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NO. 512 SEPTEMBER 2020

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our September edition, in which there is much to be thankful for, to remember with pride, to get involved with and lend your support, and to celebrate, midst the continuing challenges of dealing with COVID 19. We even have the return of Dates for your Diary! Some via Zoom it must be said, but Dates nonetheless!

Our most obvious cause for celebration is the 'Wealden Hero' award, given to Shirley Holland for her work with MAYFACS. We are truly fortunate to have the team at MAYFACS providing such support for the whole community. Well done Shirley and all the team, including the many volunteers.

In a normal September many of us would be looking forward to Carnival Day but given the current restrictions this cannot be held. Instead, we are featuring the Bonfire Society and its history and background. Mayfield's Boyes & Belles Bonfire Society have made an appeal for any old documents, programmes, photos, press cuttings, etc, particularly from the first half of the 20th century, so an archive can be established of the history of the Society, as much seems to have been retained by previous Chairmen and families that are no longer involved.

STOP PRESS - The PreSchool will have to close in September with the loss of 9 jobs unless a shortfall of £584 per month can be raised. See further info on how you can help on the enclosed leaflet.

Jeanette Hore & Philip James - Editors

DEADLINES FOR COPY AND HOW TO CONTACT US

MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com by noon on the 15th. Please include your organisation, name or the topic of your copy in the Subject line of your email. Submissions must show the subject, name of author and a contact number in case of queries. We cannot accept hand-written copy at the Shopping Basket under current regulations. If you cannot email, please phone 872665.

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USEFUL INFORMATION

Post Office Opening Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 09.30 – 16.30; Saturday 09.30-13.00. Closed Monday, Wednesday & Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE The Post Office will be **CLOSED** Saturday, 22nd August – Saturday, 5th September.

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL NEWS SEPTEMBER 2020

Mayfield Community and Health Centre Project Update

Following the good news in the August update we can now report a number of further positive developments:

1: Fields in Trust

Many will be aware of the confused legal situation, as to whether Court Meadow was ever formally registered as a King George V Playing Field back in 1939. Notwithstanding this lack of legal clarity, there was a clear desire from the parish at the time to preserve Court Meadow for recreational purposes in perpetuity, and still today, no one wishes to see the playing area sold for housing.

Hence, with regard to the current replacement hall and the construction of a combined community and health centre, the Parish Council has endeavoured to reach a mutually acceptable agreement with Fields in Trust, which now administers King George V Playing Fields. We are pleased to report that Fields in Trust and the Parish Council have agreed the following arrangement:

- The existing grass recreational area in Court Meadow, comprising some 11 acres, is to be put into the Fields in Trust Protection Scheme via a new Deed of Declaration
- Jubilee Wood, which is other land owned by the Parish Council, comprising 2 acres of woodland, is also to be protected in the Scheme via a second Deed of Declaration
- The 2 acre 'brownfield' area in Court Meadow, occupied by the existing hall and car parks etc, will in future fall outside of the remit of Fields in Trust, and hence the Trust's permission, or any involvement in the building of a new community and health centre on this parcel of land, is not required.

This agreement will remove all the project impediments with regards to KGV Playing Fields and Fields in Trust.

2: NHS Clinical Commissioning Group

Wealden District Council is fully funding the health centre element of the project, but for them to do so, a commitment from the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is also required that they will support the GP practice in Mayfield for 25 years. This commitment has been forthcoming, and hence a further hurdle has been overcome.

3: Wealden District Council

Given the developments detailed above, WDC is now in a position to enter into detailed discussions with the Parish Council to agree the Heads of Terms document, which defines the governance and working arrangements between the parties, and the Architect's brief, which defines the requirements to which the selected architect will be working.

Once the key documents are agreed in principle with WDC, they will be ratified by the Parish Council, hopefully at its full Council Meeting on September 2020. Following this, an Architect can be appointed, who will be charged with recommending some design options covering precise location, internal layout, massing of the building and aesthetic look, together with

estimated costs of each option. These options will be presented to the Parish at a second Public Consultation which will take place early in 2021, when the village can decide on their preferred option.

A decision having been made on a design option, the Architect will develop detailed plans, apply for planning permission, and, if granted, the building contract can then be awarded.

Parish Council Grants

As mentioned in the August edition of the Newsletter, applications for grants payable in the 2020/21 financial year should be submitted to the Parish Clerk by 30th September 2020. Individual grants may be made available up to a maximum of £500. They must be match funded, therefore applicants must cover at least 50% of the total project cost. Information on how to apply and the application form can be found in the "Key Documents / Finance" section on the Parish Council website: <https://mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk/home/>. If you do not have internet access, please contact the Parish Council office on 873784.

Accident on the by-pass

At the end of July there was a serious road traffic accident, involving an 81 year-old gentleman pushing a bicycle and a motorbike at the island crossing opposite Fir Toll Road. The police, ambulance and air ambulance were all involved. One of our Councillors contacted East Sussex County Councillors to request that the area was assessed for safety, particularly due to the verges and foliage that were impeding sight-lines. The Highway Steward responded quickly and raised a 'job' for the vegetation to be cut back within five days. We were informed it would be re-inspected once this had been done, to see if anything further is required.

South Street toilets

I am pleased to be able to advise that the public conveniences were reopened on 25th July. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Parish Council requests that the hand sanitiser at the entrance is used, and that only one person enters at a time, unless accompanying a minor. Residents waiting to go in are requested to adhere to the social distancing rules and queue two meters apart.

Playgrounds

Unfortunately, we have been facing a losing battle in keeping the playgrounds closed, to prevent the play equipment being used and contaminated with Covid19. Signs have repeatedly been torn down and the cable ties cut to open the gates. Scientific advice suggests that the Covid-19 virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces. Regular sanitising of equipment is not considered a practical solution, due to the time and resource requirement. As a result, the Parish Council has to advise that, if you do decide to enter and use the equipment, you do so at your own choice and risk. You should note and follow the below:

1. The equipment is checked regularly for damage and wear and tear but is not sanitised.
2. It is shared equipment and used at your own risk.
3. Do not use this equipment if you or any member of your household has coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating.
4. You are advised that children should not use this equipment if they are clinically or extremely clinically vulnerable.

5. Make sure you have hand sanitiser with you before entering the playground.
6. Encourage everyone in your family to wash their hands with hand sanitiser regularly and, as a minimum, before and after using the playground.
7. Encourage children to avoid touching their faces
8. You MUST maintain social distancing from others, unless they are from the same household. Current advice is to maintain at least 2m apart where possible and consider wearing a face mask.
9. Some equipment can only be used by one child at a time while social distancing. Please ensure your family waits at a safe distance if the equipment is in use or return later to use the equipment
10. Try to avoid busy times.
11. If your family is wearing disposable PPE, please take it home with you or where provided use the bins – DO NOT LITTER.
12. Wash your hands when you get home.

Update from the Director of Public Health for East Sussex

Part of my job as Director of Public Health for East Sussex is to ensure we take all reasonable measures to protect our county from coronavirus. I want to tell you a bit more about what is being done.

Firstly, we have published our Covid-19 Outbreak Control Plan for East Sussex, as required by the Government. You can read the full plan online. We have no particular reason to think there will be an outbreak here, but we must be prepared for the possibility. The Plan sets out how we would respond in the event of an outbreak.

Rest assured that we would communicate with all our partners, residents and businesses as quickly and efficiently as possible in that scenario. An outbreak could be at the level of a premises, a street, a district or an entire town, and we would contact everyone likely to be affected immediately.

In the meantime, it is vital that we maintain a collective front against the virus. This means keeping social distance, washing hands regularly, wearing masks in enclosed spaces and supporting the government's Test and Trace programme. It is critical that anyone who thinks they have symptoms of Covid-19 gets tested and self-isolates, along with others in their household. They must also self-isolate if contacted by the government tracing service, because they have been exposed to someone with the virus.

You can see the latest figures for cases in East Sussex, and its boroughs and districts, on our site which is updated weekly. We are continuing to monitor the situation especially closely in Eastbourne, as the area has persistently been showing a higher rate of cases during June and July than many neighbouring areas in the South East. Even so, at no stage has the number of new cases during this period gone above six a day, and, in discussion with partners including Public Health England and Eastbourne Borough Council, I am satisfied that no additional measures are needed at the moment. It is a reminder that the virus is still circulating in the community and that we are all responsible for social distancing, hygiene and supporting the Test and Trace programme.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in East Sussex for the efforts they are already making to stay safe and control the virus. Our planning depends on co-operation with every partner organisation, business and resident in East Sussex, because ultimately we are all responsible for our mutual protection.

