

THE BEACON

The Magazine for the Parishes of Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston



February 2007

ST MARGARET'S PARISH CHURCH DITCHLING

Vicar:	Vacancy	
Churchwardens:	Jenny Bell	Tel: 843194
	Martin Craven	Tel: 846082
Organist and Choirmaster:	Nick Hancock	Tel: 841980
Reader:	Richard Allen	Tel: 842919
Hon. Treasurer:	Robin Williamson	Tel: 01444 245260
Hon. Secretary:	Graham Sharpless	Tel: 845368
Secretary, Gift Aid:	Audrey Day	Tel: 843354

www.stmargaretsditchling.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion	first Sunday in the month	8.00 am
Parish Eucharist and Address		9.45 am
Evensong	(monthly: see calendar)	Summer 6.30 pm
		Winter 4.30 pm
Families' service (monthly: see calendar)		9.45 am

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion:	Wednesday	9.30 am
Morning Prayer:	Tuesday-Friday	9.00 am

Enquiries for	Holy Baptisms	Ian Berrill	843374
	Weddings	Judy Walker	842012
	Funerals	Richard Allen	842919

**House Communion / Dumbrells Court / St Georges Retreat –
please contact Richard Allen**

St Margaret's Church Calendar

February 2007

Tuesday – Friday: Morning Prayer 9.00am

2	Fri	<i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	
4	SUN	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
		The Eucharist	8.00 am
		Family Eucharist, Junior Choir & Children's Church	9.45 am
		Evensong	4.30 pm
6	Tues	<i>Accession of Queen Elizabeth II</i>	
		Bible Study Group	10.00 am
7	Wed	The Eucharist	9.30 am
9	Fri	School Term 3 ends	
11	SUN	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
		Parish Eucharist	9.45 am
14	Wed	<i>Cyril & Methodius S. Valentine</i>	
		The Eucharist	9.30 am
		Frugal Lunch at Emmanuel Chapel	12.30 pm
17	Sat	<i>Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr 1977</i>	
		'Edvard Grieg' Concert: Ambrose Page & Patricia Hope	7.00 pm
18	SUN	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	
		Parish Eucharist	9.45 am
19	Mon	School Term 4 begins	
20	Tues	<i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	
		Women's Fellowship	7.30 pm
21	Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	
		The Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes	9.30 am
22	Thur	Retirement of Canon John Taylor	
23	Fri	<i>Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna</i>	
25	SUN	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	
		Parish Eucharist	9.45 am
27	Tues	<i>George Herbert</i>	
28	Wed	The Eucharist	9.30 am
		PCC	7.30 pm

Our New Priest

The process of appointing a new Priest-in-Charge of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston is in hand and, Bishop Lindsay advises us, is proceeding according to plan.

The new Priest, who has been offered and accepted the post, should eventually be Vicar of the new ecclesiastical parish of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston but initially he will be Priest-in-Charge and take up his duties, it is hoped, shortly after Easter.

It is planned to announce full details soon.

Churchwardens of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston.

The New Electoral Roll

Like most organisations the Church needs to keep its records up to date. Thus every six years – and 2007 is one – a new Electoral Roll must be prepared. Everyone wishing to be included on this roll – both those on the existing roll and new applicants – must complete and submit an application form by 10th March.

The application forms can be found in, and returned to, boxes on the pew at the entrance to St Margaret's Church.

For information or queries please speak to *Daphne Grainger*, Electoral Roll Officer (845121)

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The St Margaret's APCM will be held on Sunday 25th March, immediately following the 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Frugal Lunch

The next Frugal Lunch will be at the Emmanuel Chapel on Wednesday 14th February at 12.30pm. We do hope you will join us at this ecumenical gathering.

Letter to the Beacon

Dear Friends,

For many Companies and Churches with a calendar year-end, one of the next tasks will be to prepare an annual report. Robin Williamson, our Treasurer, will now be hard at work reconciling the numbers before the Independent Examiner, Brian Turner, casts his beady eye over the St Margaret's Church Accounts. Then Graham Sharpless, our Secretary, will put the numbers and the reports together into the annual report ahead of the Annual parochial Church Meeting on 25th March.

This process, as well as being demanded by statute, is a necessary one to ensure that our house is in some sort of order. However, I would like to extend the idea of a year-end balance sheet beyond just the numbers involved. For instance, what under 'Assets' do we really believe are our strong points? What have we done in terms of the Christian Mission? And under 'Liabilities' where have we gone wrong and how can we improve on our failures? Finally what are the 'contingent liabilities' or tasks left over for the future and how are we going to tackle them?

We can apply the above both to our involvement, at whatever level, with our Church or to our own individual lives. Either way it can be an interesting introspective exercise as we take stock of what has been done and where we can go forward in the year ahead.

Martin Craven

Churchwarden

FAMILY EUCHARIST

Sunday 4th February - 9.45 am.

**This service is for all the family and includes
the Children's Church and the Junior Choir.**

Do please come and join us.

Social and Fundraising Committee

This month our fund raising event is:-

Edvard Grieg: His Life in Words and Music

Piano Concert and Narrations by Ambrose Page and Patricia Hope.

...in the village hall at 7.00pm on Saturday 17th February

Once again we are delighted to welcome pianist Ambrose Page who, you may remember, entertained us last year with an evening of music to celebrate Mozart's bi-centenary. This year he is joined by narrator Patricia Hope for an evening of Grieg. The evening will consist of readings intermingled with a selection of his music.

Tickets are £6 to include a glass of wine and canapés, available from Catharine Robinson (841732) and Miranda Prickett (843224).

Les Cinq Ensemble.

Saturday 24th March 2007

Arrangements for this concert are progressing well, and we will be advertising details towards the end of February. It will be an evening of French Impressionist music with flute, violin, viola, cello and harp, with some refreshments.

Our committee has now had its first meeting in 2007. We hope you will enjoy the programme of events we are planning for the rest of the year, as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Friday 20 th April: | Talking about tea |
| Saturday 21 st July: | St Margaret's Fair on the Green |
| Sunday 19 th Aug: | Family picnic and barbecue at Court Garden Farm |
| Sunday 7 th Oct: | Harvest Supper |
| Friday 16 th Nov: | Talk by Richard Allen |

Also, during the Autumn, Graham Sharpless will be giving an illustrated talk on the Holy Land, and details will follow.

Pam Burr

Vice chairman

Parish Prayer Diary – February 2007 —

As part of our discipleship we are called to pray, not just for ourselves, but for others. This prayer diary is offered as a means to enable us to focus our prayer each day. This does not mean that we do not or should not pray for other people or situations but is offered just as a starting point for our prayer.

