

Edition 5 • Quarterly

November 2018



# DITCHLING

## PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE



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# WELCOME TO THE DITCHLING

PARISH COUNCIL  
MAGAZINE



## Broadband In Ditchling

Under current UK regulation, no individual, business or property is entitled to a broadband connection.



However, the government confirmed in December 2017, in order to ensure that Britain's telecoms infrastructure is fit for the future and will continue to deliver the connectivity that consumers need in the digital age, universal high-speed broadband is to be delivered by a regulatory Universal Service Obligation (USO). This decision means that everyone in Britain will have the legal right to request minimum speeds of 10Mbps by 2020 regardless of where they live or work

There are three BT cabinets serving Ditchling, numbers 4, 9 and 18. Cabinet 18 in Lewes Road was enabled with super-fast broadband in 2015. Cabinet 9 in Boddingtons Lane and cabinet 4 in The Bull car park were enabled in June 2017.

Cabinet 4 soon became full as large numbers of local residents switched to superfast broadband, so no further broadband capacity was available. The Parish Council have been informed that further lines are now available at cabinet 4 and so households connected to this box wishing to switch can now apply for a migration. Superfast means a speed of 24Mbps+

You can check which cabinet serves your address using the BT Openreach FTCC checker.

<https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html>

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has signed a further contract with BT worth £4.3m the contact will deliver superfast broadband to an additional 7,220 premises. ➡

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Cover photo credit: (Gordon Bain)

*This magazine has been produced at no cost to the Parish Council.*

The project will commence in January 2019 and should complete by April 2020. Currently BT is surveying all premises in the county not able to access superfast broadband. Following the survey ESCC will know which premises will be reached and which will not and be in a position to consider options for those who will not be covered by the contract. East Sussex is projected to have 99% superfast coverage by the end of contract, compared to 96% today. The parish Council is aware that some residents in the south of the village and in Underhill Lane experience very low broadband speeds. Postcodes BN6 8XE and BN6 8XG and Underhill Lane, are included in the contract and surveys should be complete by December.

Full details are available at **[www.esussex.org](http://www.esussex.org)**, where you can find out if your property is included in the contract by entering your postcode.

If you would like to find out if broadband is available to you at all, try:

**<http://www.dslchecker.bt.com/adsl/adslchecker.welcome>**

For people in more remote access areas, Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) will be the initial stage of providing broadband coverage. Ultimately all households should benefit from Fibre to the Home (FTTH), but this is costly and a long way off. In the mean time BT has developed

G.Fast, which enables ultrafast broadband to be delivered over copper lines, without the disruption and expense of laying fibre all the way to a home or business.

The clerk to the Parish Council, Michelle Warner, has resigned to take up a position in a newly formed company as the finance director. The Parish Council have been working with the Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils to appoint a new clerk. The successful applicant will have to demonstrate drive, determination, administrative experience, IT, organisational & inter-personal skills, and have knowledge of local government at parish council level.

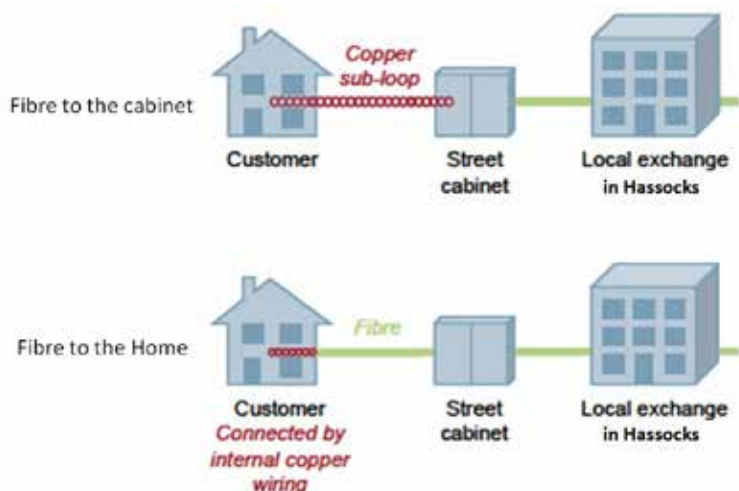
The advertisement closes on 1st November, and is mentioned here just in case there is no suitable applicant forthcoming.

We hope to be able to introduce you to the new clerk in the next edition.

The Parish Council has noted that production of the parish magazine is time consuming and there may be a willing volunteer in the community who could act as editor and assist in the production process-please let us know if you interested in this.

**Don McBeth**

Chair Ditchling Parish Council





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# Ditchling Burial Ground Memorials

**The Parish Council adopted a Memorial Policy on 21 Aug 2018.**

**This policy details how the council will inspect memorials in the burial ground and deal with any memorials that are found to be unsafe.**

For hundreds of years memorials have been erected on graves as a permanent reminder of those buried within.

It is often wrongly assumed that memorials are permanent structures, installed to the highest standards, and will last forever without any need for repair. The memorials at Ditchling burial ground do not belong to the Council; they remain the property of the Deed Holder to the Exclusive Rights of Burial. There are three groups of people who are responsible for memorial safety: the Parish Council who has a responsibility to its employees, contractors and visitors; monumental masons who are responsible for installing memorials to a high standard and the owner or successor in title has a responsibility to maintain the memorial. The Parish Council will be arranging for the inspection and testing of all memorials at the burial ground during the Spring of 2019. Notices will be displayed at the Burial Ground, the Village Notice Boards and on the parish Council website once a date is known. Contact details for anyone seeking further advice will be provided.

Records will be maintained of the inspection and results, noting in particular those memorials where action is necessary or likely to be necessary in future. The Council will advise existing memorial owners if their memorial is found to need remedial work. This will be carried out by writing to each of the memorial owners at the last known address recorded in the Register of Purchased Graves. A permanent notice displaying the Council's contact details will be placed at the entrance to Ditchling Burial Ground so that visitors may notify the Council of any problems in the Burial Ground.

A memorial will only be considered unsafe if it moves and will continue to move until it falls to the floor under an initial firm, but reasonable force to approximately 25 kg.



Where a memorial is found to be unstable, the Council will place a warning sign near to or on the unstable memorial, until such time as the repair may be arranged by the grave owner. Immediate action will only be taken if any memorial is found to be so unstable that there is an imminent risk of it toppling. This action may include restricting access or laying the memorial flat, whichever is deemed most appropriate. Staking may be carried out to temporarily stabilise an unsafe memorial.