East Sussex Together – Coping with the virus survey

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the survey on how the Covid19 virus is affecting you. There were well over 10,000 responses, and the results will guide the work to help East Sussex rebuild and recover.

Here's a selection from what you told them:

- Community: more than one in three people (35%) said they felt closer to their community as a result of the virus. A similar number (36%) felt there was no change and a slightly smaller number (28%) said they felt more distant
- Your finances: one in 10 people (10%) said their household income had been greatly reduced by the pandemic, and a further one in four (26%) said they had suffered some reduction
- Health and care: your biggest concern, chosen by almost half (47%). The next greatest areas of concern were finances (20%), education (15%) and crime and safety (7%)
- Education: more parents of school-age children said they would be confident sending their children to school than not. Of these, 42% were confident, 40% were not and 12% were unsure
- Local economy: improving the local economy was the single biggest priority for the future (chosen by 30% of people). This was closely followed by quality of life (24%), by public services and by the environment (both 17%), and then by education (12%).

Information from Sussex Police

A total of 83 arrests were made during a two-week crackdown on drink and drug-drivers in Sussex. If you are prepared to drive under the influence of drink or drugs, prepare to face the consequences including:

- Killing or seriously injuring yourself or someone else
- A minimum 12 month ban
- An unlimited fine
- A possible prison sentence
- A criminal record, which could affect your current and future employment
- An increase in your car insurance costs
- Trouble travelling to countries such as the USA.

People in Sussex can text officers on 65999 with the details of people they suspect of drink or drug-driving or visit the Operation Crackdown website. You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it online. If you know someone is driving while over the limit or after taking drugs, call 999

Meetings

The meeting schedule on the website at www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk shows this month's Council and Committee meetings, as well as agendas, minutes of meetings and other relevant documentation. This is also available for viewing at the Parish Council Office. Please email the Clerk for Meeting joining instructions, up to half an hour before a meeting commences.

Janna Todd - Parish Clerk to Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council

The Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield TN20 6AL

Telephone 873784

E-mail: clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk



PUBLIC OPENING TIMES

Monday 09.00 – 11.00
Wednesday 09.00 – 12.00
Friday 09.00 – 11.00

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www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

MAYFACS

(Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services)

www.mayfacs.org.uk Helpline Number 873888

Office Opening

From this month, unless the government say otherwise, we will be in the office again most Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If we have to have the door shut, please knock and wait for an answer, and be aware of the 2m distance. We are happy to help with advice, information, photocopying/printing, have hand sanitising liquid and wipes for the door handle and have arranged the office to allow two of us to work in there socially distanced, and have one visitor at a time. We have face coverings for us to wear and if you would like us to wear ours, please let us know when you come in.

Questionnaires

Thank you very much for your responses to our questionnaires (paper and online). We have been very moved by the lovely comments and thanks received. Your responses will help us with our planning.

Activities

While the weather is fine, Yarners will be held outside from 2-3.30pm on Monday afternoons. As I write this article, we are in discussions with the Memorial Hall and Five Ashes Hall as to how we can restart our activities. This may mean a change of day and/or holding activities in smaller groups. We will keep you posted, and, if you can, please also check our website or Facebook page for the latest information.

Matinee Films

All being well these will resume from October 8th, starting with 'Military Wives'. Numbers will be restricted to 30 people, including the organisers and volunteers, so people will have to book a place to attend this. We will also, hopefully, be providing tea and cake, but people will need to bring their own mugs/cups. For more information on how to book a place please ring 873888 and there will be further details in the October Newsletter.

Military Wives

Inspired by the global phenomenon of military wives' choirs (but without Gareth Malone), this film celebrates the women who form a choir on a military base. Unexpected friendships flourish, music and laughter transform their lives, as they help each other to overcome their fears for loved ones on active service. Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan are the mismatched leaders of the group

Helpline

We are still here providing support if you need it. If you need help with prescription collection, shopping, you are contacted by Test and Trace, something else or you just want to talk to us, please do ring 873888. From this month, messages will be picked up from Monday to Friday only.

Community Transport

As we reported last month, Community Cars is now under our umbrella. We will still be providing transport to medical and dental appointments. Just ring 873888, leave your name, telephone number, date, time and place of your appointment. You will be contacted. However, please note, the messages for a car are checked frequently, but not at weekends and please give as much notice as possible.

Hardship Fund

If you are finding yourself struggling and need a bit of help financially, please do get in touch. You can ring 873888, leave your name and telephone number and someone will call you back or email hardshipfund@mayfacs.org.uk. We treat every contact in the strictest confidence.

Just Giving

Thank you to the many people who have made financial donations to us. Everything helps, especially as we are receiving no income from our activities. If you wish to donate to support what we are giving to the community, please go to www.justgiving/mayfacs and you can donate online to support us.

Easyfundraising

For those things that you cannot get in the village and for which you need to online shop, please go through our Easyfundraising site and earn extra pennies for us as a charity. It does not cost you anything! www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mayfacs/

Contact Details – Shirley Holland, Alex Firrell or Freya Huxtable

Telephone: 873888 and leave a message. We will phone you back.

www.mayfacs.org.uk; Emails: manager@mayfacs.org.uk; alexandra@mayfacs.org.uk; freya@mayfacs.org.uk

FEATURES

MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

THE CARNIVAL

The Mayfield Bonfire Society has held a carnival in Mayfield almost every year for nearly a century, except during times of war and typhoid infection. Unfortunately, once again, during our current war against the Covid-19 virus, we will not be holding a Carnival procession this year. Nevertheless, in this feature we look at some of the people involved with the Society and this popular event.

The Background to the Carnival: the Protestant Martyrs of Mayfield

Sussex Bonfire Societies were formed to commemorate the burning of Protestant martyrs during the Catholic Reformation. In the reign of the Catholic Queen Mary I of England, 1553 – 1558, Protestants who did not renounce their faith were publicly burnt at the stake, and Mayfield had four such martyrs who were burnt on 24th September 1556. They were John Hart, Thomas Ravendale, a currier (or leather specialist) and shoemaker and two others believed to be Nicholas Holden, a weaver, and an unnamed currier. The place of their martyrdom is said to have been about ten yards from the main road through Mayfield, close to where the memorial stands outside Colkins Mill Church on Station Road. This spot is quite close to the original place of execution, which was further along and 15 yards to the south of Station Road, where a Dr Hall's house was. This house is now called "Mulberry", previously "Elbury" and "The Wilderness", opposite the tennis courts.

Three more local people, William Maynard, Thomasina Wood and Alexander Hosman were burnt, alongside seven others, on 22nd June 1557, outside the Star Inn at the top of Cliffe Hill in Lewes. Maynard is said to have been a member of an ancient family at Mayfield, and Thomasina a native of Mayfield, a maid in his service. In a book on Mayfield by Miss E.M. Bell Irving, one can read a quotation from "The Register of Martyrs" published in 1559, which deals with this event in rhyme:

*When William Maynard, his maid and man, Margery Morris and her son,
Dennis Burgess, Stevens and Woodman,
Groves' wife and Ashdon's to death were done,
When one fire at Lewes brought them to death
We wished for our Elizabeth"*

(Taken from www.sussexmartyrs.co.uk)

Burnings were carried out in public before large crowds and could involve horrible and prolonged suffering. Martyrs friends were allowed to hang gunpowder around his or her neck, in the hope that the gunpowder would explode and hasten death, but this did not always work. To commemorate these horrific deaths, the Mayfield Bonfire Society carries four burning crosses at the start of their procession and finishes the evening with a display of fireworks.

Many of the Sussex Bonfire Societies of today wear jumpers with a ringed or hooped pattern, known as their Stripes, with each Society wearing their own colours. There are two theories as to why this might be. The first is that the jumpers were inspired by the striped shirts of the Sussex Smugglers, - a multitude of gangs who ruled the East Sussex coastline in the 1700's. Mayfield was a base for a powerful company of Smugglers with its leader, Gabriel Tomkins, claiming to smuggle a very impressive 11 tons of tea and coffee a year. The second theory is that, as Bonfire Society celebrations became more popular, busy and sometimes riotous, it would be particularly difficult for the authorities to single anyone out for punishment if everyone wore the same and also partially "blackened" their faces and wore neckerchiefs to further hinder identification.

