

ISFIELD PARISH NEWSLETTER

Editors Note:

It's been a rather wet and windy Autumn but brightened and warmed by the ILHBS Bonfire night—another successful year and well done to the Bonfire Society.

Next on the festive calendar is Christmas as everyone frantically gets busy buying presents, food and readying homes for family and friends to visit. It is often a time to remember the year gone by and perhaps people who can't be with you at this time of year, which leads me to mention the Village Christmas tree. This will be going up near the village sign on December 1st, weather permitting, and thanks to Kate & Ian Burgess for donating it. from their garden. Last year people put some decorations on the tree, which we have kept and will put back, but feel free to add others or to tie a ribbon on the tree—this could just be for decoration, happy times or in memory of someone? If you would like one tied near the top of the tree then let me know before 1st December - contact Bev on the details below.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2020,

Bev Ashford: ashfordbja@gmail.com

750456

Jason Kennedy: jtobkennedy@gmail.com

750769

ISFIELD FROST FAIR

SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2019 - ISFIELD VILLAGE HALL

*Exciting stalls- Raffle- Teas/Homemade cakes
Entry Free of Charge (11am to 4pm) Plenty of parking*

Come and do some Christmas shopping at Isfield's Frost Fair which is a lovely village social occasion the start of the festive season. This year's fair has a variety of local art and craft stalls to visit, wonderful Christmas fare, and exciting new stalls as well as regular favourites e.g. aromatherapy soaps and creams, botanical prints, cards, trays etc., advent calendars and Christmas wrapping, party bags, restored antique writing slopes & boxes, ceramics, hand stitched and printed homeware, soft toys and knitted toys, textiles, plants, painted and printed artworks, jewellery and accessories, brooches, memo boards, Christmas wreaths & table centres, Christmas foods, cheeses, chutneys, etc. There's plenty of parking, teas and cakes on offer, and a raffle. **Entrance is free of charge.**

ISFIELD & LITTLE HORSTED BONFIRE SOCIETY

QUIZ

Saturday 30th November

Isfield Village Hall—Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Teams of 8 & a light supper is included in the price.

Tickets available from the Laughing Fish— £8 each or table of 8 for £60

Get you tickets soon as previously this has been a sell-out.

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES

ISFIELD VILLAGE HALL

As we come towards the end of the year, I am glad to be able to report that *Isfield's Premier Entertainment Venue* has had another successful year and remains in a secure financial position.

The Hall continues to be in regular use, hosting parties, clubs and classes. If you would like to book this historic building for your own event, please contact Wendy Osborne at isfieldvillagehall@gmail.com or book online at www.isfieldvillagehall.org.uk.

Sadly, the Isfield Wednesday Club (formerly Forget-me-Nots) has disbanded. However, they have kindly donated the sum of £450 to the Village Hall as part of the disbursement of the assets remaining after closure. On behalf of the Committee and users of the Village Hall I would like to express our grateful thanks for this very generous donation.

You will have seen that the lovely horse chestnut tree in the car park has gone. The decision to sell the tree was a difficult one for the committee to make. In the summer a large branch broke off the tree but fortunately no-one was in the vicinity and no cars were parked underneath at the time. Following this incident, two tree surgeons were asked to make an inspection. Unfortunately, both were of the opinion that it was suffering from bleeding canker and in a dangerous condition. For health and safety reasons, both agreed that felling would be the best option.

Therefore, the committee, mindful of its responsibility to users of the Village Hall, reluctantly took the decision to fell the tree.

However, I am pleased to report that a member of the committee has kindly agreed to donate another tree, which will be planted at the appropriate time.

On the 6th December we are hosting the Friends of Isfield Village Hall Christmas Party. Friends are an essential part of our fundraising initiatives and we thank all the Friends for their generosity.

Keith Taylor
Chairman

ISFIELD WINE CLUB

£5, £10, £20. Isfield Wine Club samples wines at all these prices, so come along to one of our meetings and try wines from all over the world.

We meet in the Village Hall on the third Friday of alternative months; the cost is just £10 payable on the evening and includes at least eight wines, nibbles, and tasting notes giving information about the wines we are tasting.

This is a Wine Club like no other! No pretentious language like 'a cheeky little wine' or 'travels well'. Just sensible information and a fun evening with friends and wine.

