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CONTENTS

Chairman's report	4
Clerk's corner	8
Household waste article	10
Ditchling Village Hall	12
Ditchling History Project	14
Beacon Parishes Traffic Group	17
Charity events	18
Planning	18
Turner-Dumbrell Foundation	20
Ditchling Players	21
New Councillor	23
Defending the Strategic Gap	24
The Emmanuel Centre	27
A decade of the National Park	28
Art in Ditchling	30



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HELLO AGAIN AND WELCOME

to our February edition of the Ditchling magazine.



The Ditchling Lorry Horror

There has been much discussion recently regarding traffic passing through Ditchling Village. We have had several traffic surveys done over the years which generally seem to show that

about 10,000 car journeys a day pass through our village, the vast amount of which are just driving to and from Brighton and Mid Sussex.

We know this information because we as a parish council have regular meetings with East Sussex County Council called Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR). These meetings are not always fruitful in what they achieve, but they do provide a useful and regular platform for discussion.

To compound this, we also have the dreaded Lorry issue. There is a ban of vehicle over 7.5 tonnes passing through the village, unless they can show that they are genuinely delivering to an address in the area, and this is of course notoriously difficult to prove or to enforce.

Sarah Osborne, our County Councillor has set up a petition demanding that the limit of Lorries over 7.5 tonnes is properly enforced, arguing that as a small village, why should the quality of life and the health and safety of our residents be put at risk. It asks that East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police to take action and deal with the menace. The petition was signed by 435 people. The following photo shows Sarah presenting the petition to the County Council, adding that residents were fed up with the constant gridlock, noise and pollution caused by large lorries on such narrow streets.



In response, East Sussex County Council said that heavy goods vehicles are permitted to use roads where weight limits exist, if they are loading or offloading from a property in that area.

They added that they will be checking signage to ensure that the restrictions for through traffic are clearly presented..

Sussex Police have the power to enforce weight restrictions, and are fully aware that this is a problem for the local community. They add that while it is not possible to have a constant presence in the area, they are sympathetic to our concerns and are looking at ways to work with everyone involved in order to address the issue. In the week before Christmas the matter was raised by the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils at their meeting with Giles York the Chief Constable. He in turn had a meeting with Katy Bourne the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, but at the time of writing this article we still await the result of their deliberations, and will of course inform you of any progress in the matter in future editions of this magazine.

There is now a Ditchling Traffic Group page on Facebook, which has been set up to provide a platform for discussion of Ditchling's traffic woes. It is intended to be a place where local residents can submit photos and information on a regular basis, in attempt to build a platform for evidence concerning the possibly illegal, dangerous and annoying situations created by the traffic going through the village. Just to emphasize this point I have taken some of the dramatic lorry pictures from the Facebook page, added some appropriate music and made it into a short movie.

If you would like to see this it can be found at the following web address:-

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Don McBeth
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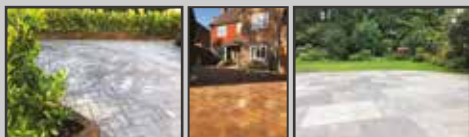
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Ditchling Parish Council Grant Update

Following the article in the November issue of the Parish Magazine the Parish Council met on the 16th December to consider the five grant applications received. The budget available this financial year is £5,000 and the Council can confirm they awarded the following grants.

Ditchling Pavilion Club

Part of a 3-year programme to refurbish the appearance of the pavilion and improve security. Outside improvements include replacing cladding, pathway leading to steps and flower beds. The installation of security cameras and improvements to the ladies toilets by adding an additional cubical and redecorating. The total cost of the project is £10,000.

The project will improve the appearance and functionality of the pavilion to encourage further usage.

Amount awarded £3,000

Monday Group

To improve rights of way in Ditchling Parish and the wider area e.g. path clearance, obstruction removal, stile, bridge and causeway replacements/repairs and waymarking. Annual expenditure for this organisation is in the region of £10,000 - £15,000 which is raised from grants and donations.

The amount applied for would fund between 2/3 replacement stiles for enjoyment of improved access to the countryside and the maintenance of historic and long-established rights of way.

Amount awarded £500

Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Sports

DSW Sports is a free non-profit community annual event for all those that participate. The grant is to help pay for the cup collection to be restored and repaired. Some of these cups, thirty in total date back to 1935 and are of historical and educational importance to the local community. An estimate of £3,000 has been provided to have them all repaired.

Amount awarded £500

Underhill Lane Community Association (ULCA)

To provide a grit bin and Highways licence fee from ESCC to be located on a privately owned piece of land adjacent on the highway for use as an amenity for residents, which will assist walkers, riders and Highway users in general. The z-bend at the Ditchling end of Underhill Lane is extremely dangerous when affected by snow or ice from water run-off from the downs and is not gritted or snow ploughed by ESCC. As ESCC will not provide this facility, a grant from the Parish Council is being sought to fund this project.

Note: Future supplies of grit will be funded by Underhill Lane residents.

Amount awarded £385.20

St Margaret's Church Clock

To pay for the annual maintenance of the Church Clock

Note: The Parish Council have previously granted the sum of £400 which has allowed a build-up of a small reserve for major repairs.

Amount awarded £216

The grant budget for 2020/21 will be £3,000 and applications are welcome in the next financial year and will be reviewed and discussed by the Parish Council at the December 2020 meeting. The grant policy can be viewed on the Ditchling Parish Council website, together with the application form.