At over a mile long, with 5,000 burning torches, the Mayfield procession is believed to be the longest in Sussex, other than the Lewes Grand United Procession on 5th November. Thousands of people flock to the village each year to take part in the carnival and watch this spectacular event.

The Boyes and Belles

Mayfield has had bonfire groups for many years and the current Society was believed to be formed in the 1930s. Members of the Society, known as Bonfire Boyes and Belles, work throughout the year to raise money and host the Carnival, which is held on the third Saturday of the month of September, being closest to the date of the 1556 burnings.

It is a huge team effort to put on the annual Carnival, orchestrated for many years by the tireless former Chair, Jo Lee. Work begins in early spring, when Ken Audsley leads a stick-cutting party to cut the thousands of torch sticks needed each year. Then Pete Allen and Kenny Streeter organise the cutting of 10,000 pieces of board and the drilling of 30,000 holes in preparation for torch-making. A group of volunteers, including the core team of Kevin Leeves, Stuart Neve, Mark Thomson, Christine and Michael Vangils, spend many an enjoyable summer Saturday morning assembling the torches outside the Scout Hut, with refreshments and encouragement supplied by Sylvia Leeves.

Meanwhile, Jo Lee and her twin sister Jill Pring spend months getting all the behind-the-scenes activities organised. These include booking the fireworks, bands, Harvey's beer, St John's Ambulance and police support, writing the Health and Safety plans and applications for road closures, setting up the bar and catering, co-opting volunteers and liaising with the other visiting societies.

The Boyes and Belles also organise fundraising activities throughout the year, including monthly Bingo, the twice-yearly famous Quiz & Chilli, plus a summer concert and Build-a-Guy competition to raise the £9,000 it costs to host the carnival.

On the day itself, an army of volunteers is needed to help put up the signs and marshal the roadblocks, set up the radio communications and liaise with the police, set up and man the all-important bar, make cakes and sandwiches and serve refreshments for visiting societies, and carry collection buckets to raise funds for local charities. Most of the members and volunteers are helping behind the scenes, while up front, Alex Butcher dons his bespoke suit to commentate and a small group of Boyes and Belles dress up to lead the procession, carrying the Martyrs' crosses and torches.

Other Sussex Bonfire Societies attend Mayfield's procession and we also send a small group of walkers to represent Mayfield in their processions from September through to November. Some people love to walk every event, others just once or twice a year.

The year finishes with the Boyes and Belles hosting a festive lunch in December, providing a three course Christmas meal and entertainment for around 90 senior citizens, and distributing the remaining funds they have collected to local charities, such as the Scouts and MAYFACS. Typically they collect £1,200 - £1,500 for charity in those buckets they shake at spectators during the carnival procession.

The Next Generation

Many Boyes and Belles grew up with the Bonfire Society, walking in the procession as children together with past generations of their family, or helping collect the torches with the Scouts. People newly moving to the village have more recently joined the Society, and through this found new friends and a sense of shared purpose. The former directors, Jo Lee and Jill Pring, are now taking a well-earned break from many years of organising the Carnival, though the Carnival is in their blood and they will still be lifetime members of the Society.

The Bonfire Society now has a very small committee including Diana Forest, Company Secretary; Rob Foster, Treasurer plus long-term volunteers Simon Heaton and Catherine Hawley. They also have a small group of members and volunteers, who help with the many and various activities, from torch making to fundraising. Many volunteers have been helping for years, and recently some older members have needed to take a step back and a well-earned rest. So it is now time for a new generation to help organise this important village event. The Society is looking to recruit more members and volunteers, who can help in any way they can. Whether you love dressing up and walking in the procession, can help the working party drill all those holes, join the committee to organise the event, or just offer an hour or two of support on the day, any contribution will be much appreciated.

Please contact Diana Forest (bolfor@btinternet.com) if you wish to join the Society or volunteer to help in any way.

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Yellow Meadow Ants - South Downs Skyscrapers

If you're feeling boxed-in by buildings and overwhelmed by architecture, I've found the perfect escape route. Head up onto the South Downs and let the developed world be stripped away with every step. Yet here, in this ancient landscape, towering above the thyme and trefoils in the turf, you'll find some of the most impressive buildings in Sussex.

Ant hills are mini miracles of design and construction, the visible tip of the ant's underground empire. Soil is mined and carried, grain by grain, to the surface to construct this metropolis of mounds some of which can be centuries old. Every ant hill represents a separate colony of Yellow Meadow Ants – respected as the finest architects amongst Britain's 42 ant species.

Ant hills are high-rise heat-traps built to harvest the sun's warmth. This soil solarium houses a series of chambers; the colony's nursery. Here, worker ants tenderly tend to eggs, pupae and larvae – moving them around within the ant hill to keep them always on the sunny side.

With a strong division of labour, each colony is a 'superorganism' made of thousands of hard-working individuals serving a common cause – their colony and queen. But life is far from peaceful. Every ant hill is a miniature kingdom at war with its neighbouring ant hills. Epic battles are fought daily on these downs, and every summer squadrons of winged ants take to the skies in an attempt to establish new colonies. It's a perilous mission – certain death awaits them if they land in occupied territory.

Down under the ant hill, other ants work on the aphid farm. Root-feeding aphids are herded and 'milked' for their honeydew – a hi-energy drink which helps fuel the colony. Ants also obtain a similar sugary syrup from the caterpillars of Chalk Hill Blue butterflies. When these caterpillars are ready to pupate they are carried underground and adopted by the ant colony. Upon emergence, the subterranean homesick blue butterflies scramble back to the surface and escape to the summer skies.

Ant hills don't just benefit ants; their angles and aspects create a unique micro-habitat on chalk downland. Their sun-baked slopes are great for basking butterflies, grasshoppers and lizards and their soft, sifted soil is loved by mosses, grasses and flowers. This softness is also their vulnerability. Every ant lives in fear of the great winged terror from the sky – the green woodpecker. Its brutal bill and sticky harpoon tongue can cause carnage in a colony. Winged monsters, kingdoms at war – it's a veritable Game of Thrones out there on the South Downs in September.

Michael Blencowe

BOOK REVIEW

"A GENIUS IN THE FAMILY" BY HILARY AND PIERS DU PRE

Mention Edward Elgar's moving cello concerto and, for many of us, the image that flies into our minds is that of the amazing performer Jacqueline du Pre. Few concert artists could surely surpass that dynamic, free-spirited Sixties "chick" when it comes to giving an electrifying rendering of one of Elgar's most haunting compositions, made all the more poignant by the tragedy which was to follow. Jackie's brilliant stardom was brutally cut short only a few years later, when she was struck down by multiple sclerosis, rendering her wheelchair bound until her death in 1987, aged 42. Sadly, however, memory of her genius has been blighted by the furious controversy erupting after her death, following the publication of her two siblings' memoirs and even more so by its filmed adaptation "Hilary and Jackie".

Jackie was born in 1945, into a highly musically gifted family, with an older sister Hilary and brother Piers. At an early age, both sisters were entered into local music competitions and it seemed, initially, as though Hilary, the flautist, would be the bigger achiever. When it came to winning awards, however, she was soon overtaken by Jackie the cellist, and in 1960 Jackie, aged 15, won the Gold Medal at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. To her tutors, it quickly became apparent that she possessed a rare talent, which she combined with restless dynamic energy. Jackie exhibited flamboyance while playing which, as her fame grew, was to become her hallmark. More accolades followed, and in 1963 Jackie played the Elgar Concerto at the Proms with Sir Malcolm Sargent. Two years later this concerto was recorded for EMI, with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir John Barbirolli, bringing Jackie worldwide fame. The popularity of this recording has never diminished. Jackie's schoolwork suffered, but, meanwhile, she toured worldwide, performing in Russia and the U.S., sometimes with leading conductors such as Barbirolli, Sargent, Boult, Barenboim and Bernstein. She was presented with the Stradivarius Cello made in 1712, which accompanied her worldwide and on which she played for her most famous recordings. In 1966 Jackie met Daniel Barenboim, an Argentinean-Israeli pianist and conductor, and the couple, later known as the 'golden couple of the music world', married the following year in Jerusalem, Jackie having converted to Judaism. In 1971 the first early signs of deterioration in Jackie's playing appeared, and in 1973 she was diagnosed with MS. Her condition progressively worsened. She no longer gave public concerts after February 1973, although she tutored privately. Jackie died in October 1987 and is buried in Golders Green Jewish Cemetery.

Some years later, Hilary quietly settled in the country with her husband and three children, and wrote her memoirs with her brother, Piers. In this she describes the two sisters' upbringing, their rivalries, and the times when Jackie would stay at the farm, when overcome by the stress of her hectic existence. Hilary does not disguise the fact that Jackie was neurotic, demanding and manipulative, to the point of indicating that she wished to sleep with Hilary's husband, Finzi. Bizarrely, it seems that Hilary agreed to this, as Jackie at the time was separated from her husband, who himself was unfaithful. These disclosures were angrily condemned by Jackie's friends in the music world, including Yehudi Menuhin and Julian Lloyd Webber, claiming that this portrayal was "not the Jackie we knew". The film, by Anand Tucker, was even more savagely attacked, being condemned as "sick and macabre" and "the work of jealous and embittered siblings." Hilary, however, defended both the book and the film, claiming that Jackie would have approved of both and that she wanted to show the tragic effects that the MS had on Jackie's life. Having watched the DVD on "Jacqueline du Pre In Portrait" I must admit that I struggle to reconcile the Jackie in this documentary with the Jackie in the film, which even the most severe

critics describe as well produced and well acted. How false were Hilary's claims? Despite her genius, Jackie was a typical product of the post-war years, and in the late 1960s might well have fallen in with the spirit of the age. Finzi, it has been claimed was a serial adulterer. Twenty years later the age of the free-love hippy commune was well in the past, and it is possible that Hilary and Piers, when writing their memoirs, might have become a little oblivious of the impact those times had had on their own lives, as well as on Jackie's. However, despite some glaring omissions, I still find Anand's film deeply moving, and with excellent acting by Emily Watson as Jackie and Rachel Griffiths as Hilary. Unforgettable.

Cynthia M. Baker.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RED CROSS

Mayfield has had a very active Red Cross group and there are two residents who have contributed much to it, been recognised with awards and each been invited to a Garden Party in Buckingham Palace.

Rosemary Neal

I was a member of the British Red Cross for 55 years and for over 40 years was a member of the Mayfield Centre. Back in the late 70s, Mayfield had a large and active group, who met at the Red Cross Hall in Vale Road every Thursday evening, to learn first aid and nursing skills. Shortly after joining Mayfield, I was given the job of organising the annual Flag week Collection. We had over 40 volunteers house to house collecting in Mayfield, Five Ashes and Frant. I did this for many years until the Red Cross decided not to continue such collections.

First aid duties were interesting. We might attend a gymkhana, fete, music festival or a bonfire event - we never knew which until the day. Our duties were mainly in the Mayfield area, but I always tried to do a duty at the South of England Show at Ardingly and the Eastbourne Air Show.

Medical Loan was a service that we ran to provide equipment (such as wheelchairs, zimmer frames, commodes) that was needed on a short-term basis. Sue Penfold ran this service for many years, and I continued this until the Convent decided to build houses in their yard which latterly housed our store. Another section was Transport, run by Ann Murley, whereby a group of drivers took people from Wealden to medical appointments. After running this scheme for many years, our drivers decided to form a local group and the Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Car Service was born in 1999. As I was then the Group Leader, I became the first Chairman and stayed in that position for 20 years. I am very sad that centralisation became the buzz word of the Red Cross and that Mayfield, together with the Crowborough, Uckfield and, most recently, Heathfield centres have all now been closed.

In 1969, St Leonard's School was persuaded to allow the Red Cross to run 'holidays' during the school vacation. Mayfield members helped. In 1974 Activenture moved these 'holidays' to Hindleap Warren on the Ashdown Forest. I have spent many nights patrolling the corridors as a 'night owl' to make sure everyone was safe, so that the staff could have a good night's sleep. Unfortunately, the 'holidays' ceased in 2014 and Activenture is no more. Many Mayfield primary school pupils, nearing the end of their time at that school, will remember going to Hindleap during their school holidays - both my daughters went and had a fantastic time there.

Michael Charman

In 1954 I enrolled in the Juniors, aged 15, at Wivelsfield Green. At 16, I undertook First Aid duties for the public ambulance service, which was then run by the British Red Cross. Whilst in full time employment, I qualified as a Registered Mental Nurse and then as State Registered Nurse. In 1963 I was appointed Nursing Superintendent in Burgess Hill Men's Detachment. Amongst many other duties, I escorted patients back from overseas countries. In 1976 I was appointed Commandant of the Burgess Hill First Aid and Nursing Group.

In 1987 I was awarded the Badge of Honour for Devoted Service (it includes life membership) and assumed the role of Major Disaster Co-ordinator. In 2000 I led the Burgess Hill team to assist at the Lewes floods. I finally retired from Red Cross activities at the end of 2005, having gained the 7th Clasp to the V.M.S. Medal for 50 years of qualifying service.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Andrew Ratcliffe - Taking 'Film on Friday' Forward

For the last twenty years Mayfield has had the benefit of a thriving art house film club. Started by Tim Cornish in 2000, leadership has recently been taken over by Andrew Ratcliffe, following Tim's decision to stand down last summer. As the new season of films is set to start in September, it seems a good time to learn a bit more about the local film enthusiast, who is taking Film on Friday from strength to strength.

How long have you lived in Mayfield?

We moved from London in 1984 in order to bring up our family in the countryside. We were originally in Coggins Mill Lane and have lived at Hoopers Farm since 1993.

When did your interest in film and cinema start?

My lifelong love of film started in the late fifties when I was taken to see 'Bambi' at the Regent Cinema in Leamington Spa. I think my parents were a bit worried about me as a teenager as I always went to the cinema on my own, a habit which continued at university, when I would sometimes take the day off to watch four or five films back to back.

What do you do when you're not watching films?

My film watching was inconveniently interrupted while I was working as a Chartered Accountant at PwC for nearly forty years. Following retirement, I keep myself busy with a range of activities, including being a director of a bank and a trustee of The National Garden Scheme, the University of London and the Royal College of Music. I chair the Sustainability Committee at the Institute of Chartered Accountants and, with the help of the committee, I run Film on Friday.

Could you name your favourite film?

This is impossible, it's a bit like asking me to name my favourite daughter. I have liked so many films from many different genres. Of recent films, I would have to say that 'Woman at War,' an Icelandic film directed by Benedikt Erlingsson, which we showed last year at FoF, might come high on the list. It is so complete, a great, engaging story and very filmic; using the same actress to play twins, it would be hard to do this in any other medium.

How long have you been involved with Film on Friday (FoF)?

I joined right at the beginning in 2000 and in 2006, Tim asked me to help out as Treasurer. My involvement built from there and I learnt a great deal 'at the feet of the master'. I took over as Chairman last year and hope to build on the work that Tim put in over the years.

What does FoF hope to achieve?

With the popularity of streaming services and TV platforms, big cinemas are under pressure, particularly after Covid 19, and have to be highly commercial. The films that we show are often unavailable at the cinema, and it is a chance to see them locally on a big screen. Sitting with a group of people watching an engaging film is not only sociable, but enhances a sense of community and can be a joy. We pick films to be thought provoking, that can immerse the viewer in another way of life, possibly shifting their point of view or enabling them to look at issues from alternative perspectives. These are the things that FoF is hoping to achieve.

Could you tell me a bit about recent developments?

Last year, we agreed to work with MAYFACS, to put on an additional film in the afternoon on the Fridays when there is to be an evening showing. This initiative had a different purpose to FoF, in that it was a chance for people to see more widely distributed films and blockbusters locally, perfect for those who do not like going out at night or driving to Tunbridge Wells or Uckfield. This has been highly popular and there is a full programme planned for 20/21.

How will FoF adapt this season?

In order to comply with current government guidance, the number of people in the hall is limited to 30. Provided our audience wears face masks, we can accommodate 30 with the chairs 1.5 metres apart. Without face masks it would be only 25 as the chairs would have to be 2 metres apart. You have to wear a face mask in the cinema now anyway. In order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to see each film, we will be having a second house on the Sunday afternoon, following the Friday viewing. Members will get an email inviting them to book the viewing they wish to attend.

