

Edition 14 • Quarterly

August 2021



DITCHLING

PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AUGUST 2021

Hello again and welcome to our August edition of the Ditchling magazine.



My name is Don McBeth, and I am still the Chairman of Ditchling Parish Council, having been voted back in for another year at our May Annual General Meeting. Due to the Governments gradual easing of lockdown, that

meeting will be the last to be conducted as a virtual meeting via Zoom, and was brought forward, to enable the council to continue the business of running the parish before the law on remote meeting changed.

At the AGM Cllr. Mercedes Madden was voted on as Vice Chairman and we welcome her to her new role. Cllr. Robin Orme stood down as Vice Chairman and has recently resigned from the Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his valued contribution to the Council over the years. In addition, Cllr. Roy Burman, stepped down from his role as Parish Councillor in May but remains as a District Councillor.

We welcomed Cllr. Jenny Barna to the Council who was co-opted at the June meeting. However, we still do have vacancies so please do contact the Clerk if you are interested in finding out more about what being a Councillor involves. It would be lovely to have a full complement of eleven members again.

Members of the public are again welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings in Ditchling village hall, and details of how to do this will be published, together with future agendas on the council website and notice boards. Our next meeting will be the 27 September at 7pm after the summer break in August.

www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

We have not decided on a suitable tribute in the village to remember Dame Vera Lynn. As you may know there is now a campaign to raise a statue to her on the White Cliffs of Dover, and also the North Yorkshire Moors Railway will be refurbishing engine number 3672, which was named in her honour.



Like the last edition, this edition has been hard to put together, due to so many clubs and associations in the village, still not being able to meet and activities not taking place.

The new car park is still inching forward, but like all things, covid has slowed it to a snail's pace. The council has taken the advice of the Beacon Parish Traffic Group, and has taken the decision to employ a planning consultant to report on traffic calming and other related traffic issues in and around the village. Most of the costing for this has been allocated via Section 106 monies from the County Council. Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, commonly known as S106 agreements, are often referred to as 'developer contributions'. That is money paid by developers to councils, when obtaining planning permission. We are currently awaiting receipt of the S106 funding from East Sussex County Council and the consultant will be instructed upon receipt of these funds.

As you may know, the government's insistence on reviewing the current planning law is causing major "green space" problems for all councils around the peripherals of the National Park. The proposed building sites in Hassocks, Burgess Hill, Plumpton, Chailey and East Chilmington to name but a few, will only compound our already massive traffic problem in the village.

Finally if you have an article of interest for future magazine editions, we ask that you please get in touch with the Deputy Clerk, Derek Blackhall at:

clerk@ditchling-parish.gov.uk

Don McBeth, Chair Ditchling Parish Council

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CLERK'S CORNER

Parish Council Meetings

Due to government legislation Parish Councils have from the 7th May had to return to face-to-face meetings as remote meetings are no longer legal. Obviously, this has caused challenges in making sure we have a venue that is suitable and carrying out the necessary risk assessments and putting in place any procedures to ensure we comply with COVID-19 restrictions.



On the evening of the 28 June, the Council held their first meeting in the main hall at Ditchling Village Hall where we had a good turn out from members of the public and nearly reached our maximum capacity of 28 in the hall. The meeting was eventful with a very heavy rain storm descending on Ditchling village and a few unfortunate leaks appearing in the village hall – however the meeting resumed after a short break due to these events and the Council completed their first face to face meeting since March 2020.

Of course, we are hopeful that COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted soon so that all the added complications involved such as additional cleaning, social distancing etc will not be needed. Our next scheduled meeting will be on the 27th September at 7pm and will be held in Ditchling Village Hall and members of the public are of course welcome to attend and speak on items on the agenda at the start of the meeting. Please note unfortunately if social distancing is still in place, we do have a maximum capacity that is allowed in the hall. Details of meeting dates and agendas can be found on our website:

www.ditchling-pc.gov.uk

Ash Die Back

As we have reported previously the issue of ash die back is sadly one that many Councils and landowners are having to deal with. As you may have seen further work in the recreation ground to take out trees that are in poor condition and that are in high-risk areas has been happening over the past couple of months.



We continue to monitor and manage the trees with regular surveys and inspections.

We have recently had an application approved by the South Downs National Park for hedging plants which will be put in during the winter in the Recreation Ground, which should help to encourage wildlife. Our young saplings that were planted earlier in the year are also being managed and will be mulched using the chippings recently made from the trees that have been felled.

Sarah Mamoany

Clerk to Ditchling Parish Council



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DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

7

Welcome to our New Councillor

I applied for the vacancy advertised by the Parish Council in the last magazine, a few weeks after moving into the middle of Ditchling.

I'm now writing this brief note the day after being co-opted onto the Council, just in time for this edition. I grew up in the Parish and my family home was in Underhill Lane until 2006, so I had been a regular visitor until recently.

Having retired last year from the University of Cambridge, where I had worked for nearly 40 years, I decided to move back.

Although the pandemic continues to affect many usual activities, I have made contact with several local orchestras and have attended one live outdoor rehearsal in Lewes, not far from where I first learned to play the violin and piano.

While looking forward to more pastimes resuming, I have also been able to enjoy gardening, using local shops and services and going for walks on the Downs. Since retiring I have spent much of the time undertaking telephone support work with various national and local charities, which continued smoothly while and after moving.

I hope to be able to meet more of you soon, get to know more faces without masks on and start to contribute to the work of the Council.

Jenny Barna



Clothing Bank at the Recreation Ground

We hope that residents are making use of the clothing bank that has been installed in the Recreation Ground Car Park.

Any donations of washed, pre-loved clothing will be greatly appreciated. The unit will be emptied 3 times a week and we please ask that you do not leave bags next to the bank – if you find it full, please return on another day. All donations will go to St Peter and St James Hospice.

The hospice cares for people from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. They offer compassion, hope, and quality care, helping their patients live well until the end of life, and supporting their loved ones through the difficulties of bereavement and grief. All the hospice services are free of charge and they rely heavily on the generosity of the local community.

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DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE SURVEY

The Parish Council are interested in receiving your views in respect of the quarterly editions which have been distributed throughout the Parish since November 2017, and are particularly interested in opinions in answer to the following questions:

- 1.** Are you content to continue to receive the current quarterly distribution?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, would you prefer to see the magazine published:

☐ Annually ☐ 6 monthly

- 2.** Are you broadly happy with the current local articles published?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- 3.** Does the current balance between Ditchling and non-Ditchling articles, and advertisement pages, seem reasonable?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- 4.** Do you think the internal layout is appropriate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- 5.** Do you feel the magazine is a good way for the Parish Council to communicate with residents?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, do you have any suggestions for alternative ways for the Parish Council to communicate their activities?

- 6.** Do you have any other comments on the magazine and its contents that you wish to share with the Parish Council?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, please return to The Clerk, Ditchling Parish Council Office, Ditchling Village Hall, Lewes Road, East Sussex, BN6 8TT by 30th August 2021 or alternatively complete the online version of the survey on the following link: <https://surveyhero.com/c/93a6306d>



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The Monday Group

The Monday Group continues to make an impression on the parish.

We always do a lot of work in Ditchling and last year, despite covid lockdowns, we completed 25 jobs in Ditchling, second highest of all the 19 parishes we worked in. This year, 16 of our 54 jobs to date have been in Ditchling – that's 30% of all jobs! Of course, parishioners benefit from our work pretty much wherever it might be. We have been doing a lot of work at Stoneywish this year, much of it sponsored, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.



2 new sponsored stiles installed at Stoneywish this year, and a first-footing!

While we are perhaps best known for our distinctive stiles, we do always try to make our footpaths accessible to all, including those who find stiles difficult to use. Where we can, in line with National guidelines, we have started installing some gates instead of stiles, with landowner's permission, where the location and stock requirements allow.



Self-closing stock-proof gate



Our clearance teams also deserve a mention. We have recruited quite a few new volunteers during lockdown, as more people have been getting out and about on our wonderful footpaths, and our clearance teams have expanded as a result. If you come across overgrown paths on your walks, let us know and we'll do our best to get there before things get out of hand.



Clearance teams at work

We have recently sent the parish council a copy of our annual report for 2020, setting out what we achieved during the year. Despite the challenges of covid, we completed 173 jobs, only down slightly from 2019 (191 jobs).

Our annual report also sets out our annual accounts for the year. We thought covid would hit our income as all the community events were cancelled. However, thanks to the generosity of organisations like your council (you gave us a grant of £500), and many other organisations and individuals, our income did not suffer as much as we feared.

Our expenditure was also down slightly, so our balances ended up fairly healthy. However, now that lockdown is lifted, we have a huge backlog of work, so we do need to keep the funds coming in. So, if you enjoy using our paths and stiles, please log on to www.mondaygroup.org and make a donation – however small!

Thank you and carry on walking!

Jim Redwood

Monday Group (fund raising) June 2021



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Bevern View News



It's all about Communication...

One of the Bevern Trust's values is Care. We ensure that our residents receive high quality care and support which is person-centred, reflecting their needs and wishes. In order to do this, we need to be able to make sure our residents are given the opportunity to make a complaint; good record keeping is essential to enable our non-verbal residents to do this. By making our daily records as detailed and clear as possible we can listen to what the residents tell us in their responses, e.g. body language, facial expressions, vocalisations, body tone. Through audits we can look for patterns in their responses and make changes.

With a detailed account of what the residents are communicating to us day to day we are able to get a better idea of their general wellbeing and see if they need...

- ... A change in routine
- ... A different activity on their timetable
- ... Extra training for their support staff
- ... A change in communication method e.g. a new way to access their communication grid or a now/next board
- ... Extra assistance from the clinical, physio or communication team

This is part of doing all we can to listen to the residents and provide high quality person-centred care.

Our Summer Challenge fundraising campaign will help us purchase the technology required for this record keeping

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Ditchling Horticultural Society

We have missed you, due to the pandemic we have had to cancel the last five Shows, AGM etc. Let us now be positive and look forward.



Our Autumn Show is booked for Sunday, 5th September, let us make it a very special occasion, in addition to the usual fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants, this show has 13 cookery classes. We also work with the children from St Margaret's School and have provided them (thanks to Peter Eastwood) with plant pots, compost and seed to grow "a dwarf sunflower in a pot" to show in addition to "A vegetable Monster" for the under 6 age group or "a painting or collage entitled "Fireworks" for ages 7 to 11.

We are making plans to celebrate our 200th Anniversary next year, there will be Open Gardens and other special events- Watch this space!

Keep well, look forward to seeing you all,

Mary Holman

Secretary

01273 845167

Hello from the Ditchling Horticulture Allotments.

Our enthusiastic little band of sowers and growers tucked away behind the hedges of North End Road. Many of you might have peeked through the gate to check out what goes on!

This small batch of allotments has been a godsend during this time of lockdown and really come into its own. It's been for many, a lifeline of sanity to go up there, whether

you're going stir crazy to escape your equally cabin fevered partners or living on your own and find yourself resorting to chatting to the houseplants for company, it's been a safe way to connect with the outside world. Just walking in the gate puts a smile on your face wondering what's going to pop up - and by that, I mean plants AND people! A, smiling face, good chat, sharing tips and spare seedlings (at a safe distance of course) has been a place of retreat for us all ('suggestions' of adding a Cider Still and wooden drinks cabana - just to put things straight, are out of our budget....currently!!!) Just being up there 'rebalances' your sense of normality, that life goes on in the natural world regardless.

I must say, on the practical side, there been a lot of hard work happening. The much-improved work/life balance that working from home has created or with people furloughed with extra hours to get 'stuck in' and save some pennies by growing their own, the plots are thriving and looking great. Well done everyone. Although the sunny days of last summer seem a far cry from the challenges of strong winds and downpours of late!

If there is something good to come out of this Covid Nightmare it's been the strengthening bonds of belonging to a community, for people (and plants) to thrive supported by friends new and old. A reminder that we are not going through this alone and a smile is only a 'hello' away. Long may that spirit continue.

Caroline Senior

Allotments Secretary

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

In an effort to prepare our children for the fast-paced, ever-changing, wonderfully diverse world that we all share, here at Ditchling (St Margaret's) Primary and Nursery we have just celebrated Literacy Week.

The focus this year was helping the children to make global links, through rich and inclusive texts from all over the world. While also giving opportunities to explore these ideas through drama, art, discussion and of course writing.

The children in Key Stage 1 were learning through 'The Runaway Chapatti', Year 3 and 4 'The Egyptian Cinderella' and Year 5 and 6 'The Proudest Blue'. To help the children immerse themselves into a different culture, explored in these texts we reached out to our school from a range of faiths to share their religion with the children. This was an excellent opportunity for the children to gain a deeper understanding of what these religions look like in the real world, while also making the learning more memorable.

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the 'Drama Geezers' who really brought these texts to life through drama, artwork and laughter. These inspiring workshops helped the children to make global links with different countries, landmarks and traditions, while also being so much fun! A child in Key Stage 1 expressed "It was awesome to be creative with no judgement", and another child reported how "funny and cool" the drama was.

After each year group's drama workshop, the children created their own storyboard. These storyboards will soon be turned into a real-life book, taking our children from engaged readers, to captive storytellers, to now published authors.

Michelle



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A message from our MP -Maria Caulfield



I welcomed the news recently that between that 24th and 27th May, litter removal along the westbound carriageway of the A27 took place.

This comes after meetings with the local councils and Highways England, during which I, along with other local representatives, lobbied strongly for local residents to ensure that the litter was removed.

Highway's street cleansing crews were deployed over these four nights to remove as much litter as possible from the westbound side. It is hoped that litter removal on the eastbound side of the carriageway will be addressed in late June.

Once the work has been completed in each area, roadside communication encouraging motorists to "Keep the A27 Clean" by taking their rubbish home with them and ensuring their cargos are safely secured will be installed. Residents have been contacting me all year about the state of our roads and how bad it looks for visitors. It is really welcome news that this is finally being tackled and we all look forward to our roadsides being cleaner.

I know that large scale housing developments are of great concern to local residents around the constituency and I am pleased to say that recently both Caroline Ansell, the MP for Eastbourne, and I called in the Mornings Mill and Hindsland developments in Willingdon near Polegate.

Most people accept that new housing is needed, but this site is simply not an acceptable location, especially for the number of housing units proposed. Across Polegate, Willingdon and many other areas in the South of Wealden we have seen vast new housing developments over the last few years, so we are more than taking our fair share.

I am continuing to oppose the North Barnes Farm development in East Chilmington which is being proposed by Eton College. I am working with local campaign group Don't Urbanise the Downs on this, and I will be calling this in with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government when a planning application comes forward.

As Parliament rose recently before the Queen's Speech a number of critically important pieces of legislation were passed. I was particularly pleased to see the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act given Royal Assent.

Here in the UK, we have some of the highest standards on animal welfare anywhere in the world. This bill builds on that position and cements our status as a leader on animal rights and send a clear message that mistreating animals will not be tolerated. Those guilty of animal cruelty will now face up to five years in prison, as opposed to six months before the legislation was passed.

The Government will also be taking advantage of our departure from the European Union to deliver on a 2019 manifesto commitment to end excessively long journeys for the slaughter and fattening of livestock. There is work on developing new laws on animal sentience and cracking down on the illegal smuggling of dogs and puppies. Consultations have taken place on commitments to ban pet primates and for mandatory cat microchipping, and another will begin soon on the implementation of the Ivory Act. I am pleased to see that commitments have also been made to ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals.

The UK engages with other countries as part of global forums such as the World Organisation for Animal Health in order to combat the maltreatment of animals worldwide. This is something that the Prime Minister cares deeply about, highlighted by his first speech outside No.10 Downing Street in 2019, when he said "let us promote the welfare of animals that has always been so close to the hearts of the British people".

All animals deserve to be respected and cared for throughout their lives, which is why I strongly welcomed the Government's commitment that future trade agreements will uphold our country's high animal welfare standards. These standards will not be watered down in pursuit of any trade deal.

Building on the work of the Animal Welfare Bill, I am also looking forward to the Environment Bill becoming law later in the year. The bill introduces measures to address the biggest environmental priorities of our age, including meeting net-zero by 2050, along with long-term, legally binding targets on biodiversity, air quality, water, and resource and waste efficiency. All of this legislation will help us continue to protect the environment both locally and nationally.

I was pleased that at the end of May, Openreach outlined plans to build new ultrafast, ultra-reliable Full Fibre broadband for more than three million homes and businesses around the country, including 11,410 in the Lewes Constituency. This will be to cover some of the hardest to reach communities in the UK.

This follows an extended investment commitment by BT which means Openreach will now build Full Fibre technology for 25 million premises by 2026. This will also create a total of 7,000 new jobs across Openreach and the supply chain. Since 2017, Openreach has announced 9,000 apprentice jobs which will help accelerate the deployment of world class digital infrastructure across the UK.

In addition, I welcome the Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme is now open, providing up to £210m worth of funding through vouchers as immediate help for those experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas. Vouchers worth up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses are available to selected areas to help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband. Residents and businesses can check if they are eligible by visiting the government website.

It is really encouraging that the Government continues to prioritise investment in gigabit-capable broadband. More than a third of UK premises now have access to gigabit-capable connections, up from 9% in July 2019. The Government is also working with the industry to target a minimum of 85% gigabit-capable coverage by 2025, and an ambition to get as close to 100% as possible. The Government has also signed the Shared Rural Network agreement with Mobile Network Operators.

The £1 billion deal will increase 4G mobile coverage throughout the UK to 95% by the end of 2025.

I know just how important this is to so many people across the constituency. A large proportion of Lewes and Wealden is made up of rural areas where broadband speeds can unfortunately be very slow. I have had numerous local residents raise this with me in recent years, and I am pleased that after raising these issues with the Government, action is being taken to ensure that people across our harder to reach communities will have access to faster broadband.

Maria Caulfield

Art in Ditchling

Louis Ginnett (1875-1946)



Louis Ginnett was born on July 24th 1875 into his father's circus, at one time operating from the old Gaiety Theatre in Lewes Road Brighton.

He was educated at the Brighton Grammar School then in Buckingham Road, and studied art at the Brighton School of Art where in 1909 he began to teach. He taught there for 37 successive years, only interrupted by the First World War. He was not an official War Artist, but drew and painted through this time on the front line.



In 1919 Louis Ginnett came to Ditchling. He lived in Chichester House in the High Street until his death in 1946. He was known as a portrait painter and many of his portraits show his daughter Mary as she grew up.



He designed the panels in the school hall at his old school, now BHASVIC in Dyke Road. These nine panels were begun in 1913 and completed in 1939 and depict scenes from the history of Sussex.



'Hollingbury Camp, Full Circle'

He also designed the pylons which mark the entry to Brighton along the A23. He designed in stone, glass, metal and plaster, but always referred to himself as a painter.



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- have worked in the Parish for 12 months;
- have lived in the Parish or within 3 miles of the Parish boundary for 12 months;
- must be 18 years of age or over.

Please note members are bound by the Local Government Code of Conduct.

The Parish Council are responsible for managing the Parish precept, considering local planning applications, maintaining the Recreation Ground, Burial Ground and its amenities and representing residents' views and interests locally and nationally. Meetings are held once a month on Monday evenings; with other Committee meetings occasionally throughout the year. The Council has lots of interesting projects in the pipeline and your help could assist with moving these projects forward in the future. We would very much like to hear from you if this sounds of interest to you.

If you would like further information please contact the Parish Clerk.

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Project News

In the last issue we quoted from George Thomas's diaries describing how villagers spent Christmas during WW2. Now, Judith, Penny, Janet, Roma, Lorna and, Ann are studying his diaries, indexing them and researching the events he refers to, with a view to possibly attracting the interest of a commercial publisher.

In response to a query from a resident of the new Smith's Yard development in North End Roma has with the help of our database and other sources provided her with a comprehensive history of the yard and its previous ownership and uses. More of that in future editions. Roma also responded to a request for information from a member of the Washington family about her ancestors, some of whom had lived in Ditchling from at least 1820.

When Covid restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so we will restart the monthly open afternoon sessions in The White Horse.

Meanwhile we will continue to reply to your email queries and to welcome any information you can give us on the heritage and history of Ditchling. If you would prefer to meet us on a one-to-one basis you are welcome to contact us and make an appointment.

THEN

The eighteen months of the pandemic has placed a focus on our local health services. It may interest you to know what villagers experienced before the creation of the NHS in 1948 and, in particular, the stories of some of the doctors (GPs) practising in Ditchling in the early 20th century.

In 1908 health care was virtually unregulated and health insurance non-existent. Physicians practised and treated patients in their homes. Doctors enjoyed high social status.

In 1911 Lloyd George's government introduced the National Insurance Act. However only those who paid into the scheme were covered. This generally meant the employed 'head of the family' was covered but not family members. By 1921 21 million people had access to a doctor through NI but this was only 40% of the population. The remaining 60% were generally required to pay for their health care. The doctor's fee of around 6 old pence, let alone the cost of medicines, was beyond the means of many.

Free treatment was sometimes available from charitable voluntary hospitals. Some local authorities operated hospitals for local ratepayers. The Poor Law also offered some financial aid to the poorest of families, and the local government's. Public Health System was another branch of aid for the sick. In many

respects the worst off were the middle-income earners not covered by the NI Act.

Some help with costs was available from Friendly (Benefit) Societies composed of a body of people who conformed to a model of clearly identified purpose. That was 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. In many societies this was underpinned by a strong element of self-management and social activity. In the early 20th century, there were three such societies in Ditchling, one meeting and operating out of The Bull and the others out of The White Horse and The Royal Oak on Ditchling Common. Doris Hall recalled what she called a "sick fund" being run from The Bull "to pay the doctor in cases where patients couldn't afford it". However, they still required patients to have the means to contribute financially. When a patient couldn't some doctors accepted payment in kind.

The NI Act introduced the concept of Panel Doctors and Panel Patients. Initially the Act included those aged between 16 and 70 employed in manual labour or non-manual jobs with incomes of less than £160pa. Doctors devoted less time to their panel patients than to their private patients. They owned and managed their practices and formed partnerships. The partners, or at least one, had to be 'in close & continuous conduct with the workings of the firm so proper economy can be obtained'.

Entry into practice was generally by purchase of good will, the usual price being one and a half times annual income. Doctors generally started with a substantial debt. On average 1000 patients generated about £400 to £500 pa an income boosted by private patients.

It was common then for Doctors (GPs) to

practise from their own homes. It was also common, when there was no established medicinal cure for a known ailment, for doctors to 'knock-up' medicines themselves based on their personal experience of what worked and were often, in effect, placebos. Doctors also carried out minor surgical procedures and more often than not attended childbirth in patients' homes.

Here are the stories of three Ditchling doctors (GPs) practising in the 20th century before the NHS.

Dr Stokes' career spanned the latter end of the 19th century and early 20th. He died in 1912 shortly after the passing of the NI Act. Quoting from 'Ditchling by its own People' edited by Dollman: "*The Jointure, now the property of Sir Frank Brangwyn, used to belong to Dr Stokes at that time the only doctor in Ditchling; he was a tall, burly man, black haired and browed and really liked by the Ditchling people. I had heard more than one story of his kindness and feeling for them: the children seem to have been especially fond of him. He was ill for a few years before his death during which Dr Richards was his locum....The present cottage called Jointure Cottage was originally the stables and coach house and kennelled beside it was a big bloodhound – Czar – a great pet of Dr Stokes*".

Records of an 1882 meeting of the Horticultural Society, at a time when it was in decline, names Dr Stokes as one of only 15 members attending. He was one of three who would subsequently be associated with its revival and the annual Flower Show. His grave was appropriately garlanded with a wealth of flowers (see photo).



The Sussex Agricultural Express records how at a meeting of the Lewes Board of Guardians in 1912 the Clerk read a letter from Mrs Stokes recommending that her husband's locum, Dr Richards (see photo), be appointed to take over the practice. *"A letter formally applying for the appointment was read from Mr (sic) Richards. Two motions as to Mr Richard's salary were put and it was finally agreed to be £75 per annum with the usual vaccination fees".*

Dr Richard's salary would have been augmented considerably by his private practice fees. The annual average salary for men in 1910 was around £70 and the average working week was around 56 hours. In 1912 income tax became payable at £160pa.

In 1917 the SAE records how *"On Monday at Haywards Heath Petty Sessions Dr Harold Richards of Ditchling was fined £1 for failing to obscure a lamp on a motor car and £1 for driving the car without a licence. Defendant told PC Seal who saw him at Burgess Hill that he had driven the car with similar lights in Lewes and Brighton and they all knew him there and never stopped him. The non-renewal of the licence was an oversight owing to pressure of business".*

Frank Goddard who suffered an accident records how *"I must have passed out again because the next thing I can remember is Dr Richards, the village doctor, who looked like Jesus himself with his beard and his feature, binding my head and telling my mother that I was to stay in bed and rest, stay there and he'd call and see me in the morning."*

Esther Meynell records how *"after supper Dr Richards came in to lance Gerard's tooth". And shortly after Esther and Gerard "went to see the doctor about the bowling green".*

Later she *"Went to see the Dr and arrange about Joanna's tonsils....Dr came in at 2.30 he brought in the table and nurse Binns arrived to get the room ready. Dr Morgan and Dr Richards came at 3.40. I stayed with Joanna until she was unconscious and was back with her as soon as it was over.....I went to lunch.... Tho' against my will Dr Richards and Nurse had been in and*

prescribed opium fermentations".

Sir John Richmond recalls *"we were all very fond of Dr R who removed Liz's tonsils or adenoids in ETR's bedroom when we were at The Elms. He was a hunting doctor, who also bred bull terriers. One of his puppies became my much-loved Bonzo".*

Patients spoke of him as always being cheerful, with a wonderful sense of humour and a great love of animals.

Dr Richards, or Ricky as he was affectionately known, was a keen cricketer and formed a cricket team to play the village ladies. He was one of the oldest members of the Southdown Hunt, a keen rider to hounds and associated with the inception of the popular Ditchling horse show to which he was also MO. Doris Hall records how he was *"a notable horseman and rode to visit his patients. He was mostly paid for the services with gifts of fruit, vegetables, eggs or even a truss of hay".* In 1911 Mr Tingley came to Ditchling to be his groom.

