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January 2026



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PLUMPTON & EAST CHILTINGTON NEWS

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Happy Circle

Thursday 12 Feb 2026

Harp Concert

See Page 8 for more details

For more details contact:
Cherie 01273891592

Jumble Sale

Saturday 7th February 2026

Village Hall Jumble Sale

2pm.

COPY DEADLINES

15th January for February

13th February for March

Copy to 20 West Gate

or email: pecncopy@gmail.com or Telephone: 01273 891383





Plumpton Parish Council

www.plumptonpc.co.uk

Parish Council Report January 2026

Village Hall

The new Kitchen is now up and running and looking great. There are a couple of last minute tweaks to do which will complete the job. Thanks go to everyone who organised the refurb and indeed to the trades people who actually did the work! Also the Patio paving around the Hall on the East side has been replaced and looking very smart, the remainder of the paving will be replaced, hopefully in 2026. The next priority project planned by the Village Hall committee for 2026 is a much-needed facelift for the Toilets.

Local Government ReOrganisation – Consultation

Residents are reminded that the consultation period ends on 11th January. Some maybe cynical about how much notice is taken of the public's responses but remember in 2023 we did manage to change the Boundary Commissions mind when they wanted to lump us in with East Grinstead! By responding to the consultation, residents ensure that decisions are informed by the people who know this community best. Whatever your view, taking part is the most effective way to help shape the outcome. The link for the online consultation response page can be found on the Lewes District or Plumpton Parish Council websites.

What did councillors do in 2025?

Much of our time is dedicated to quietly keeping the village running—overseeing the Village Hall, Playing Fields, Pavilion, Allotments, and other council-owned land that residents rely on every day. Alongside this essential work, councillors also devoted time to wider projects and lobbying local government and utility companies on behalf of the community. Below is a list – in no particular order - of a few of the activities in 2025 that the council were involved in.

Modernised our communication and transparency by launching a brand-new website and moving all council email addresses to the '.gov.uk' domain, ensuring we meet local government best practice.

Championed local nature and biodiversity through a partnership

with the Plumpton and East Chilmington Wildlife Group, helping create the *ReNature Plumpton* project. We also commissioned a detailed environmental report from WildBusiness, now available on our website.

Represented residents' interests by submitting considered responses to both the Lewes District Local Plan Consultation and the South Downs Local Plan Review.

Actively addressed community concerns relating to the Nolands Development, holding meetings with the site manager to minimise disruption. Councillors also stayed in regular contact with the Police and landowner to highlight the perennial problem of anti-social behaviour at the Quarry.

Advocated for safer, better roads by meeting with East Sussex Highways about unplanned road closures and potholes affecting the parish.

Strengthened democratic engagement by facilitating an open forum event with our MP, James MacCleary, hosted at the Village Hall in July.

Maintained our partnership with Plumpton College, leading to their active involvement in the ReNature programme and hosting an Open Afternoon exclusively for residents on October 3rd.

Represented Plumpton at both the East Sussex Association of Local Councils meetings and the Lewes District Association. At these meetings we can learn from other local councils as they share information on the challenges they face and perhaps discover some solutions to those challenges. We also hear from speakers such as the Sussex Police and Planning Experts.

Are you engaged in your community? Do you want to make a lasting difference and help shape the future of our parish? Do you have fresh ideas or concerns you'd like to see addressed? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

We are seeking an enthusiastic individual to put themselves forward for co-optation to the Council. This is your chance to get involved, make positive change, and help represent the views of local residents. If you are interested in joining us, please contact our Clerk, Anita Emery via clerk@plumptonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Make a difference in 2026 — become a Parish Councillor.

Please note the date of the next Parish Council meeting is **January 13th 19:45hrs** in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



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Council vacancy:

Only one applicant came forward to replace Councillor Callard, and so the parish council will be pleased to welcome Sarah Otway onto the council at their January meeting.

Parish Council News

The council has been looking at all possible savings in order to keep the amount needed to run the parish as low as possible for residents. Less will be allocated for grants next year although the council has already agreed to donate £50 to the Springett & Campion trust which supports East Chiltington students in need of financial assistance

The council has sent their response on the Active Travel Plan to the South Downs National Park, a number of sensible suggestions were made regarding joining up paths which start and finish on the busy B2116.

The parish council is still in discussion with the Jolly Sportsman regarding the unpleasant foul water discharge which comes out in the ditch beside the gate to the community orchard. The environment agency has been consulted.

East Chiltington Church

Some work has been carried out to make repairs to the porch. Work to replace rotted timber in the bell tower should be completed by the end of the year, when it is hoped that the church will re-open. It is hoped that there will be some progress on work to make the church more suitable for community activities as this is the only permanent public building in the parish.

Volunteers needed

The annual inspection of playground equipment at Hollycroft flagged up a few minor problems. The council want to arrange a clean up in the spring and ask for volunteers to help with this. Dates for the clean up and also the annual

parish litter pick will be in next months magazine.

The next parish council meeting is on WEDNESDAY- 7th January, in Plumpton Village Hall committee room at 7pm, all are welcome.

Local Government Reorganisation

As reported, central government is consulting on the future of local government in Sussex.

Lewes District Council are encouraging as many residents as possible to give their feedback on the following options:

- A proposal for one unitary council for East Sussex, entitled '**One East Sussex**', submitted by, Lewes District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council, based on the current East Sussex County footprint.

Brighton & Hove City Council's proposal for five separate unitary councils across East and West Sussex.

This is the only chance to respond directly to government and influence what councils look like locally and how they deliver services in the future.

We believe the proposal for '**One East Sussex**' would offer the best outcomes for residents. Developed collaboratively by all of the district and borough councils in East Sussex, One East Sussex shows that a single unitary authority council, on the existing East Sussex footprint would be simpler for residents, would save £64 million over its first five years, avoiding the extra complexity and additional cost of splitting up existing services.

The consultation will stay open until Sunday 11 January 2026 at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-east-sussex-and-brighton-and-hove-and-west-sussex



PLUMPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

NEW YEARS DAY

WALK

Meet at Plumpton Station at 10.30am

The route will start at Plumpton Station, go out to East Chiltington Church and back to Plumpton via North Barnes Lane.