How do you see FOF developing in the future?

I am wondering about increasing the number of showings in a season which would enable us to show a wider range of films, including some classics. I am also looking forward to the arrival of the new village hall, which should have a much improved sound system, making it a better experience for everyone.

What's the programme like for the coming season?

The programme is varied and stimulating, kicking off with 'The Perfect Candidate', a Saudi Arabian film directed by Haifaa Al Mansour, the first female Saudi film director. It's a political drama, but with some humour; the story of Maryam, a doctor, who simply wants the road outside her hospital paved. Patronised and ignored, she nominates herself for the municipal council by accident but decides to take it seriously and campaigns on that issue. Her sisters support her campaign with inspiration from unlikely sources. Her widowed father worries about her progressive values but sees her mother's determination reborn. Following this, there are films and documentaries from Syria, France, Sudan, Brazil, UK and, as no season would be complete without one, Iceland too!

Film on Friday is always looking for new members of all ages.

Leaflets are available in Burnett's, the MAYFACS office, the Post Office and the Shopping Basket with full information.

www.filmonfriday.org; email: filmonfriday@gmail.com 873310

Barbara Murray

SHIRLEY HOLLAND – WEALDEN HERO!

As I sat with Shirley to reflect on how MAYFACS has helped our community during 'lockdown' and to look at what is coming next, she told me she had been made a 'Wealden Hero' – our MP's way of recognising community endeavour. She was quick to say that it was an award for the Team and the Trustees, but I reminded her of her own vital role in the organisation.

I asked her about how MAYFACS had responded to the COVID-19 crisis. "Basically we opened up a telephone number that was already in existence as a Helpline and we publicised it immediately with a leaflet drop. To start with, it was Freya, Alex and I fielding the phones but it quickly became apparent that there was no way we could manage them on our own, so we approached 5 people we knew we could trust with confidential information, to answer the phones and check voicemails. We also compiled a list of over 100 volunteers to respond to requests and they are used, based on how close they are to the person needing help. Early requests were for shopping and collecting prescriptions: on the latter we quickly worked out that, rather than respond to each request when it was made, we assigned one person for each day of the week that the chemist was open, to do the prescription run. In addition, we have two people assigned specifically to Thursdays at the chemist, when the repeat prescriptions come through. We've helped over 150 people, the majority on multiple occasions.

We were getting on average 10 calls a day, but that's dropped down now – instead of shopping and prescriptions, people now are asking for the Community Car Service (that we took over during lockdown) to get to NHS appointments. All drivers have PPE and we have recently enrolled 4 new drivers. I take my hat off to the drivers that were prepared to drive during lockdown and who were so very diligent about cleaning cars etc. Across the board, there have been so many different requests – recently one for newspapers for an incontinent dog!

As a result of lockdown, we've come across a lot more people that we haven't had contact with before, so the work has grown. We've also been alerted to concerns from time to time and been able to make the right contact to provide additional support. Sometimes we assign specific people to support people, so there is a consistent friendly voice they recognise. Now people are finding their own feet as lockdown eases and we're supporting them to do that too. It's important to say that we are also very aware that people have been, for the most part, getting help from neighbours and friends in the community – that's been very strong. If it hadn't been, we would have been deluged! Many people have not required assistance because people have been looking after each other and it's clear that's still happening and new friendships and relationships are happening as a result.

It's also heartening to see people tackling things like Zoom and internet shopping when you know they wouldn't have thought they could previously. However, there's nothing like being face-to-face with people and we're asked all the time, "when are the trips starting again?" and "when are you going to be back to normal?". Well, we can't answer either question quite yet! The plan is to start some forms of activity, such as tea and chat small group sessions, limiting those to a few people. While the weather is good Yarners takes place on a Monday afternoon outside.

Action in Rural Sussex has been a huge support during this crisis and we've built up a good relationship with Rotherfield St Martin and Forest Row Community Support. We meet by Zoom every two weeks and learn from each other.

We have the government money that was available, but our regular income from activities has stopped, so our funds have been depleted. Further, we weren't able to build our extension in time, and now we'll have to wait for the Community and Health Centre – that's the right thing, but the accommodation we have now just doesn't fit with what's actually going on!

Looking forward, we want Mayfield to become a Dementia Friendly community and that's a big part of Freya's role. Our village surgery is about to start a partnership with Age UK and have in place a Community Navigator assigned to three surgeries, acting as a bridge between the doctors and community groups like us. Our relationship with the surgery has grown positively and that's good for everyone. We'll also be looking at ways to restart Toddlers, ensuring we follow the guidelines. Finally, people are not coming forward to make use of the Hardship Fund but it is there for those who find they need help - I think people find it hard to ask, but they can with complete confidentiality assured.

It's nice to get the award and thank you to those who nominated me, but it's not just for me, it's for the Team, including all the Volunteers. I'm now looking forward to a holiday in the next week or so."

Have a well-deserved break Shirley!

If you would like to contribute to the work of MAYFACS you can donate online here: <https://www.justgiving.com/mayfacs>

Philip James

EMILY –THE PANDEMIC AND THE GRADUATE

Emily is a 'Mayfielder' who graduated from university this summer. I spoke to her about her final year in the middle of the pandemic, and her time isolating with her family in the village.

Which university did you go to and what did you study?

I went to Durham and did BA Human Geography. I found it very interesting. There were two sides to it. In the first year I studied both physical and human Geography. I specialised after that, choosing the human side, specifically focusing on urban, political, social and cultural Geography. A lot of my degree included primary research, with a field-based report in Year two, using a week of research in a UK city (mine was Glasgow), and my third-year Dissertation.

How long have you been back home from university?

I've been home for quite a while now, around 5 months. Our term would have ended in the penultimate week of March and we came back a week before that, around mid-March, due to the pandemic. We only missed a week of that term but then obviously all of the last term.

What has it been like studying during lockdown?

The only thing I had left to do for this term was my Dissertation, which had to be handed in online. This obviously did not present a problem, but then two exams had to be changed to 48 hour ones which you sat online. As my exams consisted of essays, luckily there was little difference - they just changed it to be a cross between an exam and a summative essay, where notes were allowed, but answers were to be given within a limited time frame. However, the Science and Maths students could just look at their notes, and I'm not sure how that worked!

What have you been doing to keep busy during lockdown?

Initially, from March to the beginning of June, I had my finals and Dissertation, so I was busy. I started then working part-time in June, at the deli. I have also done lots of walking, visiting family and later on seeing friends, when we were allowed.

How have you found it being back home with your family?

I've found it nice! I would've been here for five weeks at Easter anyway, so that just became extended. However, I'm used to transitioning between home and Uni every few months anyway, as I've been doing this for the past few years. It is also good, when you've been away for a while, to have time to catch up with family. In fact, as I had things to keep busy with it hasn't been bad at all, except for not seeing my Uni friends as they're spread out all over the country, and abroad as well.

How do you feel about your last year being different to most?

It's quite sad, because I couldn't take part in any of the celebrations that normal years finish with. After graduation, usually everyone has a three-week period when they stay up at Uni and go on trips, so we would've done that. This year, the end was quite abrupt, so I missed spending that time with my friends. When we were packing up before Easter, we never expected it to turn out the way it did and that we wouldn't come back for the Summer term. That equated to missing a third of our final year.

How have you felt being a young person in this time?

I think for me, and speaking to others as well, it's the grad schemes and graduate jobs post-Uni which have been most affected. Your teaching and general way of life of course changes as a young person as well. My routine, like everyone's, has become really different - at Uni, I'm so used to being around loads of people all the time, and in lockdown we were very isolated, especially at the early stages. I think the uncertainty (in terms of job prospects and how further study is affected) is probably the main concern for young people during this time.

What's your plan for future employment?

I have applied for some full-time jobs and also for a Masters degree in Risk, back at Durham, but whether that would be online I don't know. I'm not sure I'd want to do it if it is to be totally online. Everything is uncertain. I mean it could be good and bad. One can definitely make it more flexible, but I don't know if the quality will be there if taken virtually, and the social aspect would definitely be lacking.

Have you found being in Mayfield a good place to be during this?

I'd say yes! Earlier on, when we were only allowed out once a day, it was so nice to be in the countryside, to have so much space and not be around so many people. Now it is a bit tricky getting to places. On the whole though, being in Mayfield has been good.