He was not beyond trying his hand at non-medical tasks. Cecil Evans the landlord of the Sandrock and a firefighter recalled how he left the pub to attend to a fire and *"Dr R our local doctor and old Pattenden was the local copper... they took charge of the pub... for refreshments" and when he returned "there was the doctor behind the bar dishing up all the booze for the firemen..."*

And Esther Meynell recalls how *"Dr Richards mended the gas fire lighter..."*

His career spanned the two world wars. The SAE of March 1913 records that *"he proposes starting a first-aid class in Ditchling School"* and that he was prepared to *"examine young men wishing to join the army".* In WW2 he was Examiner to the Military Medical Board and Medical Officer for the Red Cross Hospital in Ditchling.

He remained in practice until a few days before his death at the age of 81. An obituary, in a local paper, headlined it the death of **'A Gentleman and a Sportsman'**.

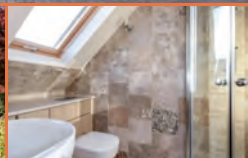


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At his funeral tributes were delivered from the Ditchling Horse Show Committee, Directors of Plumpton Race Course and the Medical Board. In 1946 **Dr Linton-Bogle** (see photo) took over the Ditchling section of the local practice following the resignation of Dr Charlton.

One of his first tasks was to enquire into the cost of insuring the ledgers against fire. That action given to him tells one a lot about the private nature of health provision and a doctor's business role before the advent of the NHS. Very little in the practice minutes has to do with the partners' clinical work. They are mostly about the keeping of proper accounts; income tax; the proportion of shares in the partnership; and the appointment of partners.

It seems that Bogie, as he was affectionately known to his patients, was the efficient, practical partner with a good business and organising head on his shoulders as well as being a good doctor.

Dr Charlton had practised out of his home and wanted to retain it so Bogie had to find somewhere for himself. To his good fortune one of his partners, Dr Eggar, purchased Crossways on the village crossroads. Bogie moved in as his tenant and set up his surgery there.

Dr Tombleson recalled: *"Throughout your life you always remember the teacher who had the most charisma and impact on you. Bogie was in that league. He possessed curiosity and enthusiasm. If you don't have curiosity, you can't be a good doctor. He took me under his wing and treated me as if I had been his son....he wasn't condescending. He didn't speak down to anyone, young or old. Indeed, he maintained a certain professional distance but what shone through was his kindness and his genuine concern and interest in everyone...everyone child or adult knew he was on their side; that he had their best interests at heart and that he would sacrifice*



whatever time and effort was required to comfort and treat them."

Barry Cox, a patient, recalled: *"he fitted in to a village community and was very respected and kindly. He was the transitional doctor between private care and the NHS. A Dr Cameron type".*

Jenny KilBride, recalled: *"How different he was from Dr Richards....Dr Richards was a large jovial man who would enter the patient's bedroom with great bonhomie bearing sweets and other goodies to encourage the young patient to relax. Dr Linton-Bogle was altogether different. He didn't need to use these device". Jenny wasn't entirely right because another patient, James Brittain, recalled a gift of a back scratcher!"*

In those days doctors saw patients in their homes as much as their surgeries. Unlike Dr Richards Bogie didn't have a horse so he

needed a car. Dr Tombleson, recalled that *"he wasn't a very good driver and people were advised to stay off the road when he was about!"*

Dr Linton-Bogle's abiding interest was calligraphy. He possessed great calligraphic skills. Examples of his work can be seen in the village hall foyer. A judge in court once complimented him on a letter he wrote and described his handwriting as most unusual for a doctor!

He loved talking with his patients especially about art which his patients described as being just as good as pills or lotions. They also recalled that he was always *"prepared to try new treatments plus unashamedly the favourite old rhubarb treatments – placebos by any other name"*. But he was not one to sweep any mistakes he made under the carpet. He was the founding secretary of the SPHALMA (Greek for False Step) Society whose members were

dedicated to acknowledging genuine mistakes in diagnosis or treatment and learning from them.

NOW

Health services under the 1948 NHS Act introduced the principle of health care 'free at the point of use' for everyone.

Ditchling now has a purpose-built health centre completed in the early 1990s staffed in 2021 by a team comprising two female GPs, Dr Miriam Winn and Dr Isabel Konrad, nurses and non-practice health professionals.

It is part of Mid Sussex Health Care, a training practice comprising 11 GP Partners (4 full time, 7 part time) and 1 salaried GP serving a population of over 19,000 with three health centres including Ditchling's.

Pass Wide and Slow 2021

The pass wide and slow campaign is a national initiative, ours has been organised in and around the Ditchling area to raise awareness on the safe passing of horses (and other vulnerable road users).

There will be events up and down the country, so please support your local event, whether on foot, horseback, as a cyclist or by carriage.

We will have a police presence at the event with the aim being to educate everyone on how to keep us all safe on the roads of Sussex!

The event will start from Ditchling Recreation Ground Car Park and is due to be held on the 18 September 2021 starting at 11am.

If you are interested in further details of this event, please contact

rachelwilliams712@yahoo.com



1st Ditchling Scout Group

I am very pleased to say some sort of normality returned to Scouting this term although we still had guidelines to follow.



One of which was not being able to use the Scout Hut because of social distancing so all section meetings were held outside.

All sections have enjoyed many fun and varied activities from Axe throwing to rock climbing to tennis. Also, the Cubs did an excellent job litter picking, scouts learnt about foraging and the Beavers had visit from the Animal lady with her vast array of creatures and all three sections have checked tents ahead of camp.

Thanks to a monumental effort by Kate and Julie camp did happen for the Cubs and Scouts which was no mean feat staying within the covid guidelines. Thank you so much ladies I know the young people and Leaders are so very grateful.