If you have any further queries, please contact the Parish Clerk on:

**parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk or
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Changes to the use of Household Waste Recycling Sites in West Sussex

For residents who use West Sussex household waste recycling sites, such as Burgess Hill and Horsham facilities if you reside in East Sussex you will no longer be able to use these facilities, which came into effect from the 1st December 2019.

Anyone now using a West Sussex household waste recycling site (HWRS) will need to provide proof of residency in West Sussex. West Sussex County Council have produced the following information:

We are introducing this new measure due to restrictions put in place by neighbouring authorities, and the numbers of non-West Sussex residents who use the sites - which are funded by West Sussex council tax payers. Surveys have shown that an average of one in ten people using HWRSs closest to the county borders live outside of West Sussex. At some sites this can increase to as many as one in five people.

Staff will be at the entrance to the sites, and residents will be required to show one of the forms of ID detailed below in order to use the site. Access to the sites will be denied if proof of residency is not shown, or you live outside of West Sussex, with turning areas provided for those who are not able to use the site.

What ID will be accepted?

- Current driving licence (a photo card or paper licence will be accepted) - preferred option
- Council Tax bill - from the current Council Tax financial year
- Utility bill (gas, electric or water) - less than a year old
- TV licence less than a year old
- Letter from HMRC or the Home Office - less than a year old

Only original and printed paper copies are acceptable. Allowing the use of digital copies of documents was considered but it was felt that the potential issues, such as lack of internet connection, could result in traffic congestion.

Would you like to know more?

You can find out more about the new scheme on the West Sussex County Council website, including additional information as to how the scheme will be implemented.

Please note that anyone wishing to take a van, pickup or trailer into the HWRS will still require a free permit, which can be applied for online. East Sussex sites are available at the following locations.



Please see the East Sussex County Council website for further information www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/rubbishandrecycling/recyclingsites/



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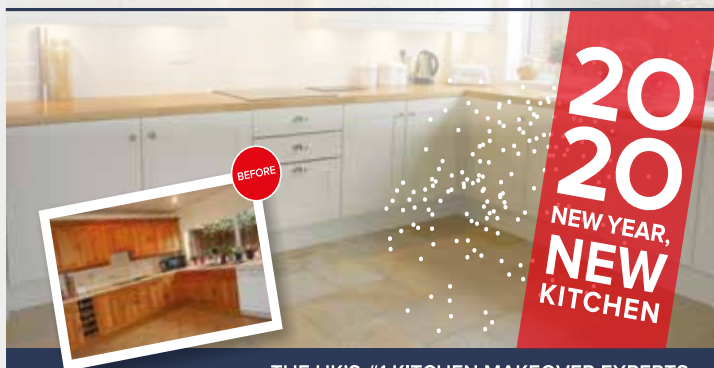


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Ditchling Village Hall

Ditchling Village Hall is a charity that provides facilities for the residents of Ditchling and its neighbourhood.

It is a great community asset which has been in the heart of Ditchling since early last century. All money raised by hiring the hall is reinvested in upkeep, maintenance and improvements.

The hall is available to hire by individuals for private events like parties and celebrations. It is also hired out by many of the local societies and clubs. For example, the Ditchling Players perform their biannual play in the hall, the film society meet monthly to showcase their excellent film programme and horticultural society hold three shows a year to present produce grown or made by locals.

Importantly though, residents and non-residents can hire the hall to provide commercial classes and events, most of which are attended by local people to promote their health and wellbeing e.g. yoga, Pilates, dance and Tae Kwon Do to name but a few!

The hall is run by a group of volunteer trustees with support from the other committee members including the bookings and general secretary. The hall also contracts the services of a caretaker to ensure the hall is a safe environment to hire and to ensure the facilities are working well.

Ditchling Village Hall has an upper and lower hall that can be hired separately or together. It has a fully equipped kitchen, a license for public entertainment and the retail sale of alcohol. There is disabled access to the hall and bathroom facilities. Wi-fi is available throughout.

The trustees are continually keen to keep the hall in a good state of repair and to refurbish and modernise the hall as funds allow and are committed to keeping the hire prices as low as possible. We are keen to listen to our users about suggested improvements which would make hiring the hall an even better experience and as such have bought a new easy to use domestic dishwasher.

We are also forward thinking and keen to improve the carbon footprint of the hall, aiming for it to be more energy efficient and reduce the running costs. We are exploring the possibility of solar power. The first step is a public access external water tap for people to fill up their refillable bottles, which has just been installed.

We also realise it is important to raise money for the hall in any way we can. Everyone is able to raise money for the hall easily when they shop online, with minimal additional effort and no additional expenditure. Over 3300 companies will simply donate to the Ditchling Village Hall when you use this simple link when shopping online. So please register today to help fundraising!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ditchlingvillagehall/

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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

Project News

If you are interested in participating in our research, have something you can contribute to our village knowledge, or want to find out something specific, why not come along to one of our open afternoons on the second Wednesday of each month in The White Horse.

The theme of Ditchling Fair this year is the 1920s. We will pick up this theme in a trail of posters outside buildings in the village centre portraying the chronological history of their use, highlighting in particular what was going on in them in the 1920s. This will include the extensive research we have been conducting into the history of buildings that have been used at one time or other for commercial purposes. We will invite the owners of buildings with public access to mount exhibitions inside giving more information on the businesses undertaken there and, where relevant, detailing some revealing stories. We are calling the project 'If walls could speak' and plan to follow it up with a publication. Below is a flavour of some of the things you might learn.

Do you know?

Then

Christmas 2019 is over but perhaps you visited one of our pubs over the festive season. As recently as the 1980s there were five pubs in the parish; The Bull; The White Horse; The Sandrock; The North Star; and The Royal Oak on the Common. Now only the first two remain. Pubs/Inns have long been at the centre of our communities. But in previous centuries they were multi-purpose smoke-filled venues where men, and it was usually men, would conduct serious business which could have a profound impact on the welfare of the community and individuals.



For example, The Bull was the venue for meetings of 'The Friendly Benefit Society', founded in 1754. At a time when there was no state health insurance or welfare benefits mutual aid organisations known as Friendly Societies were created to enable people to contribute voluntarily to a common financial fund from which, on the occasion of illness or death, a benefit as a right, not a charity, would be available to meet immediate needs. The majority of societies started as locally based groups, usually a few villagers or neighbours, where members would contribute a small monthly payment so that they could receive

a lump sum payment at the time of need. In many societies this was underpinned by a strong element of self-management and social activity.

The White Horse was the venue for another Benefit Society, the 'Foresters Court Star', established in 1859. The attached early 20th century photo shows the society membership of the day outside the inn.



Both inns served as venues for inquests. In the late 19th century The White Horse was the venue for a well-publicised inquest into the suicide of a local woman whose body was found on the water's edge at Pond Green.

The Bull (see photo) was also the venue for 'The Society for the Prosecution of Thieves' which was formed in the late 18th century. This was a kind of neighbourhood watch when landowners got together to swap information, to bribe informers and to bring prosecutions for poaching and other forms of criminality.

It was also the venue for a monthly club of farmers and landowners to meet to "sell all sorts of corn seeds", until, in 1822, the Ditchling Horticultural Society was formally constituted at a meeting here. It now lays claim to being the oldest horticultural society in the country.

For many decades starting in the 1880s The White Horse was the HQ for meetings of the Ditchling Fire Brigade partly because the innkeeper was the Captain, although its pumps were housed elsewhere.

However, The White Horse was also where you went to let your hair down after a hard day of business! For that we have the testimony of John Burgess, a glover and much else besides, who wrote in his 'Jernel' in 1786:

"After a good day selling, went to ye White Horse had 2 pints of beer"

Now

Today we tend to think of pubs primarily as places to chill-out, to converse, to eat, or, maybe, to hold a common-interest meeting in an informal setting. Some business is still conducted in them but perhaps not with such serious consequences for the welfare of the community and individuals. Now there are public buildings often dedicated to such purposes. Both pubs host regular pensioner reunion functions. As you know, The White Horse hosts The History Project's monthly open afternoons. The village cricket and football clubs meet there as do the Parent Teachers Association and the Bassett Hounds Club.



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Designated an International Dark Sky Reserve in 2016, the South Downs National Park is one of the best places in the UK to enjoy the sight of constellations, planets and distant galaxies and we aim to keep it that way for future generations to enjoy.

2020 also marks the 10-year anniversary of the South Downs becoming a National Park and throughout the festival we'll be suggesting 10 actions you can do to protect our night skies. Stargazing South Downs – 2020 Roadshow Our popular – and free – Stargazing South Downs event will be going on tour during February half term week to venues in West Sussex, East Sussex and Hampshire. No matter what the weather is outside, you can still come and learn about the amazing dark skies in our National Park.

This year's events will include indoor planetarium shows, a giant 'dark night skies' colouring wall, talks about the planets, the stars and nocturnal wildlife, science demonstrations, and, if the night is clear, the opportunity to go outside and take part in some moongazing with the experts.

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Festival Hall, Petersfield, Hampshire, 16:00 – 20:00

Thursday 20 February

The Town Hall, Lewes, 16:00 – 20:00

All the above events are free to attend with no booking required.

What next for Traffic in Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston?

Over the last 30 years groups of residents have tried to reduce the volume and speed of traffic through our three Villages.



The Ditchling Local Area Transport Strategy (LATS) was jointly funded and produced by East Sussex County Council Highways department (ESCCH) and Ditchling Parish Council in 2009. It was thorough in its approach to analysing traffic problems and its conclusions were broadly welcomed by the community. None of the recommendations were implemented by ESCCH due to lack of funds. Then after extensive work by dedicated residents and household surveys within the community there were the Traffic Aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan, approved at a referendum in April 2018. Yet despite the clear intentions to reduce traffic by the community nothing seems to happen. What has changed? Firstly, we are now part of the South Downs National Park (SDNP). After a somewhat slow start they now have a clear strategy in the form of the "South Downs Local plan". This was accepted and passed into law on the 2nd July 2019. From the plan comes a clear message "enhance and preserve the environment". Secondly the South Downs have a clear traffic policy as published in "Roads in the South Downs" This document makes it clear it has a priority to "preserve and protect local communities". Thirdly, East Sussex County Highways Department (ESCCH) have agreed to recognise SDNP policies, and fourthly, we have a Village Neighbourhood Plan (VNP). More muscle? Maybe we will have to see. Since LATS was shelved in 2009, we have not been able to get anything off the ground with

