

ABOVE: BRIDGE COTTAGE AND NUTLEY WINDMILL

## Big Plans for 2018!

by The UDPS Team

The start of Spring is nearly upon us, a time when people start thinking about the months ahead and making plans to get outside to enjoy the lighter evenings. Here at UDPS - the team have spent the last few weeks putting the final touches to our 2018 activities plan. There's more going on at Bridge Cottage than ever before this year: we've got festivals, fairs, talks, exhibitions and much, much more. There's a list of upcoming events on the right of the page, and you can also make sure you stay up to date by joining our mailing list. You can email us [education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk) to be added to the list if you're not already on it.

Before you plan anything for the year ahead, however, make sure you **renew your membership** to UDPS! If you pay by Standing Order you don't need to do anything, but if you usually pay by cash or cheque you'll need to pay your subscription. We've enclosed a renewal form and a letter for everyone who usually pays in this way. Once you've paid your subscription you should receive your 2018 membership card. The restoration of Bridge Cottage was completed nearly two years ago (the official opening was 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016), and as a venue the Cottage has been going from strength to strength. We hosted our first wedding last summer, and our rooms have been hired by various individuals and businesses including

Anytime Fitness and Cards for Good Causes. Our monthly Antiques Fairs have proved extremely popular and are gaining a reputation as a great place to find a hidden treasure. We have a number of other fairs planned for 2018 including bi-monthly Craft and Artisan Markets.

Our education team at Bridge Cottage have been working hard to deliver workshops to a number of local schools in the Autumn term and we will soon be hosting more visits in the Spring term. We've donned our Tudor, Medieval and Victorian garb many times to give the children a really immersive learning experience! We have lots more visits planned for the Spring term so if you know a child in a local school, chances are they will be coming to see us soon if they haven't already.

We continue to run our monthly Bygones and Memories Coffee Mornings – these are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Come along and have a chat about days gone by.

2018 is an important year for the Society as it is the year of our 50 year anniversary. We'll be marking the occasion throughout the year with a special programme of anniversary celebrations. We invite you all to celebrate with us, and we thank you for your ongoing support of the society. We wouldn't have made it to 50 years without you!

# UDPS News Issue 3

MARCH 2018

### WHAT'S ON THIS SPRING

For more information on any UDPS events or projects email [admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

Find out about all our upcoming events here:

#### BRIDGE COTTAGE

17<sup>th</sup> March – Antiques Fair

22<sup>nd</sup> March – Talk: Sussex Graves & Graveyards (re-scheduled due to snow)

24<sup>th</sup> March – 7<sup>th</sup> April – High Street Exhibition

28<sup>th</sup> March – Little Acorns Toddler Group

5<sup>th</sup> April – Talk: Sussex Agricultural History

21<sup>st</sup> April – Antiques Fair

11<sup>th</sup> April - Bygones and Memories Café



23<sup>rd</sup> April – Launch of Literary Week – World Book Night Event

24<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> Book Club meet

#### NUTLEY WINDMILL

25<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> OPEN DAY

29<sup>th</sup> April – Open day

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> May – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

## A New Chapter

by The Education Team

Do you like to read? On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 6.30-8pm we are launching a new book group 'TOMBS & TOMES' at Bridge Cottage. The Book Club focus will be on historical fiction – very fitting for the venue we're sure you'll agree! If you would like to be part of the book group then please get in touch with us on the email below to add your name to the list. See our website for full details and download a reading list.

The launch of the **Book Group** will coincide with our very first Bridge Cottage Book Week running from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April. We'll be running after-school workshops for kids, talks from local authors and of course our first book group meeting. There will also be some

literary stalls at our Craft and Artisan Market on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

If you are a local author promoting a book, or if you know somebody who is, then do get in touch with us to discuss promoting your book during our book week.