Have you found a way to celebrate your graduation since being in lockdown?

Well, the official one has been moved to next year, so everything is on hold at the moment, and we will celebrate properly then. We've had a lot of FaceTime though. Not quite the same but better than nothing!

What will be the first thing you do when we go back to normal?

Just a gathering with friends! Inside! Doing what we want to do, without restrictions!

Thank you Emily, we wish you the best of luck.

Holly Slimming

UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

POST OFFICE NEWS

The Post Office and Rusdens Home will be closed Saturday, 22nd August – Saturday 5th September. I am going on holiday and have no Post Office cover.

Jo Eates

DRY CLEANING SERVICE AT GABRIEL INTERIORS – OPEN FRIDAYS FROM WEEK COMMENCING 7TH SEPTEMBER

We are open for drop offs and collections of laundry/dry cleaning: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-1. We are closed on Mondays.

Hannah on either 873520 or 873670

OUR CHURCHES

COLKINS MILL CHURCH

The arrival of September has always felt to me like getting back to normal - back to school or college, back to shorter days and cooler weather. This year August has certainly been far from normal with exceptional heat, storms and water shortage adding to the weirdness of these times.

However, 'normal' is not what it used to be! At Colkins Mill Church we hope to start meeting together for worship, in real life, on Sundays, with live streaming for those still unable to join us. We are also working out how we can safely start up Youth Club activity again in September, but, again, it won't feel quite 'normal'.

Through changing times, it is good to know that God does not change. Whoever wrote the lovely Psalm 91 was confident of two things: God's strength to see us through - "He is my fortress", and his vulnerable love - "Under his wings you will find refuge". Our building work is nearly done at Church, so if anyone would like to visit just let me know!

Steve Harland Contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk Tel 873194/ 07595440155

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

There is much talk about 'post Covid' life and the 'new normal'. I think Covid will be here to some degree for many months, if not years, so maybe it is better to adjust to some of the restrictions and make them our habits. It is already quite natural to respect the 2 metre distance, to use hand sanitiser and to avoid touching things unnecessarily. I have to admit that every time I wear a mask, I think of the doctors, nurses, carers and others, who spend long hours behind a mask and swathed in plastic. It must feel very claustrophobic at times.

What will be the 'new normal' for our churches? Many people have found the online services not just a substitute for gathering in a real church, but equally, if not more, spiritually uplifting. It has certainly emphasised that the Church is not only the building but also the people.

What lasting changes will there be in the Catholic Church? Will the Sunday obligation remain suspended? Will Church services continue to be live streamed? Will there be increased televising of religious events?

I pray that we will not lose our parish communities, either through fear or by technology.

Mary Brentnall

ST. DUNSTAN'S

To keep everybody up to speed re the vacancy, it seems that it may be a fairly long time before it is filled and the Diocese is looking to rent out the vicarage on a 6-month let. The registry will notify us of the need for a Section 11 Meeting (there is a 6 month window for this) and, at that meeting, discussions will take place as to how to take us forward to find a new Incumbent, a process that involves our patron, Keble College. The Archdeacon will talk to the PCC on 2nd September. We will of course notify you when there are any further updates.

Church services have resumed – 10am on Wednesdays, 10.15am on Sundays, with social distancing restrictions in place and masks mandatory, although people are exempt if they have breathing/medical problems. Online services are also continuing (please see the Church website www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk).

Jo and Sheila

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD SCHOOL – A LEVEL & GCSE RESULTS

Mayfield girls have continued the tradition of academic excellence with impressive A Level and GCSE results. Headmistress, Miss Antonia Beary, was full of admiration for the girls despite the challenges of this unprecedented year. A Level students have secured places at leading universities to study a wide range of academic disciplines including Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biochemistry, Languages, Law, Engineering, and History of Art. The most popular UK university choices this year are Exeter, Bristol, UCL, Durham, Edinburgh, LSE, Oxford and Cambridge, with other girls progressing to a number of prestigious universities globally, including the USA, Hong Kong and Europe. As far as the GCSE students are concerned Miss Beary commented: "This has been a difficult time for all pupils... and my heart goes out to them as they, and their parents, have had to cope with the prolonged uncertainty regarding public examinations this year. We are, therefore, immensely proud of all our girls ...who worked hard to achieve grades which reflect their ability and application. Most importantly, we are confident that they are well-prepared for the academic and practical challenges of A Level study. While our return to School in September will not be as conventional as usual, I am looking forward to the girls throwing themselves into the Sixth Form, and taking advantage of the many and varied opportunities available to them. I know that they will prove strong role models to the younger girls, and continue to contribute generously to our wider community, both at home and overseas. I am also immensely grateful to all of our staff, who have provided exceptional support and encouragement to the girls throughout this period."

Katie Chamberlain

ROUND AND ABOUT OUR VILLAGES

MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

It is with much sadness that we announce that our Carnival procession will not go ahead this September. As we go to press, the Bonfire Society is looking at responsible ways to mark the occasion and hope to be able to organise some form of a safe, or virtual, procession on September 19th.

Meanwhile, we have been holding small working parties to help 'put to bed' the torches and equipment for the winter, and we are grateful to the members and volunteers who have given up their Sunday mornings to sort and disassemble the thousands of spent torches. We are actively recruiting new members and volunteers, to ensure that we have enough people to resume the fundraising and 'behind the scenes' activities, in order to put on a Carnival in September 2021. You will see from the Carnival feature in this Newsletter that we need an army of people, with skills ranging from making sandwiches and shaking a collection bucket, through drilling holes and assembling torches to woodworking and constructing crosses; from serving Christmas lunch, or working in the bar, to mass catering of chilli or turkey for 100 people; from marshalling the barriers to liaising with police, from writing quizzes to producing our social media and other publicity.

If you would like to become a member, or help in any way, please contact **Diana Forest** bolfor@btinternet.com

CHRIS STEVENSON - KEEPING THE VILLAGE IN TOUCH - ZOOMING, SKYPING AND ALL THAT!

Six months ago, you could pretty much guarantee that most attendees at business meetings and interviews would not turn up in pyjamas or eating a bowl of cornflakes. Now, thanks to the massive rise in video calls and conferencing since the lockdown, how can you be sure what they are doing? It is amazing how many people seem to develop problems with their web camera in early morning meetings "but don't worry, it's ok, I can hear you all perfectly" they say!

Video calling and conferencing platforms have been around for a while now and their use has grown steadily as an alternative to plain old phone calls and face to face meetings since their introduction. Understandably, that growth has accelerated dramatically recently and I think it will become more and more a part of our lives in the future. Whether it is staying in touch with family and friends, a business meeting or an online doctor's appointment, these services are now vital. Many of you may already be 'au fait' with some of these services, but what are the differences between them, and which one is best for you? Hold tight as I try and unravel it all in my 300 (approximately) remaining words. (There will be a wordier blog version on the website soon)

There are two main camps here. The services aimed at businesses and those at individuals. Most, if not all, services are free to use (although the business platforms reserve their best features for paying customers). It is worth noting that most of these big platforms offer more than just video calling, with instant messaging and audio only calls too (and the business focused ones can offer things like screen sharing and document collaboration)

The two big business platforms are Zoom and Microsoft Teams. They offer better security and can stretch to having hundreds of people on the same call. As such they are perfect, not just for businesses, but any organisation or society that wants to meet with more than a few people at the same time.

Services like Skype, Apple's FaceTime, Facebook's Messenger and WhatsApp are aimed more at the individual who wants to keep in touch with friends and family. Facetime is only available to people with an Apple device (iPhone, iPad or Mac), whereas the others are available on all platforms (Windows, Mac, Android and iPhones & iPads). You just need to download and install the relevant software (or App if using a phone or tablet) then register and sign in.

It is worth noting that fundamentally most of these services work the same. You set up an account, then start adding contacts to your list so you can call them. This can be easier on some platforms than others. For example, if you are already a keen Facebook user, and everyone you need to talk to is on your existing friends list, then the Messenger app is all ready to go. If you use other Microsoft software like Outlook for your emails, then Skype might be a better option, as it can automatically scan your email contacts and add anyone with a matching Skype account.

