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## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

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Your editors are both keen on quizzes as indeed are many of our readers so we like to pass on some factoids as the Steve Wright show calls them which might help you in a future quiz or just give you a chance to impress people with your arcane knowledge. In this spirit September (from the Latin septem=seven) was originally the seventh of ten months in the oldest known Roman calendar. (And it's curious that we still call it September today). The Anglo Saxons called it Gerstmonath, barley month, this being the month when that crop was generally harvested. In the Julian and Gregorian calendars it is the seventh month. Until 1752 the calendar used in Britain was the Julian calendar first introduced by Julius Caesar in 46BC. However by the eighteenth century most of Europe was using the Gregorian calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. The Julian calendar had an inbuilt error of 1 day every 128 years due to a miscalculation in the solar year. This resulted in our being out of kilter with most of Europe but also for example in the date of Easter moving further away from the spring equinox with each passing year.

So the 1751 British Calendar Act decreed that we would switch to the Gregorian Calendar in 1752. However to bring the calendar in use in Britain with that in use in Europe it was necessary to correct it by 11 days "the lost days". The Act said that in 1752 2nd September should be followed by 14th September which is why nothing at all happened in British history between those two dates! As Michael Caine might have said "Not many people know that". Some people were upset thinking that their lives would be shortened by 11 days as a result. Not upset at all though was one William Willett of Endon village who wagered that he could dance non-stop for 12 days and 12 nights. There are always gullible folk and many accepted his bet. Well on the evening of 2nd September he started to jig around the village and continued all through the night. The next morning (14th September) he happily collected his winnings!

September is of course the start of the new school year. We have always thought that rather than making New Year's resolutions when we are all lethargic and full of food and drink and when the nights are dark and the weather cold it would be much more sensible to make September resolutions instead. One should be refreshed and feeling good after one's holiday, the weather is usually warm and the evenings still light. If it is good enough for the children to be starting a new term afresh then isn't it good enough for the adults too?

It's a perfect time of the year to take up a new hobby or activity, to learn something new or to support some local group or to make new friends. There is a whole world out there of course but just within Mayfield and Five Ashes the opportunities are boundless. This Newsletter shows that there are a multitude of activities to support or to try. These include 1. Applying to be a Parish Councillor 2. Heading out and watching the natural world 3. Joining Mayfield and District U3A and any of its 30+ special interest groups 4. Supporting the Bible Fest 5. Taking on the role of organising "Adopt a Grave" 6 Doing a Footpath walk 7. Supporting and enjoying any of the activities of Mayfacs 8. Visiting Argos Hill windmill 9. Supporting the Slow Short Film Festival and the International Poetry Festival 9. Supporting/getting involved with Mayfield Carnival (plenty of scope there to do something) 10. Joining the Mayfield Band or the WI or the Local History Society 11. Getting involved with the Scouts 12. Joining the Tennis Club or the Mayfield Mayzing Choir or Film on Friday or the Royal British Legion (plenty of opportunities there too to be involved).

Surely there must be something there which you haven't done before which appeals or is worth a try? And these are just the things one can pick out from this Newsletter. There are so many more clubs, societies and groups in this Parish of which you can get further details from the new villages website. And all these groups are keen for you to get involved and are friendly and welcoming. Indeed it seems that probably the only things you can't do are Sumo Wrestling or Bagpipe Playing though doubtless there are groups too for these activities as well!

Andrew Watson & Jeanette Hore Editors

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## MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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There is very little to report from the Parish Council for the September Newsletter, as there will have been only two Planning Committee meetings during August and the Parish Council office has been closed for the summer break.

**Councillor Vacancy:** As mentioned in the August edition of the Newsletter the Parish Council needs to co-opt a councillor to represent the Ward of Mayfield. At the time of writing this article prior to publication there had been no applications received. If you are interested you should forward your CV to the office with a covering letter outlining why you think you would be a valued member of the Parish Council and any areas of expertise that you could offer. These would then be circulated to Councillors for consideration. Prospective Councillors will then be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to introduce themselves and speak for a couple of minutes. A vote would then take place on the co-option.

**Parish Council Grants:** As mentioned in the August edition of the newsletter, applications for grants for the 2018/19 financial year should be submitted to the Parish Clerk by 30 September 2017. 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 at [www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk). If you do not have internet access please contact the Parish Council office on 873784 so a copy of the grants policy and application form can be forwarded to you.

**Fire safety in Wealden:** The tragic events at Grenfell Tower in London have heightened awareness across the country of the need for fire safety. Wealden District Council does not have any tower blocks or any properties that had the cladding system in question. Housing Officers have inspected all low-rise council flats and double-checked for compliance with fire safety certificates and adequacy of means of escape. In addition, surveyors from the East Sussex Building Control Partnership have been working across the county in a joint exercise led by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service to inspect all premises considered at risk.

**Increase in HMRC frauds:** In Sussex, elderly people are receiving a high volume of phone calls purporting to be from HMRC. So far, none of them have sent money, but it is vital that people are aware of the signs and act on them.

**This is a recent case study:**

An elderly gentleman living alone in East Sussex, received a call from a woman claiming to be from HMRC. He was transferred on the line and informed that he owed them money and would be taken to court if he didn't pay up. He offered to pay and was told to go to their office in Tunbridge Wells.

The victim said he could not get there, so the caller told him to go to buy iTunes vouchers from Tesco, so he consequently went to a Tesco and tried to obtain £1500 worth.

Fortuitously the manager at Tesco asked the victim lots of questions and became suspicious and told him it was a scam. The caller was still on his mobile phone while he was trying to buy the vouchers and when the manager asked to talk to him the caller on the phone swore at him. Luckily no money was parted with and the incident was reported to the Police.

These are some of the contact methods used to defraud people in Sussex:

- **Voicemails:** saying you owe HMRC unpaid tax.
- **Text messages:** fraudsters send you a text message requesting you to urgently call back on the number provided.

**Protect yourself:** HMRC will never use a text message to inform you about a tax rebate or penalty. HMRC will never ask for any payment in the form of iTunes Vouchers. As well as iTunes vouchers, HMRC would not ask for payment in the form of any other vouchers or any other payment methods. HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ever ask for payment in this way.

**Please remember:**

- If you haven't bought a ticket - you can't win it
- You shouldn't have to pay anything to get a prize
- If in doubt, don't reply. Bin it, delete it, or hang up
- Don't be rushed - resist pressure to make a decision straight away
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

**If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud call Sussex Police on 101 or visit [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)** If you need to report fraud or attempted fraud, you can do so by contacting Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

**£2m 'Business Boost' to East Sussex economy:** South East Business Boost will offer grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to existing small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects to help them grow and expand operations.

The scheme will also see an expansion of the successful business support programme, which offers advice and support to local businesses and entrepreneurs, run by the local Growth Hub Business East Sussex.

The scheme is a partnership between the six members of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and is being run in East Sussex by business support service Let's Do Business, which also operates Business East Sussex and the Locate East Sussex programme.

Grants are available to companies with fewer than 250 staff and an annual turnover of less than €50 million – around £46 million currently – and for funding up to 30 per cent of the cost of capital projects.

Full details are available online at [www.bussinesseastsussex.org.uk](http://www.bussinesseastsussex.org.uk) or by calling 0844 4152260 or emailing [fred.thomas@bussinesseastsussex.org.uk](mailto:fred.thomas@bussinesseastsussex.org.uk)

**Older People's Day Events Booklet:** If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of the "Full of Life" booklet listing the events which are planned to take place in September and October in celebration of Older People's Day please visit: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/over50s/olderpeoplesday](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/over50s/olderpeoplesday)

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Full Parish Council	Monday 11 September	19:30	Mayfield Memorial Hall
Planning Committee	Monday 18 September	09:30	Parish Council Office
Community Development	Monday 18 September	19:30	Parish Council Office
Rights of Ways & Trees	Wednesday 20 September	13:00	Parish Council Office
Finance & General Purposes	Monday 25 September	19:30	Parish Council Office

**Please note that minutes of meetings are available for viewing online at: [www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk) and at the Parish Council Office.**

Janna Todd  
Parish Clerk to Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council  
Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield TN20 6AL  
873784  
E-mail: [clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)

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## FEATURES

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**WILDLIFE SPLASH: IT'S IN THE BILL!** September is the month when birds have dispensed with family life and start forming flocks – safety in numbers - extra eyes to search for food and see danger. Birds are everywhere – occupying all habitats, with each group especially adapted to maximise feeding ability. This is all too apparent in the bill (or beak).

Swallows and swifts are gathering in groups ready for the long journey ahead to sunnier climes. Large numbers can be seen effortlessly feeding on small invertebrates over damp fields and ponds. The bill is short but with a very wide gape in order to maximise the catch whilst gliding through the air.

Woodpeckers are quite different with strong and relatively long bills that taper to the tip, forming a chisel for pecking holes in trees. Most feed on the juicy beetle larvae which spend their time tunnelling through the wood beneath the bark.

Thin, slender, pointed bills are found mainly in insect eaters. They act like a pointed pair of tweezers picking off tiny insects hidden in hard to reach places, such as crevices in bark, or tucked in a curled leaf. Such birds include the willow warbler, robin and long-tailed tit.

Goldfinches have a slender, conical shaped bill enabling them to probe into flower heads to extract seeds. The conical shape also adds leverage and strength when crushing seeds in order to extract the nutritional interior.

Mallards probe around in ponds and streams gathering a watery soup, containing seeds and tiny invertebrates, in the bill. The bill is fringed with membranes shaped like combs and it acts as a strainer, allowing water and mud particles to escape whilst trapping food.

At the top of the pile are the birds of prey such as the buzzards, sparrowhawks and owls, with their bills to kill. They have razor sharp and hefty hooked beaks adapted for biting, tearing and ripping flesh.

Of course, bill shapes and sizes are all adaptations to survival in differing environments and utilising different food sources. Darwin was the first to notice such variation in bill form when looking at the Galapagos finches. The finches were all fundamentally very similar but with differences in, for example, bill shape and size, depending on diet. He concluded that, because the islands are so distant from the mainland, the finches that had arrived there in the past had changed over time due to environmental pressures such as different food sources – contributing to the theory of evolution by natural selection.

It is all in the bill!

Jacqueline Thompson

**SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST: SAY 'HELLO' AND WAVE 'GOODBYE':** The dominant theme for nature this month is migration. In September, Sussex becomes an international hub for some amazing long-distance journeys.

Migration will never cease to amaze me. In August, I watched a family of freshly fledged reed warblers crashing around on their first flights. They could barely stay airborne for more than a few seconds. Yet they are now joining our other summer migrants; falcons and doves, swallows and martins, whitethroats, whinchats, wheatears and wagtails in a mass evacuation of England. Pouring out through the river valleys of Sussex and across the seas, mountains and deserts beyond; over every church house, gin house, school house and outhouse between Crawley and the Côte d'Ivoire.

And as they head south they'll pass butterflies still intent on pushing north – painted ladies, clouded yellows, and red admirals - beautiful insects which surge into Sussex from Spain in September. Other insects are also making the cross-channel trip on delicate wings – dragonflies, such as the migrant hawk – all trying to make the most of the summer before it fades.

At night, the insect invasion continues with continental moths such as vestals, silver-y and convolvulus hawkmoths. Look out for the amazing hummingbird hawkmoth, its whirring wings a blur as it nectars in your flower-bed. Meanwhile other bird species are arriving from the north – some just refuelling as they pass through, others - who find the winter temperature in Sussex hotter than the Highlands and balmier than the Baltic - will stay with us; waders and wildfowl feeding on the estuaries, owls and harriers hunting over the downs.

Sussex gardens will also become a winter destination – 'your' blackbird, with whom you have shared the garden all summer, may shortly be joined by a blackbird belonging to Mr & Mrs Morgansson of Kongsvinger, Norway. And let's not forget that through the centre of Sussex runs a series of aquatic migration highways; the Arun, Adur, Ouse, Cuckmere and Rother. Throughout the year their waters channel the mighty sea trout, the eel and the weird sea lamprey from the deep ocean to shallow spawning grounds upstream. These aquatic migrations are just as impressive.

