

ISFIELD PARISH NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Editors Note:

It has been a very busy year for the village of Isfield with all the various club meetings, such as The Wednesday Club, TWIG etc sport matches—cricket and stoolball, village events—the beer race, fete, flower show, bonfire night and all the fund-raising events. As we come to the close of 2017 there are already many activities being put onto the village diary for the forthcoming year—see the back pages.

In true hollywood style it is time to thank all those who help to keep the newsletter going — the Parish Council who continue to provide the funds for these publications as well as the Isfield Welcome Packs that have been delivered to over 30 new residents in the last year, a huge thank you to the group of people in various parts of the village who willingly deliver these newsletters to you, an especial thanks to everyone who puts up with my bullying to get the contribution of news to make these newsletters worth reading and to Jason who corrects my endless mistakes!

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a joyous 2018

Bev Ashford: ashfordbja@gmail.com 750456

Jason Kennedy: jtobkennedy@gmail.com 750769

As we went to press, we heard the very sad news that Robert Smith had just died. will be much missed by many communities within the village but especially by his family. All our thoughts and prayers are very much with June and her family in their loss

ISFIELD FROST FAIR - SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2016 ISFIELD VILLAGE HALL

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

Isfield's **FROST FAIR** is always a spectacular Christmas event, and this year's fair will be even bigger and better; local artists, crafts people and suppliers create imaginative and very attractive stalls offering unique, locally produced gifts (knits, soft toys, ceramics, antique jewellery boxes and writing slopes, artworks, prints, jewellery, aromatic soaps and toiletries, chocolates etc.) and Christmas fare (cards, Christmas wreaths, table centres, decorations, Christmas tree ornaments, cheeses, fruit vinegars, curry mixes and chilli sauces, chutneys & jams, mustards, Christmas cakes & puddings, gift packs etc.). We hope that the fair will be a great success once again thanks to our wonderful stall holders and volunteers who offer teas and cakes, run children's prize competitions and a raffle with lovely prizes.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DECORATIONS

The church will be open on

**Saturday 16th December
from 11am - 3pm**

to admire the beautiful Xmas flowers adorning the church.

ISFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Official Opening of the Renovated Village Hall:

We are delighted to report on very exciting times at your village hall, and confidence that your hall has a secure future (in spite of the blow of losing 42% of our income due to the recent sad demise of Isfield Preschool) thanks to a generous donation towards our recent renovations from local firm **KPS Composting Services**, a further grant from **Isfield Parish Council** and much appreciated donations from the many Isfield residents who have joined '**The Friends of Isfield Village Hall**' and contributed towards future maintenance and improvements.

The hall is looking magnificent, the best it ever has looked; renovations include kitchen, decoration inside and outside, windows, curtains, toilets and floor. To thank everyone most sincerely for their support, Isfield Village Hall management committee held an open day and opening of the renovated hall on 13th October for the community to view the recent renovations. This was a very joyful, well attended event with teas/coffees and biscuits provided while everyone viewed the renovations.

Lynne Smith, Sales Manager of Millwood Designer Homes (early contributors to the renovation costs) opened the renovated hall saying that Millwood support community efforts wholeheartedly, and were delighted that so many residents of their development were already actively participating in events at the hall. Danny Smyth, Director of KPS Composting Services, sent his warm wishes and regrets that neither he nor Paul Smyth could attend 'this lovely event.' Peter Holmes, Secretary and Trustee, thanked Millwoods, KPS, Isfield Parish Council, the Friends of Isfield Village Hall and our Users for their support, and gave a special thanks to Ron Levett, supported by his wife Margaret, for his tireless efforts project managing the renovations and also doing work to save us money.

Finally, Father John Wall spoke the words of a hymn and blessed the hall, after which everyone enthusiastically joined in a (donated) champagne toast to the ongoing success of Isfield Village Hall.

Launch of 'The Friends of Isfield Village Hall':

'The Friends of Isfield Village Hall' is an

important part of our initiatives to combat the loss of Preschool's subsidised hire fees as it enables us to build up reserves for regular maintenance costs (e.g. floor, decoration) and to make more improvements in the future (e.g. to the toilets, including a disabled toilet)

The management committee ran a survey in the village to evidence the level of interest in our ideas and ensure viability. We received 55 survey responses which is a tremendous result; thank you to everyone who responded and gave us so many good ideas a summary of which we have now put up on our website (News and Events page). All responses strongly supported the need for the Village Hall, and all but three stated they would join 'The Friends of Isfield Village Hall' (one of the three has subsequently joined the Friends).

'The Friends of Isfield Village Hall' was launched on 15th September by a mail drop throughout the village. We are proud and delighted to report that we have received a wonderful response from the whole community with many Friends joining and donating to our long term maintenance reserves for which we are very grateful. Friends continue to join, and we very much welcome all new Friends. If you would like to join 'The Friends of Isfield Village Hall' please email us on info@isfieldvillagehall.org.uk and we will send you a form.

We plan to set up a Friends' Advisory Group to keep us close to the concerns of the community and ensure our relevance. This Group will help us to identify the activities and events that the community want in their hall, and hopefully help us set them up.