Ultimately, I think it is a good idea to know your way around most of the major platforms, as you will probably find everyone is using a different one. I go into more detail on a few of the main services on my blog, so please feel free to check it out.

www.kentandsussexitservices.co.uk; enquiries@kands-it.co.uk; 07899 955289

Mayfield Masks set up by Chloe Bolger, a 3rd year Geography student, is selling her masks with profits going to Action Aid. You can buy them from their Facebook page or at Monty Ward



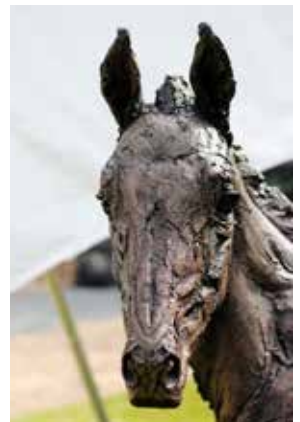
Four Winds are selling masks made by Fiona Sparkes. A percentage of the profits are being donated to Mayfacs, Pre-School and The Mangrove Action Project

Mayfield Carnival over the years, including images of the Bonfire Boyes from 1905, Margaret Clark and the outgoing president Jo Lee with her twin Jill Pring





**Art Exhibition at Melford House, Fir Toll Road in
Mayfield Open 21st August until 16th September 2020**



Highlights From the Five Ashes Virtual Horticultural Summer Show



Shirley Holland receiving **The Wealden Hero** award for **Mayfacs'** work during the pandemic from Nus Ghani, MP



Congratulations to local students: Amy Smith, Tom Fahy, Matt Richardson and Immie Saker who will be studying Design Engineering, Computer Sciences, Politics and Economics and Bio-Chemistry at university





Mayfield Girls have continued the tradition of academic success in both GCSE's and A Levels, with 6th Formers off to leading universities



Remembering VJ Day, marking the end of WW2



**Andrew Ratcliffe,
the Chairman of
Film on Friday**



Open Garden at The Oast, Mayfield in aid of NGS

MAYFIELD TENNIS CLUB

The Tennis club is open and operating under the LTA Covid guidelines. We have spaces for new members. Membership details can be found on the Club website www.mayfieldtennisclub.co.uk

Subject to any changes in LTA guidelines, we are hoping to restart the Junior coaching programme on Friday evenings for junior members, at subsidised rates, from 4th September. This will be:

3.30 pm to 4.15 pm 4-7 year olds

4.15 pm to 5 pm 8-10 year olds

5 pm to 6 pm 11-13+

If you are interested please, email our new chairman **Eamonn Cournane** on eamonncournane@yahoo.co.uk or call him on 07923 571947.

FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD CHURCHYARD

Mayfield Churchyard belongs to the Parish Church of St. Dunstan, for the benefit of all inhabitants of the Parish of Mayfield & Five Ashes. Its maintenance is the responsibility of the Mayfield Parochial Church Council (PCC). The purpose of the Friends of Mayfield Churchyard is to raise money towards this maintenance, noting that our churchyard is one of the largest in East Sussex.

Chairman's report

Towards the end of the previous year we sadly lost, as a trustee, the late Warwick Child, and the Friends wish here to pay tribute to his service to the Churchyard, through his Chairmanship of the Friends. His place on the Friends has been taken by a former trustee, Miles Smith, who has also been elected as the new Chairman, In June 2019 Fr. Nigel resigned as a trustee, and our thanks and best wishes go to him now that he has been appointed to a new parish.

It will be noted in the Treasurer's report below, that our contribution towards the PCC's Churchyard costs in 2018/19 was higher than our income for the year. It is therefore of increasing urgency that we recruit new donors. The call on our funds will only increase as maintenance costs rise. In 2019/20, most unusually, the long-term pattern changed, with no expenditure at all, at least until after our financial year had closed. This was because of changes in the PCC's contractor arrangements during 2019, which have now been put on a new footing. An improvement in the appearance of the Churchyard can already be seen.

For 2020/21 there will be a need for additional maintenance work in the Churchyard, by way of catch up, and the call on our funds will increase.

The Churchyard of St Dunstan's is a great asset to the parish at large, not only as a final resting place for the departed but also as a place of peace and repose for the living. We must all do our best to care for it.

Treasurer's report for 2019/20

The opening reserve in April 2019 was £636 (compared with £3201 the year previously).

Income during 2019/20 came from donations via standing orders of £2504 (previously £2539 plus £55 as single contributions).

Including income tax refunds of £570 (previously £585), total income for the year was £3074 (previously £3179).

Expenditure by way of payments to Mayfield Parochial Church Council (PCC) for churchyard maintenance was nil (previously £5744).

The closing reserve in April 2020 was £3710 (previously £636). Subsequently the PCC sought from the Friends £606, to cover residual churchyard costs incurred in 2019, and this was paid in July 2020.

At present we have 57 donors making use of gift aid, and 66 supporters in total. We would like to increase this number, since the PCC's costs maintaining the churchyard are considerable. Further, there are a great number of ancient gravestones and memorials in the Churchyard which are in urgent need of repair, but for now there are no funds to carry out this important work. Please consider becoming a supporter of the Friends and help in generating funds to maintain the Mayfield Churchyard. Barrie Martin at 873837 and barriemartin4@gmail.com will be delighted to hear from you.

Trustees: Miles Smith, Chair; Barrie Martin, Treasurer; Dennis Blurton; Kim Chiffey; Peter Driscoll, Secretary

Peter Driscoll

DOG FOULING IN THE CHURCHYARD

Unfortunately, we are noticing that the dog fouling in the Churchyard behind St Dunstan's is getting worse and we feel we must try and address this situation, before it gets even more out of hand.

The Churchyard is the final resting place for anyone who lives in the Parish of Mayfield and Five Ashes, whatever their denomination, and is a beautiful, tranquil place where relatives come to pay their respects and enjoy the peace. This is, however, being spoilt by the number of dogs being walked off the lead through the Churchyard and leaving their deposits, which are not being picked up by their owners.

We do ask that, if you are a dog walker, and you too wish to enjoy this tranquil space, please do keep your dog on a lead, respect others whose relatives are buried here and remove anything your dog might leave behind. Take it home with you or place it in the special bins on the footpath adjacent to the Churchyard.

Thank you.

Sheila Rait, Churchwarden

WEA TUNBRIDGE WELLS – COURSES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2020

All WEA autumn courses are running on-line, using Zoom. They can be accessed by mobile phone, tablet or laptop/PC. Here are the details of the courses Tunbridge Wells branch are running:

C3745790 - Medieval Society through Chaucer with Dr Geoff Doel. 6 weeks from 22 September, 2pm-3.30pm. Looking at the Prologue and a number of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

C3745791 - Vita, Virginia and Gender with Dr Geoff Doel. 6 weeks from 3 November, 2pm to 3.30pm. We will be studying Orlando (Virginia Woolf), The Edwardians (Vita Sackville-West) and The Bell by Iris Murdoch.

C3745815 - London: Literary Forms of Representation with Julian Day. 4 weeks from 17 November, 11am to 12.30pm. Looking at how London is represented in novel, poetry, drama and film.

C3745816 - The Globetrotter - Victoria Excursions with Amy Miller. 4 weeks from 3 November, 2pm to 3.30pm. Travellers to India, China and Japan.

More details on these courses are on the WEA website, plus how to book. www.wea.org.uk. Details of how to access the courses are sent with the confirmation of booking.

Each session is 90 minutes. Fees have been reduced from last year, so a six week course is £28.80 and a four week course £19.20. Book early to secure your place.

There are other courses, which have not been organised by Tunbridge Wells branch and which are available on-line. If you have any questions please contact me on weatwells@gmail.com

Jane Urquhart, Branch secretary, 873769

FILM ON FRIDAY NEW SEASON

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE – 25th September

Our first film of the new season is The Perfect Candidate, directed by Haifaa Al Mansour, and gives a sense of the day-to-day realities of Saudi Arabia's separation of the genders in a documentary style. It is a story of female resistance to the continuing obstacles of traditional Saudi attitudes, but also a family story. Maryam is a doctor who just wants the road outside her hospital paved, but she is patronised and ignored. While trying to get the necessary permit to travel to a conference, she inadvertently nominates herself for the municipal council. Initially frustrated, she decides to take it seriously and campaign on that issue. Her sisters support her campaign with inspiration from unlikely sources. Her widowed father is a traditional wedding singer, innocuous to us, but he also has to deal with opposition from ultra-conservatives. He worries about Maryam's progressive values but sees her mother's determination reborn.

