

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Weds 4th **FMN Commercial Composting - KPS**
Village Hall 2.30PM

Thurs 5th **Yoga** Village Hall 6-7pm
Contact :
graceannand@hotmail.com

Fri 6th **LHS PTFA Children's Disco**

Weds 11th **TWIG First Aid with Jim Agnew.**
Village Hall 7.45pm

Sun 15th **Mothering Sunday Service,** St Margaret's Church 10am

Weds 18th **FMN Colin's Cruises - The Baltic and Caribbean, Colin Staines.**
Village Hall 2.30PM

Sat 21st **Village Hall Open Day**
11am-4pm

Sat 21st **Pre-School Quiz Night**
Barney's Playbarn, Uckfield.
Contact: Preschool 750245

Weds 25th **I.C.E. AGM**
Village Hall 8pm

Thurs 26th **Parish Council Meeting** Village Hall 7.30pm

Sun 29th **Palm Sunday Service**
St Margaret's Church 10am

Tues 31st **Easter Floral Table Decorations** Village Hall
11am-4pm (cost inc lunch)
Contact:
jane@flowersanddaughters.co.uk

APRIL

Weds 1st **FMN So Who Cares - Listening to the Patient Board Member-Local N.H.S. Clinical Commissioning Group.**
Alan Keys. Village Hall 2.30pm

Fri 3rd **Good Friday Service,**
St Margaret's Church 12noon

Sun 5th **Easter Day Service,**
St Margaret's Church, 10am

Weds 8th **TWIG tba.**
Village Hall 7.45pm

Sat 11th **ILHBS Easter Quiz.**
Village Hall 7pm for 7.30 start

Mon 13th **Village Hall AGM**
Village Hall 7.30pm

Tues 14th **6 weeks Beginners Contemporary Stained Glass Classes start** Village Hall
2.30pm - 4.30pm. Contact:
info@pureglassart.co.uk

Weds 15th **FMN Tom Crean - Unsung Hero of Antarctic Exploration. Michael Smith.**
Village Hall 2.30PM

Tues 21st **Beginners Contemporary Stained Glass Classes**
Village Hall 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Contact:
info@pureglassart.co.uk

Tues 28th **Beginners Contemporary Stained Glass Classes**
Village Hall 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Contact:
info@pureglassart.co.uk

ISFIELD NEWSLETTER

January 2015



Editors Note:

With the first flowers of spring poking their heads up and the sun attempting to shine, things are looking positive after the cold winter months. The transition from narrowband to real broadband is an even greater boon for many of us, I was under the impression that this would not happen until spring proper but BT began supplying broadband through the telephone network in January. Will any of us ever leave the house again?

It will be interesting to see if this leap into the 21st century for the village will have any significant overall impact. Will the internet of everything really change the way we do things and interact with one another, I suspect not. It will make it easier to find out when the bus is supposed to come and which bins to put out on Sunday night, but it may be sometime before parish meetings are broadcast online and the bar billiards tournaments at the Laughing Fish become an international affair!

Jason Kennedy

jtobkennedy@gmail.com 750769

Bev Ashford

ashfordbja@gmail.com 750456

Isfield Village Hall Open Day -
Saturday 21st March 2015 (11am - 4pm)

Demonstrations - Competition Prizes - Raffle - Refreshments

Entry Free of Charge

The responses to the recent Isfield Village Hall survey enthusiastically welcomed an Open Day at the Village Hall, and we are delighted to announce that this event is taking place to show the community what current and potential activities are available at the Village Hall.

We have superb support from the Isfield clubs and organisations who will be exhibiting at the event: Isfield Community Enterprise, I.L.H.B.S., Isfield Parish Council, Isfield Pre School, Little Horsted Church of England Primary School, TWIG, Forget Me Nots, Isfield Dancing Club.

In addition there will be a fascinating array of stands introducing *new* activities that will be held at the Village Hall if there is sufficient interest: Yoga (weekly classes started 5th Feb), Beginners Contemporary Stained Glass Art (First 6 week course starts 14th April), regular Film Shows, Printing, Wine Tasting, Basket Making (one event has been held), Life Drawing (popular event restarting), Floral Decorations, Painting with your iPad, Learn the Lessons of the Stars (Astrology), Basic Pottery, Stonework/Stone Carving, Scalextric Race Day.

