

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front cover: Mayfield Bonfire Society. Thanks to all the organisations for their photographs.
Please do send us your images to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Readers may have met us at the 'Know Your Parish' event on Saturday 28th September when a number of the clubs and societies we feature were able to showcase what they have to offer. We love to promote all the good things about our Villages and especially in the coming months we want to focus on our hard working shopkeepers and professional service providers in Mayfield High



Street. It's the existence of a living High Street that keeps people

meeting and connecting which is such an important aspect of our community, so if you can - **shop local!**

In Five Ashes we celebrate the wonderful eco-improved Village Hall as such a vital and lovely facility for both Villages - especially as we await the new Community and Health Centre for Mayfield. Read about their 'Energy Expo' inside, along with all the usual and unusual reports and articles on our busy Parish.

Jeanette Hore & Philip James

DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com by noon on the 15th. Please include your organisation, name or the topic of your copy in the 'Subject' line of your email. Submissions must show the subject, name of author and a contact number in case of queries. No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

FOR BLACK/WHITE & COLOUR ADVERTISING email: mfanadvertising@gmail.com.

DEADLINE FOR BOOKING SPACE IS 10th WITH PDF ARTWORK BY 16th

FOR ANNUAL £25 SUBSCRIPTIONS: You can set up a standing order and pay online as follows:- £25 to Mayfield Five Ashes Newsletter; NatWest Bank, Sort Code 60-10-30; Account No. 60849975. Please remember to email us your full name and address at mfansubscriptions@gmail.com. Or you can pay by cheque sent to Graham Soar, Owl Lodge, Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, TN6 3RJ – again please remember to include your name and address

USEFUL INFORMATION

LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS: **Five Ashes Village Hall;** **Five Ashes Primary School** - accessible from the pavement; **Woodhill Surgery** - in the entrance porch; **Mayfield Primary School** - on the wall by steps to main entrance; **Telephone Kiosk outside the Rose & Crown**, Fletching Street; **Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club**. Defibrillators are housed in weatherproof boxes and are accessible 24/7. Full audio prompts guide you through as soon as you open the lid.

UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

POST OFFICE UPDATE

We have been quiet for a while, but we have been busy. We have now agreed with Post Office Limited the alterations necessary to the Handley's office in order to reopen the Post Office there. They will move the safes and equipment and install new security systems once those alterations are done and GA Carpentry will do them for us. However, before we can do that, we need the Listed Building consent from Wealden District Council to carry out those works. The application to make the alteration is on their planning website (ref: WD/2024/1866/LB) and if you would like to support us and see the Post Office reopen, it would be most helpful if you could comment on the application at this website address: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and.../planning-advice/>.

Andrew Ratcliffe Mayfield Community Benefit Society Limited

BLACKBIRD - CREATING HAPPINESS IN THE HIGH STREET

Blackbird is like a warm beacon enticing passers-by into this friendly, welcoming shop, full of beautiful, inviting, and

exciting products. The owner, Bev Johnstone, spent twenty years in Spain, working in her own business as



a glass engraver, but introduced more fashion-based ideas when she realised ladies' gifts were the best-selling items in her shop.

The shop is run by Manager Jo and her small team of Lynn, Christine and Cathy, who keep it looking beautiful. Everything is hand-picked and bought in small quantities, so there is always newness on the rails, keeping the stock fresh, vibrant and interesting. The displays follow seasonal trends and the focus is on colour as well as on natural fibres and fair trade, good quality and good value. The clothes are mostly free size, relaxed, and well suited to a more comfortable lifestyle.

In Blackbird, you will find ladies' fashions, smellies, jewellery, handbags, gift bags, cards and soft furnishings such as throws and cushions. They are always trying new themes, and the aim is to keep things fresh and lively, to encourage customers to browse for ideas and just enjoy good old-fashioned customer service. If they have particular requirements not in the shop, Bev will also do her best to find and supply them.



Jo, the Manager

We live in a time of online shopping, which we all know can be convenient and easy, but there is still great pleasure to be gained from the interaction and enjoyment of browsing around shops such as Blackbird.