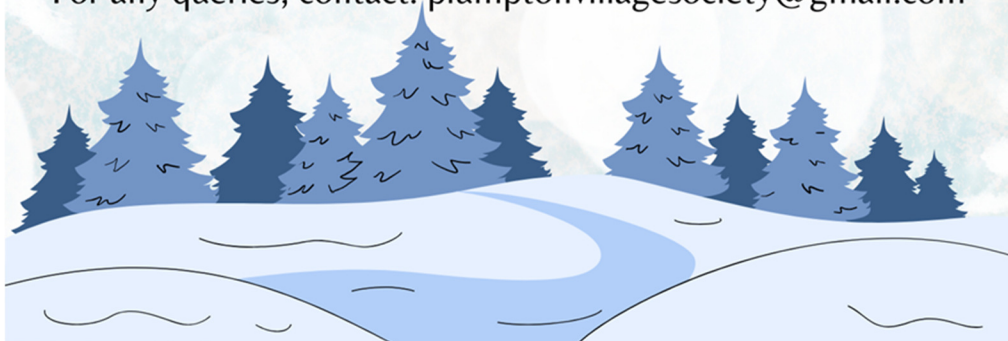
Approximately 1.5 hours

Mulled wine and blackcurrant squash at the half way point

Friends, family, and of course, dogs welcome

Don't forget your wellies!

For any queries, contact: plumptonvillagesociety@gmail.com





Daniel Stewart-Roberts, District Councillor

I am writing this on the day that the direct train service between Eastbourne and London Bridge has finally been reinstated after being "paused" during COVID. I generally try to avoid being overly political here but I would like to recognise the fantastic effort made by Josh Babarinde, Lib Dem MP for Eastbourne, to achieve this, as well as that

of James MacCleary, our MP, who successfully intervened to get the train to stop at Plumpton, even raising it on the floor of the House of Commons. I hope the service is well used, as that's the best way of ensuring its future.

You have until Sunday 11th January 2026 to respond to the Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (<https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/article/4822/Government-consultation-Local-Government-Reorganisation>). All the councils in East Sussex (except for Wealden) have got behind a proposal called One East Sussex, a single Unitary council for the whole county. While recognising that it is not ideal, they consider it the least bad option, given Central Government's determination to see Unitarization happen. The proposal does consider the alternative of having two Unitary councils but rules it out, presenting clear evidence of the eye-watering incremental cost. Brighton & Hove has submitted an alternative proposal that includes dividing East Sussex into two Unitaries. Not only does it effectively acknowledge the higher costs and consider them acceptable, its proposal dismembers Lewes District and splits it between the two proposed Unitary councils. The impact of this on the delivery of services, with the Environment First waste team, for example, having to be split in two is only too easy to imagine. I would encourage you to respond to the consultation, supporting the One East Sussex proposal and giving the thumbs down to the Brighton & Hove plan.

The second Regulation 18 public consultation on the Lewes District Council Local Plan runs until 28th February 2026. This consultation is more limited in scope than the one carried out last year and covers the strategic Spatial Strategy Policies and specific Allocations that could not be included last time in the absence of the required transport study. None of these sites are in Plumpton or East Chiltington. The closest ones are in Hamsey/Cooksbridge and the fringes of Haywards Heath.

I think it is worth highlighting that this means that there is no change to the conclusion at the previous stage that the North Barnes Farm site is not developable and confirms that the land recently acquired by Croudace Homes to the west of Plumpton Green was not even considered suitable for assessment. Having been closely involved with the development of the Local Plan as a member of the Local Plan Steering Group, I am impressed by the rigour with which the work has been done and know that these decisions are sound and evidence based. It will be disappointing, if the developers ignore this.

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Festive Fair Update

An amazing total of £9,170 was raised at the Festive Fair on 29 November, raising Funds for St Peter & St James Hospice. This amount is made up from a donation from Valle's Winter Fest Craft Fair and a concert that was held in the Annexe. The combined amounts were matched funded with Gift Aid added as well. A huge thank you to everyone who supported these events. Next year's Festive Fair will be on 21 November 2026, save the date.

Best wishes Plumpton Support Group.

Happy Circle

Welcomes Caroline, who will play Jazz and Classical music on her Harp.

Thursday 12 February 2026

The Church Annexe 2.30

All Non-members welcome

£5.00 Tea and Cake

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POPPY APPEAL 2025 **PLUMPTON and EAST** **CHILTINGTON**

The total cash collected from House to House and Static positions this year was £2258. This obviously does not include money donated via the QR code. Well done, this is a commendable amount from our villages.

A Big thank you to all the hardy Collectors who turn out each year.

Jo Taylor (PAO)



Plumpton Primary School

Plumpton Primary School have now got a **Second Hand Clothes Recycling Bin** situated by the school gate (next to the bike shed).

By donating your old items, you will be helping raise much needed funds for the school.

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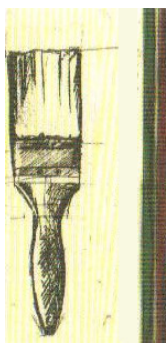
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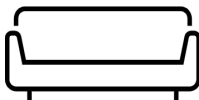
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all had a joyous and peaceful Christmas. We now embark on a new year, a time to look back on the past 12 months and to the year ahead. January is named after the Roman god Janus.

There are many special days in January, not surprisingly, January 1st is Hangover Day. Notable events include:

1st, (1502) Portuguese explorers land at Guanabara Bay and establish Rio de Janeiro, river of January.

3rd (1924) British archaeologist discovers the sarcophagus of Tutankhamen.

Also, on the 3rd (1777) George Washington's troops defeat the British at Princeton.

6th (1066) Harold Godwin, Earl of Wessex is crowned king of England, the last Anglo-Saxon king. In October he dies in the battle of Hastings and William the Conqueror becomes the first Norman king.

7th (1714) the first 'typewriter' is patented by inventor Henry Mill.

25th our friends north of the border celebrate Burns night, no doubt the 26th becoming Scotland's own hangover day.

30th (1649) Charles 1 is found guilty of treason and is beheaded in Whitehall.

Whilst our gardens and hedgerows may appear dormant, things are

starting to happen. Snowdrops are springing up, cuckoo pint is thrusting its green spiky leaves through the earth, garlic mustard and cow parsley are appearing along the lanes.

Earthworms are taking dead leaves back into their holes, simultaneously, blackbirds and thrushes are on the lookout for a juicy worm for lunch. Badgers may be slumbering deep inside their setts, but they do not actually hibernate, if it turns mild, they may surface for a spot of rummaging.

January 23rd - 25th is RSPB garden watch, the biggest survey of its type in the world.