Please come with family and friends and enjoy the day with all the exhibitors. You can sign up to join an activity, watch demonstrations, have a chance to win a prize and/or raffle prize and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Keith Taylor, Chairman, Village Hall Committee



Your Parish Council Needs

YOU!!!!

Isfield currently has vacancies for Parish Councillors.

What is a Parish Councillor?

A Parish Councillor is someone who is interested in the area they live and wants to look after the interests of the people who live in that area.

What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government and is consulted on any issues in their area. Isfield Parish Council is a small but friendly Parish Council and represents the residents of Isfield, Buckham Hill and Rosehill.

What does it involve?

Meetings are once every other month and regular attendance is recommended.

Is the role paid?

The role is purely voluntary although agreed expenses are reimbursed.

Why not come to a meeting and see for yourself or contact the
Chairman **Geoff Sambrook** on 01825 750258 or the
Clerk **Alison Hillman** on 07501676569 and find out more?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Cont.

MAY

Tues 5th **Beginners**

**Contemporary Stained
Glass Classes.**

Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm

Contact:

info@pureglassart.co.uk

Weds 6th **TWIG** Calligraphy, a
history and have a go.

Village Hall 7.45pm

Sun 10th **LHS Fun Run** 10am

Tues 12th **Beginners**

**Contemporary Stained Glass
Classes.**

Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm

Contact:

info@pureglassart.co.uk

Weds 13th **FMN AGM.**

Village Hall 2.30PM

Sunday 17th **Church Concert**
with Holy Cross Church
Choir. St Margaret's
Church, Isfield. 6pm

Tues 19th **Beginners**

**Contemporary Stained
Glass Classes.**

Village Hall 2.30pm-4.30pm

Contact:

info@pureglassart.co.uk

Thurs 21st **Parish Council**

Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm

Weds 27th **FMN Sussex**

Windmills. Peter Hill.

Village Hall 2.30PM

JUNE

Weds 3rd **TWIG** tba.

Village Hall 7.45pm

Weds 10th **FMN Comedy Songs,
Poetry & Guitar.** John Cave.

Village Hall 2.30PM

Mon 15th **Life Drawing sessions**

Village Hall. Contact:

Peter.rigby@imagenius.co.uk

Weds 24th **FMN. History of the
Tea Party.** Alison Vernon.

Village Hall 2.30PM

Sun 28th **Isfield Fete** ICE Field

JULY

Weds 1st **TWIG** Village Hall 7.45pm

Weds 8th **FMN The Social History
of Wealden Villages.**

Dr. John Kay.

Village Hall 2.30PM

Thurs 16th **Parish Council Meeting**

Village Hall 7.30pm

Weds 22nd **FMN Tea at the
Lavender Line.**

AUGUST

Mon 10th **Hand Tied Bouquets.**

Village Hall 11am -4pm

(cost inc lunch). Contact:

jane@flowersanddaughters.co.uk

Weds 12th **TWIG BBQ.** Venue TBA

Sat 15th **FMN FLOWER SHOW**

SEPTEMBER

Sat 5th **ICE Art & Craft Market.**

ICE field

CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH WEBSITE: isfieldpc.org.uk

BONFIRE SOCIETY	Andy Brooks	Laughing Fish Pub
FORGET ME NOT CLUB	Colin Stains	766342
Secretary	Liz Russell	750611
Treasurer	Jan Phillips	750522
I.C.E.	Peter "Scan" Scantlebury 750636	
ISFIELD CRICKET CLUB	Neil Thornicroft	750283
ISFIELD FETE	Rachel Cranfield	07793 798922
	Ian MacDonald	macdonaldian@btinternet.com
	Andy Brooks	Laughing Fish Pub
ISFIELD NEWSLETTER	Bev Ashford	750456
	Jason Kennedy	750769
ISFIELD PRE SCHOOL	Julie Hall	750245
ISFIELD STOOLBALL	Jane	07773559273
	Charlotte	07712001879
ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH	Rev'd Martin Onions	370507
TWIG	Sues Crawford	750767
VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS:	Hazel Allsobrook	744056
	e-mail: info@isfieldvillagehall.org.uk	

BROADBAND IN ISFIELD

Finally, it's here! ESCC provided a true Christmas present with an e-mail that arrived just before midday on Christmas Eve advising that Cabinets 1 and 3 (those outside the telephone exchange and Boathouse Farm) had gone 'live'. Cabinet 2 (Elms Farm) followed on 9th January but, unhappily, at the time of writing, Cabinet 4 at the Horsted Lane/A26 junction is still in the process of being linked into the system so Little Horsted residents have yet to savor the benefits.

