



ABOVE: THE NEW LOOK BRIDGE COTTAGE

UDPS News Issue 1

Summer 2017

WHAT'S ON THIS SUMMER

A New Era for UDPS

by The UDPS Team

Welcome to the first new-look UDPS members' newsletter. The UDPS team want to extend a very warm welcome to all our new members and a big thank you to all our existing members for supporting us over the years. The last few years have seen some big changes for us and at Bridge Cottage in particular. The Society has been looking after Bridge Cottage since the late 1960s and has saved the building from threatened demolition on several occasions. In recent years however the situation again became pressing, significant renovations were urgently needed. Thanks to a Heritage Lottery Grant, the building was once again saved and its future secured.

The Cottage is **open to the public every Friday** and hosts a variety of one-off events and exhibitions. So far we have organised two really successful and memorable exhibitions on the two World Wars and vintage wedding dresses from the local community.

Members' coffee mornings



Starting on Monday June 5th, our members coffee mornings will be running weekly on Mondays from 10am – 12pm at Bridge Cottage. Come along to meet and chat with other members, staff and volunteers whilst you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit or slice of cake. We look forward to seeing you!

Uckfield Memories Café at Bridge Cottage



Starts Wednesday 13th June, 10am-12pm

Come and share your memories of local life with us on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

BRIDGE COTTAGE

- 30th May – 2nd June – HALF TERM Fun!
- 1st June – Talk: UDPS Archives
- 1st June – Volunteer Drop-in event
- 14th June – Memories Café
- 6th July – Talk: Wakehurst at War
- 11th July – Teddy Bears Picnic
- 9th & 16th July – Uckfield History Walks
- 13th July – History of Uckfield Festival
- 15th July – Time Capsule Ceremony
- 28th July-19th Aug – Games Exhibition
- 29th Aug-4th Sept – Shops Exhibition
- 7th Sept Talk: Tudor Dancing & Costume

NUTLEY WINDMILL

- 28th & 29th May – Nutley Windmill Open
- 25th June – Nutley Windmill Vintage Day
- 30th July – MG Owners Club
- 27th & 28th Aug – Nutley Windmill Open

Groups visits: schools, group tours and more!

by The Education Team

Since Bridge Cottage was reopened after the restoration was complete back in April 2016 we have had many local schools and groups in to visit us and enjoy one of our fantastic historical workshops.

Our education programme is written and delivered by our dedicated Heritage Education Officers here; Maria Kirk and Nicola Stewart. Their Education Programme is linked to the National Curriculum and follows the timeline of the Cottage. Popular workshops delivered over the last 13 months have been; Food through the Ages; Clothing through the Ages; The History of Uckfield; Tudor Life: Cookery & Clothing.

Here you see pictured **Alpha Troup Uckfield Scouts** who visited us to learn about Uckfield through the ages and earn their Local Knowledge Badge! They



learnt about the Saxon origins of the town through to the building of the railway and to modern day.

Our Education Team can write and deliver a workshop according to your need so please get in touch and see how we can support you.

Nutley Windmill also offers Educational Workshops for schools and groups.
Email: Nutley.mill@udps.co.uk

GET IN TOUCH!

Our full education programme can be found on our website: www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

To make a booking or enquiry email: education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

01825 760734



Royal Mail Stamps

by Nutley Windmill Team

We are very excited to share our news that Nutley Windmill will appear on a set of stamps being released on 20th June 2017. Royal Mail said,

"Some of the UK's surviving windmills and watermills are over 400 years old and many are still in working order. We have selected three windmills and three watermills from around the UK for this issue."

ISSUE DATE- **[Windmills and Watermills: 20 June](#)**

These stamps and postcards will be available from Nutley Windmill, Bridge Cottage and our UDPS Charity Shop after 20th June.

Shopping

with UDPS

We have gift shops at both Nutley Windmill & Bridge Cottage for that interesting and unusual gift.



Did you know Bridge Cottage is now licensed for weddings?



Contact us for further details and a viewing.

Uckfield Conservation Area

by UDPS

A significant recent success story for the society concerns the extension of the Uckfield Conservation Area to include a further part of the High Street: Nos 100-138.

Back in 2014 Wealden District Council held a consultation into the Uckfield Conservation Area. UDPS submitted a paper called "*Uckfield's transformation from village to town: A case for preservation*". Happily, Wealden District Council were convinced by our recommendation and decided to extend the Conservation Area to include the historic buildings, as well as some other areas.