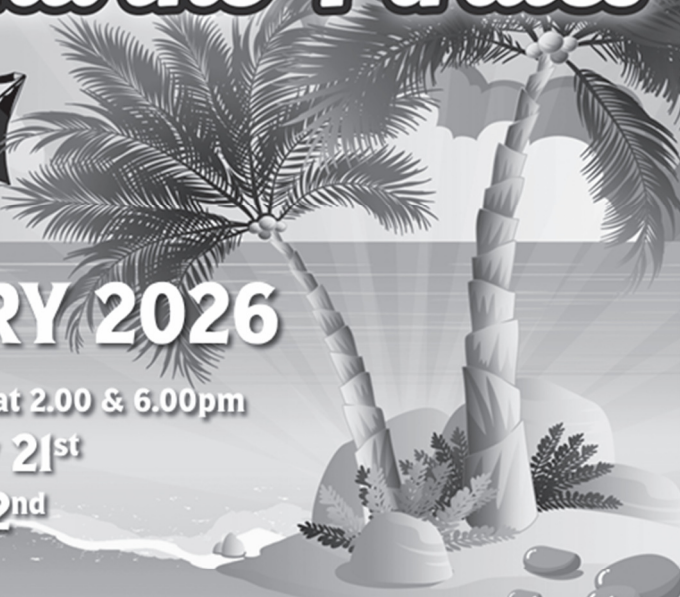
Finally, January hosts Plumpton's biggest event in its social calendar... the annual pantomime. This year we will be joining in the fun, shouting at the cast of Robinson Crusoe, no doubt the following day will be 'sore throat day'.

Oh no it won't ... 'OH YES IT WILL!'



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JANUARY 2026

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Wednesday 21st

Thursday 22nd

Friday 23rd

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RENATURE PLUMPTON

Over the course of 2025, *ReNature Plumpton* - a collaboration between Plumpton Parish Council & Plumpton & East Chiltington Wildlife Group, had a consultation completed by Wild Business that looked at all the habitats throughout the whole Parish, which set out those areas which are in good condition, and those areas that offer the community opportunities to come together to improve them for the benefit of wildlife and people.

By way of a reminder, our mission statement states that we aim:

To reverse the decline in nature by delivering a collective response in Plumpton to the nature crisis,

To give everyone in the community the opportunity to play a key role in helping to deliver nature recovery

To mitigate the effects of climate change,

To make Plumpton a better place for people to live and work.

We held an evening event in November 2025, which was well attended, during which the audience was encouraged to learn about the activities already being undertaken by volunteers, but also talked about the areas that could be targeted for improvement. Attendees were given a list of possible activities, and we now have a schedule of volunteer names for many of the exciting tasks ahead.

But ReNature Plumpton is for **everyone** in the community. We are working with teachers at the Primary School so that young children will have opportunities during 2026 to experience nature first-hand. Everyone – young or older, those with small plots and those with large gardens – can make a difference.

We have a list of areas/habitats throughout the Parish that could be improved, so if you were unable to join the November meeting, but would like to be involved, you can complete the form online at the QR code at the bottom of the page, or if you prefer, get in touch with Carole Nicholson on carolenicholson3@outlook.com and we will get a paper copy to you.

Remember, this initiative can only be successful if people get involved. Planting a pollinator plant, or a square meter of wild flowers can make a difference. If the whole of Station Road or all the houses on one close did that – it would make a huge difference to wildlife and the feel of the village.

REMEMBER- IMPROVE THE HABITAT – THE WILDLIFE WILL FOLLOW

As promised, we already have a series of events in the diary for 2026. Why not come to one of these and find out more.

Saturday 24 th January RSPB Annual Garden Birdwatch	Saturday 11 th April 'All About Trees' Jacqui Hutson
Thursday 19 th February 'A year in my Garden' Michael Blencowe	Saturday 25 th April 'Wildflowers in my Garden' Kate Gold
Monday 23 rd March A talk by Hurst Hedgehog Haven	Saturday 6 th June 'Bees in your Garden' James Power

Put them in your diary – we will provide details of venues and times nearer each date. Look out for posters, emails and Facebook.



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Rev. Anne Dunlop

This month I venture into the mystery of quantum mechanics! Do not be impressed, what I know can be written on the back of a postage stamp viz. *'it is about small things.'* I recall an incident in a lift when at the university I asked my fellow traveller what he was studying "quantum mechanics" he replied. Here the conversation ended as I had nothing to say (rare for me), I just nodded and smiled, and he left at the next floor much to my relief.

However, I recall the words of my English teacher "there is nothing wrong in being ignorant – only in remaining so." Thus, I trawled my way through 'Science ABC' and can now drop into everyday conversation interesting gems about neutrinos, for whom (!) I have a particular fondness. They are teeny weeny and pass through our bodies all the time without our being aware. I learned about them many years ago during a course in philosophy which explored the concept of 'wonder.' It is one of the few facts that have remained with me which gives you an idea of how much I actually took in.

Quantum mechanics '...is our modern understanding of nature at its smallest scales, atoms, subatomic particles, and the very fabric of reality itself. Without quantum physics, there would be no lasers, no computers, no smartphones, and no MRI machines. It is the science that makes the impossible possible.'

My interest comes from an article which drew a comparison between quantum mechanics and how we might understand our lives. The author suggests a helpful metaphor to aid this which comes from quantum theory. 'A particle does not exist in one defined state until it is observed. When unobserved, it remains in a wave like state: dispersed, non-local, holding multiple possibilities. Observation collapses that wave into a particle making something potential become something actual.' Similarly, when we observe things, ideas, concepts, which have always been around us, they can take a new understanding and meaning.

The author, aged eleven, discovered a book in a chest of drawers which came with a new house. It was daily bible readings which meant nothing at that time. Left in the drawer for over thirty years the author discovered it again

and describes that "the inert became luminous." What were only words, years later were observed and came alive. It was not the Bible that changed, nor God, but the reader. There are times when, sometimes suddenly, we can understand the world differently; our consciousness matures and expands enough to observe and, importantly, understand.

This offers a new way of thinking especially about spiritual ideas. Jesus spoke about the 'kingdom of God' and that we cannot to say, it is here or there in space and time, rather it is a limitless event and within us like a wave everywhere and nowhere. It is within and all around you, a field of divine potential. When something causes it to be observed, an action, a written word, it collapses into reality to become lived experience, with meaning and action. Observation becomes the meeting point between divine possibility and human participation.

Here modern physics makes ancient ideas intelligible to the modern mind. Quantum mechanics may be hard to grasp but we have benefitted from its positive potential. Might we not also awaken to the same principle active in our own lives? Have we expanded and matured such that we have potential to observe moments of insight that happen every now and then and allow them to work similar benefit and onward potential in us?

As an example, if we revisit and believe the truth that God loves us and all creation, this observing collapses a 'wave into a point of awakening.' We can re-imagine our lives by seeing things differently, healing and forgiveness can follow as well as positive potential.

Giving observation to love is that kissing point, that collapsing point where we become aware of the 'other' around us. Every act of compassion, clarity surrender or insight is a wave collapsing into a particle which is a glimpse of God's love becoming real. These are moments of capture of that which cannot be held, only observed, not imposed but awakened.

'By thought God is not known but by love, ever.'