Whether BT was unprepared for the number of people suddenly wanting to be connected is not clear.

There have been a number of missed or cancelled appointments and one or two other technical issues but it must be said that this is entirely the responsibility of the ISP, in this case, BT Retail and not the fault of ESCC. The latter has not only fulfilled its commitment to providing broadband to Isfield within the promised timescale but has also been very supportive in trying to get the various teething problems with Open Reach resolved.

Now that we have high speed broadband, this is probably the last time that a piece on this particular subject will need to be written for the Isfield Newsletter. At the moment, the difference between 'then' and 'now' is remarkable; in due course it is likely we will just come to take it for granted and forget the length of time it took to get it here.

What next I wonder gas?

Jerry Phillips

ISFIELD CRICKET CLUB

We enjoyed our annual dinner on February 8th, admirably organised by Steve Newham, when we were able to celebrate the club's highly successful past season. The batting award went to James Fellows with the bowling award going to Stef Halsey - congratulations to you both. Clubman of the year was awarded to Tim Knight for his work in helping to set up the club's new Second Eleven which will start playing in the Stoners Mid-Sussex Conference this summer.

Excitement is high all-round in anticipation of the new season, which is now only a couple of months or so away. Our well-attended Indoor Nets, for seniors at Plumpton Agricultural College, have already begun (7.00pm on Tuesday evenings) with some 'agricultural' strokes being in evidence - although more sessions will see much of this ironed-out I'm sure!!

By the time you are reading this we will have had our AGM (on February 23rd) to discuss the new season which begins with some friendlies in April before the First Eleven commences battle in Division 3.

Our thanks to all those who, under the masterful supervision of David Williams, have contributed to all the work that has been done on the square so far, and for all that will need to be done in readiness for the new season. Outdoor Nets for the Academy (Ages 11 to 15) will return in April - more details later.

*Neil
Thornicroft
01825-750283*





Isfield Village Hall

Isfield Village Hall has an energetic 'spring in its step' following the practical and helpful feedback received from our recent survey. Many thanks to everyone who completed the survey - a 10% response which was very gratifying. Sincere thanks also to Andy and Linda Brooks for hosting the prize draw at the Laughing Fish. The survey supplied us with many interesting suggestions for activities we could organise at the Village Hall.

This brings us to the Village Hall Open Day which we are hosting on Saturday 21st March from 11am to 4pm - please see the front page on the Newsletter for details. We are very excited about this event and hope that you will join us and make the day really enjoyable.

Another major item to report is that Isfield Community Enterprise (ICE), Isfield & Little Horsted Bonfire Society (I.L.H.B.S.) and Isfield Village Hall aim to work together on joint events and activities for the general good of the community. We are all agreed that the Village Hall is a comfortable and easily accessible space which is underused at present, and therefore not meeting its potential to serve the wider community. We hope that by drawing on the experience and energy of ICE & I.L.H.B.S. we can make the Village Hall the dynamic and pivotal asset it should be to Isfield.

Finally we would like to mention four new activities taking place at the Village Hall; all four are exhibiting at the Open Day on 21st March.

Every Thursday at 6-7pm Grace Annand is holding yoga classes. Please 'drop in' to the next class, or contact Grace for more details on graceannand@hotmail.com

Jane Will, of Flowers and Daughters, is holding an 'Easter Floral Table Decorations' event 11am-4pm, including lunch, on Tuesday 31st March, all flowers & materials provided; for more information, and to book, contact Jane on jane@floweranddaughters.co.uk

Chris Williams is starting a beginners' contemporary stained glass art course on Tuesday 14th April 2.30pm to 4.30pm, all materials provided; for more information, and to book, contact Chris on info@pureglassart.co.uk

Peter Rigby is reviving the popular life drawing sessions starting in June; for more information, and to book, contact Peter on peter.rigby@imagenius.co.uk

To book the Village Hall call Hazel Allsobrook, Booking Clerk, on 01825 744056 or email info@isfieldvillagehall.org.uk

Keith Taylor,
Chairman, Village Hall Committee



ON THE BUSES

Check the posted bus timetables after the end of March as there maybe an improvement to the pm times.