### GET IN TOUCH!

For any enquiries about our Book Week email: [education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

To join the Book Group email Nicola on [nicola@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:nicola@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

01825 760734



## 2018 Talks

by the Education Team

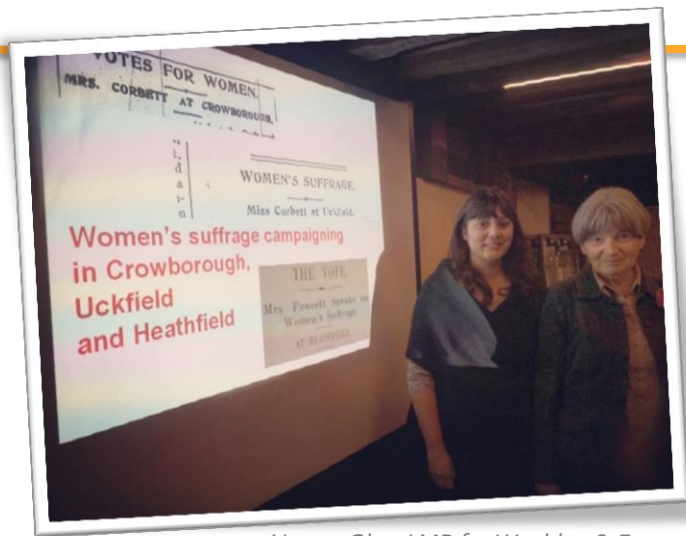
We have some very interesting speakers booked for this year. Have a look at our programme. As a UDPS member you are entitled to half price tickets.

- **5th April** – Sussex Agricultural History by Dr Geoffrey Mead
- **3rd May** – "Talking Machines" by Dave Homewood
- **7th June** - "Lee Miller, the mother I never knew" – Antony Penrose
- **5th July** – "Captain Ron Taylor: Father, Spy, Engineer – The Man" – Diane Grainger
- **6th Sept** - Bygone Uckfield – Nicola Stewart & Maria Kirk
- **4th Oct** - Grace Kimmins and her Chailey Heritage – Ros Black
- **1st Nov** - Organs, Steam engines or Agricultural Equipment – Tinkers Park – Adrian Vaughan

Here pictured is Nusrat Ghani MP for Wealden

along with our November speaker Frances Stenlake. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November Frances spoke here at Bridge Cottage about Women's Suffrage in Sussex. We are pleased to be holding an exhibition here 21st May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 exploring the 100 years since women were partially granted the right to vote.

Also available is a trip to the #Vote100 exhibition at the Houses of Parliament, as discussed by Nus Ghani here during the Suffragist talk. We will be organising a UDPS tour of the



*Nusrat Ghani MP for Wealden & Frances Stenlake*

#Vote100 exhibiton to be hosted by Nus Ghani MP. **Voice & Vote: Women's Place in Parliament** will be held in Westminster Hall from **27 June to 6 October 2018**

### GET IN TOUCH!

If you'd like to book onto any of the talks then you can do so on our website [www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](http://www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

If you would like to register your interest for the trip to the #Vote100 exhibition then please email [education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

## Visit Bridge Cottage

by the Education Team

We're sure that by now there can't be many of our members who haven't seen the beautifully restored Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre. If you're anything like us then you'll be keen to share this wonderful building with friends, relatives and even colleagues.

You can encourage others to visit some of our many events, from fairs and festivals to exhibitions and concerts, but did you know that we

can also facilitate group visits and tours? We have hosted visits from a variety of community organisations such as Scouts and Brownies but also local history societies and other shared interest groups.

### GET IN TOUCH!

If you'd like to book any visits have a look at our website for more details  
[www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](http://www.bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

If you would like to book a tour please email  
[education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)



## Future Exhibitions

by the Education Team

### High Street Exhibition

An interactive exhibition exploring Uckfield High Street through the ages. Come and see photographs, maps and objects which reveal the history of our High Street. Opening at Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 10am-4pm and running until Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April (closed on Sundays and Easter Monday).