Church Services for January 2026

Sunday 4th January All Saints	Christmas 2 11.00am	Family Communion
Sunday 11th January All Saints	Epiphany 1 11.00am	The Baptism of Christ Plough Sunday Family Communion
Sunday 18th January All Saints	Epiphany 2 11.00am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Family Communion
Sunday 25th January All Saints	Epiphany 3 11.00am	The Conversion of Paul Family Communion
Sunday 1st February All Saints	Epiphany 2 11.00am	Septuagesima Family Communion

A said service of Holy Communion is held in All Saints Church, Plumpton Green each Tuesday at 11.30am (November to March held in the Rectory)

A substantial Lunch is provided in the church annex each Tuesday, meeting at 12.30pm. All are welcome. Suggested donation £5.00

For general church matters please contact Rev Anne Dunlop 01273 890006
revannedunlop@gmail.com in the first instance or one of the Churchwardens.

East Chilmington - Janice Doran 07484 348341 jncdoran@gmail.com

Plumpton Howard Wood 07794484373 hawood167@hotmail.com

Mike Middleton 07977 942167 mike@middleton.eclipse.co.uk

Want to hire the Church Annex?

Please speak to Bob Doran on 07484138203

Help Needed

Would you like to volunteer? We are looking for additional helpers :

- **To transport members of our congregation to church services**
- **To become part of a team which cleans the church or annex**
- **To help with hospitality providing teas and coffee after church services**
- **To provide a dish for our Tuesday lunches in the church annex approximately once every five weeks**
- **To provide certain handy person duties such as mowing in the church grounds.**

In Memory of Ken Beard

Plumpton Village Society has secured his cherished Postcard Collection

Many in Plumpton and East Chilmington have fond memories of Ken Beard who passed away two years ago, and heard of his joy in accumulating two albums of Historical Postcards. He scoured local Postcard Fairs for local postcards and it soon became a passion for Ken who had a great affection for Plumpton. In 2012, he created a green booklet of 150 Postcards for the Village which took you through the village from the Half Moon to the Plough. He also reprinted 2 packs of his favorite Postcards for charity. There are still a few available on request and 11 large prints are in the corridor of the Village Hall – see the photo below. As his years rolled by, Ken did not know what to do with the collection, which had amassed to 204 Postcards across Plumpton and East Chilmington and many other photos he had accumulated over the years.

At the Festive Fair in November 2024, Plumpton Village Society raised an appeal for donations to secure the collection within the villages. Thank you to everyone who donated individually and to Plumpton Racecourse, Southern Rail and Plumpton Panto Society for their support. After a year of seeking donations, sufficient was raised to secure the collection's future, when Ken's family kindly agreed to accept the amount raised. At the Plumpton & District AGM in November 2025, Ken's daughter, Linda Pilfold, presented the two albums to Plumpton Village Society.



Linda Pilfold presents the collection to Lee Stevens, who loaned the EC postcards to Steve Toomey

Plumpton Village Societies pledge is to keep the collection accessible to the villagers and Plumpton Village Society will make our rich history available to all. Plumpton & East Chilmington News has kindly agreed to run this centre page spread in their January 2026 edition. Local Historian Richard Wells has put together a potted history of one of our key landmarks, The Sun Hotel. Learn about the history of Plumpton and read the next 3 pages. This article will also be added to Facebook and our village Noticeboards. Further historical articles will appear in future and all Postcards will be added to the Plumpton Village Society website when it is relaunched in the Spring.

A East Chilmington history group has been formed and if you are interested in its history, please contact Steve Toomey at toomey99@gmail.com The East Chilmington album is now on loan to the group. If you have any specific interest in Plumpton history please contact Lee Stevens 07887562721 or email plumptonvillagesociety@gmail.com

Plumpton Village Society aims to strengthen the community spirit and wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Please put the future events of the Strawberry Fair on 13 June and Apple Day on 26 September in your 2026 diaries.

A GLIMPSE BACK INTO PLUMPTON HISTORY

THE SUN HOTEL

A potted history

We need to take you back to the middle of the 1800's when the population of Plumpton Parish was about 385, mostly grouped around the original village by the Downs. At that time the drinking establishments were:

- The Half Moon Inn, on the Offham to Ditchling Turnpike carrying the Mail Coaches
- The Shepards Dog beer shop, on the left corner of Strawlands
- The Plough beer shop in the far north of the Parish
- The Fountain Inn had been developed in 1858 from an existing building
- The Sun Hotel which had an unusual start back in 1870s

Built by master builder Alfred Woolgar in 1870, he applied to open a licensed hotel, but this was refused. In 1871 a second application was made. Edwin Hemsley, proprietor of The Fountain Inn sent a letter in protest, and the magistrates threw it out again. Nevertheless Woolgar started selling beer, and was fined £2 with 14/- (70p) costs. Then The Inland Revenue took Woolgar to court for selling the beer but not paying tax on it! A £5 fine resulted. One might speculate who informed the Revenue...

Undeterred, Woolgar again applied for a licence (opposed by Hemsley). Woolgar explained that the building was now finished and comprised the Inn, accommodation and stabling for four horses (single storey building to the right). He stated that if the license was granted a *(horse-drawn)* fly would transport guests from the railway station to the hotel. This was a distance of only 300 yards but, given the appalling state of the roads, it was essential, especially in wet weather. He also stated that there was only one other licensed house in the whole parish. The magistrates pointed out his error, noting within a radius of two miles, there were no less than five other establishments! *Fountain, Half Moon, Plough, Shepherds Dog and The Thatch (now The Jolly Sportsman)*. Due to the previous breach of licensing regulations his application was again refused but soon a license was finally granted, and Woolgar carried on to trade as 'Sun Hotel and carpenter'.

By 1882 the proprietor was Albert Hounsom, listed as 'carpenter, joiner, undertaker (it now included a morgue, later the Gent's toilet) and Sun Hotel' in that order!

This area was the village hub back then. The old Grocers shop on the brow of Station road in Western House, replaced opposite by Cheall Shop, steam bakery, and Post Office in 1900 (now Fal's Village Stores), with The Sun Hotel and Southview Cottages in North Barnes Lane (believed built 1895-8). No 1 Southview Cottages was once Plumpton Police Station and at No 2 lived Henry William Bentley, a Bootmaker and the village Postman for over 40 years. Later, No 1 North Barnes Lane was built in the mid-1960s and Mr. Solly ran a Chinchilla Farm, supplying furs to America.

What did The Sun Hotel area look like 100 years ago?

A 1920's postcard from Ken Beard 's Collection. It shows how rural it was back then with Cheall Shop on the opposite side of the road.

1 & 2 Southview Cottages are to the right in North Barnes Lane.