This September, head out in Sussex and watch the natural world on the move.

Michael Blencowe - People & Wildlife Office

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**THE JOINT AND BACK CLINIC: HYPERMOBILITY:** There are a few things that patients say when seen for the first time, that induce a little twinge of anxiety in the osteopath, a few examples follow:

"I have a very high pain threshold". Translation: I will cry and whinge if you shake my hand with any more pressure than that of a two-week old lettuce leaf being draped under zero gravity onto my palm. This will continue throughout the treatment every time I am touched or even glanced at, I am totally pain phobic!

"I fell out of a tree when I was 5 years old and that is why, at the age of 50, despite never having had a day's back pain between my 6th and 49<sup>th</sup> year, I now have back pain". Translation. I cannot recognise any form of logic and have a very loose appreciation of the concept of evidence when determining pre-disposing factors.

"I am hypermobile". Translation: I am so stiff, that if I stand against a wall for more than 10 seconds I am frequently mistaken for an IKEA flatpack wardrobe and when in the street, a lamp post (and my ankle is continuously 'damp' for some reason).

OK, well the last one might be a little unfair. People are generally a mixture of 'ranges of movement', meaning that joints and muscles that control the available degree of movement vary a lot throughout the body. Frequently, patients present with joints that are 'stiff' but this can be a long or short-term thing. Often, the hypermobile spinal joints are in a group (more than one) and equally frequently, this surprisingly causes little in the way of symptoms. The problem comes from the adjacent joints to the 'stiff group' that become irritated and inflamed because they are having to work very hard compensating for the immobile ones.

The second scenario, is that patients have managed to acquire one or more hypermobile joints due to activity or injury, for instance via Gameboy thumb, ballet, gymnastics etc. This is reasonably common.

Lastly, there is the truly 'hypermobile patient' with a connective tissue disorder, which are quite rare, but are now being claimed by patients as their 'condition of choice' because they read about it on Google or social media, and currently it's 'fashionable'. Joint Hypermobility Syndrome(s) are mainly hereditary and are connective tissue disorders. Connective tissue is the stuff that ties bones together and forms sheaths, layers and bindings throughout the body. One of its primary components is a protein called 'collagen' which forms part of the skin, ligaments and dangly bits that suspend and support the organs within the body. It is the collagen which is primarily adversely affected in this condition.

So, this must be a 'fun' thing to have, right? (According to Facebook it is?) Well no, not really, because you have joints that dislocate easily, lots of joint pain and early arthritis, recurrent joint strains, tiredness, digestive problems etc. One of the many variations is called Ehlers-Danloss Syndrome which has specific 'types'

depending upon the manifestations of the condition which can be hypermobility, vascular complication, skin changes, scoliotic. There are a lot, all of them bad news.

So, what can you do about it? Well the answer here is 'not a lot', aside from some physical therapy and exercise but the outcomes in any more than the mildest of disease manifestations are quite poor. Not something you want, and you are much better off going for a new gold iPhone, ideal for the 'budding fashionista' and less life limiting.

Nigel Kettle BSc(Hons) Ost, Registered Osteopath 07939129626 [www.jointandback.com](http://www.jointandback.com)

**TRAVEL NOTES:** I hope you have had a lovely summer, whether you stayed in the UK or travelled abroad. It seems that the best weather in the UK is now typically from May to mid-July and then picks up again in September. Not good for those of you with school age kids, so I hope you managed to find some sunshine somewhere!

My observations from my own summer holiday in Crete: it is HOT in Europe! Probably too hot for me, to be honest. I have many ideas for those of you who would prefer to avoid the searing heat in Europe during July and August. Book an adult only hotel if you are wanting a peaceful holiday without loads of kids in the pool! Buy Euros when the rate is good and put them away for a future trip. Book your airport parking early to get the best deal. Valet parking is a real treat!

A number of travel news items this month:

Tunisia is slowly being reintroduced and will be a welcome addition to the winter sun market.

In addition to Harry Potter, Star Wars and all the regular stuff, Florida now has opened *Pandora-The World of Avatar*. It looks amazing! Still can't beat Florida for family entertainment! Ask me for prices.

Don't forget that Qantas will fly direct to Perth from 25 March 2018. Just 17 hours to Australia and there will be early offers. Wow!

Have you been watching Joanna Lumley in India? I still maintain that I work with the very best operator for India. You know by now it's my favourite place, so if you haven't been, please get in touch. It's a must.

Short haul, Cape Verde is to get a new 5-star hotel. The Hilton Cabo Cape Verde will open in September and with prices from £1069pp for 7 nights, it is a great value winter sun destination.

Celebrity Cruises is adding more cruises from Southampton, including their new state of the art vessel, The Edge. If you'd like to know more about this incredible ship, please ask. Great for those of you who don't wish to fly to your cruise.

Did you know that I can also book most major sporting events, such as major cricket, rugby, golf and athletics championships etc around the world? Also, all the Grand Prix!

It is time to think about October half term, Christmas (definitely time for Santa in Lapland, skiing, Northern Lights, visiting family) and even next half-term. The earlier you book, the more you get for your money!

Poised and ready for your enquiries.

Liz King - Bespoke Travel - 01273 474273  
[liz@lizkingtravel.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizkingtravel.co.uk)

**DUNSTAN LEGEND: A GLASTONBURY TALE:** In 1912 the comic writer Hilaire Belloc wrote "Now as the story of the way St Dunstan pulled the devil by the nose has, in the long process of a thousand years, grown corrupt, distorted and very unworthily changed from its true original, and as it is a matter which every child should know and every grown man remember for the glory of religion and to the honour of this ancient land, I will set down here before I forget it, and you shall read it or no, precisely as you please." Belloc goes on to corrupt the story as much as he can, transposing the St Cuthman's Devil's Dyke story to Mayfield and having the devil speak in German. He has the Devil waiting for Dunstan to finish Mass "pawing and chawing and whisking his tail, until St Dunstan would come out, which he did very leisurely and smiling, and asked the Devil how the devil he did."

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the Legend was already a joke with many unbelievable and changing details. M.A. Lower in 1861 took the fable as an indication of "ignorance and rusticity", saying that "the railway whistle has frightened away ghosts and witches and fairies forever." His version is: "Dunstan on perceiving a cloven hoof protruding from the voluminous folds of the infernal crinoline, seized the Demon's nose with his red-hot pincers. (The pincers as well as the Saint's anvil and hammer still exist at Mayfield as irrefragable (sic) evidence of the statement.) On the application of the hot iron, the evil one burst through the roof of the building, Dunstan holding the other end of the forceps, with that pertinacity which ever distinguished his conduct. Away they went through the air, with the speed of a rifle bullet, a full league of space, until the

sulphurous composition of the nasal organ gave way to the heat of the implement, and the Saint fell to the ground near a bridge which still bears his name." M.A. Lower may have been goaded by the promotion of the legend by the Baker family in Mayfield who were offering people a sight of Dunstan's tongs in the 1830s. Probably from the same source is "Manuscript verses framed and preserved at Place House, Mayfield" on sale price sixpence. Dunstan's tongs are still famously "preserved" at Mayfield School (there was another set in Glastonbury) whilst the verses end thus:

"Safe then from any hellish rout  
Mayfieldians! ye may sleep;  
Long as the old Satan has a snout  
And you the forceps keep."

The origin of the fable is in a "Life of St Dunstan" written in about 1090 AD (more than a century after Dunstan's death) by Osbern, a Canterbury monk. Earlier lives of the young Dunstan had appeared soon after his death in 988 AD, written by eye-witnesses, and were designed to record miracles in making the case for canonization. By about 1012 this had been achieved, so Osbern's work was probably designed to promote Dunstan's income-generating shrine at Canterbury to encourage pilgrims. His version of the fable is that while working iron with tongs, Dunstan is approached through an open window by the Devil in the form of a man, and after some obscene talk, asks him to make something. Alerted to the Devil's true nature, Dunstan grasps the Devil's face with white hot tongs and drags him into his cell. The Devil screams and demolishes the wall of the cell. Next morning the neighbours complain of the terrifying noise. Dunstan admonishes them, asking how they will endure the devil if they are ever damned. Osbern sets this story in Glastonbury where Dunstan had been a monk before becoming Abbot. Osbern had visited Dunstan's cell (measuring two foot six by five foot) and had wept whilst holding his writing implements.

A number of modern academics have explored what can be discovered of the real figure of Dunstan. He was a senior minister of the Crown, Abbot of Glastonbury, an international scholar and eventually as Archbishop of Canterbury, a major ecclesiastical reformer. There is little information about his character in the latter role, but there are contemporary eye-witness accounts of the young monk. At Glastonbury he was noted for his frequent visions and his passion, making so much noise by beating his stick against the wall of the cloister in driving out the devil that his fellow monks saw him as a madman. At court he was thrown into a duckpond. He is recorded as a skilled embroiderer and silversmith, working at church vestments and plate. The Dictionary of National Biography describes him as "venerable and white-haired" known above all for "his learning, generosity and justice. But this kindly figure sits ill with the frantic and possessed zealot sketched from an earlier period of Dunstan's life." After the Conquest, Dunstan became an important figure for those wishing to commemorate Anglo-Saxon saints as a form of meek resistance to Norman power.

He probably built a wooden church in Mayfield and a guesthouse for his staff to stay in when they visited. The miracle is of Dunstan correcting the orientation of the church by pushing it into line. However, these buildings were probably single cell and made of wood, perhaps similar to substantial garden sheds, but hardly an official residence. What we know of Dunstan's movements is that Charing was his favourite manor, but apart from the wooden church miracle, there is no record of him being in Mayfield. This account by Eadmer was written in about 1100 AD.

Hilary Mantel's recent Reith lectures, in examining the relation between writers of history and writers of fiction, urges historians to show rigour, integrity and an impulse to scepticism, characteristics not always shown by those who feel the need to bolster Mayfield's history with "alternative facts". H.R. Hoare wrote in 1848 "According to some histories, St Dunstan was a prelate of universal genius, having been an architect, a skilful artist, a musician, a painter, an organ builder, and a bell-founder; and the good folks of Mayfield would add, a blacksmith." R.G.C. Foster in his 1960s history of Mayfield failed to spot the irony in this latter piece, reproduced it as fact and invented the surprising news that Dunstan built "many fine cathedrals." Connecting Dunstan with Mayfield's iron industry is ingenious invention, as is the suggestion that the first cannon was cast here (it was made at Newbridge on Ashdown Forest). Other misconceptions are that Mayfield is mentioned in the Domesday Book, that Dunstan was born in Mayfield and that Augustus Pugin restored Mayfield's Palace. (He died, probably of syphilis, a decade before this work was done by his son.) Mayfield's history is impressive enough without the need to embellish it with fictional elements with no evidence.

We should avoid attempts to suggest that the legend of the tongs has any basis in fact or is anything other than a work of imagination and humour. The Victorians clearly saw fables and legends as entertaining fairy stories. Perhaps we should just celebrate them like the cartoon figures on the village sign.

Tim Cornish

**BOOK REVIEW: *The Kaisers Daughter – Memoirs of H.R.H. Viktoria Luise, Princess of Prussia.***

(Translated from the German and abridged from three separate memoirs).

He was the dark figure who lurked in many an English infant's nightmare. Feared by child and parent alike he was the arch-demon of his times as his Zeppelin raids brought terror to English cities. He was shamelessly demonised by propagandist films and posters over alleged atrocities. But was Queen Victoria's adored grandson, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Prussia truly the warmongering criminal history has so often portrayed and whose "obnoxious" character today still seems to linger on in popular memory? Wilhelm's daughter in her memoirs sets out to present a much more attractive picture.

