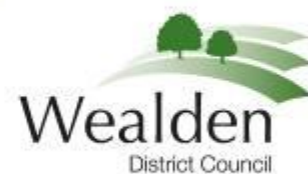


Chairman & Vice-Chairman's bulletin



Issue No 02
1st April – 30th June 2018

**We are delighted and proud to
have attended the following events.**



April



3rd and 5th
**(Chairman) Fun and Safety Day, Uckfield and
Crowborough Fire Stations**

The fun and safety days at Uckfield and Crowborough were excellent with record number of 1063 people attending Uckfield and 870 at Crowborough.

It was great to see so many children taking part and combining learning about safety with a fun day out. The emergency services are so accommodating and it is great to see them interacting and educating the children (and adults!) on personal and community safety.

If you have not attended one of these events before, I urge you to attend in the future especially if you have young relatives, it is a huge benefit to them all.

15th

**(Chairman) Mayor of Eastbourne's Civic Service, St Mary's Church,
Old Town, Eastbourne**

Sue and I very much enjoyed the service at St Mary's Church and I was pleased to see it was so well attended. The reception at The Old Parsonage was very well organised and presented; it was a great opportunity to speak with all of the guests and it was good to meet the New High Sheriff, Major General J D Moore-Bick CBE DL. I had a long chat with the rector who was a very interesting man and such good company.



18th



(Vice Chairman) Tour of Knole House, Sevenoaks

Peter and I were delighted to visit to Knole House at the invitation of the Sevenoaks Town Council. On a perfect spring day the parkland looked magnificent. Following the warm welcome over coffee and biscuits the private conducted tour of the house, led by a very knowledgeable and interesting guide was thoroughly enjoyed. A huge amount of conservation work is being carried out at Knole and the second part of the morning was a visit to their Conservation Centre. We heard first hand about the complicated and intricate method of fabric and furniture conservation.

Knole is a leading centre for this work, the long term plan is to create a nationwide conservation centre for England. Following the tour the party was invited to lunch in Sevenoaks which gave us all the opportunity to discuss what we had seen and to exchange stories and promote our authorities. Wealden was well promoted!

The photo shows me sitting in a seat which has been purpose made from a variety of fabrics used in conservation work. The counter hidden in the arm counts the number of people who sit down and the gradual wear of the fabric is monitored. Clever stuff which created a lot of interest.

Peter and I last visited Knole some 10 years ago. The difference is enormous, I recommend that you go see for yourself!

22nd

(Chairman) ANZAC Day Service, Hailsham War Memorial

I joined the Royal British Legion and the Mayor of Hailsham at a service to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought at Gallipoli against the Ottoman Empire during World War I.



28th

(Chairman) Mayor's End of Term Event, The High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells

Sue and I joined Mayor, Councillor Julia Soyke, at the High Rocks and I was very impressed with the auctioneer who did a great job in raising an amazing £4000 charity. Sadly we did not make it to the bitter end but we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and had a really wonderful evening.

May

2nd

(Chairman) Fundraising Visit and Lunch at Chevening House

Sue and I had a wonderful visit to Chevening House. The food and wine was fantastic and the venue is superb, a tough one to beat. I have to also mention the staff who looked after us all; they were absolutely first class. It is always interesting to speak to fellow members of "the Chain Gang", it is such a good opportunity to promote the good work being done in the District. The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Maxine Chakowa has had a hugely successful year and has raised a substantial amount for her nominated charity, Breast Cancer Care. I really do hope we have the opportunity to visit this wonderful venue again.



3rd

(Chairman) Topping Out Ceremony, Elizabeth Court, Hailsham

I was very proud to attend the ceremony to lay a stone commemorating the topping out of this wonderful scheme. The development, which is due to be completed later this year, will provide 17 high quality affordable homes helping to meet the specific requirements for smaller rental properties in the area. In researching the history of the site, a map was found showing that the field upon which this site sits was called the Old Hop Garden. It is great to be able to link this contemporary new scheme to its heritage, and remember the history of the town whilst working to meet the needs of existing and future residents.



12th

(Chairman) Nutley Windmill 50th Celebration, Crowborough Road, Nutley

Sue and I attended the charming rural celebration marking 50 years of restoring and maintaining the unique 16th Century Nutley Windmill. Uckfield and District Preservation Society have spent their £6000 grant very wisely. The new visitor centre has been built by a grand band of volunteers and was officially opened by Rev Anthony Shaw, one of the original members of the restoration team. In spite of the bad weather, everyone enjoyed themselves and those who had worked on the project were clearly and justifiably proud of the result.



15th

(Vice Chairman) Dementia Awareness - Ninfield's Musical Matinee, Calamity Jane, Ninfield Memorial Hall

As part of Dementia Awareness weeks, I had the pleasure of joining staff and volunteers to welcome guests to a dementia friendly screening of "Calamity Jane" at Ninfield's Memorial Hall. These events are so very important for those suffering with dementia as well as those who care for them; they can relax and enjoy the occasion which provides a stress free environment with help and support from staff and volunteers.

16th

(Chairman and Vice Chairman) Full Council and AGM

Both Pam and I were very pleased to be nominated and re-elected to stand as Chairman and Vice Chairman for a third consecutive year. It is an honour to represent Wealden and we are very lucky to have such a dedicated team of Officers to support us. My nominated charities for the last two years, the JPK Project and Wealden Works both deal with and care for vulnerable young individuals in Wealden who have either lost their way or desperately need help and these are the people I am so keen to help; I have therefore decided to continue to support both of them for another year. Pam and I am looking forward to another busy year!