A 1932 postcard of a new council building next to the Village Stores and the Bevern stream pedestrian clapper bridge for when it was flooded.



Publicans Over the Years

Leslie Downey the well-known Lewes confectioner took over the license of the Sun Hotel Plumpton in June 1940 from Mr. T W Hamer. He became the Captain of Plumpton Home Guard during WW2 and on the night of February 23rd, 1944, the village was showered with German incendiary bombs; nearly all of which were dealt with by stirrup pump parties. A number of these bombs fell on the Sun Hotel. Captain L. A. Downey, found that two had fallen in the bedroom of his father aged 80, and had jammed the door, but he broke down the door and rescued his father who was none the worse for the experience. Gilbert Upton a member of the local home guard, recalled that he tried to use a stirrup pump to extinguish a fire, but when they pulled the hose up the stairs - the perished hose burst. Plumpton's Dad's Army! *Extract from The war in East Sussex by the Sussex Express 1945 by Richard Wells*

Another Sun publican we are aware of was Gordon Brazier between the mid to late 1960s. He was Chair of the Royal British Legion in 1969. Jim Kelly took over from 1970. Jim served in the Navy in WW2 and then formed J&J Construction in Brighton. He was said to be a man of few words. He was known as a keen fisherman, organising many fishing trips with the regulars and raised funds for charity including the RNLI.



Following Jim, it was taken over by Simon and Tracey Thomas, who created a racing themed pub with the brewery Greene King. It became the Winning Post in September 1995 and Jim Kelly was presented with the old Sun Hotel sign. Tracey returned to her roots as her father Graham Reid, lived in Plumpton back then. Simon is still in the trade and runs The Anchor Inn at Barcombe, if you want to say hello. The Winning Post 2005 Photo courtesy of Richard Wells

Press photos below of Gordon Brazier, Jim Kelly plus Simon & Tracey Thomas



In May 2001, the pub was taken over by Ken and Dee Banks, who ran the pub until 2009. At this point it was handed back to Enterprise Inns, who brought in specialists to turn around the business, but by September 2013, it was decided to put up the pub for sale and convert it into two residential houses. Planning permission was approved in April 2014 and the two homes, The Sun and The Rising Sun were completed in 2015.

Information compiled by Richard Wells with help from Lee Stevens

VILLAGE EVENTS CALENDAR

VH = Village Hall

StM = St Michael's

ECC = East Chiltington Church

HQ = Scout HQ

ANX = Church Annex

Sch = Plumpton School

TC = Tennis Club

PAV = Pavilion

ALC = All Saints Church

BOOKINGS

Village Hall & Pavilion:

Jane Donovan 07747 050903 or 01273 891036

1st Jan - New Years Day Walk

18th - 24th Jan - Plumpton Pantomime: Robinson Crusoe & the Pirates

VH

31st Jan - Macmillan Coffee Morning

VH

7th Feb - Village Hall Jumble Sale

VH

28th Feb - Horticultural Society Jumble Sale

VH

14th Mar - Junior Football Jumble Sale

VH

21st Mar - St Peter & St James Quiz Night

25th Apr - Honeybees Jumble Sale

VH

30th May - St Peter & St James Fabric Sale

20th Jun - Churches Jumble Sale

VH

28th Jun - Village Open Gardens (in aid of St Peter & St James)

18th July - Hospice Jumble Sale

VH

5th Sept - Pav Jumble Sale

VH

3rd Oct - PPTFA Jumble Sale

VH

17th Oct - Village Hall Jumble Sale

VH

14th Nov - Flower Club Jumble Sale

VH

21st Nov - Festive Fair

VH

5th Dec - Cricket Club Jumble Sale

VH

Plumpton & District
Footpath Society

PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY 2026



Wednesday 7th January: Meet for a 10.30 start at Newhaven West Quay c/p (BN9 9BP) (Pay parking—max. 4 hrs). This is a 6.5 mile circular walk to Piddinghoe and back.
Walk Leaders: Alan and Jenny Grening 07929713739

Sunday 11th January: Meet for a 10.45 start at 11 Montacute Road, Lewes (BN7 1EW). This is a 3.5/4 mile circular Lewes walk around Cuckoo Bottom, around a shallow, dry valley with both woodland and open scenery.
Walk Leaders: John and Judy Lawrenson 01273 472277

Saturday 24th January: Meet for a 1pm start at Kings Standing c/p, Ashdown Forest (473 301) (charges for c/p). This will be the Kings Standing Nature Reserve loop of about 4.5 miles, walking around the Old Lodge Nature Reserve, then heading for Friends as the far point before looping back.
Walk Leader: Norm Warren 07584213086

Wednesday 28th January: TALK by Steve Bodsworth 'My work in Gambia' - in Village Hall. Time: 1.45 for a 2pm start.

A Plaudit for the Revd Anne Dunlop

Our Parish Priest the Reverend Anne Dunlop is to be made an Honorary Canon. In official Church of England language, the Revd Anne is "to take the Stall of the Prebendary of Colworth". In conferring the honour the Diocese of Chichester said, "This recognises Anne having undertaken the challenges of parochial responsibility as a generous expression of being a Self-Supporting Minister (SSM)" and that "Anne will bring to the life of the College of Canons the dignity of SSM and the significance of ministry in a rural location." Anne is not only the Priest in Charge in Plumpton with East Chiltington cum Novington but also the Priest in Charge for Hamsey which includes Offham.

You are all warmly invited to join the Evensong Service at Chichester Cathedral on **Sunday 11th January 2026** when the Revd Anne will formally be recognised as Canon Anne Dunlop.

A coach is being organised for all those who would like to attend. The coach for Chichester will leave from All Saints Plumpton at **12.30**. This will give you time for a light lunch or a quick look around Chichester before the service which starts at 3pm. This and will take just under an hour. Afterwards there will be light refreshments. Coming home the coach will leave at **4.45**

We will be delighted if you can join us and if you would like a seat on the coach please let us know by **Sunday 4th January**. The cost will be £5 per person except for those aged 16 or under who will be free. There will be a Sign-Up sheet in the church where payment can also be made, or email Kathy Baker – kathy@herplace.co.uk to book and for further information.

Chailey & Newick Painting Group



November's 20th anniversary exhibition

We were delighted to welcome nearly 400 visitors – thank you all so much for coming! Thank you, too, for all the lovely compliments you paid us regarding the high standard of the show – 'Your best show yet', 'Gets better every year', 'I can't believe how good this is!' – and for the welcoming and relaxed atmosphere of the event. It means a lot to us to hear such reactions.

