

CPRE Sussex Lewes District Group

Chairman's Report 2020

Last year we combined our AGM and summer visit to Firle; this is the first time we have combined the two events, and I think without doubt it was a huge success, with the most people we have had for years. After the tea at Firle Place, we had a collection. In November Kia Trainor (Director, CPRE Sussex), Mary Greenwood and I presented a cheque for £125.00 to Firle School at their morning assembly. The money will go towards buying materials for the school. Afterwards we had a really interesting tour of the buildings. It was amazing and so interesting. The Executive Head Teacher of Firle C of E and Laughton Community Primary Schools has said she would give us a talk about the school in the future. There was a photo and article about the event in the Sussex Express and the spring edition of the National CPRE Fieldwork magazine: all good publicity for the Branch.

The committee met on 13th November and 29th January (Kia was in attendance) and discussed a wide range of matters. Since then we have not met due to the Covid19 restrictions.

I would like to thank John Kay for all his help with planning matters. He has made comments on behalf of the committee during lockdown; we do not want applications to slip through unnoticed. Also, thanks to Martin Heath for attending to the minutes, agendas etc. Thanks also go to all committee members and all the work they do behind the scenes.

Edmund Critchley has resigned after many years as committee member and then chairman, and we thank him for all his work.

Kia, Lesley and Duncan from the office at Blackboys have been a great help to us all. Mary Greenwood took me during the winter to see the office at Brownings Farm; it is quite an amazing place and has a super cafe for coffee and refreshments – well worth a visit in the future.

Plans were well advanced to hold our summer visit and AGM at Ditchling this year and also to have a stand at the Laughton and District Ploughing match at Vuggles Farm, Newick, in September- all of which has had to be cancelled.

In the meantime, plans for a summer visit next year to a 1,200 acre Downland Farm are in the pipeline, if the committee agrees.

We would be very pleased to welcome new committee members, or anybody that would be interested to join. We really do need new blood so do not hesitate to contact the office at Blackboys; we should be only too delighted.

Philip Pople