

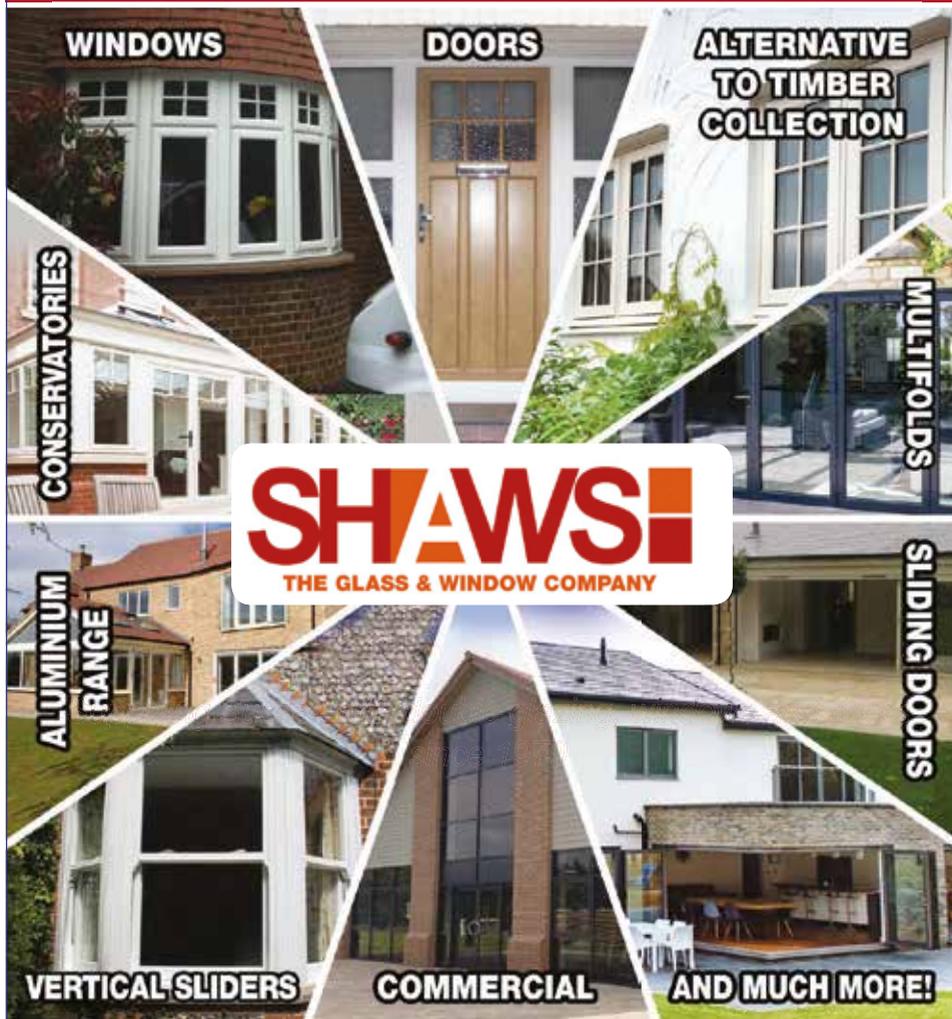


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Photo credit: Ditchling Horticultural Society

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What price Neighbourhood Plans?



In a September 2019 edition of the “Mid Sussex Times” there was an item headed “New Development sites are planned”. This was a proposal to increase the amount of land required for the development of Burgess Hill, on green field land to the south of Folders lane, on ground touching

Downs National Park. For many years it had been policy that Sussex towns and villages would keep a green belt around themselves, ensuring their future independence and identity.

The Mid Sussex Times article included the following words:-

“While the majority of development sites are allocated, the planning inspector required Mid Sussex District Council to identify “more land” to ensure housing and employment needs are met in the area”.

Obviously all such development would require an increase in infrastructure. This would include schools, doctor’s surgeries, shops, transport and just as importantly roads. Ditching is already choked to death with traffic, and any more traffic arriving from the north is very bad news for us.

This poses some questions. What are these housing and employment needs, and where is the proof of the necessity for this statement? If there is some imbalance, we either want housing or jobs,but both? The London to Brighton train line is full to capacity, but the inspector tells us we need more homes...why, how do they know, where is the proof of this statement?

When the Localism bill went through parliament in 2011 it legislated for Neighbourhood Plans, and we as councils were told that when any development was

proposed, the government inspector would first look at the neighbourhood plan, and if it is not in there, the development would be automatically turned down. We now know that this was less than true. The Beacon Villages, Hassocks and Burgess Hill Neighbourhood plans are now enshrined in local democratic planning by public referendum, and should now constitute the basis for all housing and commercial development until at least 2030.

At least that is what we were told the law said. Many people including myself spent years designing and implementing neighbourhood plans, plans which have “by popular referendum” been incorporated into various district councils own “Local Plans”. The people have spoken, and as a result we have a right to demands that the law on neighbourhood plans is enforced as originally envisaged in the 2011 act, not just left to the random whim of some remote and ill informed bureaucrat, who wrongly assumes that they know better than the local councils. If we do not enforce the law, thousands of councils will have wasted countless time, money and effort for nothing.

In 1987 an article called “Our Common Future”, was published by the United Nations, by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, in her role as Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development. It defined “Sustainable Development” as follows:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” With the unexplained and wanton destruction of arable land for house building being proposed throughout the country, this definition of “sustainable development”, must give us pause for thought!

Don McBeth
Chair Ditchling Parish Council

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Adoption of the South Downs National Park Local Plan

Following on from my article on Planning in the last issue, I thought it would be useful for residents to be aware of the adoption of the South Downs National Park Local Plan this summer.

I have below extracted some brief information from the Plan, if you would like to read the plan in full detail, please look at the website below: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/south-downs-local-plan_2019/local-plan/ or a hard copy is available in the Parish Council office to view.