The 130 works on display, including some extremely large ones this year, represented a wide and exciting range of approaches to picture-making in terms of materials used, techniques employed and subjects portrayed. There was no shortage of sales, to the great pleasure of many of our artists. The winner of the visitors' favourite painting vote was 'Song of Sussex', a pastel of the river Ouse near Barcombe, by our Chairman and joint founder of the Painting Group 20 years ago, Carlina Oliver.

Once again, our members had painted 200 original small works for the ever-popular tombola raising funds for St Peter & St James Hospice. This, together with incredibly generous donations from our visitors, resulted in nearly £1,000 for the Hospice – wonderful and so much appreciated!

In case you missed it or want to revisit the exhibition, the paintings on show can be seen on our website www.chaileyandnewickpaintinggroup.com

It's time for another Macmillan Coffee Morning!



and you're invited!

Let's do whatever it takes to support
people living with cancer.

Place: Plumpton Village Hall

Date: Saturday 31st January 2026

Time: 10am - Midday

Contact: Angela Spinks (angelajanespinks@gmail.com)
and Liz Platt-Wood (lizplatt2011@gmail.com)

If you are able to bake and donate a cake
that would be wonderful! Thank you



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (262027), Scotland (SC039007) and the Isle of Man (934). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20033_invitePoster

Plumpton & East Chiltington Good Neighbours

Telephone Contact 07478 524152

Do you need help or someone to talk to? We are a group of local volunteers who offer a befriending service and help with everyday things such as shopping and simple household jobs, to anyone needing support.

We can help on a regular or one off basis and, there are no charges associated with our help, with the exception of travel costs if we transport you somewhere such as to the doctors or another similar appointment. All our volunteers are DBS checked.

It doesn't matter what age group you are in or whether your family is local. If you feel you would like our help or, to talk about how we may help you, please phone Gina or Alison on the above number or, you can email us at: pecgoodneighbours@gmail.com

New volunteers are always needed and very welcome. If you are interested in joining our team please get in touch on the contact details above.

Uckfield, Lewes & Newick Arts Society

14th January 2026
Uckfield Civic Centre 2.30

Screening the Novel, Books into Films

Dr Colin Shindler

This should be a very good way to cheer up January. It is an intriguing subject and such gems as 'Gone with the Wind' leading up to the numerous Harry Potter films will be discussed. The older films seem to take the pattern of starting as if you are reading the book and do on the whole stay true to the original. The main problem must be what to include and what to leave out. Sometimes, to my mind, this means taking quite a different path from that which the poor author actually intended!

Colin Shindler has been lecturing on American and British social and cultural history for over 30 years. He won a BAFTA award for his production of 'A Little Princess', though he regards his greatest cultural contribution as choosing the title music for the police series Juliet Bravo. He has written more than a dozen books, but he is best known for his childhood memoir 'Manchester United Ruined My Life' which was short listed for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award.

Guests are always welcome and do not need to be invited by a member. £8 on the door. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everybody!

Annette Shelford
annette@shelford.net

Pop In Christmas Party:

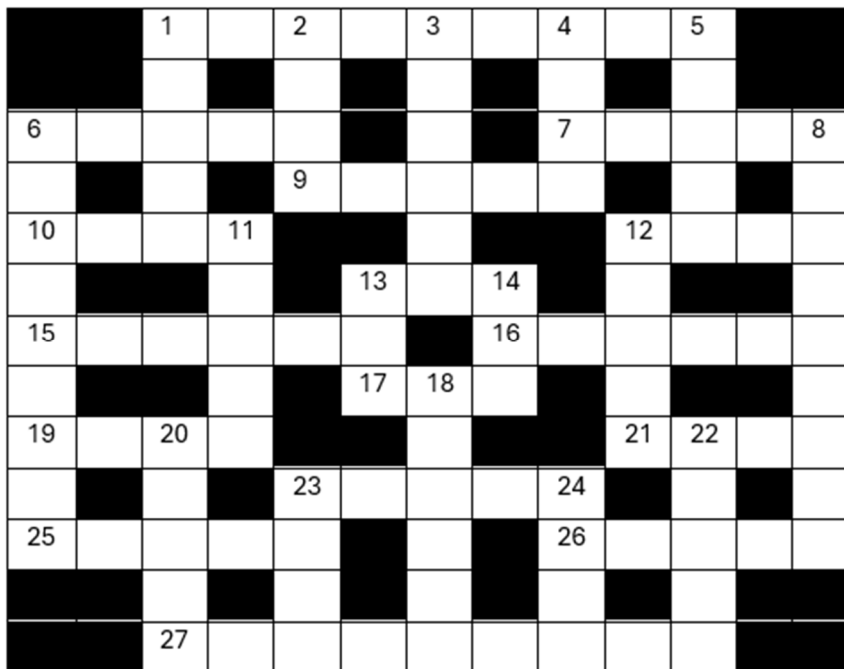
Many thanks to all of you who came to our Christmas bash on Thursday 18/12/2025 in the annex. It was great to see so many of you enjoying a mince pie (or two!) while having a good old sing song which, just might have been helped by that delicious mulled wine! Apologies to any of our regulars that missed it for any reason.

The team would like to wish our regulars and all who read this, a very happy, healthy & peaceful new year.

December Crossword Answers

T	W	E	N	T	Y	F	I	F	T	H		A	S	H
U			I			I		A				L		E
R			I	N	N	E	R		T	R	A	C	K	E
T	I	M	E			S		H				A		
L		P		W	I	T	H	E	R	S		L		O
E	M	O	J	I		D		R		T	H	I	E	F
D		R		S	T	A	R			Y				C
O	N	T	H	E		Y		F		L	A	R	C	H
V					M			P	E	R	I		A	R
E	R	A	S	E		S		S		S	U	S	H	I
S			N		N	E	C	K	T	I	E		C	S
		G				O		I			W	A	I	T
S	L	E	E	P	E	R		V	I	T	A	L		M
O		L				E		A			D			A
N	O	S				M	O	D	U	L	A	T	I	O

January Crossword 2026



Clues Across:

1. Apple loving friend of little men (4,5)
6. Safe place (5)
7. Jack had to do this (5)
9. Curry, sounds like Peter Pan's crocodile? (5)
10. Number of dwarves plus number of ugly sisters (4)
12. Command that panto horse to stop! (4)
13. Strange, like a panto script? (3)
15. What the princess often has to do (6)
16. Gives voice (6)
17. 17th letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
19. And (4)
21. Plenty of this at a good panto! (4)
23. A pirate's weapon, maybe (5)
25. It's very final, but just doesn't feature in Panto stories (5)
26. Something a sorcerer might do (5)
27. Dumb show, or fun theatrical event near Christmas? (9)

Clues Down:

1. Number of little men who befriended 1 across (5)
2. Smear with oil (poetic) (4)
3. Like a candle, or the witch! (6)
4. Peruvian native (4)
5. Dame in The Frog Prince (5)
6. -----/---/Gretel (6,3)
8. The way to the giant? (9)
11. Muse of poetry and music (5)
12. Antagonist in Rapunzel, for example (5)
13. Over (poetic) (3)
14. The ugly sisters, or Prince John and Sir Hiss. (3)
18. It may be flamboyant for the Dame! (6)
20. Like a pantomime sword, not! (5)
22. She's in Wonderland (5)
23. Eastern ruler, maybe of Aladdin's home? (4)
24. Ornamental case, maybe used by the makeup artist? (4)

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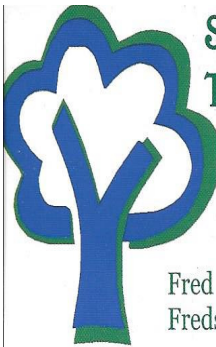
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The Plough at Plumpton

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Plumpton and East Chilton Wildlife Group

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026

This year's **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** takes place between **23-25 January**. This annual event is, according to the organisers, the World's largest citizen science project. It started in 1979 as a winter activity for junior members of the RSPB and was particularly blessed with a special feature on Blue Peter. Thanks to that programme's coverage 34,000 children submitted their sightings (I hope they all got a badge), and this unexpected success ensured that the event continues today. In 2001 the event was opened up to adult participants which further broadened its reach and impact. Numbers participating increased significantly with over half a million regularly taking part. This has created a valuable dataset allowing researchers to analyse long-term trends in UK bird populations and understand the challenges facing various species.

The BGBW has played a crucial role in identifying trends in birds populations and raising awareness of the decline, and in some cases recovery, in certain bird species. It was the first survey to highlight the dramatic drop in Song Thrush numbers, over 80% since 1979, lower numbers of Greenfinches and House Sparrows but increases in Wood Pigeons and Collared Doves. This data can help identify potential causes for decline and what targeted measures could be taken to protect birds and their habitats.

The national BGBW 2025 results revealed little change in the Top 10, headed by House Sparrows, Blue Tits and Wood Pigeons. Despite their leaderboard status, in 2002 House Sparrows were added to the UK Red List of birds of high conservation concern and although there have been an increase in numbers in some areas, their numbers have declined by

60% since 1979 and they remain on this Red List.

The Plumpton and East Chilton BGBW 2025 results show similarities, and differences to the national picture. A total of 363 birds of 32 different species were recorded. Blue Tits were the most common sighting, followed by Jackdaws and Goldfinches. These are all species which like to hang about in familial groups and can bump up the numbers if watching a bird feeder.

The **RSPB website** provides all the information you need if you want to take part in the bird-watch including how to submit your results. You do not need to be a member of the RSPB to contribute. You simply choose an hour between 23-25 January to watch birds in your garden, in a wood, edge of a field, park or wherever. Only record the birds that land in your 'patch' and record the highest number of birds of any one species - for example if you see 10 Goldfinches on your bird feeder at 10am and then 6 at 11am, the chances are they are the same birds and you should record 10, rather than 16. You can even submit a 'nil point' result if absolutely nothing turns up, as this is still valuable data as to the state of our bird population.

If you would like to take part in the 2026 BGBW in convivial surroundings with the tempting prospect of hot beverages and delicious pastries, then join the Wildlife Group's event on Saturday 24th January. We will meet at Ashurst Organic Farm at 10.30am, walk through the woods and fields to the Old Mill House, do some bird-watching and then get stuck into the refreshments. Look out for posters and e-mail reminders.

Improving our local habitats for wildlife including bird species is also the focus of the various Re-Nature Plumpton events planned throughout the year, watch this space.

Jean Stewart

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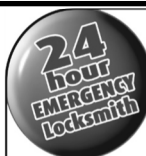
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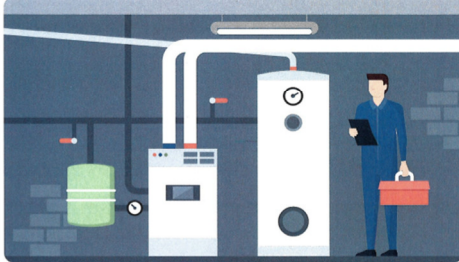
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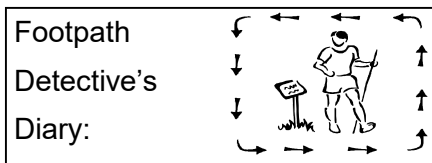
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A Footpath Detective's Diary January 2026 Mount Caburn - a Favourite

In early December the wet weather was creating slippery mud and lots of puddles so I took the opportunity to return with a friend to a route on the higher chalk ground. Mount Caburn was our choice. I've walked to the Iron-Age hill fort via many routes and this is one I enjoy in any season.

It was late afternoon as we left Lewes, crossed the river to Cliffe and headed up the steep hill which leads to Lewes Golf Club, which was established in 1896. Part way up the hill a path took us through the trees above the lane, popping out just below the club house. A footpath sign from the car park rather confusingly pointed in the direction of Southerham Farm, not the direction we wanted and I knew an alternative turned left after passing through the gate and within about 40 metres we were on a clear grassy path heading the way we wanted. It is not possible to see the hill fort from this point as it is obscured by other hills that form the beautiful rolling Downs in this small pocket between Lewes, Glynde and Ringmer. They looked beautiful in the low autumn light.

The path led us to Oxtedde Bottom where we passed a dew pond, now concrete lined and yet almost empty despite all the rain. From the gates at the bottom of this valley there appear to be a variety of path options. We climbed gradually to the left of and above Caburn Bottom. On older O/S maps this is not shown as a path but the newer ones do. Our route rounded at the head with permissive access onto Mount Caburn. From this side, whilst the earthworks are clear they are not so imposing but the path is very well trodden now. Clearly there was less need to fortify the enclosure from the north.

A sign nearby explains this is a nature reserve where flowers and butterflies that appreciate the short grassed chalkland flourish and it is

well worth a visit in spring and summer to see them. A clear path leads straight to the summit, first passing over the outer earthwork and sizable ditch. The view is tremendous, with the Ouse valley stretched out before and the lights of Newhaven harbour glinting to the South. Away to the east is the clear rampart like Firlie Beacon and Polegate beyond. To the west is Lewes and beyond the familiar silhouette of Blackcap. And to the north we could see the lights of both Heathfield and Crowborough. Below people in cars and trains were wending their way this evening. The trains like glowing caterpillars crisscrossed east/west on the line between Eastbourne and Lewes whilst another headed south toward Newhaven. A few other people were stood admiring the same views.

