

THE PARISH NEWS

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June/July 2016

Issue 13

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A Wedding in the Village

Congratulations to Carolyn & Carl who were married in St. Saviour's Church on Saturday 14th May.

The reception was held at The Dragon Pub. Congratulations to the happy couple.



The Parish of Colgate with Faygate

St. Saviour's Parish Church, Forest Road, Colgate, Nr. Horsham



Rector	Reverend Nick Flint	01293-871251
Church Wardens	Mr John Sired	01293-851458
	Mr Johny Armstrong	01293-851403
Deanery Synod Representatives	VACANCY	VACANCY

Parochial Church Council ~ Elected Representatives

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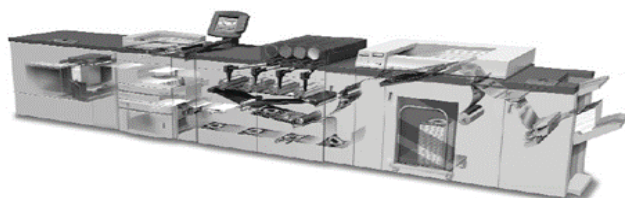
Useful Contacts

Church Roll Officer & Flower Rota	Mrs Rosemary Lane	01403-257829
Brass Cleaning Rota & Colgate Hall Bookings	Mrs Rosemary Sired	01293-851458
Newsletter Advertising, Editor & Distributor	Mrs Julie Stace	01293-851140 cfparishnews@gmail.com
Faygate Hall Bookings	Sharon Saunders Dickie Palsar	07920-431210 07841-373954 faygatevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk
VILLAGE WEBSITE	http://colgateandfaygate.community21.org	

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News from the Rev. Nick Flint.....

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The Rector's Reflections

The Church's Annual Meeting took place at the end of April, & it was an opportunity to reflect & look forward.

Challenge & change are facts of life, & in the life of a Church there are occasions when they are brought into sharp relief. Such has certainly been the case during the last 12 months.

We have three special meetings with Archdeacon Fiona & a visit from Bishop Mark in which we have contributed to & reflected on a strategic review which aimed to identify challenges & deliver the change needed to meet them. For the united benefice of Rusper & Colgate the specific challenges have been the approach to Kilnwood Vale & the cumulative effect of the differences & demands of the two parishes during the last 20 years. With the villages now due to separate over this coming Summer the challenges themselves will change.

This is an opportunity to publicly thank the PCC & Churchwardens, treasurer, our sidesmen in the crucial ministry of welcome, readers, our organists, safeguarding officer & to acknowledge the faithful service expressed in many small but significant acts & contributions made month by month, year by year, willingly, cheerfully, sometimes anonymously. And not only to thank those currently in those roles but to acknowledge with gratitude those who have exercised them in the past throughout my two decades of ministry here. I hope I will be forgiven for singling out by name John Stoddart for the unique contribution he has made to the ministry until recently & Peter Murray who has to some extent stepped into his shoes. Again, until last year when we were very grateful to Kay for stepping in I feel I also want to thank Rosemary Lane by name, as uniquely she has held the same post of PCC secretary, a constant & calm point of reference over all those changes, comings & goings. Sarah-Jo Davies has served two terms as Deanery Synod & is also stepping down with our thanks.

Through the year of flagship project of Cuppa & Chat has continued to thrive & I am encouraged that its success has let to us reviving the idea of reordering the church building for greater welcome & growth.

It is good for St. Saviour's to be looking forward, not back. This church has not experienced a vacancy since 1973. The vast majority of churches face them every few years, sometimes repeatedly & often at best they provide a creative space & time to take stock. It is my prayer that this betwixt & between period may prove such a time. Eastertide is the great season of hope & should encourage us to look forward. Ascension tide should lead us to look up & beyond, to stand on our own feet. The cycle is complete with Pentecost & the promise of the Spirit to enable us in all we have to do for God. No doubt it will have its own ups & downs but I am sure an exciting chapter lies ahead for St. Saviour's & All Saints.

Every blessing

Nick



How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel?

Each word must contain the letter **R**

Can you find a 9-letter word & at least 20 other words of five letters or more avoiding proper nouns?

Services in the United Parishes of Colgate & Rusper

St. Saviour's Church Colgate

A warm welcome awaits you at all our services.

June 2016

Sunday	12th	11:00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	26th	11:00am	Holy Communion

July 2016

Sunday	3rd	11:00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	24th	11:00am	Holy Communion

ADVANCE NOTICE

Services in August will be held on the 7th & 21st.

[The last date chosen to avoid any potential clash with the 'Big Kahuna']

Clergy Day Off

Nick is here to serve the needs of the community. He is pleased to hear of new people moving in who may need visiting and welcomed by the Church.

Holy Communion can be arranged for the sick or housebound.

He tries to take just one day off each week and it would be appreciated if he is not contacted on a Thursday.

News from St. Saviour's.....

A major Spring event, the Holmbush Garden Day, took place on May 15th. It was blessed with fine weather & the gardens looked terrific as always. The teas & plant stalls were kept busy all afternoon. Over £2,300 was raised for church funds & warm thanks are due to Ruth Calvert & her team of helpers who gave us such a wonderful day.

Our AGM took place on April 26th. A new item for discussion was the funding of the Parish Magazine. This fine publication, which is always a good read, serves the community - both residents & businesses - well. It is free & a mine of useful information. It does of course cost to produce & relies on advertising & sponsors. If anyone else feels able to contribute to costs that would be most welcome. PCC members will welcome any thoughts or comments.

May Day Quiz Answers

1. **FLORA**
2. **BELTANE**
3. **EATING A SALAD OF FLOWERS**
4. **6**
5. **THE FIRST OF MAY**
6. **TRUE**

Community News.....

Cuppa & Chat

Second Monday of the month when there is a bank holiday

Monday 6th June & 4 July 2016



Anytime between 10:30 - 12:00 in St. Saviour's Church, Colgate

If you haven't been to Cuppa & Chat for a while do come & join us. It seems to continually grow in popularity with those free on a Monday morning. Enjoying meeting up with other local people once a month. We must be doing something right! You will always be made very welcome.

'Like' us on Facebook: Colgate and Faygate Cuppa & Chat

Check out local information & events on our web site: <http://colgateandfaygate.community21.org>

Hello from your Village Agent - Jane Cullum

I hope this finds you all very well & enjoying the warmer weather (we had some lovely days in May!).

I have been busy getting on with Village Agent work, working my way around Rusper, Colgate & Faygate, getting to know more about your villages & meeting some of you villagers on the way.

Village Agent contact cards have been placed in Rusper Village store along with the new season Arun magazine. Posters have been put up in the villages (new noticeboard in Colgate) showing the very tasty Monthly Sunday Roast at Lavinia House Club & Electric Blanket testing scheduled for October 2016, bookings being taken now. Arun magazines placed in St. Saviour's. I met with villagers at Rusper & Colgate Cuppa & Chat groups, always made to feel very welcome at these happy social meetings.

As I have been getting around & meeting some of you, I have been asking the question 'Would non drivers be interested in a new weekly mini bus transport service running once a week at the beginning of the week?'. This service would be available to villagers that are unable to use taxis because of disability or medical reasons & would be charged at a very reasonable cost. The mini bus would collect & drop villagers off to their door & run between Rusper, Colgate & Faygate to Horsham & back. Or maybe to either Hillier's or Newbridge Nurseries. Now would be a good time to think about using this service, given that buses are not currently stopping on the A264. please get in contact to register your interest.

Another Question that I would really appreciate your feedback on is; 'How much interest would there be in a Cream Tea occasion in each village?'. Rusper's may be held on the green in Gardners Close, Rusper; Colgate's would be held in the Dragon Pub, Colgate; & Faygate's venue is yet to be confirmed. Please let me know if you like this idea & then I can move forward putting it into action.

I think that's about it for now from the Village Agent, please contact me on the numbers or e-mail address below or alternatively meet me at the Cuppa & Chat groups & we could share a chat over a cuppa. I look forward to hearing from you/seeing you around the villages.

Phone 07591-049042 or 01403-751322 or e-mail; villageagentrusper@ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk

The Village Agent role is provided by Age UK Horsham District & supported & funded by the Hope Keith Villagers Trust.



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To all our Readers.....

Note from the Editor...

Could I please request that articles to be included in the joint August issue are e-mailed to me at the following: - cfparishnews@gmail.com, by Monday 18th July.

Thanks, Julie

Shops in Colgate & Faygate

After many years of not having any local shops, Colgate & Faygate now have a Farm Shop & a Village Store.

New House Farm - selling all kinds of locally sourced produce. While you're there you could stop for lunch in the Tea Room or for a cake & cuppa in the afternoon.

Faygate - the Village Shop at Durrant's Village will be selling a fantastic range of everyday groceries & fresh produce.

Opening Times: -

Monday to Saturday 7:00am to 7:00pm

Sunday 7:00am to 4:30pm

COLGATE MEMORIAL HALL

The village fete will be held on Sunday June 26th at 1pm.

Donations of articles for the following stalls would be greatly appreciated.

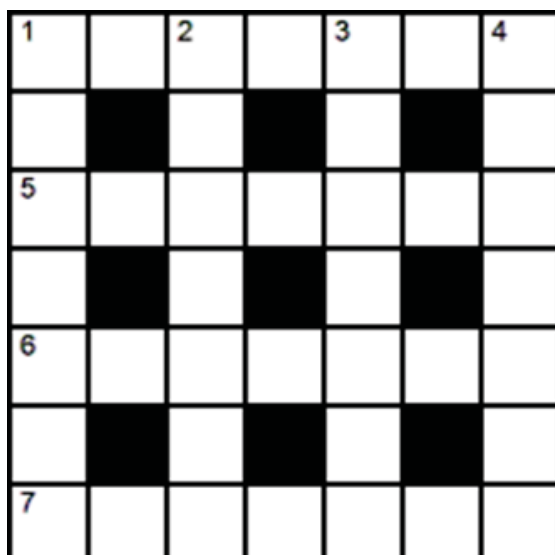
Tombola, raffle, home made cakes, white elephant, books (please contact Susannah Quinlan or Neil Poland on 07973-782403 or 01293-852711 if you would like books collected).

We are still open for offers of help or ideas for stalls.

Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting in the hall on Wednesday June 8th at 7:45pm to finalise arrangements.

Pat Stillwell

01293-851275



Across

1. Assign a duty
5. Amazing or wonderful occurrence
6. Bane
7. Firedog

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1. Pungent nitrogen and hydrogen compound
2. Egyptian tomb
3. Tooth
4. Perfidy

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Colgate Weather - February to April 2016

February started mild & unsettled with strong south-westerly winds & storm Henry, although we missed the heavy rain that fell in the west, in fact it remained dry until the evening of the 5th. It was relatively warm too, as the temperature was above 50F (10C) until the 7th when there was heavy rain giving 0.32" & 0.45" the following day, this being the heaviest of the month, whilst it was a little colder at 45F. The strong winds of the 7th & 8th were due to storm Imogen & it appeared that the weather forecasters were rapidly going through the alphabet with their new system of naming storms! Most days were cloudy & the first sunny day was the 11th & it was frosty for the first time in the month but the next 2 days were dull & drizzly with the temperature dipping to 39F. From the 15th there was a settled & dry colder spell, with sharp frosts & more sunshine before more rain on the 18th gave us 0.34", but the weekend of the 20th-21st was mild with further light rain & gusty winds & a temperature of 54F. Thereafter the rest of the month was generally dry, sunny & cool at 45F, with overnight frosts & sunny or bright days. Total rainfall was 2.02", just below average in what is usually one of the drier months of the year & it was mild too. Winter is now statistically over & it would have been the mildest on record if the temperature had not sunk a little in the second half of February, so it was a little milder in 20047 & 1989.



March began with low pressure in charge & 0.17" of rain on the 1st, although it was warm at 52F, before the wind swung round to a north-westerly direction & it became much colder with sleet & hail on the 2nd. However, there were some sunny



periods between the showers & we missed the storms from Storm Jake which hit the south-west. The second week of the month brought several frosts & further hail & rain, especially on the 8th, when 0.85" fell, before it became milder on the 11th, after a further frost, with a sunny day at 52F. The 12th saw a dense fog, the first for quite a while, but the sun eventually broke through & this pattern was repeated the next day & there was a 4 day break in the rain before a small amount fell on the 15th. However, high pressure became established over Scandinavia & this blocked the wetter westerly winds so we had

a north-easterly airflow over us right through the 3rd week of March & an 8 day dry spell with some spells of sunshine & it was warmer between 52-55F. This sequence broke down on the 24th with 0.46" of rain & then 0.48" on the 26th, but it was a lovely day on the 25th & warm at 59F so it was a good Good Friday! The rest of the Easter weekend was another story as Storm Katie swept in with some of the strongest winds we have experienced for many years & giving us 0.94" of rain over Easter Sunday (27th) with the worst of the winds the next day. There was further rain for the following few days but the 31st was sunny all day ending the month on a bright note. The month was a little colder than average & the sunshine total was average but the rainfall at 3.85" was way above what we usually have, in fact it was the 3rd highest in 25 years, making it difficult for those of us who like walking in the countryside instead of on tarmac!

April started with a slight frost but a dry, sunny day followed, although this was to be one of only three dry days in the first half of the month. Heavy rain on the second produced 0.17" & the following week saw us having frequent April showers as westerly winds held away but it was mild at 50-55F. It turned warmer on the 12th with a couple of sunny days & a temperature of 63F but inevitably for Spring it all broke down on the 15th with showers & then heavy prolonged rain giving 0.58", the highest of the month. The following day was showery & much colder at 46F & this was followed by a severe frost on the 17th but at least it was dry & it remained dry for the next week. The wind became more northerly or easterly & there were several sunny days although not particularly warm ones, fluctuating from 59F to 48F. Once more it was all change on the 23rd (St. George's Day) with north-easterly breezes in charge so that the final week of the month was unsettled with small amounts of rain in the form of showers every day, however a coupled of last frosty mornings were also in evidence, catching out the unwary gardeners. The 30th was bright, breezy & showery & that summed up the month. The rainfall at 2.13" was about average, although twice last year's low, & sunshine levels were also unremarkable, whilst the temperature mainly stuck in the low 50'sF.



Bryan Radford

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Colgate Village Fete



Sunday June 26th at 1:00pm

To be opened at 1pm by
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St. Saviour's Church ~ Then & Now



On the left is a view of our St. Saviour's Church taken from a post card send by a resident of Colgate to her sister on November 14th 1914.

With oil lamps & candles reading couldn't have been easy!

On the right the church as it is now.

Can you spot the differences?

John Sired

Queen Elizabeth 90th Birthday Quiz

1. Where was the Queen born?
 - A. Her grandfathers house in Mayfair, London.
 - B. Buckingham Palace.
 - C. Windsor Castle.
2. What word did Winston Churchill use to describe the Queen at the age of 2?
 - A. A nightmare.
 - B. A Character.
 - C. A Darling.
3. What was the Queen's nickname when she was little?
 - A. Lilibet.
 - B. Lizzie.
 - C. Libby
4. What did the Queen do during the Second World War?
 - A. She joined the Women's Auxillary Territorial Service as a mechanic & military truck driver.
 - B. She worked in a factory.
 - C. She was evacuated to Canada.
5. What is the Queen NOT required to do when driving?
 - A. Stop at red lights.
 - B. Show number plates.
 - C. Drive on the left.

Have fun everyone, the answers will be in the August issue of the magazine, so plenty of time to get your thinking caps on! 😊

Colgate Parish Council News.....

Colgate Parish Council Contacts

Chair	Sheila Marley	01293-851347
Vice Chair	Christine Crosdil	01293-851580
	Christine Crosdil	01293-851580
Planning	John Sired	01293-851458
	David Stillwell	01293-851275
	Stephen Davies	01293-852898
Finance	Steve Wong	01293-852867
	Steve Garley	01293-851322
	Victoria Finnegan	01293-852455
Parish Clerk	Bev Clayden	01293-883944 colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk
Colgate & Faygate Website		www.colgatefaygate.com

News in Brief

On 9th May 2016 Colgate Parish Council held their annual elections & I am pleased to confirm that Cllr Sheila Marley remained Chair & Cllr Christine Crosdil became Vice Chair. These posts will be held for a year. Thanks was given to Cllr Calvert who stepped down as Vice Chair. It was lovely to see so many new faces attending the meeting.

Many residents remain concerned with the suspension of the bus service to Crawley. As soon as the Clerk has been advised of the consultation details they will be published on the website - www.colgatefaygate.com. Although the Parish Council will complete the consultation it is important that all residents complete the consultation document themselves.

Concerns were raised with regards to the process of granting licence applications & Colgate Parish Council will be contacting Horsham District Council over the granting of the license for the Big Kahuna in this regard.

Kilnwood Vale is holding a free Community Day on 18TH JUNE 12-4PM - KILNWOOD VALE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK.

Community Speed Watch is coming to Colgate

The Council are hopeful that a Community Speed Watch pilot scheme will be set up along Forest Road. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the Clerk for more information (01293-883944). If the pilot is successful then the Council hopes to roll it out to other areas of the Parish.

Please check on the Parish Council's website for any up to date information, agenda & minutes.

Next meeting will be held at Colgate School at 7:30pm on 18th July (please note this is a slight alteration to the normal 2nd Monday in the month).

Everyone is welcome.

A little brainteaser for you all!!!

Seven friends each has a home aquarium & each aquarium contains a different number of tropical fish.

Bill has four times as many fish as Angela, who has three times as many fish as Carol, who has ten fewer fish than Colin, who has a third as many fish as Jenny, who has twice as many fish as Jamie, who has twice as many fish as Brian.

How many fish has each person got if the total number of fish is 107?

Good luck!!!

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News from PCSO Tracy Bicknell.....



Summer Burglaries

Stay Secure

Don't make it easy for burglars



A burglary in your own home is a devastating experience that can affect you & your family long after the incident has occurred. The good news is that the risk of becoming a victim of burglary in Sussex is low & since launching Sussex Police's initiative to tackle burglary under the banner of Operation Magpie in 2012, there has been a year on year reduction in burglary dwellings across Sussex.

Keep cool - Although the number of burglaries across Sussex is falling, there is always a rise during the summer because of insecure doors & windows.

Summer is the time of warm days when windows, doors & garages are often left open, & tools & valuables may be left lying around outside. The most common cases of opportunist summer burglary involve offenders that: -

- ♦ Enter an insecure front door while residents are in the back garden.
- ♦ Enter doors that are closed but unlocked at night while residents are asleep.
- ♦ Reach through windows to take valuable items.

Summer burglary prevention tips: -

- ♦ If you are out in the back garden, ensure that your front door is secure.
- ♦ Put your garden tools & games away into a secure garage or tools shed after using them, they could be used to break into your home, or your neighbours.
- ♦ When you leave a room unattended, close the windows & doors - especially on the ground floor.
- ♦ If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so they cannot be fully opened, or make sure they are not large enough to allow access to a burglar.
- ♦ Keep all wallets, purses, credit cards, car keys & other valuables out of sight.
- ♦ Consider fitting outside security lighting or a visible alarm to help deter burglars. Even using pea shingle or gravel on a driveway & spiky plants in garden beds can help.
- ♦ If you park your car out in the countryside, take your bag or wallet with you & don't leave other belongings on view in your car. Even an old coat left in sight could tempt someone to break in.
- ♦ Make it a habit to mark your valuables by using your postcode & house number or name.
- ♦ Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them.
- ♦ Register your property at immobilize.com, it's free of charge & can increase your chances of being reunited with your property.

Burglars know the price of everything but the value of nothing. The best defense against burglary is prevention.

In an emergency, or if you see a crime in progress, always call 999.

PCSO Tracy Bicknell 13375 - Police Community Support Officer - Mobile 07912-893868

Horsham Police Station, Neighborhood Policing Team, Tel: - 101, Ext 13375

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**Horsham
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Council**

Local Health & Leisure Walks

All welcome to guided, **FREE**, sociable, HDC walks led by trained volunteers; no need to book, just turn up at the starting point. Programme booklet containing over 250 walks is available from the Walks Co-coordinator on 01403-215284 or online www.horshamhealthwalks.co.uk. Beginners are recommended to contact the Walk Leader to discuss suitability. All walks can be wet & muddy in places. Forthcoming walks in the Colgate Parish & neighboring areas are as follows: -

Every Monday 10:45am: North Heath, Horsham – Meet in the car park of the **Sussex Barn Pub**, off **North Heath Lane**, at the junction with **St. Mark's Lane, RH12 5PJ (TQ181328)**. Walkers can choose to walk for 30 or 75 minutes. Gentle up to one hour fifteen minute walks, up to 2 miles around the riverside in the North Heath area. Suitable for slow or new walkers & also those who wish to enjoy a regular easy walk. Refreshments & toilets are available in the pub after the walk. **Leaders Ann & John 01403-268885.**

Saturday 18th June 10:00am: Roosthole (2) – Park in the Forestry Commission car park on **Hammerpond Road, RH13 6PG (TQ208298)**. This 3½ mile walk, taking 1¾, will most likely be muddy & slippery. The walk is through open paths & wooded areas with some steep inclines to increase your heart rate. We may encounter dogs & horses. Well behaved dogs on a lead are welcome. **Leaders: Liz 01403-263920 or Simon 01403-269599.**

Sunday 19th & 26th June 10:30am: Leechpool & Owlbeech Woods – A lovely woodland 2¼ mile walk, taking 1¼ hours, generally following main paths & easy under foot, although a small part of the walk will be on narrower paths with tree roots, stubs & uneven ground. Some inclines. Can be muddy in places. A sensible pair of shoes would be advisable. Dogs on a lead are welcome. An optional short 30 minute walk is always available. Meet at **Leechpool Wood Car Park, Harwood Road (B2195), Horsham (TQ194313)**. **Leader: Armelle 01403-260342.**

Wednesday 22nd June 10:00am: Leechpool & Owlbeech Woods (1) – Various 2/3 miles generally easy circular walks, some gentle slopes. Suitable for new walkers & families most welcome. Meet in the **Leechpool Wood car park (Roffey End)**, off **Harwood Road (B2195), Horsham (TQ162318)**. No dogs please. 1 to 1½ hours. **Leader Emmy 0140.3-255517.**

Wednesday 29th June 2:30pm: Chesworth Amble – A gentle 2 mile amble along the new Riverside Walk into Chesworth Farm, taking a look at the new path & bird hides & then a stroll back in time for a coffee or lunch at the Garden Centre, taking 1 hour. No dogs. Meet at **Hillier Garden Centre site, Brighton Road, Horsham, RH13 6QA (TQ187296)**, on the gravel farthest away from the entrance. **Leader: Jill Shuker 07780-701184.**

Insects Word Search Puzzle

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

ANTS	INCHWORM
APHID	LADYBUG
BEATLE	LICE
BEETLE	MOSQUITO
BRISTLETAIL	MOTH
BUMBLEBEE	SILVERFISH
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CATERPILLAR	TIC
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GRASSHOPPER	
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General Information.....



Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance is appealing for local groups, clubs, societies & other organisations to book a talk about the life-saving work of the charity as it takes delivery of a new helicopter.

The Air Ambulance has launched a new presentation including information about how the helicopters are tasked, the aircraft, types of missions, the crew, blood transfusions & night flying.

If you would like to book a talk, which is free of charge, please call the **Fundraising Support Assistant Lucy Waterson on 01622-833833.**



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[E-mail: holbrookanimalrescue@sky.com](mailto:holbrookanimalrescue@sky.com)

Gardener's Journal

A burst of warm weather at the start of May ended this year's unusually prolonged & prolific season of spring bulbs - daffodils, tulips & bluebells. Rhododendrons & azaleas have come into their own & the wisteria has been magnificent. So summer approaches, & roses are already showing signs of a brilliant June. Mowing is up to once every two weeks already but be careful to allow fading daffodils & other bulbs to restore themselves uncut until near the end of June. Keep adding compost & manure to flower beds & sprinkle with fertilizer. Pruning of spring flowerers such as forsythia can be undertaken. In the vegetable garden potatoes are doing well & broad beans & root crops will hopefully escape the slugs. Add mulch to strawberries & raspberries, & try to curb the latter's tendency to sprout everywhere. In the greenhouse tomatoes have been staked & butternut squash are beginning to climb, as will the cucumber. Greenhouse vegetables such as tomatoes will need regular feeding, weekly if possible, to do really well. Courgettes will be grown in old rain barrels outside.



Terrace planters blossomed with white & pink tulips. Now these should be replaced, perhaps with geraniums, lobelia, fuchsias' daisies & other summer favourites, or the occasional shrub or young tree, capable of transplant to the garden at the end of the season. Again, these planters will need weekly feeding to produce their best.

Outside the fence the woods are full of deer this year, following a mild winter. The birdfeeders remain active with cock pheasants resplendent in their spring plumage, & the nesting boxes have been busy. The dawn choruses continue. But has the first cuckoo been heard?



A New Voice Graces the Sussex Countryside

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

A new voice has been added to the Sussex avian chorus over the last few years, emanating from a shy, difficult to see little brown bird whose explosive song belies its reticent nature. Cetti's Warbler, first recorded in the UK in Kent in 1961 can now be heard all over our county.



Named after an 18th Century Jesuit naturalist Francesco Cetti, this little bird has marched relentlessly north-westerly across Europe, expanding its range from the core of the population in South-east Europe, North Africa & parts of Asia. Having hopped over the English Channel in 1961, it was ten years later before breeding was proven to have taken place, all the time they were spreading westward along the south coast, in the early 1970s they suddenly disappeared from the south-east due to some pretty cold winters, but in the 1980s their numbers began to recover & due to our winters becoming warmer, it was enough to establish a viable breeding population. Now, they have become a good news wildlife story, increasing numbers & continuing to expand their range northwards & westwards.

Their arrival in the UK coincided with another species that initially colonised in south-east England, the little egret, but whereas this striking white water bird is very visible & easy to see, the Cetti's Warbler isn't. To describe what it looks like, it might be best to say it looks like an over-sized wren in that it is basically brown & often sits with its tail cocked upwards, but you have to be lucky to actually see it at all. They like to live in damp places, close to water that has dense low vegetation in which they can skulk away to their hearts content.

It's the song that is most striking about the Cetti's Warbler. An almost machine-gun like burst that just lasts for a couple of seconds & then you don't hear it again, which is most frustrating as you search the vegetation with your eyes in a vain attempt to try & see it. About five minutes later it will belt out the call again from somewhere else. It is the male that does all the singing, & it moves about its territory belting out the song to try & convince other males that there is more than one bird there & thereby reducing competition for territory & females.

Twentieth Century bird photographer & author George Yeates tried somewhat unsuccessfully to describe the bird's song in words:

What yer.....What yer.....What yer.....come-and-see-me.....bet-you-don't-bet-you-don't

I think that probably leaves you none the wiser as to what a Cetti's Warbler sounds like, but it does show how difficult it is to describe bird song in general to people who have no idea of what you are talking about! So, the best thing to remember that if you are standing near water surrounded by dense vegetation & you suddenly hear a short but loud outburst of song from deep within, you may well have just heard your first Cetti's Warbler, & I'm sure Signore Francesco Cetti would have been very pleased.



www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Pictures Courtesy of the Following: -

Cetti's Warbler © (Top) ~ Barry Yates, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Cetti's Warbler © 2008 (Bottom) ~ Dave Kilbey, Sussex Wildlife Trust

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