21st

(Vice Chairman) Suffragettes Exhibition, Bridge Cottage Heritage Centre, Uckfield

I was honoured to join Nus Ghani MP in Uckfield to draw attention to an exhibition at Bridge Cottage which celebrates 100 years since some women first got the vote. There was huge support for the opening of the exhibition including Singing duo The Daisy Belles who performed a few old music hall songs on the forecourt, GCSE drama students from Uckfield College, who performed a Suffragist play entitled 'Miss Appleyard's Awakening' which explored the anti-suffrage v. the suffragist movement from the early 20th Century.

31st

(Chairman) High Sheriff's Summer Reception, Ashburnham Place, Battle

Sue and I were most impressed with the arrangements for the Summer Reception. We met many of the newly elected Mayors and it was good see previous members of the Chain Gang also present. The Prince of Wales regimental band playing were really good and looked magnificent in their red tunics. We avoided the torrential rain which was a big bonus and the catering was really excellent; it was a delightful occasion.



June



7th

(Chairman) University of Sussex's Chancellor's Reception, Attenborough Centre for Creative Arts, Sussex University

Sue and I really did feel privileged to be able to enjoy this exclusive preview of selected items from the Attenborough Collection, donated to the University in memory of former Sussex Chancellor, Lord Richard Attenborough. The collection, kindly donated to the University by the Attenborough family, contained thousands of never-before-seen photographs, letters, script notes and more spanning Richard Attenborough's personal and professional life and some covering his most famous films. It was wonderful to hear from Michael Attenborough, Lord Attenborough's son; he was very interesting and he shared some great memories of his father and personal anecdotes about the items.

12th, 14th, 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th

(Chairman and Vice Chairman) Safety in Action Events, Herstmonceux Castle and Eridge Outdoor Bowles Centre

As always, Pam and I enjoyed these invaluable events held in Eridge and Herstmonceux. Over 600 children attended the event at Bowles Outdoor Centre and nearly 700 children at Herstmonceux Castle. The project aims to teach children aged between 10 and 11 years how to deal with or avoid life threatening situations. The emphasis during these events is learning by experiencing risk – even if children make mistakes along the way!



20th

(Chairman) Visit to Forest Row Primary School

I was very pleased to visit the staff and pupils of Forest Row Primary School. The Head teacher, Mrs Ann Williams, was very welcoming and had arranged for me to meet and chat with School Council representatives. The pupils on the School Council were very engaging and asked some excellent questions; I was most impressed! Mrs Williams then showed me around the school and I popped in to a few classes to speak further with the staff and pupils.

It may seem rather early to be thinking about Christmas but it soon creeps up and so I decided to invite the school to enter a competition to design my Christmas card for this year. I look forward to returning in October to collect the entries and announcing a

winner in December!

24th and 25th

(Chairman and Vice Chairman) Armed Forces Services, Hailsham War Memorial and Flag raising to mark the start of Armed Forces Week, Wealden District Council Offices, Hailsham

We were very lucky to have fantastic weather for this important occasion to remember, to show appreciation and to pay tribute to the work and sacrifices made by serving and former members of the Armed Forces. On Monday 25th, to mark the start of Armed Forces week, I was joined by Wealden staff as I raised the armed forces flag.



27th

(Chairman) Roy Littlemore's Retirement Lunch, Wealden District Council

After 41 years of service, Roy Littlemore, Private Housing Officer at Wealden District Council, has decided to retire. I was delighted to host a retirement lunch for Roy where colleagues only had good things to say about him. Roy is looking forward to enjoying time with his 2 sons and growing number of grandchildren as well as enjoying many well deserved breaks at his second home in Spain! My huge thanks go to Roy for his commitment to and his hard work at Wealden. I wish him a very happy and healthy retirement with his new wife.

27th

(Chairman and Vice Chairman) East Sussex Academy of Music Summer Concert, Sussex Downs College, Lewes

Sue and I and Pam and Peter really did have a wonderful evening at this fantastic Summer Concert. The concert saw 200 East Sussex Music students, ages 10 to 18 years old, from Hastings and Rother Area Music Centre present their Summer Concert for Friends. The young musicians were excellent and we really cannot praise them enough; it was a real celebration of the high levels of achievement.



29th

(Chairman) Movies Make Memories-Singin' in the Rain, Hailsham Pavilion

I joined volunteers at the Hailsham Pavilion Theatre to welcome people to this dementia friendly screening of "Singin' in the Rain". We are indebted to the numerous volunteers to be found in all of Wealden. The team I met at the Hailsham Pavilion are greatly appreciated and they provide those with little excitement in their lives with valuable comfort and solace.

30th

(Chairman) Crowborough Area Music Centre Summer Concert, All Saints Church, Crowborough

The Crowborough Area Music Centre Summer Concert was certainly an entertaining event with appearances from Music Centre groups of all ages performing in the lovely All Saints Church; including string and wind ensembles, choirs and a Jazz Orchestra. As always, all of the students showed tremendous talent and professionalism. Sue and I always thoroughly enjoy these events and if any of you have the opportunity to attend and support the East Sussex Music events, I really would encourage you to do so.