Andy Goble



LAVENDER LINE

Austin 1, our much loved long term resident steam engine that has been on loan from the Llangollen Railway is going home for a while, she has recently failed her annual boiler test and will need some fairly substantial repair work. The Line is currently without a working steam engine as our other steam engine "Yvonne" is in the middle of a major overhaul. Shortly we hope to have "Baxter" on loan from the Bluebell Line and we shall be back to normal running i.e. 1st and last Sundays of the month being Steam, middle Sundays being diesel, for Easter.

The half term running days were a great success and the children's birthday parties are particularly popular with children and adults alike. Soon Easter will be with us and we shall be running 3 of the 4 days over the Easter period. Friday, Sunday and Monday will all have services and Easter Sunday will have our annual Easter Bunny Hunt (not literally of course) for the children.

Clive Groome will continue to offer foot-plate courses in 2015 and these continue to be extremely popular and are wonderful and unusual gift for the man in your life.

The café is going from strength to strength and it is good to see the locals taking advantage of the weekday openings (10 till 5). If you have not been along yet come and pay us a visit. On Sundays the café is at its busiest serving many breakfasts lunches and cakes to locals and visitors alike with a particular influx of cyclists at various times.

The café will be closed for Amber to take a well-earned break from Tuesday 3rd March to Saturday 7th March.

Amber Callafiore & Paul Johnson

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Field First Responders, incorporating Uckfield and outlying villages, had a busy end to 2014 and into the New Year with one Community First Responding alone clocking up in excess of fifty operational call outs for December. Fortunately things are now a little quieter and hopefully the worst of the winter peak is now behind us, however March weather can be notoriously fickle and any cold snap inevitably brings on a surge in 999 calls.

All our current and trainee CFRs attend monthly meetings for training and discussion to ensure that everybody is up to date with any updated clinical practices and to maintain competence in all procedures and protocols. As always the aim is for the preservation of life, prevention of further deterioration and the promotion of recovery during the interval before an ambulance or paramedic car can get to the scene. Whilst we in Isfield have three CFRs living in the village being essentially a volunteer role where individuals make themselves available when they can, there are naturally periods when nobody is booked on duty, and so there is always room for additional volunteers should anyone reading this be interested in working alongside the ambulance service in a first responder role - if you think you might be interested please call me on 01825 750519.

Derek Smith





LITTLE HORSTED CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Father Martin and Father Mitch have led many enjoyable Wednesday morning assemblies and joined us for the Christingle service and end of term Carol service at St Michael and All Angels Church. They have spoken to the children recently about prayer and praying, peace in our world and the wisdom and meaning of proverbs.

The School Website has information about the school which is readily available to both parents and interested members of the community. The children are able to access their class areas to extend their learning at home. They also have access to Purple Mash which consists of a suite of software that we regularly use in school.

Curriculum events, Church, PTFA and Community information

The children have been learning about Bangladesh in Owl Class (Class 4), India in Badger Class (Class 3), Dinosaurs in Hedgehog Class (Class 2) and Dinosaurs in our Rabbit Class (Reception). Owl and Badger Class enjoyed learning Bollywood dancing while Hedgehog Class presented a Dinosaur Museum to their parents at the end of their learning journey and Rabbit Class have been on a dinosaur discovery adventure visit to Paradise Park.

The school will attend the Mothering Sunday service at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 15 March at 10 a.m. Our end of term Easter service is at St Michael and All Angels Church on Friday 27 March at 1.30 p.m.

The PTFA organised a Film Night for the children on Friday 17 January where the children all enjoyed watching children all enjoyed watching 'Monster's University and

eating Hot Dogs'. The PTFA have organised a Children's Disco for Friday 6th March and the Isfield and Barcombe Fun Run will take place on Sunday 10th May at 10.00 a.m.

For more information about the school please visit www.littlehorsted.e-sussex.sch.uk or telephone us on 01825 750380.

**Dr Michael Davies
Headteacher**



ISFIELD FETE NEEDS YOU

Isfield fete is Sunday 28th June but the running of the fete is very dependent upon much needed

HELP!!