Contact: [parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishoffice@ditchling-pc.gov.uk)

## HAVE YOUR SAY

This magazine relies on the community of Ditchling to provide articles for publication.

We now have several societies and groups making regular contributions and keeping everyone up-to-date with their activities, we hope that you enjoy reading about them.

The Ditchling Village Association Guide lists thirty-two separate clubs, societies and groups, operating within Ditchling – and we are sure that others in the community would enjoy learning more about these organisations, if you are seeking new members or fundraising then what better advertising?

If you are holding a festive event we would love to include the details in the next publication.

You do not need to be a part of a formal group to submit an article, we welcome contributions from individuals too. We recommend that an article should be approx. 500 words long plus one picture or 400 words with two pictures.

### Magazine delivery dates:

#### Early Feb

- deadline for submitting articles  
25 December

#### Early May

- deadline for submitting articles  
25 March

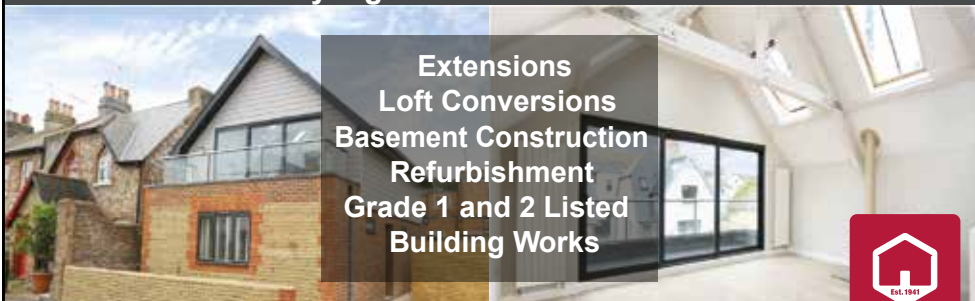
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## A fruitful year: news from the Horticultural Society

**A record number of visitors dropped in to the Ditchling Horticultural Society's Autumn Show on Sunday 9 September.**

It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and there was an excellent display of flowers, fruit and vegetables together with really impressive baked goods and preserves. Home-made teas and our traditional 'Muriel's Raffle' were added attractions, and the whole event went with a swing. Any gardener will tell you that 2018 has not been an easy year; so, after the struggles of a snowy spring and a positively Saharan summer, the Committee were particularly pleased to close this year's round of village shows with a such an enjoyable and successful day.

Congratulations go to all the exhibitors, and especially to Joyce Laing, who won the Davy Challenge Cup for Floral Art for the tenth year running. Other awards were as follows: The George Blackstone Trophy for the best trug of vegetables went to John Oughton, and the Wheelwright Challenge Cup for the best basket of fruit to Dick Morley, who also won the President's Challenge Cup for the highest number of points in Fruit and Vegetable sections. Susanna Parker received the Ralli Challenge Cup for the highest number of points in Cookery and Handicrafts through the year. In the children's sections, two awards are given each year for the highest number of

points in all three shows: Audrey van Stiphout took the Margaret Buckwell Trophy (7-11 yrs.) and Gus van Stiphout won the Children's Trophy (6 years and under).

Our flower and produce shows are the most visible face of the Ditchling Horticultural Society, but behind the scenes another important part of our work is looking after our allotment field at North End. Two awards given at the Autumn Show recognise the work of allotment holders. This year the Henry Waller Memorial Trophy for the best kept allotment was won by Bill Ormerod, and the Buckwell Trophy for the most improved allotment by Susie Phillips.

One of the charming old-fashioned features of Ditchling allotments is the spring-fed hand pump which has provided our water for many decades. However, the supply is not entirely reliable and in a dry season like this summer it can fail at the vital moment, so the Committee are now seriously considering installing mains water. Obviously, this would be a very large financial commitment for the Society. The pros and cons will be thoroughly aired at our upcoming AGM (Thursday 1 November at 7pm, Old Meeting House).

So, to all our many members in Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat – please come along and have your say!






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# Choose Life, Choose Running .....



**There seems to be a running explosion of late with many people either themselves being tempted to pound the pavements or at least knowing someone who regularly does.**

If you're not one of those people you might be wondering what all the fuss is about, what makes a sane person get out of their warm comfy bed early on a Saturday to join their local park run or do a Sunday morning hill session?

Well the latest scientific research suggests those crazy people, myself included, might be right to choose running rather than a lie-in. The health benefits, aside from the obvious of losing weight and keeping fit, seem to protect against a whole host of common modern illnesses and chronic disease. Studies have shown regular exercise (approx. 30 mins, five times per week) and running in particular, can help prevent obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, High blood pressure, stroke and some cancers. But not only that, it has become the preferred choice along with mindfulness, for many GP's in the UK when treating someone with mild to moderate depression or anxiety. In short it cannot only prolong your life but it can also make it happier.

So, knowing all of this you might think it's a no brainer, why doesn't everyone take up running, it's certainly been well documented as to the benefits and it's never been so easy with the explosion of Park Run, and the coach to 5k programs but in reality, loads of people choose not to. In my job as a UK Athletics Leader in Running Fitness it's really important to understand why people don't run as well as why they do so we can break down those barriers and make running accessible to everyone.

There are of course many reasons

that stop people running but range from "I feel too self conscious"; "I don't have time"; to "I'm not motivated enough to run regularly" and "I can't run for more than a minute" all of which are understandable but shouldn't stop anyone getting out there. Virtually anyone can run.

My advice would be, don't worry what anyone else thinks, this is a personal journey and all runners had to start somewhere. So schedule time in your week to run, just like you would a meeting or doctors appointment and just pull on a pair of joggers and a pair of trainers (they don't have to be expensive just make sure they fit). Joining a running club is great for increasing motivation and making running fun and you'll almost certainly find new friends. Be proud of your achievements no matter how small and lastly persevere, you will get there.

If you feel inspired and want some support, Together Runners, are a new local running club open to beginners as well as runners returning after a long break or injury. Meeting at 8am every Saturday at Ditchling Recreation Ground, the sessions are designed to take at your own pace no matter what your ability. Come and join us and start your running story. For more info or to book please call Juliet on **07710 344 101**.

By **Juliet Peacock**. UK Athletics Leader in Running Fitness



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# The Eagles Sleepout

On Friday the 29th of June year 5/6 Eagles slept out on their school field. They brought in their cardboard boxes at 8 in the evening, and left at 7 in the morning after a rough night on the field. Their goal was to raise money for the homeless charity, Centre point, and after a few weeks of planning, they took to the field and slept out in the cold night air.



22 children decided to do this activity. They made a village of cardboard boxes and sleeping equipment. They did many activities, including: a teddy bear competition; games like Uno, Dobble and running games. During the sleepout, the children experienced teamwork and perseverance in order to survive the night. Whilst in their sleeping bags, they gathered together and told scary stories.



As the night was getting cold, they saw many things like foxes on the field and shouting stars soaring through the night sky.

Many boxes fell down but they slept on through the night. When they woke up in the morning, they remembered how rough their night had been and realized that is what homeless people go through every day, and how lucky they were to live in a warm cosy house, with a roof over their heads, and a loving family by their side.

These incredible 22 children did all this to raise money for Centre point (a homeless charity). Centre point helps homeless people get a home, a job and to gather their lives back together. Maybe you can find a way to raise money too.

By **Rosie Nelson** and **Bethan Travers**.

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## Ditchling Pavilion - Pavilion Decking

**Users of the Recreation Ground will have noticed the extended new decking area at Ditchling Pavilion.**

An attractive wooden new seating/viewing area has been completed with steps leading down to the cricket pitch and direct access into the Pavilion.

The area was decorated with bunting and floral displays during cricket week in this the 200th anniversary of Ditchling Cricket Club.

These improvements enhance the Pavilion as a venue for all occasions and activities.

The Philipson Ditchling Trust provided much of the funding for the project. The Philipson Trust supports the provision of sporting facilities for the young people of the village of Ditchling, established in 1990, the charity derives from the will of the late Anthony Thirlwall Philipson.



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## The Spoil Bank Crucifix

As we remember the 100th anniversary of the armistice ending the First World War, we may also recall monuments to the conflict in Ditchling. The first is the War Memorial near the village green designed by sculptor Eric Gill and carved by Joseph Cribb. The second is not so well known. It's the Spoil Bank Crucifix, a carved wooden and painted cross, designed and erected by Eric Gill after a funding appeal in 1919. It was intended to commemorate the fallen of the First World War, and to reflect Gills distaste of his experience during his short spell in the RAF mechanical transport in 1918. The funding appeal was published in local papers as follows:-

An appeal

Help is wanted to put up a Crucifix on the spoil Bank, Ditchling Common, Sussex. Money has been given or promised by soldiers as a thanks offering for their safe return from the war. It is proposed to carve on the base of the crucifix the names of all catholic soldiers and sailors from the county of Sussex who gave their lives in the war.

The appeal was successful, as can be seen in letters such as the one below:-

*Dear Sir,*

*I have seen in the Brighton Herald, that you propose erecting a crucifix at Ditchling Common in memory of the catholic soldiers and sailors who gave their lives in the war. I enclose herewith a £1.00 note from my sister my daughter and myself in memory of my dear son Bernard Morgan, a marine operator who gave his life at sea, his ship being mined. I shall be grateful if his name can be remembered among the sailors. Only days before he gave his life, he cycled to Ditchling Common with his sister. I am sure he would love to think his name would be placed there among the Sussex men who made the great sacrifice in the war. He was only 18.*

*Yours Faithfully*

*Mabel Langdale Morgan*

Bernard Morgans name is now inscribed on the WW1 Mercantile Marine Memorial in Trinity Square Gardens, opposite the Tower of London:-

Charles Bernard Francis Morgan

Rank Wireless Operator

Unit S.S. "Poldown" (Cardiff)

Died 09-10-1917, age 18

Cause of death: Drowned, as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, or killed by mine

Note: Son of Mabel Langdale Morgan, of 86, St. George's Rd., Brighton, Sussex, and the late Charles Morgan. Born at Hammersmith. London.

The crucifix was eventually erected in November 1922 on the "spoil bank" on Ditchling Common at the corner of Folders lane. The spoil bank is a mound of chalk spoil adjacent to Folders Lane roundabout, dug out as a cutting on the Keymer Junction to Lewes line, opened in October 1847.



The crucifix was twenty six feet tall and originally stood overlooking the railway line. It stood on a plinth on the Spoil Bank until 1940,

when it was taken down, to stop its use as a marker to identify the railway tracks, for enemy aircraft attacks on London.

It was stored in the Guilds of St Joseph and St Dominic's workshops at the end of Folders Lane The arms and the upper horizontal section of the cross were lost, believed burnt for firewood. In 1955, what was left was sold by the guild to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation, and now hangs in the Chapel and Cultural Centre of the foundation, in Troy, Upper New York State.

The plinth for the crucifix still stands on the spoil bank, along with two sections of the upright supporting the cross, which are still where they were left in 1940, on the side of the bank.

The crucifix inspired Gills sister Enid, a noted poet, to write the following lines:-



There was a cross on Calvary  
And stark against the sky,  
There hung the Christ of all the world:  
Men Saw and passed it by.

There is a cross on the wide Downs  
High on a hill it stands:  
And men have carved and placed it there,  
With love inspired hands.

They left him dead on Calvary  
But he is living still:  
His cross against an English sky  
Christ, on a Sussex hill.

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Mr Trevor Leggo  
Chief Executive  
Sussex & Surrey Association of Local  
Councils  
(via email)  
6 September 2018

Dear Trevor

Further to our recent email correspondence, you will be aware that neighbourhood policing capacity in Sussex has been called into question recently after a Sunday newspaper article quoted official workforce figures which appeared to show Sussex Police had the lowest number of neighbourhood police officers per head of population in the country.

Unfortunately, this was not accurate and is, we understand, based on a number of neighbourhood officers not being included in the Home Office data. The Home Office itself recognises that definitions of what constitutes local or neighbourhood policing vary from force to force, making direct comparisons almost impossible.

Whilst the figures are complicated and confusing, the facts are simple. There are currently 227 Police Officers and 196 PCSOs (423 in total) carrying out neighbourhood policing, which means Sussex is placed 28 out of 42 forces in England and Wales, not the lowest as claimed. This equates to 13.5 neighbourhood police officers per 100k population.

It is completely understandable that people's confidence in Sussex Police may have been undermined by this article and subsequent media reports and I would therefore be grateful if you could share this letter with your Town and Parish Councils.

Firstly, I recognise that the police funding position is not unique and that other public sector organisations are having to make fundamental changes to the way services are delivered and make better use of resources. However, by focusing on improvements, efficiencies and working collaboratively,



Sussex remains a safe place and is in a good position to maximise the opportunities arising from the precept uplift and release of reserves.

Investing in local policing remains a key priority for me.

Currently, the main funding grant we receive from Government makes up 61% of our overall police force budget. As a result of the funding formula that is then applied, Sussex Police receives the 7th lowest total funding per head of population, which equates to a deficit of £36.2million compared to other police forces in England and Wales, equivalent to around 800 police officers on the beat.

The remainder of our funding comes from local households through the 'police precept' Element of their council tax. Despite the recent increases in precept, Sussex taxpayers still pay the 5th lowest amount in their local council tax for policing in England and Wales at £165.91 (Band D). In Sussex, 75% of council taxpayers are in Band D or below.

I have therefore been lobbying hard to secure the best possible funding arrangements for policing our county. The public want to see investment in more visible, local policing focusing on crimes like burglary and anti-social behaviour and they rightly want to feel safe on the roads, in public spaces and at night-time. They also want to see improvements in the Force's approach to public contact and more support to the 101 service.

Furthermore, my consultations, correspondence and meetings with the public, show that a majority of Sussex residents are prepared to support their police service through increased precept contributions.

My Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out our plan for significant investment in policing over the next four years: <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/media/2808/medium-term-financial-strategy-2017-21-revision-september-2017.pdf> ➡

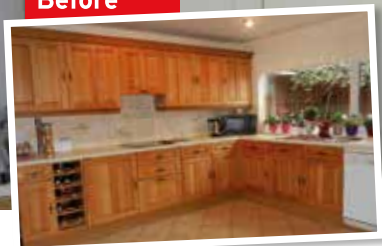
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Our changed financial position (achieved through the precept increases forecast in the MTFS plus the release of £17m in reserves) provides the resources for the Chief Constable to recruit more officers. As a result, by 2022, the force will have 200 more police officers than it currently employs and they will be focused in local policing.

You can read more about the Chief Constable's plans here:

[https://www.sussex.police.uk/media/8394/sussex-police-transformation-strategy\\_7-rev-web.pdf](https://www.sussex.police.uk/media/8394/sussex-police-transformation-strategy_7-rev-web.pdf)

PCCs and Chief Constables across England

and Wales are also now fully engaged in the government's next spending review.

I hope that this letter helps provide some context to the funding position for Sussex Police and I am always happy to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

**Katy Bourne**

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Katy Bourne  
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Tel: 01273 481561  
Email: [spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk)  
[www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk)

The Office of the  
Sussex Police &  
Crime Commissioner  
Sackville House  
Brooks Close, Lewes  
East Sussex, BN7 2FZ

## Broadband Update



**I get many emails from residents in Ditchling and Westmeston about the poor access to both mobile phone signal but more crucially broadband.**

The Government rollout of superfast broadband across the UK has meant connectivity for 95.39% of the UK. This has seen a massive boost to our economy as businesses thrive on the latest technology. Research has shown that superfast broadband has boosted the turnover of local businesses across the UK by £9 billion. This has also helped to create 49,000 jobs showing the clear benefits that superfast broadband gives to businesses.

Locally however there remains a number of rural areas that still can't access broadband. East Sussex County Council are on track to ensure 99% of properties are able to access superfast speeds. From January 2019 the County council are rolling out their third phase. The £4.3m contract will deliver a further 7,220 superfast premises, with build starting in January 2019 and project completion provisionally scheduled for Q4 (end March 2020). The contract is unique in the whole of the UK in that it requires the supplier to survey all premises in the county as

yet unable to access superfast broadband up front (i.e. in advance of build). This means that, after surveys, we will absolutely know which premises will be reached and identify those that contract 3 will not cover. We will then be in a position to think about options for those not reached.

The Government recognise that even after all this investment some rural areas, will still not have the speeds that modern day communications require and have announced further measures to improve coverage to make sure that those in hard to reach, particularly rural areas, are not missing out on the opportunities that superfast broadband provides. More than 1 million extra UK homes and businesses estimated to gain access to superfast speeds over the next few years, taking superfast coverage to 98% of the nation. I am pushing that with the new roll out, areas not yet connected are dealt with first so that we have a 100% record shortly. If you have questions about your broadband availability do not hesitate to contact me:

**[maria.caulfield.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:maria.caulfield.mp@parliament.uk)**

With all good wishes

Maria

**Maria Caulfield MP**

Member of Parliament for Lewes  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



## The Three Villages Neighbourhood Lunch

**This is held at the Barn on the Green and was set up by Sue Marshall, Catharine Robinson and Hannah Loram. The idea is to bring people together in the community over a delicious hot home cooked meal**

Our aim is to provide a tasty and nutritious meal whilst giving local people in the community a chance to meet new friends and reacquaint themselves with other faces around Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston. We are lucky enough to have a fantastic team of volunteers who help set up, serve, clear away and most importantly chat to the guests who come.

We started in May this year and we are growing each month! Our lunch is held every 6 weeks or so and at £7 for a 2-course meal, glass of wine, tea and coffee offers excellent value for money. Should you wish to join us at the next lunch then please contact Hannah Loram on **07799 608803** or: **hannyhaha@hotmail.com**.

Posters are up in the Post Office advertising when the lunches are to be held. This Christmas we are offering a slightly different format which has not been confirmed as this went to print. Please look out for posters around the village or contact Hannah for more details!



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## Ditchling History Project



**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](http://www.ditchlinghistoryproject.org)**

### Project News

Every second Wednesday of the month we hold an open afternoon in The White Horse from 2.0 to 5.0pm when you are welcome to share with us information you have on the history of our village – families, buildings, arts, archaeology – or ask us questions. If we don't have ready answers we can consult our extensive database or undertake research. These sessions are proving popular. A resident recently came with a fascinating story. In a chance encounter he had met a man who told him that he had come to England aged two, with his parents, in 1939 as a stateless Jewish refugee from Germany. His parents had found jobs in Salisbury but he had been placed in a children's home in Ditchling. Coming here had not been coincidental. His aunt had been sponsored to come here by Mrs Beryl McIntyre, a Ditchling resident, and at his aunt's request she had, later, sponsored his entry. Now, nearly eighty years later, he wants to know whether the house he had come to still exists

and whether we know anything about Mrs McIntyre. We have been able to answer many of his questions and indeed add to the story of how Jewish refugees coming to this area fared. More of this in future editions.

### Do you know?

#### Then

Christmas is coming and maybe you're thinking of buying a present for a loved one from the goldsmiths and jewellers on the crossroads. But if you were living on this site a hundred and fifty years ago you wouldn't have felt much Christmas cheer because this was the site of the workhouse. By 1776 a parliamentary report listed a workhouse here with accommodation for twenty residents and in 1835 it became one of three workhouses serving a number of parishes under the aegis of the newly-formed Chailey Poor Law Union.

The population falling within the scope of the Union then was 6,977 with an average annual poor-rate expenditure of £9,576 or £1.7s.5d per head.

The Ditchling workhouse was designated specifically for 'the aged'.



Agriculture provided the principal employment in the area. In the summer there was full employment but, in the winter, up to 25 agricultural labourers could be out of work.

The daily wage in 1834 in summer was 2s 6p and in winter, for the lucky ones who found work, 2s. Women would be even luckier to find year-round work. A continuously employed labourer's family might earn a maximum annual income of £37. 12s. Workhouse occupancy and dependency on the Poor Law varied with the seasons.

By 1871 eighteen males and four females were living here with others supported in the community. The Overseer of the Poor provided three shillings per week, per occupant, for food and provisions which supposedly paid for a diet of meat five days a week; suet pudding on Saturdays; and Broth on Mondays!

In 1873 the three workhouses were closed and replaced by a single workhouse in East Chiltonington. Not before time, because in 1871 a complaint was made about the Ditchling workhouse's 'excessively dirty state'. Not surprising then that some residents subsequently remembered it 'for the expressive grumbling of the inmates'.

Most of the building was subsequently demolished and the materials disposed of so the road could be widened. But the door to the workhouse was preserved and relocated.



Today it is the front door of 'Tudor Close' the terraced cottage a hundred yards away.

### Now

Mr Lindfield the butcher paid £163. 9s. 2d for the old building and site, replaced it with a new building and opened Lindfield's, a butcher's shop with flats above. This accounts for the attractive pierced widow frames which provided the ventilation the shop needed.

Behind it, in South St, was the abattoir. In 1937 it became the offices of the Ditchling Press after Hilary Pepler left the Guild and moved his re-named press into the centre of the village.

And then, briefly, it became a high-class restaurant. Today it is the gallery and workshop of Pruden & Smith, Goldsmiths & Jewellers, co-owned, with Rebecca Smith, by Anton Pruden grandson of Dunstan Pruden (1906 - 1974) the renowned silversmith of the former Guild of St Joseph & St Dominic.

He joined the Guild in 1934 and taught at Brighton College of Art for thirty years. His work was characterised by truthfulness to his materials, a high quality of finish and a meticulous attention to detail. His grandson follows in this tradition producing high quality hand crafted 'bespoke unusual jewellery' and other ware.

The basement workshop, which was part of the original workhouse, has recently been extended and re-equipped.



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# Grants Policy

Grant Applications to be received by 1st December, 2018  
Ditchling Parish Council  
Grants and Donations Policy  
Adopted 25/9/18  
Review 25/9/20

## Policy Statement

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

## Application Procedure

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

- A completed application form,
- Copies of their last year- end audited accounts,
- The number, or percentage, of members that belong to the organisation and that live within the Ditchling Parish Area,
- Details of any restrictions placed on who can use/access their services,
- Confirmation (on the application form) that it concurs with the Parish Council's Equal Opportunities Policy, or give details of their own policy,
- Organisations will normally be expected to have clear written aims and objectives, a written constitution, and a separate bank account controlled by more than one signatory.

## Assessment Procedure

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

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

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

In the event that the grants budget is not fully taken up in December, the balance will remain in the Council's budget and organisations will be able to make applications at any time in the financial year. Details of remaining funds will be published on the Councils website and in the Parish Council Magazine.

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

## Information for Applicants

- 1) It is a condition of any grant application that the group or project must bring direct benefit to the residents of Ditchling. All applications must clearly demonstrate how this will be achieved. The scheme provides start-up awards for new as well as grants for existing organisations. Applications will be considered for day-to-day running expenses and individual projects.
  - 2) Grant application forms are available from the Clerk or from the Parish Council website. Application forms must be submitted along with the latest set of the group's audited accounts. It is important that all questions on the application form are fully answered and that any appropriate additional information, which supports an application, is provided.
  - 3) Grant applications cannot be made retrospectively.
  - 4) Applications WILL NOT be considered from:
    1. Organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party or to discriminate on the grounds of race or religion.
    2. Private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.
    3. "Upward funders", i.e. local groups whose fund raising is sent to their central HQ for redistribution.
    4. National Charities.
  - 5) Applications will not normally be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national "umbrella" or "parent" organisations, unless funds are not available from their national bodies, or the funds available are inadequate for a specified project.
  - 6) Applications from religious groups will be considered where a clear benefit to the wider community can be demonstrated irrespective of their religious beliefs. Compliance with this requirement will need to be demonstrated throughout the project.
  - 7) Schools will only be grant aided for environmental purposes or if, in the opinion of Ditchling Parish Council, their application is for the benefit of the wider community.
  - 8) Applications from education, health or social service establishments will be considered where the organisation can demonstrate that it is working in partnership with other groups and where there are benefits to the wider community within the parish.
  - 9) It must be understood that any grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded unless the written approval of Ditchling Parish Council has been obtained in advance for a change in use of the grant monies, and that any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to Ditchling Parish Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded. The Parish Council may request proof of expenditure.
  - 10) Ditchling Parish Council reserves the right to request any further information that it deems necessary to assist the decision-making process. Account will be taken of the amount and frequency of previous awards and of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities
  - 11) Ongoing commitments to award grants or subsidies in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year.
  - 12) The size of any grant awarded is at the sole discretion of Ditchling Parish Council.
  - 13) Ditchling Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application
- Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation in any one financial year ➡

## Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

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

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

Notwithstanding the above the Council will look more favourably at applications which include some complimentary or match funding. This could come from the applicant organisation itself or from a third party such as a national or local charity, professional body, government organisation, commercial sponsor or public or private donations.

Applications which require the Parish Council to provide all or nearly all the funding for a scheme will therefore be viewed less favourably.