The Beavers enjoyed a wonderful Adventure Activity Day at Blackland's Farm on the Ashdown Forest.

We give a massive Thank you to John Broomfield Removals for not only the loan of a van but two guys to help transport all the kit to and from camp.

Scouting has certainly been a challenge during these unprecedented times and we can only hope and pray the worst is behind us. Stay safe



Village clock repairs

Back in March the village clock had a major overhaul with the 150-year mechanism dismantled, cleaned and lubricated and new auto-winding mechanisms installed.

Unfortunately, further work was required and this necessitated the machining of replacement parts for the winding mechanisms.

These were installed in June but there have been interruptions to the clock operation as adjustments are made to ensure reliable clock operation as well as clock chiming.

Unfortunately, the clock does not have a workshop manual and in addition to the clock mechanism itself there is a complex series

of linkages and drives for the chiming all of which need to be set up based on the skill and experience of the clock engineers.

Hopefully, these will be completed during July and we can at last look forward to many years of reliable clock operation.

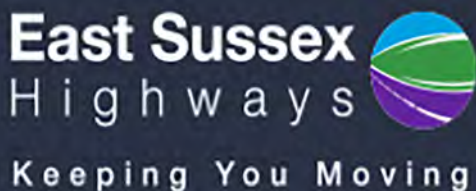
Ditchling street lighting

The wet summer has encouraged growth of vegetation and there are a number of street lights which have been obscured with the result that the quality of lighting has been adversely affected.

With the evenings drawing in these need to be addressed to maintain safety for pedestrians and other road users.

East Sussex Highways (ESH) look after our street lighting and although surveys the street lights on a regular basis, any problems can be reported directly via its website:

www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem/street-lighting.



Residents are encouraged to use the website to help ensure problems are promptly dealt with. Please note that ESH will remove vegetation but be aware that if the vegetation

originates from a private property, it is the responsibility of the owner of the property to remove the vegetation.

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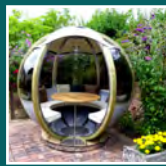
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Car Park Update

The Car Park is unfortunately behind schedule due to design features that the South Downs National Park were not comfortable with as they felt it made the car park too urban looking, so we have therefore had to look at other options in marking out the parking bays and signage within the car park.



Aerial shot of current car park site on Keymer Road

These seem to have been resolved now and amended drawings will need to be submitted to the SDNP so that the discharge of planning conditions can hopefully be approved within the next month.

The tender specification has already been drafted so we are in a good position to be looking to go out to formal tender in July at some stage, the timeline between inviting tenders to receiving completed tenders will be in the region of 6 weeks, therefore realistically we are looking at now starting work in the autumn rather than the summer.

As many of you are aware, the construction industry is suffering from issues with material supplies so we hope that this does not impact on the project, however it will possibly mean increased costs.

The project involves the implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order to the speed limit near the site access, these are implemented by ESCC Highways. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 they have a huge backlog of these applications.

The car park would not be able to open until the TRO is in place so another issue might be that the Council have to apply for a temporary TRO which involves a 12-week time scale and also additional costs.



The Council are currently monitoring the situation with ESCC Highways as to how the original application is progressing and will make a decision at the July Council meeting as to if they will have to opt for putting in a further application for a temporary TRO.

In regards to the financial position, the Council will not know the exact costings of the project until it receives the tenders back.

Although, we have £170,000 contribution from Lewes District Council and South Downs Park Authority through CIL funding, it is possible the Council will need to seek further funds possibly through a Public

Works Loan which could unfortunately cause further delays in the process. However, we remain optimistic that the construction stages of the project will commence in 2021 at some stage.

The Council are fully aware how important these additional parking facilities are for the village and are committed to delivering this project for Ditchling.

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Raising Funds for St Peter and St James

Ditchling Pavilion Sports Club

The Pavilion continued to be impacted by the consequences of the pandemic and was once again closed for a number of months.

As a result, the scheduled improvements have been delayed but hopefully the programme will restart in September. That said, in early April a large working party from the cricket club cleared and repainted the Pavilion. A new away team changing room and gym room have been constructed which makes far better use of the space and has generated a much needed income stream with Sweat It Studios hiring the gym room.

In conjunction with the cricket club, we are looking to fit new guttering to enable rainwater to be effectively harvested in a new water tank that will be used to water the cricket square and reduce water costs. The committee remain committed to improving the facilities and encouraging more of the community to use the Pavilion and the recreation ground.

The cricket season is now in full swing (albeit

with very restricted access to the Pavilion), Sussex Pilates has returned and we are looking forward to the return of the Table Tennis club in September. Junior cricket on a Friday night is proving very popular and parents have been known to enjoy a Harvey's, Hairy Dog or a chilled Rose whilst watching the extensive coaching sessions.

We are looking to support a new sports club or activity that is looking to start and have a range of hire options available. For hire details, please contact Sean Guirey on ditchlingpav@gmail.com.

We are still looking for a volunteer who could help as a Caretaker / building co-ordinator. The role would primarily consist of basic maintenance of the facilities, ensuring supplies are maintained at suitable levels and assisting hirers as required. Go well!
Ditchling Sports Pavilion Club

Plea for donations to help tackle period poverty

The public are being asked to help tackle period poverty by donating products to those in need.

East Sussex County Council's Library Service are now accepting donations of tampons, pads and reusable period products at all 17 of its libraries.

Since January unopened sanitary products have been made available for people to take discreetly, and without any proof of eligibility, from Eastbourne and Hastings libraries. Items are now also available from Newhaven and Hailsham libraries.

