
FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

JOHN AND BRENDA HOLDING: AN APPRECIATION: As many of you will already know, John and Brenda Holding are, after ten glorious years, relinquishing their post as Joint Editors of the Mayfield and Five Ashes Newsletter with effect from the end of March.

It will perhaps be difficult for many of us not directly involved in the Newsletter production to appreciate fully the commitment, dedication and time they have so generously given to one of our Parish's key institutions. They would neither have stuck it out so long nor persevered so unstintingly had they not felt, as we all do, that without the Newsletter Mayfield and Five Ashes would be much the worse for it.

John's meticulous approach to the editing process and protocols involved in the production of a public journal and the sheer hard work that it entails, together with Brenda's pragmatic and fair-minded approach to decisions about content (qualities she has used to equal effect during her past five years as Chair of the Committee) have been exemplary. We owe them a great deal and our sincere thanks go to both of them.

And so, we move on to new era and welcome Jeanette Hore and Andrew Watson as our new editors. Well done to them for grasping the baton as we prepare to take the Newsletter from strength to strength.

Nick Gold - Chair

...AND, GOODBYE FROM US: This is the final Newsletter that we will be editing, having completed ten years in the position. We have enjoyed our tenure and have made many village contacts over the time. Working with the Newsletter has heightened our connection with the villages and made us appreciate the rhythm of rural life and country matters. We have, hopefully, morphed from townies to true country bumpkins. We thank all correspondents for their support of the Newsletter. We have also enjoyed the backing and camaraderie of a fantastic Committee.

We happily pass the baton to Jeanette and Andrew who many of you will already know and who will do the job admirably.

The email contact is unchanged at: mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

John and Brenda Holding – Editors

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Councillor Vacancy: The Parish Council still needs to co-opt a Councillor to represent the Ward of Five Ashes. Any interested candidates will need to forward their CV with a covering letter outlining why they think they would be a valued member of the Parish Council for consideration. Prospective Councillors will then be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to introduce themselves and speak for up to three minutes before the decision on co-option can be made.

To stand for election on a Parish Council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union;
- be a least 18 years old.

To be eligible to stand for an election for a particular parish, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

2017/18 Budgets: Budget season is upon us. Our council tax payments are shared between: East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, East Sussex Fire Authority and your local Parish Council. The Parish Council has approved an increase of 1.99%, for the 2017/18 financial year which means that a Band D rated property will see a rise from £55.26 to £56.13 per annum.

Wealden District Council has approved a £5 a year increase in 2017/18 for a Band D council tax payment to safeguard the District's services, with proportional increases for other bandings.

East Sussex County Council has agreed an extra 1.99 per cent in council tax, as well as a Government agreed three per cent Adult Social Care levy which will fund some of the shortfall for adult social care services. There is much less money for services in East Sussex, even though demand for them is rising. This is largely because funding from central Government is shrinking.

ESCC has already had to reduce their spending by close to £100 million this decade and need to continue making savings – with a further £17 million in 2017/18.

Tree works: At the February Parish Council meeting concern was raised that residents may be unaware that they need to determine whether any trees they intend to do work on are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or are within the

Conservation Area before work can proceed.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 recognises the amenity value of trees, and may protect them by legislation. Trees with a TPO placed on them or trees within a Conservation Area are protected under certain circumstances and require a Tree Works Application form to be completed or a Notification of Proposed Works to Trees in Conservation Areas. Owners of protected trees must not carry out, or cause or permit the carrying out of, any prohibited activities without the written consent of Wealden District Council (WDC).

Tree Preservation Orders may be placed on individual, groups or areas of trees and woodlands. Consent is required from the District Council for the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, willful damage or willful destruction of protected trees. You do not need permission if you want to cut down or work on trees less than 7.5 cm in diameter (measured 1.5 m above the ground) or 10 cm in diameter if thinning to help the growth of other trees. Shrubs are not usually included except where they are grown as part of a historic hedge.

You always need the Planning Authority's Permission to work on a protected tree, except for:

- a) cutting down trees in accordance with one of the Forestry Commission's grant schemes, or where the commission has granted a felling licence
- b) cutting down or cutting back a tree:
 - which is dying, dead, dangerous, or
 - in line with an obligation under an Act of Parliament, or
 - at the request of certain organisations specified in the Order, or
 - which is directly in the way of development that is about to start for which detailed planning permission has been granted, or
 - in a commercial orchard, or pruning fruit trees in accordance with good horticultural practice if the tree is cultivated for the production of fruit.
 - to prevent or control a legal nuisance (it may be helpful to check with a solicitor).

If you are in any doubt, check with WDC.

Except in an emergency you are advised to give WDC at least five days' notice before you cut down a protected tree which is dying, dead or dangerous. This is in your interests - you could be prosecuted if the authority thinks you have carried out unauthorised work. It could also decide that you do not have to plant a replacement tree although you are under a duty to do so. You must remember, however, that you will remain responsible for your trees and any damage they may cause.

You must give WDC six weeks' notice in writing if you want to carry out work to trees within Conservation Areas. You must not carry out any work during that period without permission. If you deliberately destroy a tree, or damage it in a manner likely to destroy it, you could be fined up to £20,000 if convicted in the magistrate's court. In determining the amount of the fine, the court will take account of any financial benefit arising from the offence. For other offences you could be fined up to £2,500.

Planning information: There have been two applications from the Cricket Club submitted to WDC for screening opinions that are registered under WD/2017/6502/SO and WD/2017/6503/SO. 'Screening' is a procedure used to determine whether a proposed project is likely to have significant effects on the environment and decides whether the potential project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment. This is not a procedure that is open to Parish Council or public consultation. Planning applications that have been submitted to WDC can be viewed on their weekly list of planning applications via their Planning and Building Control website pages at www.wealden.gov.uk

The new Wealden Local Plan is due to be released for the next stage in the consultation process in March 2017. When the consultation is open, it will be advertised in the Newsletter and on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

Garden bonfires: the rules: Residents have contacted the office to complain about bonfire smoke that is affecting their day-to-day life. It's perfectly legal to have a bonfire at home, but you must take all reasonable steps to ensure it doesn't cause nuisance to your neighbours. A single event of a bonfire for an hour or two is not usually enough to be a nuisance; it must be more than a single event and last for several hours. **If the neighbour's home is engulfed in dense smoke, you must put it out as soon as possible.**

There are no laws against having a bonfire, but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause.

Burning domestic waste: You can't get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution or harm people's health. This includes burning it. You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it.

Danger to traffic by smoke: You could be fined if you light a fire and you allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.

WDC can issue an 'abatement notice' if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance and they can be fined up to £5,000 if they don't stick to the notice.

It can wait campaign: Drivers are urged to remember that "It Can Wait" when it comes to using a mobile phone while driving. Driving while distracted is an increasing problem on Sussex roads with mobile phones now used to make calls, send messages, play music and check road conditions, temptations to use devices while at the wheel are endless.

"It Can Wait" aims to remind drivers that nothing is more important than focusing on driving – and driving alone. The campaign is urging drivers to place their phone out of reach, or set it to silent, before setting off on a journey to ensure they

are not distracted or tempted to pick it up while driving.

Tackling elder exploitation in our communities: Katy Bourne, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Sussex, has made tackling elder exploitation a priority in a bid to protect older people in the county from financial abuse.

Fraud against older and more vulnerable residents is a growing issue as the population ages and criminals see that fraud is more profitable and less risky than other crimes. In Sussex, fraud has robbed some older people of their entire life savings and left others destitute.

Sussex Police has developed Operation Signature to help protect and support those most at risk of fraud, and the model has been nationally recognised and is being adopted by other police forces. The problem is that many people don't realise that they've been a victim of fraud – they think it's just a scam, or they feel foolish and don't want to tell anyone. But scams are fraud and fraud is a crime so they urge anyone who has been affected by doorstep crime, postal fraud or nuisance calls to report it. You can call the police on 101 or report fraud by speaking directly to the advisers at Action Fraud, the national fraud reporting centre, by phoning 0300 123 2040. They will also be able to give you help and advice about fraud and you can remain anonymous if you prefer.

UK-wide charity Action on Elder Abuse operates a confidential helpline on 080 8808 8141 which offers advice and support on all aspects of elder abuse. Trading Standards also want to know about online fraud or mobile phone scams; any information you share may help them shut down fraudsters before others fall victim to them. You can report incidents, whether you're a victim or have just been targeted, via the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline on 0345 404 05 06.

Payment diversion alert: Fraudsters are emailing members of the public who are expecting to make a payment for property repairs. The fraudsters will purport to be a tradesman who has recently completed work at the property and use a similar email address to that of the genuine tradesman. They will ask for funds to be transferred via bank transfer. Once payment is made the victims of the scam soon realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for their services.

Protect yourself:

- Always check the email address is exactly the same as previous correspondence with the genuine contact.
- For any request of payment via email verify the validity of the request with a phone call to the person who carried out the work.
- Check the email for spelling and grammar as these signs can indicate that the email is not genuine.
- Payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection; consider using alternative methods such as a credit card or PayPal which offer protection and an avenue for recompense.

The East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan: East Sussex County Council, the South Downs National Park Authority and Brighton & Hove City Council have all agreed the Main Modification and resolved to adopt the Plan as planning policy for waste management and minerals production for the Plan Area to 2026. The adopted Plan is now available to view on the following website - <http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk>

Please note that the Parish Council Office will be closed on Wednesday 8 March and Wednesday 29 March 2017.

Dates of Council meetings in March:

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Planning Committee	Monday 13 March	09:30	Parish Council Office
Full Parish Council	Monday 13 March	19:30	Mayfield Memorial Hall
Community Development	Monday 20 March	19:30	Parish Council Office
Rights of Ways & Trees	Wednesday 22 March	13:00	Parish Council Office

Please note that minutes of meetings are available for viewing online at: www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk and at the Parish Council Office.

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LOCAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: MAYFIELD CRICKET CLUB SITE: For anyone interested in the Cricket Club and surrounding properties area redevelopment, a proposal for 60 new dwellings is now with the planning department and can be found at www.planning.wealden.gov.uk. It is at screening stage to decide whether it needs an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ref no WD/2017/6502/SO. While not a public consultation, views/letters about whether it needs an EIA can be emailed asap to chris.bending@wealden.gov.uk

The proposal includes for the Cricket Club to move to a new site south of Bassett's Lane and east of where the bypass starts (Tunbridge Wells Road / Argos Hill end).

Local resident

REGULAR FEATURES

WILDLIFE SPLASH: AWAKENING WOODLANDS: Spring is in the air, temperatures are on the up and life is on the move – and the best place to observe this is in our myriad of woodlands. Venture through any Mayfield woodland and look for the signs. Those with sharp eyes cannot fail to spot the determined straight clusters of Bluebell leaves or the wider and taller leaves of the Early-purple Orchid, the delicate heart-shaped leaves of violets, the fragile divided leaves of Pignut, or the faint aroma released when Wild Garlic leaves are inadvertently crushed underfoot.