---

## NHS Retirement Fellowship – Mid Sussex Branch

**The NHS Retirement Fellowship is a registered national charity which was formed in 1978.**

There are approximately 150 branches throughout the United Kingdom and membership is in the region of 10,000 people.

The Mid Sussex Branch was formed in 1988 and enjoys a membership of approximately 80. It is recognised and supported by the Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust.

Membership (which currently costs £25 per annum) is open to anyone (including spouses or partners) who has worked in either the NHS or Social Care at any time.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month between 10.15am and 12 Noon at Franklands Village Hall in Haywards Heath. Whilst the majority of people live in Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint some also come from areas including Handcross, Horsham and Crawley.

Our aim is to provide social and educational support for retired NHS and Social Care staff in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We have

excellent speakers each month with a wide variety of interesting subjects.

Everyone is encouraged to make suggestions to influence and improve the way in which the branch is run. Refreshments are provided at each meeting and there are raffles and produce stalls.

We arrange outings (usually by coach) to places of interest and an annual lunch is enjoyed in December.

An important aspect of our branch relates to the role of Welfare Officers who offer assistance when it is needed to members who may be lonely, unwell or bereaved.

New members are always very welcome. If you think you may be interested in coming along either as a guest or as a prospective member please contact:

David Goodger (Chairman) on:

**01444 483480** or email:

**goodger\_david@hotmail.co.uk** or

Margaret Stevens (Membership Secretary on:

**01444 455727** or email:

**margaretstevens01@btinternet.com**

We would love to hear from you.

## A success story for the FCS

**A generous donation from the Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston Footpath Conservation Society means a local path that has been impassable for some time has been re-opened.**



The path, at the junction of The Dymocks and East Gardens, has been impassable due to deep mud and flooding, even in summer, despite work by The Monday Group, such as installing a causeway.

Now it has a base of hardcore, piped drainage, a defined ditch and a new surface. The society has lobbied long and hard for the work.

East Sussex County Council, which is responsible for rights of way, co-funded the work, which was challenging because of the wet conditions and underground springs. Access to this narrow site was constricted and the footpath society and ESCC are grateful to the local householder for allowing vehicles to park there during the works. ESCC says: 'The footpath society's contribution went a long way to making this tricky job possible and I hope local walkers will enjoy the new path.'

The Footpath Conservation Society and the associated Monday Group volunteers are solely financed by membership and fundraising. To join the footpath society, email membership secretary [Edwina.rowling@gmail.com](mailto:Edwina.rowling@gmail.com). For information on The Monday Group, see [www.mondaygroup.org](http://www.mondaygroup.org).

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# 1st Ditchling Scout Group



**The first item to tell you all is we are going to be running a fundraising Christmas Card delivery service within the village boundaries with two deliveries in December.**

Please look out for the posters, flyers and social media advertising which will give you further details. We are asking a donation of 25p/card so you can save on your local Christmas postage costs and Support your local Scout Group at the same time. The post box will be in the Ditchling village post office at the end of November.



We are desperately short of Adult Leaders. If you or anyone you know would be willing to help us to continue to give our local young people the opportunity to experience exciting, fun new activities with their friends please contact me, Sue Waring at:  
**[swaring001@gmail.com](mailto:swaring001@gmail.com)**

As we do not meet over the summer I thought I'd tell you some of the other activities the Young People enjoyed over the Summer term.

The Cubs enjoyed an evening of water sports at Ardingly Reservoir and visited Branching Out, an outdoor activity centre where they tested their courage on giant rope swings in the trees. They also enjoyed a bike ride along the top of the downs.



12 Beavers attended the District Fun Day which was open to all sections at Broadstone Warren. A fantastic opportunity for them to try out many new and exciting activities. To name but a few activities the children enjoyed: grass sledging, crate stacking, climbing wall, abseiling, sumo wrestling, pole joust and archery. The day was brought to a close around a campfire complete with campfire songs. A final fair photo to finish as such a tremendous amount of effort went in to our float.



## Shirley & Ray Chatfield



**01273 842599**

**ray.chatfield1@btinternet.com**

**Ditchling Village Litter Warden.**

Ray Chatfield (retired in 1992) has lived in Shirleys for more than 35 years and has been volunteer Litter Warden for longer than he or Mary Holman can remember - probably more than 20 years after Ray responded to Mary's advertisement in the Post Office.

The remit is ..."the centre of the village and the Village Hall car park" which was agreed to be the top of the High Street; the bottom of South Street; around the War Memorial and the Lewes Road in front of the Village Hall - up to the Twitten. Weekly and on special occasions. "Litter" was not defined so common sense has to be applied for items such as dubious soaking wet blankets dumped

in the car park, huge cardboard boxes in the High Street, Supermarket Trolley (Morrisons) in the High Street - (disappeared whilst being chased up) and two £20 notes evidently blown into the Car Park hedge - donated to charity.

Many full wine and spirit bottles - mostly in the car park - emptied and carefully disposed as are broken wing mirrors in the High Street - although fingers not normally applied.

Chewing gum on pavements is a problem.

By agreement with Dominic the smart new surfaced Bull car park is included in the "pick up" area as is the Health Centre garden and the Mid Sussex Golf Club car park as our volunteer is long time member and has the benefit of a yellow top and Litter Picking Tongs.

One of the frustrations of an experienced litter warden is to go shopping in the "Orchards" shopping centre and car park and to have to leave so much trash lying about.

General gossip - one exciting event in the Village Hall car park - when a lady was boxed in by another car parked in an unmarked area was when our volunteer shunted the boxed incur to and fro numerous times with triumphant result - on his own insurance of course.

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## Notcutts new display garden is unveiled



**A new display garden has been unveiled at Notcutts Garden Pride garden centre in Common Lane Ditchling, which offers creative planting and landscaping ideas to local gardeners.**

Caroline Notcutt, vice chairman and great granddaughter of Notcutt's Garden Centre's founder, Roger Crompton Notcutt, cut the ribbon to officially opening the garden.

The garden is now a permanent display at the Ditchling garden centre, intended to inspire gardeners with creative planting ideas and landscaping themes that can be recreated at home.

Tranquility is the theme of the display garden, which has a tall water fountain, contemporary pergola and a shaded seating area, under a canopy of Clematis.

Over 200 plants and 30 different varieties feature in the garden, which was designed and built by Notcutts head of visual merchandising Marco de Jongh, plant buyer Stuart Andrews and garden Project manager Luke Rawson.

