

# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024



Hi Everyone

Happy New Year and hope your festive season went well.

So what does 2024 bring, more despair around the world with war and climate change seemingly at the front of everything we do.

But in Hadlow Down, the year ahead is a bright one, starting on January 27th, with the Engage charity 'Race Night', book your place and enjoy an evening of fun, food and good company.

The rest of the year, all the usual events ,including back in the hall are the Drama club productions. Can't wait to see plays, pan-to's and more FUN. The theme already for '24 has to be FUN.

Enjoy the read, Editor

## Do you know where the Village Defibrillators are located ?

**There are two -**



1. Outside the main entrance of the Village Hall, in Hut Lane

2. Attached to the outside wall of the pavilion on the Playing Field, in School Lane

Directions on how to use them are on the front of each cabinet.

The Parish Magazine is produced for the Hadlow Down community, and is supported by advertisers and the Parish Council. The magazine is distributed to 325 homes, within the parish boundary, free of charge.

**Editor — Peter Smyth, email address — [smyth594@gmail.com](mailto:smyth594@gmail.com) Tel. 01825 830009**

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Treasurer—Sandra Richards 01825 733848

## Your Village magazine and Community Viewpoint

# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024

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## Your Village magazine and Community Viewpoint



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## Lindsey's Recipe — FRESH GINGER, PARSNIP AND ORANGE SOUP

### Ingredients :-

1lb/500gr parsnips, peeled and chopped  
2 medium onions, peeled and chopped  
1in/2.5cm piece fresh root ginger, peeled and chopped  
3tbsp oil ( sunflower)  
1oz/25gr butter  
Grated rind and juice of 2 oranges  
1 1/2pt/1L chicken or vegetable stock  
salt and freshly ground black pepper.

### Method :-

Heat oil and butter together in pan.  
Add onions and sauté for a few minutes until they are soft and transparent.  
Add parsnips and ginger and cook for a further 5 minutes.  
Add grated orange rind and the stock.  
Bring to simmering point, half-cover the pan and simmer for 35-40 minutes.  
Allow to cool a little then liquidise.  
For a really velvety smooth soup pour through a sieve into a clean pan.  
Stir in the orange juice and season.  
Reheat to serve, and serve with tiny croutons and chopped parsley sprinkled on top.





# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024



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## St. Marks School News



Welcome to the final edition of the St Mark's Newsletter for 2023. It has been Christmas fever this fortnight with two stunning performances of the Noisy Nativity from our EYFS and KS1 children; an amazing Christmas lunch cooked by our amazing Tracey (roast potatoes were particularly stunning!); Christmas hat competitions; a travelling pantomime performance which was nearly as noisy as the nativity and lots of rehearsals for our Christingle service on Friday.

Thanks for the Friends decorating the hall and making it so special for the Christmas lunch. Thanks to Anna Holt for the wreathes and foliage decorations (and Freya) and to Wilderness Woods for the tree!



### What the classes are doing

**Egglets**—his fortnight Egglets have been performing in the most amazing Nativity! We are so proud of all of them for their brave efforts and they looked like superstars! . We have been studying the story 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson, doing some drama and writing. Followed by making our own stick people! We enjoyed rolling and making Christmas biscuits and we baked the dough for us so we could take some home. We are busy decorating Egglet classroom for festive fun!

**Caterpillars**—Another busy busy busy time in our Caterpillar class! We have completed some very tricky Maths quizzes and tried our hardest to show off to Mr Luckhurst about how much we could remember! We have also been writing some information texts about the seasons and this week were looking at Spring and Summer - next week we will be publishing these! In Computing, we were learning how to use the mouse and the trackpad on the laptops to create some stunning art in

**Cocoons** -The children enjoyed a wonderful lunch as a whole school today, dressed in their very own designer hats! They shared their decorations so freely and helped each other with trickier parts. To support the children with their understanding of the Trinity, in particular, The Holy Spirit, Father Pete kindly talked to Cocoons today in

**Red Admirals**—Red Admirals have been learning about the importance of Coral Reefs in Geography - particularly the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. We have been looking at properties of materials in science and this week looked at the hardness of materials. We carried out an investigation making hypothesis, collecting data and then analysing the data we collected to be able to conclude and compare different materials hardness. In English, we learnt about the difference between informal and formal language in the context of letter writing. We put this knowledge to use by writing an informal letter from Lady Macbeth to Macbeth, so using our knowledge gleaned from the in-depth study of Macbeth in VIPERS. We also sang at the TN22 Club at the Village hall helping bring Christmas cheer to the elderly in our community.





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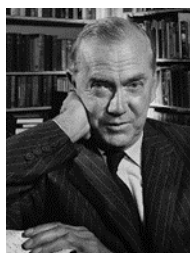
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## ***Hadlow Down Book Club Christmas Quiz with Heather Mines***

1. Which novel was published first and who wrote each one? 1984 or Brave New World?
2. What passage of time does Virginia Woolf's 'Mrs Dalloway' span? A year? A month? A day?
3. What is the name of Brunetti's wife in Donna Leon's Venice novels?
4. Who is the youngest of the March sisters in Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women'?
5. Why were Colonels Francis Hacker and William Goffe on the run in Robert Harris's 'Act of Oblivion'?
6. For which novel did Elizabeth Strout win the Pulitzer Prize? 'My Name is Lucy Barton' or 'Olive Kitteridge'?
7. Who was the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1993?
8. Which town was Kiran Hargrave's 'The Dance Tree' set in?
9. Who wrote 'The Man Who Died Twice'?
10. What are the black butterflies' in the novel by Priscilla Morris?
11. Who shared the Booker Prize in 2019?
12. Which children's author and poet released 'Many Kinds of Love' about his experience of covid19 in 2021?
13. What did John Bellman go in search of in Caryl West's novel 'West'?
14. What sort of building was 'The Scriptorium' in Pip Williams's 'The Dictionary of Lost Words'?
15. Who wrote 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'?
16. What is the name of the ship in Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Treasure Island'?
17. Who wrote the 1950 novel 'A Town Like Alice'?
18. Great Aunt Ada Doom is a character in which novel?
19. Who wrote 'The Girl on the Train'?
20. Where was Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights' set?
21. NAME THE AUTHORS BELOW



Answers on Page 13



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## Ken Mines— January Gardening Tips



**Flowers** Sow sweet peas. Those sown earlier in the autumn can be potted on and placed where they will get plenty of light. Plant lily bulbs during mild spells.

Buy summer bulbs. Cut off old hellebore leaves. Cut away *Iris unguicularis* leaves to expose the flowers.

Start cutting back grasses and other perennials left for winter interest or leave a few more months as cover for wildlife. During mild dry spells, you can still lift and divide herbaceous perennials.

**Prune** apple and pear trees while the leaves are off the trees.

Take off about 10-20% of the overall canopy. Work round the tree evenly.

Note. The more you prune, the stronger the regrowth. If you have pruned too hard, your tree is likely to produce vigorous upright branches, which crowd the crown. However, any growing in a convenient place can be pruned by about a third to encourage branching. Otherwise remove to their point of origin.

Aim to take out some of the old wood each winter to stimulate new growth. Most of the fruiting wood should be quite young – one to four years old wood fruits best. Aim to keep the centre open.

Avoid a 'hair cut'. If you only prune the top branches, all the new growth will shoot up from there producing a thicket of non-fruiting shoots. It's a thinning out process, selectively removing or shortening a branch here and there. Focus on areas where the growth seems more crowded.

Avoid very big and very little pruning cuts. Even with very old trees, resist the temptation to prune off large limbs – these are a risk of decay. Generally, avoid cutting into branches more than 10-12cm (4-5in) in diameter. Avoid leaving a stub. Most pruning cuts will be branches between 1-5cm (1/2-2in). A fully pruned tree might only need 10-20 pruning cuts in total. Don't use a pruning paint on apple or pear trees, but may be used on plums or cherries.

### **Vegetables**

Regularly harvest outer leaves of lettuce, chard, spinach and kale to provide a steady supply of food and to allow strong new growth of the central leaves.

Buy seed potatoes and onion sets.

In the temperatures we're now having, chervil and claytonia (Miners' lettuce) continue to grow outside. These can be harvested over Christmas with more to come.

Traditionally green manures have been used over winter to add manure to the soil. Alternatively cover the soil with compost or woodchip; the soil is covered, but not growing any leaves which harbour slugs. Also it's very quick to sow or transplant in March in soil which is perfect for new seedlings.

After rhubarb leaves have died back cut them off to expose the growing points for winter cold.

**Wildlife** Help birds in winter by placing fat blocks in wire cages, peanuts, and seeds. Thrushes and blackbirds favour fruit, so scatter over-ripe apples, raisins and songbird mixes on the ground. Rats can be a problem. Try moving feeding stations around the garden, if possible, to reduce a build-up of spilt food and only put out enough that is likely to be eaten quickly. You could think of planting berrying and fruiting trees and shrubs. Leave a shallow dish of water at ground level – check it's not frozen during frosty weather. Leave healthy herbaceous and hollow stemmed plants unpruned until early spring to provide homes for overwintering insects. Make a hole in the ice on ponds to allow wildlife to drink. Don't hit or crack the ice as this can send shockwaves through the water that harms fish and other wildlife. A ball floated on the water will keep it open.

**General maintenance** Rake up any winter debris and leaves of the borders. Clear up weedy beds ready for mulching in the spring. Raise containers onto feet or bricks if not already done so to prevent them sitting in the wet.



## **Parking around the Village Hall**

As you are aware, parking for the Village Hall is very limited and the Village Hall Committee have been made aware that a number of vehicles have started to park around the Hall when they are not actual users of the Hall. The Hall is a village asset and is dependent on the income it receives from its regular hirers and they, in turn, rely on the ability to park their vehicles adjacent to the Hall – this is particularly true of the TN22 Clubs who are catering for the elderly and disabled. Therefore, the Village Hall Committee strongly request that the parking around the Hall is kept clear for users of the Hall only and ask other vehicle owners to park elsewhere.

## **Hadlow Down Community Association**

The Community Association supports the voluntary groups in the village, your village, our village. Those groups—the Playing Field, the Fayre Committee, the Village Hall, the Community Centre project and the Church all need our support.

**Come along to their AGM on  
Friday Feb. 23rd 2024 @ 7.30pm  
In the Village Hall**

**And hear what they say and the help  
they need.**

**Light refreshments and a glass of  
wine provided**





## View from the Rectory Window— January 2024

Happy New Year Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I do hope that you had a wonderful Christmas with your families and are not suffering too many after effects from your celebrations. Beginning a new year is inevitably bound to making resolutions about our lives. Allow me to make a plug for you to consider an increased engagement in your local parish church this year.

We are still feeling the effects of Covid. Regrettably our attendance and giving has not bounced back to pre-covid levels. Additionally, as we are all aware, energy costs as well as other parish expenses have risen considerably in this past year. In response to these we have cut costs where appropriate, most notably being very disciplined about our heating levels.

In the midst of this all, your parish churches have been busy. Each of our churches continues to bring praise to God on at least a weekly basis. We have had a growing Sunday School program and youth server program. We continue to be the place where our community gathers for important events, as we saw with the Queen's Funeral, the Coronation and our Remembrance Sunday Services. Your parish churches are also the place where your family has the opportunity to gather on important occasions such as weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

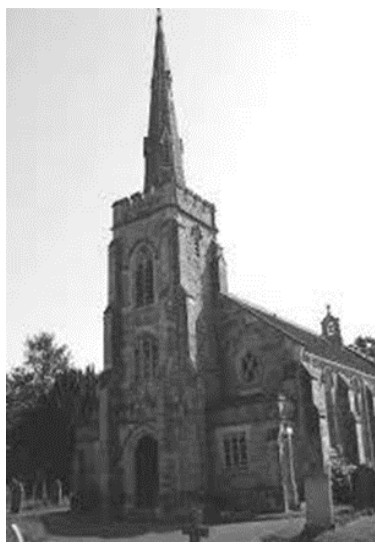
Outside of the doors of the church, your local church also takes an active role in our community. Our work with the parish schools with weekly assemblies, providing a venue and musical support for special services, providing governance, and much more. We partner with local groups to enrich their experience. And through the support we receive, we are able in turn to be generous to people in need in the parish, and abroad.

As you consider your year ahead, can I ask you to consider increasing your engagement and support for your local parish church? We would love to have you join us for worship, or support our work through volunteering with the substantial work of upkeep our churches and churchyards require. We would also be grateful if you would consider supporting our churches financially on a regular basis. Your support will help secure the future of our churches so we can continue to serve our community for years to come.

God Bless you in this New Year. I have included a prayer below which you may want to use as we enter 2024.

CPM+

O IMMORTAL Lord God, who inhabitants eternity, and hast brought thy servants to the beginning of another year: Pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our transgressions in the past, bless to us this New Year, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*+



## St. Mark's Church News

### January 2024

Well, we continue to battle on at St. Mark's. Some Sundays it feels very much as Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered together, there am I in the midst'.

Recently there were only a few people there, so the Matins Service was held in the Lady Chapel. It was a said service, and I suppose a relief for the people who say they cannot sing! Having said that the singing always seems alright to me as I sit playing the piano!

The school has been making such good use of the Church building in the past few weeks. The Nativity services – titled 'Noisy Nativity' from Egglets and Caterpillars were delightful and great fun. God must be looking down and rejoicing that His House is used in this way.

In the churchyard our new gardener continues to keep the place tidy, and our thanks also go to Denzil for cutting the hedges. It won't be long now before we start to look for the first snowdrops to appear!

By the time you all read this, we will have held the annual Crib Service, which will probably be very well attended, with children and parents gathering shoulder to shoulder to see the donkey. The children always hope that Hosanna will forget that she's not in her stable and leave an 'offering' on the church floor!

We have some excellent children taking part in the procession, reminding all of us of Jesus', Mary, and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. It's a timely reminder of what Christmas is all about, and not just about presents, decorations and pop music.

Finally, there's a service on Christmas Day at 9.00 am, singing all the carols that we love to sing on that morning. 'Yea Lord we great Thee, born this happy morning', amongst others.

As ever we hope to see you all at our services. The heat on, so it's warm in the Church and you will be most welcome.

God bless you all,

Valerie Banks -Deputy Church Warden

#### Services at St Mark's in January

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January - Matins, 9.00 am

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January -

– Parish Communion 9.00 am



## Answers to Book Club Christmas Quiz

1. 'Brave New World'
2. 24 hours
3. Paola
4. Amy Curtis March
5. They had signed the Death Warrant of King Charles I
6. Olive Ketteridge
7. Toni Morrison
8. Strasbourg
9. Richard Osman
10. Burned pages from library books
11. Margaret Atwood and Bernadine Evaristo
12. Michael Rosen.
13. Living dinosaurs
14. A garden shed
15. Douglas Adams
16. The Hispaniola
17. Nevil Shute
18. Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons
19. Paula Hawkins
20. Yorkshire Moors

### List of Authors

Top row, left to right

Anne Tyler  
Graham Greene  
Martin Amis  
Jackie Kay  
Wilkie Collins  
Bernadine Evaristo

Bottom Row , left to right

Margaret Atwood  
Jeffrey Eugenides  
Robert Harris  
Dorothy L Sayers  
William Boyd  
George Eliot



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**Your Village magazine and Community Viewpoint**



## ENGAge Reminiscing with the TN22 Clubs



Christmas at the TN22 CLUBS—Great time had by all. Puppets , dancing and Christmas Pudding



And the TN22 clubs had a Christmas Tree displayed at the Holy Cross Tree festival.





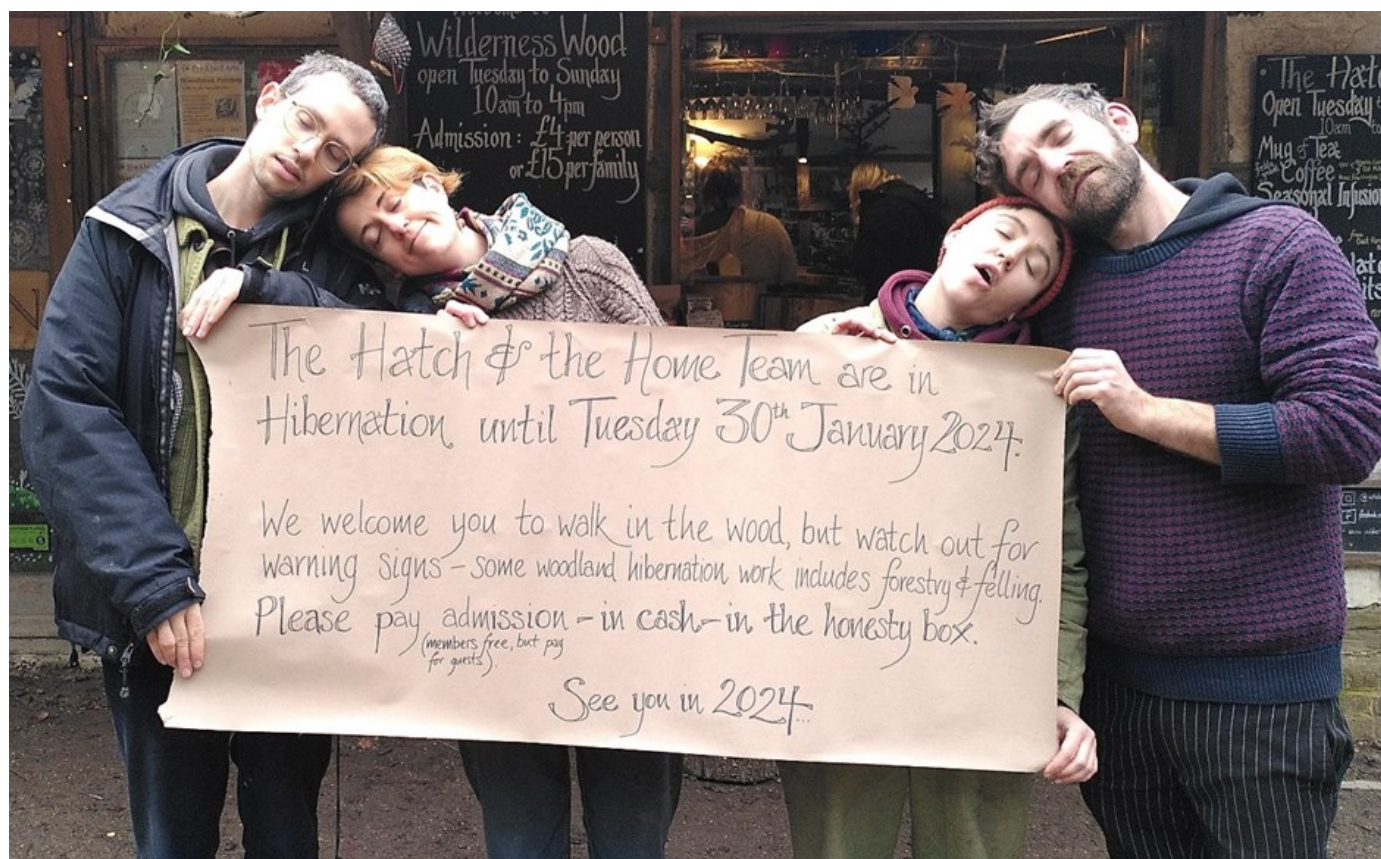
## Wilderness Wood Monthly News

The Hatch and Home Team take our annual 'hibernation' during January, so the woods will be quieter than usual; other than the occasional day of forestry work where the chainsaws will be whirring.

Hadlow Downians are very welcome to walk in the wood over this time – if you are bringing friends and family, we ask that you make a cash contribution in the honesty box on The Hatch. Please pay attention to signs and any warning tape steering you clear of the above mentioned forestry!

We look forward to seeing you back on The Hatch from 30<sup>th</sup> January, when the days start lengthening – in the meantime, Happy New Year!

Kate and the Wilderness Wood team x





# An Exciting 2024 for the Hadlow Down Drama and Variety Club

The HDDVC has worked hard this year to offer a range of events and to grow its membership again. We are very excited to announce that we will be performing **two one act plays on April 19th and 20th, 2024**, which will be produced by Janet. The plays are written by Peter Quilter, a playwright we thoroughly enjoyed using when we put on the play 'Curtain Up'. The evening will run as follows: the first play followed by a light buffet, and then the second play. We also hope to involve some musicians to perform some songs related to the plays after each one finishes, giving a cabaret feel to the evening..

The plays are taken from Quilter's 'Duets' and each play involves one man and one woman. The first play, 'Blind Date', involves a couple that are on a blind date, as the title suggests, and hoping to get it right this time, they never have before. The second play, 'The Bride-to-Be', is about a woman marrying for the third time, to the dismay of her brother, amidst a barrage of bad omens and wedding dress malfunctions. There are some very amusing moments in both plays.

Although a small cast, there will be many other roles that members can take on and we will keep offering a monthly social evening, with activities, alongside play rehearsals.

We have decided to hold auditions for the parts, which will be held individually to avoid the embarrassment of trying for parts in front of a huge audience, because, as we know, characterisation develops as rehearsals take place. The **auditions will take place on the 15th January, 2024, at 7.30pm** in the Hadlow Down Village Hall, and it would be helpful if you could notify Ellis of your intention to audition..We are notifying members first of this opportunity but will be publishing the audition date via facebook, the village magazine and will be inviting other local drama groups to link with us for this production, as they do with us, and hope this will be a really inclusive opportunity. You do not need to be a member of HDDVC to audition for the plays, so please spread the word.

There is a real desire for plays to resume in the village, and we hope this will be the start of many more productions and pantos 'Oh, yes, we do!!'.

We hope you will consider auditioning for one of the parts; do let us know if you would like further information on [claire.rivers61@gmail.com](mailto:claire.rivers61@gmail.com) or 07506889724.

We look forward to seeing you all soon,





# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024



## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING of Hadlow Down Parish Council

**Held in Hadlow Down Village Hall, Hadlow Down**

**at 7pm on Tuesday 5th December 2023**

**Present:** Councillors: Michael Lunn (ML) Chair (+WDC), Peter Weston (PW) Vice Chair, Ben Floyd (BF), David Munday (DM) and Damon Wellman (DW).

**In attendance:** Vicki Rutt (Clerk), Cllr. Bob Standley (ESCC) and 11 members of the public.

ML started the meeting by explaining as this was the last PC meeting before Christmas to wish to all residents of the Parish a very Merry Christmas and safe festive period for December.

### 198. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident stated that there are some trees down in Brick Kiln Lane and Spring Lane. They also explained that there has been a loose pack of dogs that have been spotted in the fields in the area. The same resident has been liaising with Wealden District Council [WDC] about an abandoned touring caravan which has been dumped by a third party, it is subject to a separate investigation and the landowner is trying to get its removal. Another resident asked who to send his petition too on the A272 speeding issues, it was agreed to send to Cllr Standley. A resident thanked the PC for arranging for the drains to be cleared on the A272. She reported a narrow strip on the Toll (A272) that needs some sort of warning signs as it is becoming dangerous. A resident raised the planning application at Broadreed Farm and asked the Council to consider the number of large vehicles and whether the location was appropriate for such vehicles.

### 199. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE – None.

### 200. CO-OPTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS – ML reported that the Council have two Councillor vacancies and they have two candidates. Both candidates introduced themselves of why they would like to become a Parish Councillor and then a vote took place. Both candidates received unanimous votes so both candidates were co-opted.

*19:13 Cllr Alan Hobbs and Cllr Stephen Lester joined the meeting.*

### 201. PCSO SUE CHOPPIN TO GIVE UPDATE ON LOCAL POLICING AND CURRENT ISSUES

ML welcomed PCSO Sue Choppin to the meeting and congratulated her on recently winning the 'Emergency Service Person of the Year'. PCSO Choppin introduced herself and explained the areas she covered. Regarding the recent burglaries in the area, they are deemed a well organised gang and should not be approached. If you see anything suspicious, please call 999 or email PCSO Choppin in a non emergency. Please can all residents be aware that there are a lot of scams happening at this time of year so be mindful. The question was asked what can be done about drones flying over your house, PCSO Choppin stated that not a lot can be done. DW stated that he too had seen this loose pack of dogs, and it was frightening, PCSO Choppin confirmed that it would be a Police matter and it is worth contacting the Rural Crime Team who could attend the site and speak to the dog owner as they are known. Speeding in the village was discussed and PCSO Choppin sent an email earlier to ML from an Officer at Sussex Safer Roads who had review the data received from the two SIDs. He stated '*The data shows that out of 35 counts ¼ of that value is over the speed limit using the 85th percentile 23% is above the limit, this would require enforcement, after speaking to the traffic manager, we have opted to put this through our triage board at the next meeting for this to be discussed and action plan formulated to justify enforcement. The next meeting takes place in December and I will feedback to the council what action will be taken.*'

### 202. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – 205i/b Tulleys Farm, ML declared a pecuniary interest and BF a personal interest. Item 212/5, DM declared a pecuniary interest.

### 203. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record (previously circulated).

### 204. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

i. Action Log 2023 Clerk reported from the action log which is available on the village website.

ii. Clerks report This was noted (previously circulated).

# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024

## PLANNING:

### i. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

#### a. WD/2023/2127/F for LITTLE BROADREED FARM, DOG KENNEL LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4EL

Proposed external alterations and change of use to existing commercial building and external car parking area to allow the storage and servicing of executive vehicles.

*The PC voted: 5 against and 2 abstained. Objection is due to the traffic impact and traffic movements, traffic impacts the Ashdown Forest, the environmental impact regarding use of cleaning materials and the site being an AONB.*

#### b. WD/2023/7039 for LAND FORMING PART OF TULLEYS FARM, FIVE CHIMNEYS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4DX

Agricultural building for the storage of machinery and hay.

*ML did not take part in this discussion. BF could join the debate but was unable to vote.*

*The PC voted: 3 objected and 2 abstained. Reasons are due to the development being potentially harmful to the visual amenities of the AONB contrary to Saved Policy EN6 of Wealden Local Plan 1998 and paragraph 176 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021. The mass and scale are also not appropriate, and the visual impact is excessive.*

#### c. WD/2023/1796/F for WILDERNESS COTTAGE, 1 WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4HX

Replacement shed. Change of use from garden storage to dog grooming area.

*The PC voted: 4 against and 3 abstained. Objection is due to parking issues, access and over commercialism of a small garden.*

### ii. APPROVED APPLICATIONS

#### WD/2023/2184/LBR for CLAYLANDS, STONEHURST LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 4ED.

Additional works associated with the full re-roofing of this listed property (granted listed building consent wd/2021/2063/lb) comprising structural repairs to the existing roof structure, chimney repointing, replacement casement windows within existing dormers, insulation to lofts, copper pipe lagging along with consent sought retrospectively for the installation of 2no.velux rooflight windows and their proposed replacement with more sympathetic conservation style rooflight windows.

#### WD/2023/2173/F for COLES FARM, WILDERNESS LANE, HADLOW DOWN, TN22 5HS

Conversion of the existing barn to create a dwelling, curtilage, parking and wider landscaping and ecological enhancements.

### iii. Enforcement updates

ML stated that the PC has received a number of updates. It was agreed that the Clerk would keep an enforcement log to be referred to when needed. **Action 1.** ML updated that as earlier stated in public questions, the caravan at Wander Down, Stonehurst Lane is being investigated and it was not placed there with permission from the landowner and its removal is being actioned. PW updated that the body of water at Fishpond wood was looked into, but the matter has now been closed as no further action. The enforcement appeal at Drakes Den has stalled and they are awaiting a visit from an Inspector. It was agreed that this will be responded to stating how concerned HDPC are on this matter and the delay in any action. **Action 2.**

## 206. **REPORTS FROM CLLR.BOB STANDLEY, ESCC & CLLR MICHAEL LUNN, WDC** - written reports had been submitted and are published on the village website.

Cllr Standley reported that it is unlikely that the A272 speed signage petition will be ready for the February ESCC meeting but to get it to him ASAP. He confirmed that ESH did come out to look at the concrete in the drain at School Lane but the wrong drain was looked at. BF raised this drain and asked who owns it and who is responsible as it can't be the landowner. Cllr Standley will look into this. **Action 3.**

The dangerous pothole on the main road near the Mayfield Flat was discussed, Clerk to report again. **Action 4.**

Cllr Lunn as WDC District Councillor reported that the recycling bins at Wilderness Wood have been removed despite opposition and no consultation with PC or residents. *Standing Orders dropped.*

Resident asked if the land is being reinstated, ML will ask about this. **Action 5.** He explained that the Local Plan is developing, and he is receiving regular briefings. It is proposed to be presented to Full Council on 8<sup>th</sup> February. *Standing orders reinstated.*

## 207. **HIGHWAYS:**

i. Blocked drains update – this is an ongoing issue and will remain on agenda so can be monitored.

ii. Response from ESH re SLR village report – Councillors had received the comments from ESH following a lengthy report sent with numerous issues around the village. Some has been repaired, some have not, and some have been deemed as satisfactory but the repair has been incredibly poor. The Clerk will chase these items. **Action 6.**

iii. Response from East Sussex re speed issues – No response yet from ESCC. *Carry forward.*

iv. Discussion regarding SID licence contract – PW explained the change of warranty for one SID and the maintenance contract for the SID is now a 3 year contract at £234.53. All Cllrs agreed for the 3-year Silver contract.

# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024

## COMMUNITY CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- i. Note draft minutes from the Committee held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 – the minutes were noted.
  - ii. Ratify decision to add Mr Brian Mills onto Committee membership – approved.
  - iii. Ratify agreement via email to arrange a stakeholder meeting in December – approved.
  - iv. Approve Mr Mike Barber [project architect] being invited as guest speaker for the next Advisory Committee – approved.
209. **TREE SURVEY QUOTES** – The Clerk had circulated the quotes prior to the meeting. Two quotes were received, and all Councillors agreed to proceed with contactor B at £380 + VAT. Clerk to commission the tree survey. **Action 7.**
210. **MAINTENANCE CONTRACT TENDERS**  
The Clerk had circulated the tender returns prior to the meeting. Despite going out to tender to several companies, only two companies responded.
- i. Play area contract – It was agreed to go with contactor C at £840 + VAT per annum.
  - ii. Burial ground contract – It was agreed to go with contactor C at £916 + VAT per annum.
- As it is the same contractor for both the burial ground and play area, there will be 5% off the combined total.
- iii. Verge contract – It was agreed to go with contractor A at £800 + VAT per annum.
- Clerk to make the necessary notifications and finalise the paperwork. **Action 8.**
211. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS**
- i. Standing Orders – this was reviewed and approved by all Councillors.
  - ii. Burial Ground regulations – this was reviewed and approved by all Councillors.
  - iii. Freedom of Information publication scheme – this was reviewed and approved by all Councillors.
  - iv. Risk Management policy – this was reviewed and approved by all Councillors.
212. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**
- i. WDC Christmas Collection Dates for Rubbish and Recycling – the dates have been published on social media.
  - ii. Village Hall grant success – the hall has been successful in securing a grant which they will use for the heating in the committee room, fire alarm system, potholes and improving ramps and railings in the hall.
  - iii. School Lane drainage works – this was undertaken the evening of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
  - iv. WGD reply to Councillor Partridge on WDC strategy – This working group was discussed and it was agreed that HDPC should be involved and DW will make contact with them to ensure we receive updates.
  - v. Letter from HDCC and PFC re extant permission - Clerk confirmed that letters had been received from the Hadlow Down Community Centre and Hadlow Down Playing Field Committee requesting permission for the works to be undertaken in order to obtain extant planning permission. The Clerk recommended that due to this being linked to a report regarding the need for obtaining legal advice that Cllrs had received before the meeting, both the letters and report should be discussed in a closed confidential session at the end of the meeting. The PC agreed to defer this item to the end of the meeting and discuss in closed session.
213. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS (COUNCIL MATTERS AND OUTSIDE BODIES):**  
PW has circulated his speed report in advance. DW updated that he attended the eSALC conference, there was an interesting planning consultant who presented and caravans came up. Highways were the main item and DW made contact with the Contract Director of Balfour Beatty. Cllrs gave permission for DW to arrange a site visit with her so she can see the issues first hand.
214. **BURIAL GROUND:**
- i. Update on clearing the extension to the burial ground. This is ongoing, awaiting response from the Diocese.
215. **CLERKS MATTERS:**
- i. Clerks hours November 2023 – The hours were agreed.
  - ii. Locum hours November 2023 - The hours were agreed and this was the final session. Words of thanks to be sent to Samantha on behalf of all Councillors for stepping in at short notice as Locum and assisting the Council.
  - iii. Ratify approval of the NALC pay agreement and 2 months back date payment - This was agreed.
  - iv. Discuss and agree 2024 meeting dates – These were agreed and will be published. **Action 9.**
  - v. Confirm sight and approval of Interim Internal Audit 2023/24 – This was noted and agreed. The Chair thanked the Clerk for her efforts with regard to completing this and was a useful exercise to conduct various checks on governance of finances and administration.
- BF left the meeting at 20:44.*
216. **BANK RECONCILIATION – 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 TO BE SIGNED.** PW and DM approved and signed.
217. **OTHER FINANCE MATTERS:**
- i. Payments for ratification: DD payment to BT on 16<sup>th</sup> November for £351.74. Payment on 17<sup>th</sup> November to HMRC for tax and NI for £226.54. These were noted and approved.



# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024

ii. Duplicate payment to WDC for election fee £551.43, refunded on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov after bank rec. Clerk explained that an invoice was paid via DD and also BACS. WDC refunded one amount but after the bank reconciliation date so just to ensure Cllrs are aware of this amendment.

iii. Credit received for £30 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov for burial transfer. This was noted.

*BF rejoined meeting 20:50*

iv. Discussion re precept budget for 2023/24 – The Clerk explained that following the finance meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, nothing has changed but the need for the tender contract figures were needed to finalise. The Clerk will update the figures and then send to Cllrs so they can review and see if any savings can be made elsewhere. The Clerk stated that any increases have been made due to inflation and does not think any other savings can be made except with the grants, if required. It was agreed that Cllrs would discuss any changes via email so the budget and precept can be agreed at the January 2024 meeting. **Action 10.**

**218. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (UT ref = Unity Trust Bank reference number) - DM and PW will authorise.**

Samantha Weatherill consultancy fees - £128.19 (UT ref: 962589919)

Vicki Rutt salary end December - £920 paid by SO

Vicki Rutt salary, backpay and expenses - £737.03 (UT ref: 98563400)

Lucy McConachie Play area inspection Nov - £40 (UT ref: 31896314)

Village Hall for hall hire - £40 (UT ref: 455708195)

Reimbursement to Cllr Lunn for bus shelter annual weather proofing- £29.96 (UT ref: 462101546)

Village Hall hire for one extra meeting - £9.60 (UT ref: 824348360)

Mulberry and Co – Interim internal audit - £150.30 + VAT £30.06 (UT ref: 116166333)

Public Works Loan Board - £567.07 paid by DD

**219. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 Section 17** – nothing raised.

**220. DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY** – this had been checked on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**221. ITEMS TO GO ON NEXT AGENDA:**

Notice has been received regarding Presentation of pre-commencement conditions application to discharge conditions to enable extant permission in a closed confidential session.

**The meeting closed at 21:00 and moved to closed confidential session to discuss two items**

**Probation of Clerk and item 212 v.**



## Hadlow Down Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2024

All Tuesday's to be held in the Committee Room of Hadlow Down Village Hall:

- 9<sup>th</sup> January                      \* 6<sup>th</sup> February                      \* 5<sup>th</sup> March
- 19<sup>th</sup> March – Parish Assembly (to be held in the Main Hall)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April                      \* 7<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Meeting                      \* 4<sup>th</sup> June 2<sup>nd</sup> July                      \* 6<sup>th</sup> August
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September                      \* 1<sup>st</sup> October                      \* 15<sup>th</sup> October - Precept /finance meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup> November                      \* 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Your Village magazine and Community Viewpoint**



**Were you frustrated by the lack of water  
earlier in the year?**

**If so please attend the....**

**PUBLIC MEETING WITH SOUTH EAST WATER**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm in the**

**Hadlow Down Village Hall**

All villagers are invited to a presentation and questions and answers session with the Chief Executive of South East Water. This is your opportunity to raise any concerns you may have over the water shortages in your village and the surrounding area.

**Any questions please contact the Clerk on**

**[clerk@hadlowdown.org](mailto:clerk@hadlowdown.org)**

**Nus Ghani writes—**Happy new year! I hope that you had a chance to relax and refresh over the festive period and are ready to fully embrace 2024. Winter is a beautiful time in Wealden, especially with a bit of frost in the morning making everything sparkle. However, in the shadows of all the socialising and festivities enjoyed in December, January can seem very different and bring feelings of isolation and loneliness, which can weigh heavily on our mental health. It is often the simple steps such as a chat with a family member, friend or a neighbour that can make a world of difference but, please know that there is further support available in all corners of Wealden and don't be afraid to reach out if you need it.

I'm pleased to be working with several fantastic local charities, who provide support in a variety of ways, making an enormous contribution to our communities and helping hundreds of Wealden residents along the way. To name just a few, Wayfinder Woman is a female-run, volunteer-led charity operating in Wealden and across East Sussex, which helps women build self-confidence and skill sets through free, grant-funded workshops, training, coaching, online support and drop-in advice hub, which provides a safe space for women. Equally, MAYFACS are an amazing resource, providing a huge range of support including activities for residents of all ages as well as help with transport locally. In Wadhurst, the wonderful Carillon Cottage is an invaluable community hub, offering advice, support and services for every age group and in Hailsham, the Wealden Citizens Advice team are a fantastic source of free, confidential and impartial advice.

I'm also pleased to be supporting the Mayfield and Uckfield Sheds, which are great projects offering a supportive and creative opportunity to share skills to repair or upcycle items that can be re-used by the community, while helping to tackle loneliness and isolation. Similarly, Crowborough's Artytime, which is a not-for-profit community group run by volunteers, brings arts and crafts to residents of all ages and abilities. I continue supporting its exciting plans to create a new hub in the Jarvis Brook area, and I hope that we can see some more progress this year. I'm incredibly grateful for all the work that our charities and their volunteers are doing, and I look forward to continuing to support them in 2024.

# Hadlow Down Village Magazine January 2024



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## Date for your diary

## Horticultural Society AGM

## March 15th 2024 @ 10-12 pm

## Village Hall



## YOUR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEEDS YOU !

**Your Village magazine and Community Viewpoint**



## Poetry Page

### Homer at Normandy Landing 1944 by Robert Spencer

The ominous hiss and whine  
Of bullet  
And explosion of shell  
Did not deter  
The brave Angles and their Allies.  
Defying the wrath  
Of death giving Zeus  
They leapt from their crafts  
Into the churning realm  
Of Nereus  
And boldly waded  
Towards the shore  
Where the enemy was massed.  
Many invaders fell  
Their blood flooding out of its own flesh.  
Still they pressed on,  
Falling in increasing numbers  
But still onward, onward  
In grim determination  
Towards the might  
Of the defending host.  
The invisible carriers of death  
Ripped into the invaders  
But still they pressed on  
Until their feet  
Felt the dry sand of the shore  
Of the ancient land  
Of the Normans.  
On, on they raced  
Now able to use  
Their own fearsome weapons.  
The defenders looked on  
In disbelief but did not falter,  
Did not abandon their posts  
Like cowards.

Invaders and defenders clashed  
Like mighty boulders  
Colliding into each other,  
The Gods looking on.  
Even they were unable  
To predict where victory  
Would settle  
And who  
would hold  
this land  
Tomorrow.



### A Robin by Mark Dury

Upon a frosty twig beside his nest he sat on high.  
Below, a man casting grain to his chickens, he did spy.  
He thought he'd take a closer look and with caution try  
his luck,  
When fortune smiled and granted that a pot of gold he'd  
struck.

For, on seeing him, the man bent down and, stretching  
out his hand,  
Offered a golden pile of corn so succulent and grand,  
The robin nearly snatched a grain, but prudence held its  
sway,  
His natural fear of man prevailed, he swiftly flew away.

Not giving up, the same again, the man reached out more  
corn,  
The robin just hopped to and fro, then, after feeling some-  
what torn,  
Fixing the man with his beady eye, threw caution through  
the door,  
Onto out held hand he made a dart, came back just then  
no more.

But, every day he now comes again, red chest thrust out  
so proud,  
To sit upon that friendly hand, both cheeky and unbowed.  
A glimpse of trust twixt bird and man as nature meant to  
be,  
Momentary jewel I'll not forget, because that man was  
me.

(A true experience of the author)

*Mark Dury, one of our regular contributors, has asked to use his 'slot' this month to encourage readers to advertise his new charity website.*

*Mark has set up the website, to which over the next 12 months he is going to add some of his poems. If you visit the site you are encouraged to contribute to a variety of his chosen charities.*

*Its Mark's target to reach over 1 million 'hits' for the site over that 12 month period.*

*So, please have a look at [www.simplymypoems.co.uk](http://www.simplymypoems.co.uk)*

*And don't forget to SHARE.*