Foreword by Margaret Paren

Chair of South Downs National Park Authority

The South Downs National Park Local Plan (South Downs Local Plan), was adopted by the National Park Authority in July 2019 and contains the policies that all planning applications should adhere to. This is the first Local Plan ever produced for the National Park: a landmark for this very special place. It looks different from most other local plans, because at its heart is the requirement to conserve and enhance the nationally important landscapes of the South Downs. But this Plan is not just about these precious, nationally important, landscapes, their wildlife and cultural heritage. It is about the wide range of benefits they provide for us all that must be nurtured and protected for future generations. It is about our communities that live and work in the National Park and their social and economic needs. I thank everyone who has helped us create this Plan and commend it to all those with an

interest in the South Downs National Park.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL PLAN?

1.1 The South Downs was established as a National Park in 2010. The South Downs National Park Authority (National Park Authority) became the local planning authority for the National Park in 2011. The National Park contains over 1,600km² of England's most iconic lowland landscapes stretching from Winchester in the west to Eastbourne in the east. The South Downs Local Plan is the first Local Plan to plan for the National Park as a single entity.

1.2 This Local Plan is the statutory development plan for the whole National Park, along with the minerals and waste plans and 'made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). The planning system in this country is plan-

led and statute states that decisions on planning applications must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Accordingly this Local Plan will be used in the determination of planning applications.

1.3 This Local Plan does not deal with minerals and waste. Instead, policies on this subject are



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developed through joint minerals and waste plans with the adjoining relevant authorities covering the National Park.

1.4 All planning applications should make reference to all relevant policies in minerals and waste plans, this Local Plan and NDPs. All parts of the development plan are complementary and aim to fulfil the statutory purposes and duty of the National Park Authority.

The South Downs National Park are running workshops for Town and District Councils to attend in October which will give Town & Parish Councillors the opportunity to learn more about the Local Plan and in particular some of the unique aspects of the plan; such as the Ecosystem Services and Dark Night Sky policies. We look forward to hearing about this from the Councillors who attend and hopefully a report will be available from them in the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

Sarah Mamoany

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UK Power Networks is working with the other Electricity Distribution Networks and our trade body, Energy Networks Association, on a new national campaign called Be Winter Ready.

Be Winter Ready aims to encourage people to prepare in case they experience a power cut or gas emergency this winter.

We're contacting all of our stakeholders to make you aware of the campaign and to ask if you could help share this important information.

Background

In recent years the chances of unscheduled problems with electricity and gas supply have dropped dramatically. Since 1990, network companies have invested £80bn in improving the reliability of local energy networks in the UK. As a result, on average, electricity customers have a power cut just once every two years and gas distribution customers will have their gas supply interrupted without advance notice just once every 40 years.

Whilst the UK's gas and electricity supply is very reliable, bad winter weather can cause damage and disruption.

Steps you can take to 'Be Winter Ready':

- Know your free emergency numbers:
In a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.
- Prepare your home:
Keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Register as a vulnerable customer:
Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register.
- Keep your eyes open:
Keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours.

Tools to help you spread the word

We have created a great toolkit of assets to communicate this information, including social media posts, a poster and leaflet.

Please share the posts on Facebook and Twitter, on a website, share in a newsletter or print flyers and posters. We'd really appreciate it if you can help us to reach people with this advice.

We are also asking people to sign up to a Thunderclap for 2nd November. It would be great if you can sign up to the Thunderclap to help us reach as many people as possible through social media.



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Cleaning Up After Your Dog

at Ditchling Recreation Ground

Why should I clean up after my dog?

Dog fouling in public areas is anti-social. Dog waste is associated with a number of diseases including toxocarasis. Toxocara is a roundworm commonly found in dogs, and almost all puppies. Eggs from the roundworm are found in dog waste, where they can pose a health risk if eaten, particularly to small children.

The parasite can cause stomach upsets, sore throats, asthma and in some cases blindness.

The eggs remain active in the soil for years, long after any dog waste has weathered away, so the risk isn't always obvious.

Not being aware that your dog, or a dog under your control, has fouled the land or not having suitable means to remove the dog's waste are not reasonable excuses for failing to remove it.

The Recreation Ground is used by the Archery, Football and Cricket Clubs throughout the year and families with young children use the facilities where they do not wish to find themselves treading on dog waste, or having to go round the pitch at a start of a match picking up dog waste either!

How do I clean up after my dog?

Firstly, be prepared - always carry a poop-scoop or bag. Ditchling Parish Council provide 100% degradable bags for use on the Recreation Ground so please do use them for this purpose.

We would be grateful if you would not take the bags for use in other areas, as we have seen a much higher usage of these bags over the past few months. A dog waste bin is provided adjacent to the childrens play area for disposal of the dog waste.

Ensure the dog waste is removed in its entirety and that bags are tied up before disposal.

The bags can be placed in both litter and dog bins as well as your own household waste bin.



Please do not throw the bags in hedges or on the floor. If the bins are ever full, please take your waste home with you and report the bin is full to the Parish Clerk.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our Recreation Ground a clean and safe place for everyone who visits to use and enjoy.

Parish Clerk

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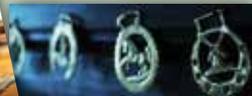


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Ditchling History Project is your local history society. We research all aspects of the parish's history: its families; its buildings; its industries; its arts & crafts; its church & chapels; its clubs and societies. We maintain an extensive and growing database which we aim to make available online. We are 'project' based because we never cease investigating the history of this amazing parish. Historical records, tythe maps, census returns, trade directories, house deeds and word of mouth are some of our many sources. We are always ready to learn from those who know something of Ditchling's history both past and recent. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Our website is www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org, and complete the questionnaire you'll find there.

Project News

We continue with our latest project researching and recording the history of the commercial uses of Ditchling's buildings, starting from today and working back as far as we can through the centuries. Our research is revealing a wide diversity of businesses and, perhaps inevitably, a high turnover.