Highways. To get around this problem we have just put in an application for funding a Highways Consultant. His/her brief will be to work with ESCCH. Hopefully a professional who knows the issues and funding and can cost out the proposals and then implement them. The costs of any traffic calming are mind blowing. £35000 to reduce the speed on Spatham lane to 40 MPH! Then we start on Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston. Our aim is to discourage through traffic. Reduce speed and improve pedestrian safety. Improve pedestrian environment in High Street. Protect countryside roads from the effect of traffic. Provide for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. In addition to these we are creating a car park for visitors. All of these issues were raised in the Village Local plan and went to a referendum. We have put a time limit of 9months from the appointment of the consultant to a public consultation on the proposals. We the BPTG are working for Ditchling, Westmeston and Street. It is an uphill battle. Ditchling parish started trying to buy and build the land for a car park over 6 years ago. The project was delayed at every turning and only now can we see real progress. Progress by the determined and dedicated work of the councillors and we need your continued support to push through these changes in 2020 and beyond.

Paul Farrands

Councillor, and member of the Beacon Parishes Traffic Group



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Ditchling Charity Events

CEILIDH

Once again, the Ceilidh held in Ditchling Village Hall on 10th November (kindly sponsored by Chatt Estates and Notcutts Garden Centre Ditchling), was a huge success and is now well and truly etched into the Ditchling calendar as an annual event. As always, the Unreel Ceilidh Band were fabulous and this year we had the addition of some truly delicious food supplied by our supported charity, Team Domenica. I can honestly say I've never seen such enormous cakes; they were so delicious!

We had some fabulous prizes in our raffle, generously donated by local businesses, friends and parents at St. Margaret's School and in total we raised the incredible sum of £1,623.06, which was divided equally between the two charities; St. Margaret's School FPTA and Team Domenica, Brighton. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed!

I'm sure some of you are asking "What is Team Domenica?" I hadn't heard of the charity until relatively recently, when I met a member of their team at a yoga retreat. The charity is named after Princess Diana's last godchild, Domenica, who has Down's Syndrome. Her mother, Rose Monckton, set up the charity to help young adults with learning disabilities

find work in the community; making them feel valued members of society and thus enabling them to reach their full potential.

She passionately promotes Princess Diana's belief that "everybody needs to be valued and everyone has the potential to give something back". I was keen to find out more and so visited the Team Domenica café & training centre on Preston Road in Brighton. I was blown away by the dedication and commitment of their staff, who do such amazing work. Did you know that candidates trained by Team Domenica are working in the cafés of both Notcutts Ditchling and South Downs Garden Centres?

Two members of staff and three candidates from Team Domenica very kindly helped us setup and clear away and also had chance to join in with the dancing, which they all thoroughly enjoyed! We are very lucky to live in a such a privileged community, so it's a pleasure to give back to such a deserving charity.

If you are interested in learning more about Team Domenica, or would like to book them to provide catering for an event you are arranging, please visit their website:

www.teamdomenica.com

80'S FANCY DRESS DISCO

Time to dig out and dust down your 80's costume! On Saturday 28th March we are holding an 80's fancy dress disco in Ditchling Village Hall to raise money for the refurbishment of Ditchling Pavilion. There will be 80's themed cocktails, a licenced bar (including the delicious Ditchling Gin), a silent auction and raffle. Tickets priced at £15 each are on sale at Ditchling Post Office or via email nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk We are very grateful to the Sussex Peasant, Ditchling Gin and the promotional film & media coaching company Peanut and Crumb for kindly sponsoring our event.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

80's Fancy Dress Disco

Ditchling Village Hall
Saturday 28th March
2020

Ceilidh (Barn Dance)

Ditchling Village Hall
Saturday 14th
November 2020

Ditchling Charity Ball

Ditchling Sports
Ground
Saturday 12th June
2021



If you would like to be kept up to date about future events and ticket sales, you can follow us on Facebook or Instagram

@[DitchlingCharityEvents](https://www.facebook.com/DitchlingCharityEvents) or send me an email and I'll add you to our mailing list:
nikki@ditchlingcharityball.uk.

Nikki Chapman

DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2020

Parish Council Meetings are held in Ditchling Village lower hall – members of the public are welcome to attend.

20 January 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

24 February 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

30 March 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

27 April 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

18 May 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

22 June 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

27 July 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

August

No meeting scheduled for August

28 September 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

26 October 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

30 November 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

14 December 2020

Planning Committee Meeting at 6.30pm - Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm

23 March 2020

Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm in the lower hall

The Turner-Dumbrell Foundation

Charities and other local groups with projects in the village could apply for a financial boost this summer as Ditchling-based charity the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation decides on the recipients of its annual grant giving.

The foundation invites applications for grants every March and the trustees decide on the outcome at their annual general meeting in the summer. There are two main categories for eligibility for grants. Applicants should either be: a charity or group, based in the village or the immediate locality, which has a project that benefits the community; or be involved in the practice of preventive cardiology. Many recipients satisfy both criteria by being both local groups and encouraging residents to take part in activities and sports that help to keep their hearts healthy.