Gary West the garden centre manager said at the opening, "It is a wonderful addition to our garden centre, and we hope customers will enjoy visiting the garden as it grows and changes throughout the seasons."



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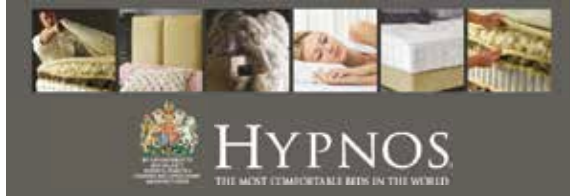
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# Lewes District Council & SDNPA - news update



**Councillor Tom Jones**  
**The Lewes District Local Plan**  
**Part 1: Joint Core Strategy**  
**(JCS)**

The Lewes District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted by the Council in 2016 and provides the planning policy framework to guide Strategic growth across the district to 2030. The Draft Lewes District Plan Part 2 builds upon the strategic policies of the JCS by allocating smaller-scale sites for development and providing the detailed development management policies to inform planning decisions. It will cover the period to 2030 and replace the majority of the 'saved' policies of the 2003 Local Plan. The Local Plan Part 2 only applies to the area covered by the Lewes District Planning Authority and not the area within the South Downs National Park.

The timetable for the remaining stages of the plan process is as follows:

*Pre-submission Plan Consultation*  
(Reg 19) - Sept/Nov 2018

*Formal submission to the Secretary of State*  
(Reg 22) January 2019

*Examination in Public - Spring/Summer 2019*  
*Adoption - Autumn 2019*

The Pre-Submission Local Plan is consistent with the vision, objectives and strategic policies of the JCS and conforms with the National Planning Policy Framework.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Points

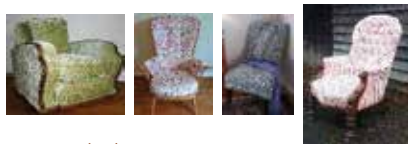
The vast majority of vehicles in use on the roads of Lewes District today currently run on petrol or diesel. However, these fuels produce emissions which are known to impact on human health and the environment.

For these reasons the UK government are driving a transition to more efficient, lower polluting technologies such as Electric Vehicles (EVs). Lewes District Council's Cabinet is looking to approve for the 'Electric Vehicle Charging Points Technical Guidance Note' to be published on its web site and made a public document.

By the time Issue 6 of the Parish Magazine is published we Cabinet will have decided on the way forward.

The Technical Note aims to provide developers and the public with guidance in relation to how Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) infrastructure should be provided within the development in the District (outside of the South downs national park).

## Upholstery



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# Neighbourhood Development Plan proposals are taking shape for the Ditchling Recreation Ground



**When I reported on the Parish Council's plans for the recreation ground in the 1st Edition of the Magazine in November last year, we were waiting for a date for the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.**

and, of course, we will need to have regard to the peace and tranquillity of the burial ground and its visitors.

## **We need your views**

We will be presenting a draft masterplan at 2 Public Consultation days in 2019. The first will be on Saturday 12th January in the Ditchling Village Hall between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm and Saturday 19th January at The Pavilion on the Recreation Ground between 9.00 and 1.00 pm although we might be able to extend this to 6.00 pm. Please do make a note of these dates in your calendars.

As we now know, the Referendum result of April 2018 was overwhelmingly in favour of the Plan – a vote reflected across the 3 Beacon Parishes of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston. Since then the Council has been working with a local landscape architect Andrew Ramsey to turn the Plan's proposals for the grounds into action.

## **A masterplan approach**

Our priority has been to produce an overall plan for the recreation ground – a master plan – in which we want to include all those ideas, both conventional and more “whacky”, which were suggested by local residents and the community focus group during the Neighbourhood Plan's consultation period.

Some of these might not get off the drawing board but we believe that now is the ideal time to consider all the options which our local community will wish to see happen over the next 15 years or even longer.

Naturally, all these options will need to fully respect the existing users of the recreation grounds who bring so much to our community – the cricket, football, stoolball, archery and Pavilion clubs as well as those of us who use the grounds for casual recreation including walkers, runners and those just wanting to take in the views of the wonderful landscape (perhaps whilst enjoying a glass of wine on the newly constructed decking by the Pavilion)

At these consultation days there will be a whole range of material presented. This will include results from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation and policy statements from the Plan which will help provide the context for the masterplan proposals. The proposals themselves will be fully displayed with maps, photographs, research findings etc.

There will of course be opportunities to discuss the Council's proposals with our landscape advisor Andrew Ramsey, my fellow councillors and me. We can explain in more detail the thinking behind the proposals and will listen and try and take on board your responses – both positive and negative – as well as listening to your own ideas which may well have not been picked up during the earlier consultations. There will be feedback forms available on the two days which we will encourage all those attending to complete and, for those not able to make it, we will be publishing the proposals in next February's Parish Magazine. For those people, there will be an opportunity to give feedback via the Council's web site.

The Council, with our colleagues in Streat and Westmeston, will look at all your responses and we will provide a full report on the results in late February 2019 with a summary in the May Edition of the Parish Magazine.

## The Play Area

As I stated in last November's Magazine, our earlier consultations suggested that an expansion and upgrading of the children's play area and improving its accessibility were a major priority, firstly because the equipment does not properly cater for the needs of older children and secondly because much of the existing equipment is quite old and will need replacing.

The Council therefore decided to develop its plans for this area in more detail. With the support of our Parish Clerk Michelle, Councillor Sam Keeley and I have spent some time looking at play equipment in nearby local towns and villages to see what might work for our play area and of course we also have the views of local parents' resulting from Louise Evatt's excellent research in 2017 (I referred to this last November).

We also received suggestions that more adult equipment – an outside gym - should be provided for older residents who want to keep fit and supple in their more advanced years! For legal reasons this would need to be placed outside the expanded play area.

## What about costs and programme?

As always, there is the basic question "Where is the money coming from?" - not just to implement the play area proposals but the masterplan as a whole.

Firstly, I don't think anyone is expecting all of the proposals, assuming they have your support, to be delivered in the next year or so. Some, like the play area, can be started soon and in the last 2 years the Parish Council have put aside around £80,000 to cover improvements which we will try and match with funds from other bodies such as Awards for All.

Other proposals will have much longer lead times because of the need for substantial funding, feasibility studies, new infrastructure, planning permissions or whatever. For example, as I know from past experience, extracting essential funds from national organisations such as Sport England can take many months of hard slog!