The memoirs, first published in 1965, are understandably highly biased. However, while very readable they are not the saccharine account of an exclusively privileged world, but the work of one who, though neither scholar nor historian, goes into considerable depth in portraying political, social and strategic events that shaped world history and she is undoubtedly sincere. Reading them, one views the events leading up to, during and following the Great War from the 'other side'. Intriguingly, Viktoria lays much blame at the door of Wilhelm's English relatives and the British Establishment as well as France.

Viktoria makes little mention of her father's withered arm and childhood suffering to which historians often attribute to his complex character. She fondly recalls, however, her father's positive traits: an adoring and fun-loving parent to her and her six brothers, a strong sense of duty and sound religious faith. Being also close to her mother, her childhood was idyllic.

Wilhelm, whose mother was Queen Victoria's daughter, had a strong affection for his grandmother. He also held fond memories of early holidays spent in England and Scotland, but after the Queen's death his relationship with England deteriorated. Never close to his mother, he also incurred the dislike of his uncle, the future King Edward VII. Edward was a Francophile whose distrust of Germany, shared by a growing number of Britons, paved the way to the entente cordiale. However according to Viktoria, Wilhelm desired close and friendly ties with England as well as with another relative, Russia's Czar Nicholas II. Viktoria accuses Edward VII of trying to isolate the German Reich and also of attempting (vainly) to persuade Austria to renounce its alliance with Germany. She emphatically maintains that Wilhelm strove to maintain peace in a Europe which, because of growing hostilities in the Balkans, was becoming increasingly menacing.

Viktoria writes of the exhilarating period in her girlhood when she dined and danced with numerous Royal relatives from all over Europe. Rumours that a marriage was being arranged between her and the future King Edward VIII were untrue but at twenty she married Ernst August, H.R.H. Duke of Brunswick with whom it was "love at first sight". Throughout the many troubles which lay ahead, the marriage remained very steadfast. As the outbreak of War loomed closer, Wilhelm believed the friendship between the European monarchs would survive. King George V appeared unwilling to be involved in conflict but Wilhelm underestimated the new power of global politics. Viktoria states bitterly that "The First World War was a war of cabinets, not of Kings". Wilhelm was convinced that the war, conducted by Russia, France and England, was directed towards the annihilation of Germany and that the Austro-Serbian conflict was only a pretext." Later, she feels that George V allowed his politicians to persuade him in declining to give asylum to the Czar's doomed family after the 1917 Revolution.

Germany's defeat in 1918 was followed by revolution and the collapse of the Monarchy, with Bolshevism posing a formidable threat. Matters worsened as Wilhelm's decision to abdicate embittered many Germans. Nevertheless, he acknowledged Parliamentary Democracy as relevant in a new era and his courage and dignity at this time is indisputable.

Wilhelm moved to Doorn in Holland, living quietly with his second wife, Viktoria's mother having died in 1921. During the nineteen-thirties Wilhelm viewed with dismay the rise of the Nazis whose terror tactics revolted him. Despite misguided support from a few relatives, including the Crown Prince, Hitler basically viewed the Royal Houses with contempt. Meanwhile Viktoria's daughter Frederica married the future King Paul of Greece and the many upheavals endured by that monarchy was the source of great anxiety.

Kaiser Wilhelm died in 1941. Viktoria devotes her final chapters to the grim years of World War 2 and its aftermath, during which she threw herself into working tirelessly for charities aiding the poor, needy and the hordes of war refugees. Widowed in 1953, Viktoria's memoirs conclude with her being surrounded happily by three generations of her now-united family whilst adjusting to life of modern monarchy. Reading this it is impossible not to like and admire this exemplary woman who, despite much loss, recalls a life which has been "fulfilled and richly eventful."

Cynthia M. Baker

**HERE IS THE NEXT COMMISSIONED FEATURE PIECE OF OUR 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR TO ENLIGHTEN READERS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF...**

**MAYFIELD & DISTRICT U3A:** This organisation, part of the national University of the Third Age, was

formed in 2005 following an initiative by Age Concern Mayfield and now has 200 members. The name "University" has occasionally misled people into visions of study and examinations but in this case the word is used to convey the eclectic and inclusive aims of the organisation. It operates on the principle of shared learning. Groups of like-minded people of a certain age (hence the title) are encouraged to meet and share knowledge, explore their subject or to participate in physical or creative activities. At present there are over 30 groups in Mayfield catering for a very wide range of interests including science, literature, languages, craft, walking, table tennis, etc. Groups are autonomous, deciding on the frequency of meetings, the venue (usually in members' homes) and the content of their programme.

At 2.00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (with the exception of August and December) a general meeting is held in Mayfield Memorial Hall. This provides an opportunity to disseminate relevant information, for members to meet one another and also to hear a variety of speakers. Over the years we have been entertained and informed by topics as diverse as the politics of the Middle East and the creator of Winnie the Pooh.

The U3A was founded on the principle that retirement, our third age, does not mean an end to all useful, significant or fulfilling activity. On the contrary it provides a wealth of opportunities: to become involved in something new, to pursue a long-held interest, to meet people with similar interests. There are now over one thousand U3A groups like Mayfield's in Britain and many more worldwide (one having been encountered on Magnetic Island off the east coast of Australia!) and all provide a really valuable service for their communities. Since the founding of Mayfield & District eleven years ago, other local groups have been formed and flourished in Uckfield, Wadhurst, Crowborough and Heathfield proving what some commentators have termed "the grey army" is a well-organised network of people with lively minds who grasp the opportunities of their third age.

New members are always welcome, especially anyone who has an idea for a new interest group. How about joining us? For further information on these or the various interest groups please contact Polly Bradford, (Chairman) on 873946 or Susana Price-Cabrera (Groups co-ordinator) on 873520.

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## FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

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**MAYFIELD AND THE GREAT WAR - NO. 42 - SEPTEMBER 2017:** After the unseasonal heavy rainfall during much of August, a drier period into September witnessed some success around the Ypres salient. However, the coastal landings further along the Belgian coast had been abandoned as there was little prospect of breaking through the German defences from Ypres to secure the Belgian coastline. The Germans use mustard gas for the first time during this phase of the offensive.

Elsewhere, on the Eastern Front the Germans, recognising the turmoil caused by the Russian revolution, launched an offensive against the port of Riga. This assault proved to be highly successful, largely owing to the feeble resistance of the Russian Army, whose morale and fighting spirit had been seriously damaged by the ongoing political events.

There are seven men whose names appear on the war memorial in the month of September 1917.

**Frederick Alfred E. (Ernest) Smith**, First Engineer, Merchant Navy. Frederick died on 9th September 1917 when the S.S. Tuscarora, en route to/from the UK, was torpedoed. The ship was damaged but not sunk. Three crew members were listed as missing after this attack and it is assumed that Frederick's body was never recovered. Frederick was born in Ramsgate, Kent in 1876 and married Emily Winifred Smith in 1902 in or around the district of Yarmouth. No trace of Frederick in the 1911 census has been found although Emily his wife is to be found at Oxford Lodge, Shoreham where she is described as living on her own means. The date of moving to Rosewarne, Five Ashes is unknown. No further details of Emily have been found.

**Benjamin Baldock** died on 10th September 1917. Benjamin was born in Ticehurst in 1893, and by 1901 the family was living at Scatsfords Hill, Mayfield. At that time Benjamin was one of six children, although by 1911 there was only Benjamin living at home with his parents and they were living at Scotsford, an 8-room house. At that stage Benjamin was aged 17 and was listed as a carter by profession.

He was part of the 8th Bn Welsh Regiment, who were deployed to Mesopotamia in Feb 1916, and eventually captured Baghdad. He is buried at the Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. He is also commemorated on the Heathfield War Memorial.

**Herbert J. Bateup**, died 12th September 1917. He was killed in action and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

Herbert was born in Mayfield around 1890 and by 1901, aged 11, was one of four children living with parents and paternal grandfather at Sharnden Lodge, Mayfield. By 1911 Herbert was living in Margate, as a single boarder working as a town postman. He subsequently married Ethel Mirams in Thanet.

**Nelson Soane**, died 17th September 1917, Lance Corporal, 6th Battalion Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment. LC Soane is recorded incorrectly on the Mayfield War Memorial as Sloane. He was killed in action near Arras and is buried at the Windmill British cemetery Monchy-Le-Preux. France. Nelson was awarded the Military Medal, by which he earned the right to add the letters MM to his name.

Nelson was born in Buxted in 1881, and was successively resident at Pinstaws, Rotherfield and later at Town Row Green, Rotherfield. He is recorded in census returns as being employed as a Bricklayer Lab and later as a Gardener Domestic. At the time of this latter occupation Nelson had married Elizabeth Harriet (nee Hall) in 1906 and by 1911, the couple were living at Sharnden Lodge, Mayfield.

**Alexander Humphrey**, Private 12th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. It is believed that Alexander Humphrey was mistakenly added to the Mayfield War Memorial instead of Albert Humphrey who in turn is correctly recorded on the Five Ashes War Memorial. See below.

**Albert George Humphrey**, Private 8th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Albert was killed in action on 5th September 1917 and is buried at Duhallow ADS (Advanced Dressing Station) West-Vlaanderen Belgium. Plot No I.C.2.

Albert was born in Mayfield 1896, one of 12 surviving children, living at Summerhill Cottage, Hadlow Down, Five Ashes. The family lived at this address for over 20 years and by 1911 Albert's occupation was recorded as Horseman on farm. He enlisted with the RSR at Eastbourne and although his service records are missing, other sources suggest he enlisted in 1915. The local paper reported that he *'enlisted at the beginning of the War when he was just over 18 years of age. He went abroad in February 1916 and in the following July he sustained a remarkable injury, being hit by a bullet which entered his head by his left ear and passed out of his right cheek without damaging a tooth. After his recovery, he returned to the Front where he served for another eleven months before he met his death...'*

**Frederick James Tinker**, died 26th September 1917, aged 38, was a private with 12th Bn Suffolk Regiment.

Herbert was born in 1882 in Westbury, Wiltshire and initially became an agricultural labourer. By 1911 Frederick was 30 and had moved and was living at 3, South Street, Mayfield, as a lodger with James Kemp, widower, farm lab, and his daughter Winifred, housekeeper aged 38. Frederick was employed as an engine cleaner for E.S.C.C. In 1914 Frederick married Winifred Kemp - no records of any children born have been found.

He was killed in action and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

**Horace George Cornford**, died 29th September 1917, was a private with the Australian Infantry, A.I.F., 30th Bn. Horace was the older brother of Elam Cornford, who died on 10th July 1915.

Horace was born in 1894 and by 1901, aged 7, was one of six children living at Freemans Farm, Five Ashes. By 1911 the family were living at Meres Farm, Five Ashes and there had been 4 more siblings born. By that time Horace was 17 and living as a boarder in High St, Rotherfield working as a grocer's assistant.

In 1913 Horace emigrated to Australia and formally enlisted with the Australian Army on 14.2.16.

On his enlistment papers, it says that he was working as a grocer's assistant, an apprenticeship of two years, living in Manly, NSW.

The local papers wrote: *"Many people in Uckfield and Mayfield will learn with regret of the death in action of Private Horace George Cornford, of the Australian Forces, and second son of Mr. & Mrs. Horace Cornford, of Harland's Farm, Uckfield, and formerly of Meres Farm, Mayfield. No actual details of his death have been received, but it is understood that it was caused by a shell"*.

Horace is also commemorated on the Uckfield war memorial.

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Brian Oldfield & Carole Stilwell

**A RESPONSE TO LAST MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION:** "I read with much interest the article on the Centenary of the First World War but was saddened that there was no mention of the Royal Flying Corps (of which my father was a member). I believe that they in their "Flying Machines" were the real precursors of the Royal Air Force.

Margaret Mill

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## OUR SCHOOLS

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**MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL – OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING':** Yes, 'OUTSTANDING' in all areas. This is a huge

achievement so thank you to the amazing staff, committees, past & present, parents & the wider community who support the Pre-School. We are one of a few facilities in the area offering up to 30 hours funding. Could you be entitled to this support from September? For further information, please call us on 872523.

