropping. Apple and pear crops are looking good and, though later than usual, early varieties like Discovery, Worcester and Katy should be ready end of August.

Remember to prune climbing/rambling roses and honeysuckles and keep dead-heading bush roses, especially hybrid teas and repeat-flowering types to encourage a second flush. Cut back herbaceous perennials like Alchemilla mollis, Geraniums, Foxgloves, Astrantia, Meconopsis, Campanulas, Marjoram and Centurea, many of which seed rather freely if not checked! Those who did plant up hanging baskets despite the windy weather and hosepipe ban (thankfully now lifted, not that we've needed to use them) may have some great displays thanks to the rain and cool conditions, especially if you avoided petunias (not good in the wet). Keep feeding them as well as plants in tubs and greenhouse crops - tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. Finally....don't despair, keep hoping for a warm autumn and there's always next year!!

Lindsay Shurvell

Letter from Alaric

July 2012
Dear All
Many thanks for all your prayers and messages of encouragement over the past month. The past 5 weeks have been an interesting time for a number of reasons:-

The problem with teacher relationships has been sorted out to everyone’s satisfaction – half the problem was teachers worrying on behalf of other teachers (who were perfectly happy with the arrangement in the first place. Such is human nature, I suppose). My thoughts on moving church and if so, when: this is an on-going request and not likely to happen before next year but do continue to pray for wisdom.

The picture shows a student who is about to graduate from the language centre doing a devotion in our monthly chapel services. This gives them the opportunity to practice everything; not easy when there are 14 Japanese teachers present who are hanging on one’s every word! One of our students is Brazilian and will be moving down to Tokyo to engage in youth work and to teach hip-hop dancing as a way of introducing people to the gospel. He and I shared a house earlier last year and it will be sad to lose him from Hokkaido. Tokyo’s gain...

Starting last month, I have been invited to be on both Regional and Field councils. These are the steering committees who make decisions on the direction of the region and the whole Japan field. My role is deemed to be useful as it may well anchor the more visionary types into reality. Please pray that I would have valuable contributions to make and to know when to shut my trap! – and just be able to listen to the Spirit!

This year sees a change in field leadership, so think of me as other changes also happen. With my thanks, prayers and love to you all,

Alaric.
From West Hoathly Local History Archive

Peace Celebrations at West Hoathly, August 24th 1919

This is a shortened version of a newspaper article sent by Gordon Leney, who used to live in West Hoathly but now lives in Israel. The language and punctuation is the original. The amphitheatre in Bow Field referred to is located behind Oak Tree Cottage in North Lane.

The somewhat remarkable and extensive series of Peace Celebrations, extending well over a fortnight, was brought to a fitting and highly successful culmination on Sunday and Monday last.

The united open-air drumhead service on Sunday was generally acclaimed as one of the most impressive functions in the history of the neighbourhood. The place selected for the service - a huge hollow typical of a Roman amphitheatre - in Bow Field, admirably lent itself for the purpose and helped to intensify the picturesqueness of the scene. The weather was ideal and practically everybody was induced to turn out to render homage to the fallen, gratitude to those who had in any way served their country faithfully and well during the war, and, above all, devout thanksgiving to Almighty God for victory and peace.

Assembling at 3 o'clock at the school's flagstaff, the various contingents, comprising every available type of those who have served or are still serving their country, supplemented by the West Hoathly Company R.F.A. Cadets, under Sergt. - Major E. Brown and ex-Sergt.-Major A Kerr: the Volunteer-Training Corps (West Hoathly), under Sergt. R. Comber and Corpl. T. Legget: and the 1st West Hoathly Company of Girl Guides and Brownies under Capt. Miss Sophy Powell and Lieut. Miss Alice Stenning. The local fire brigade, under Capt. H.W. Comber, also turned out very smartly. The whole of the contingents, under the splendid generalship of Lieut. G H Duckworth, V.T.C. after saluting the flag, formed into marching order and in "column of route" made a tour of the village, headed by the Silver Band (which also is largely composed ex-servicemen). The different contingents were expeditiously marshalled into square formation in the pit or hollow of the amphitheatre, whilst the audience (numbering several hundred) quietly and respectfully lined the circle of grassy slopes and the summit. The drums were piled near the war shrine and sentries with fixed bayonets stood at attention alongside of the many and beautiful floral emblems which were reverently placed at the base of the shrine by relatives and friends of the fallen. To mark the shrine a large staff, entwined with laurels from which was suspended a laurel wreath bearing the simple inscription "Our Glorious Dead" was erected.