We are therefore looking at a phased delivery of the masterplan but again I would like to stress that none of the proposals can happen without knowing that they have your support.

Hence the critical importance of the public consultations in early 2019. Once we have your views, we can then adapt the masterplan accordingly and then start to deliver the projects and proposals you want. That's when the hard work really starts!

## Phil Smith

Chair

Grounds & Burial Committee

## Foot Health Practitioner

Carol Geere MAFHP MCFHP



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# PLAYER RECRUITMENT

**DITCHLING RFC** are looking for players of all standards to help develop our squad following our recent success on the pitch. If you'd like the opportunity to showcase your skills at either 1st or 2nd XV level, call/text Malc Pedder on **07711 097995**.

Our structured training sessions take place on Wednesday evenings 7:00pm – 8:30pm and we are inviting players of all standards to attend a taster session under the direction of our fully qualified coaching staff.

## INTERESTED?

**Malc Pedder 07711 097995**  
**malcolmpedder@hotmail.co.uk**

Ditchling RFC, Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8RD  
[www.pitchero.com/clubs/ditchlingrugbyclub](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/ditchlingrugbyclub)



## DITCHLING RFC 1st XV & 2nd XV/Mid Sussex Barbarians Fixtures - 2018/19

DATE	1ST XV	VENUE	COMPETITION	MID SUSSEX BABAS	VENUE	COMPETITION
8 SEPT	Seaford	A	League			
15 SEPT	Crawley	H	League	Eastbourne 2	H	League
22 SEPT	Burgess Hill	A	League			
29 SEPT	Eastbourne	A	League	Seaford 2	A	League
6 OCT	Uckfield	H	League	Crowborough 3	H	League
13 OCT	Steyning	H	Cup	Brighton 4	H	Cup
20 OCT	Plumpton	A	League	Uckfield 2	H	League
27 OCT	East Grinstead	H	League	East Grinstead 3	H	League
3 NOV	Crawley	A	League	Eastbourne 2	A	League
(Friday 2nd Nov Evening KO)						
10 NOV						
17 NOV	Burgess Hill	H	League			
24 NOV						
1 DEC	Eastbourne	H	League	Seaford 2	H	League
8 DEC	Uckfield	A	League	Crowborough 3	A	League
15 DEC	Plumpton	H	League	Uckfield 2	A	League
22 DEC						
29 DEC						
5 JAN	East Grinstead	A	League	East Grinstead 3	A	League
12 JAN	Seaford	H	League			
19 JAN	Cup Quarter Final			Cup Quarter Final		
26 JAN	Play Off 1		League	Play Off 1		League
2 FEB	Cup Semi Final			Cup Semi Final		
9 FEB	Play Off 2		League	Play Off 2		League
16 FEB	Play Off 3		League	Play Off 3		League
23 FEB						
2 MAR	Play Off 4		League	Play Off 4		League
9 MAR	Play Off 5		League	Play Off 5		League
16 MAR						
23 MAR	Play Off 6		League	Play Off 6		League
30 MAR				Cup Final		
13 APR	Cup Final					



## \*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Nursery



**We are pleased to announce that our new Nursery is open and ready to welcome you and your child.**

At Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE Nursery, we are committed to offering quality care and provision for every child. We aim to help each child learn and develop to their full potential within a safe, stimulating and caring environment. We offer children a fun-filled time where friendships can flourish and where the children are happy and contented.

Learning takes place within child-centred, play-based activities, where continuous provision (both indoors and outside) offers freedom of choice, individual expression, exploration and discovery. Creative thinking and emotional development of children is the basis of all that we do.

Having our own nursery on-site offers children seamless transition into Reception, should you apply for a place in school.

We make regular use of our school facilities which include: playing field, garden, school hall, pond, quiet garden, library and forest school.

Our children explore a rich and stimulating curriculum based on the seven areas of learning: Personal, Social & Emotional Development, Communication & Language; Physical Development; Literacy Development; Mathematical Development; Understanding the World; Expressive Arts & Design.

Parents can access 15 and 30 hours' government funding for 2-4 year olds. More information is available at:

**<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>**

Our current opening times are:  
Monday and Tuesday 08:50-15:05  
Wednesday to Friday 08:50-12:45

We are hoping to offer extended hours in the near future.

Please visit our website:

**<https://ditchlingprimary.co.uk/esussex/primary/ditchling>** or make an appointment to come and see us.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family during our opening hours to look around. Please contact the school office on **01273 844130** to make an appointment.

### PLEASE SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

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## Junior football in Ditchling



**Plumpton Athletic Junior Football Club has kicked off the 2018/19 season and we are thrilled to be running some of our small training sessions and matches for our younger age groups this year at Ditchling Recreation Ground.**

Having grown over the past five seasons, we now offer junior football from school Reception age (4- and 5-year-olds) up to Year 9 (13- and 14-year-olds). We have league teams playing matches in the Mid Sussex Youth & Minor League (the junior version of the league Ditchling FC plays in), Horsham & District Youth Football League and Crowborough & District Junior Football League.

Many of our players (and coaches) come from the Ditchling area and have formed friendships with children from neighbouring villages which have gone beyond the football pitch. As a club, we have an ethos of inclusivity and respect for everyone who wants to join us to play football and have some fun.

We were very proud to be awarded the Mid Sussex Youth & Minor League's overall Respect Award for the 2016/2017 season, which is given to the club whose players, coaches and supporters were awarded the highest marks by their opposition across the season for friendliness and respect

At the beginning of last season, the club achieved FA Charter Standard status, which recognises the club is run to FA quality

standards both on and off the pitch. Our coaches all hold the FA's Safeguarding and First Aid qualifications, while several are also pursuing their FA coaching badges.

We are also winning silverware on the field. Last season, our Under 10s team won the Horsham & District Youth Football League's 3G Cup while our Under 7s team won the Mid Sussex Youth & Minor League's Winter Plate. Several of our players have been selected by Premier League teams to train in their academy sides, and one day maybe some of them will don a far more famous blue and white striped shirt at a stadium on the other side of the South Downs.

But the most important thing is we have fun and get fit through our football. If you would like to come down and see the young generation of footballers in action on Saturday mornings we would love to see you.

Finally, we must offer our huge thanks to the Parish Council, Ditchling FC and the cricket club for letting us use the Recreation Ground and supporting local youth football.



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