For the remainder of the year we have a packed calendar of events, so please come along and support our fundraising efforts! The first is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Mayfield Carnival – Taking part in an event to raise funds for the Bonfire Society we will be offering Face Painting at the Memorial Hall. For further information please email [committee@mayfieldpreschool.co.uk](mailto:committee@mayfieldpreschool.co.uk)

Daniel Lee-Billinghurst

**MAYFIELD SCHOOL EXAM RESULTS:** Mayfield School is celebrating another year of exceptional A Level and Pre-U results, with girls securing places at top universities to study a wide range of subjects encompassing Mathematics, Medicine, Engineering, Architecture and Music. The School is also celebrating some of its best ever GCSE results, an impressive achievement in a year where examination reforms have made it more challenging for students to reach the top grade. Over one-third of all entries were awarded either A\* or 9, the newly introduced highest grade in GCSE English and Mathematics, which recognises the very best performing students. The GCSE results are all the more impressive as the School has a broad academic intake and they highlight Mayfield's success in unlocking the academic potential of each girl. They are a testament not only to the first-rate teaching and exceptional pastoral support at Mayfield but also to the School's ethos of commitment, aspiration and challenge and we congratulate the girls on their achievements.

Katie Chamberlain  
Communications Assistant

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## OUR CHURCHES

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**ST. DUNSTAN'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> September we will be hosting a Back to school family service at 10.15. This is a perfect opportunity to start off the new school year with confidence, whether your child be starting a new school or gaining a new teacher. We will be appreciating teachers too so all teachers from any school will be welcomed. There will be refreshments afterwards to provide you the chance to meet with other new parents.

Our baby and toddler groups begin again with Tiddlywinks (0-2 yrs) on 6<sup>th</sup> September at 10am. Subsequent groups are as follows: Tiddlywinks is on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday Tots (0-4) offering a story, singing and a related craft is on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. Both groups are in London House and you are guaranteed a friendly welcome!

The next session of our new youth group, *The Forge* (named to connect us to our patron saint and his occupation) will be September 11<sup>th</sup>. The group is currently free-of-charge and our team would ask that places are booked to ensure there is a space for your child/ren.

Mrs Natalie Thomson (07889 780531)  
[childrensworker12@gmail.com](mailto:childrensworker12@gmail.com)

**MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES 'BIBLE FEST' - 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER:** (All events in St. Dunstan's church unless otherwise stated). **Father Nigel writes:** "I am really excited about hosting our own, local celebrations of the 'Year of the Bible' here in St Dunstan's. With famous guest speakers, and much more besides, we plan to see how the Bible really is 'Good News' for today".

### Sunday 8 October:

10.15am: Parish Eucharist with The Rt. Revd. Michael Langrish, former Bishop of Exeter.

4pm: Afternoon Tea followed by Talk: 'From Creation to Fulfilment – the Bible and Human Experience' with Bishop Michael. Free event.

### Monday 9 October:

All day, in both Church of England Primary Schools: acclaimed children's author, Clare Luther (of the Safari Series).

'Journey through the Bible', a thought-provoking series of displays/artwork, will be open to all from Tuesday to Saturday - 9.30am to 5pm

Refreshments. Book Stall (courtesy of St Olav Christian Bookshop, Chichester).

### Tuesday 10 October:

9.30am: Official opening of 'Journey through the Bible' by The Bishop of Lewes, at St Dunstan's

5pm: Talk: 'Jesus and Archaeology' by The Revd. Stephen Need, author and former Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem - followed by drinks. Free event.

### Wednesday 11 October:

7.30pm: Talk: 'The Image and The Word – Eyes to see, Ears to hear, and Hearts to understand' by Patricia Fostropoulos, celebrated iconographer - followed by drinks. Free event.

### Thursday 12 October:

7.30 for 8pm: Middle Eastern Supper with after-dinner speaker Diocesan Director of Education, Dr Ann Holt OBE. Tickets £15 from Felicity Robinson Tel: 872286 **by Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

### Friday 13 October:

9am: Schools' musical – '*Noah and His Floating Zoo*'

7.30pm: Lumo Film: '*The Gospel according to St Mark*' - popcorn and ice-creams in the interval. Free event - tickets available from Nicky in the Parish Office Tel: 873484.

### Saturday 14 October:

7.30pm Gospel Concert featuring MayZing Choir, Mayfield School, and Guest Soloist, Robin Jeffcoat. Bar. Tickets £10/£8 from Burnetts.

### Sunday 15 October:

10.15am Family Eucharist – Service of Thanksgiving. All welcome.

For further information, please contact the Parish Office: 873484 [stdunstan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stdunstan@tiscali.co.uk); or Julia Lawrence: 872389 [julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com](mailto:julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com)

**ELLE DE LA MARE, R.I.P.** I did not expect to be presiding over Elle's Thanksgiving Service whilst still being Vicar here. Many of you will remember her with affection in the time she was our Parish Administrator and my PA (Jan 2002-July 2007). Some years after that, she had the great idea of getting a team of village volunteers to '**ADOPT A GRAVE**' at St Dunstan's Churchyard just looking after and caring for those graves that are rarely visited if at all and ensuring that they look more 'loved' and not overgrown. So there is an irony about this notice. In her memory... Is there any Newsletter reader and gardener willing to take on Elle's role in managing this for the future? It would be a lovely tribute to a very special and caring person. Many thanks.

Fr Nigel 873484

**CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Bruxner Randall Committee is pleased to be able to offer **four Choral Scholarships** (one each for SATB) in the Parish Church Choir for singers aged 16-25. Each Scholarship is tenable for a period of one academic year, with the ability to renew for a further year. Scholarships are worth up to **£500** per annum and offer young singers a rewarding and challenging role with a strong educational and social dimension. We are looking to hear from singers who wish to gain practical experience as part of their musical studies or improve their skills as choral singers and/or soloists.

The **aim** of the Choral Scholarships are: to strengthen the choir of St Dunstan's and thus contribute to the beauty and significance of its worship; to enable young singers to gain experience in choral and solo singing and to widen their repertoire by engaging in a broad and demanding variety of church music; to provide training for those wishing to gain practical experience as part of their musical studies or to improve their skills as a choral singer and/or soloist and finally to offer young singers a rewarding and challenging role with an educational and social dimension.

If you would like further details or you know of someone who would wish to take up the opportunity of a Choral Scholarship please contact Director of Music Andrew Benians on (01435) 866485 or email [andrewbenians@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbenians@gmail.com)

Andrew Benians (Director of Music)

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## ROUND AND ABOUT

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**CTIL TELECOMS MAST - LITTLE TRODGERS LANE/TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD:** The application for the mast first came to public notice when WDC put it on their website on 16 May and Mayfield & Five Ashes Society wrote a formal objection against siting and design and encouraged as many individuals as possible to do the same. There followed over 100 objections, and a working group was formed. A petition was organised, representations were made to the Parish Council and many letters of further objection were written to the WDC Planning Department as it became clear that they were not listening to local feelings. The Planning Officer acting under delegated powers APPROVED the application for the mast, exactly as

submitted, and refused to allow it to be considered by the elected WDC Planning Committee despite Cllr Brian Redman's demands. Thank you to the many Mayfield business owners and hundreds of residents who have added their names to the petition protesting the siting and design of the proposed mast.

Since then MaFAS has tried to get the telecoms companies to consider better alternative sites without success, and to get WDC to review their actions and declare the Approval invalid, also without success. What has appalled us all is the useless pre-application consultation with Wealden in December 2016, WDC's weak acceptance of a dreadful location on one of the two main entries to Mayfield and of such ugly appearance, no public consultation, total disregard of the universal objections and a pathetic planning officer's report bending over backwards to approve the mast as "acceptable", despite it not being remotely in accordance with WDC's own current Design Guide (section 14).

We called a public meeting on 19 July, when about 55 attended, including representatives of High Hurstwood, who fended off their mast, to explore ideas and a collective approach. This was followed up on 2 August when "Plan A" was agreed on to ask CTIL about alternative sites and "Plan B" where the Parish Council have asked the land owner about not selling to CTIL. MaFAS heard that the Parish Council had decided not to write directly to CTIL and, therefore, MaFAS decided at their meeting on 11 August to write a letter from their President to the Chief Executive of CTIL seeking a collaborative approach to achieve their needs and satisfy our community. This has been done. MaFAS also want to have WDC Constitution and Procedures amended so that any mast application in the future must be decided by the Full WDC Planning Committee. MaFAS also want to have the national legislation amended so that telecoms companies MUST listen to local objections on siting and design of any mast nationwide. We intend to approach this through our MP initially.

John Finlay, Mayfield and Five Ashes Society

**MAYFIELD FOOTPATHS WALK:** As usual we will be walking on the last Sunday of the month, come rain or shine. Join us on a gentle ramble through the parish, along footpaths, bridleway and quiet lanes. We meet on Sunday 24th September, 10am in South Street car park. Everyone welcome - we look forward to walking with you.

Deborah Dixon  
Deborah.dixon@hotmail.co.uk

**OPEN DAYS AT THE ARGOS HILL WINDMILL:** Our next open days are Saturday and Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 9th and 10th** and **Sunday October 25th**, from 2 - 5 pm. Do come and visit one of the most interesting buildings in the area and enjoy the wonderful views from the highest point of the High Weald. There is car parking available close by but why not try one of the lovely walks from Mayfield and Rotherfield to Argos Hill. Hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes are available plus, of course, a guided tour with our experts.

We are planning walking groups behind our new banner at the Mayfield and Rotherfield Carnivals this month and would welcome anyone who would like to support us with this.

Jenny Beaupain - 01892 853161



## **MAYFACS (Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services) UPDATE**

[www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk) (Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services)

We are pleased to announce Alex Firrell is joining the MAYFACS team. She will be assisting Shirley for a few hours a week, initially in an admin role, but she is keen to come to the MAYFACS activities and to get to know everyone. Alex will be helping to keep the website up to date and generally help promote us in a variety of ways.

### **Five Ashes Tea & Chat Dates, 2.30-4.00pm**

Come and join us for a friendly afternoon of chat and tea on 13 and 27 September and thereafter the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in the month. We look forward to seeing you there, or please phone if you would like a lift.

**Zumba Gold** resumes on Thursday 14 September at 9.45-10.30am in Mayfield Memorial Hall.

### **Computer Buddies & Mayfield Library**

Please get in touch with us if you would like some help with your iPad or tablet, learn how to send an email or use the internet or help with your smart phone. Library open Tuesday & Thursday afternoons and Saturday morning.

### **Monthly Outings**

#### **Minibus trip to Brighton 25 September**

The drivers are happy to take people to The Royal Pavilion or seafront. Cost £5 per person.

Contact us (details below) to book your place - see calendar for further trips.

### **Tuesday Afternoon Club - Monthly**

This resumes in the Scout & Guide Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 2.30- 4pm. If you have never been before, please come and join us. It is for everyone over the age of 60 and we have an interesting line up for the rest of the year.

**September** - Please come and share your memories of Mayfield & Five Ashes with Suzi Hopkins who is going to talk to us about the community play planned for next year. She is the writer and your story could well form part of the play.

### **Yoga for the Young at Heart**

For those who would like some gentle exercise conducted mostly from the sitting position and unlike conventional yoga, Sarah Ratcliffe will begin her new class on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 12pm for up to an hour. Cost £4 Please ring Sarah on 873310 if you want more information.

**Scrabble players** – are you keen on playing Scrabble? Would you like to get together with others to have a game occasionally? Please get in touch if this interests you or if there are already people playing who would welcome other players, please let us know.

### **Good Neighbouring Scheme**

Please get in touch with me if you or you know of a neighbour, who would like to be part of this initiative or if you would like to become a “good neighbour”.

**Contact Details** – Shirley Holland or Alex Firrell

Most Mondays - Old Library – next to the Memorial Hall (look for the sign outside)

Telephone: 07908 516 875

[www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk)

Emails: [manager@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:manager@mayfacs.org.uk) or [admin@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:admin@mayfacs.org.uk)

If you prefer to write, please leave a letter at The Shopping Basket

**THE SLOW SHORT FILM FESTIVAL:** Mayfield is hosting the first annual Slow Short Film Festival. Thirteen shortlisted films, made by emerging filmmakers from across the world, and selected from over 150 films submitted, will be screened in the Memorial Hall and Mayfield School Concert Hall on Saturday, 9th September.