The service itself was a most impressive one throughout. The opening exercises were taken by the vicar (the Rev. R.D. Wakefield, M.A). Eloquent addresses were delivered by the Rev. W.H.Holt (Countess of Huntingdon's) and the Rev. C Black, M.A. The lesson was read by a layman, Mr G.H.Duckworth. Pastor G. Potter (Congregational Mission) announced the hymns and gave the closing prayer.

The musical portion of the service was of a very high order. Hymn sheets were specially provided, and splendidly led by the band the whole audience concordantly sang a series of well known and appropriate hymns. The "Last Post", solemnly sounded by the splendid R.F.A. buglers and the "sloping" and "reversing" of arms, followed by the singing of the National Anthem, brought a never-to-be-forgotten service to a close.

Many hundred people assembled in the Bow Field on Monday. The children and young people generally were delighted to again see a revival of "Ye Olde English Faire". Roundabouts, swings, knock-em-downs, &c, did a roaring business. A splendid programme of athletic sports was carried out, upwards of £20 being given in prizes. Special events and prizes were arranged for servicemen, the bombing, blindfold, boxing, obstacle and sticking the pig (blindfold) events being the most popular with the "boys". Mr G. Ferdinando (Horsted House) offered on the field prizes of £1 1s, 16s and 10s, in a beauty competition. Thirty ladies gave in their names and were induced to mount a large platform to be judged by popular vote. Mr Ferdinando, in his inimitable and jocular manner, introduced the blushing and beautiful competitors, to the crowd, at the same time pointing out their numerous known (and unknown) attributes and graces. The voting pronounced Doris Rea (a land girl) the winner of the first prize with 235 votes, Ethel West second with 198 and Doris Rolfe third with 129. Everybody was provided with tea, the Service men again being specially catered for, and each man was the recipient of a packet of "smokes". The Ladies Victory Club, under the fine supervision of Lady Stenning, managed the tea arrangements. Dancing was heartily indulged in and a magnificent display of fireworks by Messrs. Brock & Co was a fitting climax to a wonderfully successful day.

John Ralph
The Celebrations of
the Diamond Jubilee
in West Hoathly Parish

1st—5th June 2012

Reflections on the Jubilee Weekend in West Hoathly, Sharpthorne and Highbrook.

The weekend of the Jubilee saw a rolling program of events from the Friday night through to the Monday evening, which caught us all up and carried us along on a wave of village celebration and socialising. For each of us, the Jubilee Celebrations will have left a residue of memories unique to us. These are some of mine:

- Being included as honorary Ridley-ites as they kicked off with a BBQ on Saturday, amidst a sea of fluttering red, white and blue bunting. Then tea in the field at Highbrook while the sun shone.
- Hearing camp-fire songs sung by the Brownie/Rainbows at the concert that brought back memories of Girl Guiding days in South Africa, as well as all the other wonderful talent on display that evening in the marquee.
- The village inter-street games after the picnic on Sunday: Our esteemed skipper all but dancing an Irish jig every time we (the North Laners) did well and hugs all round – not that we won anything, but hey, it’s the taking part ....isn’t it?
- Meeting and talking for the first time to people who live in the same street as we do but whose busy lives and ours have not seemed to cross up to this point…
- The marquee ringing to the sounds of “Songs of Praise” and Basil, Margaret and Gordon’s moving stories about why their particular hymn choice meant so much to them.
- The street procession and the WI ladies, decked out in Ascot finery, perched precariously high on an amazing vehicle – “It’s the getting down that worries me!” one lady is overheard to say as the Rec looms into view!
- The enormous moon hanging low in the sky, a magnificent backdrop to the fireworks at Highbrook on Monday night, then watching the beacons light up across the Downs and firework displays start up one after the other in the distance.
- The North Lane Street party on Tuesday lunch-time – in true stiff upper lip fashion we brave the first few tentative drops of rain as we finish our dessert, then duck underneath a colourful sea of umbrellas to finish chatting before finally admitting defeat and adjourning to a nearby house for coffee! And behind it all, an appreciation of the enormous outlay of energy and drive that lay behind the organisation of all these events, a sense of gratitude for the community-mindedness of so many in these villages.