Last May the foundation agreed to make grants totalling £16,500 to the following nine recipients:

- Beacon Parish for upkeep and maintenance of St Margaret's churchyard;
- Ditchling Parish Council for outside table tennis equipment as part of the scheme to enhance facilities at the Recreation Ground;
- Ditchling Streat & Westmeston Sports for refurbishment of its cups;
- FPTA of Ditchling Primary School towards the cost of canopies for outdoor learning spaces;
- Ditchling Lawn Tennis Club towards court resurfacing costs;
- The Monday Group for annual fixed costs of footpath maintenance;
- Ditchling Unitarian & Free Christian Church towards refurbishment of the Old Meeting House;
- Oldland Mill for lightning protection;
- Hassocks Youth Hangout Family Trail project.

The money that pays for the grants comes from income from the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation's land around Lodge Hill and the workshops in North End.

The foundation was founded in 1983 by Dr Richard Turner who was left North End Farm, including Lodge Hill and adjoining land, by Mary Dumbrell. Her wish was that it should be used for the public benefit.

Lodge Hill is maintained as private grazing land with permission to the general public to walk and exercise on 364 days of the year. This is in accordance with Dr Turner's belief that exercise in a green environment contributes to the prevention of heart disease. Please note, however, that any groups that wish to hold events on Lodge Hill and the surrounds must first seek permission from the Turner-Dumbrell Foundation. Contact details are below.

The workshops were converted from redundant farm buildings of North End Farm with the purpose of providing space for local people engaged in art or craft work or who are in business for the first time.

If you would like to apply for a grant for your organisation there is more information on the website, www.turner-dumbrell.org or you can contact the secretary by email at secretary@turner-dumbrell.org



Private Lives by Noel Coward (20th to 23rd May)

We apologise for the fact that our November production of Private Lives had to be postponed due to the indisposition of one of the cast, who we wish well.

Unfortunately we weren't able to find someone to replace them and at such short notice it would have been impossible for a replacement to fit in with the rest of the cast. This, I'm afraid, is just one of the problems with putting on an amateur production; we don't have the luxury of understudies and so rely on all of the cast staying fit and well.

That's the bad news, the good news is that we've only postponed this production and, thanks to the goodwill of the rest of the cast; backstage crew etc., everything is in place for this to be our Spring 2020 production which will be on May 20th to 23rd, so please put these dates in your diaries.

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 Coward's best and most humorous play.

Further details about when tickets go on sale etc. can be found online at www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk and I'm sure you'll see plenty of posters around the village. We look forward to seeing you in the audience.



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New Councillor



I was co-opted onto Ditchling Parish Council in June 2019, filling one of the vacant seats following elections in May.

I was heavily involved in the drawing up of the Ditchling, Streat and

Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan, along with other volunteers, and felt that I could best help with its aims and objectives by being on the council.

I was born and brought up in Westmeston and went to school in Ditchling and Lewes, before moving away for 18 years, working in various places as a journalist and in PR. I moved back to Ditchling 23 years ago and strong family ties to Westmeston led to me being a Westmeston parish councillor for several years. I therefore already have experience as parish councillor.

I have worked extensively in local government PR and in health and social care publishing

and now work part-time as a freelance editor. We are all privileged to live in such a beautiful spot but Ditchling has, of course, changed a lot since I was at school here. Now many people find it near impossible to find affordable housing in the area and stay near their families, and the desire to see housing development meet local need was one of the reasons I got involved in the neighbourhood plan.

I am also passionate about the environment and wildlife and our collective responsibility towards it, for its own sake and for future generations. Development should be careful, controlled and in the right place.

I would encourage everyone to be involved in civic life and be aware of what the parish council is doing.

Edwina Rowling

1st Ditchling Scout Group

Firstly, I'd like to say well done to all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts that turned out, paraded and behaved so well on Remembrance Sunday. You did yourselves and the group proud by showing such great respect for those that have fallen.

This term we enjoyed our family bonfire and firework display in early November and a huge Thank you must go to Sunil Mathur for putting together such a wonderful display on a rare dry evening. Thank you also to the Beavers for their wonderful Guys and to the army of helpers that helped make the evening such a success.

Cubs and Beavers both enjoyed trips to Woodsmill and a visit from the Science man. Beavers ended the term with a Christmas Party with much fun had by all and many badges handed out including three Chief Scout Bronze Challenge awards, the highest award a Beaver can achieve. Well done Bobby, Thomas and Ossie.

Cubs ended the term with a trip to Lazerzone and will have their moving on ceremony next term.

The Scouts have had an exciting term including training for Escape and Evade, a night time hike event run by the District, filling in much badge work and learning compass skills in the process. They also practiced, then took part in the District Air Rifle shooting competition in which they were placed an excellent 2nd with 487 points. Well done boys. The Scouts finished the term with Climbing session at Withdean.



Why defending the strategic gap is vital for the future of our villages



After moving into Ditchling 10 years ago, I joined the Parish Council and soon became aware of the serious pressure for new development in and around the village and the risks it posed to retaining the unique character of Ditchling.

This is why I fully supported the Council's proposal to produce our own Neighbourhood Plan. It was also the reason why I, along with other

dedicated local volunteers from the 3 Parishes, devoted so much time to writing the Plan and consulting with local residents and businesses before it passed the rigorous inspection procedure laid down by the Government.

After 5 years of hard work, the people of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Plan in a referendum in April 2018. It is now the statutory plan guiding development in our 3 Beacon Parishes until 2032.

It is not the only plan. We also have the South Downs Park Local Plan (adopted in July 2019) which applies to all planning applications in the National Park as well as the Lewes District Local Plan which is used to help determine applications outside the National Park. All these plans operate within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework or NPPF, the latest version of which arrived in our in-boxes in February 2019.