Are you willing to give up an hour or two of your time to help with any of the following:

- ◆ Setting up
- ◆ Having a board in your garden
- ◆ Gate entry
- ◆ Running a stall
- ◆ Clearing up
- ◆ Car parking or
- ◆ Anything!!!!

Then please email or phone
Ian — macdonaldian@btinternet.com
Rachel - 07793 798922

Andy Brooks—
andy@laughingfishonline.co.uk

Please do get in touch—your help is much needed.



ISFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

The New Year is now in full swing at our Pre-School and we have many exciting events planned in the next few months.

The children recently invited their parents into Pre-School to take part in Pancake Races and pancake tasting. Delicious! This was such a great success that it will become an annual event.

March brings our famous Easter Bonnet Parade to the Pre-School, where the children create their own Easter themed bonnet and show them off in our special parade. There may even be a few prizes.

As the days start to get longer and brighter, we will be encouraging the children to plant seeds and teach them how to look after them.

The children and parents will take part in our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which is sure to be an exciting event.

We have recently launched our fantastic new website where parents can see what the children have been up to, up coming events and prospective parents can get an insight into our Pre-School.

We are holding a fundraising Quiz Night and Raffle on March 21st at Barney's Playbarn in Uckfield. This is sure to be an evening full of fun. If you would like to get a team together to join in and show your support for our Pre-School, please get in touch.

We still have places available for this term. Please contact Julie on **01825 750245** for further information.

Gail Gillon



FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB

The Forget Me Not Club holds meetings on alternate Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. in Isfield Village Hall. The meetings are open to all those over 55 and you are welcome to come and join us for any of these meetings. The cost for visitors is £2.00 and this includes an excellent afternoon tea. We have varied and interesting speakers throughout the year, occasional visits to places of interest and the meetings conclude with afternoon tea. This year the Village Hall is holding an Open Day on **Saturday 21st March** and members of the Forget Me Not Club will be there to let you know about their forthcoming events. Do come along and find out what we do. You will find details of the programme for the summer in the Dates For Your Diary section of this newsletter; details can also be found on the Village Notice Boards and on the village website.

The Annual Flower Show is our main fund-raising event and this year it will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday 15th August**. Afternoon teas are available and we look forward to welcoming you on the day. Look out for the programme which will be distributed throughout the village and gives details of all the classes.

Jan Phillips, Treasurer





St Margaret's Church

Dear all,

I am writing this on Ash Wednesday - the start of Lent and the church's preparations for the Easter Celebration. The Bishops of our diocese were out and about today offering to those who wanted the imposition of ash as a reminder of their own mortality and their place before God. Bp Richard Jackson had originally hoped to be in Uckfield at the railway station but Southern Rail would not allow him to be on the platform! Maybe that just underlines for us the importance of these kinds of activities as the position of the church and of our Christian faith is gradually erased by many from our society. At our baptism we are signed, indelibly' with the sign of the cross with the words, 'Christ claims you for his own' - this cross marks us out as God's people and calls us to live lives that reflect the gospel, lives of love and compassion where people will ask about us because of our works of love. Today, on Ash Wednesday, I challenged our congregations to be bold with the ash cross on their foreheads as a reminder to everyone that they are Christians. To be bold and go out and show people that cross and then to live by that cross every day after that.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son'

At the church in Isfield we worship together at 10.00 a.m. every Sunday in St. Margaret's Church. We would particularly like to invite you to come and share with us on Mothering Sunday, 15th March, when we shall be joined by Little Horsted School and Church; on Palm Sunday 29th Church, when we begin Holy Week, the most important 7 days for the Christian Church; on Good

Friday at 12.00 noon as we remember Our Lord's crucifixion and then on Easter Day, 5th April, as we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus, who is our hope and the hope we proclaim to all.

If you would like to see a priest for any reason then please do get in touch (01825 370507).

Every blessing.

Canon Martin Onions Rector



In memory of:

If you would like to buy a lily to be incorporated in the Easter flower arrangement at St Margaret's, Isfield in memory of a loved one, please ring:

Cariena Cartwright on
01825 750749.

Cost per lily is £3.00, the list closes
on March 20th.

Cariena Cartwright

CHURCH CONCERT



There will be a Spring
Concert in Isfield Church at 6pm on **Sunday**
17th May featuring Holy Cross Church choir

Please put the date in your diaries, further
details will follow.