Finally, as I look back at the weekend, it was for me a time of getting to meet new people, getting to know others better and a time when I began to feel more and more as if this really is home!

Sue Whatley
The Jubilee Parade

The last time I was on a WI float was as a Rastafarian on the Island of Delights. I can’t remember the year but it must have been about 1985, two stone lighter sporting knitted dreadlocks, wooly hat and stripy leggings - yes I have the photographic evidence to prove it. So when asked to join the float for the Queens Jubilee nigh on 27 years later, there was no stopping me. The theme on this occasion was Royal Ascot - far more flattering - so having borrowed a neighbour’s hat it was all systems go.

We all congregated in the Brickworks reception looking absolutely resplendent in our finery. Our President showed off her jeans and trainers under her beautiful outfit as she thought she might feel a chill! We all boarded the lorry very gingerly via a ladder and were told in no uncertain terms not to go near the rather large hole next to the lorry’s cabin. We all obeyed instructions except one very intrepid WI Member who managed to disappear through the hole unknown to us all. Fortunately the vehicle was stationary at the time and no harm was done except for a few bruises!

Under the eagle eye of the Parade Gang Master, Keith Rogers, the anticipation as all the vehicles took their places in the line up was fantastic. All the floats, which included Sharpthorne Club (best float prize winner), The Bowls Club, WH Cricket Club, Rainbows and Brownies, The Hoathly Hub, Maxine's Hair Salon (Royal Shooting Party) and Highbrook Garden were superb. Not to mention all the wonderful Vintage & Modern cars, tank, armoured car and Army crane. I must single out the beautiful 905 Eugenie Brillie as it’s the only one in the world — quite spectacular. It was definitely West Hoathly’s answer to the Lord Mayor's show.

And off we went, gears juddering and flags waving. The atmosphere throughout the village was brilliant. We arrived in the Recreation Ground singing our hearts out to Jerusalem (well what else could we sing). The dismounting from the vehicle was just as precarious and amusing as the mounting, with John Comber grasping our ankles and mum Pauline making sure our modesty was kept intact. What fun—I wouldn’t have missed it for the world. All part of a fantastic Jubilee weekend, and we didn’t even get wet!

Thank you Peter Hartley for being the inspiration and master mind behind the brilliant four day celebration.

Sue Billings

Didn’t we have a lovely time …

We had been anxiously watching the skies but although the weather could have been warmer and brighter, the rain just about managed to keep away as we drove off from home bound for the assembling of the procession vehicles. Our 1905 EUGENE BRILLIE veteran car (which was originally owned by the Gold Medallist for Sailing in the Paris Olympics in 1900) had had her usual full grease-up and oil, brass polishing and paintwork clean and was purring away ready to go, sporting her patriotic British union flag on the bonnet. Amos, our West Highland terrier, had sole occupancy of the enclosed carriage while Chris and I were perched up front in the driving seat, prepared for all weather conditions, our wet weather clothing to hand.

We parked alongside Andrew Slater’s beautifully presented Austin 10 at the assembly yard and eventually started off, following the Sharpthorne W.I. ladies, elegantly dressed for Ascot, on board their own limousine – John Comber’s Pickford’s liveried haulage lorry, which set the pace and processed in stately fashion ahead of us. Because it was designed to pull an enormous weight (why did John choose to use this vehicle to carry such sylph-like ladies?), it has very low gearing with a maximum speed of about 8 mph.
It is impossible to drive the Brillie at this low speed without slipping the clutch, so our journey was stop and start all the way; however this did enable us to pick up a couple of grateful passengers en route. The sun emerged on cue as we entered West Hoathly. We had feared a mud-bath at the recreation ground, but by the careful direction of the heavy vehicles ahead of us, a perfect surface was ensured with no risk of our getting bogged in.

It was such a wonderful day to be amongst the village community, meeting old friends and making some new ones, united by the camaraderie such an event created. We drove home realising how very fortunate we are to live here in such a special village. Huge thanks to those who worked so hard to bring us all together and make the day such a success!

Michele and Chris Jaques

Highbrook celebrations

Our family moved to Highbrook last December. Of course the attraction was the fantastic scenery, wildlife and the close proximity to the Bluebell railway. To us it felt as though we were going back in time!

Soon after moving in and experiencing a few days of snow we realised that, were it not for the friendliness of the local community, such a rural location could be quite a lonely place in the winter months. It was great to discover that "the locals" would give us a warm and friendly welcome. There are so few times when you actually see your neighbours. Mostly we seem to bump into each other while walking dogs and, of course, if the weather is not so good, you don't feel like standing around chatting!

