BDT News and Views March 2026

We were very fortunate to have Nick Brown, founder of Nikwax and Paramo clothing for the February Talk. Starting off by himself he built a company employing 350 people not only in Wadhurst and Cousley Wood but also in Columbia. Having sold the company to the employees, - so refreshing from many companies that go to private equity, overseas businesses or City investors, he is now concentrating on his charity Green Levers.

March 12th is Steve Clark and a Look Behind the Scenes of the Chelsea Flower Show. You don't have to have green fingers to enjoy this fascinating Talk.

April 9th is a big fund-raising Curry and Comedy Night. The comedian is TV and radio personality, Simon Evans and the curry will be from our very own, Kit Smith. There will be a raffle, with tickets on sale well before and also on the evening plus an Auction of Promises. Thank you to so many local businesses and individuals who have already offered to support this. Other items are very welcome.

May 14th is Gavin Thompson and his amazing story of this 1972 Army expedition driving 18,000 miles from Alaska through the impenetrable (it was until then) Darien Gap to the bottom of Argentina.

June 11th Chris And Sheena Levett return with the History of Apples. The last came to talk about the History of Hops and for those ex hop growers in the room was rather depressing. Apples will be more uplifting, especially if you eat one English apple a day!

We are incredibly lucky to live in a beautiful part of the country and with so many interesting people in and around the Parish. Any suggestions and introductions for future speakers are very welcome.

What's new at Village Institute? We aim to keep the website and the News and Views page up to date so on Mondays we have Charlie's Zumba Class starting at 7pm. Only £5/head for a very enjoyable 45 minutes of exercise.

Money, Money, Money – this time it is not me suggesting that donations are always very welcome to support this wonderful 126 year old building (they are very welcome) but keep Friday June 26th free. The Hall will be hosting an evening with a great ABBA tribute band, excellent food, a well-stocked bar and dancing. Details of how to buy tickets will be published shortly.

Peter Reeves

Chairman of the Beatrice Drewe Trust.