A central thrust of both the SDNP Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan is a requirement that new development should be restricted to land within designated settlement boundaries. The only settlement boundary in the Beacon Parishes is in Ditchling and is set out on page 32 of the Neighbourhood Plan. During the consultation period on the Neighbourhood Plan, local residents made it very clear they wanted this boundary to be fully respected and to protect what we refer to as the strategic gaps between settlements especially those between Ditchling and Keymer and between Ditchling and Burgess Hill.

If allowed to happen, development outside the boundary would lead to the erosion of beautiful landscape, the loss of outstanding views and the destruction of open countryside along with its essential wildlife, habitats and local ecology. Eventually, it would lead to the coalescence of Ditchling with Keymer and Burgess Hill. It is no exaggeration to say that the roads which link our separate communities could eventually be covered either side by housing, retail and other developments. It has happened elsewhere and it could happen here if the settlement boundary is breached.

The 3 Parishes are consulted on many planning applications every year, the great majority of which comply with the Neighbourhood Plan and pass through the 3 Parishes without objection before the South Downs National Park Authority or Lewes District Council decide whether or not to approve them.

However, there are a few applications – in some cases for relatively small schemes – which do not comply as they propose development, usually for new housing, outside the Ditchling settlement boundary and, in some cases, in the strategic gaps. If approved they would inevitably encourage more applications and potentially more incursions into the countryside. The floodgates will have been opened and over time Ditchling as we know it will no longer exist.

There are a number of strong policies in the NPPF, the SDNP Local Plan and our own Neighbourhood Plan which can be used to defend the settlement boundary and strategic gaps and these policies are key to defending the aims outlined above and which you, the local residents of the 3 Parishes, voted for in 2018.

How can we best defend our settlement boundary, our strategic gaps and our Neighbourhood Plan?

- Ditchling Parish Council will consistently and strongly object to planning applications which undermine our Neighbourhood Plan. Your Councillors, with the help of our Parish Clerk, have to date spent a great deal of time preparing objections to such applications including the commissioning of planning and environmental consultants where we do not have the specialist knowledge required. Your Parish Councillors have already attended Planning Committee meetings at SDNP and LDC to speak on your behalf and we will carry on defending the interests of Ditchling at future meetings.
- The Ditchling Society is extremely vigilant in actively defending the Plan and the Council very much appreciates their continued involvement.
- Public support is vital too if we are to successfully fight applications which, if approved, would breach the Ditchling settlement boundary, deal a blow against our strategic gaps and adversely impact our treasured landscape and countryside, not only ours but the Nation's, as its protection is enshrined in National Park legislation.
- Our collective voices also need to be heard in supporting our friends and neighbours in Hassocks and Burgess Hill. Councils in these areas and local organisations such as the South of Folders Lane Action Group will need our full backing in defending their own settlement boundaries just as we will need theirs. Development pressures are coming from all directions.



Finally, please do come to our Council meetings if you possibly can to give us your views in person. We will be delighted to see you.

Councillor Phil Smith



Chailey Classic & Vintage Tractor Club

On a bright sunny Saturday shortly before Christmas the torrential rain finally let up in favour of Chailey Classic & Vintage Tractor Club for their annual Christmas road run in support of St Peter & St James Hospice, their designated charity.

An impressive total of 31 machines, comprising vintage, classic and one or two newer models, including a brand-spanking new high-end model from Massey Ferguson, rallied at the Sloop Inn, Scaynes Hill who kindly supplied tea, coffee, hot sausage rolls and mince pies in preparation for the departure of the convoy through the country lanes culminating in a procession through Cuckfield and Haywards Heath, and then back to the Sloop for evening entertainment consisting of a BBQ, live folk music, club prize giving and an auction of promises.

Newly introduced for 2019, the inaugural Bob Jolliffe memorial award, named in fond memory of Uckfield based taxi driver Bob, an original member of the club, was awarded to Roger Wheatland, a well-known and highly respected member of the vintage and historical community, for outstanding contribution to the club since its formation.

One of the highlights of the day was a comfort stop and pause for collection at Sainsbury's Superstore in Haywards Heath where Christmas shoppers were pleased, albeit somewhat bewildered, to see the impressive flow of numerous makes, models and colours of machines descend upon them and park up in a bespoke area at the front of the store courtesy of the management, complete with their own Santa.

Howard Venters, CCVTC's Chairman, said "The looks on the faces of Christmas shoppers was a delight to see and it is fair to say that all, (with just one exception of a couple of youths who knife-slashed the promotional hospice banner a few days before) were delighted to see us and contributed generously to the Hospice buckets. Children loved the variety of machines, sat on them and we received a huge amount of interest from the public as to the history of those on parade.

"We must also offer a huge vote of thanks to the Manager of Sainsbury's and his team for

accommodating us on a busy day before Christmas, for making our own parking area available and they simply could not have been more helpful."



After a further stop in Haywards Heath High Street, the convoy travelled via the Snowdrop at Lindfield back to the Sloop for a BBQ of local produce kindly supplied by butchers Nose2Tail from Piltdown. There were many who contributed to the auction of promises including a sheepskin rug, oil painting of a steam traction engine, an experience at the Bluebell Railway and at Tinkers Park, and a whole butchered lamb courtesy of South East Marts, Hailsham.

In addition, a private musical evening was donated by local duo LOKI.