TWIG The Women's Isfield Group

November Willow Weaving with Anne

Marie O'Sullivan

A packed hall of members and guests had a thoroughly enjoyable evening crafting a 'Catalan' tray from the beautiful willow that Annemarie provided, we were all surprised to see the various colours that willow is available in and everyone went home feeling very proud and satisfied with their own handcrafted tray and thankfully no injuries (individuals all making a tray from 6ft lengths of willow in a packed hall, had the potential for a visit to minor injuries!!). Many thanks to Annemarie for coming along on a dark winter's night and giving us tuition in a lovely craft that she, herself, is a master of. Annemarie can be contacted via www.annemarieosullivan.co.uk

December Christmas Wreath Making and Social

Our usual set up in the hall allowing for everyone to make their own wreath or table decoration in the company of friends along with Michael Buble^ singing along in the corner was as enjoyable as always. A token gift was available in our secret Santa sack for those who wished to participate and the wonderful homemade food options on offer rounded the evening off nicely. Thanks must go to Ruth for providing us with her knowledge and guidance as well as supplying the wreath bases. *Thank you again Ruth, this is always one of our most popular evenings in the year.*

January Planning Meeting at the Fish

Well, only a small number of ladies gathered on this cold winters evening to share a drink in the pub and discuss and plan our year of meetings but it was still an enjoyable occasion. We welcomed a new

member to our group who had recently moved into the village and between us all, we came up with some good ideas for future meetings hoping to continue with a good mix of hands on craft and interesting talks along with our usual socials in August and at Christmas.

Suggestions for 2015 - visits to: Plumpton Agricultural College, and Middle farm, A 'Culpepper Walk' around Isfield, having a go at 'Lindy Hop' Dancing, Cookery evening with local chef. Calligraphy work shop. See Dates for Your Diary for further information.

February Needle Felting with Jay Kendall

This was Jay's second time at one of our meetings and so it was no surprise to her that a good turnout of ladies were gathered on this cold February evening to learn all about needle felting. This is a lovely craft that anyone can master and is very social too, although you do need to keep an eye on what you are doing at all times as the needles were very sharp!! (Only a couple of minor expletives were heard, followed with a cry of "no, no, its fine, it will stop bleeding in a minute"!!) Many thanks Jay for a nice evening, all the finished pieces looked great at the end when the photos were taken.

Jay Kendal 07845 143664

knitwitoriginals@gmail.com

We are always looking to find new activities and topics to try out during our monthly meetings so if you know of anyone who has an interesting job, skill, or hobby and is keen to share their knowledge please do get in touch.

All ladies are welcome - you do not need to live in the village and there's no obligation to join. Meetings in the village hall are from 7:45pm and we aim to be locking up by 10pm

Non members £3 - includes complimentary tea and biscuits.

One years subscription is only £24 very good value for 12 great evenings of entertainment! (You can join at any one of our meetings.) For more info please telephone - Sues 750767 - Karen 750216 - Jill 750445 **Sues crawford**

ISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Elsewhere in this publication Jerry Phillips will have reported on the final arrival in Isfield of modern communications, in the form of high-speed broadband. I am aware that not quite all parishioners are yet able to connect, but many are, and the rest will not be far behind. I would just like here to thank both Jerry and my predecessor as Chairman, Sharon Knight, whose efforts over several years ensured that when the East Sussex network was planned and then rolled out, we were near the head of the queue. Others - including councillors - at both District and County level have also been fighting our corner valiantly, so we owe them all a heartfelt thanks.

Work on the pavilion has been moving ahead, with the first tranche of improvements now complete. More will follow. Linda at the Laughing Fish is gathering a group to undertake cleaning/tidying/decorating and so on; I'm sure she would be interested in volunteers!

Keith Taylor is still trying to re-invigorate the speed watch campaign; it seems his volunteers were keen right up until the training session.....I have no doubt he would love to recruit further.

On a similar sort of topic, there will be an election for the parish council in May of this year. I know there will be at least one current councillor stepping down, and we are already under our target number of members. We are always keen for new blood, so if any readers are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a parish councillor, they could contact our parish clerk, Alison Hillman, on isfieldpc1@aol.com and she will outline the requirements and duties.