So the Jubilee celebration was a great opportunity to bring everyone together and really get to know each other better. Prior to moving to the village we hadn't heard about the scarecrows of Highbrook and West Hoathly but we will never forget them. My personal favourite was Peter Browne's Queen Elizabeth, who sat atop her throne at the entrance to his home with a waved to greet me as I returned from work each day. The first time I saw her she caused quite a fright. The effort put into many of the scarecrows was really unbelievable. Some people clearly have a talent for making scarecrows. We could not compete with such "professional" competition. Perhaps we should use our scarecrow manufacturing talents to slow the traffic through the village.

The music festival was fantastic. It is impressive that such a small community is home to so much talent (or unashamed self-belief in the case of the gentleman who performed the "Mama Mia" tribute in trunks and snorkels)! For me, the oldest swingers in town and their rousing version of "500 miles" was a highlight of the evening.

The next day it was the sports day which some people seemed to take far more competitively than others. Perhaps the weather was against us on that day but it didn't seem to matter. As long as there is a marquee with a well-stocked bar, we British can ignore the worst of the weather. In the tug-of-war the team from Highbrook seemed poorly matched against the opposition but they soldiered on valiantly toward an inevitable defeat (much like the England football team)!

The highlight of the entire weekend was the Highbrook firework display. Friends and neighbours gathered by the roundel opposite the church and lit torches (after the all-important safety briefing from Peter Browne) and then we all proceeded to a beacon that had been erected in a field overlooking the surrounding country side. Perhaps a few minutes earlier than planned (a result of the fact that our torches were starting to fade) we lit the beacon which flared to life beside a, low hanging, full moon. As the beacon's light dwindled the assembled villagers were treated to an awesome firework display, the best I've seen in many years.

So what's next we ask? Another dog walk. Let's hope the sun is shining and the buzzards are on the wing!

Jon Yard, Karen, Corey & Elysia
Polly’s Jubilee Weekend

First, we walked all around the village to do the quiz. I talked to Anthony at the Priest House and we got a lot of information from the map outside the church. I looked up the rest on the computer when I got home. The next night I sang campfire songs with the Rainbows and Brownies in the marquee! The oldest swingers were very funny. I also liked the dancers with the fake partners.

There was also a fancy dress competition. I and teddy won as Prince William and Kate. I was wearing Mum’s wedding dress with a mosquito net over my head while Teddy was wearing a Captain Hook jacket with a blue scarf and Mum’s belt and black trousers with red paper down the sides. It looked very funny. There were also three boats and an oxo cube and some others. We did a parade in the marquee because it was raining. That was lots of fun.

We made a scarecrow of Prince Philip. By mistake we put Daddy’s best tie on him, oops! We drove around the village to look for all the scarecrows. My favourite was the Royal Flush. It was very funny.

On Monday I walked with the Brownies and the Rainbows to the Rec. I held the flag most of the way. When I got the Rec I went to Daddy who was on the cricket float. I rode the rest of the way on the trailer. William sat on the lifting up thing at the front of the tractor whilst Dad was on the wheel. Then we went to the cricket club stall and I walked all around the fete by myself. I liked pick-a-duck. I won lots of prizes. I really enjoyed throwing the ball into the tyre. The fete was really fun even though it rained most of the time.

We all got Jubilee Mugs. Mummy gives us hot chocolate in them because the summer is so cold. I loved the whole weekend. It was very fun.

HAPPY JUBILEE TO THE QUEEN!!!

Polly Scott, aged 8.

Diamond Jubilee Prize-winners

Lots of people seemed to enjoy the Diamond Jubilee celebrations here in West Hoathly – pity we don’t have such celebrations on a more frequent basis, say some (but not me!). The field is always open for another time if anyone else wants to offer, so don’t hold back!

Polly Scott, aged 8.

| Scarecrow competition — see Parish Council, p.6 |
| Fancy Dress (thanks to Rachel Whitlam for organising and to Sandra and Dave Duke for judging) |
| ○ Adult ‘gold’ medal to Mr Albert Simmons (“Albi” to most of us!) - who could compete with that, I say???? |
| ○ Children over 12 years – winners Polly and Teddy Scott (“William and Kate”), runner-up Tilly Whitlam (“Noddy”). Prizes from Blacklands and Knockhatch. |
| ○ Children under 5 years – winner -Milly Chalk (Jubilee outfit), runner-up -James McLellan (Cat outfit) - prize from Blackberry Farm. Highly commended - the “Field” trio of ‘Cunard Liners.’ |
| ○ Sports – ‘Tug-o-war’ and Target Bowls |
| ○ Winners “Pussy Cats,” Runners-up “Inside-Outers”, losing semi-finalists “ Chapel Road Chuckers” and “Broadfield Barbicans” 15 teams involved and prizes sponsored by Comber & Son, including Shield to be hung in The Vinols. |
| ○ Floats in Pageant Winner – Sharphorne Club, Runners-up - West Hoathly Bowls Club |
| ○ Jubilee Quiz |
| Winners – Stephanie and Richard Squibbs. Prize donated by Bluebell Railway |
| Some other informal awards:- |
| Most amusing situations – John and Sylvia Downe for their picnic on the Sunday on a rug on the Rec in the rain – (how extrovert is that?) or the group of family/ friends who appeared to take most of the lunch-time to erect their large gazebo! |
| Most fashionable outfits – Sharphorne WI at Royal Ascot |
| Strongest vehicle – the Sherman Tank! |
| Most entertaining Revue number – it must be the “snorkelers” dancing to ABBA, (don’t go there!) or the ladies dancing with Prince Charles, Barack Obama, Camilla and others |
| Essential Support Team – Andrew, and bar staff from ‘The Cat’ and ‘The Vinols’ |
| Most appropriate clothing – the ‘Hi-Vis’ jackets with handy details in case of fatality |
| Greatest participants – ALL OF YOU! |
West Hoathly hits the national press—briefly!

Bagehot’s Notebook in the May 26 issue of The Economist discusses “What three royal jubilees reveal about Britain”. [The column is named after Walter Bagehot, a nineteenth century journalist who edited The Economist from 1861 to 1877.] The article starts, rather surprisingly, with West Hoathly: “Before Queen Elizabeth’s Silver Jubilee in 1977, the villagers of West Hoathly in Sussex were placed under secret observation. A file was drawn up, noting their views on the monarchy, the country and the impending celebrations. The royal family was marvellous, but these festivities had better not cost too much, said one villager, recorded as ‘Nurse, female, 50’, explaining: ‘People are not in the mood’. West Hoathly was reliably monarchist, the file records, with anti-republican sentiment boosted by recent American elections (‘Fancy having Jimmy Carter,’ a villager shuddered). But still its Jubilee enthusiasts sounded a bit bleak. ‘Male, 53’ – we’ve made it to 1977 without a nuclear war.”

Admittedly there is no further mention of West Hoathly in the article, which goes on to explain that the investigation was a project of something called Mass Observation that has studied the British since the 1930s. The files on the Silver Jubilee, together with those on the 2002 Golden Jubilee, are held in an archive at Sussex University.

In 1977 Britain was very different from today in many ways, but some things appear not to change. The article states that, invited to have fun, people first grumbled and then formed committees. Children were given commemorative mugs, and celebrations involved sausage rolls and jelly, hot dogs, ice cream and beer for street parties, along with fancy dress and sporting contests including tugs-or-war. The bunting was home-made, the jubilee-decorated cakes didn’t come out of a box from Sainsbury’s, and Health & Safety had not yet reared its forbidding head, but otherwise 1977 could almost have been 2012. 2002, by contrast, was much lower key. The Queen and the royal family were still in the dip of the Princess Diana and other family troubles, and there seemed to be little enthusiasm for rolling out the floats and trestle tables.

The article concludes that “Diamond Jubilee Britain seems to be a hybrid. As in 1977, an unhappy nation fancies being cheered up, and the monarchy fits the bill. As in 2002, a truculent nation demands a monarchy on its own emotional terms. Is that sustainable? Perhaps not, but it promises to be a fine party.”

And surely if Mass Observation had been snooping around West Hoathly over that long weekend they would have reported that it was indeed a magnificent party.

In Memoriam

Peter Gerald Hutchings  1928-2012

Peter was born in London on the 24th December 1928 and went to Finchley Grammar School. He was a Scout and became a Scout Master, looking after the boys at Worth for a short while. His working life was spent in Advertising, originally with private firms and then he joined the Civil Service where he was responsible for recruiting into the armed forces, and for National Savings.

In 1960 when Steven was nearly 5 and Tim nearly 2, and Highgate was getting very crowded, we decided to move to Sussex and have lived in our current house for 52 years. His great love was archery and many arrows have been lost in the fields and woods around us. He loved St Margaret’s and was a sidesman for several years, took great delight in helping to organise the Street Fair and enjoyed the History Group. Unfortunately he developed cancer and dementia and slowly deteriorated over the last 10 years.

He passed away on the 10th May last. The funeral service was held at St Margaret’s on the 22nd May, then the Crematorium. He is very sadly missed by me, his sons and grandchildren and all the relatives and friends.

Chic.Hutchings
Some More Entries for the Front Page Supplied by Students at West Hoathly Primary School

Thanks To:
- Natasha
- Lucy
- Katie
- Alastair
- Will
THE CHRONICLE FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2012 – PAGE 24

CHURCH SERVICES AT
ST. MARGARET’S, WEST HOATHLY
AND
ALL SAINTS, HIGHBROOK

August

5th
9th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
10am Family Service with Communion, St. Margaret’s
6pm Evensong, All Saints

12th
10th Sunday after Trinity
9am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
6pm Evensong, St. Margaret’s
14th Tuesday
12.30pm ‘Food for Thought’, Sharpthorne Hall

19th
11th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
10am Family Service, St. Margaret’s
6pm Evensong, All Saints
22nd Wednesday
8pm ‘Heart & Soul’, St. Margaret’s

26th
12th Sunday after Trinity
9am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
31st Friday
3pm ‘Saints and Angels’, St. Margaret’s

September

2nd 13th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
10am Family Service with Communion, St. Margaret’s
6pm Evensong, All Saints
8th Saturday
“Ride and Stride”

9th 14th Sunday after Trinity
9 am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
6pm Evening Praise, St. Margaret’s
11th Tuesday
12.30pm ‘Food for Thought’, Sharpthorne Hall
7.45pm St. Margaret’s PCC, The Vicarage
12th Wednesday
8pm ‘Hosanna’, Sharpthorne Hall

16th 15th Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion, St. Margaret’s
10am Family Service, St. Margaret’s
6pm Evensong, All Saints

23rd 16th Sunday after Trinity
9am Holy Communion, All Saints
10am Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s
4.30pm ‘Gather Round,’ Sharpthorne Hall
26th Wednesday
8pm ‘Heart & Soul’, St. Margaret’s
28th Friday
3pm ‘Saints and Angels’, St. Margaret’s

30th 17th Sunday after Trinity
10am Combined Churches Parish Communion, St. Margaret’s

ETERNITY – what do you think about it??

William Blake (1757 – 1827) wrote:-
“He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy.
But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in eternity’s sun rise.”

Life is there for the enjoying, I think!
Peter Hartley

PS—William Blake was also the author of “Jerusalem”

NOTE – Sunday Club for children up to the age of
10 will take place during the 10am Service
at St. Margaret’s on 2nd, 9th and 23rd September.
No Sunday Club during August
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THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

August

Wednesday, 1st
WH WI Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction
Bluebell Railway:
"Kids for a Quid" for the whole of August

Friday, 3rd
Bluebell Railway “Fish & Chip” Evening
Friday 10th
Bluebell Railway “Murder Mystery” Evening

Sunday, 12th

OLYMPIC CLOSING CEREMONY

Tuesday, 14th
12.30 Food for Thought—Sharpthorne Hall

Friday, 17th
Bluebell Railway “Real Ale” Evening

Monday, 20th
7.30 pm Supper Club, The Barn, Hoathly Hill

Friday, 24th
Bluebell Railway “Fish & Chip” Evening

Saturday, 25th
Bluebell Railway—Afternoon Tea
2:30 pm British Legion Fruit, Flower & Vegetable Show

Monday, 27th

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Bluebell Railway—Afternoon Tea

September

Monday, 3rd
6.45 pm WHPC Youth Forum WH Village Hall

Tuesday, 4th
West Hoathly WI Visit to Highgrove

Wednesday, 5th
West Hoathly WI—Village Hall

Thursday, 6th

SCHOOL STARTS

Friday, 7th
Bluebell Railway “Afternoon Tea”