We usually fail to notice any of this life until the flowers appear and catch our attention. However, the leaves are the precursor to this, acting as solar panels absorbing the weak spring sunshine before the tree canopy darkens the woodland floor. This sunshine is synthesized into the energy required to put on a show of flowers to attract early pollinators such as the bumblebees.

Woodland plants such as these also tell a story of the antiquity of the habitat, for they are faithful to woodlands alone, and have very poor powers of dispersal. Once woodland is cleared they disappear and new woodlands planted on pasture or arable land will lack these species. They are known as ‘Ancient Woodland Indicators’ and include such marvels as Wood Anemone, Yellow Archangel, Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, Yellow Pimpernel and Wood Sedge – all common in our Wealden woodlands. There are approximately one hundred such species in the south, and an assemblage of around thirty is indicative of good quality woodland that has existed prior to 1600 (which is the all-important date).

Of course, there are other clues to the antiquity of the woodland such as mighty trees and huge old coppice stools (a tree with numerous stems arising from the base), ancient banks and sawpits. But if woodland has been felled and replanted and all we see is young trees, we need another method of assessing the age of the woodland. These plants, the leaves of which are currently pushing their way through the winter soil, are our messengers – having awakened in the woodland, year on year, for hundreds of years.

Jacqueline Thompson

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST: THE BUTTERFLIES OF SUSSEX: As we head into spring our butterflies will start to emerge and, after seven years of research and writing, my book, *The Butterflies of Sussex* will shortly be emerging too. I’ve been reflecting on how all this came about. It started with a small boy captivated by a big yellow butterfly. When he got home he opened a wildlife book that his parents had bought him. There were lots of butterflies: blue ones, brown ones, orange ones, but only one big, yellow one – the brimstone. I had identified my first butterfly and discovered the thrill in giving something a name. That identification was the key to unlocking information on what that brimstone was doing, why it does it, where and when. The door to a parallel universe of butterflies, caterpillars, metamorphosis and beauty was flung open. I was like Alice lost in Wonderland, an adventure that has lasted a lifetime.

The brimstone is one of 45 resident Sussex butterfly species - we are home to a sizable slice of the 58 species which live in the UK. Between 2010 and 2014, I co-ordinated the Sussex Butterfly Atlas Survey. Over that five-year period a small army of dedicated notebook-wielding foot soldiers roamed the county’s downland, farmland, heathland and gardens reporting brimstones on their buddleia in Battle and silver-washed fritillaries on sunlit woodland footpaths in south-west Fittleworth. From my home headquarters the whole project felt like a military operation. Maps were spread across my desk, target areas were identified and conquered squares were routinely crossed off. Slowly our current knowledge of our county’s butterflies increased.

Looking back, we couldn’t have chosen a more exciting period to study the butterflies of our county. In a changing environment, both physically and climatically, Sussex’s butterflies have had to contend with habitat loss, wet summers and warm winters. Some species have adapted while others have required increased conservation efforts as their numbers have fallen. On top of this, we’ve seen unprecedented invasions of long-tailed blues and continental swallowtails from Europe as well as a new species for Sussex – the scarce tortoiseshell – arriving rather unexpectedly. All this has provided exciting stories and discussion in the upcoming book.

The Butterflies of Sussex, co-written with Neil Hulme, will be printed and published by Pisces Publications. It’s packed with beautiful photos and contains commentaries on all the butterflies found in our county with information on where and how to find them alongside many other features. In fact, there’s so much information in the book we’ve had to increase it from the original 288 pages to 352 pages while keeping the same pre-order price of £20. Bargain! This special pre-publication offer is available until the end of March at www.naturebureau.co.uk.

Hopefully other people will look through its pages and it’ll inspire them to get lost in Wonderland too.

Michael Blencowe - People & Wildlife Officer
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust, based in Henfield, West Sussex, is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member, you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, *Wildlife* magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It’s easy to join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or over the phone on 01273 497532.

THE JOINT AND BACK CLINIC: PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY: One of the most common conditions affecting 1 in 10 of the population over the age of 55 is poly-neuropathy more commonly known as ‘peripheral neuropathy’. As suggested by its name, it affects nerves outside of the spinal cord and brain. These consist of the sensory nerves (pain,

touch, heat cold, balance, vibration), motor nerves (muscle controllers), and the autonomic nerves responsible for the background functions such as raising hairs, constricting and dilating blood vessels and bowel and bladder activities.

There are lots of causes of peripheral neuropathy for example: Diabetes, Chemicals / toxins such as arsenic and alcohol, Vitamin deficiency especially B Vitamins, Infections for instance Lyme disease, HIV etc., Systemic conditions such as SLE, and hypothyroidism, Tumours and cancers for instance multiple myeloma, Drugs, Vasculitis (smoking).

Poly-neuropathy is caused when multiple nerves furthest away from the central nervous system (and therefore the longest ones) are damaged. Diabetes is one of the most common causes because nerves are damaged by raised levels of glucose (sugar) in the system. This is one of the reasons why your GP and practice nurse make so much time and effort in stabilizing, monitoring and controlling glucose levels in the diabetic patient (and national campaigns to encouraging the rest of us to reduce our dietary sugar levels).

The symptoms vary a lot, but commonly consist of tingling, pins and needles, numbness in the feet and or hands; burning pains, shooting and lancing pains and a loss of coordination and balance due to decreased sensation in the feet and legs, and muscular weakness.

Treating peripheral neuropathy depends largely upon the cause and unfortunately many of the standard medications such as pain killers are largely ineffective in alleviating the pain found in the condition. Benefit can sometimes be gained through physical interventions such as physiotherapy and osteopathy primarily to help with balance and peripheral function in the limbs.

Unfortunately, once you have the condition it can be difficult to prevent its progression, so prevention is better than cure. Eat a healthy diet, cut down on sugars and reduce that waistline. More information on this can be found on nhs.uk look at 'How does sugar affect our health'.

Nigel Kettle BSc(Hons) Ost, Registered Osteopath
The Joint and Back Clinic, Roseland's Avenue

tel: 07939129626 for appointments or advice or www.jointandback.com for more information

HIP AND KNEE OPERATIONS - numbers on the increase for the active middle aged: The number of people aged under 55 opting for hip and knee replacements is on the increase, says specialist orthopaedic hospital The Horder Centre.

Although, traditionally, new hips and knees have been mainly procedures for the over 60s, a recent analysis by the Royal College of Surgeons, based on Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data for England, shows that the trend is changing as younger people are not prepared to give up their active lifestyles and are electing to have a joint replacement.

Statistics at The Horder Centre in Crowborough, which is run by charity Horder Healthcare, also reveal a similar trend in recent years. Between 2011 and 2015, the number of patients, aged under 55, undergoing hip and knee replacements increased from 91 to 112, an increase of 23%. Nationally, the number of patients aged under 60 having hip replacements in 2004-2005 was 10,145 compared to 17,883 in 2014-2015. Television presenter Eamonn Holmes, 56, was in the headlines recently after his double hip replacement following years of suffering.

Mr Andrew Armitage, one of Horder Healthcare's Consultant Orthopaedic surgeons and Chair of their Medical Advisory Committee, said: "People's expectations have changed and they no longer want to be putting up with pain that stops them exercising and being active in middle age. With the advancement of techniques for this kind of surgery, although joint replacement surgery is still a major procedure, patients feel more confident that a replacement will last for many years and give them a better quality of life."

Horder Healthcare (Crowborough) 01892 665577
Email: info@horder.co.uk, Or visit horderhealthcare.co.uk

MARCH TRAVEL NOTES: In case you have not heard, big changes have happened at Gatwick. British Airways have moved to the SOUTH terminal and Virgin and easyJet to the NORTH terminal. There is bound to be some confusion at first, so do carefully check your departure online before you set off to the airport. Also, security is tight and there will be longer queues, so allow plenty of time.

This month I have been very busy! I wonder if this is down to my good advice to you to book early to get the best prices, or is it that people want to secure their holiday at today's prices in case Brexit further affects the exchange rates? Maybe everyone just fed up with the depressing world news and in need of a lovely holiday?

I have just put together an exciting multi-centre trip to Japan for some clients. Easy to forget that there is much more to Japan than just Tokyo. Hakone National park with wonderful views of Mount Fuji, beautiful Kyoto with its ancient history and wonderful cherry blossoms, snow monkeys in the mountains. There is a lot to see and do and the best mode of transport is the incredible rail system.

I have also planned a lovely holiday to Vancouver and Alaska. My clients are taking a very small ship right up into the small inlets and will not only see stunning scenery, but also whales and black bears. Very exciting! Had they not been before, they could have gone over to Vancouver Island and the wonderful Rocky Mountaineer train to Jasper and Banff.

Tomorrow I am super excited to be travelling to Borneo and will be writing about my experiences next month. The idea is to go deep into the jungle to the Orangutan and Sun Bear rehabilitation centres where they prepare the animals for release back into the wild. I am also expecting to see fabulous birds and other wildlife while travelling along the rivers through the jungle. A real adventure!

Closer to home, there are some great new hotels opening in Europe, just perfect for family summer holidays and also the luxury of groups like the Anantara, closer to home than their Far Eastern origins. Do ask for more details.

I await your enquiries, as always, and am here to inspire!

Liz King - Bespoke Travel - 01273 474273
liz@lizkingtravel.co.uk

BOOK REVIEW: *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines: I approached this novel gingerly as I didn't expect it to be a happy read. Neither is it, but I admire it greatly for its superb quality of writing as well as its theme which explores an aspect of Southern States racism not overly familiar, i.e. difficulties which can beset the enlightened American negro within his or her community.

Published in 1993, the story is set in a small Cajun community in the late nineteen-forties, shortly after World War 2 and before the onset of the Civil Rights Movement. The small fictional town of Bayonne (there is a French town of this name but none in the U.S.) is typically heavily segregated; its population of about 6,000 souls attend separate schools for the white and the black inhabitants, as well as separate cinemas. There is also a courthouse, jailhouse and slaughter-house - used mainly for hogs. It is in this town where the black Grant Higgins was raised and to where he returns after college in order to teach at the town's plantation school where the pupils are given only a very limited education and with limited prospects other than to labour in the local plantations. Educated though he is, Grant feels he is achieving little beyond training present black generations to follow in the same slavish footsteps as those of their predecessors and to fit within the narrow confines of white domination. Part of him longs to escape Bayonne but he also feels bound by his loyalty to the school as well as to family members. Meanwhile Grant has become attached to Vivian, an attractive black divorcee who, like himself, has recently returned to the neighbourhood.