Bev is keen to develop a positive relationship with the village and is happy to sell items such as the unique Mayfield & Five Ashes umbrellas, commissioned by The Mayfieldians, as well as the 2025 Mayfield & Five Ashes Calendar, which will be available by the end of September, also produced by The Mayfieldians. She will also hold raffles for local causes, as she did last year, at the Late-Night Christmas shopping evening. This year's event is on Friday, 29th November.

If you haven't visited Blackbird yet, give it a go. It is a great place for cards, presents and treats, so no excuses for missing someone's birthday!

FEATURES

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Shakespeare's Starlings - Three Act Tragedy

Hey y'all, I'm mailing in this month's article from my vacation at Bodega Bay on the foggy Pacific coast of California. It may be all organic coffee, art galleries, surfer dudes and flip-flops but this quaint coastal community is notorious for being the location for a most sinister film: 'The Birds' (1963). Alfred Hitchcock has long gone but flocks of the film's stars still sit ominously perched on telegraph wires as if unaware that the portly director yelled "cut" 56 years ago. But unlike the local hummingbirds, phoebes and chickadees these particular birds look reassuringly familiar to me. They are *Sturnus vulgaris*, the European Starling, the same species we see wheeling around Brighton's West Pier in their dramatic amoeboid murmurations. And, like me, they don't really belong here. The Starlings are here thanks to Henry IV. Well, 'Henry IV Part 1' to be precise.

Act I: London, 1597. William Shakespeare scribbles the word 'Starling' in his epic tale of power and treachery. With that feathered flourish of his quill, Shakespeare

would unknowingly be the author of an ecological catastrophe that would play out until the present day.



Credit: Nigel Symington

Act II: New York, 1877. Enter stage right Eugene Schieffelin, a socialite who would later be remembered as "an eccentric at best, a lunatic at worst". He chaired the American Acclimatization Society, a group which, despite their nationalistic sounding name, were very keen to welcome foreigners. In fact, their aim was to import animals of economic or cultural interest from the Old World to

the New. Schieffelin, a big fan of Shakespeare, had a dream: to populate America with every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's writings. And so the bard's birds were boxed up in England and brought to New York where Skylarks, Pied Wagtails, Bullfinches, Nightingales, Chaffinches and many more were 'liberated' into Central Park. The majority of them died. But on March 6th, 1890, 60 Starlings (a bird mentioned only once by Shakespeare) were released in Central Park and they fared better. Much better. Today there are around 200 million of them across the United States.

Act III: United States, present day. The story of Schieffelin's Shakespearian motivation may just be an urban legend but the legacy of his misguided American Acclimatization Society is very real. Today European Starlings are widely vilified by Americans as aggressive pests that have destroyed precious ecosystems and turfed out native species. Which is pretty rich coming from a bunch of invasive Europeans who have been doing just that for the past few centuries! And since then there have been many who have appeared hellbent on dismantling this country's environmental regulations which protect wildlife, the landscape and our planet. But sure, let's blame the birds. As Mr. Shakespeare (almost) once wrote, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our Starlings, / But in ourselves".

Michael Blencowe

BOOK REVIEW

HILLBILLY ELEGY BY J.D. VANCE. A MEMOIR OF A FAMILY AND CULTURE IN CRISIS

Here surely is a rags to riches story of the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee in

the forthcoming American Presidential election with a difference.

Vance's account of his life portrays a childhood born into soul-destroying poverty and parental neglect, but which was to witness a rise to formidable political status. It is truly absorbing. Apart from the fact that the language used is not for the faint-hearted, the facts contained have caused considerable controversy. How much of the criticism is justified is a matter of opinion, but there can be no doubt that Vance is a rare and highly resourceful character.