Having counted the pennies, Chailey Tractor Club have confirmed that another successful and most enjoyable day has raised in excess of £1500 for the Hospice.

"That is a great result for both the club and the Hospice", said Howard. We were lucky with the weather this year having been somewhat drowned last year and I am very grateful to those who made the effort to turn out on a dry albeit cold winter's day, some of whom made a fantastic effort to festively decorate their tractors. Equally our sincere thanks to all who contributed to the day in one way or another.

Chailey Tractor Club is just over two years old, incorporated in September 2017 and since their instigation have raised in excess of £6,000 for charity.

Contact Details

Email: chaileytractorclub@gmail.com

Tel: 07971 792449

Facebook: [@chaileytractorclub](https://www.facebook.com/chaileytractorclub)
www.chaileytractorclub.org

The Emmanuel Centre – a place for the local community

Previously known as Emmanuel Chapel, the Emmanuel Centre is run as a partnership between The Beacon Parish and The Point Anglican Church in Burgess Hill.

Since last year the building has been extensively refurbished through funds raised by both churches and is now in regular use by them for worship and local community-based activities.

Over 100 years ago Emmanuel Chapel was established in Ditchling as a place for Christian worship. In the 1970s the present building in South Street was constructed and was in regular use. However, in the last few years, attendances declined to the point when a decision was taken to explore other uses.

Both the Beacon Parish and The Point Church were asked if they would be interested in shared use of the building. It soon became clear that an extensive programme of renovation would be required. Funds were raised by both churches and work commenced early in 2018.

This included a new kitchen, accessible toilet, new heating and lighting as well as painting and decorating. The back garden was re-turfed last summer and new fencing installed. The next project is to replace the roof and windows which it is hoped will be completed next year, although further funds will need to be raised.

The Emmanuel Centre is now in use almost every day of the week. In addition to worship events (which regularly occur every Friday morning and Sunday evening), the venue is used three times a week for evening youth groups and on Wednesday mornings there is a parent and toddler group called "Stay and Play". The Centre is also used for music group practice. On a monthly basis there is a film evening, a series of talks about British and Continental Cathedrals and a Ladies' Saturday Breakfast.

There are other ad hoc events which have included an Alpha Course and 'Cuppa, Cake and Company' (afternoon tea on New Year's Eve). In addition, there are community-based events such as the Ditchling Christmas Fair and a weekly children's dance school.

There are possible future plans for an exercise class and a weekly grocery stall. Dr Keith Hine, who chairs the Emmanuel Centre Management Group says "Both churches are delighted with the success of the Emmanuel Centre and the way it has become an important part of church life and a prominent feature of the local community here in Ditchling. Most of the activities are open to anyone who wishes to attend"



Kitchen before



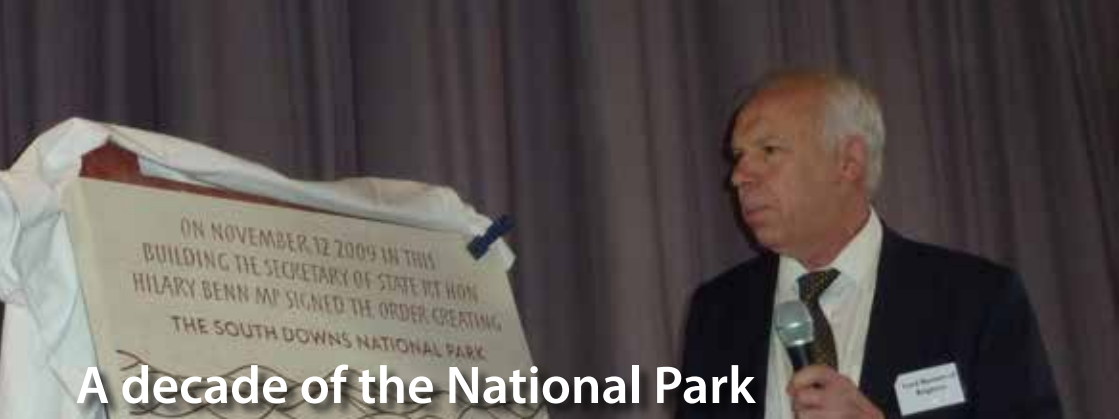
Kitchen after



Hall before



Hall after



A decade of the National Park

On November 12th 2009 an event of national significance took place in the Ditchling Tea Rooms – the signing of the Confirmation Order by the Secretary of State for DEFRA, Hilary Benn, that created the South Downs National Park.

Why Ditchling, why the Tea Rooms in a park that contains many historic towns and large public buildings?

When Benn received the public inspector's report recommending what should and should not be included in the park "half of it", to use his own words, was devoted to why Ditchling should be excluded! He told his officials that he couldn't do so without seeing it, to which they replied that he couldn't because if he talked to anyone, he'd be stepping outside due process in his quasi-judicial role. They agreed that if they accompanied him and monitored that he said no more than "Good Morning" to anyone he could go.

"We parked at the bottom, walked up the High Street, turned and 'wham!' the Downs hit me in the face. I turned to my officials and said I can't leave this place out. They said I needed to confirm that not just the settlement but the land to its north was worthy of inclusion so I said 'drive me through it'" and with that Ditchling was in the Park.

The professional report prepared by The Ditchling Society provided the 'words' needed to justify his decision. For Ditchling residents this Benn act will forever mark him out as our small 'p' prime Minister.