Before the days of the internet it was relatively easy to identify buildings used for commercial purposes. Shop fronts, billboards, posters, inn signs and advertisements were visible signs of what was going on inside buildings. Today businesses can be run from, or in, buildings without any external indication. If you run a business from your home or one that is registered to your home, we are interested to hear from you. Get in touch with us on our website www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org and complete the questionnaire you'll find there.

Do you know?



Then

Ditchling's primary children returned to our school in September but have they or their parents ever wondered what its history is? The first village school open to poorer families was founded in 1814-16 by the Chatfeild family for the Baptist church in a building on the corner of East End Lane and The Twitten (see photograph) partly funded by the Attree family. 'Friends of the Education of the Poor' was founded and its members subscribed one guinea a year to nominate a child to attend. Preference was given to pupils who could afford to pay one old penny a week but if numbers allowed those not able could attend. Pupils had to commit to attending a place of worship on Sundays or face expulsion. It was known as 'The Old Meeting House School'.

In 1836 the first village national school, founded by public subscription, opened on glebe land donated by Thomas Attree at the end of Church Lane, next to what was then Ditchling Court Farm's farmyard (now the Green).

It comprised initially one classroom and the schoolmaster's cottage (the section with the tall chimneys). The first head, George Verrall, had a salary of fifteen shillings a week and thirteen children of his own to support.

The village raised £60 for him and his family to emigrate to America in 1864. His successor, Sampson Court, stayed in office for thirty-eight years. In 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the school was extended.

In 1914 the Inspectors reported that "The headmaster has been grievously over tasked. He has had to teach seventy children in four different grades". In 1915 there were 128 pupils on the roll with an average daily attendance of 110.

Now

The original Baptist school building, now known as School Cottages, comprises three private dwellings No. 30 & 32 East End Lane and the cottage at right angles to the lane.



The National School closed in 1983 and was replaced by the school in Lewes Road but not before a Victorian-themed party, attended by parents and villagers, was held to celebrate its past. Its last headteacher was Jean Morley. Thanks to the generosity of the Bourne sisters the building was saved from demolition and turned into a museum. After development in the new millennium it is now the Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, but the original Victorian school building remains at its core.

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Enforce HGV limits in Ditchling

The centre of Ditchling and the surrounding narrow lanes are frequently blocked by large lorries driving through despite there being a prohibition in the village for any vehicle over a 7.5 tonne weight limit.

These lorries are regularly causing havoc for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and to those living in the houses on these roads. Parked cars are damaged, residents on the routes taken by these very large lorries fear their properties will be damaged and pedestrians are worried that they may be injured or worse as these lorries try to squeeze through totally unsuitable narrow roads.

We the undersigned call on East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police to work together to enforce the 7.5 tonne limit on HGVs through Ditchling and find a sustainable solution to this problem which has such a detrimental effect on residents' quality of life.

https://www.leweslibdems.org.uk/enforce_hgv_limits_in_ditchling

(Invitation from East Sussex County Councillor Sarah Osborne)
59 signatures to date

School Project

Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary and Nursery School



The children at *Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Primary and Nursery School* were thinking about the natural world as they participated in the school's annual museum project which is generously supported by a couple in the village. Our two artists in residence, Martin Brockman and Simon Page, really allowed the children to expand their artistic abilities. In the first workshops, children were encouraged to observe and draw leaves using natural materials including charcoal pencils, the green colouring from grass, yellow hues from dandelions, chalk and mud from the Chailey area. Some of the younger children thought about the ages of different trees and how many rings they would have if they were a tree.

A few weeks later, each class was invited to Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft to continue their project work, this time looking at patterns and how to create patterns. The older year

groups created wood block print by using chipping tools to create their desired pattern, eventually using the block prints on their own tree collages. Children in the Nursery and Reception created their own animals using wood cut offs. By placing them in different positions a wide variety of woodland creatures were created.

As the final piece is now on display in the school, the children can see how their hard work and creativity has paid off. The overall effect of the woodland scene has really altered the atmosphere in the school's entrance; 'it looks like it's alive' and 'it feels like we are outside' have been a few comments from the children when shown their artwork. It certainly draws the eye upwards to feast on the patterns, textures and creatures inspired by wood. A big thank you to the Museum and to all those involved in another amazing art project.

1st Ditchling Scout Group.

The young people have had the opportunity to take part in some wonderful activities over the Summer months starting with our Annual Group Camp.



This took place at Broadstone Warren on one of the rare warm, dry, weekends we had in June. Suffice to say they enjoyed many activities from grass sledging to crate stacking. The weather was so warm the Cubs and Scouts spent the afternoon playing games in the outdoor pool. Over the summer holidays some of our Cubs and Scouts took up the offer of subsidised sailing courses at Ardingly Reservoir and gained their RYA1 and RYA2 certificates respectively.

The Cub and Scout sections had a fantastic time at The District Raft Races at Southwater Country Park.



Fundraising for activities and equipment is an integral part of the scouting experience, therefore we will be running the Christmas Card delivery service again. There will be two deliveries in December within the walkable (for little people!) village boundaries. Please look out for the posters, flyers and social media advertising in November which will give you further details.

We are asking a donation of 25p/card, so you can save on your local Christmas postage costs and Support your local Scout Group at the same time. The post box will be in the Ditchling village post office at the end of November.



Over the summer we have had the hall painted and the floor refurbished and are now happy to offer the Scout Hut for hire by local community groups, societies and yoga/pilates type groups. If you would like further information please contact Julie Middleton at middletonjulie0@gmail.com

Finally, if you have a little time on your hands, or know someone who has and would like to help the Scout Group by assisting the Group Scout Leader in the co-ordination of Scout Hut maintenance please get in touch with me, Sue Waring at swaring001@gmail.com

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Ditchling Horticultural Society

We've had a real 'Indian Summer' this year, and the sun shone on the Horticultural Society's annual trip to RHS Wisley. Entry to Wisley is free to our members, and a great time was had by all. Join us next year?