Day	Feasts & Ferias	Intention:
1 Thur		For all Christians in Southern Europe
2 Fri	Candlemas	Thanks for the witness of Simeon and Anna to the presence of Jesus
3 Sat	Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg 865	For all Christians in Scandinavia and Northern Europe
4 Sun	Third before Lent	That our hearts may be fixed on the Lord
5 Mon		For the United Kingdom
6 Tues	Accession of Queen 1952	For Elizabeth, our Queen and all the Royal Family
7 Wed		For the European Union
8 Thur		For the Pope and all members of the Roman Catholic Church
9 Fri		For the United Nations
10 Sat		For peace throughout the world
11 Sun	Second before Lent	That we might be more Christ-like
12 Mon		For the needs of the poor and homeless
13 Tues		For all who mourn
14 Wed	Cyril & Methodius Valentine 269	For all who attend the Frugal Lunch
15 Thur		For all who are mentally ill
16 Fri		For the housebound
17 Sat	Janani Luwum, Abp of Uganda, Martyr 1977	For those attending the Ambrose Page Concert
18 Sun	Sunday before Lent	That we might walk faithfully in the way of the Lord
19 Mon		For time for God
20 Tues	Shrove Tuesday	That we might prepare ourselves for the discipline of Lent

21 Wed	Ash Wednesday	For self denial and spiritual discipline
22 Thur		For Canon John on his retirement
23 Fri	Polycarp, Martyr 155	That we too might answer the call of faith
24 Sat		For all who minister in this church
25 Sun	First Sunday of Lent	That we might withstand temptation
26 Mon		For insight and knowledge from the scriptures
27 Tues	George Herbert 1633	For Christian poets and writers
28 Wed		For the PCC

St Margaret's Church '100 Club 2006' —

The winners of the December draw were Peggy Wheeler and Tony Allen, both receiving £20.

The '100 Club 2007' will begin at the end of this month.



Ditchling Pre-School —

The Ditchling Pre-School Committee would like to invite you to join us at our 2nd Annual Jumble Sale. The sale will be held in **Ditchling Village Hall on Saturday 24th February at 2.00pm**. The admission fee will be £1 on the door and all items will be priced at 50p, apart from one more exclusive table! All proceeds will go to the Pre-

School fund for new outdoor play equipment. Please join us and help us raise funds for our local school and children.

Enquiries to *Erica Peck* on: 01273 844478

Ditchling Pre-School is open Monday - Friday 9.25 - 11.55am, Tuesday's is an Early Bird Club (9.00am start) and Rising 5 morning. The Pre-School is open to any child, not just residents of Ditchling. For more information please call *Naomi Jerrey* on: 01273 846115

1820 – How to get rid of Encumbrances —

It is curious how some years take on a characteristic. 1820 was the year to get rid of the unwanted. In Ditchling, Hannah Selsby tried to get rid of a forged fiver (Beacon November 2006). In London, Arthur Thistlewood plotted to assassinate members of the Cabinet as they sat at dinner in a house in Grosvenor Square. In Horsham, Mr Smart decided to raise money by selling his wife at the local market. The new King, George IV, wanted to get rid of his wife, Princess Caroline of Brunswick.

The accession to the throne of the Prince Regent raised the issue of what was to be done with his wife? Their marriage had been doomed from the start. On first seeing his prospective bride in 1795, the Prince had immediately demanded a brandy whilst the Princess found that her portly groom-to-be was nothing like as handsome as his portrait. The Prince only went through with the marriage to get his debts paid and, within a year, the couple had separated. Princess Caroline pursued her life abroad.

All changed in 1820. When the Princess learnt that King George III had died, she decided to return to England to take up her rightful place as Queen. The new King and his ministers panicked and, even more so, when the Princess refused their offer of £50,000 a year in return for remaining in exile. The King then demanded a divorce. For some reason, this proposal provoked the citizens of Lewes to outrage. They deplored the King's attacks on his wife, declaring in an address to the Princess that his conduct was '*contrary to the letter and spirit of the British constitution and in direct violation of every principle of Justice and Humanity*'. The Princess graciously thanked the citizens of Lewes for their concern and went on to denounce her husband and his ministers as '*like a Canker Worm upon the Noble Trunk of National Prosperity*'.

The Government persuaded the king to drop his divorce proceedings as they feared too much dirty linen being washed in public. This delighted the citizens of Lewes who sent another address to the Princess congratulating her on standing up to the King and fervently hoping that her name would be included in the prayer for the Royal Family to be found in the Book of Common Prayer. This was followed by an address to the King, signed by 257 burgesses of the town. After much loyal greetings, they implored the King to get rid of his ministers, to '*restore the Queen to*

the liturgy and to maintain her rank as Queen Consort'. The King did neither of these things.

By June 1821, arrangements had been made for the King to be crowned. No invitation was sent to the Princess. But to Westminster Abbey she came amidst loud cheers from the crowds. However, she had reckoned without the implacable attitude of the Abbey door keeper – without a ticket she could not be admitted! So, courage failing her, she went home to Hammersmith, there to die just a few weeks later.

As for the citizens of Lewes, their loyalty to the Princess seems to have evaporated by the time of the coronation in 1821. For there was great rejoicing in Lewes when the crowning of the King was proclaimed – the trumpets sounded and the National Anthem was sung. There were '*loud huzzahs*' on the march from the top of the town down to the bridge at Cliffe where '*Sir Henry Blackman, in token of his loyalty, invited the Officers and some others in attendance to refreshment and freely passed the bottle round to the health of the King and in honour of the occasion*'.

So, by 1821, poor Caroline had died and Hannah Selsby was on her way to a convict settlement in Tasmania. Arthur Thistlewood, the assassin, had been publicly hanged and decapitated at Newgate in May 1820. This leaves us with Mr Smart of Horsham. He raised 3/6 from the sale of his wife at the market and off she went with her purchaser, a Mr Stone of Billingshurst. We are left to ponder who was the more delighted, Mr Smart or Mr Stone!!

Sources: Who's Who in British History published by History Today
John Brooke: King George III
Sussex County Magazine Volume 1 1932
Sussex Record Society Vol 69: The Town Book of Lewes 1702-1837

Richard Allen



Nature Notes

Reg. Lanaway



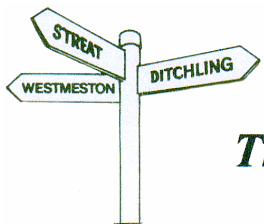
During these dark days of winter I like to visit the outhouses to look at the Swallows' nests. For me it is one of those certainties in life knowing that they will return in April from Africa. This might seem a strange time of year to think about them but it gives hope of the warmer days to come.

Having studied Swallows for many years and ringed in excess of a hundred nestlings each summer, with rings carrying the British Museum address, some interesting facts about them have emerged. Unless individuals are marked in such a way this would not be known.

On several occasions I have had birds caught by other ringers studying roosts later in summer. Last season such a nestling, ringed in a brood of five at Court Gardens Farm at the end of June, was controlled (that's the official term for caught and released) in August near Rye while the parents were busy with their second brood in the same nest in Ditchling. We only get such information at the end of the year so it is a bit stale. We have found that after the first brood have fledged and become independent, they leave the place where they have been hatched by July and so do not compete for the food supply of the later broods. These teenagers then rove the country in large flocks, seeking flying insects and roosting in reed beds and sometimes maize fields. Over the years I have had several such controls.

Seldom when catching up breeding Swallows do we find any of the previous year's nestlings where they had been hatched. I have found that less than one in twenty returns to its natal place. The adults however, once successful, will return year after year. Last year about half of the adults that came back had been ringed as breeding birds the previous years. The remainder were not ringed at all, coming from other colonies of unknown origin. Perhaps this is Nature's way of avoiding in-breeding. In fact one of my nestlings from Plumpton was controlled beside a lake in Switzerland the following April far to the east of the expected migration route of a British bird. As far as I know is still the only British bred Swallow ever to be reported from that country.

Some of the Countryside and Environment students are laying the ancient hedgerow beside Streat Lane. With the stakes and binders coming from Brock's Wood, everything is close by. The coppicing of the Hazel will manage the wood in the age old way and the hedge will thicken and become a strong living and stock-proof boundary where it has stood for many centuries. It is good to see the old country crafts continuing to be taught.



The Footpaths Conservation Society
for the Sussex Parishes of Ditchling, Westmeston and Streat

Winter walks continue this month on Sundays, 4th and 18th February. Walks start at 2.00pm sharp from Ditchling Village Hall and are approx. 3/4 miles around Ditchling.

Shirley Thompson

St Margaret's Flower Guild —

Although Christmas seems ages ago now, I do want to thank my stalwart band of helpers who came and decorated the Church for Christmas at a very busy time. We are also extremely grateful to those who gave donations towards the cost of the flowers.

On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Mr. Peter Eastwood of Beardsfield Nurseries who kindly donated the lovely poinsettias in the chancel.

If there is anyone new in the Parish who would like to arrange church flowers, please do contact me. It is not an onerous job - you can do as little (or as much!) as you like.

Bridget Blomfield (842459)

Ditchling Parish Council News —

Traffic Report and Parish Survey

The Parish Council has been asking East Sussex County Council when they would hear the results of the Traffic Survey. The County Council has replied:

‘Unfortunately there has been a delay in the analysis of the traffic data that was collected. The roadside interview data has to be analysed using a specialist computer programme. There have been some problems with this programme which have delayed the analysis. We hope to have a traffic report ready for the end of January 2007’.

Mary Holman

Clerk to the Parish Council

Women’s World Day of Prayer —

This annual ecumenical service will take place on Friday 2nd March at 10.30 am at Emmanuel Chapel Ditchling. All are welcome to share in this service which this year has been prepared by the Christian women of Paraguay with the theme "United under God's Umbrella". Refreshments will be served afterwards and we look forward to seeing you there.

Maralyn Hine

Ditchling – Fairtrade Village Status —

Launch Meeting – Monday 19th March 2007 at The Meeting House (between East End Lane and Lewes Road)

Monday 19th sees the launch of the campaign for Ditchling to gain the status of a Fairtrade Village. Everyone is welcome to this meeting which commences at 7.00pm with two of the speakers starting at 7.30pm. Simeon Green from Windwards Bananas and Bruce Crowther from the Fairtrade Foundation have kindly agreed to come along and talk about and answer questions about Fairtrade. Admission is 50p and includes a glass of Fairtrade wine/orange juice. If you would like any further information please contact **Sarah Trayler on 01273 846323**

Ditchling (St Margaret's) CE School —

For most of the last month we've been on holiday, so there's little to report. All of our festivities went very well, and we were especially pleased that our nativity was featured on Southern Counties Radio on Christmas Eve. We were pleased to be returning on 8th January, giving staff and children time for some rest after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. However we had a shock on our return to school, receiving a phone call to inform us that we were being inspected by Ofsted in two days time. This went well and I hope to be able to give a full report next month. As a church school, we also have an inspection from the diocese, which was a couple of days after the Ofsted inspection. We await this report too.

David Simon

Headteacher

Burns Night Party

The Old Meeting House

on Friday 2nd February

To celebrate the birthdays of
two famous libertarians

Robert Burns and Tom Paine

Haggis Supper and musical entertainment

Tickets £10 each from Maureen Maguire
at the OMH or Joan Nurklik Tel 843695



December 2006

The month started off very wet and stormy. The 1st – 3rd brought heavy rain and severe gales. With all the strong winds it did not feel

as mild as the thermometer was reading.

The 4th saw a short respite with good sunny conditions but this was soon replaced by more heavy rain on the 5th. The 6th was again sunny and mild although still windy. Severe gales with more heavy rain returned on the 7th.

On the 8th after the rain cleared a more northerly flow of air was with us so there was a marked drop in the temperature. The 9th – 10th remained settled with frost by night and sunny spells by day. On the 11th the winds backed

round to the south west bringing more gales and heavy rain. From the 12th – 15th it was settled and very mild for the time of year. In fact the temperature was nearly double the seasonal average. The 16th - 17th saw a more settled period with sunny spells and high pressure building from the east.

From the 19th – 21st thick dense fog formed and in some places was very reluctant to clear. On the 20th the freezing fog did not clear all day so this turned out to be the coldest day of 2006. By the 22nd the fog cleared

only to be replaced by cold dull cloudy conditions which continued throughout the Christmas period. The 29th – 31st turned very unsettled with three separate storms crossing our area, the first on the 29th followed by one on the afternoon of the 30th.

This was very fast moving with heavy rain and severe gales but it cleared within 2 hours. New Year's Eve saw the last of the three storms clearing in time for the midnight celebrations.

To sum up the year 2006, it was confirmed by the Met Office that it was the warmest year on record with a total rainfall for Westmeston amounting to 827.5mm (32.5inches).

December weather at a glance

Day time high	13.3C	56.0F	5th
Day time low	0.4C	33.2F	20th
Night time high	11.2C	52.1F	13th
Night time low	-3.3C	26.0F	21st
Wind speed	62mph	100kph	4th
Daily rainfall	22.6mm	0.89inch	7th
Monthly rainfall	114mm	4.48inch	

Total Rainfall for 2006 was 827.5mm 32.5inch

Ditchling Museum —

The highlight of the museum's year will be the exhibition of work by Eric Gill, Ditchling's most famous artist, and his assistant Joseph who came together to Ditchling one hundred years ago. Opening in June and running until October the exhibition will include sculpture and letter cutting as well as some pieces from the recently acquired Evan Gill collection. In 1921 Gill co-founded the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic on Ditchling Common and although he left in 1924 Joseph Cribb continued to work there as a stone-carver until his death in 1967.

The two other exhibitions this year connect with the legacy of these 20th century craftsmen signifying Ditchling's continuing artistic heritage which began with Gill's arrival in 1907.

On March 10th the museum reopens with "Reading the Space", a joint exhibition by Ewan Clayton, well known calligrapher and last member to join the Guild, with the painter Jeanne Maseoro. The autumn exhibition "Made in Sussex" will demonstrate the various media used by the artists of the Guild of St Joseph and St Dominic - weaving, silver-smithing, letter press printing, woodworking, letter-cutting and printing - through the work of six practitioners using the same materials in Sussex today.

You can find out more about what is happening at the museum by joining the museum Friends' Association or by logging on to the new look web site at www.ditchling-museum.com which should be up and running this month.

Janet Cragg

'Carols Sing-along' - in aid of St Peter & St James Hospice —

The Ditchling Support Team sends its special thanks to St Margaret's Church Choir for playing a key role, Steve and Liz Pearce (Southover Foods) for giving the mince pies and to all the supporters who came to the December event; making it a very enjoyable festive occasion and raising £500 for the Hospice.

Keith Court

† from **Streat Rectory**



It has been my practice in recent years to provide in the February magazine a review of the year that has just passed. The fact that this will be my last article as priest-in-charge seems no reason to change anything, so here it is. Right from the beginning of the year both Ditchling and ourselves were aware that Jason Clarke would be leaving in the summer to become an army chaplain, and this fact determined to a large extent what sort of year it would be. We determined to put our houses in good order with both churches and Streat Barn, plus our stewardship as top priority. We can say now that in this we succeeded, so feel in good heart for whatever lies ahead. Space does not permit me to mention by name those who have been married, baptised, confirmed or buried during the year, except to say that we have had our share of them all. People in my book always come before things, so although not mentioned by name, they are not out of mind.

January. Both the standing committee and PCC met early in the month to review the year and plan ahead. It was agreed that we would do everything possible to reach our aims by the end of the year. Faculty applications were set in order and contact made with our architect, David Grey. Archbishop Williams called for lessening of the gap between the rich and the poor. The ongoing debate on women bishops led to ‘*a Middle Way*’ (TEA) strategy. The new Pope issued his first encyclical on the nature of love, which was as expected very conservative. A sprout left over from a Christmas lunch, auctioned on Ebay raised £99.50 for Tearfund!

February. The publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, in a Danish periodical attracted wide spread condemnation. The church offered apologies for its part in the slave trade. After serious attacks on Christians by Muslims in Nigeria, the Primate, the Most Rev Peter Akinola, was censured for warning Muslims “*that they do not have a monopoly of violence in this nation.*” The TEA proposals passed their first hurdles.

March. An Anglican cleric, the Revd. Julie Nicholson resigned her post, saying she couldn’t forgive the murderer of her daughter in London tube

bombings of the 7th July the previous year. The house group at Shoulders was well attended to hear a devotional address from Canon John. Anglican clergy were warned that the church had a black hole of between £18-36 million in their pension scheme. On the brighter side Gordon Brown announced the extension of the VAT scheme on church repairs until 2010/11. All clergy were required to undergo a security check, (happily in our deanery, with no ill effects). The Lenten addresses continued throughout the month.

April. Lord Carey denied the accusation in a multi-signatory letter that he was offering himself as ‘an alternative leader’ to Dr. Williams. A survey revealed that 45% of single Christians would love to marry a cleric! The Easter services were truly joyful occasions and well attended. Confirmation classes were started for three candidates from the parish. Slow progress was being made in obtaining the faculties needed for work in the churches, whereas the barn renovations (that weren’t restricted by such procedures) went ahead apace.

May. The diocese of Chichester went into a four-day retreat at Butlin’s in Bognor Regis. It turned out to be well worthwhile, indeed even enjoyable! Some inspiring services and addresses created a wonderful atmosphere, which was only spoiled once! A visiting African bishop was preaching, and told us to be silent and listen to what God was saying to us. So we did. Then came an announcement over the tannoy “*Will all security staff report immediately to the office!*” The two Archbishops published a report ‘*Faithful Cities*’ which said that things had improved since ‘*Faith in the City*’ 20 years earlier, but that the urban poor were little touched by the regeneration schemes. Sadly a priest in our deanery who was instituted this month has been off sick ever since. I, on the other hand, was signed off from the Brighton cancer Hospital as I had made such good progress. To celebrate my wife and I spent a week in Scotland.

June. Great progress was made on the new Streat barn garden, to be a place of reflection, peace and quiet, or a playground for children depending on the day. The children took part in planting the bushes and enjoyed tea in the barn afterwards. The Anglican Union tried to cope with the election of Dr Katherine Jefferts as the presiding Bishop at the U.S General convention. At the same meeting delegates drew back from further

exacerbating Anglican divisions by agreeing a motion urging dioceses to ‘exercise restraint’ by rejecting any bishop whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church. Dr Williams acknowledged that ‘The Anglican communion cannot remain unchanged’.

July. Bishops in Nigeria set an ultimatum before Dr. Williams; essentially, to ban ECUSA from the next Lambeth Conference, or they would hold a conference on their own. They also accused Dr. Williams of ‘*accommodating every shred of opinion, no matter how unbiblical.*’ Six conservative U.S. dioceses applied for alternative Primatial oversight, seeking a direct relationship with Lambeth, which would bypass Dr. Jefferts.

It was not only the church that was in trouble. War erupted in the Middle East when Israel invaded Lebanon, ostensibly in retaliation for the kidnapping of two soldiers, and also invaded Gaza. The general synod meeting at York discussed women bishops, and by a majority decision agreed that they *were consonant with the faith of the Church of England* to try and keep opponents on board. The renovation of Streat Barn progressed at a goodly rate, which saw windows and doors replaced, French windows added with a new ramp to allow wheel chair access. A skirting board and decorations added the finishing touches. An amazing transformation at (thanks to friendly builders) a very reasonable cost. The Parish of Wotton-under-Edge raised £9,000 to pay for a hip operation for its priest.

August. This was the month no one wanted to arrive, as on the 13th Jason Clarke took his last service at Ditchling. It was followed by a well-attended reception when the Clarke’s were presented with gifts and a generous cheque. The annual Flower show was held on the 26th, but otherwise August in the parish was a quiet month. Not so on the world front however. Pressure for a ceasefire in Lebanon eventually succeeded, mainly because Israel ran out of steam! John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, prayed and fasted for a week in York Minster for peace in the Middle East. Drastic cuts in the number of chaplains in the Health Service were announced and severely criticised by the Bishop of Worcester. Hopes rose for Uganda when the *Lord’s Resistance Army* agreed to a cease-fire.

On a personal note, after my six month check up on the state of my cancer, the hospital were so pleased with me that they signed me off to my local G.P.

September. Fears for Darfur were partially allayed when Khartoum agreed to the extension of the African Union mandate. Despite some hope for Uganda and Sudan I felt horrified that so much suffering should be allowed to continue. The Pope angered Muslims by appearing to suggest that Muhammad had introduced something 'evil and inhuman' into religion. Despite his apologies an Italian Nun was killed in Somalia. There were more secessionists' signals from a meeting of global South Primates in Kigali. The churches held a day of prayer for a settlement of the troubles in Darfur. Progress was being made in the repairs to the roof and tower at Streat Church.

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of Streat Barn Garden on the 30th September. Donations had covered the cost of converting scrubland into a beautiful garden, as well as adding a ramp for wheelchair access. It was followed by tea in the barn, and one and all were impressed with the result. The Rev. David Hart, licensed to officiate in Ely diocese, admitted to being a Hindu! The house groups at 'Shoulders' restarted after the summer break. The traditional harvest services were held in both churches, and decorated to the usual high standards.

October. Initial meetings were held to plan for the retirement service for Canon John in February 2007. It was also decided to hold an auction around the same time. After much deliberation it was decided to hold both events in a permanent marquee situated at Plumpton racecourse. An anonymous well-wisher kindly sponsored the cost of hiring the marquee. An enthusiastic committee readily embraced the organisation of the auction, it being a first for the parish. These meetings continued through to the end of the year and beyond. A very successful harvest supper was held on the 14th October using the excellent facility of Westmeston Parish hall. The Archbishop of Canterbury visited China and encouraged better theological education. General Sir Richard Dannatt, a practising Christian, questioned military involvement in Iraq. After intense pressure the Government withdrew its plan to force all faith schools to offer 25% of spaces to those outside the faith. Canterbury cathedral launched a £50

million restoration appeal. Back in the parish it was decided to cancel Evensongs during the winter months.

November. Canon John celebrated All Souls day at St Margaret's Ditchling. He also offered his services to the village school during the interregnum, and enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the children. The seriousness of global warming came to the fore when Sir Nicholas Stern published a review. He made the point that the damage caused by global warming would be more expensive than preventing it. British Airways finally retracted its ban on staff wearing crosses. A local authority sacked a veil wearing teaching assistant. Archbishop Williams spent five fruitful days in Rome. The stewardship committee held their final meeting of 2006, when satisfaction was expressed for the state of the finances in the parish. The diocese was looking for further increases in parish giving, which we were able to meet. The onset of the winter months brought its inevitable increase in sickness and deaths in the parish. Every parishioner received a Christmas card detailing all the services and activities, which followed the traditional pattern.

December. Christmas came early with a Christmas bazaar and coffee morning in Streat barn on the second of the month. All services and activities were extremely well attended; the carol service particularly was by all accounts outstanding, the Jubilee Choir excelling themselves. The children's services were very happy and instructive, and reflected the huge amount of work put in, to say nothing of the enthusiasm of the committee. Newly released figures suggested that Christmas attendance was growing significantly. Not everything ended on a high note however. There were more moves by Episcopalians to dissociate themselves from ECUSA. In particular nine parishes in Virginia voted in favour of secession.

Looking back over the year can, I believe, be a plus for the parish; it is in good heart and prayerfully ready to take on what ever the New Year brings. The work on the churches still has some way to go, but should be completed and paid for during the coming months.

Canon John



Bible Notes

by Jill Veness

The Archbishop of Canterbury was reported to have talked much about his visit to Bethlehem at Christmas and the New Year, having seen a totally different scene to the Silent Night we imagine when Christ was born. During all the unrest in that area the Bible Society has continued to function giving scriptures and relief to devastated people. The Bishop of Galilee said, “Knowledge of the word of God is essential in implementing our role as ministers of reconciliation to build peace in this country.” God has protected the staff of the Bible Society as they continue to work from Jerusalem, the centre of Gaza has reopened after bombs were placed at the entrance and in south Lebanon the staff are helping amongst the rubble reaching people where they normally would not be allowed to go and even Shiite families asked to receive their packages which included scriptures in their language.

At the end of John 16, Jesus warned that “In the world you will have trouble ... But take heart I have overcome the world.” And in St. Luke 21 Jesus warned of dangerous times coming but told us to look up “because our redemption is drawing near.” (Verse 28) How God cares and protects his people. Psalm 34 v4-9 and Psalm 94 v16-19 amongst many others tells us of this.

A girl in South Lebanon reading the scripture portions she was given



Charity Auction at Plumpton Racecourse —

At the end of February, on his 78th birthday, Canon John will be retiring as Priest in Charge of Streat and Westmeston. This sees the end of a ministry that has taken him around the world, and spanned over 50 years.

As you probably know by now, we are holding a Thanksgiving Service at Plumpton Racecourse on Thursday 22nd February at 6.30 pm. This will be presided over by Bishop Lindsay of Horsham, and anthems will be sung by several choirs, including an African Gospel choir of national repute. As all three churches will soon be one parish, we would be pleased to see any readers of The Beacon, who will be made very welcome. The collection will be donated to an African charity.

You will also all be very welcome at the Auction on the following Saturday, 24th February. This is at the same location, at 7.00 pm. While all the proceeds will go to Streat and Westmeston PCC, it is clearly in the interest of all three churches that our finances are sound.

You are also welcome to submit any unwanted Christmas presents, or other articles, for inclusion in the Auction (contact me for an entry form). If you wish you can set a minimum value, that will be retained by you with any excess going to the church. But come along anyway, and join in the fun – you never know what bargain you might be able to snap up! If you would like a Catalogue please contact me, or look on our website at www.swmauction.co.uk.

Personally, I have donated one week's DIY work, and if anyone is interested in finding out more, or discussing a potential project with me prior to bidding, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you need only a few days work, why not team up with a friend or neighbour?

Mike Sewell,

Church Warden, Streat.

Tel 01273 890366.

Thank you —

Jinks and Steve McGrath would like to thank everyone who supported their Special Evening on 16th December at Streat Place Barn and to say that we raised £1,307.35 all of which was donated to 'ENCOMPASS' Charity number 1092613.

Dire Straits

Many people in Streat and Westmeston know Ruth, the young Rwandan girl affected by the genocide, who came to England in 2000 alone and destitute. Through the Hancock family and Canon John a Fund was set up to help Ruth. At the age of 16 she was living alone and struggling to continue her education. With the generosity of many, and great strength of character and determination, Ruth, now 22, is on the last stage of her degree in Computer Science at Kingston-on-Thames University. She won her battle to stay in this country and is now a British Citizen. She is eternally grateful to all those who support her.

Two years ago via the Red Cross Ruth was reunited with her mother Beatrice, and three brothers, aged 20, 17 and 11 now living in Kampala, Uganda. Her Father, Ruth discovered, was killed because he would not shoot his wife and her Mother had been imprisoned. Her brothers were rescued by a friend and sent to school in Kampala. After a year in goal in Rwanda, where her Mother was severely tortured and suffered degrading treatment a friend bribed a guard to release her. However, her health has been undermined by this episode and she now has Aids. She has never been well enough to work and has a rare bone disorder. Beatrice who is only 42 is now recovering from a double hip replacement. It remains to be seen whether she will be permanently crippled.

The family originally lived a good life in Rwanda not dissimilar in standard to ours in the three parishes with a large house and plenty to eat. Their father put great emphasis on education. Having lost all their property life has been difficult but for the last two years they were happy enough to be reunited. However with school fees eating into the budget and no breadwinner compounded with Mother's need for medical treatment the family is seriously low in funds.

The eldest boy Bernard is extremely bright and achieved 3 A grade A levels with the highest mark in Uganda for French. He was awarded a 10 day trip to Paris this summer by the French government where Sue Hancock was able to meet up with him. He is a charming, intelligent, deep thinking young man. He has studied European History so in spite of never having left Africa he easily absorbed the history and culture of Paris and returned home older and wiser. He commenced a government

scholarship to Makerere University in Kampala in September. The tragedy is with a sick Mother he now has no funds to pay for rent and food in order to continue his degree. Unemployment is high and he cannot find even a few hours work to help himself. If he gives up his scholarship he has no future and will still be jobless.

The second brother Barnabus is at boarding school in his 2nd year of A level. He is an equally hardworking and capable young man. The youngest, Simon is also achieving excellent grades. Both these boys will have to leave education if funds cannot be found. Their futures without education are grim and there is virtually no free education in Uganda.

The 'Ruth Fund' has been extended in the last few months and given sporadic help to the family. If these boys are to have a future they need planned help. We are therefore looking for some more kind people who are willing to pledge a monthly amount however small to fill this need.

Sue Hancock has been monitoring the situation and very recently rang Bernard asking him to tell her honestly how he was coping. His answer was a little awkward being a proud boy but he said, "Honestly I have nothing." "And the boys at home?" Sue asked. The answer was they had a little rice and beans left. A shattering statement made at lunchtime here when the fridge is full of food. Sue promised she would get help.

Bernard's expenses are £160 a month for the rent and food etc. Not a lot by our standards. The younger boy's school fees amount to £900 per year. At school they are fed.

If you are able to contribute to this desperate family please contact **Sue Hancock at Hortons, Streat, BN6 8SB or telephone 01273 890298**. Cheques should be payable to "Ruth Fund". The family will be grateful for any support. They have been blighted by war but they have survived and given a second chance will make something of their lives as Ruth has done.

Whist Drive

Tuesday 27th February 7.30pm Westmeston Parish Hall
For more details contact Doreen Kallman 01273 844743

Streat Church Duties February 2007

			Lessons	Readers	Prayers	Sidesmen
4	The 3rd Sunday Before Lent	MP & HC 10am	Isaiah 6.1-8(9-13)	Vicky Brandon	George Hancock	Derek Walker
			1Corinthians 15.1-11	Carol Burgon		
			Luke 5.1-11	Canon John		
11	The 2nd Sunday Before Lent	No Service				
18	The Sunday Before Lent	No Service				
25	1st Sunday in Lent	10am	Children's Church			
		HC 11.15am	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Sue Fawcett	Jill Veness	Jill Veness
			Romans 10.8b-13	Charlie Yeldham		
			Luke 4.1-13	John Morris		
Flowers: 4th & 11th Mrs Roberts 18th Mrs McCormell 25th No flowers in Lent						
Cleaning: 1st Monday in the month, please come and join us at 2pm						

St Martins Westmeston Church Duties February 2007

			Lessons	Readers	Prayers	Sidesmen
4	The 3rd Sunday Before Lent	No Service				
11	The 2nd Sunday Before Lent	FC 10am	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25	Family Communion		
			Luke 8: 22-25			
18	The Sunday Before Lent	MP 10am	Exodus 34: 29-35	Mark Moody-Stuart	Doreen Kallman	Brenda Hall
			2 Corinthians 3: 12, 4: 2	George Hancock		
			Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)	Canon John		
21	Ash Wednesday	HC 6.30pm	Isaiah 58: 1-12	Doreen Kallman	Canon John	Paul Charman
			2 Corinthians 5: 20b, 6:10	Myrtle Skelton		
			John 8: 1-11	Canon John		
25	1st Sunday in Lent	No Service				
Flowers: 4th and 11th Helen Firmin, 18th Mary Loudon, 25th No flowers in Lent						
FC Family Communion, HC Holy Communion, MP Morning Prayer followed by said Communion, ES Evensong						

FAMILY SERVICES IN WESTMESTON AND STREAT

On February 11th Canon John will be celebrating(?) his final Family Communion service in the parish at Westmeston. It would be wonderful for Canon John to see as many of you as possible on this day.

February's Children's Church falls on the morning after the fund-raising auction, on Sunday 25th and we shall be discussing the Good Samaritan. Bleary eyed we may be but there will be activities, chaos and fun as usual.

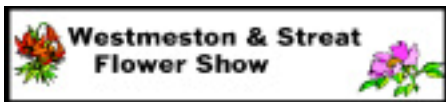
If anyone would like to contact me about any of the above, please do so on 01273 844232.

Jenny Bainbridge

Plumpton Care Club

Thursday 1st Feb Moira King will be introducing an afternoon of Poetry and Prose readings illustrating the seasons. **Sunday 11th Feb** Sunday lunch club. **Thursday 15th Feb** Rosalie and Ivan Sinclair Smith will be giving another of their popular illustrated talks on 'The Christmas story through Mediaeval eyes'

Sally Huband



Date for your diary Annual Talk

The Flower Show annual talk and slide show will take place this year on
Friday 13th April at 7.30pm Westmeston Parish Hall
Our guest speaker will be Mr David Lang
Topic to be advised

If you have any suggestions for new classes or photographic subjects for this year's Show the committee will be adjusting the show schedule at its **next meeting on Thursday 1st March**. So please let Paul know on 01273 -844743 by this date and he will put your suggestions to the committee.

Remember, if you wish the Show to continue then please support it.

Streat & Westmeston Directory

Bible Reading Notes	Jill Veness	843381
Child Protection Officer	Stuart Robinson	845061
Children's Church	Chairman: Jenny Bainbridge	844232
	Secretary: Jo Hands	01825
		722276
	Music Leader: Lynn Bond	842387
	Team: Joanna Greenstreet, Barbara Ratcliffe, Jane Juniper.	
Church Flower Rota	Streat: Zarene Morrison	890320
	Westmeston: Doreen Kallman	844743
Church Wardens	Streat	Derek Walker 891005
		Mike Sewell 890366
	Westmeston	Doreen Kallman 844743
		Mark Moody-Stuart 846525
Deanery Synod Representatives	Carole Burgon	890301
	Colin & Jane Juniper	890417
	Tam Large	890830
Deputy Church Warden	Streat	Myrtle Skelton 890491
Electoral Roll Officer		Paul Charman 844743
House Group		Colin and Jane Juniper 890417
Jubilee Choir	Organiser:	Jinks Magrath 890778
	Conductor:	Chris Booker 843004
	Music:	Lynette Walker 891005
Ministers of Communion		Chris Burgon 890301
		Colin Juniper 890417
		Doreen Kallman 844743
		Lynette Walker 891005
Organists	Streat:	Lynette Walker 891005
	Westmeston:	Lynn Bond 842387
PCC Secretary		Margaret Bovill 845319
PCC Treasurer		George Hancock 890298
Parochial Church Council	<i>The Churchwardens and</i> Jenny Bainbridge, Margaret Bovill, Carole Burgon, Chris Burgon, George Hancock, Jo Hands, Colin Juniper, Jane Juniper, Tam Large, Stuart Robinson, Sue Sewell, Myrtle Skelton, Steven Ulph.	
Pew Sheet		Sue Sewell 890366
Prayer group		Jill Veness 843381
		Lynette Walker 891005
Streat Barn	Bookings:	Derek Walker 891005
	Committee:	Lance and Fiona Smith, Steven Ulph, Derek Walker.
Stewardship / TRIO *	Chairman:	Gwilym Roberts 890324
	Team:	George Hancock, Doreen Kallman, Derek Walker.
Traidcraft		Sally Huband 890155

Women's Fellowship

The first meeting of the year was held at the home of Margaret Moore on January 16th and was attended by 17 members. Eileen Keeling led the discussion to plan the programme of meetings for 2007. It was not an easy task to agree a programme in such a short time and so a number of details have yet to be confirmed. When completed the programme will be distributed to members. (As there is no official membership of the group please contact Eileen if you find you are without a copy.)

In 2006 the group raised £207 for St Peter and St James Hospice. Another four collections at meetings were given to guest speakers for the charities they represented.

The next meeting will be on 20th February at 7.30pm at Jonn Grinsted's home.

Laura Eaton and Margaret Moore



Ditchling Players

At the time of writing this, the Players 2007 Pantomime 'Mother Goose' is still a fortnight away. But by the time you read this, it will all be over and everyone will be taking a well-earned break, Sonia, Michael & Robin will all probably be lying down in darkened rooms for a month or two to recover!.

The Players would like to thank everyone involved, in whatever capacity, for the hard work that they have put in to creating yet another terrific show, and many thanks to all of you who supported us every night. We do hope you enjoyed it as much as we did performing it for you.

And now we look forward to the next production in May, things are currently "in the pipeline" re this and by the next newsletter I hope to be in a position to give you more information.

David Tattersell

Friends of St Margaret's Church Ditchling Trust –

The thirteenth Annual Report of the Trustees will be presented at the Annual meeting on Saturday 3rd March 2007 in the Village Hall. Coffee will be served from 10.15 a.m. and the presentation of the Report will be at 10.45 a.m. Anybody interested in supporting the preservation of the church building will be most welcome.

Catharine Robinson Secretary

Turner-Dumbrell Foundation –

Registered charity number 289474

At a meeting of the trustees held on the 28th December 2006 Mrs Janet Cragg was appointed a trustee of the Foundation. Grants were made to the following charities for the stated purposes..

Ditchling Village Hall – substantial contribution towards the cost of a new central heating boiler.

St Margaret's Church – grant towards the cost of the repair and maintenance of the churchyard and the cost of the maintenance of the organ.

Ditchling Museum – contribution towards the cost of fees and other expenses to be incurred in connection with design and fund raising in respect of the redevelopment of the Museum.

Oldland Mill – cost of a generator

Old Meeting House – modernisation of lavatory and kitchen facilities.

St Peter & St James Hospice – multi-purpose hygiene chair.

The total value of the grants is £20,000 in round figures.

Roderick G C Webb Secretary

Ditchling W.I.

The January meeting of the WI traditionally meets on the second Thursday of the month, ostensibly to avoid the worst of the winter weather and to recover from the holiday period. Recovery was in hand but the weather continued to play tricks with wind and rain. Nevertheless in the warmth of the Village Hall a very good meeting was had with Mr Perry-Nash speaking on the lot of mediaeval women in England. Their knowledge of foodstuffs, cooking, medicine, clothing - including making the cloth - interior design, animal and child management was not only the foundation but also the cement of mediaeval society. What's new? we ask.

As well as receiving our membership cards for the year members were reminded of the music group and craft meetings as well as the monthly 'Ladies who lunch!' Outings and theatre trips were discussed as well as the South of England Show. However, of immediate interest is our annual Marmalade Market on Saturday 17th February from 10.00 to 12.00 in the Village Hall. As well as marmalade there will be cakes, plants, Traidcraft goods, a grand raffle and, of course, coffee. This is our main fund-raising event of the year so please all come and bring your friends. The next WI meeting is on Thursday 1st February 2.30 pm. Why not join us?

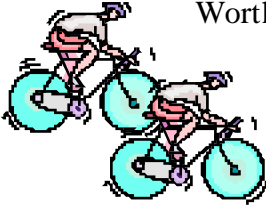
Jean Morley

Children's Carol Service

February is hardly the month to be writing about the Children's Carol Service on the Green on Christmas Eve and so, suffice to say, we were blessed with perfect weather and, thanks to a wonderful team of people, from members of the church through to friends, bell-ringers, parents, 37 participating children and a congregation of over 300, all went well. The patient donkeys too deserve a mention, as does the collection at the end which raised £407 for The Children's Society. As one parent kindly wrote 'the children have been given memories to treasure'.

Margaret Moore and Alec Gaskin (the master builder of the stable!).

1st Ditchling Scout Group



Worthy of congratulations are those members of the Troop who, during the Christmas holiday, took part in a Sponsored Cycle Ride on behalf of The Rocking Horse Appeal – The Brighton Children's Hospital. The Ride was organised by one of our Scouts, Xan Browne, whose idea it was. He then made all the arrangements and planned the route on top of the Downs from Clayton Mills to Lewes and back to Ditchling Beacon.

Xan, together with Callum Baker, Matthew Bird, Matthew Vint and four other friends completed the route in very muddy conditions and raised the excellent amount of about £300 for the Charity. We all congratulate their initiative and effort in this fundraising venture.

The Scout Organisation's Centenary Year

2007 is the year we celebrate 100 years of Scouting Activity. As a result we look forward to a year of many celebrations which will be taking place all over the world. Our own Scout Group will be marking the occasion by attending a special District Camp and other events to mark the Centenary during the course of the year.

Alec Gaskin

Group Chairman

Newcomer's Party

To all Good Neighbours - please contact Pam Gaskin or Maralyn Hine for the invitations for your new neighbours.

To all newcomers to the village since March last year - we look forward to meeting you at our annual Newcomer's Party on Friday 23rd March at 7.30 at the Village Hall. You will soon be receiving an invitation from your Good Neighbour but if you don't please get in touch with us so that we can send you one. This is a lovely evening and a great way to meet other newcomers to the village and representatives of the many clubs and societies that exist here making Ditchling the village it is.

Maralyn Hine

843370

Pam Gaskin

843182



Wanted: Information on Ditchling's renowned naturalist.

We all know how the conversation goes. You meet someone in some unlikely or strange circumstances and very soon that person will say, "Oh! I know someone who knows someone who lived in Ditchling". Well that is what happened to one of the Beacon's joint editors (what a grand job they do) when she recently attended a dinner in London.

The difference in this case was that the person in question was one of the most respected and renowned names in the field of animal behaviour. Olive Howard, who wrote under her

brother's name, Len, caused a sensation when in 1953 her first book "Birds as Individuals" was published; the forward to this book was written by Julian Huxley. Her next work, "Living with Birds" followed a few years later and was the outcome of Olive Howard's brilliant powers of observation and patience.

Unfortunately not a great deal seems to be known about this reclusive lady. She was a professional musician who arrived in Ditchling around 1942 where she lived in Bird Cottage for about eleven years. Her privacy was such that she would allow few, if any, to pass her gate for she insisted that human presence would disturb the birds with which she had nurtured an intimate relationship. The photograph of her had to be taken from the bottom of her garden with a 300mm telephoto lens! Her windows were always open and birds flew into her house; she provided them with food and water and nesting boxes. Howard approaches her birds with an open and respectful attitude.

If you know anything about Olive Howard – surely one of Ditchling's more famous characters – I would be exceedingly pleased to hear from you. Even the Librarian at the RSPB with whom I recently spoke, said he had

drawn a blank in trying to find out more about this celebrated naturalist.

Martin Craven

The Ditchling Village Website

The Ditchling village website, www.Ditchling.com, has received significant interest in January following its re-launch as an online information resource for Ditchling and the surrounding area. It provides information on clubs, societies, shops and other organisations in and around Ditchling; an event diary and *Ditchling Talk*, a public online forum allowing visitors to share their thoughts and ask questions. The website will be developed further over the coming months with more information and additional features.

The website has already attracted 6,000 page accesses in the first two weeks of 2007 and the opportunities offered by *Ditchling Talk*, have been taken up by many correspondents, particularly following the BBC programmes on the village. [Ditchling.com](http://www.Ditchling.com) is now listed in first position by Google when searching for 'Ditchling'.

The founders of [Ditchling.com](http://www.Ditchling.com) are setting up a club/society to manage the website. Full subscribing organisations would be members of this club/society with rights to appoint officers and vote on issues and would be charged a membership fee of £50 pa. There would be a lesser category of membership, without full voting rights, for which the membership fee would be £20 pa. In addition, we are creating advertising space on every page for £300 pa. Reduced rates for shorter periods are also available.

New members will have free membership until June 30th 2007. Permanent advertisements placed on the website before this date will be charged at half the annual rate for the first year. Fees and advertising rates will be reviewed annually.

For more information visit www.ditchling.com or contact Graham Sharpless at gsharpless@ditchling.com or telephone 01273 845368.

Mike Felton, Tom Dufty & Graham Sharpless

What's on in February

Museum closed until 9th March

1	Thurs	W.I. meeting	V.H.	2.30pm
	Thurs to Sat	3 rd Ditchling Players 'Mother Goose'	V.H.	7.30pm
		Matinée on Saturday		2.00pm
2	Fri	Burns Night Party	Old Meeting House	7.30pm
4	Sun	Footpaths Society walk	V.H. car park	2.00pm
5	Mon	Monday Social Club	Old Meeting House	2.00pm
6	Tues	DS&W Bible Study Group		10.00am
8	Thurs	Film Society 'The Beat that my Heart Skipped'	V.H.	8.00pm
9	Fri	School Term 3 ends		
13	Tues	DVA Village Lunch	Dolly's	12.30pm
14	Weds	Frugal Lunch	Emmanuel Chapel	12.30pm
17	Sat	W.I. Marmalade Market	V.H.	10.00 – 12noon
		Concert, Edvard Grieg	V.H.	7.00pm
18	Sun	Footpaths Society walk	V.H. car park	2.00pm
19	Mon	School Term 4 begins		
		Monday Social Club	Old Meeting House	2.00pm
20	Tues	Free Coffee, Tea and Cakes	V.H.	10.30am
		Women's Fellowship meeting		7.30pm
22	Thurs	Canon John Thanksgiving Service – Plumpton Race Course Marquee		6.30pm
		Film Society 'Hidden (Cache)'	V.H.	8.00pm
24	Sat	Ditchling Pre-School Jumble Sale	V.H.	2.00pm
		Fundraising Auction	Plumpton Race Course Marquee	7.30pm
27	Tues	Whist Drive	Westmeston Parish Hall	7.30pm

Village Coffee Morning Village Hall



Free coffee/ tea and cakes

Tues 20th February 10.30 am – 12.00 noon

Sponsored by Ditchling Pre-School Group

East Sussex Downs and Weald



Primary Care Trust

Stop Smoking Service



COMMIT TO QUIT IN 2007!
SAVE MONEY & IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH
Free Stop Smoking Group (6 week course)

PLUMPTON GREEN VILLAGE HALL

Information session Thursday 15th February at 6.00
Group will then run from Thursday 22nd February
for five weeks 6.00pm - 7.00pm

We will NOT tell you to stop smoking.
We will only show you why you should.

IF YOU'VE GOT THE WILL WE'VE GOT THE WAY!

1-1 appointments also available

For further information please contact:

Stop Smoking Service 01825 745045

www.esdwpctstopsmoking.nhs.uk

Ditchling Village Association

The **Monday Social Club** continues to be well attended. It meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at the Old Meeting House from 2.00pm. Why not pop in and enjoy the company.

Lunches. The next lunch at Dolly's will take place on **Tuesday 13th February**. Details will be available in the Post Office from January 29th but, again, bookings may be made by ringing either Jill or me. These have proved extremely popular and early booking is necessary.

Coffee Mornings. The next Coffee Morning will take place on **Tuesday, 20th February** hosted by Ditchling Pre-School Group. Do come along and enjoy the atmosphere. In January Ditchling Morris gave us a very successful morning despite the adverse weather – many thanks

Brian Clutterbuck

**St Margaret's Church Ditchling
Fund Raising Committee presents**

Edvard Grieg

His life in words & music



Ambrose Page – piano
Patricia Hope – narrator

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Grieg's death, including his Lyric Pieces and 'Peer Gynt'

Saturday 17th February 2007 at 7.00pm
Ditchling Village Hall

Followed by canapés and a glass of wine

**Tickets £6 available from: Miranda Prickett – 01273 842133
Catharine Robinson – 01273 841732**



In February we shall be showing **TWO FILMS**. The first one on **Thursday 8th February** will be '**The Beat that my Heart Skipped**'. Here, Jacques Audiard presents his superb version of James Toback's 1978 film "Fingers".

In a stylish and audacious gangland thriller set in Paris, a young man, Tom, struggles to free himself from his father's criminal world, and pursue his dream of becoming a concert pianist. Romain Duris as Tom is gloweringly sexy, hypnotically unstable and needy and combines both rage and vulnerability in his handsome face.

Director: Jacques Audiard. France 2005. 115 mins. Subtitled.

Our second film on **Thursday 22nd February** will be '**Hidden (Cache)**'. A famous television presenter played by Daniel Auteuil receives mysterious, menacing "surveillance videos" at his home showing scenes from his private life.

A compelling political-psychological drama on the denial and guilt which is mixed into the foundations of western prosperity, with the tension gradually building up to a climax.

Director: Michael Haneke. France 2005. 117 mins. Subtitled.

On **Thursday 1st March** our film will be '**Bombon El Perro**'. A hugely enjoyable, quirky comedy set in Patagonia about an unemployed mechanic who is given a pedigree dog called Bombon.

Director: Carlos Sorin. Argentina 2004. 97 mins. Subtitled.

The films will be shown in Ditchling Village Hall.

Fables about Appearances —

Jesus advised those in the temple to 'judge not according to the appearance,' (John vii 24). 'So may the outward shows be least themselves: The world is still deceived with ornament', muses Bassanio in Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice. 'The excellency of the soul is

above the beauty of the body,' wrote L'Estrange, who went on to say (alas!) that 'more care is taken to cultivate the advantages of the body than those of the mind.' Here we have four fables about how we should not judge things or people by their appearance and in the case of the vain jackdaw how fine feathers do not make a fine bird. All of them are translations from the Latin of Phaedrus, including his commentaries.

The Butcher and the Ape

A man seeing an Ape hanging up at a Butcher's among the rest of his commodities and provisions, enquired how it might taste; on which the Butcher, joking replied: "Just as the head is, such, I warrant, is the taste."

This I deem to be said facetiously than correctly; for on the one hand I have often found the good-looking to be very knaves, and on the other I have known many with ugly features to be most worthy men.

Text: Henry Thomas Riley (*Phaedrus* 3/4, 1883). Selected Parallels: Perry 496. *TMI* J2072.3.

The Fox and the Mask

A Fox had stolen into the house of an actor, and in rummaging among his various properties, laid hold of a highly-finished Mask. "A fine-looking head, indeed!" cried he; "what a pity it is that it wants brains!"

Text: Thomas James, Fable 148 (1848). Selected Parallels: Phaedrus 1/7. Caxton, Romulus 2/14 (Wolf and Skull). La Fontaine 4/14. L'Estrange 1/32. Chambry 43. Perry 27. *TMI* J1793.

The Weasel and the Mice

This way of writing seems to you facetious; and no doubt, while we have nothing of more importance, we do sport with the pen. But examine these Fables with attention, and what useful lessons will you find concealed under them! Things are not always what they seem; first appearances deceive many: few minds understand what skill has hidden in an inmost corner. That I may not appear to have said this without reason, I will add a Fable about the Weasel and the Mice.

A Weasel, worn out with years and old age, being unable to overtake the active Mice, rolled herself in flour, and threw herself carelessly along in a dark spot. A Mouse, thinking her food, jumped upon her, and, being caught, was put to death: another in like manner perished, and then a third.

Some others having followed, an old brindled fellow came, who had escaped snares and mouse-traps full oft; and viewing from afar the stratagem of the crafty foe: "So fare you well," said he, "you that are lying there, as if you are flour."

Text: Henry Thomas Riley (Phaedrus 4/2, 1883). Selected Parallels: Phaedrus 4/2. cf Babrius 17. Caxton Romulus 2/17. cf La Fontaine 4/3. L'Estrange 1/81. Perry 511 and cf 79. *TMI* K2061.9.

The Vain Jackdaw

Lest any one himself should plume,
And on his neighbour's worth presume;
But still let Nature's garb prevail -
Esop has left this little tale:
A Daw, ambitious and absurd,
Pick'd up the quills of Juno's bird;
And, with the gorgeous spoil adorn'd,
All his own sable brethren scorn'd,
And join'd the peacocks - who in scoff
Stripp'd the bold thief, and drove him off.
The Daw, thus roughly handled, went
To his own kind in discontent:
but they in turn contemn the spark,
And brand with many a shameful mark.
Then one he formerly disdain'd,
"Had you," said he, "at home remain'd -
Content with Nature's ways and will,
You had not felt the peacock's bill;
Nor 'mongst the birds of your own dress
Had been deserted in distress."

Text: Christopher Smart (Phaedrus 1/3, ,1760). Selected Parallels: Babrius 72. Phaedrus 1/3. Avianus 15. Caxton, Romulus 2/15. La Fontaine 4/9. L'Estrange 1/33. Perry 472 and cf 129. cf *TMI* J951.2.

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