The day starts at 11am with a welcome, followed by four batches of screenings. The screenings end at 9pm with an Award ceremony, where the Jury Prize and the Audience Award will be presented. Tickets £10 from Burnetts Estate Agency in the High Street. For more information, and a more detailed programme, go to [www.slowshortfilmfestival.com](http://www.slowshortfilmfestival.com).

Peter Treherne

**SLOW CINEMA:** Arguably the ten prime elements of slow cinema or slow film are perhaps where:

- Action is unhurried
- There's a stillness in composition
- A person whose life experience tallies with the storyline may be preferred to a professional actor
- Usually a strong authorial voice
- Often little or no dialogue or music
- But often ambient sound is used
- The story is undramatic and unfolds gradually
- May come together in the final shot
- Is often contemplative where nothing happens and yet everything happens
- Long takes of landscape or manual labour give mood, develop storyline and encourage viewer contemplation.

Chris Lyle

**NEW VILLAGES WEBSITE NOW LIVE:** Barring any last minute disasters, the new Mayfield and Five Ashes community website will be up and running by the time this article is published. The main items are in place and we will be adding additional information over the coming months.

Please go and have a look at [mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk) and give us your feedback. No doubt a few errors will have crept in, so please send any corrections or comments to [admin17@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](mailto:admin17@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk). In

particular let us know if there are omissions or updates to contact details.

One of the big changes is the new diary system. From the home page click on the Diary & Events block to take you to the monthly calendar view. Here there is a search option at the top, allowing you to search for events by date or by title keyword (e.g. yoga). You can also choose to view events day by day or in a list. Clicking on any event brings up more details (e.g. location, contact details).

It is reasonably simple to add new events. So we are inviting those who organise many regular events to contact us and learn how to add their own entries.

We hope you like the new diary and find it easier to search and more up to date. Over the next few months, I will be telling you more about the other new features of the website.

admin17@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Roger Stone (872764) / 07776 144056

**DO YOU LIKE TO TINKER IN A SHED? A MAYFACS OUTING WITH A DIFFERENCE:** "The Eastbourne Shed" is an inter-generational, skill sharing, community project based in Eastbourne. It provides a place where men and women can come along and take part in activities similar to what we do in our own garden shed, but with other like-minded people supplying good company. A typical 'shed' workshop provides the normal model making, woodworking and metalworking tools and equipment (as well as tea, coffee and biscuits), to enable 'shedders' to use their existing skills, learn new ones, share skills, develop interests and get involved in productive activities, while enjoying the benefits of working in a social group.

***Would you like to go and see it in action?***

MAYFACS is organising a trip to see The Eastbourne Shed in action on a Friday in early October, followed by a pub lunch. We will use a minibus if enough people are interested. If you are even just a little bit curious, or even just fancy the pub lunch, then please get in touch with John Mills on 873178 or Shirley Holland of MAYFACS on 07908 516 875.

If you are interested to find out more about this project, but cannot go on the trip, please still get in touch. If enough people are interested, we would like to investigate taking the idea forward for our own community.

**WOODHILL PATIENTS GROUP DISSOLVED:** The Woodhill Patients Group held an E.G.M. on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July in order to dissolve the Group. A quorum being present the following proposals were put to the attendees:-

- That the Woodhill Patients Group should be dissolved. This was agreed unanimously
- That MAYFACS should take on the responsibility of the maintenance of the three defibrillators which Shirley Holland has agreed. This was agreed unanimously
- Funds remaining after any outstanding invoices have been settled should be given to Community Cars. The amount will be in the region of £400.00. After a discussion this was unanimously agreed.

The committee would like to thank all WPG members for their time and input into the group over the last six years with special thanks to Dr. Robin Warshafsky and Andrew Watson who devoted a lot of their time in the early days.

John Gaunt, Chair

***Agenda* INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL: hosted by Mayfield School Friday 6 October and Saturday 7 October The Old Palace, Mayfield** This is the fourth International Poetry Festival promoted by the well-known Poetry Journal, *Agenda*, edited by Patricia McCarthy (Patsy Cornish) and hosted by Mayfield School.

For more information and tickets contact: [bookings@mayfieldgirls.org](mailto:bookings@mayfieldgirls.org); [www.mayfieldgirls.org/Agenda-Poetry-Festival](http://www.mayfieldgirls.org/Agenda-Poetry-Festival) or Tel: 874600.

Patsy Cornish

**MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES FOODBANK HAS FOUND A HOME:** This new project will be opening on 5<sup>th</sup> September at Unit 1, The Old Firehouse, Fletching Street at 11.00 - 12 noon.

Food donations of tins and packets can also be left as usual in the village churches, schools, the library and Woodhill Surgery. This project is for young and old facing temporary difficulty. Those in need will be given confidential help as required.

Help is needed for volunteers, collections of food, deliveries for elderly or housebound and manning the rota at the Old Firehouse. Please call 07895 269560 or email mayfafood@outlook.com

Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Foodbank

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## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

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**MAYFIELD BONFIRE BOYES & BELLES: THIS YEAR'S CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER.** A big thank you to everyone who has helped to make torches. We are behind schedule so please help on Saturday 2nd September/Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September Scout & Guide HQ 9.30-12.30pm.

There will be a boot/table top/afternoon market in the Memorial Hall car park 12 noon – 3.30pm (phone Jo Lee to book a table 872717) Entertainment will be held throughout the afternoon including music from The Logan Wilson Band'. Licensed bar & light lunches/afternoon teas will be available

Please support our Real Ale & cider bar and BBQ located by the Convent entrance from 5.30pm onwards- all profit goes towards next year's event.

The children's fancy dress competition will be held at the Memorial Hall at 3pm – this will be followed at 6.55pm by our wreath laying ceremony with blazing poppy banners at the War Memorial. The first torchlight procession will leave Station Road at 7.30pm.

The grand procession will leave the old NatWest bank at approx 9.15pm and the firework display will be in the playing fields at 10.00pm.

### Important notice

**Animals & children – please be aware last procession will be noisy (in front of the Middle House)**

**Please see programme (available in the village shops) for timings of the day's events & processions, & contact details for Mayfield Bonfire Society.**

**Road closures - 6.30pm -11.30pm**

**This year the village will be shut to vehicles between these times. ABSOLUTELY NO ADMITTANCE - EMERGENCY VEHICLES ONLY.**

**There will be one way out of the village along the Tunbridge Wells Road (from 9.30pm). Road closures include Little Trodgers, Roundabout, Coggins Mill Lane, East Street, Newick Lane and Rotherfield Lane. Please make sure you are back in the village by 6.30pm or you will have a long walk. We are following the strict guidelines set out by Sussex Police and we have to adhere to them or no carnival.**

Please have some respect for the people manning the barriers. They are doing this job in a voluntary capacity. Vehicle registration numbers will be taken of those who think the road closure does not apply to them. The police will be notified and could prosecute.

A firework display will be held in Court Meadow at 10.00pm so please move horses or other nervous pets out of hearing especially in Fletching Street where I understand the fireworks are very loud in the valley. Our firework company stick to regulations concerning the loudness of fireworks.

### Anyway - onto a lighter note: Barriers and Marshalling On The Night

We would be extremely grateful if we could have some **volunteers** to help with torch marshalling and barrier manning **in shifts** throughout the evening. It just involves stopping traffic while the procession moves through a section of the village or helping us with crowd control through the village and at the Memorial Hall gates on the last procession. As you can appreciate, with a lot of crosses and torches it is paramount we keep the public out of harm's way. We would also like some help to run our fundraising bar & BBQ during the evening. Even an hour would be invaluable. We have only a small committee now and desperately need some help. It can be fun and you won't miss the procession.

**We also need some collectors during the evening** so dust off your fancy dress costumes or make some new ones and come out individually or as a group and help us collect money for charity (cup to the highest collector). Phone Jo if you need help with a costume (872717). Proceeds of the collection this year will go to MAYFACS, Mayfield Pre-School & the Mayfield Scouts who do an invaluable job helping us on the night. Why not try and get together with a few people from your road and organise a walking group? It would be a great way to meet newcomers to the village and could become rather competitive in future years. If you would like to try walking in the procession get in contact and we will find you a smugglers jumper or costume for the evening and then maybe you could come to some other bonfire events around Sussex. It's a very sociable way to spend autumn Saturday nights for all ages and a great way to meet people.

We start picking up the litter from the carnival at 6.00am on Sunday morning – so if you are an early riser – a hand would be appreciated. Bacon butties/fry up & lots of tea offered as an incentive.

**I would like to remind everyone that the carnival is put on free of charge for the whole village to enjoy.** We work extremely hard putting on quizzes and other fund raising events but **our costs as you can appreciate keep going up!** This year the carnival will cost over £5500.

All money collected in the evening goes to our chosen charities. (Buckets after the fireworks at Memorial Hall gates go towards for the fireworks in 2017). Any donations towards the carnival and firework display to help our funds would be greatly appreciated, it could help keep this annual village carnival (arguably the best and most atmospheric in Sussex) going for years to come.

Pitches for the afternoon boot sale/market are available £10 in advance £15 on the day. Ring Jo 872717

**Donations towards Bonfire Society costs can be given in at The Shopping Basket or sent to Mrs J M Lee, 4, Victoria Cottages, Love Lane, Mayfield, TN20 6EN cheques made payable to M.B.B.B.**

New members always welcome as are any suggestions to enhance this special event as well as cakes (any variety)/sausage rolls/savoury items (to feed the hungry visiting societies) & tombola/raffle prizes (to raise funds for the society). Please deliver cakes/prizes to the Memorial Hall from 10am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**I have not had many offers of help yet – come on Mayfield - lets pull together - any help would be really appreciated – still 2000 torches to make!**

Please phone or e-mail me with any enquiries.

Jo Lee Chairman 872717 07855 231 888

Jo@skytechnical.co.uk Details Also on Mayfield Bonfire Society Website/facebook

**MAYFIELD BAND.....back to school with a blow:** I can clearly remember being completely appalled when my father first inserted a tape of military band arrangements of Beatles hits into the cassette player of his Rover 2000 back in the seventies. Just as I was discovering pop music, he was desecrating it with this sacrilegious attempt to translate it into something accessible to bowler hatted Rover drivers, with the crucial difference for Dad probably being that it was played by men with sensible haircuts rather than drugged up long haired yobs. But fast forward (for the benefit of younger readers, it's something we used to have to do to get to the next track) 45 years and I find myself enjoying and actually playing brass band arrangements of Beatles hits. Don't ask me to explain it. It's something that just happens with the passage of time, like hair sprouting from my ears, and going "aaahh" when I sit down.

Of course there is plenty of music that will never translate to brass, but brass can really break down musical barriers and prejudices with the aid of a skilful arranger and an open mind. Probably one of the more entrenched prejudices however, is when brass tries to stray into the classical canon, around which the musical elite have put up some fairly hefty locked gates with spiky bits on top. Wait for the gatekeeper in chief, Radio 3, to play a brass arrangement of a classical piece, and you will be waiting a long time, and probably find hairs sprouting from your ears before it happens.

So, to avoid the wait, and before the barber says "would you like me to do your ears sir", come along to the bandroom and listen to us having a bash at Rimsky Korsakov's "Scheherazade". It works really well, and what the violin does in the original, is easily matched and improved on by the cornet. We're working on it as an exercise rather than a concert piece, and it's been a really challenging workout for the band, which is keeping us on our toes over the quiet season, requiring as it does, an eye popping degree of concentration. But it's a lovely piece, brilliantly arranged by Drake Rimmer, one of an unsung horde of great brass composers and arrangers just waiting to be discovered by a listening public bored by Auntie's output. Unfortunately it's inexplicably difficult to find a recorded version, so you'll probably have to ferret through YouTube if you don't fancy our version. Still, a ferret through YouTube is always a source of some hidden gems, but it can be a bit addictive so you'll probably have to take a break for an ear trim.

