BDT N&V February 2026

The first Ticehurst Talk of the year was a with Simon Lloyd and the History of the Parish of Ticehurst. His earlier Talk last year was so oversubscribed that he kindly spoke again and included quite of bit of new information. Let's face it, when covering the Years 200 up to 1945, there is a lot of history. Several people who attended have mentioned that they would be very interested in a Talk about the many historic houses in the village and the history behind some of them. This could be followed by tour finishing up at one of the most well-known, the Bell. Any volunteers?

On Thursday February 12th we will be delighted to welcome Nick Brown (Nikwax and Paramo clothing), "How Businesses Can Impact Real Life" A fascinating story of how he built up these companies from nothing to a worldwide business employing 350, some at their facilities in Wadhurst and Cousley Wood.

On March 12th we have Steve Clark, "The Chelsea Flower Show – behind the scenes".

Our main fund raiser on April 9th is the Curry and Comedy Night with Kit Smith (curry) and excellent comedian, Simon Evans, well known from television, Live at the Apollo and radio, Simon Evans goes to Market and The News Quiz amongst many other shows. We will be running an Auction of Promises and raffle so any donations will be gratefully received.

May 14th is Gavin Thompson and the Trans America Army Expedition he led in 1972. 17,000 miles from Anchorage to the tip of South America via the inhospitable, even diabolical 250-mile Darien Gap in Central America. If you thought the roads around here are bad, wait until you find out what Gavin and his team of 6 with 2 Range Rovers encountered.

What else is happening at The Hall. I am pleased to say, lots. At times, out excellent caretaker, John Brooker is having to juggle bookings to fit everyone in. One wake we were pleased to host was that of local farmer and great supporter of the Institute and the village in general, David Maynard in January. Over 150 attended and his family put on a great tribute to him for relatives and friends.

You may remember Bob the Builder? Can we fix it? Yes, we can! This is certainly a moto that we can use when it comes to Parties, celebrations, weddings and unfortunately wakes. With Julie Hill and her team on hand to run the bar and provide all the catering: Can we do it? Yes, we can!

The facilities are obviously available to other caterers and a prime example of this was Kit Smith's excellent Beaujolais Nouveau evening last November. You don't even have to have caterers in. We have a well-equipped kitchen which ideal for preparing refreshments, sandwiches and light snacks. For all enquiries, please contact John 07716 086931. All details are on the Village Hall website. www.ticehurstvillagehall.co.uk

Many of us in the village were sorry to see the Volvo garage closing so for servicing and sales you now need to go to their big centre in Tonbridge.

The main flood lights towards the road may have been required for security but they rather go against the move towards protecting and promoting Dark Skies in the area. However, there was an upside. The lights shine through the main Hall window and I believe that many of the glass panels are original – over 125 years old. The reflection onto the main screen at the stage end and around the whole Hall have been magnificent!

Peter Reeves, Chairman, Beatrice Drewe Trust