We want the Friends to help us raise funds for major improvements to the hall by coming up with innovative fund raising ideas and seeing them through to successful conclusion. We would like to improve the toilets next, for example, and have a disabled toilet which is really an essential for a village hall.

We want the Friends to help us maintain the beautifully fresh appearance of the hall that has been achieved through the recent renovations. From time to time we will ask for volunteers for working parties to work on the external areas, for example, and spruce up inside the hall.

Upcoming Events:

The details of **Isfield Frost Fair** on Sunday 26th November at the Village Hall are provided on the front page. There will be a

Very warm welcome for all the family, so please come along and make an early start on the Christmas festivities.

While thinking of preparations for Christmas, we should mention Jane Will's **half day 'Christmas Wreaths' workshop** on Saturday 2nd December at the village hall, 9.30am to 12.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to create your own unique and beautiful wreath from Jane's stunning selection of flowers, foliage, ribbons and decorations. Everyone who has been on this workshop has high praise for the selection and Jane's tuition. Cost is £50 including all materials, tuition, coffee/tea and homemade seasonal biscuits and there is a special offer this year; bring a guest (who is new to these workshops) and you will receive a £10 discount (the guest pays full price of course). We appreciate that £50 (and even £40) is a lot to pay, but the event and the wreath you take away really are worth the price. For more details and to book your place please email Jane on jane@flowersanddaughters.co.uk

We changed the date of our professionally run and very enjoyable **Race Night** fund raiser to 17th March 2018 to avoid any clashes with Bonfire events in November. The price per person of £12.50 includes 8 races, a £1 bet on the first race, a delicious buffet supper and a glass of wine. If you enjoy the thrills of racing, don't miss this event and bring your family, friends and teams along. For more information and tickets email info@isfieldvillagehall.org.uk

Please take a look at the **News and Events page** on our website

www.isfieldvillagehall.org.uk to see the wide range of clubs and activities that are run at your village hall. New activities are added regularly so look out for posters up in the Laughing Fish and village notice boards too. Recent new activities include **Pilates** on Thursday mornings and **Kathleen Cole Contemporary Dance classes** for children on Sunday mornings.

Resignation of Officers and Trustees of Isfield Village Hall:

We are seeking a new **Secretary** and a new **Treasurer** after accepting the resignations of three officers and trustees (taking effect after the next AGM in 2018). We thank all three for their huge contributions to the current strong position of the hall. If you would like to offer your own services for either position please contact me for more details by email keith-taylor53@hotmail.com

Peter Rigby, Deputy Chairman, has spent many years on Isfield Village Hall Management Committee, including a period as Chairman, a tremendous length of service after which, not unreasonably, he is standing down. Peter introduced delightful art shows to the hall, and has been creative and open minded throughout his service.

Peter Holmes, Secretary, was instrumental in obtaining the generous donation towards our renovations from Millwood Designer Homes, and has provided great support for every event held at the hall including running stalls at the Frost Fair and supporting Race Nights. We are sure Peter will continue to support us fully at these and other events.

Katherine Meakin, Treasurer, has transformed the activities of the hall over the 3+ years she has served us, and leaves our finances in a very healthy condition, even after full renovation of the hall. As well as managing our finances very professionally, Katherine has contributed countless innovative ideas, backed up by huge reserves of energy and tenaciousness to implement her ideas successfully. She led on marketing, raised funds, initiated and organised our own events, obtained donations, initiated the setup of our website and automated booking service, maintained the website content, launched 'The Friends of Isfield Village Hall' and introduced and nurtured many new activities. We are delighted that Katherine will continue to support our marketing activities and organise events for us.

Bookings:

To book the Village Hall for your receptions, parties and other activities call Brenda Reynolds on 01825 749778 or email bookings@isfieldvillagehall.org.uk or provisionally book online on www.isfieldvillagehall.org.uk (Booking and Hiring page) and Brenda will get back to you to confirm the details of your booking.

Keith Taylor,
Chairman, Village Hall Committee
STOP PRESS:

URGENTLY NEEDED

Part-time Caretaker for Isfield Village Hall.
For information contact
Keith on 01825 749778 or email him at
keith-taylor53@hotmail.co.uk

ISFIELD LADIES STOOLBALL

The 2017 stoolball season was another highly enjoyable and pretty successful one. weather was very kind to us and only one match was postponed due the weather. The season started in early May with our first match against Chiddingly. This was in fact the final the 2016 Aug league which we were unable to fit in at the end of last season. It was a valiant battle, in thermals and under darkening skies we were unfortunately narrowly beaten by 1 wicket. finished 5th in the main summer league which meant we narrowly missed the league finals in Seaford but did however have a very fun day in Plumpton at the 'best of the rest' tournament where we finished second in our group.

The whole season was wrapped up at our 'awards evening' in the Laughing Fish. Awards were presented to Carla Leach our fabulous captain for most runs of the season and most catches and to Jo Isted for most wickets.

Stoolball is a great way to get a bit of exercise and fresh air on a summers evening and we would welcome any newcomers - no experience required. We will start practicing again mid April weather depending - please come along and give it a try!

Charlotte

PROTECT YOURSELF IN WINTER -FLU JABS

If you haven't had your flu jab yet and you are in one of the specified groups, do remember to get this done. Ask your GP practice if you are unsure. As well as protecting the person receiving it, flu vaccination protects people they come into contact with and this may include elderly relatives, very young children and other vulnerable people.

LOOK OUT FOR The new leaflet offering winter advice "Help my A&E/Help my GP"

From the first week in December these leaflets will be sent to all households in the area to keep. They offer advice on things you can do to stay well and where to get help if you are ill.

UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL MP

Wealden is a constituency of animal lovers and over the years I have received very many emails and letters from constituents who are concerned about wildlife and animal cruelty. Given this, I know that the announcements made by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs in the past fortnight will be warmly received.

The first of these announcements was at the Conservative Party Conference, proposing a near-total ban on ivory sales in the UK. Having worked closely with local wildlife conservationists and environmental campaigners on the issue of ivory, I am delighted that the Government has had the drive to propose this landmark ban.

The number of elephants has declined by nearly one third in the past decade and approximately 20,000 elephants are still being slaughtered every year due to the global demand for ivory. Unless poaching stops, there is a very real possibility that elephants could become extinct in Africa and so I am proud that the UK has placed itself firmly at the forefront of the global fight against poaching and is doing its bit to conserve wildlife. The violent poaching by illegal armed gangs will only cease when people stop buying ivory and this is a pivotal step in tackling this attack on our natural world.

The Government has also unveiled plans that animal abusers who commit the most despicable crimes could face up to five years in prison, ten times the current maximum sentence of six months. I know there is huge strength of feeling on this issue and many people up and down Wealden have been petitioning for animal cruelty sentences to be increased and as the local MP lobbied I for the change and Government has listened. It is right that we send a clear signal to any potential animal abusers that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated in England and will be met with suitably tough sentencing.

Both of these policy announcements are part of an ambitious programme of reform by the Government that will cement the UK's position as a global leader on animal welfare.

I am proud to be serving in a government that is leading the way on animal welfare. In the years ahead I am confident that Britain will continue to set the highest standards on animal welfare and combat animal cruelty.

Nus Ghani MP

LUCKY WHERE WE LIVE

In an increasingly mad world we should all be grateful for the little bubble in which we live...ISFIELD.

A village with tremendous community spirit, a thriving local pub, **The Laughing Fish**, the envy of many a village, the centre of village activities and a great place to meet and greet friends. The **Village Fete**, second to none, attracting hundreds of people and providing the opportunity to throw eggs at each other. Then of course...**Isfest**, great local bands and some equally impressive dancing! Come bonfire season, the highlight of the social calendar...**Isfield and Little Horsted Bonfire**, which just gets better and better every year. Thanks to all who put in so much effort and hard work to make all this happen. However, we should not forget that all this is made possible due to the fact we have our own field in which to do as we like, thanks to the formation of **ICE**. Without the purchase of the field behind the Fish all these events may well **NOT** happen. Whether you "aaahhh" at the fireworks, take part in the tug of war or simply park your car in the field when visiting the pub remember that a huge thank you should go to Scan, without his determination and vision the field may well be full of houses now.....

Just a thought.

Tim Zeal.

LITTLE HORSTED CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

The Early Years Village including our Nursery at Little Horsted C.E. School

At the start of the autumn term we welcomed our eighteen new reception children to Rabbit Class and the school. Mrs Greenwood (Early Years Co-ordinator) is delighted with how well they have all settled into life at Little Horsted.

Our Early Years Village has been open since September 2016 and includes our Nursery Robin Class for children, aged 2½, three and four years old. We are able to offer up to 15 places to children in Foundation Stage 1 for the following sessions each week.

Mon-Fri 8.45—12.25 Half day am with Lunch
11.45-12.25 Lunch time
12.25-3.25 Half day pm
8.45-3.25 All day

Nursery children may attend our Breakfast Club from 7.55 a.m. Please contact the school or look at the website to find out more information. The number of children in our Robins Nursery Class continues to grow and we would be delighted to welcome new children and their families to the school. Please look at the website for further information.

School and PTFA Events

The children have enjoyed many school and community events during the Autumn term including our Farmers' Market, some wonderful year group and musical assemblies and our most enjoyable 'Book week' which included shared reading with parents, a book quiz, a spelling challenge and a dress as a book character day.

The children, as a result of a vote held by the new School Council, have supported the Uckfield Food Bank (gifts from the harvest service), and have done fund raising for 'Children in Need' this term. The School Council are creating a sporting challenge for the children to encourage them to raise funds.

The older children in Mr Barnes and Mrs Levy's Owl Class have enjoyed learning about the Ancient Greeks through studying the story of Odysseus and other Greek myths. Their Term 2 Learning Journey is based on the classic book 'The War of the World's.'

The children in Mrs Dainty-Woodham's Badgers Class (Year 3 and 4) have loved their Learning Journey focus on 'The Trial of Mr Wolf' a literacy base focus where Mr Wolf was found guilty by the jury of parents and grandparents during the trial held on the last day of Term 1. For their Term 2 Learning Journey the classroom has turned into a magic wardrobe and they are now reading and finding out about the magical worlds created by the imagination of C.S. Lewis.