Dates for 2020:

17th January, 20th March, 15th May, 17th July, 18th September, 20th November.

To book your place, email
keith-taylor53@hotmail.co.uk.

Keith Taylor

UCKFIELD SINGERS

The Uckfield Singers Community Choir will be performing a Christmas Concert on Saturday 7th December, at 7:30 pm in the Uckfield Civic Centre. The programme will include seasonal music and carols, with guest performances by local musicians. There will be audience participation carols too, which are always popular.

Tickets are £8 each, available from Gale & Woolgar Jewellers, High St, Uckfield, or on-line, please visit our website Home page at www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk

Proceeds from the raffle will be supporting St. Wilfred's Hospice in Eastbourne.

We are a choir of about 80 local men and ladies of mixed abilities. Whilst we work hard towards our 2 concerts each year, our rehearsals are usually relaxed and fun, and we have social events too.

For more information about the choir, and how to join, please visit our website at www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk

Sarah Brooks

ISFIELD ART GROUP

The Isfield Art Group met again this term to explore a range of painting techniques including 'layering', which involves building up an image through the application of overlapping thin layers of paint and 'impasto' which is the application by brush or pallet knife of thick paint layers. We used a range of mediums to create images from various still life arrangements.

Next January to April 2020 term we are looking at the beginnings of abstraction through exercises in cubism and the revolutionary colour experiments of the Fauvists.

We are currently at full strength with 14 members and a growing waiting list. I would be happy to consider setting up another group at the Village Hall if there are enough students. All abilities from absolute beginners to seasoned professionals welcome.

The cost is £85 per person per term which includes 6 weeks of 2 and a half hour tutored sessions and 6 weeks of 2hour untutored sessions. If you are interested in joining a new Isfield Art Group please contact me by email andrewfitchett@btinternet.com or phone 01825 751040

Andrew Fitchett.

Senior Short Course Tutor West Dean College

ISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The money due to the Parish from the developers of Lavender Fields has finally been released to us for use (by Wealden District Council), which has enabled our contractors to begin the improvements to the children's play area on the recreation ground. Obviously, the quasi-biblical rainfall would have suggested they may better have spent their time building an ark, but in fact they have made good progress, despite the conditions, and we can look forward to completion relatively soon.

Two issues need to be addressed, in the context of the recreation ground. It is there -as the name implies - for recreation, and as well as the children's play area, it is used for cricket, stoolball and football. None of those games, nor children's playing, is improved if the processed content of dogs' digestive systems is present. That is why we have signs around the perimeter of the ground saying "No Dogs". Unfortunately, we notice that too many people ignore those signs and

allow their dogs on the field. This can be extremely unpleasant for those legitimately using the ground; could I ask everybody, please, to observe and obey the signs; and if you should see others not doing so, please point out to them - courteously - the unsociable nature of what they are doing.

Secondly, could I point out that the recreation ground car park is there for use by people using the recreation ground. It is not there to provide a convenient overnight parking area for those who have too many cars or not enough parking spaces of their own. We don't want to have to start keeping it locked, so it would be good if people could observe the courtesy of not misusing it.

On a different note, I'd like to offer my thanks and congratulations to the Bonfire Society for, yet again, providing the village with a magnificent bonfire and fireworks display; even the rain managed to have the decency to hold off for the evening.

Geoff Sambrook
Chairman

THE ISFIELD FLOWER SHOW

We are pleased to say that TWIG is already planning the next Isfield Flower Show 2020 after a very successful first attempt last August. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day, those who helped to organise the event, baked cakes, grew plants, ran the raffle, and most especially, those of you who entered your gorgeous flowers, produce, art and handicrafts. We are grateful to the judges who did a splendid job, and congratulations to the cup winners. See you all next year on 15th August!

Helen Thomas

LAVENDER LINE HERITAGE RAILWAY.

The Gala weekend, 5th and 6th. October was a successful and enjoyable event with a good turn out on both days. Some splendid Classic Cars were on display along with a selection of lovely Miniature Traction Engines. Our own steam engine, Lady Lisa, DEMU 1118 and the Wickham Railbus were all running and many people enjoyed rides on the various trains.