Cllr Claire Dowling, the county council's lead member for transport and environment, said: "Sadly there are women and girls still having to use makeshift products or miss work or school because they can't afford to buy period products. "We are delighted to be able to work with communities to ensure those people in need have a way to discreetly collect free products from library buildings and reduce disruption to their daily lives.

"While all libraries are accepting donations, items can only be currently be collected

by those in need from four of our libraries. We have already seen how many people this initiative can help, and we hope that with the generosity of people in East Sussex we will soon be able to make donated products available for people to collect from even more of our buildings."

Those collecting products are also provided with information on local health support as well as library services, and a website has been set up to share more information about period poverty.

To find out more about period poverty and the scheme, visit [news.eastsussex.gov.uk](https://www.news.eastsussex.gov.uk)

HELP US TO
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Donate new tampons, pads
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PROTECT YOUR POOCH

Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs **SECURE**, **IN SIGHT** and **SEARCHABLE**, and to help make pet theft a **SPECIFIC OFFENCE**.

Keep them:

- 1. SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)
- 2. IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)
- 3. SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT
A SPECIFIC OFFENCE

Find out more on all of the
above and more at
ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch



HOT WEATHER

FROM A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE



"I'm old and I'm tired, but most of all I'm just so very, very hot. Couldn't sleep last night because of the

heat but today it's so much worse. I haven't been out yet but that's okay. I don't want to. I just want to find somewhere cool to lay down. Here we go, the kitchen floor is cool. I'll just lay here for a while... bliss.

Oh no, what's this? My human says it's time for walkies. I love walkies but surely not today! She has thin clothes and flipflops on. I wish I could take this thick coat off and slip into something more comfortable but I can't.

We start walking. Ouch! My feet meet the hot tarmac of the pavement and it's burning! It hurts so much. I try to walk faster but I can't and I start to pant to try and cool myself down. We keep walking along the melting pavement. Every step burning my pads. I don't know how much more of this I can take. I'm in agony. Please take me home now. I didn't ask for walkies.

Then my human stops to chat to another human. They chat and chat for what seems like ages, all the time my sore burnt feet sticking to the tarmac. I look up at her with desperate eyes, still panting but now I feel tired too. I feel hot from the inside out, like my insides are cooking. I need to lay down for a while and close my eyes.



The next thing I remember is waking up in a beautiful field and it's cool and my feet no longer hurt. My human is not with me but it's okay. I know she didn't mean for this to happen."



*Thank you to **Rainbow Bridge Pet Cremations Ltd** for raising awareness of the dangers of walking pets in the heat of the day.*



Photo in the pavilion titled Ditchling Cricket Week 1946.

We can recognise Graham Martin-Turner, Ralph Smithson, Tim Killick and we think Bill Kenning

Ditchling Cricket Club Cricket Week

As the spectre of Covid and rain clouds of June recede, Ditchling Cricket Club turns its attention to preparing for the highlight of the season - Ditchling Cricket Week.

Officially commencing on Monday 9th August with a fixture against Chipstead Coulsdon & Walcountians C.C., the week has been extended in recent years to include the preceding Sunday with a day devoted to the club's thriving junior section.

This year on Tuesday the club welcomes Fletching C.C. for the first time during Cricket Week, a club with whom Ditchling has a longstanding friendship.

On Wednesday opposition is provided by the M.C.C. and this biannual fixture presents Ditchling's own M.C.C. members with an opportunity to dig out their branded socks, ties or underwear.

Thursday is President's Day when an inter club match will be staged with a structured format allowing fathers to pair with, or against, sons and daughters. No mothers have thus far stepped up to play but this will hopefully change. Last year's President's Day was a memorable occasion and promises to be so again.

Ditchling host the Royal Navy on Friday and have a concurrent away fixture against neighbours Streat C.C. whose home is one of the prettiest grounds in Sussex.

The Royal Navy play a tough brand of cricket but last year the hosts emerged victorious for the first time in the 14 years this military side have been coming to Ditchling.

Cricket Week fixtures start at 11:30 am, and a return to some normality this year should allow for the customary lunch and tea to sustain players through the 90 or so overs played each day.

The catering is excellent and extends to a marquee overlooking the ground. Sponsors of the marquee can invite up to 15 guests who are splendidly looked after. The volume generated by the sponsors' guests usually increases during the day as matches draw to a conclusion.

The marquee contributes significantly to the festival feel of this wonderful week that's endured and changed little for decades. The week boasts an enviable fixture list, and the quality of opposition and teams that match them ensures some quality cricket is on show. Refreshments are available from the pavilion throughout the day. Membership of the club is not necessary to take advantage of the bar and all are welcome to drop by to watch some cricket from the balcony or benches dotted around Ditchling's delightful cricket pitch.

Johnny Coburn DCC



DITCHLING RFC PRE-SEASON RUGBY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 12PM KO!



This is a fun day of **touch rugby** for Minis (4yrs+), Colts (15-18yrs) & Seniors 7s/10s ... and possibly contact, if allowed.

Friends, Families and Potential Players are all welcome, whatever their size, shape, sex or talent! Last year we had 60+ players from various clubs including Hurst College & Sussex Police. We have a pitchside Gazebo with a bbq, booze & soft drinks on tap. All games are properly refereed and there are washroom facilities in the nearby clubhouse.

www.ditchlingrugby.co.uk

Club contact Malc Pedder:
07711 097995

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