Conservation Areas (CAs) are areas of "special architectural or historic character which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". When an area is designated as a CA it benefits from some added protection and restrictions. This means that all buildings in the area - even unlisted buildings - will now be more tightly controlled when it comes to demolition or developments like roof extension, cladding, satellite dishes and extensions. There will be more control over works to trees in the area, and there will also be stricter controls on advertisements in the area.

A great result for UDPS and Uckfield!

Volunteering with UDPS

by UDPS

As a member you are already supporting UDPS with your annual subscription. There are lots of other ways to help us and get involved with the Society. If you have some free time on your hands, why not consider volunteering with us? Volunteers are a vital part of the team and they are essential for the continued running of the society so any time you could donate would be very much appreciated. It's good for you too – gain experience in the heritage or retail sector, make new friends – just do something different and have fun! You can volunteer at Bridge Cottage, Nutley Windmill or the UDPS Charity Shop.

Bridge Cottage

We have a number of opportunities here at Bridge Cottage – from visitor services to education to cataloguing our archives. The most important qualities we look for in our volunteers are a love of history and a desire to get involved and pitch in. At Bridge Cottage we generally ask for a minimum commitment of one morning or afternoon per week, although we also welcome applications from volunteers

who are interested in working with us on a more casual basis at one-off evening and weekend events. Contact education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

Nutley Windmill

After 49 years of caring for the mill, repairs are needed to preserve this 16th Century windmill for the future. Are you able to come along anytime between 10th-18th June to lend your service and support in repairing exposed timbers; replace/seal and treat with preservative? We are grateful for all support offered. (Lunch provided)

We also welcome enquiries from those who wish to volunteer on a regular basis – get in touch to discuss opportunities.

Please contact Brian on 01435-873367 or email wbtpike@btinternet.com

UDPS Charity Shop

Can you spare some time to help out at the charity shop? Contact Liz at udpscharityshop@gmail.com or pop in and say hello.



A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

Some of the items Erin has been documenting

"I have been a volunteer in the Heritage Hub for around 6 months. It fits perfectly with my postgraduate studies in Genealogy. Volunteering at the various Bridge Cottage events is also great fun and working with the Bridge Cottage staff and other volunteers is really rewarding" – Erin, Bridge Cottage volunteer

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pop into the charity shop or get in touch by email or phone using any of the contact details on this page.

We'd love to hear from you!



Great news for Nutley Windmill – a grant from Wealden District Council will pay for the new Granary

Chairman's Roundup

by Brian Pike, Hon. Chairman

It is some years since I last wrote in the Newsletter and so much has changed for the better.

Firstly there is Bridge Cottage, restored so carefully, maintaining its original design. I must thank Mick Harker for his enthusiasm and effort in getting this done it would not have happened without him. I must also thank John Carvey who has taken on the extra work without moaning, at least not to me! We must remember that all their work is voluntary. They have a good team in Nicola Stewart and Maria Kirk putting so much effort and ideas for the future of the Cottage and who are gathering an enthusiastic team of Volunteers which are so vital to its success. Now the Cottage is open and becoming part of the Village, I still think of Uckfield as a village as it used to be when I first became to know it in the 1950's.

Secondly our Charity Shop. Well what can I say, like Bridge Cottage it has an excellent team in Elizabeth Penton and assisted by Mike and their volunteers that it goes from strength to strength. We are very lucky in this Society that the

right people come forward and make this Society so successful and respected, both locally and nationally.

Finally Nutley Windmill, we have this year received a grant from Wealden District Council in their Community Grants scheme. This is marvelous and will allow us to carry out essential works. It is the first grant we have from them had since they paid for the storm damage the Windmill sustained in the 1987 storm.

This grant will allow us to complete the new Granary, mainly the electrics, completing the fencing between our field and the Forest, so keep the Cattle from entering and thus preventing them getting onto the A22!

The Society is looking forward to **2018**. On 12th May we will be celebrating fifty years of restoring and maintaining Nutley Windmill, with the grand opening of the Granary, hence the work this year to have the Mill looking its best. On 8th October we celebrate fifty years since the Uckfield and District Preservation Society's inaugural meeting. Here's to another 50 years, and more!

DONATE YOUR ITEMS



Do you have any old and interesting items gathering dust or tucked away in boxes at home? Don't want to throw them away but would like them to go to a good home? Consider donating them to our handling collection. For more information contact Maria: maria@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

Have you been spring cleaning recently? Do you have any clothes, books, toys or other items to get rid of? Donate them to our charity shop in the High Street. Email Liz on udpscharityshop@gmail.com



The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Uckfield and District Preservation Society.

Do you have an email address? Please register it with us so we can keep you up to date with future events and news. This will also save on paper and postage!!

If you would like to contribute to this quarterly newsletter please submit your article to:

admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk