



# Parish News

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April 2016

Issue 11



Holmbush Gardens Open Day ~ Sunday 15th May





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## Gardener's Journal.....

The equinox & spring are upon us. With longer days the ground is at last drying out. Camellias, cherries & rhododendrons are in full swing & under the oak trees carpets of daffodils, soon to give way to bluebells, draw the eye. Hellebores & cyclamens have been particularly successful. Primroses line hedgerows & banks. Due to the mild winter the grass is standing up & mowing has started already. Keep lawns tidy & properly edged.

Roses, jasmine, currants & fuchsias should have been pruned. Add compost & manure to flower beds & sprinkle with fertilizer. Citrus trees in the orangery are in bud & hint at a bumper crop of lemons. The vegetable garden remains in production with carrots & frost sweetened parsnips. Now is the time to prepare beds as they empty for new planting & sowing with helpings of manure & fertilizer. Clean up & add mulch to strawberry & raspberry patches.



Chitted potatoes & onion sets can go in the ground from St. Patrick's day. Meanwhile the new season's seeds of tomatoes, parsnips, beans & summer squash can be started in the greenhouse, using lengths of guttering or pots. Keep an eye out for marauding mice with a taste for seedlings.

The fish are hungrier now but look out for opportunistic herons. Cut back last year's decaying growth & remove algae or blanket weed as it appears. In the woods deer are regularly seen & bluebells are pushing up in any open area. Woodpeckers drum against hollow trees. Pugnacious blackbirds chatter a warning from the bushes.

The birdfeeders are a picture of activity, & so far the sparrow hawk has kept his distance. The dawn chorus is mounting & nesting boxes are being checked out by prospective tenants.



# The Parish of Colgate with Faygate

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



<b>Rector</b>	Reverend Nick Flint	01293-871251
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Mr John Sired	01293-851458
	Mr Johny Armstrong	01293-851403
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	Mrs Sarah-Jo Davies	
	<b>VACANCY</b>	

### Parochial Church Council ~ Elected Representatives

<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Kay Roots	
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	<b>VACANCY</b>	
Mrs Ruth Calvert	Mrs Elsiedale Armstrong	Mrs Rosemary Lane
Mrs G Davis	Mrs Sue Taylor	Mr John Sired
Mr David Stillwell	Mr Johny Armstrong	Mrs Sarah-Jo Davies
<b>Organist</b>	<b>VACANCY</b>	
<b>Hon. Assistant Organist</b>	Mr Duncan Noel-Paton MA (Cantab.) FRSA	

### Useful Contacts

<b>Church Roll Officer &amp; Flower Rota</b>	Mrs Rosemary Lane	01403-257829
<b>Brass Cleaning Rota &amp; Colgate Hall Bookings</b>	Mrs Rosemary Sired	01293-851458
<b>Newsletter Advertising, Editor &amp; Distributor</b>	Mrs Julie Stace	01293-851140 <a href="mailto:cfparishnews@gmail.com">cfparishnews@gmail.com</a>
<b>Faygate Hall Bookings</b>	Sharon Saunders Dickie Palsar	07920-431210 07841-373954 <a href="mailto:faygatevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk">faygatevillagehall@hotmail.co.uk</a>

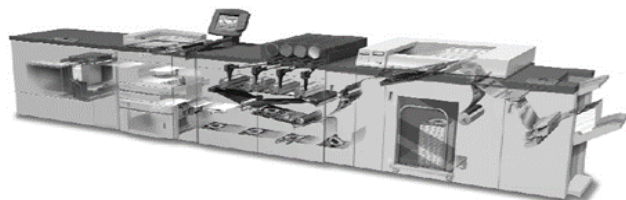
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# To all our Readers.....

## **Note from the Editor...**

Could I please request that articles to be included in the May issue are e-mailed to me at the following: - [cparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:cparishnews@gmail.com), by Monday 11th April.

Unfortunately there is no puzzle page this month! ☹️, should be back next month! 😊

Thanks, Julie

## **New shops open 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

The logo for Crohn's MAP Vaccine, featuring the text "CROHN'S MAP VACCINE" in white capital letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

## ***The Cherry Tree Pub***

### ***A charity quiz in aid of the Crohn's MAP Vaccine.***

On Saturday 5th March a charity quiz night took place at the Cherry Tree Pub.

48 people attended the quiz & enjoyed a sausage & mash supper.

A raffle & auction was held & £422 was raised towards the Crohn's MAP Vaccine, which is a possible cure for people suffering from this debilitating disease.

Thanks to everyone who attended, donated raffle prizes & bid in the auction.

## **Colgate Memorial Hall**

**Please make a note of the following dates:**

### ***Village Fete on Sunday June 26th at 1:00pm***

Although this seems a long way ahead we are open for ideas for some new stalls & side shows. Offers of help would also be greatly received.

May I remind everyone that the village hall car park is for the use of Hall & Church Patrons only.

**Thanks, Pat Stillwell**

**Colgate Memorial Hall Management Committee**



***Found recently in a field near Faygate.....***a flint arrowhead most likely dating from the late Neolithic to the early Bronze Age period (2500BC to 1500BC). It is a barb-and-tang type arrowhead measuring just 2cms across. Both the tang & the tip are broken, perhaps the result of a nearby hunting venture some 4,000 years ago! It was a chance find by a member of the Horsham District Archaeology Group (HDAG) & has been recorded for posterity on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database. Other worked flints have been recorded over the years in this locality. HDAG are very keen to hear from local people who may have picked up items of archaeological interest while out walking or working & can be contacted at: -

**[horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horshamarch@hotmail.co.uk)**

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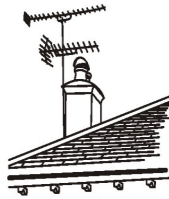
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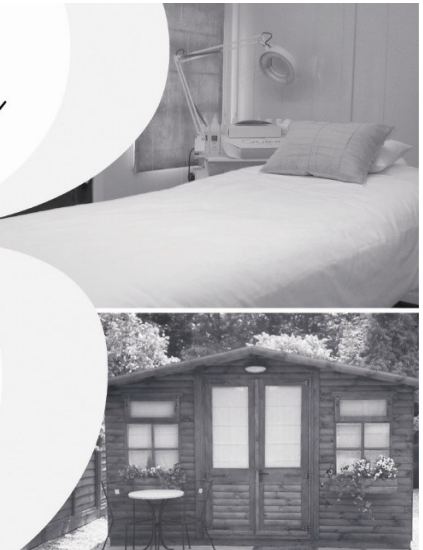
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## Community News.....



# Cuppa & Chat

*First Monday of each month (2nd in bank holiday months)*

**Monday 4th April & 9th May 2016**



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

Our Monday get-together's continue to be popular events for finding out what is going on locally & putting the world to rights over a cuppa.

The more the merrier so do join us. Its also an opportunity to get your tickets for the village hall dance on 21st May to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

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

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

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## Holmbush Farm as an Events Location

You may have seen the headlines in the WSCT announcing a 3 day 'Music Festival' at Holmbush Farm over the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Although tickets are already being sold online, the requisite licence from Horsham District Council has not yet been granted. By law they are required to post notices of this request around the boundary of the event but although it covers a considerable area, nearly all of it is either along the dual-carriageway or on private Holmbush Farm land, so you may well have missed them.

The event will in fact be a large scale Pop Festival with more than 24 big bands & overnight camping in the fields between Holmbush Farm & the A264 - & a purpose-built stage in the woods with the sound 'facing towards Colgate'. They are looking for an attendance of 10,000, though it may be more like 5,000 'in the first year'. Check out the website: -

[General Info - The Big Kahuna Festival - Horsham, West Sussex - 26/27/28 August 2016](#)

There are also plans for 2 other weekend events, 'Tough Mudders', in September, which entail very grueling assault courses & again overnight camping. They are looking at '**a contract for 20,000 participants & spectators for the weekends with overnight camping/party/dancing each year for 5 years**'. Again they are already selling tickets online, but so far have not sent in any licence application. The website is: -

<https://toughmudder.co.uk/events/2016-london-south>

[2016 London South HALF](#)

As regards traffic, the plan appears to be to cone off the nearside lane along the full length of the south lane of the A264 past Holmbush, which is likely to cause congestion backing up at either end, with motorists doubtless seeking to by-pass it via Colgate & Pease Pottage. You may find this letter about a similar event of interest: -

[Henley on Thames News | Artists hit by traffic chaos](#)

Their promotional website is pushing a family-friendly impression, but the last licence application, line-up of performers, & a warning against the use of nitrous oxide may suggest that this is not so family-friendly after all!

If you are also concerned you can help by:

- ◆ Spreading the word that tickets are being sold before a licence has been granted to try to make it harder to pull out.

***Please act now before it's too late! , Residents of Holmbush House, Faygate***

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

The Rectory  
Rusper  
Tel: - 01293-871251

***'In every parish, parishioners come & go, the clergy serve for a while & then pass on to other spheres, but the Church of God remains.'***

When I wrote those words back in February about a long departed Colgate vicar, little did I realise that I was tolling my own passing bell. We are not generally used to the Church of England moving quickly or decisively but in this instance that is precisely what happened!

Last year the Bishop of Chichester asked our new Archdeacon to undertake a review covering Horsham, Crawley & some of the outlying parishes. After consultation with St. Saviour's & St. Mary Magdalene's PCC's she recommended dissolving the united benefice of Rusper & Colgate with Faygate.

It is perhaps surprising that with the A264 divide & a number of other differences & demands that the benefice has held together for as long as it has. Now with a unanimous PCC vote in favour, the process has now begun for Colgate to become a united parish with Roffey. In terms of decision making the newly configured parish will have just one PCC.

As I begin relinquishing my responsibilities for Colgate to now concentrate on Rusper & my other Diocesan roles, I can give thanks for the years since 1997, with my strong contacts in Colgate & Cottesmore Schools, the pastoral visiting through which friendships have been forged & the liturgical round of holy days, fasting & feasting. A parish priest who has the privilege of staying in one place for as long as I have certainly sees times of challenge & change, ups & downs. For much of that time I have been blessed by working with Dr. John Stoddart as an Honorary Reader. There have been six churchwardens during that time, each bringing their distinctive style & approach to the job. For me the joy of parish ministry is its sheer diversity, with most days bringing one form of surprise or another.

Easter is the great festival of new beginnings. What new things will the next chapter bring?



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## New Noticeboard in Colgate.....

You may have noticed that there has been a new, secure noticeboard installed on Blackhouse Road.

This means the general public can no longer post notices independently.

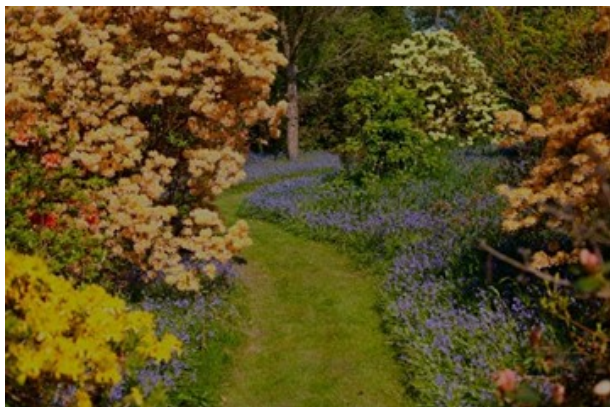
The Parish Council are looking for a volunteer to be a key holder for the community side of the noticeboard. We understand local people want to advertise events & information on the noticeboard & we would be asking the volunteer to post appropriate adverts on an ad hoc basis.

A hard copy of the poster/advert would have to be delivered to the key holder & so your address would have to be provided.

If you think this is something you could manage please contact the Clerk on **01293-883944** or [colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

In the meantime if you have an advert you want displayed in the noticeboard please contact the Clerk.

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## **Holmbush Gardens Open Day**

Sunday 15th May

1:00-5:00pm

There will be a plant stall & teas.

Entry by donation, all proceeds in aid of  
St. Saviour's Church, Colgate.

Donations of plants & cakes would be most  
gratefully received.



## Services in the United Parishes of Colgate & Rusper

### St. Saviour's Church Colgate

A warm welcome awaits you at all our services.

#### April 2016

Sunday	10th	11:00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	24th	11:00am	Holy Communion

#### May 2016

Sunday	8th	11:00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	22nd	11:00am	Holy Communion, Trinity Sunday

#### 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.

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### **News from St. Saviour's.....**

The PCC duly voted for the new association with Roffey on February 28th.

Prior to that the Church Wardens & the Patron took the opportunity to visit Father Russell in Roffey & enjoyed a very cordial meeting.

#### **Points emerging included:**

**Resources:** there should be sufficient 'vicar' resources to handle two services within the combined parish at the same time.

**Services:** These can be very flexible - low church, high church, BCP, modern, as desired. Father Russell would like if possible to hold other services, e.g. early HC or evensong or songs of praise, as well as our basic requirement of two per month plus specials such as Mothering Sunday & Remembrance Sunday. He would encourage the occasional joint service. Roffey itself tries hard to cater for the various segments of its congregation, e.g. young families, older members with different services.

**Cuppa & Chat:** He had clearly heard good reports.

**PCC:** He was open to the idea of an enlarged joint PCC, details to be considered. There was wide respect for Colgate's tidy bookkeeping. He confirmed that their PCC had voted unanimously in favour of the new union, which will constitute an interesting combination of rural & urban elements.

**Financial:** There was a discussion regarding the financial challenges we all face.

**Events/Fundraising:** It was appreciated that for us events were a key part of our funding. We might expect additional support for these from Roffey members & vice versa. Their Christmas bazaar was a great success.

**Schools:** Father Russell was interested in knowing more about our school connexions, Colgate & Cottesmore, & other parish assets such as the golf club, the Dragon & the Hall.

**Timing:** Notwithstanding the apparent haste (Roffey have already voted) actual change is unlikely to happen until parish boundary changes have been approved, i.e. late summer at the earliest. Until then the status quo prevails. Until then Father Russell cannot really get involved except on a guest basis.

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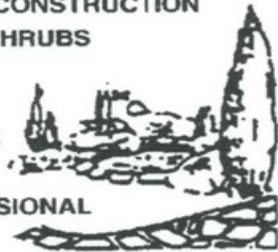
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# Colgate Parish Council News.....

We are pleased to welcome a new Parish Councillor, Victoria Finnegan to the Parish Council. Cllr Finnegan has lived in the Parish for the last 12 years & looks forward to becoming a Parish Councillor. All vacancies are now filled.

## Colgate Parish Council Contacts

<b>Chair</b>	Sheila Marley	01293-851347
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Ruth Calvert	01293-851478
	Christine Crosdil	01293-851580
<b>Planning</b>	John Sired	01293-851458
	David Stillwell	01293-851275
	Stephen Davies	01293-852898
<b>Finance</b>	Steve Wong	01293-852867
	Steve Garley	01293-851322
	Victoria Finnegan	01293-852455
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	Bev Clayden	01293-883944 <a href="mailto:colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk">colgateclerk@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Colgate &amp; Faygate Website</b>		<a href="http://www.colgatefaygate.com">www.colgatefaygate.com</a>

## Mobile Library

Good news! The WSCC mobile library is coming to Durrants Village every Tuesday at 3:30-4:00pm starting on 5th April 2016. It is open to all members of the community.

## New contact details for Highways

Any issues with the Highway can be reported directly to highways on [lovewestsussex](http://lovewestsussex) which can be found on the West Sussex County Council website:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

## New Website Coming soon

Watch out for details about the new Parish Council website. Whilst the new one is under construction the old website will still be updated ([www.colgatefaygate.com](http://www.colgatefaygate.com)). Please let us have any comments & ideas you might have or items you would like to see in the new website. Do you have any photos that we can use on the website that reflect the heart of Colgate Parish Council?

## Licence for the Big Kahuna

This will be discussed on 4th April at 10:00am at the Horsham District Council offices. Colgate Parish Council will be attending.

All Council & Planning meetings are available on the website.

## The next meeting will be held at: -

The next meeting will be held at Faygate Village Hall at 7:30pm on the 9th May. This meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Everyone is welcome. May Faygate Village Hall 7:30pm

## Further scheduled meetings on

18th July Colgate School 7:30 pm

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# News from PCSO Tracy Bicknell.....



**Operation  
Crackdown**



## What is Operation Crackdown?

Operation Crackdown is a joint initiative run by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) & Sussex Police which gives the Sussex community an opportunity to report specific instances of anti-social driving/riding as well as any abandoned vehicles left on the roads.

Launched in 2007, use of Operation Crackdown has risen steadily with approximately 900 reports being received each month.

### **What constitutes as anti-social driving?**

The phrase 'anti-social driving/riding' can cover many different behaviors on the road which may include:

- ◆ Speeding by individuals.
- ◆ Using a mobile phone at the wheel.
- ◆ Not wearing a seat belt.
- ◆ Careless/aggressive driving.

It is important to note that Operation Crackdown **should NOT** be used **for emergency situations** (such as obvious drink-driving) - these should be reported via the 999 emergency number.

The project also targets specific instances of antisocial behavior, & should not be used for reporting generalized speeding complaints in the area. If you wish to comment on specific roads or areas, you should contact your local highway authority with all of the details & one of the team will look into it as soon as possible.

### **How can you report anti-social driving/riding?**

Operation Crackdown has its own dedicated website which you can use to report anti-social driving/riding:

[www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

Alternatively, you can call **01243-642222** during office hours to speak to an operator.

### **What information will you need?**

In order to make a full Operation Crackdown report, you will need the following:

- ◆ The vehicle's make, model & licence plate number.
- ◆ The location of the incident - the more information you can give, the better.
- ◆ Any more information about the driver/rider - rough age & gender.
- ◆ You will be asked for your contact details at the end of the form. These will help us keep you up to date & also give us the opportunity to contact you again should we need any more information. You will not be identified if the offending driver/rider is contacted.

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

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

# Dates for your Diary.....



## ***Celebrate St. George's Day at The Cherry Tree***

Join us on 23rd April to celebrate St. George's day.

'Traditional British menu being served'!

---

## ***Colgate Village celebrates the Queen's 90th Birthday!***

You are invited to Colgate Village Hall for an afternoon tea party to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday on Saturday 21st May at 3 o'clock.

There will be a family quiz & all the usual birthday party trimmings.

Let's celebrate this great occasion!

Please let us know if you would like to attend to assist us with catering or if you are able to donate cakes, etc.



**Contact Christine on 01293-851658 or 07796-273091**



## **Colgate Village Dance** ***"The Royal Birthday Celebration"*** **Saturday 21st May**



This year we celebrate the 90th Birthday of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

To mark this special occasion we are holding a Royal Birthday Dance at Colgate Village Hall on Saturday 21st May.

Our guest band 'Forever Young' will return once again to provide us with an evening of great music & entertainment.

This will be a fantastic opportunity to dance the night away or just listen to some great music. The evening will have a 'Royal Birthday' theme, so you are welcome to dress accordingly if you would like to do so, but this is entirely optional!

The evening starts at 7:30pm through to midnight with a buffet served during the evening.

Soft drinks will be provided, so just bring your own alcoholic beverages!

Tickets are just £12 per person so reserve yours now.

Call Dave on 01293-851520 / 07917-095350

**OR**

Christine on 07796-273091



## General Information.....

### Colgate Memorial Hall ~ AGM Report

At the recent AGM the Chair gave a brief report on the past year's events & achievements.

The main expenditure had been the redecoration of the kitchen & a new water heater in the kitchen. The redecoration of the main & entrance halls was completed with manpower supplied by Saxon Weald. Unfortunately, due to illness & age of the committee members, this is the first year it has been necessary to use funds for the grass mowing & hedge cutting.

Fund raising event included the very successful fete along with a jumble sale. The hall supported the Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice by waving the hire costs for the Christmas dance.

The hall is still well used with the Pre-School & Yoga being regular hirers. The Whist & Bingo are well supported & help with the finance.

Mrs Debbie Smith has taken over a cleaner from Mr & Mrs Sired whom we are indebted to for the many years they have kept our hall pristine. Mr Sired will continue to keep an eye on the maintenance & Mrs Sired will continue with the bookings.

In the coming year we hope to replace the curtains & the crockery in the kitchen. But first we need to investigate & repair some rotten wood in an internal wall.

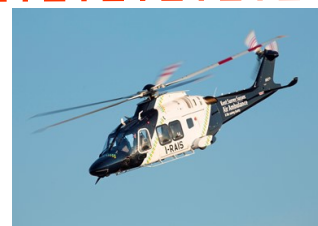
We were very disappointed that we received no support from villagers & fear that the hall will decline if more help isn't forthcoming.

Our next fundraising will be the fete on Sunday June 26th. If you have ideas for some more sideshows or would be prepared to help with the setting up, man a stall etc. we would love to hear from you. We would also like to have a demonstration of dancing, gymnastics or any other organisation. If you know of any please let us know. We will be holding a meeting on April 27th at 7:45pm to which you are very welcome. This event is very popular with people who have been supporting us for many years & we want to continue but again we need your help.

Please consider our appeal as we are sure the Hall is an asset we don't want to lose.

#### **Colgate Management Committee Members.**

#### **Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance**



**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.**



Old Holbrook, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4TW.

#### **About Holbrook Animal Rescue.**

*We are a small family run, independent rescue founded 20 years ago.*

*The centre is 80% self funded by the family, therefore every penny of donations counts & goes towards veterinary costs, feeding & general care.*

*Donations are gratefully received & please contact us for instruction on how to arrange a standing order to become a regular supporter.*

*Please note that meeting any of our animals for adoption is strictly by appointment/invitation & only after a home check has been carried out. We kindly ask you to not just turn up, as it is very unsettling for the animals & also to our neighbours as we do not have parking facilities. Also we sadly cannot help wildlife, so please take injured or sick wild animals you find to a vet (don't worry, they won't charge you).*

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

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Horsham  
District  
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](http://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 Sunday & Wednesday 2:30pm: Horsham Welcome Walks** – A ¾ mile walk taking 2 hours. Meet at the **Museum** in the **Causeway**. Horsham is a lovely place to live; do you know its history? Join us for a walk around Horsham centre & learn more about where we live & work. Supported by The Horsham Society & HDC. Please ring for more information. **Leader: Jill 07780-701184.**

**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.**

**Tuesday 12th & 26th April 9:30am: Buchan Country Park** – Meet in the car park off **Horsham Road (A2220), RH11 9HQ**, on the Crawley to Horsham side of the dual carriageway (**entrance TQ245347**). A wooded area with some open heathland, meadows & ponds. An easy 3 mile walk, taking 1¼ hours, with well-defined paths. Nature Reserve area with toilets next to the Countryside Centre. No dogs. **Leaders Richard 01403-230293 or Emmy 01403-255517.**

**Thursday 14th April 10:00am: Maplehurst (1)** – A 5½ mile, mostly flat, circular walk across farmland around the village. Good views of the South Downs. Good real ale & food in the Free House. Meet in the **White Horse PH** car park (**TQ190246, RH13 6LL**). No dogs. 2½ hours. **Leader Geoff 01403-258180.**

**Saturday 16th April 10:30am: Leechpool & Owlbeech Woods Extended Walk** – Meet at **Leechpool Wood Car Park, Harwood Road (B2195), Horsham (TQ194313)**. Lovely 3½ mile woodland walk, taking 1¾ hours which passes a couple of ponds. Some inclines, narrow paths, a bit challenging at times, with tree roots, stumps & uneven ground. Can be muddy. **Leader: Armelle 01403-260342.**

**Sunday 17th & 24th April 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, stumps & 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.**

**Monday 25th April 2:30am: Rusper Round, Bluebell Walk** – Meet at the car park next to the church in **High Street, Rusper, RH12 4PX**. This is a pleasant walk, of 3/4½ miles, taking 1½/2 hours, starting from the village centre. We walk on the road for a short way. We follow the Sussex Border path which is very pretty. It will be muddy. Some stiles, no dogs. **Leaders: Jill 07780-701184 or Jean 07734-323321.**

**Wednesday 27th April 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.**

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For more information and a prospectus  
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Email: [colgatepreschool@btconnect.com](mailto:colgatepreschool@btconnect.com)

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**Web: [www.bluebirdcare.co.uk](http://www.bluebirdcare.co.uk)**



**Sussex**  
Wildlife Trust

## The Changing World of the Blackcap

By Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Some of you many have been lucky enough to have been visited by a small greyish bird about the size of a robin with a prominent black cap, taking advantage of the food you provide in your garden. This is the appropriately named blackcap, though the females may not agree as they have brown caps, & the reason you may have seen one is because of what you are doing, feeding birds in winter.

Blackcaps are a migratory species, coming to Northern Europe to breed in the summer & then returning to Southern Europe or Africa to spend the winter in warmer climates where they can feed, as they are essentially insectivores. But the last 50 years, because of the huge increase in the development & usage of commercial wild bird food & the changing climate to warmer winters has seen a continuous increase in the number of blackcaps reported throughout the year, particularly in gardens.

It is easy to assume that these wintering blackcaps are the breeding birds that have just decided to stay over, why take that long hazardous journey south when there is enough food available here & it seems to be a lot warmer than it used to be, but research has shown that this is not necessarily the case. Analysis of data collected by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) shows that the blackcaps recorded in the UK during the winter months have likely come from Central Europe, mainly from Germany & Austria, while our own breeding birds still head south at the end of summer.



By analysing BTO Garden Birdwatch data & ringing recovery records over a number of years, it is not surprising that the majority of records come from the southern half of the UK where winters are milder & were more frequent where the supplementary food was provided. Where there have been particularly warmer periods in winter there were fewer sightings of blackcaps illustrating that they have a preference for more natural food when it is available.

There is also increasing evidence that these little birds as well as changing their migratory habits they are changing genetically as well. Blackcaps wintering in Britain have relatively narrower & longer beaks to those that winter in Spain, suggesting that they are becoming more generalist feeders. As these changes can continue to evolve it is possible that eventually they may split into a separate species,



These changes have been initiated through actions by us, directly by providing supplementary food during the winter months & then indirectly through our actions that are having an effect on the climate. Most of our birds that migrate to the UK are insectivores so they have to make the long journey south to survive. If they had enough food to survive here in the winter they wouldn't need to leave but generally they are predisposed to eat insects, but this new research shows that we, through our actions, may be speeding up the evolutionary process

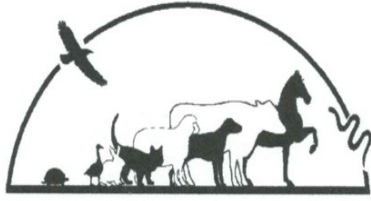
& who knows, other species may follow in the wake of the blackcap.

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Pictures Courtesy of the Following: -**

**Blackcap** ~ Roger Wilmsnhurst, Sussex Wildlife Trust

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