But where else could a 10/12 year old get to play such a serious bit of repertoire? It's why brass bands play such a crucial role in the development and education of young musical talent, as they provide players with opportunities early on in life not available elsewhere. The brass movement has always believed in getting kids to play challenging but playable music, and the nature of brass bands and brass instruments generally enables youngsters to progress more quickly. So we are particularly excited that we not only have a small group of children from the primary school that recently performed together at a school assembly, but that they also now have the opportunity, at school, to take advantage of a visiting brass teacher from the county music service. With the band, the school, and the music service working together, it's a package that will really get kids off to a flying start to their musical and academic lives, and we are secretly hopeful that this set up might even lead

to a school band in the fullness of time, which really would be something special and quite unique in this part of the world. So we would urge all parents to take a serious look at this fantastic opportunity, available here in Mayfield at a sensible cost. It's one of those use it or lose it, once in a lifetime things, which will benefit the individual, the school, and the wider community. And if band practice clashes with your child's football practice, ballet, triathlon, rugby, or anything else, just ask yourself if these things are something that they will still be able to do when their ears resemble small mammals, and some form of exclamation is required for any sitting down or standing up manoeuvre?!

So give me a call, and make the new school year really special. **EVERYBODY WELCOME, INCLUDING BEGINNERS. ALL AGES, ALL ABILITIES.**

Simon Rudge 872007  
simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

**MAYFIELD EVENING WI:** The Summer Event for the Mayfield Evening WI was a very interesting talk on the Great Hall given by Sister Maria. We met in the Great Hall, at The Old Palace, Mayfield which was probably built by Archbishop Walter Reynolds between 1325 and 1326.

S. Maria told us how Mayfield was famous throughout England and about some of the people who had visited. These obviously included St. Dunstan with his fight with the devil and we saw the supposed tongs he used. Edward I, the Hammer of the Scots visited 3 times in 1297, 1299 and 1305. Queen Elizabeth I knighted Sir John Gresham and the sword she used can be seen. Queen Victoria also visited and the horse's whip she presented to the little girl who gave her flowers, can also be seen. Afterwards we went to the Pink Cabbage for dinner. It was a lovely evening and on behalf of everyone present, I would like to thank Chrissie Robinson for all her hard work and planning to make it such a lovely evening for us all.

September is back to normal with our first meeting in the Memorial Hall on 12th September. The speaker is from "Heathfield First Responders". They are volunteers who are trained by the ambulance service and serve a 3 mile radius around their base and they usually arrive before the ambulance. Some people in Mayfield will know about them from the recent accident in the village when they helped out.

If you would like to join us, come along at 7-15pm for 7.30pm start. You will be made very welcome. If you would prefer to speak to someone first please phone Berenice on 872039.

Margaret Rae

**MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY:** Next Season's Meetings begin on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Scout Hall 7:15 for 8.00 p.m. **MAYFIELD INSIDE AND OUT:** David Martin will review many of the listed buildings in Mayfield. Anyone who has an interest in the listed buildings of Mayfield should hear David, as he is an expert on the vernacular architecture of the Middle Ages. He gave us a fascinating account last year on the rationale and designs of separate kitchens in medieval houses. David has provided archaeological descriptions of a number of the medieval buildings in Mayfield, notably "A Targeted Historical and Architectural Study Into The Village Centre at Mayfield, East Sussex" prepared for Wealden District Council in 2005. It should be a talk not to be missed.

Until then have an enjoyable and fruitful holiday season. To save time on October 27th, it would be very helpful if members could fill in the membership application form on our website. This will be especially helpful if changes have been made to email or snail mail addresses.

Friday, November 24, 2017: **REMINDER - DUTCH SUPPER EVENING:** This year we shall be back to our past pattern with a talk by Geoff Hutchinson on Christmases past. Geoff is an accomplished and amusing speaker, so a good evening is to be expected.

Brian O'Connor, MLHS Chairman – 873477  
Rob Foster, MLHS Secretary – 873215  
John Buddle, MLHS Treasurer – 872229

**MAYFIELD SCOUT GROUP:** Well, my monthly report now seems to be six-monthly report! My sincere apologies to one and all. Life, health and work just seem to be getting in the way. I have another voluntary commitment which means I have even less time over the next two years. I hope next month to announce that we have a new GSL. I will move over to AGSL so you are not getting rid of me that easily. I will continue to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Mayfield Group for as long as I can and am useful.

### Scouting Sections

**Beavers (6 to 8 ½ years old):** The section continues to be very popular with the youngsters of Mayfield. We currently have 24 beavers, developing their skills and having fun on a weekly basis. They have worked on creative, outdoor and first aid badges. Following an amazing weekend camp in July at Blacklands Farm with the beavers (and Cubs), we asked the beavers what they enjoyed the most. It varied from toasting

marshmallows on an open fire, singing songs round the camp fire, to being with their friends and sleeping in tents. By far the most exciting things they did though were grass sledging, low ropes and rocket bottles. Everyone had an amazing time.

The leaders find it very rewarding to run the annual camp as all children want to attend and they are always keen to sleep over, which is amazing considering some are only six years old. The children are always well behaved, respectful of each other and are a credit to themselves. This makes all the organisation, planning and hard work by the leaders very worthwhile and enjoyable.

**For Beavers contact Stewart Neve 07852 357140/joansflowers@btinternet.com**

**Cubs (8 ½ to 10 ½ years old):** We have a new Akela since the last report. Rob Batchelor has been in place for a few months and already we have made lots of progress. The cubs joined with the Beavers for a weekend camp at Blacklands Farm which with the support of parents and leaders was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all the youngsters.

**For Cubs contact Rob Batchelor 07970 485752/robandchar.mayfield@talktalk.net**

**Scouts (10 ½ to 14 ½ years old):** As always the Scouts have an action packed programme involving kite making and flying, hikes and camps, abseiling and climbing, archery and shooting. They are heavily involved in the planning of their programme and always have a fabulous time. They have just returned from another successful summer camp. This time they went to Norfolk spending time cruising on the broads, exploring the rich countryside and history and relaxing on Great Yarmouth beach. All delivered by Mark and his superb team of leaders.

**For Scouts – Mark Thomson 07810 800428/markthomson10@aol.com**

**Explorers (14 ½ to 18 years old):**

Explorers actually comes under the management and control of the Ashdown District but Mark Thomson along with the GSL of Ticehurst, Rosie Burfoot are the instigators of this revived section and have worked very hard together to kick start the section. Whilst it is early days tremendous progress has been made under Mark's leadership.

**For Explorers – Mark Thomson 07810 800428/markthomson10@aol.com**

We always need new leaders and helpers both in uniform and as part of the supporters committee. Please contact me 07771 965517 **[gavin@rossma.co.uk](mailto:gavin@rossma.co.uk)** if you would like to join and help Mayfield and Five Ashes youngsters have lots of fun and a great start in life.

**100 Club – all proceeds go to the running of the Community Minibus**

The April to August 2017 draws are as follows:

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize £25</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10</b>
<b>April 2017</b>	Mr S Blurton 085	M J & BR Sechiari 147	Mr B Humphrey 078
<b>May 2017</b>	Mrs S Humphrey 169	Mr M Hepworth 134	Mrs Winter 068
<b>June 2017</b>	Mrs C Bethel-Motagali 186	Mr K Wapling 054	Mr P Driscoll 004
<b>July 2017</b>	Mr M Hepworth 134	Mr A Firrell 149	Mrs S Humphrey 007
<b>August 2017</b>	T Lee 020	Mr R Cole 075	Mr A Firrell 108

Do contact me if you would like to join or increase your numbers, £1 per month per number. Minimum 40% of input as prizes.

**Community Minibus**

**Advertising has fallen by the wayside and we need another volunteer to help finalise the offers we have and create new ones** - £200 per year. Do contact me if you would like to advertise your business. If you wish to take advantage of the Minibus and you are a charitable, voluntary or welfare organisation then get in touch by email to **[msgminibus@gmail.com](mailto:msgminibus@gmail.com)**. I do need help to manage the advertising as I just do not have time. Please contact me and I will explain the opportunities for you.

**To join our group now:** Beavers (aged 6 to 8 ½) meet on Friday 5-6pm; Cubs 8 ½ to 10 ½ meet on Tuesday 6-7:30pm; Scouts 10½ to 14½ meet on Thursday 7-9pm; Explorers 14½ to 18 meet on Friday 7-9pm. Do contact me or the section leader if you would like your child to take part, it is for girls and boys. Interested in being a leader, helper, supporter? Contact me.

Gavin Ross Group Scout Leader – **[gavin@rossma.co.uk](mailto:gavin@rossma.co.uk)** 07771 965517

**MAYFIELD TENNIS CLUB:** If you would like to learn how to play tennis, or want to take up the sport after a long spell away from it, you may be interested in taking part in one of our coaching courses. These are on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays for adults and we also have free coaching sessions for junior members on Friday evenings.

For information about these as well as seeing what else the Club has to offer, please look at our website [www.mayfieldtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldtennisclub.co.uk).

Geoffrey Shackel 873113

**FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW:** The Society held its 99<sup>th</sup> Summer Show on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July at the Village Hall, on a day which started off sunny and warm and ended wet and cool. We were able to set up stalls and marquees on the playing field and prepare for the afternoon.

Our total entries in the Show were up slightly on last year with vegetables, flowers and floral art providing a wonderful sight in Rowan Hall. Ash Hall was the location for children's domestic cooking and handicraft classes and the entry numbers in domestic cooking were lower than normal.

The weather in the afternoon deteriorated after 3.00pm which reduced the numbers of visitors who visited the stalls and attractions outside but meant that the sales of tea and cakes kept everybody busy.

During the afternoon the new Sensory Garden was opened by Fergus Garrett who was very complimentary about the beds filled with flowers, herbs and bushes.

The afternoon was completed with the awarding of prizes and trophies:-

The President's Cup	Classes 47 - 52	T. Fennings
Banksian Medal	Classes 1 - 46	T. Fennings
Jim Dickson Cup	Classes 2 - 25	K. Audsley
Warren Floral Cup	Classes 26 - 40	T. Fennings
Ticehurst Cup	Class 1	K. Audsley
Falkenstein Cup	Classes 54 - 70	T. Playfoot
Wakefield Cup	Classes 71 - 78	C. Tester
Inwoods Cup	Classes 47 - 52	T. Fennings
Five Ashes Plate	Classes 79 - 82	R. Marshall S. Pearson C. Tester K. White
Family Cup		Mennie family
Children's Trophies:		
Pennington/Riley Cup	Classes 84 - 87	W. Inman
McDonnell Cup	Classes 88 - 91	T. Mennie
Fenner Cup	Classes 92 - 95	S. Vincent C. Woolley O. Woolley
A.C. Hemsley Cup	Classes 96 - 99	J. Mennie

We look forward to our 100<sup>th</sup> Summer Show in 2018 when we hope to replicate many of the attractions of the first Show in 1912.

Graham Playfoot 01825 830511

**MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: New Members Welcome!** It is not too late to join us this year. Membership runs until March 2018 and costs £5. If you are thinking of buying plants and horticultural products, the cost of membership can quickly be re-couped by showing your membership card at Millbrook Garden Centre (10% discount on some purchases), Heathfield Ironmongers (10% on horticultural products) and Thorpe Garden Centre, Horam (10% discount on weekdays, excluding special offers and multibuy). In addition, all evening talks are free to members (£2 per person to non-members). If you wish to join please e-mail Diane Kirkness at [mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com) or come along to a meeting. For more information about us please see our website [www.mhs.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mhs.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk). We would love you to come and share in the joy of gardening.

