



ABOVE: BRIDGE COTTAGE AT NIGHT

UDPS News Issue 2

Autumn 2017

WHAT'S ON THIS AUTUMN

Fairs, Frights and Food!

by The UDPS Team

Autumn is now well and truly upon us and here at UDPS we are gearing up for a packed season of fairs, markets and events. There is a lot going on, and we've got something for everyone so you're sure to find an event to suit you.

Our popular **Music@Bridge Cottage series** is back! The next concert is on 18th November. Visit our website to book online for these.

Since July we have been running a monthly **Antiques Fair** – so far these have been a big hit. Over the next few months we have a **Vintage & Retro Market**, a **Craft & Artisan Fair**, and a **Food Market** in time for Christmas. Speaking of the festive season, our markets are the perfect place to find unusual and interesting Christmas gifts for your friends and family – come along and find something truly unique!

Before Christmas though comes **Halloween**. We're having a spooky extravaganza on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October at Bridge Cottage and entry is completely FREE! We've got ghost stories, spooky refreshments and craft activities for children. If you're of the creative persuasion then why not

enter our **Pumpkin Carving Competition**? Simply bring your carved pumpkin along to Bridge Cottage on Thursday 26th October between 3pm and 7pm, or on Friday 27th October between 9am and 1pm. Voting will be open to visitors during the Halloween event with prizes for the scariest pumpkin, most artistic pumpkin and the funniest pumpkin.

We continue to hold our **Members' Coffee Mornings** on Mondays from 10am-12pm at Bridge Cottage. Come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit or slice of cake. We look forward to seeing you! We also hold our monthly Uckfield Memories Café on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 10am-12pm. Come along and chat to our staff and volunteers, we'd love to hear about your memories of Uckfield.



For more information on any UDPS events or projects email admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

Find out about all our upcoming events here:

BRIDGE COTTAGE

27th & 28th Oct – Halloween

2nd Nov – Talk: Suffragettes in Sussex

4th Nov – Vintage & Retro Market

8th Nov – Memories Café

18th Nov – Music: Young Artists Concert

25th Nov – Antiques Fair

1st Dec – Late night shopping

2nd Dec – Christmas Food Market

7th Dec – Talk: Tudor Costume & Dance

13th Dec – Memories Café

NUTLEY WINDMILL

15th Oct – End of Season close at dusk.

Research Your Roots

by The Education Team

Are you interested in tracing your family history but not sure where to start? If so, come and join our beginners Family History course. Read our course outline below:

WEEK 1 – FREE Introduction Session. Explores your questions and gives you the basic information you need to start collecting evidence.

WEEK 2 – Back to the early 1800s

WEEK 3 – Back to 1538

WEEK 4 – Ireland, Scotland, Wales etc.

WEEK 5 – Working Lives

WEEK 6 – For Crown and Country

Nicola, one of our education officers, will be leading the course with expert support from Colin Cummins (Sussex Family History Group).

The first session starts on Friday 20th October and classes continue weekly for 6 sessions. The first session is FREE and subsequent sessions are £5 each, payable as a one-off £25 payment.

Book online at

www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk/courses

GET IN TOUCH!

For any enquiries email:

education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

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

01825 760734



Community Exhibitions

by the UDPS Team

Since the restoration, Bridge Cottage has played host to a number of community exhibitions. As well as our own exhibitions on Uckfield during World War 1 and World War 2 (February 2017) and on Wedding Fashions in the 20th Century (April 2017), we have recently hosted two exhibitions in partnership with local organisations.

In July during the Uckfield Festival visitors could enjoy a display on the history of the festival including photographs and copies of programmes from every year of the festival so far!

Then, in September, coinciding with the Uckfield Bonfire celebrations and the start of Bonfire season countrywide a fascinating display of Bonfire and Carnival memorabilia was displayed celebrating the 190th anniversary of the Uckfield Bonfire and Carnival Society.

If you are involved with a local group and you have any documents, photographs or items connected with it then why not get in touch with us? We can help you organise and put on a pop up exhibition celebration your organisation – we may even have some relevant images and documents in our own collection.



GET IN TOUCH!

For any enquiries email:

admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

Call us on 01825 760734 or pop into Bridge Cottage or the UDPS Charity Shop

Time Capsule

by UDPS

On Saturday July 15th UDPS buried a Time Capsule at Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre. Mick Harker, chairman of the Bridge Cottage Committee was joined by 2 young helpers to lower the capsule into place, where it will stay for the next 100 years. Theodore Stribley aged 6, a member of 4th Uckfield Beavers, Manitoba Colony was one of the children to assist with the burial. Theo's colony contributed a scarf and badges to the capsule. The time capsule contained letters, objects and drawing from 16 local schools and community organisations.