On Saturday 26th October an extremely successful event was hosted for the Branch Line Society. This covers a group of enthusiasts travelling over the railways sidings, where the general public would not normally travel. We used the many different types of traction which are at the railway's disposal to make this event a great success.

This year the Lavender Line will be running Santa Specials on 15th and 22nd December with visits to Santa for children under 12. ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL! All details can be found on our website: www.lavender-line.co.uk

The Railway will be closed on 29th December, but will be open on 1st January 2020 when we will be running our steam engine to welcome in the new year.

Unlike many other heritage railways we stay open on Sundays during January and February, when either our diesel engines or the railbus will be running. Do come along, we are happy to welcome all visitors and new volunteers

Lisa Mills

THE LAUGHING FISH

As many of you will know, Henry left the business in March this year, so our tentative plans for the succession had to go back to the drawing board. Our tenancy agreement formally ended last April, but we're negotiating with Greene King for a new deal, and there is no pressure from them for us to move on.

To fill the gap left by Henry's departure we were delighted to secure the services of an experienced chef and publican, Christophe Coevoet (yes, he's French) who has slotted well into the team in the kitchen alongside Benson and Jodie. Unfortunately, Christophe - who was already disabled after a motorcycle accident some years ago - slipped and broke his leg in Lewes at the beginning of November so he will be away for the festive season. We have a great team of people remaining, however, and Benson and Jodie have willingly volunteered to steer the ship without recourse to agency staff. We suspect that much Aspall and Foster's may be consumed along the way...

So, after another busy summer we're once again getting ready for Christmas. Our Christmas Party menu is in operation throughout December until lunchtime on Christmas Eve, this year priced at £20 for two courses or £25 for three. Advance booking for this is essential, and you can see the menu on our website www.laughingfishisfield.com

We're hoping that the Ashdown Forest Mummers will again visit (date and time TBC) and are also looking forward as usual to **Uckfield Concert Brass** again for a carols sing-along on the evening of Sunday 22nd December (8.00pm).

As always, we'd love to see you for a drink on **Christmas Day** between 12 noon and 2.30pm.

The kitchen will be open every lunchtime between Christmas and New Year (but not in the evening until Thursday January 2nd).

We're still planning exactly what we're doing on **New Year's Eve** but we can promise you a party atmosphere and the best way to see in 2020 with your friends. There will be a small, free buffet, and we're open until 1.30 a.m.

Finally, please remember that we have a **Charity Collecting Bin** in our car park in aid of "Scope" - supporting deaf/blind children and adults in the UK. Please feel free to use this - it'll save you a journey into Uckfield or beyond with your unwanted but saleable clothing and footwear.

Andy & Linda Brooks

Tel: 750349

ISFIELD WEDNESDAY CLUB DONATIONS

Sadly, the Club ceased its activities earlier this year. The constitution of the Club (formerly the Isfield Forget Me Nots Club) stated that any money remaining in the event of the club's closure should be donated to charity.

Following a donation to the Uckfield League of Friends in memory of Colin Stains, the long-time Chairman who died recently and the purchase of a new bench for the Isfield Recreation Ground, we are pleased that the Club has been able to make donations of £450 to Isfield Village Hall and £450 to St Margaret's Church.

Jan Phillips
Treasurer

Liz Fine
Secretary

Ridgewood Outreach Post Office

For several years now Sue and Jon Gothard from Ridgewood Post Office have provided Outreach Post Office services in the village every Thursday morning, originally at the Farm Shop and latterly at The Laughing Fish. Most transactions which can be carried out at Ridgewood can also be completed at the Outreach.

Although there have been technical issues from time to time which have prevented the Post Office from operating these have now been addressed, and the Laughing Fish is open every Thursday morning from 10.00 am. However, recent months have seen dwindling use of this service to the extent that it may not be viable to continue.

The loss of this amenity would be a blow to our thriving community, but it really is a case of "Use it or lose it". If you didn't know about this service, you now do! The pub is open for all bar services while the Post Office is in operation, so you could arrange to meet your friends for a chat over a coffee or even a pint if you wished. If you can, please support this, and please spread the word.

Andy Brooks

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Once again, we are in an inter regnum, i.e. looking for a new vicar to come to Isfield with a house for duty. We are sad that Father Mike Blanch has decided to leave his position as Associate Vicar in Isfield. In the very short time he and his wife Penny have been with us, he has worked tirelessly to make a great impression on the village, livened up the church services and brought more people into our little village church. We thank him for his hard work and dedication. Mike will continue to support St. Margaret's as part of the Holy Cross team of ministers, along with Father John Wall, Father David Ashton and Canon Hugh Moseley. We are very grateful to all of them; enabling services to be held every Sunday in our Parish Church.

During an inter regnum a lot of the work normally carried out by the incumbent vicar falls to our Secretary, Stephen Hardwick, other members of the Parochial Church Council, and Churchwardens. The secretary undertakes an enormous amount of administration such as printing of leaflets, organising delivery throughout the village, service sheets, welcome leaflets, notices, attending to correspondence, dealing with diocesan issues, tending to The Parsonage, to mention just a fraction of the work he does. Stephen has been Secretary for well over 30 years, and we do not think any of us realise just how much time, energy and dedication he gives to St. Margaret's. It is impossible to measure the gratitude and appreciation we owe Stephen for the valuable work he does.

Like most organisations, there are many, many people, mostly anonymous, who work quietly and inconspicuously behind the scenes, and don't always get the recognition and acknowledgement they deserve. We have teams of cleaners, flower arrangers, pickers-up of litter in the car park, working parties who clear the churchyard and Church Lane of vegetation and brambles. They know who they are, and we are eternally grateful for their huge efforts and continuing support. All of the above work would not get done without the leadership of and organisation by our Verger, Ron Harrington and Ruth (Mrs Verger!).

Our annual Friends of St. Margaret's "Thank You" gathering was held at The Old House, generously hosted by Mervyn Griffiths. Andy Brooks gave us a witty and interesting insight into what it is like to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

Without the generosity of the Friends, the church would find it difficult to afford the day to day running costs. Every five years the church has to go through a Quinquennial Inspection. We have now had the report, which has highlighted a few problems, but nothing too serious. The main things we need to fix are gutters and hoppers where water is not draining away as it should and is seeping into the stonework. We have also needed to get some electrical work done to bring it up to standard and get the necessary certificate. We are hugely grateful to the generosity of the Friends, raising £4,200 this year, which has enabled us to get this work done, and continue to keep our church in good order.

Since the last Newsletter, we had good attendances at the following special services: Pet Service 26, Sea Sunday 23,

Harvest 24, All Souls 44, Remembrance 56.

With Christmas coming up services will be happening as follows:

Sunday 1 December 11.00 am St. Nicholas Toy Service and Christingle at St. Michael and All Angels, Little Horsted (Joint Service)

Sunday 15 December 6.00 pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10.00 am Family Service, followed by Holy Communion

We very much look forward to welcoming you to all our services, and especially at Christmas time.

Mervyn Griffiths
Penelope Steel
Churchwardens

ISFIELD DANCING CLUB

Club evenings and functions have been well attended this year; we had our 46th AGM at the end of October. Our membership is good although we would welcome any new members. In October we had six new people from the Hastings area who enjoyed their evening with us and would love to come again, despite the one-hour drive to get here.

The Christmas break, the last club evening is our Christmas party on 18th December, we will start again on January 16th, 2020.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and join us on a Wednesday and still at only £3 per evening.

Ron Levett
Chairman
750404

(see the Diary Section at the back for dates for the coming year)

ISFIELD FARM SHOP

Christmas is getting ever closer and we are getting ready for a full-on, busy festive season.

Again, this year, we will be using very local Turkeys which have proved highly popular in the last few years, along with all the trimmings made in the shop. Remember you can order all your Christmas goodies for collection as well as the meat and vegetables.

We will be having our Festive Open Evening on the 4th December (5pm -8pm, where you can come and chat about your Christmas needs whilst sampling many of our local products and, of course, plenty of mulled wine.

This year we are running a prize draw that will run from Tuesday 18th November to 12th December - so come along and enter in the shop.

1st prize - Turkey (5kg) with a Festive Veg box for collection on Monday 23rd December

2nd prize - Pork Joint - locally sourced from Ashdown forest.

3rd prize - Festive Veg box for 4

Hope you all have a great Christmas

Farmshop Team

PILATES WITH MEDEANA

Why Pilates?

You may have heard of Pilates as exercise method but where did it originate from and how did it gain its name?

The Pilates method was initially called 'Contrology' and was developed by Joseph Pilates, born in Germany in 1880, to manage his own health issues including asthma rickets and rheumatic fever.

During WW1 he was detained in an internment camp on the Isle of Man. There he began inventing machines and equipment to help the inmates recover from injuries and diseases.

Later when Joe and his partner, Clara, set up an exercise studio in New York in the 1920s they worked closely with the New York City Ballet Company devising methods to support the dancers recover from injuries and to develop efficient movement patterns in order to prolong their careers.

Joe maintained his passion for this work until he passed away aged 83. He had inspired and trained students to learn his method and progress to teaching it themselves. In 1999 the word 'Pilates' became legally available for the movement community to use to describe this exercise system based upon Joe's work.

Relatively few still practise Pilates strictly in its original form although some chose to keep closely to this method. As knowledge and understanding in fields such as anatomy, physiology and psychology have progressed modified versions have and continue to evolve so that, with a well-qualified teacher, Pilates can be safely practised and enjoyed from childhood and throughout adult life.

The benefits of exercise are now being widely researched with exciting possibilities for health and wellbeing emerging. It is certainly food for thought that Joseph Pilates wrote his first book 'Your Health' presenting his whole-body philosophy and technique in 1934.

He truly was an innovator - way ahead of his time.

So why not join the group in Isfield? They are friendly and supportive groups gaining benefits which can include improved strength, mobility, stability, balance, posture and back health. Relaxation and breathing techniques are also taught to promote mental well-being. Classes are on a Thursday morning 8.30 and 9.30am at the Village Hall. Individual or duet sessions can also be arranged to address specific health or fitness goals.

For further details or to arrange a taster session:

Contact Medeana at
medeanapilates@gmail.com or 07597322183

Medeana Findlay

LITTLE HORSTED CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

School events:

The children have enjoyed a wide range of events during the Autumn term including our Farmers' week where we were thrilled to welcome local farmers into our school to lead assemblies, we even had a visiting tractor and working farm dog! As part of the week we held a farmers market with lots of local produce for families to buy. We have also enjoyed 'Book week' which this year had the theme 'Windows into Worlds'. The children dressed as their favourite characters and took part in a wide range of activities across the week. As a whole school we marked Remembrance together on the 11th and also worked with the children on a range of related artworks which were used to decorate the church for the Remembrance Sunday service. In addition, the children have presented some fantastic year group and musical assemblies (we are fortunate that we are able to provide specialist music teaching throughout the school year for our pupils) this past few weeks.

At Little Horsted we run learning journeys each term full of exciting and motivating activities. Last term the children were engaged and enthusiastic about topics such as 'Once upon a time', 'Ancient Greeks', 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' and 'The Wonderful World of Wonka'. The preparations for our annual Christmas Bazaar and other wonderful activities such as the Big Sing are gathering pace and we look forward to our Hedgehog Class and Rabbit Class performing their seasonal nativity play, towards the end of this term.

School council:

Our school council continues to run throughout the year, with representatives from each year group. Our school council works hard to identify local and national as well as international charities that we can support as well as discussing whole school matters.

PTFA:

The PTFA provided the BBQ at the Isfield Bonfire and Fireworks. They have organised a disco for the children this term and a wreath making workshop for adults later this month. The PTFA kindly raise funds to support the resources available to the children in school. Recently, they have raised funds for our new football goals as well as playtime toys and equipment for the children to use during outdoor play. We very much appreciate all their hard work and the donations from families and local businesses that allow us to purchase a wide range of fabulous equipment for our children to enjoy.

Church links:

Father John has led some enjoyable Wednesday assemblies and our special Harvest church service which was held in St Michael and All Angels Church. The collection from this raised money for the Farmers Benevolent fund and the church was filled with the sound of the children beautifully singing harvest hymns and songs as well as a retelling of the Parable of the Sower.

We look forward to our annual end of term Christmas service at St Michael and All Angels Church. The school will also attend the joint Isfield and Little Horsted Churches Christingle Service, held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Little Horsted on Sunday 1 December at 11.00 a.m.