**FREE ENTRY**



### Vote #100 - Women's Suffrage in Sussex

Do you have any stories to share about the women's suffrage movement in Sussex? We are currently planning an exhibition for 21st May – 2nd June 2018 that explores and celebrates the 100th anniversary since Parliament passed a law which allowed some women, and all men, to vote for the first time – the 1918 Representation of the People Act.

Contact us here to get involved or share your story. This will be an immersive community exhibition offered with support and collaboration from many local organisations and other historical groups within Sussex. Full details and a programme of events will follow.

### Emerging Talents

Later this year we will be showcasing undiscovered talent in Uckfield. The exhibitions will feature artists, photographers and sculpture. We will also run workshops to help new artists workshops develop ideas on marketing, display, engaging visitors and framing. Artists who have not have exhibited before are invited to contact us about exhibiting.

### Toys and Teds

This summer we are planning a mini exhibition of local toys and teds. Do you have an interesting childhood toy, or one with a lot of family history? Get in touch if your ted wouldn't mind coming for a little holiday to Bridge Cottage for a month or so!

### Golden Anniversary

Join us in celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. We will be laying on an exhibition exploring the last 50 years of the society. We are partnering up with locals who are also celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary so we can celebrate the year 1968 with our community. Do you know anyone celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> this year? Get in touch to be featured in our Community event.



Nutley Windmill in days gone by



## Chairman's Roundup

by Brian Pike, Hon. Chairman

We are now back at work at Nutley Windmill after the Christmas break, and Martin Morris and Doug Colton are sawing away and carrying out repairs to the rear set of mill stones, the pair we grind with, so the mill is closed to visitors for a short while. Work on the Crosstrees will start next month, March we have serious decay in the Southwest facing one, we have the mill propped up so again this makes it difficult for visitors. Our first open day on the 25th March may give us problems.

We hope that we will be able after all the work we have done to have the mill looking it's best for our fiftieth celebrations on 12th May. Although we have been using the Visitor Centre for a while we have never had a grand opening celebration, so we are having a tape cutting a 2.00pm and we have Rev Antony Shaw doing the cutting, he is last of the original gang of four who restored the mill in 1968 who can come. We have our local MP, Nus Ghani, guests from Wealden District Council and other local dignitaries attending. It is also National Mills

weekend organised by the Mill Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. We have the West Kent Amateur Radio Society setting up a radio station at the mill field, they try to talk to other mills throughout this country and abroad, who have also set up stations at mill for this weekend.

We look forward to this year ahead as the society celebrates our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We hope all members, new and current will join us in marking this GOLDEN YEAR! UDPS is focused on the preservation of Nutley Windmill and Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre – this is only possible with your support so we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

**Brian Pike Hon. Chairman UDPS.**

### MORE NEWS...

**2018 Calendar** - We have the last few remaining 2018 UDPS Charity Calendar available for sale. These have proved a very popular buy and we have posted these out to places as far as Scotland! Buy your copy now in our Charity shop, Bridge Cottage gift shop or on-line at our website.

### Volunteering

Have you thought about volunteering for UDPS? We have lots of opportunities available for casual and regular volunteers. If you have some free time on your hands, why not get in touch and see if we've got a role that would suit you?

[admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

[wbtpike@btinternet.com](mailto:wbtpike@btinternet.com) (Windmill)

[udpscharityshop@gmail.com](mailto:udpscharityshop@gmail.com)

### Events and Room Hire

Would you like to hold an event at Bridge Cottage? Get in touch with us on [admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:education@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)

### Donations

Starting the year with a clear out? At the UDPS Charity Shop we are in need of donations of any kind – clothes, books, records, toys, bric-a-brac, kitchenalia or anything else you can find! Contact [udpscharityshop@gmail.com](mailto:udpscharityshop@gmail.com) for more information or just pop in. If you have any old or unusual items that need a new home then you can also consider donating them to Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre for our main or handling collection. Email Maria on [maria@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk](mailto:maria@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](mailto:admin@bridgecottageuckfield.co.uk)