The sun was still shining the following week for the Society's Autumn Show. This was our last show of 2019 and it was satisfying to see a large number of entries and a good crowd of visitors. Classes for garden flowers and shrubs were particularly well-supported, and

tickets and many more behind-the-scenes jobs. We couldn't do without them - or without the assistance of David and staff at the Post Office, who kindly collect the show entries for us.

The President's Challenge Cup for the highest



the Village Hall looked beautiful when they were all set out for judging. There was also a fine display of home-grown vegetables and a mouth-watering array of cookery, as well as children's classes and skilful examples of floral art. The usual photography competition was replaced with a class for painting and drawing, which might be repeated at other shows (so do let us now if you have an opinion on this experiment).

Like any successful village event, the horticultural shows are the result of a lot of hard work by volunteers. Thanks are due to all the members of the Committee, but also to the faithful helpers who carry tables, serve teas, print and display posters, sell raffle



number of points across all classes (fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants) was won by **Annie Sandercock**, who also made the largest number of entries.

The George Blackstone Trophy for the best trug of vegetables was won by **John Oughton**, and the Wheelwright Challenge Cup (Jim Blackman Award) for the best basket of fruit was won by Dick Morley.



The Autumn Show sees the awards of trophies not only for the best exhibits on the day, but also for continued success at all the shows through the year.

So, the Chairman, **Pam Roy-Jones**, also presented the following:

The Ralli Challenge Cup for the highest number of points in Cookery and Handicrafts in the Spring Show and Autumn Shows: **Susanna Parker**. The Davy Challenge Cup for the highest number of points in Floral Art

classes in all 3 shows: **Joyce Laing**. The Children's Trophy (6 years and under) for the highest number of points in all 3 shows: **Gus van Stiphout**.

The Margaret Buckwell Trophy (7-11 years) for the highest number of points in all 3 shows:

Lottie Standen. Following the inspection of the allotments in early September, the Henry Waller Memorial Trophy for the

best maintained allotment was awarded to **Virginia Hinze**, and the Buckwell Trophy for the most improved allotment went to **David Eaton**.

Whether you are already a member of the Society or you are interested in joining, do join us for our AGM which will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 7 November, in the Old Meeting House.

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OPEN MORNING

Saturday 21 September was the inaugural Ditchling Clubs & Societies Open Morning



This event was created by the Ditchling Village Association to promote the wide variety of organisations in the village that local residents can get involved with. Running between 10am and 12pm, entry was free.

Twenty-four different groups were represented – including those for cultural, preservation, historical, sports and creative art clubs. Visitors enjoyed homemade cake and drinks whilst visiting stalls and speaking to representatives to find out more. There were also opportunities to buy art from the Attic Art Club, flour from Oldland Windmill and charity Ceilidh tickets.

The main purpose of the event was to give people a chance to meet the local organisations that make Ditchling a vibrant place to live and find new interests and hobbies. David Tattersell from the Ditchling Players said “It was excellent – we met lots of new faces and had a positive reception to our next play, *Private Lives*, but also some volunteers for backstage and front of house.”

Fred Maillardet, Chair of Oldland Mill Trust said “We attracted a few more potential volunteers to Oldland Mill and had a number of interesting exchanges with both newcomers and old friends and supporters. All-in-all a very enjoyable morning.”

Ditchling Village Association is looking forward to running another event next year.

Neil Iosson

Secretary, Ditchling Village Association

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A message from our MP - Maria Caulfield

Crime and the fear of crime is a huge issue locally. There is no doubt that since the loss of PCSO's in many of our villages, residents have felt less safe and while we live in an extremely safe part of the country, anti-social behaviour has been on the rise.



Sussex police work incredibly hard to keep us all safe but there is only so much they could do with limited resources and that is why I am extremely pleased that after months of lobbying Sussex police is set to get an extra

£880,000 from Government.

A rise in antisocial behaviour has been particularly evident in the four towns in the constituency; Seaford, Lewes, Newhaven and Polegate. Local police have worked tirelessly to tackle the problems caused by a small number of offenders.

The extra funding is to be used to set up Violence Reduction Units which will bring together different organisations, including the police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes.

The new units will be responsible for identifying what is driving violent crime in the area and coming up with a co-ordinated response.

The announcement follows the recruitment of 20,000 new police officers – beginning next month, and the confirmation from the new Home Secretary that all 43 police forces in England and Wales can use enhanced stop and search powers.

For our village's discussions are being had about the return of PCSO's whose local knowledge is invaluable not just in tackling crime, but in preventing it. Nothing is confirmed yet, but I know this is something constituents would really value.

The police in Sussex do a great job but they need the investment and support to make this happen. It feels that at last our police officers are being given the resources and powers to do their jobs.



Changes to Women's Pension Age.

The state pension age, in the past, was 60 for women and 65 for men. However, under the Pensions Act 1995 and Pensions Act 2011 the state pension age for women rose - reaching 65 for both sexes in November 2018 and by October 2020, the pension age for both men and women will be 66.

While this decision was made a while ago, many women are only now finding out about these changes as they approach retirement. For many coming up to sixty, they are just discovering that they still have several years to work before they can claim their state pension.

For some women this discovery is causing hardship as either through illness or having already given up work, they are struggling financially because of not receiving the state pension when they were expecting.

As a local MP I have been helping hundreds of women in this situation with their options and I have been supporting the WASPI, Women Against State Pension Inequality, campaign to try and get justice for these women, who through no fault of their own were not informed of the changes to their pension age.

Recently a group of WASPI women took the Government to court to challenge the lack of notice for the women affected but unfortunately this court case was not successful and so it is unlikely that the pension age changes will be reversed. Most of the affected women have no problem with the principle of equalising the pension age between men and women, the issue is they were never told it was going to happen to them and therefore they did not make financial plans to adjust to the changes. With the court case now lost there are limited options open to women in this situation. As a MP supporting Waspi women I am looking at options such as bringing forward and/or extending Pension Credit, exempting Waspi women paying National Insurance if they are working, ensuring there are benefits for those that are not able to work and free bus travel for WASPI women.

There are several cases still going through the Ombudsman and I am supporting women who are using this route to challenge the decisions that were made in the past.

I am asking local women who are affected by these changes and need support contact me as I will do all I can to help.





DITCHLING REMEMBRANCE EVENTS 2019

Remembrance Sunday falls this year on 10th November, 2019. As usual we will be holding our Parade, which will be led by our Branch Vice President, Mrs Juliet Smith, JP DL, our Branch Standard, carried by Mr Colin Marshall, once again supported by The Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band, RBL Members, the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We will muster at the Scout Hut, East End Lane, from 10.15 am to march off at 10.40 am to the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance. We will remember those names on our War Memorial from WW1 and WW2 as well as those others we know who have lost their lives in the service of the Nation. Please contact Margaret Bovill, RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser, on 01273 845319, if you would like further information.

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The Church Service at St Margaret's Church on Remembrance Sunday will follow on from the event at the War Memorial - once the Act of Remembrance has taken place and wreaths laid etc - will then proceed to St Margaret's for the service.





What can Pilates do?

Hello Ditchling! I'm a new Pilates teacher to the area, and very much looking forward to meeting and enjoying moving with you all.

I'm starting a weekly Beginners class on Thursday 31st October at Ditchling Village Hall. Email me if you'd like to come along: lucypaffard@gmail.com



What can Pilates do for you?

Develop mind - body connection

De-stress

Find true strength

Restore functional movement

Protect against injuries

Improve your sporting performance

Remove aches and pains by creating a balanced body

Move with ease and grace

Improved focus

What is Pilates?

Pilates was developed in the early 1900s by Joseph Pilates. He created it as a way to improve general health from the effects of



modern life (mechanization was affecting peoples posture even then!). He also used it to rehabilitate wounded soldiers.

Pilates is always evolving with the latest movement science, which is one of the reasons I will never get bored of it, and why it is so effective. There are mat classes which can include a range of small equipment and the larger Pilates machines. These machines take Pilates to the next level, they are incredibly effective and will create results much quicker, not to mention they're fun to use! On the Reformer you can jump lying down with half your body weight! Enclosed are photos of my mum teaching clients in her studio in Hastings.

Major change at Ditchling Allotments

After almost 100 years of reliance on a hand pump and well for a water supply at Ditchling allotments we finally have had mains water installed on site. What a huge step forward this is!!!

The installation, which has been talked about for some time now, but not progressed because of the cost, became a priority after a period of prolonged drought last summer when we had no water on site for eight weeks or so. This caused real concern and hardship for many allotment holders some of whom had to resort to carrying water from home to save their planting. An intolerable situation for all.

However, the Parish Council and the Ditchling Ball Committee came to the rescue. Both organisations awarded us a very generous grant which enabled the mains water installation to go ahead. We now have a reliable and safe water supply literally on tap. We can and do still use the pump to help keep the ongoing costs as low as possible - old habits and traditions die hard- but droughts, pump failure and low water table levels are now no longer a concern - all a thing of the past!!!!

The allotment community had a small get together on site to celebrate completion of the project. A great evening was had by all. Even overcast skies and the threat of rain didn't deter us from raising a toast to our benefactors.

Thank you very much to both organisations on behalf of the whole allotment community as well as the wider Ditchling Horticultural Society (DHS)

Could I take this opportunity on behalf of the DHS to extend an invitation to villagers who don't already belong to the society to come and join our merry band. A warm welcome awaits each and every one of you. We would be delighted to welcome you along to our AGM to be held in the Old Meeting House on 7th November at 7.30pm when you can find out more about our society. We are particularly keen to encourage new volunteers to join our committee. Watch out for the notices confirming the date, time and venue for the meeting.

Lyn Spellman
Allotment Secretary



Please join us at the

DITCHLING CHRISTMAS FAIR

2019

on Saturday 7th December 2-6 pm

for a festive afternoon
for the whole family, including:

- * Swedish Lucia Choir procession
 - * Unique Christmas gifts for sale
from local producers in the
Ditchling Village Barn & The White Horse
 - * Live music and carol singing
 - * Festive food and drinks
 - * Twelve Days of Christmas window displays
 - * Children's activities
 - * Local shops open until 6pm
 - * Reduced price entry to
Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft
- And more...

For further information on timings,
producers and activities, follow



@DitchlingChristmasFair

Ditchling Parish Council

Grant Applications for 2019/20

The Parish Council has the sum of £5,000 in its 2019/20 budget allocated to grants. Applications will be considered at the December Parish Council Meeting to be held on the 16th December 2019 from 7.30pm in Ditchling Village Hall, lower hall. If your organisation would like to apply for a grant, please read the Parish Council Grants and Donations Policy below and apply to the Parish Clerk for an application form at parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk or 01273 844733. All applications are required to be received by the 1st December 2019 so the Council can consider each application at the December Parish Council Meeting before making a decision on allocation of funds available. If you have any further queries in relation to an application, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Grants and Donations Policy

Policy Statement

A grant or donation is any payment made by Ditchling Parish Council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose in the furtherance of the wellbeing of the community, either generally, or for a specific purpose and which is not directly controlled or administered by Ditchling Parish Council. The purpose of any grant or donation given by Ditchling Parish Council is to support initiatives in the local community and to help create opportunities for the residents that are not funded by Ditchling Parish Council

Application Procedure

Organisations requesting financial assistance are required to submit by 1st. December, at the latest, in the year preceding their funding requirement.

- A completed application form,
- Copies of their last year- end audited accounts,
- The number, or percentage, of members that belong to the organisation and that live within the Ditchling Parish Area,
- Details of any restrictions placed on who can use/access their services,
- Confirmation (on the application form) that it concurs with the Parish Council's Equal Opportunities Policy, or give details of their own policy,
- Organisations will normally be expected

to have clear written aims and objectives, a written constitution, and a separate bank account controlled by more than one signatory.

Assessment Procedure

At the Parish Council's annual budgeting meeting in October each year an amount will be set aside for grants to be spent in the following financial year commencing 1 April. This amount will vary depending on the Council's financial position at the time, but as an indication, the council awarded grants totalling £2,125.00 in 2017/18.

The grants budget will then be published on the Council's website and in the November edition of the Ditchling Parish Council Magazine. Organisations will be invited to make applications using the application form available from the Parish Council Office or website.

Applications will then be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in December when the applicant, as well as members of the public, will be able to speak on their application. Decisions on all applications will be made at that meeting after which the applicant will be formally notified of the decision and, in the case of an award, any conditions attached to the grant.

In the event that the grants budget is not fully taken up in December, the balance will remain in the Council's budget and organisations will

be able to make applications at any time in the financial year. Details of remaining funds will be published on the Councils website and in the Parish Council Magazine.

Once the grant budget is exhausted, no further applications will be considered until the following year's grants budget has been set unless a grant is required for emergency purposes in which case the council may wish to draw upon its contingency budget.

Information for Applicants

1 It is a condition of any grant application that the group or project must bring direct benefit to the residents of Ditchling. All applications must clearly demonstrate how this will be achieved. The scheme provides start-up awards for new as well as grants for existing organisations. Applications will be considered for day-to-day running expenses and individual projects.

2 Grant application forms are available from the Clerk or from the Parish Council website. Application forms must be submitted along with the latest set of the group's audited accounts. It is important that all questions on the application form are fully answered and that any appropriate additional information, which supports an application, is provided.

3 Grant applications cannot be made retrospectively.

4 Applications WILL NOT be considered from:

1. Organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party or to discriminate on the grounds of race or religion.

2. Private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.

3. "Upward funders"; i.e. local groups whose fund raising is sent to their central HQ for redistribution.

4. National Charities.

5 Applications will not normally be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national "umbrella" or "parent" organisations, unless funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate

for a specified project.

6 Applications from religious groups will be considered where a clear benefit to the wider community can be demonstrated irrespective of their religious beliefs. Compliance with this requirement will need to be demonstrated throughout the project.

7 Schools will only be grant aided for environmental purposes or if, in the opinion of Ditchling Parish Council, their application is for the benefit of the wider community.

8 Applications from education, health or social service establishments will be considered where the organisation can demonstrate that it is working in partnership with other groups and where there are benefits to the wider community within the parish.

9 It must be understood that any grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded unless the written approval of Ditchling Parish Council has been obtained in advance for a change in use of the grant monies, and that any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to Ditchling Parish Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded. The Parish Council may request proof of expenditure.

10 Ditchling Parish Council reserves the right to request any further information that it deems necessary to assist the decision-making process. Account will be taken of the amount and frequency of previous awards and of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities

11 Ongoing commitments to award grants or subsidies in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year.

12 The size of any grant awarded is at the sole discretion of Ditchling Parish Council.

13 Ditchling Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application

Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation in any one financial year

Grants and Donations Policy

Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

High priority will be given to projects where there is a tangible or visible outcome. These could be capital projects such as those involving physical improvements to buildings, the landscape or local ecology and which brings direct benefits to specific members of the community, such as users or members of the organisation concerned, or to local residents generally. Equal priority will also be given to non-capital or revenue projects involving specific support for organisations planning to introduce a new scheme or expand an existing scheme for its members or other users such as recruiting and training volunteers, buying in specialist coaches or a marketing campaign to recruit new members.

Low priority will be given to proposals which simply provide financial support or subsidy to an organisation for its annual ongoing running costs and which produce little or no tangible benefit for specific members or user groups or for the community generally.

Notwithstanding the above the Council will look more favourably at applications which include some complimentary or match funding. This could come from the applicant organisation itself or from a third party such as a national or local charity, professional body, government organisation, commercial sponsor or public or private donations. Applications which require the Parish Council to provide all or nearly all the funding for a scheme will therefore be viewed less favourably.

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Ditchling Car Park Project Update

Further to our article in the February 2019 edition of this magazine the Parish Council would like to provide an update on the Car Park project in Keymer Road so that residents can be reassured that the Council are still working to provide this facility for the village.

Progress and next steps are set out below and a further update will follow in the next edition.

- The Section 106 agreement has been completed and signed.
- A Working Party Committee was formed in May made up of 5 Councillors to assist with leading the project forward.

This Committee report back to the full Council where decisions are then made on information provided to them by the Working Party Committee.

- The Grant of Planning Permission was issued by South Downs National Park in May 2019. This contains conditions, which need to be discharged before any works can proceed and include providing detailed information such as a topographical survey, detailed design method statements, details of the materials to be used, landscaping, gates, height restriction barriers etc.
- The Parish Council instructed a surveyor in September to complete the works to discharge the planning conditions; this

- work will take several months to complete.
- The Parish Council applied to Lewes District Council in July for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy to assist with the funding of the project.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council have just been informed they were not successful with this bid and will now look to seek funding for the project from other areas. It is possible that an application can be put forward to the South Downs National Park for CIL funding in the new year to assist with the project, or there is an option of obtaining a Public Works Loan.

We hope you will see from the above information, that work has been going on behind the scenes to move the project forward for hopefully completion in 2020.

However, we have a lot of work still to do and of course as with most projects, funding the project is the main challenge at this stage.

Sarah Mamoany
Clerk to Ditchling Parish Council



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Ditchling Players present 'Private Lives by Noel Coward' (20th to 23rd November)

I do hope you managed to get along to see our Spring production of 'How the Other Half Loves' by Alan Ayckbourn.