Information and open days:

For more information about the school please visit www.littlehorsted.e-sussex.sch.uk or telephone us on 01825 750380. We welcome visits to our school and are holding open mornings and an evening on Tuesday 19th November at 9.30am and 7pm as well as on Tuesday 26th November at 9.30am for children who are due to start school in September 2020. We also have some places available in our Nursery. Please let the office know if you would like to attend the open mornings or visit our setting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both parishes and the local community for the warm welcome I have received since I joined LHS in April. I already feel so settled at the school and excited about all the future events and activities that the school will be involved in.

Mrs Ali Causton

Headteacher.

ISFIELD & LITTLE HORSTED BONFIRE SOCIETY

Hello people of Isfield!

What a fantastic event we had a few weeks ago. I hope you will all agree that our tableaux and Fireworks were particularly spectacular!

We tried a lot of new things this year, and many of our members worked incredibly hard to put everything together; from many an evening toiling over torch making, to days tangling with a tableaux and lots of faffing with fireworks, on top of their own jobs and families to ensure the success of the evening. I would, therefore, like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who has helped with our night, I don't think people realise the amount of hard work that is required.

We all hope that you enjoyed the display. With regards to this, we would be happy to hear any feedback any of you have about the event, particularly what you enjoy most about it each year. This means that, as we plan for future years, we can develop the things that are popular. You can contact us through our website www.isfieldhorstedbonfire.com

Don't forget, if you want to have a bigger say in the running of the society, you could always join us. Membership forms are available in the Laughing Fish, and Jim the membership secretary will happily have a chat with you about joining. You can also see further information about what we do on the website as well.

As we near the end of the Sussex bonfire season, we still have a few dates for the diary. Our next Bonfire Quiz will be on Saturday 30th November, with tickets available to buy in the Laughing Fish in advance and our AGM on 2nd February. The much-requested Murder Mystery Dinner is back on Saturday 15th February. A very entertaining evening of performance by the Bonfire thespians and dinner prepared by our own chef, Nik. Look out for information in the new year—get your tickets early as it's been a sell out before.

Finally, all that remains is to wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020!

Timmy Fordham
Chair

Isfield Cricket Club

Well, what a season! Both the First and Second teams were promoted at the conclusion of the league matches in early September. The First team finished as Champions of Division 5 East, winning 13 out of the last 14 games, (the last five matches in particular were won batting second), to finish 35 points clear of second place. This is the second year in a row the team has obtained promotion as Champions and now move into Division 4 East for next season - the highest position the club has achieved in its history. The Second team also had a long winning run which secured them promotion from Division 12 East (North) on the last day. They only lost one match all season. Well-done to everyone whom contributed to the success of both teams.

However, availability of playing members was inconsistent and being able to field two sides in the first third of the season was tough. We had to concede two Second team matches which makes their promotion effort even more impressive. In addition, the club sadly lost its stalwart Chairman, Tim Knight, to cancer at the end of May. A special match was held at the Gudges in July in Tim's memory. Many former and current players took part. Our thoughts continue to be with Tim's family.

Once player availability improved the clubs two teams enjoyed some good victories. There were many notable individual performances in such a successful campaign. For the Firsts, those that stand out were: Jack Fingerneissl (v Chiddingly), James Fellows (v Battle) & Huw Williams (v Lewes Priory) all took 5 wickets for less than twenty runs conceded. For the Seconds, Dan Starnes scored two centuries (the best 154 not out v Hailsham). James Fellows scored two centuries for the Sunday XI (v Crawley & Eastbourne Downs). At the Club Dinner in October the First Team batting award went to Huw Williams with the bowling award going to Stef Halsey. The Second Team batting award went to Andrew Robinson with the bowling award going to Darren Andrews. The Sunday XI batting and bowling awards went to James Fellows. Congratulations to all of you.

Changes off and on the field see Neil Thornicroft stepping down as First Team Captain to become Club Chairman with Jamie Hall stepping-up as First Team Captain for next season. We continue to encourage our good crop of youngsters and to look for new players. Our challenge is to have good availability for the start of next season. If you would like to play for a progressive club please contact us. We also need a scorer for next season - if you are interested please contact me below.

The Winter Nets will be held again (starting early February) at Longhill School, Rottingdean. The outdoor Junior Coaching Academy - which caters for an age range of 11 to 18 most Monday evenings at the Recreation Ground - will recommence in late April (dates to be advised nearer the time). For further details of the youth Academy or any aspect of the club please contact Neil Thornicroft on 01825-750283 or e-mail: thornicrofts@btinternet.com.