Meanwhile the children in Mrs Pepper's Hedgehog Class have been finding out about animals and the habitats they live in. They enjoyed a fascinating visit to the British Wildlife Centre towards the end of their Learning Journey. On the first day of this term they all came to school dressed as 'Superheroes'. Mrs Greenwood's Rabbit Class has been enjoying their newly created outdoor learning area. The area (designed by Mrs Greenwood), includes a stage, a willow shelter, a large newly constructed sandpit, climbing apparatus, a large art draw and writing area, construction and water play plus other learning activities. Both the Robin and Rabbit class children can access the outside area, following the completion of our wonderful new EYFS classroom extension which was completed during the summer holidays. Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Gretzer and Mrs Matthews (Nursery Supervisors) are delighted with the resulting classroom space and engaging outside learning area.

Hedgehog Class and Rabbit Class will be performing 'A Recipe for Christmas' their seasonal nativity play, towards the end of this term. These performances by our very youngest children are always thoroughly enjoyed by parents, grandparents and friends of the school.

The PTFA provided the BBQ at the Isfield Bonfire and Fireworks. They have organised a film night and a disco for the children this term. The PTFA kindly raise funds to support the resources available to the children in school. Recently, they have raised funds for extra 'Trim Trail' apparatus on the school field and playtime toys and equipment for the children to use during playtimes.

Church Information

Father John has led many enjoyable Wednesday morning assemblies and our special Harvest church service which was held in St Michael and All Angels Church on Friday 13th October. Mrs Dainty-Woodham's Badger Class presented the story of Maximus Mouse and the Harvest service. Maximus and his mouse friends were sat all around the church and the congregation seemed to really enjoy the story of how the mice like harvest time best in the church...I wonder why? Father John's talk about food included Sophie his dog. The children discovered that Sophie likes to eat anything, from cat food to strawberries, carrots to bananas. The children filled the church with their wonderful singing of some delightful harvest hymns and songs.

Our end of term Christmas service at St Michael and All Angels Church is on Wednesday 20 December. The school will attend the Christingle Service at St Margaret's Church, Isfield on Sunday 10 December at 10.00 a.m.

For more information about the school and to view the 2017/2018 nursery prospectus or the 2018/2019 school prospectus please visit www.littlehorsted.e-sussex.sch.uk or telephone us on 01825 750380.

Dr Michael Davies
Headteacher

ISFIELD WINE CLUB

Isfield has its own wine club which meets in the Village Hall (Isfield's premier entertainment venue!) every other month. The next meeting will be on Friday 19th January. not come along and banish the midwinter blues with a wine tasting in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, without the usual pretentious wine speak. Previous subjects have included wines from Spain, Rose wines, Rioja's and wines from Italy.

Members choose the subject for tastings so if you have a particular wine or region you would like the group to taste, just let me know. The cost is £10 per person and we usually taste around eight wines.

For further details contact me on 01825 749778.

Keith Taylor

ISFIELD WEDNESDAY CLUB

Once again we have enjoyed an interesting and diverse programme of illustrated talks.

In September John Chisholm showed us the many Sussex postcards taken from the works of the water colour artist A.R. Quinton and how these were often changed, not for the better in John's opinion, to update the views for a more modern clientele.

This was followed by the wonderful, knowledgeable "Owls Out and About" team who brought their amazing collection of owls for us to see, hold and photograph. We are now highly informed of every aspect of the life of an owl!

The Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service gave us an insight into the very valuable work they provide for our community.

It is the 90th anniversary of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway this year and Andy Nash, an avid enthusiast and engine driver, told us the story of the history of the formation of the RH&D and the determined characters who are behind it.

Our next speaker was Kevin Gordon who is always engaging, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. He spoke about Sussex in The Great War; a social history of how the war affected the people of Sussex. He gave fascinating anecdotes, facts and figures all accompanied by illustrations, many of which were highly amusing.

In our run up to Christmas we will have Gilly Halcrow who will examine the derivations of our Yuletide traditions. We will have a Christmas lunch at The Half Way House. For our last meeting of this year we have a musical Christmas entertainment in the Flanders and Swann tradition which should be good fun.

Details of our next programme can be seen in the diary pages at the back of this newsletter, on the village notice boards, in The Laughing Fish and on the Isfield Parish website.

Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 2.30pm in Isfield Village Hall. Do join us. Everybody is welcome.

For more information please contact
Colin Stains (chairman) 01825 766342 or
Liz Fine (secretary) 01825 750658

Liz Fine
Secretary

ISFIELD **PARISH COUNCIL**

I'm sure most people will be aware of the problems created for the Village Hall by the ending of the pre-school. Although the Parish Council and the Hall are two distinct, separate institutions, it is pretty obvious that the purpose of both is similar - to support the life of the village, in their own individual ways. I know the Village Hall Committee are actively widening the scope of the use of the Hall, and I am pleased to say that recently the Parish Council were able to make a modest grant to the Hall. That grant comes out of the precept, which is paid by parishioners. One of the things that I have been determined to ensure during my time as Chairman is that the finances of the Council remain robust and able to cope with what may be unforeseen requirements. At the same time, we are very conscious that the level of precept - tax, in simple terms - does not get out of control. We have a balancing act between keeping the level low and yet ensuring that we have sufficient funds to run effectively.

The decisions we make about both sides of the equation - the amount raised, and the way it is spent - are made in open forum at Parish Council meetings. In other words, when we discuss these matters, it is in a meeting which all parishioners are

entitled to attend and hear. Now, I know it's often - particularly in winter - on a dark, rainy night, when going along to listen in the Village Hall may not be the most attractive evening opportunity, but the fact remains that the best way of getting the Council to listen to suggestions and requests about what concerns you is to come along and tell us about it. At most meetings, we generally see only a small group; but these meetings are your chance to tell us what you want. I urge people to come along and make their presence felt. The agenda for each meeting and the minutes from the previous one are put on the Parish Council website (www.isfieldpc.org.uk) and the noticeboard next to the Laughing Fish about a week before the meeting.

Geoff Sambrook
Chair

ISFIELD & LITTLE HORSTED BONFIRE SOCIETY

Hello good people of Isfield!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for another year of support for our Bonfire Society. We had an excellent evening on the 27th October, and we hope that you all enjoyed the show.

Thank you also to all those who helped make it possible, whether on the day, or helping organise all our fundraising events throughout the rest of the year in the run up to the event. I know that many people from the village come to support us at these events, so give yourselves a pat on the back!

Speaking of fundraisers, don't forget that it is our fantastic **CHRISTMAS QUIZ on FRIDAY 1st DECEMBER** in the village hall - it would be lovely to see lots of you there, and it is another fun way to support the society.

January tends to be a bit of a lull after celebrating Christmas and New Year so come and join us on

SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY

for something a little bit different -

A MURDER MYSTERY DINNER.

Enjoy a three-course meal and be entertained in between courses by our own amazing Bonfire thespians as they lead you through a murder mystery story. By the end of the evening you should have gathered enough evidence to decide who did what, why and when. Tickets available from the Laughing Fish and Farm Shop in January at £20 each - please note that tickets must be purchased in advance (none available on the night) as this is a fully catered event and numbers must be determined beforehand along with any dietary requirements. A licensed bar will also be available. Put the date on your diary now - lookout for more information on the flier after Christmas. Come and join us for what will be a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Finally, I would like to tell you all that we still have various social events planned for the coming months (despite the fact that the Bonfire season is almost over) - these events are open to all Bonfire members, and have included bowling, laser quest, go-karting, walks and curling. These are a good way to get to know the people in the society, especially if you are considering joining us for next year's Bonfire Season. Membership forms are available in the Laughing Fish or contact Jim on ashford.jim1@gmail.com

And without further a-do I shall wish you all a very merry Christmas.

What shall we do with the turkey? BURN IT!

Timmy Fordham
Chairman

SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Would you pay more to support policing in Sussex?

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne writes: "This year, we have seen police officers and staff nationally, along with other emergency services, respond with skill and bravery as they play their part in the substantial security effort around the recent terror attacks which have hit the UK. In response, the Government is increasing the money it spends on tackling terrorism, including an amount for policing.

"Further investment is also working to tackle the national threat of cybercrime, which is affecting businesses and individuals across the country. With the new frontline for policing increasingly becoming our front rooms and children's bedrooms - where crimes are being committed down the phone line and behind screens - we have to recognise that the policing we see is not necessarily all the policing we get to keep us safe.

"I know that residents support Sussex Police in preparing for threats like terrorism and cybercrime but I'm also aware that issues closer to home, such as anti-social behaviour, are affecting local people.

"In previous years, the Chief Constable has asked for my help to raise more funds to invest in specific areas of policing, including public protection, community investigation and armed response. Thanks to the money you've already contributed through your council tax, Sussex Police has been able to build its capacity and capabilities in these areas, and others, to deliver a more effective and efficient service to the public.

Now we need your help to sustain this service.

All public services have to find significant financial savings and Sussex Police is no exception. The force has already saved £70m since 2010 and the Chief Constable's Local Policing Plan is working towards delivering further savings over the next four years.

I know the changes Sussex Police has made to its policing model are taking some getting used to but it's vital that the force reshapes its neighbourhood policing teams to meet the challenges of 21st century policing.

The Chief Constable and I are continuing to work together to drive further reform and substantial progress has already been made through collaboration with local and regional partners and through investment in mobile technology.

I want to help Sussex Police explore and identify all opportunities for investment. That is why I have carried out a review of the amount of money Sussex Police holds in its reserves and released £15m to reduce the impact of reductions in police officer numbers. I've done this because I recognise the scale of the impact that these changes are having on the police and the public, and I remain committed to investing in local policing.

I am also seeking further sources of external funding, including contributions from new building developments that lead to increased demand on local services. I - and other Police & Crime Commissioners - continue to negotiate with the Government for more funding for policing, as well as asking for the removal of the current 'cap' on the police precept.

Please take a minute to complete my online survey to tell me whether you would be prepared to pay more, through your council tax, for policing in Sussex. You can find all the information at www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/public-consultations

PCC Katy Bourne

ISFIELD ROUNDABOUT DINNER

Please reserve the evening of Saturday 17th February in your 2018 diary for a fun fundraising event for St Margaret's Church and St Peter & St James Hospice.