The story begins with a shoot-out in the town's liquor store in which three men are killed but a young and innocent bystander called Jefferson survives and finds himself charged with murder and sentenced to death, despite being mentally subnormal. At his trial his defence lawyer does all he can to prove Jefferson's innocence, laying huge stress on the youth's lack of responsibility and 'stupidity'. However, in a wild rant, he claims he would "just as soon put a hog in the electric chair" as one such as Jefferson. This has an inflammatory effect on the accused's godmother and also on Grant's aunt, who together had attended the trial. They approach Grant to try to educate Jefferson to be a "man rather than a hog" to enable him to at least go to his execution with some human dignity. Dispiritedly, Grant agrees to do this but he is at all times hamstrung by his own feelings of moral cowardice and futility. This sense of handicap seems to manifest itself throughout the novel through Grant's terse and deadpan manner of speech. An atheist, he is also at loggerheads with his family's fierce fundamentalist religious convictions and even more so with the bigotry of their minister who insists that Grant should strive to save Jefferson's soul rather than anything else. Religious divisions, as well as racial divisions are strongly evident in Bayonne but while Vivian's background is Catholic as opposed to Grants Protestant faith, their romance thrives. Grant also has to contend with the sustained nagging of his controlling aunt on whom he depends.

Despite all this, Grant secures permission to regularly visit the young prisoner in the period up to his execution, and gradually begins to feel himself grow stronger as he does so. I will not reveal the conclusion of this story which although tragic is dealt with in a sensitive and reasonably unsensational way. There are many beautiful descriptive passages in this book which was the winner of the National Book Critics' Circle Award for Fiction. Ernest J. Gaines is clearly a very able writer who, like Grant Wiggins, was reared in slavish poverty in a small plantation community from which he eventually broke free and after excelling at university went on to write several highly-esteemed works of fiction. He is regarded today as an important American writer; I believe rightly so.

Cynthia M. Baker

NEWSLETTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY FEATURE PIECE: REMINISCENCES OF MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES – BY DAVID GRAY: PART 3.

Above Oak Croft there were a wool shop, a coal merchant's office and a cycle shop; I think all of them were probably run by Bachelors or the Bachelor family; of course, a lot of Bachelors lived in Mayfield about the time I'm talking about.

The next house, which is called Ferndale and West View - that was one large house after being shops and it rejoiced in the name of Malcolm Marneys. Then, just by the side of Malcolm Marneys is the aforementioned twitten leading down to the Rogers Cycle & Wireless Workshop.

The tallest building in the village, erected in 1905 before planning consent, I guess, is on the site of very old tumbledown cottages: the right side, in my day, was a ladies' hairdresser "Mayfair", run by Miss Ninn and Miss Thorpe, who looked after my mother's hair before Alan came on the scene. The left-hand side was obviously Barclays Bank.

I'm working up the High Street now on the south side: the small building occupied by The Flower House (previously Sawyers Restaurant) was a car showroom – almost impossible to believe, thinking of the size of that building! It was a car showroom after the war. In order to get the one, occasionally two tiny, cars in off the road, the granite sets were laid almost flat, instead of upright. Now, this has never changed: to this day, the granite sets are still flat, and not upright. It was then the sales branch of Sivyver Brothers Central Garage (which we'll come to later on up the High Street).

Then the estate agent, originally called Ewbanks, then Nightingales (after the war), then I think Hampdens; now it's the place where Handleys operate. But it's worth just looking up at the old lettering on the west fanlight of the High Street window – the amazing old lettering on the estate agents' office. Post-war, that estate agents was run by a Mr Pentecost and a Mr Walcup, and their influence remains in the village today. (No comment...!) Over 100 years ago, I am told that it was actually Mrs Cottingham's shop, well-known and loved by a lot of people, but I wasn't around then.

On the same side of the road from Columbine Cleaners, right along to Lower Steps Osteopaths was all Nappers. Nappers shop, with a huge extension at the rear. Nappers – well, I don't know what they didn't sell! Ironmongery, of course; farm implements; spades, forks, gardening things; just an amazing village shop and, just after the war, they employed five men in the workshop. One of the van drivers, after the war, was Len Harman who, until very recently, lived in a tiny little cottage down Star Lane called Wee Cott. I understand he's still alive and living in a Home now; Wee Cott is empty – unoccupied. Also, living in Star Lane were a quite well-known pair of sisters: the Miss Fenners. They were regular church-goers at St Dunstan's Church; everybody in the village knew them because they came from the Fenner family which, for hundreds of years, was particularly well-known in Mayfield village. Kathleen Fenner, one of the sisters, worked for my father in the office above what was then Collins & Gray. Both of these ladies lived deep into their 90s – lovely ladies.

Somewhere near Nappers, though I'm not too sure where, was the Mayfield Armoury & Gunshop. Now, at one time it was definitely in the west half of what later became Rogers double shop premises, but I think it moved once or twice before or after then. The east half of that double-fronted shop was, of course, Hallfords (?) the grocers, run by dear Miss Hallford and her nephew, Ralph. Lots of happy memories!

Next door to Hallford's, or Rogers, or empty shop probably now, is a pair of semi-detached big houses; they were in private occupation during my time here, but I'm told that the owner, a lady, bequeathed them to the church, which is why they now form The Vicarage.

...to be continued.

HERE IS THE NEXT 'COMMISSIONED' FEATURE PIECE OF OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR TO ENLIGHTEN READERS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF...

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Mayfield is an historic Sussex village, so it is right and proper that it should have a History Society. Mayfield Local History Society (MLHS) was formed in 1975, and continues to prosper over 40 years later. We now have 60 members and more are always welcome!

The present Chairman is Dr Brian O'Connor.

Interesting events from the History Society:

Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977:

The old cannon now seen in the High Street was originally dug out of one of the cinder beds of the Mayfield furnace in 1824, and was placed on top of the porch of the Palace, then in ruins. The cannon was later removed by members of the Local History Society and descaled and refurbished by a member of the Society (Mr Peter McCarthy), who was also a gunsmith. It was decided that the contribution of the Local History Society to the village for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, would be to have the cannon mounted in its present position near the Convent Gate House.

Queen's Golden Jubilee 2012:

A special exhibition was staged in the Memorial Hall; some of the exhibits were so rare (a Coronation chair) that a 24-hour guard was staged, with committee members sleeping in the hall!

MLHS have prepared and published a short Village Guide booklet and a Mayfield Village Walk leaflet. These are now out of print but we are assisting the Parish Council with new version/s.

In recent years, MLHS has made several Oral History Records of interesting village residents. The 'Lester Handcart' was restored and is now on loan to Argos Hill windmill. We have supported some local history research too.

Present Society Activities:

The main activity of MLHS is the programme of monthly meetings held from October to April (not December), which take place in the Scout Hall on the last Friday of the month starting at 8pm. Details are circulated to Members, and posted in *Yellow Pages*. A popular Dutch Supper is held at one each year, with free bar!

Also, we have an annual Summer Outing, when we go by coach to an interesting historic building etc. for the day. Also, there are opportunities to visit other local venues of historical interest arranged by the Friends of the Keep Archives.

Michael Charman is kept busy with the extensive MLHS Archives of local records, documents and artefacts (including a cannon ball found locally); also, we have a library of 235 reference books, available for Members to borrow. We are most grateful to the Sisters of Mayfield College, who allow us to use a small room in Stone House for storage.

Our website www.mayfieldlhs.org.uk links us to the world, and has produced many contacts from far away, and gives details of the society. Sometimes we receive requests for information about a person's relative who lived here long ago, which we try to answer.

Join the History Society: Anyone is welcome to attend our monthly talks, where you may take out an annual subscription from John Buddle, Hon Treasurer for £7.50. Or just pay £2 to hear the talk. Contact: Secretary - Rob Foster 873215

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

MAYFIELD AND THE GREAT WAR - NO. 36 - MARCH 2017: On the Western Front the Germans continued their

withdrawal to the newly constructed Hindenburg Line and, whilst retreating, made the abandoned area as uninhabitable and difficult to occupy as possible. The British Army followed up this withdrawal with a cautious advance until they reached the outer limits of the new defensive trenches.

In Russia, riots, strikes and mass demonstrations were reported in Moscow and Petrograd. By the middle of March the Czar abdicates. Over the coming months, Germany would take full advantage of this revolution to seek an armistice with Russia and release troops for the Western Front.

Locally, at County level in East Sussex and Kent there was a looming crisis for Farmers/Growers in the Hop industry as the State intervention in demanding a reduction in beer production took effect.

For some years, an improved approach to St. Dunstan's Church from the village High Street had been mooted, but to do so required the purchase of a property known as Rylston, which stood between the church and the high street. When the property was put on the market it was purchased by Mrs Bell Irving to secure it for eventual acquisition by the Parish, when the means were available. Subsequently, in the will of the late Mrs Bell Irving a bequest of £100 was left to further the opportunity for purchase, provided action was taken within 2 years of her decease. Beyond the existing bequest/donations a further £300+ was required for purchase of Rylston before the end of 1918. The Vicar appealed to parishioners for full support. He also suggested that possibly the improved approach might be incorporated with some wider scheme for commemorating Mayfield men who died in the war. Here is the first noted suggestion of a scheme which eventually led to Rylston being purchased, demolished and as part of the enhanced approach to the Parish Church, the War Memorial being erected.

There are two names recorded on the Mayfield and Five Ashes War Memorials for March 1917.

Private James Gaston. 7th Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment (Queens Own). Service No. G/9425. Died of wounds 11 March 1917 aged 31. James was born in 1886 in Mayfield to parents Charles (occupation Carter) and Elizabeth, and one of eight children. In the 1901 census he is recorded as living at Old Mill Cottage, Mayfield where his occupation was that of Carter Boy on farm. By 1911 the family had taken up residence at Moat Mill Cottage, Mayfield where his occupation was recorded as Carters Mate on farm.

His detailed military service records have not survived, consequently little is known of his whereabouts during the war. It is known that he enlisted in Tunbridge Wells and that in October 1916 it was reported that he had been wounded in the arm whilst in the firing line. The circumstances of his death are largely unknown and the local paper reports as follows. *'Mr & Mrs Gaston employed at Moat Mill Farm, have received news that their son Private Jim Gaston was killed in Action in France. Previous to joining the Army Private Gaston worked with his father and for a short time at Groombridge.'*

He is buried at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Whether these were the wounds suffered in October 1916 or fresh wounds is unknown.

Private Raymond Wicker. 12 Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Service No. SD/5829. Killed in Action 14 March 1917 aged 30. Raymond was born 1887 in Mayfield to parents William and Ruth and was one of 10 children. The family lived at Fletching St for over 25 years. The 1901 census records Raymond as an Ag Lab although by 1911 he had turned his efforts to domestic gardening. His detailed military service records have not survived, consequently little is known of his whereabouts during the war. It is known that he enlisted in Eastbourne and by March 1917 the Battalion was at Ypres and working on the front line repairing/reinforcing firing trenches. The War Diaries, suggest that Raymond was probably killed by shellfire. He is buried at Railway Dugouts Burial Ground in Ypres.

The K&SC 30/3/17 P6 reports: *'Mr & Mrs Wicker of Fletching St have received the sad news that their son Private Raymond Wicker was killed in Action on March 15th (sic). Before joining the Army Private Wicker, who was 30 years of age, was gardener at the Convent.'*

Brian Oldfield & Carole Stilwell

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL: The Pre-School has a packed calendar of events this term so please come along and support our fundraising efforts!

The Pre-School will be holding its first Fashion Show at the Memorial Hall on the evening of Wednesday, March 15th, with the show starting at 8pm. The event will showcase spring collections from many High Street Stores. Clothes are available at greatly reduced prices, with something for everyone. See the models wear the clothes, then try before you buy. Tickets cost £8.00 - It includes a glass of wine or soft drink on entry. Drinks will also be available to purchase from the bar. Tickets available at Hullabaloo & Burnetts Estate Agents on the High Street or at the Pre-School.

Bingo Night will take place at the Memorial Hall on Friday, April 28th. For further information please email committee@mayfieldpreschool.com

Daniel Lee-Billinghurst, Mayfield Pre-School Chair

OUR CHURCHES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: On Friday March 3rd over 5000 services will be held in the British Isles. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines, on the theme "Am I being unfair to you? It has been translated into 1000 different languages and dialects and will be used throughout the whole world on this day, starting at sunrise over

the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

Why not come along and find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women; everyone is welcome to attend. Here in Mayfield the churches take turns to host the service and this year it will take place at St Dunstan's starting at 2pm. It lasts for a little over an hour and refreshments are served afterwards.

For further information contact Polly Bradford (Branch Secretary) 873946 or Pam Mather (St. Dunstan's) 872386

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER: Hello again and welcome to March, where Lent begins this year and we start to see daffodils appearing!

February has been another fantastic month for us at St Dunstan's; both our toddler groups have grown in size and it's lovely to see some real friendships blossoming! Both are held in London house during term time. *Monday Tots* is held every other Monday morning (9-11) and welcomes children and their carers from birth to primary school age. They follow a Christian theme, including a craft, singing and a story. *Tiddly winks* is held every other Wednesday from 10-12 and is an informal group from birth to 2 years old with a visit from the Health team once a month.

March dates: *Monday Tots*: 6th & 20th. *Tiddly Winks*: 1st, 15th, 29th

Our coffee morning marked the beginning of our fundraising for our library; The Diocese sets a program for both our primary schools to follow, named Values for life. They suggest a number of resources to use alongside the teaching to enhance learning and excite the children. The proceeds from our coffee morning will be used to build our church library with these resources. They will be in there as reference items, to be used by both schools, clergy and parents if they want to aid homework or boost their child's enthusiasm. The church holds a wide selection of children and adult books and is open to be used by the village from 9am-5pm: come and see what we have!

Looking forward into March we have our 9.15 service on 19th March at...9.15 in St Dunstan's. This is an informal service without communion that lasts approximately thirty minutes. It is then followed by refreshments and a related craft activity in London House.

Our Messy Church for March- "Look lively for Lent" will be held on Saturday 18th at 10am-12.30 in St Dunstan's. As usual there will be a variety of activities and craft following our theme and is aimed at girls and boys aged approximately 3-8 years. The morning is a free event and is great fun, ending with the children having lunch together. Messy Church is an accompanied morning, a plate of food to share would be greatly appreciated.

I am building a wonderful group of volunteers for our new youth group that is launching this spring. It will be for children aged 7- 11 years from 3.30-6pm on Mondays, once a month. I would like the group to be unaccompanied to enable parents to drop their children at St Dunstan's and collect them at the end. It would be based on a donations-only format and all volunteers will be required to be DBS cleared (organised by us). Do you have children or grandchildren that age? Do you have a few hours once a month to spare? Please contact me to be a part of the team!

Finally, we have begun preparations to launch our new food bank programme. This will involve villagers from both Mayfield and Five Ashes donating food to various points in the villages. Villagers requesting help for food and villagers distributing the food. I envisage this to be a village project with many people involved. For this to be successful we will need storage - we are looking for secure, dry premises to store our donations ready for distribution... Do you have an empty shop? garage? barn? We would love to hear from you!

Have a happy and healthy March, I hope to meet more of you soon!

Natalie Thomson (07889 780531)

COLKINS MILL CHURCH: This next month we have the usual events. We have Family Services every Sunday at 10.00 am. Everyone is welcome. We have activities for the children, a time of worship, prayer, communion every other Sunday and we have a talk from a passage in the Bible. We also serve tea, coffee and biscuits. If you would like to just come in and see what our church is all about we would give a warm welcome.

The Causeway event is 25th March at 6 pm.

SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 10.00 AM. On Easter Sunday April 16th, we will be offering breakfast at a Cafe Church service at 10.00 am. This will be an informal family service with all welcome to come and find out about why we celebrate Easter.

Terry Steinegger

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, FIVE ASHES: The Nicholson Trustees have been in long and extensive negotiations with Hospice in the Weald regarding the sale of the land for a wonderful new Cottage Hospice and Chapel. Our Diocesan advisers are now close to finalising Heads of Terms and Exchange details and a timetable for completion of sale on a basis that meets the expectations of the Trust. So, the Trustees have agreed that the last Sunday for worship will be **Sunday, 12th March at 9.15am**. After that date, we will have to remove and store those items we are keeping for the new-build and donate/dispose of those items no longer required.

Thanks to the idea and recommendation from Fr Roger Kenward (a former RAF Officer), the building will be dismantled and removed as a new museum for the Etchingham Military and Preservation Group (Registered Charity 11318783). This means that it will take on a new chapter in its life thanks to the generosity of the Hospice in funding and facilitating this.

Until the new Chapel of The Good Shepherd is built, our spiritual home will reside with our mother Church of St Dunstan's

and Fr Nigel assures everyone of a warm welcome - not least our sharing Holy Week and Easter together.

Please do have a look at recent publicity about the new Cottage Hospice – leaflets are available from the Hospice Furniture Shop in Five Ashes or their other shop in Mayfield High Street.

Mrs Tessa Gregory - Nicholson Trust Secretary

St DUNSTAN'S CHURCH ORGAN TRUST: The 'Trust presents the "20th Anniversary Celebrity Organ Concerts", to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of its Walker organ. To help us celebrate this event, we have invited three of the most celebrated Church Organists in the world to perform their own works and other compositions.

Starting the series on **Saturday 4th March, 2017** will be Martin Baker, Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral. Martin directs the Cathedral's world-famous choir of men and boys and leads the music program there. As an organ-soloist he won first prize in the Improvisation Competition at the St Albans International Organ Festival in 1997, and he performs solo recitals regularly throughout the UK as well as in Europe, the USA, and Russia. He is known particularly for his skill in organ improvisation.

This will be followed on **Saturday 1st April, 2017**, by David Goode, Organist & Head of Keyboard at Eton College. David was a music scholar at Eton College and then organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge 1991–94. While there, he studied the organ with David Sanger and Jacques van Oortmerssen. From 1996–2001, he was sub-organist at Christ Church, Oxford. He won major prizes at the 1997 St. Alban's Interpretation Competition and at the 1998 Calgary Competition. From 2003 to 2005, he was the organist-in-residence at First Congregational Church in Los Angeles California. In 2005 he returned to Eton College. He combines his work at Eton with an international concert career.

The final concert on **Saturday 10th June, 2017**, will be given by Malcolm Archer. Malcolm is currently Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College in the heart of England, where he trains and conducts the Quiristers and Chapel Choir and teaches organ in the College. He has enjoyed a distinguished career in cathedral music, which has taken him to posts at Norwich, Bristol, and Wells Cathedrals, as well as Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He is much in demand internationally as a Composer, Conductor and Recitalist.

This event will also feature the Choir of St Dunstan's Church, accompanying Malcolm.

The concerts will all be held in St Dunstan's Church and will begin at 6:00pm. Tickets are priced from £12 (Adults), £10 (Students & OAP's) £5 (Children) and are available from Burnett's Estate Agents, High Street, Mayfield, Online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church-mayfield-celebrity-organ-concerts or on the door at each event. There will be a licensed bar and a large screen.

Mike Hand-Bowman

ROUND AND ABOUT

MONTHLY FOOTPATH WALK: Don't forget, the regular **Monthly Walk:** We meet on the last Sunday of every month to walk along some of the many public footpaths within the parish. This is a great way to find out new routes and enjoy the fantastic countryside that is around us. Walks are usually around 4 miles and we are always back by lunchtime.

Celebrate the first day of British Summertime on Sunday March 26th by joining up for a ramble along some of the Parish's public footpaths. You may have lost an hour's sleep but a gentle Sunday morning walk will put a spring! into your step for the rest of the day!

We meet at 10.00am in South Street car park. Hope to see you there.

Deborah Dixon (01892 853767)
deborah.dixon@hotmail.co.uk

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: SPRING SHOW: Our Spring Show will be held on Saturday, 25th March in Five Ashes Village Hall, starting at 2.00pm. Classes are open and we invite everybody to enter any, or all! Schedules will be available from The Pink Cabbage, Five Ashes Inn, Five Ashes Village Hall, Heal's Shop and Café or direct from me.

At the time of writing, early February, it looks as though we may struggle to have any daffodils ready but, knowing our weather, we can hope!

Graham Playfoot (01825 830511)

MAYFIELD BONFIRE BOYES AND BELLES: Don't forget our up and coming monthly **Bingo Night**. This is to be held on **FRIDAY 24TH MARCH** at 7.30pm, in the Scout and Guide Hall. You know it's a worthwhile cause, so come along, and join in the fun!, you will be made very welcome! (Please note date change from Friday 17th March).

Our Easter Bingo Night, will take place on Good Friday, April 14th. More details to follow in the April Newsletter.

For additional information, please contact me, on 872057, or Mob: 07973727189, or by e-mail on:
kevinleaves@btinternet.com.

Kevin Leaves

ART EXHIBITION: There will be an Exhibition of oils and mixed media paintings by local artist Barbara Murray at Lower Steps Gallery in the High St, Mayfield between Friday 24th March - Sunday 2nd April. Opening night Friday 24th March between 6pm and 8.30pm, then 11am - 4.30pm daily.

Barbara Murray

MAYFIELD MAYFAIR: This year we will be introducing other traditional elements to the Mayfair, alongside the Maypole dancing, Jack-in-the-Green, Crowning of the May Queen, Morris Dancing and Mummers. So, it will be an even more colourful and exciting celebration of village life past and present. Make sure you have the date, Saturday 13th May, in your diaries.

We would also like to involve more musicians from the village – so if you are interested learning and playing a few folk tunes please contact Simon Rudge on 872007.

If you are a Facebook user, you can now keep up to date on news by joining the new Mayfield Mayfair Facebook group.

Finally, a reminder to submit your photographs of Mayfield throughout the year for the Mayfield Calendar competition. Please email them to mayfieldcalendarphotos@gmail.com. Entries can be submitted up to the end of October so we are hoping for photos showing all the different events and seasons in Mayfield throughout the year. The best 12 will be selected for the 2018 calendar. This will be available to purchase at the end of the year and, as with the Mayfair, proceeds will go to the Christmas lights and local charities.

Roger Stone (872764) / 07776 144056

MAYFIELD PHOENIX PLAYERS: POSTPONEMENT: It is with regret that, owing to an unforeseen cast problem Mayfield Phoenix Players have to postpone their production of 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue' which was due to be performed on 9th to 11th March.

Tony Woodliffe (Hon. Sec.)

ST DUNSTAN'S BELLRINGERS: The St Dunstan's Church bellringers have held their 2017 annual general meeting at which the officers for the year ahead were appointed. The principal officers remained unchanged being:

Tower Captain - Graham Holland

Hon. Secretary - Sue Ellis

Hon. Treasurer - Barry Humphrey

Deputy Steeple Keeper - David Whittall.

Thanks were recorded for the continued assistance given by Tony Woodliffe in helping look after the bells and the tower.

After a general discussion, it was decided to appoint a Deputy Tower Captain to assist and get familiarised with the duties and relationships with the Church.

The vote which followed confirmed Vanessa Kolberg in the Deputy Tower Captain post.

A report was made on the progress being made by the newest ringers and appreciation expressed of the patience shown by local Mayfield residents on Tuesday night practices when newer members learn firstly how to ring a bell and then to join in ringing with those more experienced.

If you have an experienced ringer visiting you or wish to participate yourself in an exceedingly satisfying pastime then do not hesitate to contact either of the following: Graham Holland on 872163 or Sue Ellis on (01892) 784026, who will arrange for attendance at a ringing session.

James D Morgan - St Dunstan's Bellringers

MAYFIELD TENNIS CLUB: If you or your children would like to learn to play tennis or continue to play the sport you love, you may want to use the tennis courts near the centre of the village in Station Road. A Junior Coaching Course will be taking place from 3rd to 6th April during the Easter Holidays and there is free coaching for junior members on Friday evenings. Adults have the opportunity of taking part in coaching courses on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For those wishing to join the club, you can use the courts every day of the year!

If you want to find out more of what the club offers you can look at our website on www.mayfieldtennisclub.co.uk or phone me on 01435 873113

Geoffrey Shackel

ARGOS HILL WINDMILL OPEN DAYS: We are delighted to announce the days in which the Mill will open to the public this year. We will open from 2.00 to 5.00pm on the following days and will endeavour to provide tea and cake too!

- 12 March (Sunday)
- 17 April (Bank Holiday Monday)
- 13 and 14 May (National Mills Weekend)
- 1 June (Friday - half term)
- 16 July (Sunday)
- 9 August (Wednesday)
- 9 and 10 September (Heritage Open Weekend)
- 25 October (Wednesday - half term).

For details of the Friends AGM and Dutch Supper please refer to the Clubs and Societies section.

Jane Driscoll (872700)

FRIENDS OF ST DUNSTAN'S GARDEN PARTY: Early warning! The Friends of St Dunstan's Garden Party and Open Garden will this year be held on Sunday 9th July at Clayton's Farmhouse, Newick Lane, from 12 noon to 2pm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Richard Nabavi. Clayton's Farmhouse is situated about 1 mile down Newick Lane on the right. The farmhouse dates from about 1420 and is surrounded by garden, orchard, woodland and farmland. It even has its own railway tunnel! Ample parking will be provided.

All are welcome. Tickets are £10 at the gate and include a glass of wine, light refreshments and a walk around the garden. All the proceeds from this event will go to supporting the work of the Friends.

The Charity's remit is focussed exclusively on raising funds for the preservation and maintenance of the church building and it was set up as a charitable trust to enable everyone in the village and beyond to contribute towards this goal. We have so far raised around £160,000 and projects include the restoration of marble memorials, the cleaning of stained glass windows, the re-leading of the chancel roof, the installation of French drains and much more.

Come and enjoy a lovely walk around the garden and help ensure the church remains in good repair for everyone in the village to appreciate. Please put the date in your diary as we hope to see as many people as possible.

Annette Nabavi (873476)

Chairman, Friends of St Dunstan's Parish Church Mayfield

CHARITY LUNCH IN AID OF HOSPICE IN THE WEALD: Once again we will be participating in the annual Charity Lunches during the period of Lent. Ours will be the first of the five on **WEDNESDAY, 8th MARCH** from 12.30 to 2.15pm in London House with kind permission from Father Nigel. The simple lunch of soup, rolls and butter, cheeses and fruit will be served by our team. Tickets are not required but donations will be gratefully received.

A reminder of the dates of all the Charity Soup Lunches.

Wednesday, 8th March will be in aid of HOSPICE in the WEALD.

Wednesday, 15th March is in support of SHARING and CARING in SUSSEX.

Wednesday, 22nd March is in aid of FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

Wednesday, 29th March is in support of MAYFACS. The newly formed Charity which supports the needs amongst our community.

Wednesday, 5th April is in aid of FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND.

All these lunches will be held in London House by kind permission of Father Nigel and each one will be from 12.30pm to 2.15pm. They are all simple lunches but very sustaining and have proved very popular so do come and join us.

Jean Olney

CREATIVE WRITING COURSES IN MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES: With local author of 'The Last Rolo' and regular columnist, 'It's a Dog's Life' plus 'And Another Thing..' in Magnet Magazine, Helen Stockton.

Writing Workshop: This is an established class for experienced writers with good critiquing and group working skills who are engaged in longer writing projects. It offers advice, support, an individual critique on work in progress, and encouragement. We meet one Saturday a month, 9.30-1.30, at Five Ashes Village Hall, and the cost is £25 per session, payable on the day.

Creative Writing - Writing More, Writing Better! This is a five-week course for writers with a bit of experience who want to improve their skills. It is on a Thursday morning, 10.00-12.30, 6th April - 1st of June, at London House, Mayfield, and costs £95 for the course, payable in advance on booking.

For details of both these courses, go to www.helenstockton.co.uk, e-mail: stocktonwriting@gmail.com or phone 07784 538965.

Helen Stockton

MONTHLY QUIZ SHEETS: These Quiz Sheets have been going for almost 16 years. They help to raise extra money for Mayfield and Five Ashes Primary Schools enabling them to buy incidentals without dipping into other pots. There is a group of faithful supporters but plenty of room for more to join in. Each sheet is £1 and they are available from Strudel and the back of St Dunstan's in the High Street and from The Shopping Basket in Station Road or contact me if you would like one posted each month (SAE required please). There is a £5 prize each month for the winner. During the last year, each school has received £120.50. The more people doing the quizzes the more money we raise for the schools. Quizzes vary from General Knowledge, Word searches, Number Quiz, Topical or Seasonal, Animals and any other ideas I get! The next one is going to be about Landmarks and where they are.

Margaret Neve

COMMUNITY NEWS IN THE KENT AND SUSSEX COURIER: If you have an event, etc. that you would like advertised in the Community News column please let me know. Please send in good time as I have to send it in the week before publication. My contact details are: Margaret Neve (01825 830625) or email : margaretneve332@btinternet.com

HANDMADE LOCAL CRAFTS: Exciting opportunity in Mayfield High Street at Four Winds which is already a success and gathering interest. We are looking for handmade crafts, pottery, glass, wood and metalwork, up-cycled products, object

d'art items which are made in Mayfield and Five Ashes. We have many unusual and useful handmade items from all over the world and already have stunning silversmith jewellery and needlefelt from Five Ashes, as well as crochet, knitted pieces, cards and wooden bowls from Mayfield. We would like to increase the local product range to be more environmentally friendly, as well as in terms of air miles but also to favour natural products or recycled and upcycled products and to offer beautiful unique locally made creations and pieces of art made here, to locals and visitors.

Each craftsperson will be able to showcase their handmade pieces and have a window display for a month and also continuity of display inside Four Winds shop. All pieces on display will be available for sale at a 20% commission to Four Winds. In May, we will have a window display dedicated to locally handmade crafts! For enquiries and further details please do pop into Four Winds shop, telephone 872418 or email info@fourwindsmayfield.co.uk or message Four Winds Clothes & Gifts Facebook page.

Vicky Streeter

MAYFIELD INVESTMENT CLUB: We are a small group who meet monthly over a glass of wine in members' houses, so our numbers are limited to 10. We discuss stocks and invest in a variety of sectors. Profits are usually modest but steady. Age has reduced our numbers and we are looking for a few new members. We are very affable, so mutual compatibility is most important.

If you feel you would like further details please contact me, the secretary: Crispin Cobb (872398) or email crispincobb@btinternet.com

Crispin Cobb

OAK TREE HOMES TRUST SPRING FAYRE: Our Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 25th March at Mayfield Village Hall, East Sussex, TN20 6BD from 10am – 2pm.

Come and join us for tea/coffee and cakes, and browse our stalls selling delicious home-made preserves, cakes, greetings cards, Christian books, seasonal plants and much more! There will be presentations at 11.30am and 12.30pm with all the latest news about the work at Strawberry Hill House! All proceeds to the Charity.

Mrs Helen Jempson - Administrator
Oak Tree Homes Trust, www.oaktreehomestrust.org

MAYFIELD FRINGE FESTIVAL 2017: This year Mayfield's Fringe Festival will run from 6th to 14th May. Events will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Getting things geared-up, there will be a Music Quiz on Saturday 22nd April: - a Fundraiser jointly for Fringe 2017 and Save the Children: 7.30 for 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall. Contact is Jan Rich - email: jan_a_rich@icloud.com

Saturday 6th May – Jane Austen readings – see below.

Thursday 11th May at 5.30pm, a not-so-private view of Metamorphosis, Lower Steps Gallery. 7.30pm, Poetry at the Pink Cabbage with poets Rebecca Hurst, Lawrence Wilson and Sian Thomas.

Friday 12th May at 8pm, In Vino Veritas: a wine tasting with nibbles and wine-related stories, poems and performances, also at the Pink Cabbage, in collaboration with Fine Wines of Mayfield.

Saturday 13th May sunset (or close to it), live music at the Rose and Crown.

Sunday 14th May at 4pm, The Labyrinth: a storytelling performance, at the Memorial Hall and 7pm, a film evening at the Rose and Crown.

Sian Thomas

WATERYARD THEATRE GROUP - Jane Austen Evening Saturday 6 May. The Wateryard Group is planning an evening of Jane Austen readings at St Dunstan's Church that will open this year's Mayfield Fringe. The evening will be hosted by her nephew and first biographer James and feature Jane introducing readings from her work, with musical interludes.

There will be an open evening for all those who would like to take part from 8-10pm on Wednesday 22 March at London House, High Street Mayfield. If you would like to take part or suggest suitable readings please contact Jo Compton by email: info@wateryard.org.uk or phone: 873832.

Look out for more news on the Wateryard and Mayfield village Facebook pages.

Jo Compton

ARTISTS' CORNER: EXHIBITION OF ART WORKS BY JOHNNY MARSH - 'A MIXED BAG': Lower Steps Gallery, High Street, Mayfield - 10th March at 6pm, for Wine and Nibbles, all welcome. Continues until 23rd March. Contact 07555 567873.

Re. FRINGE 2017 - Call for Artists and all Creative People in and around Mayfield... Its nearly Fringe time again!

This year we are inviting anyone who would enjoy the challenge of making something a little bit different; we have done this in past Fringes, you may remember the "Boxes" last time, which were a great success, and produced some very imaginative and intriguing results.

This year we are using Lower Steps Gallery in the High Street as a venue, everyone is invited to produce a piece of work

on the theme of '**METAMORPHOSIS**' in any medium, two or three dimensional, whatever you want, the only restriction being the size, an A4 footprint.

Be as creative and imaginative as possible, push the boundaries of what is generally perceived as Art, you WILL enjoy the experience as there are no rules, and much exciting work can come from this approach. We want this to be an inclusive event, so everyone is encouraged to have a go.

All the objects will be exhibited anonymously and for sale at a set price, proceeds to this year's Fringe charity, which is MAYFACS.

The exhibition will run from **5.00pm Thursday 11th May till Sunday 21st May**. Closing date for entries will be Monday 1st May.

Any enquires to Johnny Marsh and Barbara Todd.

Johnny (07555 567873)

DRIVERS, BE AWARE! There have recently been a few near-misses in and around the Village with **horses and their riders** coming perilously close to having nasty accidents due to cars passing them at speed.

Could everybody please be extra careful when overtaking as some horses are easily spooked and are often being ridden by children (including our girls).

Thank you very much!

Jill Barker, Director of Riding, Mayfield School (via Katie Chamberlain - Communications Assistant)

We would add that non-residents, such as delivery people and 'men in white vans' probably don't expect to find horses being ridden on our narrow, congested roads and lanes. Perhaps if you have deliveries or tradesmen / builders working for you, you can inform them to be careful and drive slowly up to and around horses.

Editors

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD ART EXHIBITION – (AT PEMBURY): *Discover and Celebrate Art.* This year, Hospice in the Weald will be hosting its very first art exhibition: *Art for Arts Sake*.

The two-day event will feature up to 300 paintings from around 100 local artists and will give guests the opportunity to chat with exhibitors and purchase any piece of work on display, whilst helping to raise funds for Hospice in the Weald.

The exhibition is being held at the Hospice (Hospice in the Weald, Maidstone Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4TA) on the 4th and 5th of March between 10.30am and 4.00pm and entry for adults is only £3 and children can come along for free.

On both Saturday and Sunday, we will be offering you the chance to exercise your artistry skills learning from professionals in our workshop.

Saturday will be Family Day – the perfect family day out which will include a children's workshop. Children of all ages will have the opportunity to express themselves and have a go at creating their very own masterpiece!

For more information please visit the Hospice in the Weald Website: www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk - or contact Ben Greenstreet at ben.greenstreet@hospiceintheweald.org.uk or on 01892 820528.

Grace Rutland, Fundraising Assistant

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

MAYFIELD EVENING WI: Although it was Valentine's Day, there was a very good turnout of members and visitors at the monthly meeting on Tuesday 14th February. Our speaker was Lesley Negus and her subject was "Living on £1 per day." She gave an interesting talk and demonstration of meals you can make for £1 or less per person. She made some there and then and we were all able to sample them. They were very appetising and would make a lovely meal. Lesley started off blogging but now has her own web site www.thriftylesley.com where she has recipes and articles. It is worth taking a look at it for ideas and how see how entertaining it is.

The committee is holding a New Members Meeting on Tuesday 28th February at 7.30pm. If you are a member and haven't been to a new members meeting, get in touch with Berenice Blurton on 01435 872829 to get details of where it is being held. If you are going to join but haven't got your invite yet, please telephone Berenice and give your name to her.

We are putting together a basket of things to feed the birds for the ESFWI Annual Meeting in Eastbourne on 29th March, where it will be sold to raise funds for headquarters. If you have anything you can donate please bring it to our next meeting, which is Tuesday, 14th March. The speaker is Andy Thomas whose subject is "Lewes and Bonfire Night." You are welcome to join us in the Memorial Hall, at 7.15 for 7.30pm. To what looks like an evening not to be missed.

Margaret Rae

MAYFIELD BAND..... COME TO NARNIA: The matter of brass bands actually managed to get raised in the House of Commons this week, but through the usual combination of waffle and guff that are the stock in trade of that place, nothing will change, and the question was well and truly buried. Of course, you will have all heard of Matthew Hancock? No? Well you will soon, because his proficiency in the dark art of avoiding the question will almost certainly propel him into the highest

office in the land. But for now, he is the Minister of State at the Department for Media, Culture and Sport, and on behalf of the PM, he assured us that Her Majesty's Government are strong supporters of brass bands. Are they 'eck! They divvy up a bit of tax relief for Grimethorpe and the like, and fund music hubs, but the fantastic work done by little bands like ourselves that supports the government by churning out good, well educated, well behaved citizens, and by helping to keep communities strong, is not reciprocated and barely recognised.

We're not asking for money, or any other help really, but a bit of official recognition of our work would have been nice. The question actually asked was "What steps is she taking to promote Brass Bands?", and that's all we want really; a bit of official signposting, pointing schools, parents, and adult education centres in our direction as a good way to get into music, particularly in small remote rural communities where access to a music hub can be difficult. But, of course, that will never happen because of our independence, and official recommendation could only happen if we gave that up and succumbed to a fistful of rules, regulations and form filling that would then absolve government of any responsibility.

So, we're not really complaining, and we shall carry on as we are, and as we have done for years, as the best kept secret of the music world. And that's all part of the attraction of your local brass band; we do it our way, and whilst some of the music changes with the times, the essence of banding has remained unchanged for decades. For the first-time visitor stepping over our threshold, after a day in the high tech, screen based, fast moving 21st century, you step back into another world, like the Narnia of Mayfield! The first thing that hits you, apart from the talking lions, is the unique smell of metal and oil and wood, and as your eyes adjust to the brightness of the fluorescent lights, your ears are assaulted by a sound like no other, with the throbbing depth of a powerful well-tuned motor, and the warmth of the bass end juxtaposing with the soaring cornets. You can literally feel it as much as hear it, and the soft power has an irresistible magnetism, whatever your taste in music. Listen to brass band music on the radio and you can take it or leave it, but come and feel it in a rehearsal room and it's a very different matter. And I suspect that if we allowed ourselves to be absorbed into the mechanisms of the state, our methods of education would also have to change. Maybe that would be a good thing, but at the moment it seems to work well, and from what I have seen, brass band players progress comparatively quickly, which is probably not only because brass band music is so full on for the whole band, with nobody left counting 96 rest bars, but also because we get our trainees playing with the senior band as early as possible. Sadly, it failed Mr. Hancock, who claims to have played with a brass band as a lad, but he doesn't anymore, so he was probably a lost cause. Poor chap. If only he'd tried a little harder, instead of giving up on life and becoming a politician.

There aren't many things you can do these days that aren't globalised, homogenised, or regulated to death, but there is one. Just step through our wardrobe door. It's quite crowded in there, what with all the lions and witches, but we'll find a space for you, and if you want to play, and are prepared to work for it, you can have a fairy tale ending. Only a few kids were lucky enough to find Narnia, and only a few are lucky enough to find us, but the common theme is that it's a special place.

Simon Rudge (872007)
simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

THE ARGOS HILL WINDMILL: Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Mayfield Scout Hall on 7.30 for 8.00pm April 11th. Please come and join us. There will be no speaker as the brief formal part of the evening will be followed by a "Dutch Supper" of light-bites, where we invite those attending each to bring some finger-food to share with fellow guests.

7.30 - 8.00pm Guests arrive.
8.00pm Formal proceedings - nomination of Officers and committee members.
8.20pm Dutch Supper.

There will be an opportunity for guests to make donations should they wish. Do make a note in your diary - you can be sure of a warm welcome!

We have finalised the list of Windmill Open Days for the coming year - everyone is welcome on those days and the times and dates are to be found in the Round and About section of this Newsletter.

John Richardson

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO OUR SOCIETY EVENTS: Tuesday 21st March AGM and Talk by Jim Buttress "Sixty-Five Years in Horticulture". Free Entry. Cash Bar and Membership renewals available from 6.45pm. Swift AGM followed by talk 7.30pm. In the Memorial Hall, Mayfield. The Membership Fee remains at £5 this year. Cash bar with a free glass of wine or fruit juice for new members and those renewing their membership. Our Chairman Eddie Du Cann and President John Logan are masters of a speedy AGM so we will be able to quickly move on to the talk by our well known and entertaining speaker Jim Buttress. Trained at RHS Wisley, Jim is an RHS Judge, was Superintendent of the Central Royal Parks, judged 'Britain in Bloom' for over 25 years, was watched by millions on the 'Big Allotment Challenge' and is a regular guest gardening advisor answering listeners' questions on 'Dig-it' on Radio Sussex at 9am on Sunday mornings. Awarded the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour, this highly esteemed but very approachable gardening expert is full of fun and at previous talks has had us in stitches with the tales of his experiences.

Wednesday 28th June Summer Outing to West Dean and Parham House, West Sussex (Gardens Only). Cost £30 per person. Booking forms will be circulated to members. Non-members are welcome and can book by phoning Bridget Blow on 01435 872829 or email ericblow@btinternet.com.

Memorial Hall Car Park Flower Bed: There are lots of people in Mayfield who quietly keep our village looking lovely. There is a flowerbed in the Memorial Hall Car Park that Helen Lane, one of our Committee Members, has taken on looking after and improving. At her suggestion the trellis has recently been replaced at the back of the bed. We want to say a big thank

you to the O'Neil and Whittalls families who have very generously donated the timber for the new trellis, and to Helen for all her hard work.

Rosemary Bayliss
mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

GARDENING TIPS: I have just read that a winter garden has been constructed at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Hyde Hall in Essex. I have long been a fan of the winter garden at Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge and have visited many times. There is also a smaller winter garden at Wakehurst. Unless you have a very large plot, it is not practical to create a specific winter area in a domestic garden but there are certainly things you can do to brighten up a drab area. I have dealt with winter heathers in the past and they work well in modest groups. Under planting with winter flowering bulbs is a useful technique and the best subject is the winter aconite, *eranthus hyemalis*, which will flower and multiply under any deciduous shrub and even under evergreens if they are not too dense. In many seasons, they will start flowering early in January and go on for some weeks leaving a carpet of bright green frilly leaves. This year they are about two weeks late but look to be very prolific. They provide a really sunny outlook in a shady patch. They are best planted "in the green" using plants that have just flowered although corms can be purchased and in my experience normally do as well. Either way, once established they will spread rapidly by self-seeding. They are not too fussy but will do best in a fairly good soil, which does not waterlog and fully hardy. The other bulb coming into flower from early February is the snowdrop, *galanthus*. They are traditionally a plant of fairly open woodland but will do quite well in similar places to aconites if the shade is not too heavy. Although they will grow in most places they prefer a good soil and some moisture, and, like aconites are best planted "in the green".

The next category will require some space of their own and are quite vigorous although they can all be cut back hard. These are the coloured barks such as dogwoods, some ornamental willows and rubus, a relative of the bramble. I grow a cinnamon barked willow, which really grows in the least bit of winter sun. I let it grow from a stool about one foot high from which it will reach another five feet or so. At the end of winter, I cut it all down to use as plant supports but I do leave the sticks to die off for a few weeks or some will grow roots when pushed into the ground!

The coloured bark versions of the dogwood, *cornus* are really easy to grow and although mostly vigorous are at their best when given a drastic hair cut every year removing up to 100% of the growth. The exception is *cornus alba sibirica* which is less vigorous and only needs a trim. The bark colours range from yellow & green, through reds and oranges to the almost black "*kesselringii*". Good displays of *cornus* can be seen at Wakehurst or Nymans. Cornus are easily propagated by layering. Scrape off a bit of bark and peg the scrapped area to the soil with a wire peg or similar and it will root in a few weeks. The books say that they need fertile, well drained ground but I have grown some on the banks of a pond so they are not difficult. They produce small white flowers and little white fruits. Many also have some useful autumn colour.

Rubus biflorus has chalky white young shoots in winter, white flowers in spring and yellow fruits in autumn. It has an upright habit of growth. *Rubus cockburnianus* has arching growth with purple and white stems in winter and can be very prickly. Unpalatable fruits follow small pink flowers in summer. Both varieties will grow quite large but benefit from being cut back hard. They are fully hardy and some like sun.

Finally, a shrub that can flower through much of the winter and at times can be covered in little pink sweetly scented flowers. I refer to *viburnum bodnantense* "dawn", a medium sized vigorous shrub that is very easy to grow. It does need some space of its own but will put up with any amount of cutting back. In a hard frost the flowers go brown but a fresh lot soon come along.

Victorian gardeners could be very cruel compared with, we hope, our more enlightened practises today. One idea for keeping birds off strawberries was to tie a kitten to a short string, the other end of which was fastened to a ring, which was slipped over a wire running the length of the bed. I suppose this was an early form of biological control.

John Logan

MAYFIELD SCOUTS AND GUIDES: The Group: I cannot believe how long it is since I last wrote a report for Scouting. I knew I had a very hectic last seven months. Not only with my ongoing health issues, my wife being ill, our son's wedding in Canada and then the work culminating in a feast of tax returns in January!

In case you had not heard one of our group stalwarts and my predecessor as Scout and Group Scout Leader Derek Figes, had an accident on a holiday of a lifetime in Australia. He and Helen had gone to visit their daughter but in the first day or so Derek fell and hit his head causing serious injury. I am very pleased to say that he is recovering well and they are both safely back home in Ringmer. They have had many offers of help but more are always welcome. I know you read the yellow pages so get well Derek.

Scouting Sections: The group disaappointingly has reduced in numbers mainly in the cub section, although on Tuesday I had the great pleasure of enrolling four new cubs into the section.

Beavers as always under Stewart Neve's stewardship are doing well, so do put your child on the waiting list if you wish them to join beavers when they turn 6 years old. Please forward your details to joansflowers@btinternet.com

Next week the Scouts are off to London to take part in the great Monopoly game as they did last year. It is a great way to learn about our capital and to start to understand how to get around, most importantly it is terrific fun.

I am delighted to announce the Avery Explorer unit, a combination of Mayfield, Ticehurst and Wadhurst has restarted thanks to the sterling efforts of Mark Thomson our Scout Leader and Rosie Burfoot the GSL of Ticehurst. Check the website for details or email me. It is for 14 ½ to 18 year olds. The best thing is they plan what they want to do, as long as it is legal and

safe the leaders help facilitate. "The world is their Oyster"!

100 Club – all proceeds go to the running of the Community Minibus: The December 2016 and January 2017 draws are as follows:

	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
December 2016	Nicky Higgins 013 The prize is £100	Paul Money 20 The prize is £30	Sheila Humphrey 096 The prize is £20
January 2017	Barry Humphrey The prize is £25	Mr & Mrs D Turner 063 The prize is £15	Mrs C Bethel-Motagali 013 The prize is £10

We need a fresh push to develop membership, raise more funds and increase the prize values. 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 is still to be done. Ideally we need another volunteer to help finalise the offers we have and create new - £200 per year do contact me if you would like to advertise your business please contact me. If you wish to take advantage of the Minibus and you are a charitable, voluntary or welfare organisation then to get in touch by email to msgminibus@gmail.com

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 and Scouts 10 ½ to 14 ½ meet on Thursday 7-9pm. Contact me if you would like your child to take part, it is for girls and boys or if you are interested in helping or being a leader.

Do write, email, text or call with any comments or for any enquiries

Gavin Ross Group Scout Leader – gavin@rossma.co.uk mob - 07771 965517

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A (UNIVERSITY OF THE 3RD AGE): Martin Lloyd came to national notice when, on BBC Radio 4's Midweek programme, he enthralled listeners with his accounts of the history of the passport comfortably patching over the hole left by an absent programme guest - much to the relief of the presenter! He has since been involved with various programmes including 'Who do you think you are' and 'You and Yours' and has written a number of successful books. He is now well established as a writer of history, travel humour and fiction. A few years ago, members were greatly entertained by his 'Passport Stories from History'. At 2.00 p.m. on Thursday the 16th March he is returning to Mayfield Memorial Hall. Then we will discover the truth about writers, publishers and bookshops as seen by a novice author. Under the title 'Becoming a Famous Author' he will tell us how his first book was published.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information about Mayfield and District U3A please contact our new Membership Secretary Sue Petrie on 01892 542894.

MAYFIELD BUSINESS FORUM: Please note the date of the March meeting is Wednesday 1st March and not a week later as had been stated originally. Alex Burnett and her team from AB Bookkeeping will be leading a discussion on "Bookkeeping". This may seem a dull subject, but it is vital to make sure our businesses run smoothly. So, thoughts and suggestions from Alex on how we can do our paper work more efficiently will help us free up time for other creative work.

The meeting will start at 7pm in the Rose & Crown and anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Roger Stone (872764) / 07776 144056

SHORT STORY SECTION

***Mother knows best, or does she?* – by Sue Dixon**

When I was young and just a girl my Mum took care of me. She made me warm and safe, she was like my comfort blanket. At five years' old I had to go to school. It was 1963 and there was no breaking in gently! These days starting school is 'a couple of mornings a week' without the big kids, protected all the way, but it was different for me. Mum walked me to school the first week and I was told to remember the way home. It's still a bit protected, don't talk to strangers, but all my school teachers were strangers to me. How does that work then? When they told me you have to go to school today I thought it was just that one day and it was done. It was a shock to me to realise that it was Monday to Friday for the next 11 years. I remember Mum putting dinner money in a safe place and stitching my mittens into my coat on a length of wool, so I didn't lose them because Mum knows best.

As school progressed and my confidence grew I started to question Mum's authority over me. It started with pop music. I didn't know what that was and I still blame Mum for the teasing at school when I didn't know who T Rex were. Part of her mothering skills should have been to tell me about them. I grew up on Mozart and Chopin. We clashed over fashion and the sensible length of a skirt. I was sure Mum didn't know best on that one. As time went on Mum struggled to retain her authority over me and my sister. Boyfriends came on the scene and they weren't minor royalty so they didn't quite fit. She always wanted the best for us as I did for my daughters.

I had a job, part time to start with, and when I left school I carried on full time. It was in a well-known supermarket where the employees owned a part of the company. My grandparents had worked for the same company in a department store and that had been quite acceptable, however that was not how Mum saw my life going. Recently I was listening to the radio

and heard a caller describing her job with my old company. She was a 'mattress tester' for them on a very nice salary. She travels the world bouncing on beds. Had my career been allowed to continue, that could have been me. Thanks Mum!

OPEN FORUM/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A VALEDICTION TO THE DEPARTING EDITORS:

When all good things must come to an end
That does not stop us for trying to send
Our thoughtful and honest "Bravo Zulu"
- Navy signal speak for "Very Well Done You".

The job of editing the Yellow Pages
Involves dove-tailing the many stages.
No politics, no frantic expression of -isms
Kept local, avoiding all antagonisms.

It's not easy, not popular, even disliked,
By authors whose words have just been spiked!
But they stood by ideals of wrong and right,
Reversing the adage of "bark and bite"!

This doggerel is patchy, to say the best,
But permits warm remembrance partly in jest
To a couple for their self-imposed stint -
Ensuring top quality of our Yellow print.

Praises are few for John and Brenda Holding
As T N Twenty is better at scolding.
But some well earned praise will fervently be said
When, sad to say, J and/or B are thoroughly dead.

But back to here and now, and how this started,
About who does what, when alliances are parted.
For their long service we simply say, "Thank you" -
Whilst wishing them a heartfelt, "Adieu".

Anonymous

REGULAR EVENTS

The Regular Events section is only updated on an approximately six monthly basis - in the interests of saving space (and cost) and recognising that very little information changes from month to month. You can refer to the village website: www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk/Village/v_diary.html for the current update.