Finally, just a thought. We are - rightly - concerned about speeding in the village, but there is also another issue which

seems to be getting worse and worse. I'm referring to the overall level of traffic; these days, at around 8 or 8:30 in the morning, it can take about half an hour to get to Lewes - which is all of five miles away. Equally, the centre of Uckfield is very frequently snarled up by traffic. At the last parish council meeting we expressed our concern to district councillors (with a request to pass our comments on also to ESCC) about the way planning departments *seem* to be happy to allow development, without the infrastructure also being upgraded. I know this is a difficult subject, and that we need houses to be built, and that the planners assure us that we are wrong, and they are always alert to infrastructure requirements on any project, but when I see the level of traffic at the moment and then I think of the housing development planned for Uckfield - well, I cannot help a degree of skepticism. I mention this because I should be interested to know if it is a matter of general concern to parishioners.

Geoff Sambrook
Chair Parish Council

RINGER and LEWES YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Things they have done include: an in-house bake off competition which was won by Daisy (Lives in the village) , out to bowling, made Christmas wreaths and Yule logs, undertaken sheep judging at Firle and are now getting ready for the annual Plumpton Open Day, this is always held on the second Saturday in May; this year its on May 9th

This is the BEST day out you can have locally for families at only £7.50 for adults, £3 seniors and FREE entry for under 16's; loads to see and do, lots of hands on for kids and is held in association with Sussex Young Farmers—a REALLY EXCELLENT DAY OUT!!! www.plumpton.ac.uk

Sues Crawford



ISFIELD FETE

Looking out of the window right now I see another damp and chilly February day. Oh dear. At least we have not been knee-deep in snow (not yet, at least). But, in the words of that cheery Monty Python classic: "Always look on the bright side of life." For winter is slowly being shown the back door as we get ready to open the front to spring and then summer. And summer means one of the big events in Isfield life. Yes, the **Isfield Village Fete**.

The fete has been a popular annual event supported by hundreds of people from Isfield and further afield. This year it is hoped that most, if not all, of the folk who have moved into the area over the past year will join in. They should be in for a pleasant surprise for the Isfield gathering is run very much along traditional lines. Yes there will be food and drinks available. Yes there will be some craft stalls. But, unlike so many similar festivals, Isfield's is one where you can sit on straw bales, sup a refreshment or several and watch a host of activities. In the sunshine (That's been booked, but don't blame me if there's a delivery failure).

Bev and Jim Ashford have been the mainstays of the fete for several years but have now decided to take a back seat and "let some fresh blood have a go". Their continuing advice, help and a valuable contacts book is being much appreciated by the 2015 committee.

The list of attractions is still being finalised, but among the arena events will be a show by the Sussex-based inChoir, a modern choir which has numerous satellite groups including ones in Uckfield, Crowborough, Haywards Heath and

Tunbridge Wells (www.inchoir.co.uk), a fun dog show, terrier racing, old tyme sports (hopefully for children and adults), and plenty more. There will also be numerous stalls and sideshows.

The popular Scarecrows display and competition in the village will run again, and this time entry will be free. In the past this has attracted much interest and amusement for people passing through Isfield. More details about this will be available through various sources nearer the time.

One of our local estate agents has agreed to supply some advertising boards to help publicise this year's event. Although the committee is planning to site a few of these near the village centre it is hoped more can be erected a little further out. If anyone is willing to have a "For Sale"-type board put up, please contact me on macdonaldian@btinternet.com or 01825 750512.

That's about it for now except one important detail: This year's fete is being held on Sunday June 28 in the ICE field behind The Laughing Fish. The traditional church service will be held in a marquee at 10.30am, and gates for the main event open at 12.30pm. Don't forget to bring some sun block (forever the optimist!).

Ian MacDonald

SCARECROW COMPETITION WEEK

Saturday 20th - Sunday 28th June



There will be our annual scarecrow competition with a walk about area to include Northfield Cottages, Tile Barn Close as well as Station Road. The theme this year is

FILMS.

More details nearer the time



I.C.E.

Our Second Spring.