. We had some really good feedback from the audience about the production and so congratulations to everyone involved whether it was on the stage or behind the scenes and a special mention to the director, Penelope Bennett, for bringing the whole thing together. Since May we've been busy preparing for our Autumn production 'Private Lives' and I'm pleased to report that this is now fully cast with two people returning to the Ditchling stage and a newcomer, as well as someone you will have seen in our last two productions.

In 1930 Noël Coward was in the middle of an extensive Asian tour when he contracted influenza in

Shanghai. He spent the best part of his two-week convalescence sketching out the play and then completed the actual writing of the piece in only four days.

After spending a few more weeks revising it, he typed the final draft in The Cathay Hotel in Shanghai. The play premiered on 18 August 1930, at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh, directed by Coward and starring Coward as Elyot, with Gertrude Lawrence as Amanda.



After successfully touring for five weeks, the production opened at the new Phoenix Theatre in London in September 1930. Coward disliked appearing in long runs, and the London run was therefore a limited three-month season. It sold out within a week and was still playing to packed houses when it ended on 20 December 1930.

This despite the struggle Coward had to obtain the Lord Chamberlain's approval for the piece to be staged at all. In the thirties it was considered too risqué with the relationship between Elyot and Amanda being explored in depth when, as a previously divorced couple, they find themselves honeymooning with new partners, rather unfortunately, in adjacent suites of a French hotel. Theirs is a passionate, volatile, funny and poignant relationship and they come to understand they cannot live apart – made still more moving as they seem unable to live together.



The twists and turns of their liaison are witnessed by their helpless new spouses and the marital chaos caused between the four of them makes for what is often cited as Cowards best and most humorous play. If you missed the Ayckbourn then do come and see this production.

Tickets will be on sale online at www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk around the 19th October or can be purchased in person at the Larder, 2 South Street, Ditchling from 21st October purchased in person at the Larder, 2 South Street, Ditchling from 21st October

Shop around for best energy deal this winter

Residents are being urged to keep costs down this winter by considering a switch to a council-supported energy supplier.

With energy usage increasing during the colder months, Your Energy Sussex could help households save money by offering a 24-month tariff that fixes prices for two winters.

The not-for-profit company offers competitive rates for gas and 100 per cent renewable electricity and uses any surplus income to help local people who are struggling to pay their bills.

According to energy watchdog Ofgem, half of all households in the UK have never switched energy provider or have done so just once, meaning many consumers will be on their supplier's most expensive 'standard variable' tariff, paying up to £260 more than they need to for energy every year.

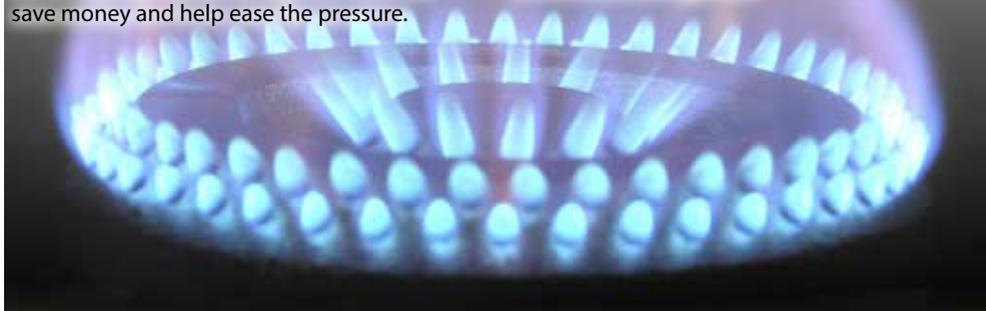
CLlr Claire Dowling, lead member for transport and environment at East Sussex County Council, a partner in Your Energy Sussex, said: "As the nights draw in and temperatures plummet we use a lot more gas and electricity. Increased energy bills over the winter months can place a real burden on some households, but shopping around for the best deal can save money and help ease the pressure.

"It's incredibly easy to compare and switch energy suppliers, and most have great introductory offers which make switching well worthwhile."

Your Energy Sussex could offer savings for households, but there are also money-saving deals available with other energy providers. Citizens Advice's energy comparison tool – <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk> – allows people to easily compare energy suppliers and tariffs.

To compare deals, residents will need information from their latest bill, including details of their tariff and how much energy they use. Switching energy tariffs takes around 21 days on average for the supplier to switch over but there will be no interruption to gas or electricity supplies.

More information about deals with Your Energy Sussex can be found at www.yourenergysussex.org.uk or by calling: **0800 952 0001**.
www.eastsussex.gov.uk



Art in Ditchling

Mulier B.V.M. 1911 in Portland stone

This was Job 361 in Eric Gill's ledgers and it was a commission from his friend Roger Fry, to stand in Fry's garden which was designed with help from Gertrude Jekell at his house Durbins, on a hill outside Guildford

The title "Mulier" is Gill's, and it is Latin for Mother. The B.V.M. stands for Blessed Virgin Mary, and indicates that this figure is mother of all mankind. However the figure did not satisfy Fry, and Gill had to carve a second version. In his diary for 30th August 1911 there is the entry "stone for Fry statue 2 came".

A letter from Fry to Gill written on the 23rd of June 1911 indicates the difficulty Fry was having with the figure, since he had to consider a good many people's susceptibilities, and a naked Virgin Mary at the time, raised difficult sexual questions.

However, Fry reassured Gill: "You know that this has nothing to do with the question of the statue itself which I think has splendid qualities and which I should like more and more. I think the hands are perhaps the finest thing you have yet done. It has to do with the fixed conditions which I told you of, different tastes and feelings to one's own, totally unartistic people coming to the house for my sister's philanthropic meetings, and I can't have a largely provocative question mark stuck up for them on the way."

Fry was well aware that Gill was not afraid to make images of the Virgin Mary naked, but he was not able to place a half naked Virgin in his own garden.

In this figure with its naked torso, Gill raises her head as though she is communing with something above and she has one hand

pressed over her genital area. When Fry rejected this figure it became the property of Gill, who wanted to send it to an exhibition of religious art in Brussels in March 1912, but found that he could not do so 'on account of her size and weight'. Gill sent it instead to his solo show at the Goupil Gallery in London in January 1914 priced at £210, but it remained unsold.