Saturday, 8th
11 am—4 pm Mansion Market Michael Hall School

Bluebell Railway “Afternoon Tea”
“RIDE & STRIDE” visit historic churches

Sunday, 9th
Walk in Aid of St Catherine’s Hospice

Monday, 10th
2—4 pm Traidcraft Café Sharpthorne Hall
8 pm Sharpthorne WI, WH Village Hall

DEADLINE CHRONICLE

Tuesday, 11th
12.30 pm Food for Thought Sharpthorne Hall

Friday, 14th
7 pm Emmaus Club Starts, WH Village Hall

Saturday, 15th
Bluebell Railway “Afternoon Tea”

Wednesday, 19th
7.45 pm Local History “Loitering in the Literary Landscape” Sharpthorne Hall

Friday, 21st
Bluebell Railway “Fish & Chip” Evening

CHRONICLE AVAILABLE

Saturday, 22nd
1—3 pm Scouts Jumble Sale, WH Village Hall

Bluebell Railway “Afternoon Tea”

Monday, 24th
8 pm WHPC Meeting, WH Village Hall

Friday, 28th
Bluebell Railway “Fish & Chip” evening

Saturday, 29th
West Hoathly Community Shop Committee Display of Proposal at the School
Bluebell Railway “Afternoon Tea”

Sunday, 30th
10 am Village Walk start Finche Field
**Clubs and Organisations in the Villages**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Club/Group</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td>Helen Schofield 811301</td>
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<td>Beavers</td>
<td>Bev Duncanson 810709</td>
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<td>Bellringers</td>
<td>Rachel Edwards 810210</td>
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<td>Rachel Whitlam 810117</td>
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<td>Trevor Swainson 810546</td>
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<td>Laurie Gausden 810751</td>
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<td>Brownies</td>
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<td>Peter Johnson 810660</td>
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<td>- West Hoathly</td>
<td>810402</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Highborough</td>
<td>Patrick Mcghan 01444 892243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cercle français (Café)</td>
<td>Bob Davill 810443</td>
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<td>Cubs</td>
<td>Pandy Dart 810005</td>
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<td>Explorers</td>
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<td>Kirk Howick 316448</td>
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<td>Friends of the Priest House</td>
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<td>- West Hoathly</td>
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<td>Good Companions</td>
<td>Liz Bennett 01444 892731</td>
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<td>Andrew Thomason 810567</td>
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<td>Hands Together</td>
<td>Ingrid Sethi 810085</td>
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<td>Sarah Wilson 841919</td>
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<td>Tony Hunt 810534</td>
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<td>Neighbourhood Watch</td>
<td>Sophie Hill 810282</td>
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<td>Organic Cafe</td>
<td>Mario 811321</td>
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Post Office opening times at Costcutters:
- Monday 9am - 2pm
- Wednesday 9am - 1pm
- Friday 9am—1pm

**The Churches and Services**

**St. Margaret's, West Hoathly, and All Saints, Highbrook**
- www.westhoathly.org.uk
- www.highbrook.info

**Vicar**
- Venerable Lionel Whatley, The Vicarage, North Lane, West Hoathly, RH19 4QF
- Tel: 01342 810757 Email: lionel.whatley@virginmedia.com
  (His house is just up the track opposite the school)

**Church Officers at St. Margaret’s**
- Churchwardens: Carol Houston, Tel: 01342 810705
- Derek Shurvell, Tel: 01342 810780

**Church Officers at All Saints**
- Churchwardens: Tony Osborn, Tel: 01444 892191
- Hugh Bennett Tel: 01444 892731

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

**Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Dunstan’s**
- www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk
- Parish Priest:
  - Father James Cutts, Tel: 01342 710313

**Sunday Mass is normally at 11.30 am at St Dunstans**

**The Back Page Directory**

**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
  - Thursday: Catherine Goodridge 810937
  - Friday: John Trueman 810612
  - Any Day: Bill Merry 810771
  - Barbara Polhill 810877
  - Valerie Fyans 810848
  - Robin Ingham 810160
  - Carol Houston 810075
  - Christine Graystone 810603
- Please remember that these kind volunteers are only available on the day stated

**School Playground Hire for Parking**
- (Subject to Availability)
- Contact WH School on 01342 810302

**Police Community Support Officer**
- Stuart Clough T: 0778 9168791
- Email: stuart.clough@sussex.pnn.police.uk

**The Cover**
- Many thanks to Sarah Lunt for the cover of this issue of the Chronicle.
- Please keep those creative ideas and artwork coming!
- Please send cover designs to Kathy Brown.