Neil Thornicroft

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

At the moment there is a lot of attention being given to A and E waiting times and treatment delays. One of the understated reasons is the number of people attending A and E with non-emergency conditions, all of whom have to be triaged and therefore cause valuable resources to be diverted. NHS 111 exists to telephone in place of 999 when someone is concerned about a condition and enables an informed decision to be made about the best treatment options available, including the direct despatch of an ambulance in appropriate circumstances. Please give this option consideration before tapping out the three nines.

One question sometimes asked of Community First Responders is, quite reasonably, 'Where were you' or 'Why is the ambulance taking so long?'. All CFRs are volunteers and only have a limited amount of time available for responding, indeed many already work full time, aside from family commitments. At times of demand surge the ambulance service alters response levels and CFRs are then held back for critical interventions only, which means that non-life threatening cases incur delay before treatment and conveyance. In addition, the nearest ambulance may be a considerable distance away or could be diverted en route to somebody whose needs are greater.

As always enjoy the winter to come and those magical frosty mornings, always remembering to keep a watchful eye out for those who are most at risk at this time of year.

Derek Smith

T.W.I.G.

August - visit to Fuego Lounge bar in Lewes. A very enjoyable and tasty for the few of us who attended.

September - En-caustic art with Hillary Harvey, by all accounts a lovely evening which I was sorry to miss. Very much enjoyed by all who did attend and huge thanks to Hillary for teaching all the ladies.

October - Pottery painting at Kilwood studios in Uckfield. A lovely relaxing evening where we chose an item of pottery to decorate and then collected it at a later date after it had been fired. Who knew we had such talented ladies amongst us! Some stunning pieces were created and those of us who attended had a lovely evening sharing nibbles and a drink. Thank you, Tessa, for collecting the items and we can whole-heartedly recommend Kilwood studios for parties.

November- Singing for Pleasure with Ali Bishop from 'Angels with Attitude' a Lewes based choir. A tremendous evenings enjoyment with Ali leading us all in some wonderful singing. A hall full of ladies really got into the

moment and together we produced a lovely sound.

Future meetings:

December 11th This will be our ever-popular Christmas wreath making followed by seasonal nibbles to share, 'drinkies' courtesy TWIG funds.

All ladies welcome, please bring a plate of food to share along with any greenery decorative items you would like on your wreath, and scissors / secateurs.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED A BASE FOR YOUR WREATH in good time for ordering.

January 2020 - date to be decided- will be our usual meeting in the Laughing Fish to plan the years forthcoming meetings, again, all ladies welcome.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year and to say thank you to everyone who supports us, as either a member or guest.

Thank you also to those in the village who put in the 'extra' to make this village a really nice place to live, when the village news is printed and distributed it's amazing how much community spirit and how many events can be found going on, well done to all for their dedication and hard work.

Please remember to check emails and our Facebook page to keep up to date.

All ladies are welcome to join us we meet once a month on Wednesdays in the village hall doors open at 7.30 (to set up) with the meetings starting at 8pm. Non-members £5 to include refreshments.

Sues Crawford

ISFIELD STOOLBALL

The Stoolball club had another very successful season this year coming second in the mid division league. This earned us a place in the final 12 down at Seaford Salts. On a rather overcast day we missed out on a place in the semi-finals by half a run! 'How can that be' I can hear you ask yourself - because we won the same amount of points as another team in our group, they had to work out an over average and we were half a run less!

The highlight of the season for all of us though had to be beating the so far unbeaten Barcombe in our last league match of the season. It was one of those baking hot mid-summer evenings and the pitch was like concrete but thanks to some amazing batting by Carla and Holly and some early wickets taken by Jo and Jane we did it! An amazing end to the main summer league.

Thanks, as always, to all those involved in keeping the Stoolball club up and running including Margaret for organising all our fixtures, Marion and Mandy for keeping order on the pitch and Joyce for keeping a watchful eye on the score! Also, a big thanks to our captain Carla for sorting the team every week and keeping us entertained on the outfield!

Here's looking forward to the start of the indoor league after Christmas.

Charlotte Das

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