It then became a storage problem for Gill when he moved from Ditchling to Wales in 1924, and as a result was kept at the Tate Gallery in storage for over 40 years, before being sold to the Sculpture Garden of the UCLA in Southern California, where it has been on display in front of UCLA's Young Research Library since the 1960s.

The picture shows Gill with the statue, in its original position at Hopkins Crank on Ditchling Common. The statue is now located in the sculpture garden in Los Angeles. One person visiting the William Andrews Clerk memorial library which is

close by, comments "It is absolutely beautiful! It gives me pause every time I see it. One of the reasons I can't stop coming back to UCLA".

Don McBeth



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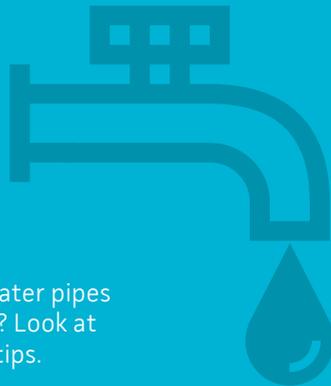
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New Councillor

I'm Robert Sansom and live in Beacon Road with my wife, Lorraine, our daughter Becky and our golden retriever, Fifi. I have lived in the beautiful village of Ditchling for 6 years after moving from Hove where I had lived all my life. So, I am very familiar with this part of Sussex. I take a close interest in local matters and am a deputy church warden at St Margaret's.

Most of my career has been spent working in the energy industry where, as a chartered electrical engineer I had a range of roles spanning engineering and senior management. Latterly I took an increasing interest in the area of sustainability and, in particular, climate change. In 2010 I left industry and commenced a research doctorate at Imperial College, London which I completed in 2014. My area of research was to investigate technical and economic solutions to decarbonise heating.

More than 85% of households in the UK use natural gas to heat their homes which is a greenhouse gas. In order to meet the UK's 2050 carbon reduction target, we need use a low carbon form of heating. The Government has recently legislated for a more onerous carbon reduction target which gives increased recognition of the climate emergency we are facing. I now work as an independent consultant specialising in strategies to reduce the UK's carbon emissions.

Lorraine works part time at an IVF clinic in Hove and is a visiting researcher at Brighton University. Becky has just started at Edinburgh University where she is studying modern



languages and economics which she is thoroughly enjoying.

I was co-opted onto Ditchling PC in June this year. I am new to local government but I do have considerable experience of business strategy planning, projects, budget and financial management and so I hope I can make a valued contribution to Ditchling PC.

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Ditchling Film Society screenings

Ditchling Film Society continues its (mostly) arthouse film screenings, usually on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm. Coming up:

Ash is the Purest White, November 7

The story of a coalminer's daughter from Northern China whose tenacity and grit see her through taking the fall for her boyfriend, prison and surviving on her wits.

Green Book, December 5

This Oscar winner is set in 1962 and is the story of a black musician who hires a white driver for his tour of the deep south. In negotiating the minefield of segregation and racism, they forge an unlikely bond.

Shoplifters, January 9

2018 Cannes Palme D'or winner sees a dysfunctional band of outsiders on the margins of Tokyo united by fierce loyalty and

a penchant for petty theft. When the young son is arrested, secrets are exposed that upend their tenuous, below-the-radar existence.

Capernaum, February 20

This Cannes Jury Prize winner is the story of a 12-year-old Lebanese street boy who runs away from his negligent parents. After committing a violent crime and being sentenced to five years in jail, this hardened, streetwise boy sues his parents in protest of the life they have given him.

Non-members are welcome, pay at the door.

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Ditchling Apple Day 6 October 2019

After a lot of worry about the predicted downpours we had the most wonderful sunny autumn day to celebrate our 6th Apple Day on the Village Green.



More than 25 volunteers turned out to help us with this event, many helping from 9am right through to the end and we are extremely grateful to all of them and the numerous cake bakers. John from the White Horse was very generous in his donation of Harveys beer and cider for the bar. Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft, St Margaret's School PTA and Ditchling Brownies put on lovely activities for the children. HKD (Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, Keymer and Ditchling) Transition Group hosted a poetry activity – the results will be displayed on the orchard noticeboard throughout the year. They also sold our orchard produce and tea towels while discussing sustainability issues with everyone. Local people donated their honey and Tony Dunn organised tastings. We had our smoothie bike there for self-powered smoothies and the Mac's Farm donated eggs for us to sell. This year we also had Ann from Hurst Hedgehoghaven. She is a font of knowledge about all things hedgehog. Liz Leach sold plants from the museum garden, Garry and Sarah Duncan ran the bar again for us with some very tasty local cider and other

alcoholic beverages. Jean Hands made us quince syrup and jam, many people bought us cakes and bakes and we had a great team on the hot drinks service. The welly wanging was as popular as ever and thankfully all the spectators survived in one piece! Keymer's Spoilt for Choice provided delicious hot food for us. And of course, the apple pressing. The team worked non-stop throughout the day for the many people who bought their apples to be pressed. The day ended with Ditchling Morris and musicians dancing for us and leading the annual procession to the orchard in Boddington's Lane where we all tasted the many different types of apples we grow there.

Some of you may have seen the little scale model of the new design for our proposed orchard shelter with a sedum roof. With people's generosity from this and previous Apple Days it now seems a reality that we will get this built next year once we have planning permission. This will give us shelter from sun and rain when we have our monthly maintenance mornings and events and be somewhere we can display information about the orchard and its wildlife.

We are so grateful to all those who support and help us and to the Turner Dumbrell Foundation who loan us the land and support us in many ways.

If you would like to join our mailing list to get newsletters about our events and orchard matters please sign up via ditchlingorchard@hkdtransition.org.uk.

Tae Chisholm
The Orchard Group





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