The event is a Progressive Dinner Party when couples or pairs of friends will host, for two other couples, one of a three course dinner party. You will be told well in advance which course you will be hosting but not who your guests will be nor to where you will be going for the other two courses or for coffee at the end where everyone will meet up. All is revealed as the evening progresses...

The cost will be £25 per couple or £12.50 for anyone on their own who would like to be paired up with someone for the evening. Very unfortunately, numbers have to be limited.

It's a great way to meet people and as it will be three years since the last one was held in the village there are many newcomers who we hope will want to join in. If you are interested and have not received a letter of explanation, please contact:

Doreen Upton [tel. 750496
Email doreenupton1@gmail.com] or
Stephen Hardwick [tel. 750498
Email sh@smugglerscottage.net]

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

We want to thank, very sincerely, the many villagers who, as Friends of St Margaret's, have again donated a wonderful amount to the church. Quite simply, our church could not continue as it does without the Friends' great generosity. Those who were able to come to the Thank-You party in September enjoyed a talk by John Wall, our Rector, on "What man or woman in their right mind would contemplate becoming an Anglican vicar"!

In September there was a very successful Book Swap which raised funds for church flowers. Thank you to both Cariena Cartwright & Jean Pointing for organising the event and to Andy & Linda who again very kindly hosted it in the Laughing Fish and as always made everyone welcome.

Without the funds raised that day the church would be flowerless at the big services such as Harvest Festival. This year the decorations were particularly beautiful and our thanks to all the arrangers and especially to Penny Martin and Cariena Cartwright, the organisers.

Many of you may have missed seeing the damage, wrought by Storm Aileen, to the massive oak at the entrance to the church. One of its huge branches smashed to the ground and somehow just missed demolishing not only the porch but also the gravestones around the entrance and the wall; a twenty first century Miracle of St Margaret's. Our thanks to KPS who came out very quickly and cleared the timber for us.

Some of you may have seen a programme on BBC2 last month about the Harry Potter stories and the mystery of magic at their heart. If so, you will have just glimpsed the field opposite the church. The reason for filming in the village was because Harry Potter's author, J.K. Rowling, was apparently inspired by Nicholas Culpeper's "Complete Herbal". He in turn is thought to have been inspired, when he lived in the village, by the scratch dial on the church. Unfortunately, on the morning of filming the BBC dropped this part of the programme, despite weeks of organisation, and only found time to film herbs in the field. If you want to see what the BBC missed you will find the Scratch or Mass dial on the south face of the western buttress of the Shurley Chapel.

The Remembrance service was, as always, a moving occasion when the many village organisations came together to lay wreaths on the war memorial inside the church for the seventeen villagers who died during the First World War and five during the Second War together with three on the War Commission graves in the churchyard. So many from a community as small as ours; which of course was so much smaller a hundred years ago.

Now our thoughts are turning to Christmas when there will be a wide range of services for everyone. The festive season will start on Sunday 10th December with a Christingle service at 10 o'clock. The children who go to Little Horsted School will have prepared the symbolic oranges at school and they and all other village children will play an important part during the service.

The next traditional service will be the Village Carol service at 6 o'clock on Sunday the 17th. On Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Communion service starting at 11.30 pm and then on Christmas morning at 10 o'clock a Family Service followed by Holy Communion for those who want.

All these services will be led by Canon Hugh Moseley and we are indebted to him for all he does for us and to our Rector John Wall with a team of retired clergy and Readers who ensure that we continue to have a service every Sunday.

We know that many villagers enjoy the beauty of the church even though they may not come to its services. This year, St Margaret's will be open on Saturday 16th December from 11.00a.m. to 3.00 p.m. for everyone to be able to enjoy the church decorated for Christmas. We do hope that as many villagers as possible will be able to find time to come.

Let us hope that 2018 is the year when, at last, a Curate will be found to come to live and be with us in the village. Our weekly services will continue to be held at 10 o'clock with Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, Matins on the 2nd and a Family service on the 4th.

We wish you all a joyful Christmas and look forward to seeing you at our services and the Open Church Saturday.

Churchwarden
Mervyn Griffiths
Tel 750446

COMMUNITY FIRST **RESPONDERS**

Now that winter is coming upon us the calls on the emergency services will see a marked seasonal increase. One big way that you can assist is to ensure that the name or number (or both) of your property are prominently displayed, because on those occasions when minutes are precious, time sent searching or enquiring for an address can be critical. This is particularly important for us country dwellers where houses are often set back from long country lanes with no lighting to assist at night, and no numbers to guide location.

Talking about minutes counting, in a cardiac arrest the chances of successful defibrillation decline at a rate of 7-10% with each minute of delay following a cardiac arrest. In a recent village newsletter, I asked for those interested in learning basic CPR and the proper use of the defibrillator mounted on the wall outside The Laughing Fish to leave their names with landlord Andy Brooks, so that a training session or sessions could be arranged. Sad to day no training has yet been given. Despite the voice instructions given by the Automatic External Defibrillator, there is an inevitable time lag between receiving and carrying out those instructions. This time lag can be very significantly reduced if you already know the basic operation - think getting in an unfamiliar car and working out the controls! It only takes very few of you to have received training to be able to make a vital difference when a cardiac emergency arises. Every second really does count.

Thank you for reading this and please do consider learning how to carry out CPR and operate a defibrillator, to give you that significant advantage when the clock is ticking and the pressure mounts.

Stay safe, well and enjoy all the beauty that winter bestows.

Derek Smith

ISFIELD FARM SHOP

Christmas is coming

Firstly, thank you for your ongoing support this year. The lovely hot summer meant we were busier than ever with BBQ bits, especially the burgers. To give you some idea we hand-made 6,000 burgers during July and August!!

We are starting Christmas off with our festive open evening - 23rd Nov from 5pm-8pm with free mince pie and mulled wine. There will be lots of goodies out to taste including local cheese, pates, smoked salmon and plenty of olives from our very popular olive bar. Orders are being now. Fabulous turkeys are again being provided locally from Chiddingly, along with local beef, lamb and pork. As last year we will also have local table duck, goose and the ever-popular Capons; we will need orders as soon as possible for these as demand is very high. So don't forget we can put all your Christmas in a box, remember those finishing touches from bakery mince pies and bread to fresh veg and free range eggs. We will be at the frost fair, on Sunday 26th Nov with a good selection of bits for you to try and buy.

Christmas opening hours

Wednesday 20th, 8am-6pm

Thursday 21st am-6pm

Friday 22nd 8am-6pm

Saturday 23rd am-7pm (main collection day)

Sunday 24th 8am-12pm

Opening again

Thursday 28th 9am-2pm

Friday 29th am-2pm

Saturday 30th am-2pm

Please note this week there will be no

Bakery items as they are closed until 5th Jan.

We will be back as normal from Thursday 4th Jan, although the pizza evening won't be back until first week in March.

We look forward to seeing you all in the lead up to Christmas.

Many thanks

Sue & Dave

and the ever-growing team Helen, Henry, Ryan, Sarah and Molly

T.W.I.G

The Women's Isfield Group

We meet once a month on a Wednesday evening in the village hall—see the diary at the back for dates. Non-members are £5 which includes refreshments. We also have a Facebook page

August -our summer social BBQ, the weather was not on our side but we still enjoyed a really lovely evening inside Barbara's , with the lovely Nina and Roger cooking on the BBQ underneath the carport!! We had a great turnout of members and their partners and some truly lovely food was shared, thanks go to Sue Biggins and her crew at Isfield Farm Shop for the burgers and sausages, and big thanks to Barbara for hosting the event and again to Nina and Roger for supplying and manning the BBQ.

September — A visit to Newhaven Lifeboat Station. This was a superb evening and we can highly recommend a visit to the lovely volunteers and volunteer crew, who undertake the huge task of keeping us all safe while we are out at sea or visiting the coast. We were given a brief talk on arrival and then had a really informative guided tour of the vessel before going upstairs in the main building to hear lots more about the history of the lifeboat service and in particular the background and history of the Newhaven vessel and crew(s) along with some of the 'shouts' that they have attended. The station holds regular open days and fundraising events and is really well worth a look if you are in the area.

October - it was with a mild panic when a few of the more involved ladies realised that we did not have a confirmed speaker for our meeting, so I took to Facebook and put out a plea to see what could be done! With huge good fortune the wonderful Tim Fordham came immediately to our rescue and offered his services as a speaker on the subject of BONFIRE! Tim, who is chair of the Isfield and Little Horsted Bonfire Society, managed a brilliant talk at such short notice complete with slides and we all learnt a huge amount - who knew there was so much more about the tradition of bonfire and fireworks in Sussex than just that Guy Fawkes chap!! A Really big thank you to Tim for stepping in short notice (if we can get Mike back across the pond to give us a talk, then we will have hit the jackpot, as we have been fortunate to have talks from the rest of this family!!)

November - what a really fun and relaxing evening we had making Norwegian Elves. We were low in number but those of us who did attend had a good laugh trying out the craft of Norwegian Felting with Sarah Marsham, painful at times when the needle missed the wool but everyone was really happy with their finished Elf (and we may have a new member if Sarah joins us in the new year, but even if not, we have a new 'crafty contact' for future meetings!) Thank you, Sarah for your patience with us all.

December 6th is our next meeting and we will be making a floral Christmas table centre piece and enjoying some Christmas cheer with a nibble or two. If you wish to join us you would be most welcome, please bring a plate of food to share and any 'extra' decorative pieces such as cinnamon sticks, dried orange slices, ribbon and you will also need to bring your own candle if you wish to have one in your arrangement, An oasis and plastic dish will be provided. Anyone wishing to participate in the 'secret Santa' is also welcome - a wrapped gift to the value of no more than five pounds is all that's required. Doors will be open from 7.30 to get set up.

January 2018 — date to be confirmed will be our usual meeting in the Fish to plan our year's calendar. all welcome, please bring lots of ideas and contact details so we can get busy filling up the dates.

Sues Crawford

NEWS FROM I.C.E. FIELD

I fully realise that many of you may be getting a little bored with this, but once again ICE have had a successful year. The flow of caravans into our CL was good, with the only downturn being during the wet month of July. Our policy of taking deposits on pitches has cut "no-shows" down to a trickle. We have managed to make some small improvements to the site and our customer service has prompted compliments from the Caravan Club.

But however boring this might be, it is important for both ICE Members, and the wider village, to remember this. It is through the hard work and the financial commitment of all 71 ICE Members that this facility is available to us. ILHBS took advantage of this, late last month, to put on another superb firework display, with a shorter and more efficient Road Closure and a beautifully choreographed, and moving, "Remembrance Ceremony" around the bonfire.

Before the rain arrived in July, another village group accessed the ICE Field to bring us the Fete, where local organisations are given pitches free of charge to raise funds and the village comes together for a fine afternoon of dog and family friendly fun. I must say what a pleasure it is to deal with Andy Brooks and his Organising Committee. Level headed and considerate, the Fete Committee shows all the necessary flexibility and consideration towards its fellow ICE Members, never failing to keep us abreast of decisions and changes of plans. The result is a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship, which can only enhance a culture of trust - something from which we all benefit.

And this brings me to my final and most pleasing piece of news. Last year with the village marquee on its last legs, the Fete decided to purchase a replacement. This was a considerable investment and despite Fete funds being adequate, it left little wiggle-room for the unexpected. This prompted the Fete Committee to come to ICE for a temporary loan. After much discussion £3,000 was agreed upon, with the money to be paid back over 3-5 years. However, with the Fete being the well-run outfit that it is, Andy was yesterday, able to write a cheque for the full amount - a mere 4 years early!

Thank you, Andy and All. It was, as always, a pleasure.

Have a good Christmas.

Pete "Scan" Scantlebury (Chairman ICE).

THE LAUGHING FISH

After another busy summer we're once again getting ready for Christmas, and by the time you read this we will have completely refurbished our commercial kitchen. We've replaced the flooring and wall surfaces and installed a brand-new ventilation system to keep us cooler in the summer - and redesigned the equipment layout to give us a much more efficient working environment.

Linda has been very busy knitting, and this autumn has sold 140 knitted poppies all in aid, of course, of the Royal British Legion. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Our Christmas Party menu is in operation throughout December until lunchtime on Christmas Eve. Once again, it is presented in an "à la carte style" so that those within a party can choose whether to have just one, two, or three courses. Advance booking for this is essential, and you can see the menu on our website www.thelaughingfish.co.uk

We're looking forward as usual to the visit of the **Ashdown Forest Mummers** on Saturday 16th December, and we'll also be welcoming **Uckfield Concert Brass** again for a carols sing-along on the evening of Sunday 17th December. (After last year's carols a few of us stayed on and had a very enjoyable off-the-cuff sing-song, which led directly to our now monthly "Singing Fish" evenings - the third Sunday of the month led by choir mistress Ruth Kerr. Do come along and join in!)

As always, we'd love to see you for a drink on **Christmas Day** between 12 noon and 2.00pm. The kitchen will be open every lunchtime after Christmas, (but not in the evening until Tuesday January 2nd).

On **New Year's Eve** we're going to repeat last year's "bring your own vinyl records" party, but this year with a 1980s theme. Free entry, a small buffet, and open until 2.00 a.m.

Finally, we're pleased to announce that we now 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
The Laughing Fish 750349

ISFIELD DANCING CLUB

Club evenings and functions have been very successful throughout this year, and we had some new members joining us. We are constantly updating the music we play, for some of the more modern tunes adapted for sequence dancing. Our **AGM** was on the 1st of November with all members attending, who unanimously voted to keep me as Chairman, with Mrs D Read as Secretary and Mrs D Wickens as treasurer.

We would welcome anyone who would like to come and join us on a Wednesday evening; the remaining club nights for 2017 are on the 29th November at 8pm till 10pm December 13th Christmas party 7.00-10.00 pm, and still at only £2 per evening.

Ron Levett
Chairman. 01825 750404

ISFIELD CRICKET CLUB

As I look out at cloudy skies, damp and chilly weather, the new cricket season seems far off. In reflecting on the past season, I can report that the Saturday League First XI just missing-out on promotion from Division 3 finishing in third place. However, the county-wide re-structuring of all the Sussex cricket leagues has meant that we did get promoted in the re-organisation. Unfortunately, the First team were unable to successfully defend their Intersport Plate trophy, losing to Bells View Green in the final, in September. The Saturday Second XI finished just below half way in Division 12 of the ESCL. The Sunday Eleven had some very good games against various opposition. David Williams and his volunteers have looked after the square superbly again this past season.

At the club AGM on 19 October, both teams had new Captains elected: Neil Thornicroft for the First team and Harvey Buckle for the Second team. Grateful thanks were given to James Fellows and Neil Buckle - the outgoing Captains of the First and Second teams respectively - for all their time and hard work in the roles, especially to James who had been First Team Captain for over 10 years. Main awards at the Club Dinner on 07 October were:

First team batting - Huw Williams;
First team bowling - Stefan Halsey.
Second team batting - Harvey Buckle;
Second team bowling - Neil Buckle.
Club all-rounder - James Fellows.

Winter Nets began early February at Longhill School, Rottingdean. The outdoor Junior Coaching Academy - which caters for an age range of 11 to 18 every Monday evening at the Recreation Ground - will recommence in 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

e-mail: thornicrofts@btinternet.com.

Neil Thornicroft