Please send any amendments to: mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - APRIL 2017 ONWARDS (FOR MARCH 2017 - SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER)

April 2017	Event	Location	Time
Sat. 1	20th Anniversary Celebrity Organ Concert (organised by St Dunstan's Church Organ Trust) with David Goode (Eton College)	St Dunstan's Church	6.00pm
Mon. - 3 - Thu. 6	Junior Tennis Coaching Courses for juniors aged between 4 and 16 years	Mayfield Tennis Club, Station Road	9.00am – 2.00pm
Tue. 4	The Tuesday Afternoon Club (for the over 60s)	Scout and Guide Hall	2.30 – 4.30pm
Wed. 5	Mayfield Business Forum – informal networking	Rose and Crown	7.00 – 8.30pm
Wed. 5	Lenten Lunch in support of Friends of the Holy Land	London House	12.30 – 2.15pm
Thu. 6	Creative Writing – start of five-week course (till 1 st June) run by Helen Stockton (07784 538965)	London House	10.00am – 12.30pm
Tue. 11	Singing for Fun singing group	Lounge at Canterbury Court	11.00am – 12.30pm
Tue. 11	AGM and Dutch Supper – Argos Hill Windmill. All welcome!	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm

Wed.	12	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm
Fri.	14	Easter Bingo Night – organised by Mayfield Bonfire Boyes and Belles: fundraising event	TBA	TBA
Mon.	17	Argos Hill Windmill Bank Holiday Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm
Tue.	18	Middle House Lunch – organized by MAYFACS	The Middle House	TBA
Fri.	21	Film on Friday, 'The Pearl Button' (Chile 2015)	Memorial Hall	8.00 for 8.30pm
Sat.	22	Jumble Sale – fundraiser for Mayfield Scouts and Guides	Memorial Hall	11.00am – 1.00pm
Sat.	22	Music Quiz: Joint fundraiser for Fringe 2017 and Save the Children	Memorial Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm
Wed.	26	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	26	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm
Thu.	27	Poetry Group (dementia-friendly) – all are welcome	Coach House Cottage, Royal Oak Mews	11.00am – 12.30pm
Fri.	28	Mayfield Local History Society: Talk 'Pitt The Younger and the Martello Towers' by Geoff Hutchinson	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm
Fri.	28	Bingo Night – fundraiser for Mayfield Pre-School	Memorial Hall	TBA
May 2017				
Tue.	2	The Tuesday Afternoon Club (for the over 60s)	Scout and Guide Hall	2.30 – 4.30pm
Sat.	6	Evening of Jane Austen Readings plus musical interludes – to open this year's Fringe	St Dunstan's Church	TBA
Tue.	9	Singing for Fun singing group	Lounge at Canterbury Court	11.00am – 12.30pm
Wed.	10	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	10	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm
Thu. - Sun.	11 - 14	Fringe 2017: art, poetry, performances, music, storytelling, film show, yarnning, imbibing, and so on...	Here and there	Afternoons / Evenings
Thu. - Sun.	11 - 21	...Exhibition of creative artworks on theme of 'Metamorphosis'. All are welcome to participate. (Entries deadline 1 st May)	Lower Steps Gallery	5.00pm (11 th May). Daily then onwards
Fri.	12	Film on Friday (Program TBA)	Memorial Hall	8.00 for 8.30pm
Sat.	13	Mayfield May Fair	High Street	1.00 – 4.00pm
Sat.	13	Mayfield Horticultural Society – Annual Plant Sale	High Street	9.00am (early birds!)
Sat. – Sun.	13 - 14	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm
Tue.	16	Middle House Lunch – organized by MAYFACS	The Middle House	TBA
Wed.	24	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	24	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm

June 2017

Fri.	2	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm
Sat.	10	20th Anniversary Celebrity Organ Concert (organised by St Dunstan's Church Organ Trust) with Malcolm Archer (Winchester College). Also with the Choir of St Dunstan's	St Dunstan's Church	6.00pm
Tue.	13	Singing for Fun singing group	Lounge at Canterbury Court	11.00am – 12.30pm
Wed.	14	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	14	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm
Sat.	17	Church Fete	Grounds of St Dunstan's	TBA
Tue.	27	Mayfield Horticultural Society - Outing to West Dean & Parham	Pick-up TBA	TBA
Wed.	28	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	28	Mayfield Horticultural Society Summer Outing to West Dean and Parham House, West Sussex (Gardens only)	Pick-up TBA	TBA
Wed.	28	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm

July 2017

Tue.	4	Bowl Water boat trip day with fish and chip lunch. Organised by MAYFACs and incorporating the Tuesday Afternoon Club outing	Pick-up TBA	TBA
Sun.	9	The Friends of St Dunstan's Church: Garden Party and Open Garden. All are very welcome	Clayton's Farmhouse, Newick Lane	12noon – 2.00pm
Sat.	15	Mayfield Horticultural Society Summer Show	Memorial Hall and Scout and Guide Hall	8.30 – 10.30am entries. 2.30pm open to public
Sun.	16	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm

August 2017

Wed.	9	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm
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September 2017

Sat. - Sun.	9 - 10	Argos Hill Windmill – Heritage Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm
Sat.	16	Mayfield Carnival courtesy of Mayfield Bonfire Boyes and Belles		

October 2017

Fri.	20	Mayfield Horticultural Society - talk by Graham Blunt "Gardening on the Extreme"	Memorial Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm
Wed.	25	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm

November 2017

Fri.	17	Mayfield Horticultural Society - talk by Gillian Regan on "Self-seeders, love them or hate them"	TBC	7.30 for 8.00pm
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February 2018

Fri.	16	Mayfield Horticultural Society - talk "Plants for early Spring"	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm
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March 2018

Tue.	20	Mayfield Horticultural Society - AGM with talk by Barry Newman "Preparing for the Show"	Memorial Hall	6.45pm doors open
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April - May 2018 Mayfield Festival will take place from Sunday 29th April to Sunday 13th May 2018

November 2018

Tue.	20	Mayfield Horticultural Society - an evening with Chris Beardshaw	Memorial Hall	TBA
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REMINDER: MAIN NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION POINTS

Five Ashes Inn, Church of the Good Shepherd Church, Pink Cabbage, Public Library, The Shopping Basket, Leppard's Butchers, St. Dunstan's Pharmacy, Mace Stores, Middle House Hotel, Rose and Crown public house, Five Ashes Village Hall, Heal's café plus several other premises round up and down Mayfield where copies are available to browse.

COPY FOR NEWSLETTER / FEEDBACK TO CORRESPONDENTS

Copy should be submitted by noon on the 20th of the prior month. Please send an e-mail to 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) 10pt.

For advertising copy (money with copy please) contact Paul Woodley (873258) or e-mail to paulwoodley.zagon@gmail.com or deliver to The Shopping Basket also by 20th 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, up to a year hence if available, 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.

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)

MAYFACS (MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES COMMUNITY SERVICES)

(Charity No. 1166647)

Shirley Holland – Manager - Tel: 07908 516 875

Email: manager@mayfacs.org.uk

MAYFIELD LIBRARY OPENING TIMES AS OF JANUARY 2017

OPEN: Tuesday 2.00 – 5.00pm, Thursday 2.00 – 6.00pm, Saturday 10.00am – 2.00pm.

CLOSED: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Bank Holidays.

MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2017	Event	Location	Time
Wed. 1	Mayfield Business Forum – discussion topic: Book-keeping	Rose and Crown	7.00 – 8.30pm
Fri. 3	Coffee and Chat	London House	10.00 – 11.30am
Sat. 4	20th Anniversary Celebrity Organ Concert (organised by St Dunstan's Church Organ Trust) with Martin Baker (Westminster Cathedral)	St Dunstan's Church	6.00pm
Sat. - Sun. 4 - 5	'Art for Art's Sake' - very first art exhibition – fundraiser to benefit Hospice in the Weald	Hospice in the Weald, <u>Pembury</u>	10.30am - 4.00pm

Tue.	7	The Tuesday Afternoon Club (for the over 60s)	Scout and Guide Hall	2.30 – 4.30pm
Wed.	8	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	8	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm
Wed.	8	Lenten Lunch in support of Hospice in the Weald	London House	12.30 – 2.15pm
Fri. - Thu.	10 - 23	'A Mixed Bag' - Exhibition of art works. Starts 10 th March at 6pm for Wine and Nibbles, all welcome. Continues until 23 rd March	Lower Steps Gallery	Daily opening from 11 th March
Sun.	12	Final service at The Church of the Good Shepherd before rebuilding commences	Five Ashes	9.15am
Sun.	12	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day. Tea and cake available	Argos Hill	2.00 – 5.00pm
Mon.	13	Full Parish Council Meeting – open to all	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Tue.	14	Singing for Fun singing group	Lounge at Canterbury Court	11.00am – 12.30pm
Tue.	14	Mayfield Evening WI Meeting with speaker Andy Thomas on 'Lewes and Bonfire Night'	Memorial Hall	7.15 for 7.30pm
Wed.	15	Lenten Lunch in support of Caring and Sharing in Sussex	London House	12.30 – 2.15pm
Wed.	15	Fashion Show organised in association with Travelling Trends. Entry by ticket only (£8). Fundraiser for Mayfield Pre-School.	Memorial Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm start
Thu.	16	Mayfield and District U3A Meeting with speaker Martin Lloyd: 'Becoming a Famous Author'	Memorial Hall	2.00pm
Sat.	18	Film on Friday (note: it's a Saturday and an early start!) - 'Guys and Dolls' (USA 1955)	Memorial Hall	6.00 for 6.30pm
Tue.	21	Middle House Lunch – organized by MAYFACS	The Middle House	TBA
Tue.	21	Mayfield Horticultural Society - AGM plus Talk by Jim Buttress "65 years in Horticulture"	Memorial Hall	6.45 for 7.30pm
Wed.	22	Open Evening for all those who would like to take part in the Readings for the Jane Austen Evening (to be held on Sat. 6 th May)	London House	8.00 – 10.00pm
Wed.	22	Chi-Laxation class	Five Ashes Village Hall	1.00 – 2.30pm
Wed.	22	Tea/Coffee & Chat Wednesdays – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice.	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30 – 4.00pm
Wed.	22	Lenten Lunch in support of Family Support Work	London House	12.30 – 2.15pm
Thu.	23	Poetry Group (dementia-friendly) – all are welcome	Coach House Cottage, Royal Oak Mews	11.00am – 12.30pm
Fri.	24	Exhibition of oils and mixed media paintings by local artist Barbara Murray – daily until Sunday 2nd April. (Opening night Friday 24th March between 6.00pm and 8.30pm)	Lower Steps Gallery	11.00am – 4.30pm
Fri.	24	Bingo Night – organised by Mayfield Bonfire Boyes and Belles: fundraising event (moved from March 17 th)	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm
Sat.	25	Spring Fayre - Fundraising event for the Oak Tree Homes Trust	Memorial Hall	10.00am – 2.00pm
Wed.	25	Five Ashes Horticultural Society Spring Show	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.00pm
Sat.	26	CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR TONIGHT FOR BST!		
Sun.	26	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street Car Park	10.00am
Wed.	29	Lenten Lunch in support of MAYFACS	London House	12.30 – 2.15pm

Fri.	31	Mayfield Local History Society: Talk 'The Social History of Wealden Villages' by Dr John Kay	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8.00pm
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