**Forthcoming Events – Everyone Welcome.**

**LAST CHANCE TO BOOK! - THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017- MINIBUS VISIT TO MARCHANTS HARDY PLANTS GARDEN AND NURSERY FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA AT THE ROEBUCK INN**

**LAUGHTON.** The price is £17 per person which includes a talk from nursery owner Graham Gough and tea. Plants will be available to purchase. The bus will leave Mayfield High Street at 1.30pm and return at approx. 5.30-6.00pm. Bookings can be made by email to Diane Kirkness at [mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

## **EVENING TALKS**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 7.30pm - 'Gardening On The Extreme'.** Talk by Graham Blunt of Plantbase, Cousley Wood in the Memorial Hall, Mayfield.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 7.30pm - 'Self Seeders – Love Them Or Hate Them?'** Talk by Gillian Regan in the Memorial Hall, Mayfield

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 7.30pm - 'Plants For Early Spring'.** Talk by Stephen Moore, Rapkyn's Nursery. Scout and Guide Hall.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Doors open 6.45pm – AGM and Talk 'Preparing for the Show, Vegetables, Fruit and Herbs'.** Speaker Barry Newman. Memorial Hall

Rosemary Bayliss [mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

**GARDENING TIPS:** We have reached the time of year when many gardens can look a bit jaded unless their owners (or their Head Gardeners!) have done a lot of careful planning and a lot of hard work. I try to have at least a part of the garden looking somewhere near its best at any time. Conversely I also try to ensure that no part of the garden is totally without interest except in the middle of winter. I recently visited a farm where there were some really magnificent lilies growing in old cattle troughs. They caught the eye immediately and no matter if the rest of the garden had been mediocre, they were the impression you took away. Another ploy to keep some colour going is to have a few large pots with something colourful in ready to plunge into dull areas. Failing any of this just cutting out dead material and trimming lawn edges can make a difference. Normally, by this time of year I am running over low growing plants such as *Alchemilla mollis* and *geranium endressii* with the shears because they are brown and dead looking. They will then grow and even flower again this year. Mine are still looking reasonably fresh, presumably due to the long wet spell. Dahlias are very useful for providing late colour and with a little care will flower for many weeks. They are hungry and thirsty if working hard and appreciate deadheading and, if you want larger flowers, some disbudding. I also use a tall evening primrose which has self-seeded in my garden for many years. If you have lots of space shrub roses which produce lots of hips can look very attractive like the ones we saw in the Gatehouse Garden at Sissinghurst a few days ago.

John Logan

**MAYZING COMMUNITY CHOIR:** MayZing starts again on Wednesday 13th September where we will be polishing some gospel songs in readiness to entertain you in October. Please see St. Dunstan's Church piece for more details. If you would like to join us please contact Noel beforehand 01892 668059 or 07702 835154 email: [noel.bannister@btopenworld.com](mailto:noel.bannister@btopenworld.com) and a reminder, we unfortunately have no more room for soprano singers.

**MayZing on YouTube!** For those that would like to hear our recording of Noel's composition, Benediction, search for MayZing Community Choir on YouTube and, if you like it, please share with your friends. We'd like to get Noel the recognition he deserves for his beautiful compositions.

Shirley Holland

**MAYFIELD & DISTRICT U3A:** The Annual General Meeting was held in July after which members were treated to a fascinating and intriguing display of "magic" by Bertie Pearce, member of the Inner Magic Circle and a brilliant exponent of his art.

No general meeting is held in August, although individual groups continue if they choose. The speaker at the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be Chris Yarrow who has called his talk: "Attempting the Good Life in a Sussex Wood". Chris is a professional forester who, with his wife Anne, bought Wilderness Wood in 1980, and since then they have put into practice their vision of how a wood could be managed for the greatest benefit, ecological, educational and recreational.

Visitors are welcome at general meetings which take place on the third Thursday of each month, excepting August and December, in Mayfield Memorial Hall at 2pm.

For further information on these or the various interest groups please contact Polly Bradford, (Chairman) on 873946 or Susana Price-Cabrera (Groups co-ordinator) on 873520.

**MAYFIELD BUSINESS FORUM: BREXIT PROGRESS:** Article 50 has been triggered, negotiations have started and the government has begun to publish its plans. So with the Brexit process underway, how is this

affecting our businesses?

Our discussion on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September will be a chance to review the effects so far and our expectations for the future. We will also consider what the priorities are for supporting business during the next few years and how to promote them.

It has been confirmed that Nus Ghani will attend our meeting on Friday 13th October at 7:30pm in the Rose & Crown. The results of our September discussions will provide important points to discuss with our MP.

Roger Stone (872764) / 07776 144056

**FILM ON FRIDAY:** Film on Friday's new season of nine monthly films begins on 22nd September. New and old members are most welcome. The modest membership subscription gives free entry to all the films, which are selected from the best of world cinema, with the emphasis on films that have not had a general release. In April next year we have a Buster Keaton and Jacques Tati double bill whilst in May the Mayfield Festival partners us with Powell and Pressburger's 1951 "Tales of Hoffman", a classic of music and dance.

Our opening film "Twentieth Century Women" is set in 1979 featuring Annette Bening as a single mother fighting to raise her son in free-spirited California. "The secret treasure of this Oscar season....a great actress at the height of her powers." (Telegraph.)

This year's major innovation is that the licensed bar will be run by the "Pink Cabbage Cafe", which promises to make membership an even more convivial attraction.

Doors and bar in the Memorial Hall open at 8.00pm for an 8.30pm start. Full details are available at [www.filmonfriday.org](http://www.filmonfriday.org) or pick up a leaflet at Lambert and Foster. If you wish to receive a leaflet in the post, give me a ring.

Tim Cornish 872165

**MAYFIELD, FIVE ASHES & HADLOW DOWN ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH:** The Branch was originally formed in 1925 and was one of the first in Sussex. Unfortunately it was forced to relinquish its full Branch status in 2003 due to the loss of its Principal Officers and reducing numbers and it became a sub-branch of Heathfield for a number of years. However the Branch has been able to re-form, thanks to the efforts of a number of dedicated local residents and a recruitment drive. It regained its full Branch status again in 2012. We currently have around 80 members, of whom about half regularly attend Branch meetings.

**The Branch is always seeking new members.** There is **NO** requirement to have served in the armed forces to join the RBL. The easiest way to join is to log on to the national RBL website at [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) and click on the membership link and pay the annual subscription (currently £18) by direct debit. You will be asked for the Branch Number of the Branch you wish to join and our Branch Number is **2186**. Anyone who is unable or does not wish to join via the website can contact our Branch Membership Secretary/Treasurer, Brian Stilwell, on 873407, or by e-mail at [brian.stilwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brian.stilwell@hotmail.co.uk) and he will arrange for them to be given a membership form.

We have meetings three or four times per year which take place in the Mayfield Cricket Club pavilion and our members enjoy a fish & chip supper and make use of the licensed bar there. We always have an interesting speaker at all of our meetings.

The next Branch meeting will be the **AGM for 2017 on Wednesday 11th October, at 7.15pm**. The pavilion bar will be open from 6.30pm onwards.

After the formal Branch business and supper, our speaker will be Simon Bellamy, Chairman of the Sussex Military History Group. Simon will give a talk on the famous St. Nazaire raid in 1942, which involved all three of our armed services and resulted in the award of several Victoria Cross medals.

The Branch has a very informative website with a lot of information about our activities. The address is [www.branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/mayfield](http://www.branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/mayfield) and also explains the purpose of the RBL which is to help support members of our armed forces who have suffered injury and/or trauma whilst on military service. The RBL also supports their families.

The Branch organises the annual Poppy Appeal in Mayfield & Five Ashes. We collect in three ways: house to house collections over the two weeks before Remembrance Day; boxes placed in local shops, businesses, schools and hostelrys; finally by a street collection on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. We really need more help; most of the current collectors have been doing this for over thirty years and unfortunately anno domini is catching up.

Offers of assistance from anyone willing to help with the house to house collections, or for static locations for this appeal are always welcomed. Contact Gavin on 873770, 07771 965517, or by e-mail at [gavin@rossma.co.uk](mailto:gavin@rossma.co.uk)

The Branch also liaises and assists with the annual Services of Remembrance held on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorials in both Mayfield and Five Ashes and also in St. Dunstan's Church each November.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else you wish to know about the Branch. We would welcome you to join us.

John Neal, Branch Secretary and Gavin Ross, Poppy Appeal Organiser

John Macdonald, Branch Chairman 873138

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### UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

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**THE MIDDLE HOUSE:** Has now opened its contemporary-styled Brasserie. A slightly different twist on the Restaurant and Bar menu is on offer but with the same high standard we have come to expect from The Middle House. Tables are bookable in advance and you can choose to sit inside this beautiful room or outside on the terrace to make the most of the wonderful views. The stylish Brasserie is available to hire for functions such as birthday parties, baby showers, family gatherings and celebrations in general.

Breakfasts and Afternoon Teas will soon be available. Look out for further news of planned events.

Chelsey Clark has joined the team and is looking forward to giving you a very warm welcome. Contact details are [info@themiddlehousemayfield.co.uk](mailto:info@themiddlehousemayfield.co.uk) / 872146.

**MAYFIELD FINE WINES: 15th September 2017 at 19:00** Come and meet Fiona Turner the acclaimed winemaker for Tinpot Hut. Not only was their New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc voted the best in 2016 by Decanter but they also produce a fabulous range including Pinot Noir, Gruner Veltliner, Riesling, Syrah, Pinot Gris and a sweet wine. As a winemaker Fiona focuses on producing wines that are true to variety and express the characteristics inherent on the vine. To complement her own Home Block fruit, Fiona draws on her considerable experience to identify vineyards which produce exceptional fruit, worthy of carrying the Tinpot Hut name.

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### OPEN FORUM/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**ROSE & CROWN FAREWELL PARTY - 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER:** After nine fantastic years at the Rose & Crown Liz would like to say a fond farewell to all of our lovely customers and a massive thank you for all your support. We feel we have made many friends in this beautiful village over the years and we hope to see you all for a few drinks, fab food and live music on the Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. We would also like to welcome Anne and Jeff Saunders and wish them luck in their new venture! Many of you may already know them both but if not come along and say hi. Liz, Christine, Joao, Natalie & all the staff at the R&C xxx

**THANK YOU TO SPECIAL PEOPLE:** To the very special people who took my cat to the Mayfield Vet in Heathfield on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> August. My profound and total gratitude. Thank you. It must have been upsetting for you but without that singular act of heart and kindness I would have been distraught looking for him, wondering. He was chipped so the Vets closed the gap back to me very quickly.

I would like to thank you personally but if not I am so reassured that a neighbour out there took such care. Bonzo was a lovely and beautifully loving cat much missed by me, little sister Suki and his many friends.

Rosemary Lillywhite 872130

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - OCTOBER 2017 ONWARDS

**(FOR SEPTEMBER 2017 - SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER)**

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#### October 2017

Fri. - Sat. 6 & 7	"Agenda" International Poetry Festival	Mayfield School, Old Palace	
Wed. 11	AGM of the Mayfield RBL Branch	Mayfield Cricket Club Pavilion	7.00pm
Fri. 13	Mayfield Business Forum meeting with Nus Ghani	Rose & Crown	7.30pm
Fri. 13	Film on Friday - "The Salesman"	Memorial Hall	8pm for 8.30pm
Fri. 20	Mayfield Horticultural Society	Memorial Hall	7.30pm start

Sun.	25	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day	Argos Hill	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Fri.	27	Mayfield Local History Society	Scout Hall	7.15 for 8.00pm
Mon.	30	Mayfacs Outing Sovereign Harbour Eastbourne	TBA	

#### November 2017

Fri.	3	Film on Friday “Heal The Living”	Memorial Hall	8pm for 8.30pm
Sat.	4	Antique Fair supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care	Memorial Hall	9am-2pm
Fri.	17	Mayfield Horticultural Society	Memorial Hall	7.30pm start
Fri.	24	Mayfield Local History Society – Dutch Supper	Scout Hall	TBA
Mon.	27	Mayfacs Outing Hilliers Garden Centre & Outlet Stores, Stone Cross, Hailsham	TBA	

#### December 2017

Fri.	1	Christmas Late Night Shopping	High Street	5pm-8pm
Mon.	11	Mayfacs Outing TBC		

#### **REMINDER: MAIN NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION POINTS**

Five Ashes Inn, Five Ashes Village Hall, Heal’s Farm Shop, The Shopping Basket, Pink Cabbage, Leppard’s Butchers, St. Dunstan’s Pharmacy, Middle House, Mace Stores, Public Library, Rose and Crown, plus several other premises around Mayfield where copies are available to browse.

