

Hamsey News

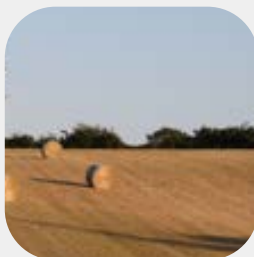
Autumn 2026





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Welcome from the Editor

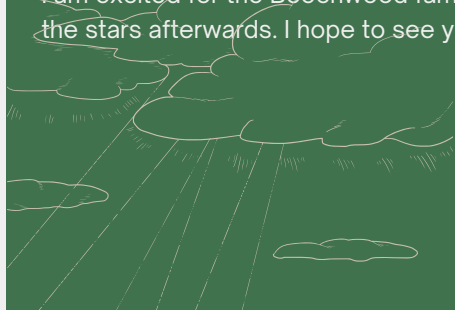


As the buds of spring blossomed into summer and then scorched under the intense and relentless summer sun, we have watched our beautiful parish turn brown and crunchy around us.

It therefore feels like a cool drink of water to bring you not one but two talented photographers this edition, who have captured the colour and beauty of life that still nestles within the sunburnt landscape. Regular contributor Peter Schueler looks to the fields and skies of Hamsey, whilst young newcomer Hadassah Ojeniyi focuses under the flowers and leaves of her Cooksbridge backgarden. A real treat, you will agree.

As our gardens, streams and the noble Sussex Sea Trout longed for the rains, we must reflect on this evidence of the global climate crisis and the dangers of not protecting our natural commons.

I am hoping for an Indian Summer, however, to take us into September - for I am excited for the Beechwood family day and the chance to dance under the stars afterwards. I hope to see you there.



Helen Clegg
Editor

helen.clegg@hotmail.co.uk



Hamsey Parish Updates



After a spring of seemingly relentless rain, we have swung into prolonged heat and exceptionally dry conditions this summer. Our gardens, fields and wildlife are now feeling the effects of too little water just months after we were dealing with far too much. It is a stark reminder of how quickly our local environment can be put under pressure, and why so much of the work happening across the parish around our rivers, wildlife, planning and landscape feels increasingly important.

Our rivers and wildlife

One of the real highlights of the summer was our Saving the Sussex Sea Trout evening at Beechwood Hall. We were incredibly lucky to have Dr Will Lock from the University of Sussex, local author and naturalist Dave Bangs, Emma Montlake from Love Our Ouse and Stewart Allum from the Ouse Angling Preservation Society, come together for such an informative, passionate and thought-provoking panel discussion.

It was wonderful to see so many people there and to hear just how important the Northend Stream and the wider Ouse catchment are for wildlife, including our remarkable sea trout.

A huge thank you to Caroline Croft for bringing the evening together and for all the work behind the scenes that made it happen.



The conversation continues on Saturday 22 August, with a free guided walk organised by Landscapes of Freedom to explore the home of the Sussex Sea Trout, the threats posed by water pollution and housing development, and how we can respect the rights of the River Ouse. The walk meets at 10:00 for a 10:30 start at Cooksbridge Station car park. Good walking boots are needed and, because of the sensitive local ecology, dogs are unfortunately not able to join. It would be wonderful to see as many people there as possible.



We were also delighted to be represented at the Love Our Ouse Rights of Rivers workshop at Lewes Town Hall in July. The workshop explored how parish and town councils can put the River Ouse Charter into practice and how the rights of the river and its tributaries can be better represented in local decision-making. Cllr Leith McKenzie attended on behalf of Hamsey Parish Council, and it is exciting to see this conversation developing across communities throughout the Ouse catchment. Thank you to Love Our Ouse for organising such an inspiring event.



Planning

On the planning front, I want to give a very special thank you to Cllr McKenzie for the extraordinary amount of work he has put into producing Hamsey Parish Council's recent planning consultation responses. The supplementary response to the 151-home CALA application alone runs to more than 20 pages and carefully works through ecology, biodiversity, the North End Stream and Sussex Sea Trout, drainage and wastewater, highways, protected trees, the railway and level crossing, and the cumulative impact of further development around Cooksbridge.



It is an exceptionally detailed and robust piece of work, drawing together a huge amount of new technical evidence and making clear which issues have been resolved and, importantly, which still remain outstanding. Leith has also prepared a separate clarification of the Parish Council's earlier representations, ensuring that our position remains focused firmly on the substantive planning concerns while making our language and intention absolutely clear.

These responses represent many, many hours of reading, checking, comparing documents and pulling together evidence, much of it done during what should have been his summer break. I am enormously grateful to him for the determination, care and scrutiny he has brought to this work on behalf of the whole parish; many thanks also to Cllr Tom Gaydon for his help and contribution with editing. It is a huge contribution and one that I know the community will appreciate. Please find our responses on our website: <https://hamseyparish.gov.uk/planning>





HAMSEY PARISH SUMMER PARTY

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
2PM ONWARDS
BEECHWOOD HALL & PARK

INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE
BOUNCY CASTLE

AUTIN DANCE THEATRE
PERFORM ZIG ZAG!
2 X 20 MINS SHOW

MUSIC, PLUS DJ FROM 7PM
ONWARDS

LOTS OF FOOD & DRINK FOR SALE

Looking ahead: climate and nature

There is more to come. Don't Urbanise Hamsey, with the support of Hamsey Parish Council, will be hosting a screening of the National Emergency Briefing at Beechwood Hall at 19:00 on 22 September:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/>. The briefing looks at the climate and nature emergency and what communities can do in response. We would really encourage everyone to come along. Whatever your starting point, these evenings are an opportunity to listen, learn, ask questions and be part of the conversation about the future of the place in which we live.

Now for some fun

And after all that serious business, it is also time to have some fun. Our annual Hamsey Parish Community Day takes place at Beechwood Hall and Park on Saturday 5 September from 14:00. Please come down and celebrate our wonderful community with us.



There will be a bouncy castle and inflatable obstacle course, performances from Autin Dance Theatre, music and a DJ into the evening, Asian food and other food and drink for sale, along with local groups showcasing some of the brilliant activities and interests happening across the parish. It is always one of my favourite days of the year and a lovely opportunity simply to get together.



**HAMSEY NIGHTS
PRESENTS**

**BACK
TO THE
OLD SKOOL**

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
BEECHWOOD HALL | 7 TIL LATE

Our new village sign

We have also been gathering ideas for our new Cooksbridge village sign. Children and parents at Hamsey Primary School have been busy cutting out pictures, discussing ideas and thinking about the images, wildlife, landscape, history and character that best represent Cooksbridge. It has been brilliant seeing what they have come up with. We intend to create a sign for Cooksbridge first and then begin the same process for Offham.

We are not finished gathering ideas yet. Please come and find our village sign stand at the Community Day, have a look at the image board and add your own thoughts. What says Cooksbridge to you? It might be a particular building, a plant, an animal, the railway, farming, the river, our landscape or something completely different. We want the finished sign to feel as though it genuinely belongs to the community, so the more ideas we have, the better.

Can you help?

We are also looking for a community-minded volunteer to help deliver Hamsey News four times a year to around 45 homes in Hamsey Village. The route stretches from Cowlease Farm in the north to just beyond the level crossing towards Offham Church, and all points in between.



It is a small round, just once each season, and a really helpful way to keep everyone connected with parish news and events. If you think you could help, please get in touch with Hamsey Parish Council.

As ever, thank you to all our councillors, our Clerk Marie, our volunteers and everyone across the parish who gives their time, turns up to events, writes consultation responses, shares ideas and gets involved. Hamsey may be a small parish, but there is an extraordinary amount going on, and our community continues to show just how much can be achieved when people come together.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, keep an eye on those thirsty plants, and I hope to see lots of you at Beechwood on 5 September.

Warm wishes,

Minty

Chair, Hamsey Parish Council



Spotted an issue?



Who to report it to

Spotted a problem around the parish? Did you know you can report these as a member of the public? Here's how to report common local issues quickly and easily. Tear out and keep handy.

Potholes & road damage



If you notice potholes, damaged pavements, or other highway issues, report them online to East Sussex Highways:
live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem/report-pothole
or in an emergency 0345 60 80 193



Fly-tipping & litter

Help keep our neighbourhood clean and tidy by reporting dumped rubbish or litter hotspots at:
<https://lovecleanstreets.info/report>



Power outage or dangerous power lines

No power or a line down? Report to:
ukpowernetworksservices.co.uk/contact
or 0800 31 63 105



Water leaks

Seen water pooling where it shouldn't be? Suspected leaks can be reported directly to Southern Water via:
www.southernwater.co.uk/report-a-problem
or 0800 820 999



Rights of way

A stile broken or a right of way blocked? Report to:
www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisure-tourism/discover-east-sussex/rights-of-way/problems-on-rights-of-way/report
or 0345 608 0193



Fallen trees

A tree over the road or dangerous? Report to: 0345 608 0193 or online
<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem/report-problem-vegetation>

Applications still awaiting decision/in progress (as of August)

LW/25/0339 – Land at Cooksbridge Road, Cooksbridge

The provision of 151 residential dwellings (Class C3) including 40% affordable housing and commercial floorspace provision (Class E), with public open space, soft and hard landscaping, play space, community orchard, vehicular access, car and cycle parking provision, and associated infrastructure including SuDS provision.

LW/25/0484 – Former Hamsey Brickworks, South Road

Erection of 12 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated access, landscaping, parking, and infrastructure works.

LW/26/0245 – Hewen Street Farm, South Road, South Common, South Chailey

Creation of a farm access road.

SDNP/26/02222/TDC – Fishpond House, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge

Technical Details Consent for PiP
Application ref SDNP/25/02143/PIP
(Erection of 1 no. dwelling).

LW/26/0321 – Former Hamsey Brickworks, South Road

Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline application LW/20/0609, as amended by Section 73 consent LW/23/0561, for up to 12 custom-build homes and supporting infrastructure.

Applications determined / approved since last meeting.

SDNP/26/00594/CND – Mill Lane Farm, The Street, Offham

Removal of Condition 8 (access to worker's dwelling solely via track) relating to Planning Approval SDNP/25/04064/FUL. Approved

SDNP/26/00267/LIS – 17 Bank Cottages, The Street, Offham

Dismantle and rebuild leaning chimney stack. Approved

SDNP/26/00969/HOUS – Hamsey Place, Old Church Lane, Hamsey

Erection of garden studio. *Approved*

SDNP/26/01293/FUL – Hamsey Place Cottages, Whitfield Lane, Hamsey

Internal and external alterations to numbers 1 and 2 Hamsey Place Cottages to amalgamate both cottages into one dwelling house. *Approved*

New Applications

LW/26/0364 – Two Ways, Bevernbridge, South Road

Variation of Planning Condition – Variation of Conditions 1 (Plans) and 8 (CEMP) in relation to approval LW/23/0119 to allow the development to be phased and amend the wording of Condition 8 to that of a compliance condition for Mr Blackmore.



Save our **Sussex Sea Trout!**
aka the Sussex Tiger
SAY NO TO EXTINCTION!



*A free walk to explore the home of the Sussex Sea Trout,
the threat from water pollution and housing
development, and how we can respect the rights of
the River Ouse.*

SATURDAY 22nd Aug - meet 10am for a 10.30 start
COOKSBRIDGE STATION CAR PARK
just North of Lewes

*Please note that due to the sensitive local ecology
dogs are unfortunately not welcome. Good walking
boots are needed and there may be a need to cross
gates and fences (help provided)*

Organised by Landscapes of Freedom
contact: landscapesoffreedom@gmail.com

The Sussex Sea Trout

Huge thanks to everyone who came to the Sussex Sea Trout expert panel in Beechwood Hall in July, and to Hamsey Parish Council and Don't Urbanise Hamsey volunteers for all their help and support. It was great to see so many people concerned about this magnificent creature – that lives and breeds in Cooksbridge – and wanting to discuss how we can protect it from the threat of extinction.

The Sussex Sea Trout has lived here in the North End Stream since the last Ice Age. On average the biggest sea trout in the country, it is one of the mightiest species in the River Ouse and plays a structural role in the health of the river. They spawn in the chalk-fed North End Stream and juveniles remain here until they are big enough to enter the Ouse and swim out to sea. After a couple of years, they migrate all the way back to this tranquil inland stream in Cooksbridge to repeat the cycle, most often spawning in exactly the spot where they were spawned themselves.

This priority species is now in grave danger due to the threat of the proposed housing development in close proximity to the spawning and juvenile nursery grounds in Cooksbridge, compounding the already dire effects of the collapse of the water system, over-extraction of water and rapid climate warming.

The expert panel was organised to raise awareness of the threats to the species and galvanise action. Chairing the event was Dr Will Lock, specialist in environmental justice from the University of Sussex, and presentations were made by Stewart Allum of the Ouse Angling Preservation Society, naturalist and author Dave Bangs, and Emma Montlake of Love Our Ouse. Our sincere thanks for all their time and insight.

Notes on the panel discussions and objections on the grounds of the sea trout and broader ecology concerns can be found on the Don't Urbanise Hamsey website at www.donturbanisehamsey.org/ecology. There is still time to object to the development application and speak up for this unique priority Sussex species. The link to the planning consultation is on the Don't Urbanise Hamsey website home page: <https://planningpa.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/online-applications>



News from St Peters

“I am right out of my comfort zone here...” I whispered to my companion at the large table strewn with blank pieces of watercolour paper, jars of water, sponges, brushes and paint.

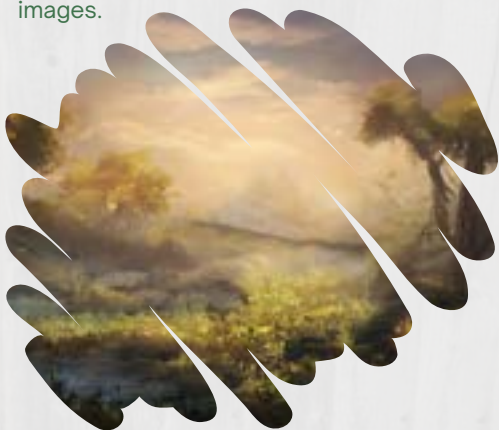
I was at a clergy day retreat, an almost mandatory requirement meant to reinvigorate, restore, revive – and other ‘r’ words, the best, hopefully, being ‘rest’. I recall the Bishop of Exeter giving a day retreat in his Palace, saying that this particular ‘r’ word was quite acceptable and recommended the easy chairs in the library – an invitation taken up by several of my colleagues who closed their eyes in ‘deep thought’ for most of the afternoon.

The objects around me made me feel profoundly inept. Worse, the teacher was an artist of some note who would quickly assess my ignorance of the medium by its consequential poor use. The prospect of a whole day doing this suddenly made my long-postponed clearing and cleaning of my garage a preferred alternative. However, encouraged by my neighbour who looked as daunted as me, we gave our attention to the task.

We were to depict some aspect of our spiritual journey that is a sustaining and helpful memory.



I scoured my recollections; there were moments, places and people along the way, of course. However, using images to bring them into something tangible was hard. I am a word person, better with concepts, ideas and thoughts than images.



I was to give expression to the ‘colour’ of the particular event, its ‘texture’, and how it made me feel. I rather liked my result, which was abstract and, in the opinion of my companion, had the feel of a picture by Turner. I think he had in mind Turner’s wonderful skies. I basked in the idea that I may have a hidden gift and my effort may have been more than the unfortunate spill of the water jug over the top half.

Our watercolour was explored in the afternoon with collage work to express how we can progress key elements from the work and move forward – much time with pictures, scissors and paste. This was harder than the first exercise



It is easier to look back over our lives and assess and reassess than it is to look forward, imagine, plan and envision. The past is a 'comfortable' country as well as being 'foreign'. What is more, it cannot be changed. I remember a wise person telling me that although the past cannot be changed, it can be redeemed. Pope Francis wrote, 'There is no clean slate, we can only bless the past with remorse. Mercy is the Lord's most powerful message, from Jesus we will not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, that invite us to conversion...'

This art exercise could be used to address our less good memories; these are our past. Very different pictures would be painted. What is their colour and how do they make us feel? Here the same opportunity presents: to work out from them.

A collage built from this image could be one of redemption and positivity emerging from what we learned and salvaged – something already in therapeutic practice, I believe.. My day retreat helped me see how effective art can be and relieved my anxiety about ability. Psalm 139 describes how we are completely known by God even before we had any material being. It describes God 'knitting' us together in our mother's womb. Our days and every word are known. 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, I cannot comprehend it,' the psalmist writes. Indeed. This suggests an image of our life as a tapestry worked by God. On the back are knots and tangles, light and dark. Only when the tapestry is turned over is the artistry of God revealed.

Keats famously described autumn as a 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', a soft rest for the year. In church we celebrate the goodness of God with the 'harvest safely gathered in' – the rhythm of the seasons, the backdrop to our lives.

You are welcome to join us on 11 October as we give thanks at our Harvest Festival at 9:30 at All Saints, Offham. Here we take up an offering for the food bank at Landport; contributions can be left at the church on Saturday 10 or Sunday 11 October.

Reverend Anne Dunlop



Friends of Hamsey Church

Old Hamsey Church has been filled with music in the last few months

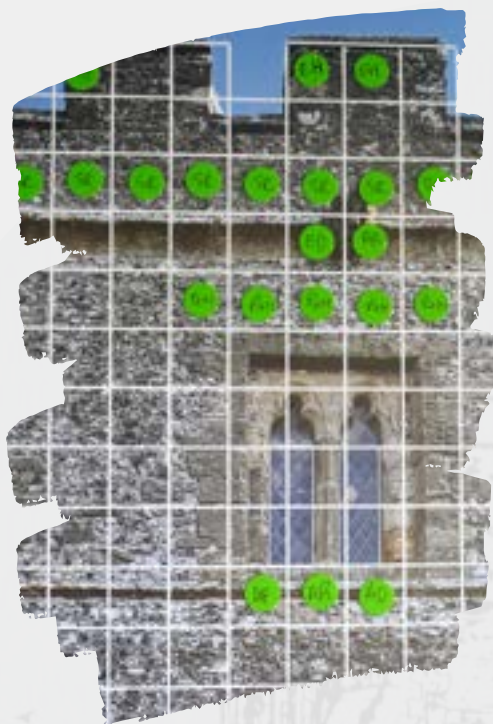
the Musicians of All Saints made a welcome return in June with the Mistral Wind Quartet, and a week later the MAS Quartet performed a programme featuring the works of Haydn, Butterworth and Beethoven. The Angels with Attitude Community Choir performed at Hamsey in July.

Our annual Friends of Hamsey Open Day took place on a very warm July Sunday with the usual splendid musical performances, teas, excellent cakes, a Pimm's table, plant sale, popular raffle and church information, and we were delighted to be able to display this year's PATINA 'Absolute Legends' book.



A very big thank you to all the musicians, volunteers, cake-makers, raffle prize donors and every one of you who came along to support us!





In all, we raised over £1,200 on the day with our regular offerings and over £1,700 towards our 'Sponsor-a-Square-Foot' crowdfunder, which aims to raise the necessary funds for the essential repointing and repair of the tower.

Friends of Hamsey will have a stand at Beechwood Hall for the Hamsey Community Day on Saturday 5 September. Come and have a chat to find out what we've achieved to date, what we plan next, and 'Sponsor-a-Square-Foot' of your own!

Old Hamsey Church is open most weekends from 10:00 until 16:00 until early December, thanks to our splendid rota of local volunteers. The last 8:00 communion and 6:00 evensong services of the year will take place on Sunday 6 September.

Do please sign the church visitors' book, even if you have done so before. Your comments confirm the ongoing interest in the history, appeal and conservation of our beautiful church and will assist with future grant applications.

Marion Hughes
Friends of Hamsey Church Events Committee



SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

IN AID OF THE BEVERN TRUST

HAMSEY HOUSE DAHLIA SOCIETY

1ST ANNUAL SHOW

DAHLIA COMPETITION

BRING YOUR BEST BLOOMS BETWEEN 10-12.
WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT 1PM. £2 ENTRY
(INCLUDING ENTRY TO THE GARDEN)
GUEST JUDGES. OPEN TO ALL.

OPEN GARDEN

1-4PM. TEA AND CAFE SOLD IN AID OF
THE BEVERN TRUST. £5 ENTRY PER
PERSON. SEE THE WINNING DAHLIAS.

DAHLIA COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- BEST BALL OR POM POM
- BEST DECORATIVE
- BEST OPEN CENTRED
- LARGEST FLOWER HEAD
- VASE OF THREE UNIFORM STEMS
- BEST ARRANGEMENT USING MIXED DAHLIAS & FOLIAGE, VESSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

HAMSEY HOUSE, HAMSEY, LEWES, BN8 5TD

Donate: www.beverntrust.org Email: info@beverntrust.org

Follow us on social media: @thebeverntrust

Monday Afternoon Club

Looking back to summer meetings

We flagged up our planned annual visit to Chichester Festival Theatre in the last edition of Hamsey News, and the show was even better than we anticipated!



Forty-two Monday Clubbers and invited friends and family spent a glorious summer's day picnicking in the theatre's beautiful grounds before enjoying an 'Absolutely Luvverly' production of My Fair Lady. We can't wait until our next theatre trip in July 2027!

We were back at Offham Church Hall in August for a quiz and bingo afternoon – thanks to Jane (Stent) and her unexpected talent as a bingo caller!

A more energetic afternoon is planned for 21 September, when Pilates teacher John Rignell will be conducting a (gentle!) armchair Pilates session.

Looking forward to autumn meetings

I'm writing this in the midst of our fourth heatwave of the summer, so thoughts of Christmas plans feel a very long time into the future, but we're already planning our annual Christmas lunch at Gradwell Park on 14 December.

Do be in touch on 07889 281214 if you'd like to join us – the club exists for all retired residents and former residents of our villages. (And as always, there's a warm welcome waiting for any of you who just want to drop into any meeting that interests you.)

Judith Bastide and the Monday Club Team



...a central element...
...given artists to explore the natural world, the importance of creativity. Artists continue
...ract concepts, resulting in works that inspire, driven by a passion that transcends
...ation and engagement

My Hamsey garden

Hadassah Ojeniyi (15)



This summer I have been trying to improve my macro photography skills. It has been really fascinating trying to get close to bees and butterflies and all the bugs crawling all over my garden plants.



Water droplets

I particularly love taking pictures after the garden has been watered, taking pictures of water droplets on leaves and spider webs. I hope you enjoy the pictures as much as I have loved taking them.





Offham community speed watch

The Offham Speed Action Group has been working hard to gather data to build a strong case for traffic-calming measures and improved road signage and markings. This year, our hour-long Community Speedwatch sessions in Offham started on 10 April, and since then, in just 30 sessions, we have recorded and reported over 500 speeding drivers.

On Saturday 30 May, between 14:00 and 15:00pm, 12 of the 42 southbound speeding drivers we recorded and reported were travelling at 40mph and over; a black Vauxhall and a blue Audi were both recorded at 44mph. This is quite remarkable as they had been in the 30mph zone for 300 yards, had just passed a flashing '30/Slow Down' sign and were approaching three or four of us all clad in high-vis jackets.

On Sunday 28 June between noon and 13:00, of the 430 southbound vehicles, we recorded and reported 37 drivers, eight of whom were travelling at 40mph or over, including a black Dacia and a red Peugeot both at 45mph.

On Sunday 19 July between noon and 13:00, 46 of 454 southbound vehicles were speeding (over 10% of those recorded); of these, 11 were travelling at over 40mph and included a black Honda and a grey SEAT both at 45mph, a Land Rover at 47mph, and a grey Renault at 49mph – that's 163% of the speed limit.

Too many of the speeding drivers we record live very locally and receive an advisory letter from the police in the first instance. There were 64 Speedwatch groups active in Sussex during June, and the information we gather is shared between CSW groups nationally so persistent offenders can be easily identified and dealt with accordingly.

Repeat offenders in our patch over the past year have been a black Honda, a blue Dacia, a blue Renault, a yellow Kia and a white Volkswagen. The Sussex Police repeat offenders' compliance rate* was slightly up in June at 95.33%.



On average, 45 people are killed and almost 1,000 are seriously injured on our roads every year. Officers from the Sussex Police Fatal Five unit joined some Speedwatch sessions in June.

The new unit was set up specifically to tackle the five most common causes of fatal and serious injury collisions:

- drink and drug-driving
- speeding
- failing to wear a seatbelt
- distracted driving
- careless driving

*Ratio based on drivers who, having received a first letter from Sussex Police, are not reported again through the CSW system within a 12-month period.

MH for the Offham Speed Action Group



DON'T URBANISE HAMSEY



JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

WWW.DONTURBANISEHAMSEY.ORG



BEECHWOOD HALL

YOUTH CLUB 2026 DATES



THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY

THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL

THURSDAY 30TH APRIL

THURSDAY 4TH JUNE

THURSDAY 16TH JULY

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER



7PM - 9PM

Hamsey spring litter pick

Over the course of a weekend, 13 people participated in the litter pick – 10 adults, two children and a baby (there for moral support).

We covered the vast majority of the parish but didn't quite have the resources to get to a couple of the outlying areas.

We experienced the first rain for a month, which kept everyone reasonably cool.

The final haul consisted of 15 sacks of waste, three tyres, a bicycle, two pairs of knickers and a vole! The vole must have been attached to a piece of litter and hitched a ride in my car, appearing suddenly on the dashboard.

Fortunately, he alighted safely into the undergrowth.



The Autumn Litter Pick takes place on Sunday 25 October, meeting at Beechwood Hall at 10:00. Everyone's invited – just do what you can. All the gear you need will be there; with a little bit more help we'll be able to cover the entire parish.

If you happen to see any fly-tipping, please report it using the app 'Love Clean Streets' or the online form on the council website: <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping>.

Peter Langley



BEECHWOOD
hall & park

Community events. Save the Dates!

Community Day

Saturday 5th September
from 2pm onwards

Halloween party (TBC)

Saturday 31st October
3-5pm

Theatre

Come and see **Hah Humbug!** an interactive, funny twist
on the classic tale. Tickets coming soon.

15th November

Christmas Trail

A Magical light trail with food and Christmas market

Saturday 5th December

Early evening

If you are a local business or local talent who would **like to be involved** or **sell items** at any of our events, please contact c.henry@hamseyparish.gov.uk. We love to use local people and promote local business!.