We could see the village of Glynde down to the east with the west face of its Palladian style church. It was constructed between 1763-5 for Richard Trevor, Bishop of Durham. Among the graves is that of John Ellman who is renowned for improving the Southdown sheep breed. Next to the church is the Elizabethan Mansion built by William Morley using flint and Caen stone imported from the chief Norman port. In the village the Trevor Arms PH, I suspect would make a nice refreshment stop. Glynde is easily reached by retracing the path from the summit to the north and turning east where it meets the public footpath. However, on this occasion a chill wind and fading light dictated it was time to leave and choose a route back to Lewes. As we crossed the enclosure again I pondered on the many hollows. Research suggests these were probably storage pits for corn assumed to have been attached to individual dwellings within the fort.

We took the permissive path north from the fort staying on the higher ground. At a junction of many paths we turned west and staying on the high ground followed the marked footpath that crosses the golf course within sight of the clubhouse and then descends steeply to Cliffe High Street and some warm refreshments.

EJH



Bird Watch

I was shown an article from a newspaper that described the problems that Blackbirds were having. Until then, I hadn't recognised how scarce they had become locally. A virus, carried by mosquito type insects from mainland Europe, affects only Blackbirds. This is the species that, as the daylight hours increase in the new year, render their beautiful flute-like song from high vantage points for all to appreciate. It will be a sad situation if this will not be so this coming spring. I am pleased to say that while writing this, two Blackbirds have appeared in the garden, an adult male with a bright yellow bill and shiny black plumage, seeing off an immature male with a dark bill and brown wing feathers contrasting against his black body. Not a pair.

However, with natural occurrences such as this, there will be survivors that will have either fought off the infection or had natural immunity from it. These will breed and produce the next generation that could themselves be clear of it. As there will be fewer breeding pairs and they do breed at a year old, they will therefore, command larger territories from which to find food for their young. If all goes well, larger, multiple broods will be reared and over a few seasons the optimum population level restored. This so different from seabirds that suffer from oil pollution. Many of those do not breed until about five years old and lay just one egg annually. In this situation, many years need to pass to rectify the numbers if they ever succeed.

I always appreciate calls I get regarding local wildlife. Recently a resident reported a flock of Lapwings on some short grass to the north of the village. This is a welcome record of a species that used to be widespread

across the area in winter and bred annually in some of the local fields. Sadly, they are seen now, only as a forbearer of cold weather in this part of Sussex. They nest on the ground and in times gone by, I have found them in pasture fields, spring barley, recently germinated maize and even on the ridges in a crop of potatoes. They always lay four darkly mottled pointed eggs that they position with the points to the centre of the nest. After about twenty-four days, which is twice the incubation period of those species that hatch blind and skinny, the young emerge, well camouflaged with dark coloured down and fully able to run and find insect food for themselves. They do need protection and are brooded by their parents in wet weather and from predators. Many years ago, I ringed a brood in a field on the college farm and one of them was shot in Spain eighteen years later. Not only is this a record of longevity, but proves that British-bred Lapwings migrate and it also proves the importance of the Ringing Scheme, particularly of nestlings where their age and starting place in the world is certain.

When flocks of Lapwings were a common sight in Sussex, it was before we ever saw Egrets regularly. I am not suggesting that the two occurrences are connected in any way, or that one has any effect of the numbers on the other, but it does show how populations of birds are dynamic, adjusting to food supply and climatic conditions as they change over the years.

As we start the new year, we have the opportunity to compile an annual list of species, both birds and other wildlife. A good one to do is of those seen in or over your own garden. I can assure you that by doing so, you will not only improve your identification skills, but that you will record something you did not expect.

R.J.L.



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A Happy New Year to everyone. It is always good to know that we are past the Winter equinox, and the days will start to lengthen. The full moon on January 3rd is called the Wolf Moon - gets us off to a good start – apparently it is named after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter. Other names for this month's full moon include old moon and ice moon.

Since September, the five Exmoor were grazing in nearby fields kindly provided by neighbours. This was following the loss of two ponies with suspected acorn poisoning. The team of pony checkers have been diligently taking care of them. At the time of writing in December we plan to release them back on the common. We hope the ponies will resume their usual grazing behaviour selecting more gorse, bramble and holly in addition to heathland grasses. For the last four years they have come through the winter in excellent condition. If, however, there are more problems, the ponies will be off the common until next Spring. Please look for updates on Red House Common notice board.

Please do not feed the ponies which can also endanger their heath as they thrive on a low nutrient diet and under normal conditions the heathland provides all that they need, please do not throw any grass cuttings or prunings on to the common as this can cause poisoning and colic.

Our activities for 2026 will again include a Birch Cutting session to prepare more brushwood for our besom brooms on Sunday January 11th from 09.30 until 1.00.p.m. Join us for an outdoor workout

cutting and bundling birch on Red House Common. Meet at the car park, bring your own gloves, secateurs, or loppers if you have them. If you would like to take part in the birch cutting, please contact Chailey Commons Society (mail@chaileycommons.org.uk) in advance so that we can get you registered as a volunteer.

Forthcoming Events in 2026

Thursday January 8th Talk by Sacha Turnbull – Chailey Commons illustrated in paintings and images - Chailey Village Hall 7.30pm. [Parking and refreshments; visitors welcome.](#)

Sunday January 11th Birch harvesting on Red House Common for besom brooms. 09.30 – 1.00.p.m. with snack break.

Thursday February 12th Talk by Stewart Angell – A History of Mapping for Archaeology. Chailey Village Hall 7.30.p.m. Parking and refreshments; visitors welcome.

Thursday March 12th Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Simm Elliott – Lichens of the Heathland – Chailey Village Hall 7.30.p.m. Parking and refreshments; visitors welcome.

For further information, visit our website – www.chaileycommons.org.uk or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/chaileycommons/ or friendsofmarkstakescommon.weebly.com

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Funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), the project runs from Friday January 9th 2026 to the end of March 2026 and is a partnership with TechResort, specialists in digital inclusion. Together, we are piloting a model that combines Advice First Aid (AFA) with practical digital support, helping you not only get guidance but also gain the skills and confidence to use technology independently.

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Drop –in sessions will run weekly from **Friday 9th January to the end of March 2026** in:

- Seaford office: 37 Church Street Seaford, BN25 1HG - Fridays, 10am - 12pm
- Newhaven Office: 15–19 Chapel Street, Newhaven, BN9 9PN - Fridays, 2pm - 4pm

No appointment is needed. Anyone living in Lewes District is welcome to drop in for free advice and digital support.

This project is here to help you get online, feel confident using digital tools, and find advice when you need it. By combining digital skills training with Advice First Aid, we'll support you to use technology safely and independently, giving you the confidence to access services and stay connected with friends, family, and your community.

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