Our first house will be on Friday, 25th September at the usual time of 7.45pm for 8.15pm. The second house will be on Sunday, 27th September at 1.30pm for 2pm. Members should email filmonfriday@gmail.com to let us know which house they wish to attend as capacity will be limited. Similarly, any guest bookings should be notified and paid for in advance. In the interests of hygiene, we will not be operating a till on the door and, sadly, there will be no bar for this film.

Our leaflets which have full details of the new season's programme are available in Burnett's, the MAYFACS office, The Post Office and The Shopping Basket. All members from last season are entitled to a 2/9th discount, to reflect the April and May showings that we had to cancel.

Our website www.filmonfriday.org has been completely rebuilt. Do have a look. You can see the trailer for The Perfect Candidate, a Q&A with Haifaa al-Mansour and links to reviews. There is also a page which sets out the arrangements we have in place following Covid-19. Do email me on filmonfriday@gmail.com, or phone 873310 if you would like to know more. You can also follow us on twitter at @filmonfriday.

We look forward to seeing you on 25th September.

Andrew Ratcliffe, Chairman

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - MAYFIELD, FIVE ASHES AND HADLOW DOWN BRANCH:

Arrangements for the Festival of Remembrance and the Remembrance Sunday parades in November are still scheduled to go ahead.

Our Next Branch Meeting – Wednesday, 7th October – Subject to the ability to meet any restrictions at the time, this is scheduled to be held at the Mayfield Cricket Club starting from 18:30, incorporating the 2020 AGM. Our speaker is Richard Atkins who will be talking about the life of the legendary World War II fighter pilot, Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, CBE, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar.

The Poppy Appeal 2020 is expected to start on 25th October.

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

Our next speaker, Ian Keable, is offering his talk, 'The History of the Cartoon,' via Zoom at 2.00pm on Thursday, 17th September. If you are not a U3A member, but would like to hear Ian's talk, please contact Mary Brentnall for details marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com. Ian is a magician as well as an excellent speaker. Having heard him speak, I can guarantee a both interesting and fascinating hour.

If you are interested in joining the U3A for this talk or any of our activities or interest groups, please visit the website for details. <https://u3asites.org.uk/mayfield>

Anna Thompson

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(A full programme can be found on the Society website at <http://www.mayfieldlhs.org.uk>).

CORONAVIRUS PROBLEMS

Though our current programme is on our website, Covid 19 limitations mean that we may not be able to use the Scout Hall. Our Treasurer is checking what the situation may be. Your Chairman has also made contact with the Memorial Hall Management Committee to see if our initial meetings might be held there. Even if there are no other bookings for the last Fridays in October and November, there will be a limit of 30 people, including the speaker. The kitchen is also closed so our Dutch supper would, therefore, not be possible. Use of the hall will need a risk assessment to be completed, a list of all attendees provided to permit track and trace and full cleaning before and after a meeting.

Since the first meeting is also our AGM, at which subscriptions are collected, we had hoped to cover the increased costs of speakers and rentals by raising the annual subscription to the society to £10.00 per head. We will need to contact all existing members via email to see who wishes to subscribe in these uncertain times. If you are not on email, please call a member of your committee.

Till we meet again, let's all keep safe, and hopefully enjoy what we can of the summer.

Brian O'Connor Chair, 873477; **Richard Tupper**, Secretary, 07976 550 890; **John Buddle**, Treasurer, 872229

MAYFIELD BAND - HOLLYWOOD BECKONS

With Band HQ appearing on BBC television last night, as the backdrop to the water queues, I am hopeful that offers of further TV and film work for the bandroom will now start pouring in! Remakes of Stalag 17 perhaps, or possibly Hi De Hi?

Apart from the occasional flurry of parched and unwashed villagers, the bandroom has been eerily quiet of late. However, that may now change, as just yesterday the DCMS reversed their decision on outdoor playing, and to an extent, indoor playing. We are still digesting the new rules, but it did enable us to hastily assemble a socially distanced quartet to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of VJ Day at the War Memorial. 24 hours' notice is not ideal, but it was an important commemoration, and we were pleased to be able to be part of it.

We will now revisit what we are able to do about rehearsals, as we are still limited on player numbers, but hopefully we can start doing something.

MAYFIELD YOUTH BAND

I have just started looking at the Covid rules for education. I am hoping that I will have finished reading them by about March 2021 and will report back to you then! Seriously though, this is going to be a tricky time for us to manage, and whilst Band is an incredibly important part of the kids' lives, almost as important as their schooling, their safety is ultimately the most important thing. So we need to feel our way back in very carefully. In the meantime, they are enjoying a well-earned summer break, and we hope that developments in the wider world will enable us to get together soon.

Simon Rudge, 872007, simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I am pleased to announce that, all being well, we are planning to hold our first talk, back in the Memorial Hall, on 18th September. As per the original 2020 schedule, our speaker will be Stephen Harmer, a garden historian and lecturer at Hadlow College, who will be talking to us about The Arts and Crafts Movement and its Gardens. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

In accordance with guidelines set out by the Memorial Hall Committee, and in order to be able to socially distance, the maximum number of people in the Hall, including the speaker and organisers, will be 30. We will therefore be operating a booking system to ensure we do not go over this number and it will be first come, first served. There will unfortunately be no refreshments (please bring your own), and you will be required to wear a face mask whilst in the Hall.

If you would like to attend, please email me at chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk, or if you are not on email, phone on 872726. First priority in this instance will be given to members of the Society. If for any reason you have booked a place(s), but cannot subsequently attend, please let us know, as there may be a waiting list and someone else can take your place.

This promises to be a really interesting evening and it would be nice to get a 'full house' for our return. Steve will be sure to mention some of our favourite gardens, such as Gt. Dixter, Gravetye Manor, Coleton Fishacre etc.

Hope to see you there.

Tessa Crowe, chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

www.mhs.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Not a long report this month. The Virtual Summer Show has been very well supported with 98 entries at the time of writing and will still be open to view on www.fiveashesvillagehall.btck.co.uk in September. Thank you to everybody who has entered or viewed the entries and we hope you have enjoyed the experience. We hope to have returned to "normal" in time for next year's Show.

Graham Playfoot 01825 830511

MAYFIELD EVENING WI

On 7th August the President held the first Committee meeting since March, to discuss the best way forward for meetings, with the possible reopening of the Memorial Hall shortly. Guidelines have been received from WI HQ and these were circulated to the Committee for information. The Hall Committee wants to be certain all users can start back once every aspect of health and safety has been covered and strict adherence to Government regulations can be met. Space will be very limited to ensure social distancing and there will be a maximum of 30 people allowed to gather inside. It was decided that all members should be asked to respond to a survey about resuming meetings in October, and then ideas for the future could be discussed, before deciding what to do about the 2021 programme.

It is hoped that despite all the restrictions, members will be able to enjoy some aspects of the organisation, especially the social side. Everyone will be encouraged to join in as much or as little as they want but clearly things will be very different for the time being. A possible way forward might be to arrange a series of small social daytime "get togethers" to make sure all members have continued contact with some other people. This does appear to be already happening in an informal way.

Another monthly newsletter was produced by the President and it seems to be keeping communication going. Several members have given very positive feedback, which is greatly appreciated!

In the meantime, the situation will be closely monitored and any changes will be announced as soon as possible.

Claire Montagu, President, 872648; cbmontagu@hotmail.com

NUS GHANI, MP

I continue to hold virtual surgeries, as well as conference calls, for constituents and businesses. If you are a Wealden resident and require my assistance, please email me at: nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk.

Nusrat Ghani, MP for Wealden

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – SEPTEMBER ONWARDS

September:

Thursday	17	U3A	Zoom	2pm
Friday	18	Horticultural Society	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Friday	25	Film on Friday	Memorial Hall	7.45pm
Sunday	27	Film on Friday	Memorial Hall	1.30pm

October:

Wednesday	7	RBL	Cricket Club	6.30pm
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Very best wishes, Andrew and the team

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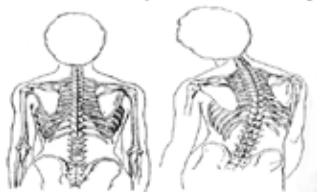
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