Theodore and Chloe help Mick Harker bury the time capsule

Can you help UDPS?

With so many activities and projects going on at UDPS we need of support of our members even more. While your annual membership subscriptions are greatly appreciated, we wanted to let you know about some of the other ways that you can help us.

UDPS Charity Shop

At the UDPS Charity Shop we are in need of donations of any kind – clothes, books, records, ephemera, toys, bric-a-brac, kitchenalia and anything else you are clearing out! Replacing your old

Christmas decorations this year? Why not consider donating your old decorations to us? Donations of Christmas decorations will make their way down to our pop-up Christmas shop in Bridge Cottage from 1st November - 20th December. Contact udpscharityshop@gmail.com for more information or just pop in!

Handling Collection

Speaking of donating items, we are still collecting items for our Memory Box scheme at Bridge Cottage, so if you have any items from the 1950s or earlier then you could consider donating them to our handling collection. For more information contact Maria at:

maria@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

Volunteering

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. For more information contact:

admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk
wbtpike@btinternet.com (Windmill)
udpscharityshop@gmail.com

Supporting our events

One of the best ways that you can support us is by coming along to our events at Bridge Cottage and Nutley Windmill. We often have discounts for members on events. Come along, spread the word, bring your friends and families and join us in celebrating these special local places with us.

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UDPS Charity shop last Christmas



Nutley Windmill in days gone by



Chairman's Roundup

by Brian Pike, Hon. Chairman

First of all I think I must look forward to next year, on 8 October 2018 when we celebrate 50 years since forming the Uckfield and District Preservation Society. It was formed as a Society to restore Nutley Windmill and the area covered by the old Uckfield Rural District Council. Since the Society formed, many of the villages have also formed their own societies. I like to think they were following our example. Although UDPS officially formed in October 1968, in the summer of that year Tony Turner, Ken Hamley, Tony Shaw and Roy Fuller were in consultation with Nutley Windmill's Owner Lady Castle Stuart regarding its restoration or at least emergency repairs. So, on the 12th May, during the 2018 National Mills Weekend we will actually be celebrating 50 years of caring for the mill!

In the early 1970s, UDPS were becoming concerned with the future of Bridge Cottage. East Sussex County Council had purchased it with the intention of demolishing it, so that the proposed link road could be constructed. Our Society led the fight against this happening and eventually we were successful. Over the next 30 years several attempts were

made to obtain funding to restore the cottage, but it was not until Mick Harker, John Carvey and their team put their enthusiasm and time into a fund raising effort that we were able to finally carry out the work needed. This year has seen the results, and Bridge Cottage has had a very good first year.

The restored Cottage, with its enthusiastic team and many new activities, is steadily becoming known as a beautiful building which can be put to many different uses.

Meanwhile, at Nutley Windmill, we have been carrying out extensive work to bring the mill to be at its best for next year celebrations thanks to the efforts of twenty volunteers and a welcome grant from Wealden District Council. In June, the importance of our mill was recognized by Royal Mail who brought out a series of postage stamps featuring Mills, with Nutley as one of the first class stamps. With the season of open Sundays now over for this year we are already planning next year, first Sunday on 25th March 2017, but we are still open on Wednesdays, unless it snows!

Brian Pike Hon. Chairman UDPS.

MORE NEWS...

Cards for Good Causes

Once again we will be hosting the Cards for Good Causes pop up shop in November and December. Come and get your Christmas cards and much, much, more!

2018 Calendar

We're currently working on a UDPS Charity Calendar for 2018 using images of old Uckfield. Look out for the calendar on sale in time for Christmas!

High Street Research Group

We are starting a research group to look into the history of Uckfield High Street in preparation for an exhibition next year. Are you interested in local history? Would you like to join us? Email maria@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

Christmas Shop

Look out for the UDPS Pop-Up Christmas Shop which will be opening in Bridge Cottage on 1st November.

Events and Room Hire

Would you like to hold an event at Bridge Cottage? Get in touch with us on admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk for more information.

Write for UDPS!

We want to feature "mini-articles" from guest writers on our website. If you have an idea for a short piece then email us: education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

2018 Talks

Our programme of talks for 2018 is now out! We've enclosed a list with this newsletter. July's talk will be given by Diane Grainger, a UDPS member, about her father Captain Roy Taylor – "Father, Spy, Engineer". Do you have an idea for a talk that you could give? If so get in touch and let us know, we can add you to our list of future speakers: education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk

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.

admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk