
Mayfield and Five Ashes

Annual Reports from Organisations 2014/15

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

REPORT BY MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER

The Mayfield and Five Ashes Newsletter - or Yellow Pages - has completed 38 years of continuous monthly production. Its remit remains to publish information about events, activities and services in the villages whether by established clubs and societies or by other groups but which are actually taking place in our villages.

We are a secular and non-party publication and we support, in principle, local businesses. All announcements and reports are free but pre-paid low-cost display adverts are included to benefit residents to quickly find nearby sources of help. We also carry news from the Parish Council and about our local schools and churches plus some features of general interest to our readers.

Naturally, specific monthly content changes over time as individuals and organisations in the villages ebb and flow. Likewise the balance of editorial content and adverts slowly shifts; the recent years of financial recession have seen an increase in adverts from local tradespeople but this has now started to decline. We are pleased to have helped businesses promote themselves through our Yellow Pages. Needless to say, some content appeals to some readers and not to others, nevertheless, editors strive to maintain a broad appeal and will edit articles where necessary.

The Newsletter appears on the 1st of each month at several outlets in Mayfield and Five Ashes and the editorial section is also placed on the village website. Each month we print and distribute nearly 700 copies and this has been fairly constant over many years. All the upcoming events in each issue are consolidated in the Dates for your Diary section at the very back of the Newsletter – and these dates can run out to a year hence.

A Committee of 10 volunteers continued to oversee the publication throughout 2014:

Brenda Holding – Chairman & Joint Editor

Nick Gold – Vice-Chairman

Shirley Holland – Secretary

Jackie Hutton – Treasurer

Diane Kirkness – Committee Member

John Holding – Joint Editor

Paul Woodley – Advertising Secretary

Jim Pointer – Printing Team Leader

Lyn Topley – Editorial Team Member

Kas Shepperson – Five Ashes Representative

Other team members, not formally on the committee are: Warwick Child (Advertising), John Neal, Iain Rutherford, John MacDonald, Trevor Bartlett (Printing Team), Ken Wapling (Distribution) and John Gaunt (Compiler / IT Consultant).

My thanks go to my colleagues – who are all unpaid volunteers who do dedicated service month after month. At the moment we are seeking additional help on the editorial front – anyone interested should please contact me (872735).

Brenda M Holding – Chairman, Mayfield and Five Ashes Newsletter



Mayfield Church of England Primary School

We have had an extremely busy year at Mayfield CE primary School. As our school is growing in numbers we have been carefully planning for expansion to a 1 form entry school; our 7th classroom arrives over the summer holidays and we are busy putting the necessary staffing in place to enable this to happen successfully. Our admission numbers are confirmed for 2015/16 and we are thrilled to be oversubscribed, a testament to the hard work the staff have put in to make our school a popular choice with families.

We had a wonderful visit by the Bishop of Lewes in November along with Cannon Dr Ann Holt, the Diocesan Director of Education: the Bishop very kindly agreed to bless our new bird sculpture which is located on the roundel wall as you enter school. All children and adults involved with our school created a beautiful and original clay bird which all flock to form a cross and the result is stunning.

We have also been busy improving our school grounds and have had our playground wall sandblasted to take it back to the original Victorian brick. Alongside this the children have new picnic and seating benches made from recycled plastic which were very kindly provided by the Friends of Mayfield Primary School.

I am particularly proud of the children's charitable achievements this year; At Christmas time they raised nearly £800 for the Chestnut Tree House children's hospice, nearly £300 for Marie Curie Cancer Care, over £400 for the Royal British Legion and nearly £400 for Comic Relief.

As the new curriculum beds in we are enjoying the chance to explore our local area and all children now spend 6 days a year in the forest, along with 3 'welly walks' looking at seasonal changes and geographical features.

We have also been lucky enough to be provided with Learnpad tablet computers and children are using these to enhance their learning and learn to Code.

We have also been thrilled that so many new reading volunteers from the village have joined us this year; it makes our school a vibrant and welcoming learning community and enables us to feel a real part of our village.

We have further strengthened our links with St Dunstan's Church and visit at the start of each term to celebrate our new 'Value'. This service is organised and presented by the children and so far has been a wonderful addition to our collective worship.

Underpinning all of this is the continuing improvement in standards at Mayfield which is as a result of the dedicated staff's extremely hard work, we are lucky to have such a fantastic staff team.

Sarah Curtis
Headteacher



**Five Ashes Church of England Primary School
Report for the Annual Parish Meeting
2014 - 2015**



We have three very well resourced classes, a hall, a well stocked library, two separate group teaching areas, an infant indoor activity and play area, plus an all weather outdoor activity area. Our playground facilities include an outdoor learning area, playhouse, seating area and other educational toys. Our Breakfast Club is very popular and runs on a daily basis and is open to all pupils.

As a village school with small classes and high adult to pupil ratios we offer all of our pupils' excellent levels of support together with a personalised learning experience.

Our rich and varied curriculum includes educational visits, drama and music workshops as well as a wide range of sporting opportunities. This year, for example the whole school took part in an interactive theatre production called "The Return of Captain Grammaticus", presented by the Quantum Theatre Company. This production supports the development of grammar in the English curriculum in an exciting and fun way.

The "Friends" of our school support our pupils with fund raising and fun events, which this year have included a Children's Disco and a Film Night, complete with popcorn and soft drinks.

We joined with other primary schools in the Heathfield area for a series of shared educational events, including the "Big Dance" performed by our older pupils on stage at the Assembly Hall Tunbridge Wells. Other joint events included the Area Schools Swimming Gala, Tag Rugby Tournament and Cross Country.

As part of last terms' science curriculum work, Oak Class (Y5/6) enjoyed a special workshop on "forces" during a visit to the Science Museum in London. Maple Class children (Y3/4) took part in an Egyptian workshop as part of their topic on life in Ancient Egypt.

Visitors to our school included the charity "Justdifferent" who held interactive workshops in each class. Our children learnt how we can create positive social attitudes towards disability and difference.

Oak Class joined Y5 & 6 children from Mayfield Primary School to take part in "Christmas unwrapped" a series of activities based round the story of Christmas. The event took place at St Dunstons Church in Mayfield. In February 2015, our older children again teamed up with children from Mayfield Primary School for an enjoyable visit to the Imperial War Museum in London, courtesy of our local British Legion.

We run a wide range of well supported after school clubs, including science, recorders, guitars, football and dance. As part of their curriculum provision all junior age children learn to play the recorder as well as learning to speak French.

MAYFIELD ENERGY PROJECT

OUR MISSION is to supply Mayfield with our own locally generated electricity through clean, green, renewable, community owned projects.

- By examining the Parish's energy needs and commissioning a feasibility study to identify a programme of renewable energy solutions
- By identifying suitable sites for power generation including solar, wind and biomass
- By setting up of a green energy group purchasing scheme
- By establishing a financial co-operative to explore raising funds through a community share issue
- By providing help and information to improve the thermal performance of existing housing stock
- By accepting responsibility for our own energy needs through environmentally sustainable responses

Inspired by the success of projects such as Balcombe and Forest Row, we want Mayfield to enjoy the benefits of an ethical, community owned, renewable energy co-operative. The schemes being set up in our neighbouring communities show us realistic and achievable examples as to how to make it work in Mayfield – Balcombe has successfully installed its first solar project and raised funds through the sale of shares for its second and third installations. Forest Row is not far behind.

Among the first steps is to commission a full feasibility study, examining the needs of the village, the housing stock and the community buildings. An application is being made to the Rural Community Energy Fund for a grant to cover the costs of this initial assessment, with another lump sum available to help fund the project once we identify the best way forward.

To allow us to progress to the next stage, Mayfield Energy Project badly needs more members to join the committee. Due to the complex nature of establishing a co-operative and due to the myriad potential projects which could flow out from any concerted green energy programme, we are looking for people who could offer their skills in renewables/energy, business and financial management, legal, engineering and construction, PR and social media, environmental sector, local government etc. In addition we will be looking for anyone interested to put their time to help organise Mayfield's response to the challenge of improving our energy efficiency and to help drive us towards meeting our community's energy needs on a local and sustainable basis.

For further information and to become involved, please contact us

mayfieldenergyproject@gmail.com

<http://www.mayfieldenergyproject.com/>

Katie Treherne & Lesley Rogers

Useful links -

<http://www.1010uk.org/articles/how-coal-country-can-spark-clean-energy-revolution>

<http://www.repowerbalcombe.com>

www.forestrowenergy.com

<http://www.catalystproject.info>



FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL & MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD TRUST

Five Ashes, East Sussex. TN20 6JA

Annual Report

This report is from the Village Hall committee and is a summary of the activities it has undertaken over the course of the last twelve months from April 2014 to March 2015. The committee is made up of from a wide cross section of the community and also representatives from most of the user groups, who act as trustees for the period of their tenure. This mix helps to ensure that the specific interests and views are sought from as wide a range of users as possible in the decision making process.

Meetings have been held on a monthly basis as the work load increased significantly during the build period of the hall. Depending on the work load ad hoc sub committees are formed to progress one off events. The annual general meeting is held in March and is an open forum where the committee chairman provides an annual report to the assembled and the treasurer presents the annual audited accounts. At this meeting the committee is elected for the coming year.

As well as the regular routine committee work which is dealt with under a standard agenda at each meeting, the committee has adopted a strategic plan to shape the development of the work which it deems necessary to manage the on-going provision of a village hall in Five Ashes.

There are five objectives within the plan, which largely remain unchanged from one year to the next, as they are very much about the mission which is *“the provision of the best possible recreational facilities to support and sustain a community infrastructure.”*

In summary :-

During the last year the village hall internal and external fabric of the building has been completely overhauled, with some structural work incorporated into the rebuilding process. The refurbishment enabled the provision of new toilet facilities suitable for all age groups, as well as specific disabled facilities to be provided.

The building work started in March 2014 and was due to be completed in September 2014. There was an overrun on the building programme and the building was not handed over completely until October of that year. This did cause some issues with the starting programme for some of the user groups but hire charges were waived as a gesture of goodwill for the inconvenience. The big lottery representative made a final ‘sign off’ visit in January 2015 and released the last part of the grant later that month. Chris Dowling (East Sussex County Councillor) also attended this meeting to view the facilities and to hear first-hand the accolades from the Big Lottery, who were very impressed with the overall finish and the value for money which we had achieved. Funding was also received from Wealden District council to ensure the final detailing of the building was completed to a high standard, as we had set out to do from the start of the project.

The external work, in particular the car park definition and surfacing, was completed in March just prior to the official opening. The better weather will enable the final landscaping of the field side of the building to be completed in the next month (April).

The playing field has seen some improvements to it during the course of the year. Students from Plumpton College brought a range of equipment over for a day and cut back all the overhanging branches of the trees bordering the field in order to re-establish a boundary line.

The Western end of the field was sand slitted to re-establish the drainage system (which had been damaged by a herd of cattle two years ago) using the insurance money obtained.

The official hall opening was held on 28th March this year to coincide with the spring show of the Horticultural Society.

Our guest of honour invited to perform the opening was Jayne Torvill OBE. The Gold medallist and star of Dancing on Ice stayed for a tour of the building and watched a performance by the Heathfield School of Dance before touring the exhibits of the Horticultural show and awarding the prizes. The event was particularly well attended, with both halls filled with people.

The summer saw the arrival of the Heathfield Park Cricket Club who are using the field and facilities as the home base for one of their teams. They are always looking for new members who can be assured of a warm welcome as well as a competitive game of cricket played in a very friendly atmosphere. The preparation of the wicket and maintenance of the square is carried out by their own grounds staff to help keep the cost of playing to a reasonable level.

The Summer Horticultural Show and dog show were both successful events and we hope to expand the number of stall holders for the combined Horticultural show and village fete this year.

The weather was not at all kind to us for the Firework evening but the number of people who turned out to brave the elements was as good as the previous year. We secured sponsorship for this event which steadied the financial nerves, as this event is a major expense and attendance is variable depending on the weather. This is now well established in the local calendar of events. The rain held off for the evening long enough for about 300 people to come and enjoy the event. As with many of our activities we rely heavily on people giving freely of their time to make things happen and are grateful to those people who turn out to get involved, a real community effort.

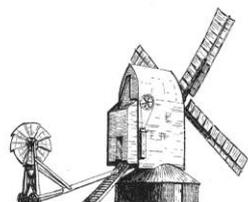
The '300 Club', which is a fund raising arm of the village hall continues to be well supported and ably led and managed by an enthusiastic group. New members continue to be recruited yet we are still keen for more people to get involved and come to the monthly draw at the Five Ashes Inn on the first Monday of the month.

The Community dividend, administered by the Parish Council, provided help to purchase some much needed kitchen equipment for the benefit of all the users of the hall.

In addition to our regular users we welcomed ACRES (The Adult College for East Sussex) as a new user this year. We hope that this will become a regular venue for them so please sign up to one of their courses.

As part of our commitment to the community we hosted an afternoon 'tea and chat' for our senior citizens. This was well attended and requests have been received to provide further such events.

Outside the remit of the village hall committee, but of great concern to all residents, is the increasing number and frequency of motorists who either speed through the village or clearly do not pay any attention to the controlled crossing, provided to assist safe crossing of a very busy through route. Individuals have reported that they regularly themselves have to take evasive action whilst crossing the road, using this provision. It would appear that the speed calming measures which were to be put in place post the resurfacing of the road have not materialised or are totally ineffective.



Argos Hill Windmill Trust Limited

ANNUAL REPORT. April 2015

We have had a very successful year in which we have seen the main body of the Mill restored.

Our Millwrights, JHE have now cleared the site to enable our team of volunteers to erect the weatherboarding. John Moat from Douglas Moat and Partners has worked extremely hard managing the project and we have been very fortunate to have had the benefit of his expertise. No matter what problems arise, he always remains calm and good humoured.

Once the volunteer work to the cladding has been accomplished the millwright will return to replace the stocks (this time with galvanised steel) and install the replacement sweeps (sails). Margaret and John Bowerman have allowed us to both store and paint boarding in their outhouses as Madeleine and Fred Farbrother did before them. Without this support we could not have used our wonderful team of volunteers and the renovation would not have been feasible.

We are always seeking new volunteers to add to our friendly teams. If you fancy helping to erect the weatherboarding or would like to help clean and paint some of the shutters for the 'sweeps' we would love to hear from you.

Alain Beaupain has started to make the new oak steps for the entrance into the Mill and anticipates completing them by July of this year.

Regarding funding we have a shortfall of approximately £15,000 to complete the stocks and sweeps and then we will need to raise further funds for the final phase to restore the fantail and internal machinery. The 'Friends' will keep you informed of their fundraising activities through the local newsletters. Their Big Band event on St Valentine's night was much enjoyed and raised a very pleasing £850.

If you are interested to learn more about the renovation John Moat will be giving a short talk about the renovations after the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill AGM at the Scout and Guide Hall (Mayfield) on Thursday 30th April (7.30 for 8 pm). There will also be a talk about our Mill for the History Society (20th November in Mayfield Memorial Hall at approximately 7.30 pm) from another enthusiastic member of our team.

This time next year we should be informing you of our opening ceremony and discussing Open Days and Mill visits; exciting times!

Please contact Alain Beaupain for volunteering on 01892 853161

Donations may be made either using PayPal at <http://www.argoshillwindmill.org.uk> or by sending a cheque to Mr Geoffrey Daughtrey, Post Mill House, High Cross, Rotherfield, TN6 3QF.

Argos Hill Windmill Trust Ltd.

www.argoshillwindmill.org.uk

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