Spring approaches, after a winter which might have been longer, but there is still much to do in the ICE field. An Easter caravan rally kicks off our season (weather and ground conditions permitting) and so we are planning a working weekend on the 14th and 15th March 10.00am -1.00pm, to get the field straight in readiness for another busy summer. The hedges have already been cut and Lincoln Cranfield has kindly offered to roll the field, while Kevin Fingerneissl will re-seed the spoil left over from improvements to the track. I have to say that last year's turn-out for the work party, though welcome, was disappointing, with only 8 attending, of which 5 were Committee members, creating extra work for everyone. Working "days" only consist of 2-3 hours of your time and little is needed other than a good pair of hands, with gloves, and a barrow and rake if they can be spared. Neither does it need me to tell you, that help will be welcomed from whoever might feel inclined. You don't need to be an ICE member, simply appreciative of what we are trying to do. Litter picking is the primary job, but there is always some sorting and tidying up around the entrance too. If the Saturday goes well, there may be more interesting (though not more physical) work on the Sunday.

The Village Hall has been booked for 8.00pm on Wednesday March 25th for ICE's annual AGM. Business should be concluded fairly swiftly, there being, other than the usual election of Committee members, only the one vote this time. It is however an important vote

regarding future strategy. And so the more Members who can spare an hour, the stronger the Committee's mandate and the more confidence all can have in the direction of the Society. Again last year's attendance might have been better. It is nice to be trusted with other peoples' money, but it also has to be said that it is never heartening to stand up and speak, with more Members behind you, on the Committee "benches", than before you in the "stalls". So again, please try to find the time. And should you wish to stand for election, please do not hesitate to contact Susanna Tebbutt our Secretary.

Finally, ICE along with ILHBS are supporting the Village Hall's initiative to promote this facilities greater use, by attending the Open Day on the 21st March. Please pop along and take a look. A lot of people are making great efforts with the Village Hall. If it isn't supported it can't be expected to flourish.

**Pete "Scan" Scantlebury
(Chairman ICE).**

ISFIELD NEWSLETTER LIVES ON.....

The printer used for the newsletter has seen better days and every time I go to print I keep my fingers crossed that it will keep going for one more edition. So a huge thank you to Jerry Phillips, as a member of the Village Hall Committee, in his quest to gain funding for equipment; from the advice of District Councillor, Roy Galley, the Community Dividend Grant from Wealden District Council was obtained not only for a new printer for the newsletter but also a projector for the village hall. Well done Jerry!

Bev Ashford



ILHBS

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on January 25th and passed on its thanks to outgoing Chairman, Andy Payne, who has decided to step down for reasons of pressure of work. Although some of the roles and responsibilities have changed the remainder of the committee stood again and were re-elected, with Andy Brooks agreeing to take on a "non-executive" Chairman role.

2014 was another successful year for the group, with several fund-raising activities paying for the annual display. Additionally, collections made on the night have enabled it to donate £500 to its chosen charity for 2014, which is Hope in the Valley - Riding for the Disabled.

The next event is the Easter Quiz, which will be on Saturday 11th April at the Village Hall. Other events will be planned at the next General Meeting of the Society in March - watch this space for news of this year's "ISFEST"! The Society doesn't just exist to put on the annual Fireworks Display, but is also a vibrant Social group with many outings and activities during the year, as well as providing subsidised transport to other Bonfire Nights throughout Sussex during the season. New members are always welcome.

The annual fee has been held at £10 for 2015-16 (£1 for children) and anyone joining now will get membership up until the 31st August 2016. If you'd like to join ask any existing member of the society, or enquire in the Laughing Fish - or come along to the Village Hall Open Day on March 21st and visit our stall.

Andy Brooks, Chair
The Laughing Fish 750349



THE LAUGHING FISH

After a successful 2014 the calendar is once more moving rapidly towards yet another "Tommy Trot" Beer Race on Easter Monday, April 6th. Believe it or not, this will be the 60th year in which the event has taken place! All the usual activities will go ahead - the Easter Egg Hunt at 12 noon, the Lemonade Race at 12.45, the Beer Race at 1.45, and then Ashdown Forest Morris Men at 3.30 - all in aid of the RNLI.

This year the Barbecue will be provided by Holly Gap Farm Shop. Make a note in your diaries - if you've never been to Beer Race day you're in for a treat!

The monthly special food evenings (held on the last Thursday of each month) continue to be popular, and are frequently fully-booked well in advance. The next one will be a Greek Night on Thursday 26th March.

Andy & Linda Brooks
The Laughing Fish 750349