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#### **COPY FOR NEWSLETTER / FEEDBACK TO CORRESPONDENTS**

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Copy should be submitted **at the latest** by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. **Early submissions are encouraged.** Please send an e-mail to [mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com) with the name of your organisation or the topic of your copy in the Subject line; or deliver hand-written copy to The Shopping Basket (3, Station Road, Mayfield). Whenever possible please try to submit electronic copy - you can type the message in the body of the e-mail or make an attachment. Please show on all submissions the subject, name of author and a contact number in case of queries. Ideally type in Arial (not Arial Black) 11pt.

For advertising copy (money with copy please) contact Paul Woodley (873258) or e-mail to [paulwoodley.zagon@gmail.com](mailto:paulwoodley.zagon@gmail.com) or deliver to The Shopping Basket also by 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Unless otherwise stated the views expressed in MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER are those of the contributors, and not of the Editors and Committee. The Editors reserve the right to omit, cut, or amend any contribution offered for publication.

To Correspondents with diary dates: feel free to provide advance notice of future events for inclusion in the Dates for your Diary section.

***Finally, unless otherwise stated, telephone numbers given are those for the Mayfield village area and therefore, from outside, should be prefixed with 01435.***



#### PUBLIC OPENING TIMES

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

#### OFFICE ADDRESS

##### **Mayfield & Five Ashes Parish Council**

Old Manor House, High Street,  
Mayfield TN20 6AL

Tel 01435 873784  
Fax 01435 873726  
Email [clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)  
Web [www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)



## Councillor details

#### **Deveda Redman – Chairman**

Fair Meadow Farm, Fir Toll Road,  
Mayfield, TN20 6NA  
☎ 01435 872558  
✉ [devedaredman@gmail.com](mailto:devedaredman@gmail.com)

#### **Gill Weavers – Vice Chairman**

September Cottage, Fletching Street,  
Mayfield, TN20 6TE  
☎ 01435 872547  
✉ [gill@weavers-sussex.co.uk](mailto:gill@weavers-sussex.co.uk)

#### **Monica Aitken**

Coldharbour, Lake Street,  
Mayfield, TN20 6PT  
☎ 01435 872454  
✉ [monicaaitken@btinternet.com](mailto:monicaaitken@btinternet.com)

#### **Patricia Balfour**

Knowle, Newick Lane,  
Mayfield, TN20 6RD  
☎ 01435 872920  
✉ [ptbalfour@knowlefarm.com](mailto:ptbalfour@knowlefarm.com)

#### **Robert Fitzsimmons**

6 Westfield Close,  
Five Ashes, TN20 6LA  
☎ 01825 830886  
✉ [RFitzsimms@aol.com](mailto:RFitzsimms@aol.com)

#### **Herb Hills**

Old Warren, East Street  
Mayfield, TN20 6TU  
☎ 01435 872017

#### **Christopher Lilly**

Versyns Farm, Vale Road,  
Mayfield, TN20 6BD  
☎ 01435 873631  
✉ [chrislilly@versyns.com](mailto:chrislilly@versyns.com)

#### **David Miles**

39 Mayfield Grange, Little Trodgers  
Lane, Mayfield, TN20 6BF  
☎ 01435 873980  
✉ [iberia75@hotmail.com](mailto:iberia75@hotmail.com)

#### **Rosemary Neal**

Hurst Hill, Rotherfield Lane,  
Mayfield, TN20 6ET  
☎ 01435 872113  
✉ [rjneal@btinternet.com](mailto:rjneal@btinternet.com)

#### **Ian Parker**

Meriden, Sunnysbank Close,  
Mayfield, TN20 6TT  
☎ 07971 979137  
✉ [clanfinance@live.co.uk](mailto:clanfinance@live.co.uk)

#### **Eleanor McDonnell-Slater**

1 Queensmount, Five Ashes,  
East Sussex, TN20 6LH  
☎ 07952471126  
✉ [emcdonnellslater@outlook.com](mailto:emcdonnellslater@outlook.com)

#### **Julie Upton**

Little Hurst, Swife Lane, Broad Oak,  
Heathfield, TN21 8UX  
☎ 01435 883404  
✉ [jlouiseupton@msn.com](mailto:jlouiseupton@msn.com)

#### **Jeremy Watkiss**

Cherry Tree Cottage, Coggins  
Mill Lane, Mayfield, TN20 6UT  
☎ 01435 873844  
✉ [jerrywatkiss@jswcreative.co.uk](mailto:jerrywatkiss@jswcreative.co.uk)

#### **Elaine Wheeler**

31 Queensmount, Five Ashes,  
TN20 6LH  
☎ 01825 830809  
✉ [elaine.wheeler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elaine.wheeler@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)

**224 Crowborough - Poundfield - Rotherfield - Town Row - Wadhurst****Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (except Bank Holidays)**

<b>Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park dep</b>		<b>11:30</b>	<b>13:00</b>
Crowborough, Broadway stop B dep	<b>09:30</b>	11:33	13:03
Crowborough, Old Lane	09:34	11:37	13:07
Crowborough, Medway	09:36	11:39	13:09
Crowborough, opp Railway Stn	09:38	11:41	13:11
Rotherfield, opp Millennium Green	09:41	11:44	13:14
Town Row, opp New Road	09:43	11:46	13:16
Wadhurst, adj Post Office	09:54	11:57	13:27
<b>Wadhurst, opp Snape View arr</b>	<b>09:57</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>13:30</b>
<b>Wadhurst, opp Snape View dep</b>	<b>10:03</b>	<b>12:06</b>	<b>13:36</b>
Wadhurst, opp Post Office	10:05	12:08	13:38
Town Row, adj New Road	10:14	12:17	13:47
Rotherfield, opp Millennium Green	10:15	12:18	13:48
Crowborough, opp Railway Stn	10:19	12:22	13:52
Crowborough, Medway	10:21	12:24	13:54
Crowborough, Old Lane	10:23	12:26	13:56
Crowborough, Broadway stop A arr	10:27	12:30	14:00
Crowborough, Broadway stop A dep	10:29	12:32	14:02
<b>Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park arr</b>	<b>10:33</b>	<b>12:36</b>	<b>14:06</b>

**224 Crowborough - Hospital - The Warren loop****Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (except Bank Holidays)**

<b>Crowborough, Broadway stop A dep</b>	<b>10:29</b>	<b>12:32</b>	<b>14:02</b>
Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park arr	10:33	12:36	14:06
Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park dep	10:36	12:39	14:09
Crowborough, Hospital	10:40	12:43	14:13
Crowborough, adj Fielden Road	10:44	12:47	14:17
Crowborough, Goldsmiths Avenue	10:46	12:49	14:19
Crowborough, Ghyll Road	10:49	12:52	14:22
Crowborough, Broadway stop B	10:52	12:55	<b>14:25</b>
<b>Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park arr</b>	<b>10:54</b>	<b>12:57</b>	

## 226 Crowborough - Alderbrook - Rotherfield - Mayfield

**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (except Bank holidays)**

<b>Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park dep</b>		<b>11:45</b>	<b>13:15</b>
Crowborough, Broadway stop B	09:48	11:48	13:18
Blackness, opp Herne Road	09:52	11:52	13:22
Alderbrook, opp Alderbrook Way	09:57	11:57	13:27
Rotherfield, Kings Arms	10:02	12:02	13:32
Mayfield, adj St Thomas RC Church	10:12	12:12	13:42
<b>Mayfield, adj Southmead Close arr</b>	<b>10:16</b>	<b>12:16</b>	<b>13:46</b>
<b>Mayfield, adj Southmead Close dep</b>	<b>10:19</b>	<b>12:19</b>	<b>13:49</b>
Mayfield, opp. St Thomas RC Church	10:23	12:23	13:53
Rotherfield, Kings Arms	10:33	12:33	14:03
Alderbrook, Alderbrook Way	10:38	12:38	14:08
Blackness, adj Herne Road	10:43	12:43	14:13
Crowborough, Broadway stop A arr	<b>10:47</b>	<b>12:47</b>	<b>14:17</b>

## 226 Crowborough - Steel Cross - The Beeches loop

**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (except Bank holidays)**

<b>Crowborough, Broadway stop A dep</b>		<b>10:49</b>	<b>12:49</b>	<b>14:19</b>
Crowborough, adj The Cross	09:30	10:51	12:51	14:21
Adj Palesgate Lane	09:34	10:55	12:55	14:25
East Beeches Road	09:37	10:58	12:58	14:28
Crowborough, Broadway stop A	09:41	11:02	13:02	14:32
<b>Crowborough, Croft Road Car Park arr</b>		<b>11:04</b>	<b>13:04</b>	

### **NATWEST MOBILE BANKING SERVICE**

The service operates on Mondays (except Bank Holiday Mondays) from 1.15 to 2.15pm in the Memorial Hall overflow car park (near the Band Hut)

### **MAYFIELD LIBRARY OPENING TIMES AS OF JANUARY 2017**

OPEN: Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.00pm, Thursday 2.00pm – 6.00pm, Saturday 10.00am – 2.00pm.  
CLOSED: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Bank Holidays.

### **SEPTEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**September 2017 PLEASE NOTE ALL REGULAR EVENTS ARE LISTED IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER**

Sat.	2	Mayfield Boyes & Belles Torch making for Scout & Guide Hall Carnival	9.30am - 12.30pm
Tues.	5	Opening of Foodbank, Unit 1, The Old Fletching St. Firehouse	11.00am - midday
Tues.	5	Tuesday Afternoon Club	Scout & Guide Hall 2.30-4.00pm
Tues.	5	Mayfield Business Forum – Brexit Progress	Rose & Crown 6.30pm-8.00pm
Thurs.	7	NO ZUMBA	
Sat.	9	Mayfield Boyes & Belles Torch making for Carnival	Scout & Guide Hall 9.30am - 12.30pm
Sat.	9	Slow Short Film Festival	Memorial Hall 11.00am-8.30pm

Sat. Sun.	-9 - 10	Argos Hill Windmill – Heritage Open Day	Argos Hill	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Mon.	11	The Forge – youth group	London House	3.30-6.00pm
Mon.	11	Full Parish Council meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Tues.	12	Yoga for the Young At Heart	Scout & Guide Hall	Midday - 1.00pm
Wed.	13	Five Ashes Tea & Chat	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30pm - 4.00pm
Thur.	14	Zumba Gold	Memorial Hall	9.45am - 10.30am
Sat.	16	Mayfield Carnival courtesy of Mayfield Bonfire Boys and Belles	All events & timings in article	
Thur.	21	Horticultural Society – Visit to Garden and Nursery of Marchants Hardy Plants	Pick Up High Street	1.30pm – 6.00pm
Thur.	21	U3A – monthly meeting	Memorial Hall	2pm
Fri.	22	Film on Friday	Memorial Hall	8pm for 8.30pm
Sat.	23	Mayfield Primary School Boot Fair	Memorial Hall	car 9.00am - midday park
Sat.	23	An Evening of Clairvoyance Tickets from Fine Wines Mayfield or Samantha Hadden 07779 826860 - <b>no tickets on sale at door</b>	Memorial Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Mon.	25	MAYFACS monthly outing to Brighton	TBA	
Wed.	27	Five Ashes Tea & Chat	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30pm - 4.00pm
Fri.	29	Bingo Night - Mayfield Bonfire Society	Scout & Guide Hall	7.30pm
Sat.	30	Antique Fair supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care	Memorial Hall	9am-2pm