A few months later Benn brought his wife here. They had lunch in the capacious first floor room of Chestertons (now The Green Welly), went for a walk on the Downs and came back there for tea. So, asked by his officials where he wanted to sign the Order, he said that the tea rooms in Ditchling were an ideal venue

and could accommodate the anticipated media scrum and scores of onlookers. He couldn't remember the name Chestertons so his officials looked up 'yellow pages' and up popped the Ditchling Tea Rooms (now The Nutmeg Tree) with its myriad of little rooms. So, there it was held!

Fast forward ten years and former officers of the South Downs Campaign (SDC) initiated a party to celebrate the anniversary. Naturally it had to be in Ditchling.

On November 11th 2019 over a hundred original campaigners from across the park gathered in the Village Hall. The chief architect of the park, Hilary Benn, was, regrettably, unable to attend because of the General Election. It was agreed that the fitting way to record the signing for posterity was to mount a plaque on the wall of the former Ditchling Tea Rooms which the owner, Nona Shaw, kindly agreed.

Thanks to the following the party was much enjoyed by all. The plaque, made by The Stone Carving and Lettering Studio, was ready for the event and 'unveiled' by Lord Bassam of Brighton (photo courtesy of Gordon Bain).

By the time you read this it should be in place. Speeches were given by Robin Crane former SDC Chairman and Margaret Paren Chair of the Park Authority. The White Horse very kindly provided finger food; Court Garden Winery and Vineyard sparkling wine for a toast; and Poison Ivy the flower displays. The very smooth running of the party, on the day, was due to the volunteer committee members of The Ditchling Society.

Homemade Mother's Day gifts

Once a year on Mothering Sunday we celebrate a very special day where we can thank our incredible Mothers for all they do and show them how much we appreciate them.

Many of us wish we could give our Mother's the world but simply can't afford everything she deserves. Sometimes, however, it's the simple things from the heart that can mean so much more and can make her day.

Here is a brilliantly easy craft gift that a young child can make for their mum that will put a smile on her face and be kept in a keepsake box for a long time.

HAND-PAINTED MUG

All you will need is:

Mug – Buy a cheap plain white mug

Glass Paint Markers

It is as simple as giving your child the markers and letting them have fun and design away to their heart's content. Once they've designed it, get them to write a message to their mum on the bottom. This will be a heart-warming gift for the cup of tea they can give her for breakfast on the day.

For adults, it can be slightly more difficult to come up with a special, meaningful gift. Some lovely ideas are to take your mum out for lunch or give her a relaxing, pampered Spa day, however, something as simple as making your mum a delicious dinner in the evening so she doesn't have to slave away in the kitchen or making her a homemade present can be just as important.

Here is a simple yet delicious breakfast recipe to make your mum's morning:

HEART-SHAPED EGGS-IN-A-HOLE

Serves 2

2 slices brioche loaf, each about 3/4-inch thick

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

2 large eggs

Chives for garnish

1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt

Freshly ground black pepper to taste



Using a large (2.5- or 3-inch) heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out a heart from the centre of each slice of brioche. Or, use a paring knife to cut the heart shapes. Reserve slices and hearts.

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat.

Add the slices and the heart cut-outs to the pan and cook until slightly toasted. Turn slices and cut-outs; carefully break an egg into the centre of each slice. Cover the skillet and cook until the egg white is just set and the yolk is cooked to your liking, 3 to 4 minutes.

Carefully transfer a slice and a cut out to each of 2 plates and snip some chives over the top. Sprinkle with salt and black pepper. Serve immediately.

Art in Ditchling

The Bride by Edgar Holloway (1914-2008)

In 1949 Edgar Holloway accepted an invitation from Philip Hagreen to join the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic, the community of Catholic artists founded in Ditchling by Eric Gill and Hilary Pepler. For the next 22 years, he was a graphic designer, undertaking commissions for lettering, cartography and dust jackets for Britain's leading publishers.

His lyrical landscapes of the South Downs, Wales, Spain and France became larger and more expressionistic. As a result Edgar was commissioned to make watercolours and etchings of the industrial heritage of Troy, in upper New York State, where nearly 100 of these works were exhibited in the US in 2009.

In May 1984, he married his second wife the artist Jennifer Boxall, whom he had met at an exhibition some years earlier; they bought Woodbarton on Ditchling Common, The house had been designed by Eric Gill in 1921 for fellow guild member Desmond Chute. Edgar remained an active member of the Guild until 1989, and was its last Chairman.

In 1979, Garton & Co. staged an exhibition of Holloway's works in London, the first of many retrospectives to tour the UK. As new commissions followed, they revived his interest in his early etching and fuelled his desire to make prints. In 1991, almost 60 years after his first unsuccessful application at the age of 18, Holloway was finally elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers.

During a lifetime of study and self analysis, Holloway made many paintings and etched self portraits. The painting below called "The Bride", was turned by Edgar into an etching, copies which still exist. The image is of trees at the foot of the South Downs near Ditchling Beacon, covered with Old-Man's-Beard. Edgar himself, always it seems anxious to experiment with self portraiture, seats himself in the bottom left corner of the picture, near the horse.



This second picture was taken in his home in Ditchling in August 2008 just a few weeks before his death. I found him to be a charming, affable and very knowledgeable man, who it was a privileged to meet and to know.

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