J.D. grew up in Middletown Ohio of Scots-Irish descent into an Appalachian background. While praising this culture for the value it has placed on loyalty and love of country, he criticises its inherent tendency towards stubborn insularity and pessimism. Working class whites, he claims, are the most pessimistic of Americans which is attributable to much of their ongoing cycle of poverty, claims which unsurprisingly have evoked a strong backlash of opinion. After his parents' divorce, J.D.'s abusive mother, like his grandparents, led a life of heavy drinking, drug addiction and serial relationships as was common in their neighbourhood. His grandparents, however, reconciled and thereafter led a stable lifestyle, becoming guardians to J.D. and his sister. "Papaw" and "Mamaw" as the children called them had a redeeming influence on both children. Moreover, Papaw had a firm belief in education and a strong desire to see young J.D. succeed in life. As a result, J.D. was determined to break away from his mother's uncontrolled violence and her general toxic influence. His first break came when he gained acceptance at Middleton High School and from then on,

he became increasingly aware of another world other than that of his Hillbilly background whose passive acceptance of low aspiration and welfare dependency he was convinced was the root cause of much poverty and despair.

J.D.'s relentless criticisms have not gone unchallenged. While the book reached the top of the New York Times bestseller list for August 2016 and been highly praised, other critics have described it as "the year's most provocative", "generalising too much from personal upbringing and for endorsing policies used to gut the poor". However, there seems to have been no limits to J.D.'s desire to put early humiliations behind him although he readily admits that he is still continually haunted by his past. After leaving High School, J.D. went on to serve as a non-combatant in the U.S. Marine Corps, which was to prove highly beneficial. With keen encouragement from his forceful grandmother, he went on to complete undergraduate studies at Ohio State University gaining a B.A. degree from Yale Law School where he began writing his memoirs. Thus began J.D.'s rise in his political career. This was never straightforward. Frequently J.D. felt estranged from his well-heeled fellow students and associates, forcing him to overcome many obstacles to feel socially acceptable. There were numerous setbacks. He was, however, to benefit greatly from meeting up with a beautiful classmate, Usha, who proved to be a valuable support.

Politically J.D. became increasingly right-wing in his views. While always mindful of the positive elements in his upbringing and his indebtedness to the encouragement of certain family members,

he had little sympathy for many of his former neighbours whom he recalled as lazy and dishonest. Writing in 2016 he blames a "cultural movement among the poor which encourages them to cast blame on society and the government." This he feels is largely due to the "rhetoric of modern conservatives". While J.D. wrote as a strong admirer of Barack Obama, his views have continued to be progressively right-wing populist, opposing among other things abortion, same-sex marriage and gun control. He is above all a fervent believer in traditional family values. While formerly opposing Trump, he has since become a strong supporter of him and has been named as Trump's running mate. He is now happily married to Usha with a family and has devoted much time to the study of traumas experienced by abused children (mainly poor) from broken backgrounds throughout the U.S..

Regarding Appalachian culture, I learn from internet sources that despite popular myths and distortions regarding the isolation, temperament and behaviour of its inhabitants, recent sociology studies have since helped to dispel these "uneducated and unrefined stereotypes". Since the publication of his memoirs, J.D. has been criticised for ignoring these studies. He nevertheless praises the strong survival instinct of the Appalachians and their stoicism. His story has been dramatised in a Netflix film.

Cynthia M. Baker

VILLAGE PEOPLE

GUY BRICKELL: FROM 'SUSSEX SHOWMAN' TO INTREPID TREKKER

When I looked back through articles I have written for this Newsletter in recent years, I was amazed to see that my interview with local farmer Guy Brickell took place 4 years ago, when Lockdown was well underway.

At that time, Guy was just launching his new brand of pork and beef products called The Sussex Showman, with a view to supplementing his farm's milk production, which had been reinvigorated by a new supply contract with Alsop and Walker for their local cheeses.

The review of my previous discussion with Guy arose when I was alerted to an invitation on Facebook to celebrate with "this old farmer" down at Froghole Farm, as "this old farmer is moving off, he's moving out, he's moving ON!" By the time you read this, his celebration will have happened, and hopefully it was a "helluva thrash" but the move is yet to come, and the reasons for it are less joyful.

The economy has suffered in general since Lockdown, and the farming life has never been an easy one. For Guy it has been very hard, indeed he says, "like treading water". This has been made the more so, as, in the last five years, his father has died and he has lost several cousins, including one, Steven Moore, late of Rapkyn's Nursery, who died of MND on Christmas Eve last year. Both his brother and sister have MS and he himself was nearly paralysed by an infection which went into his spine. With his family having just left home too, it is not surprising that he feels something needs to change.

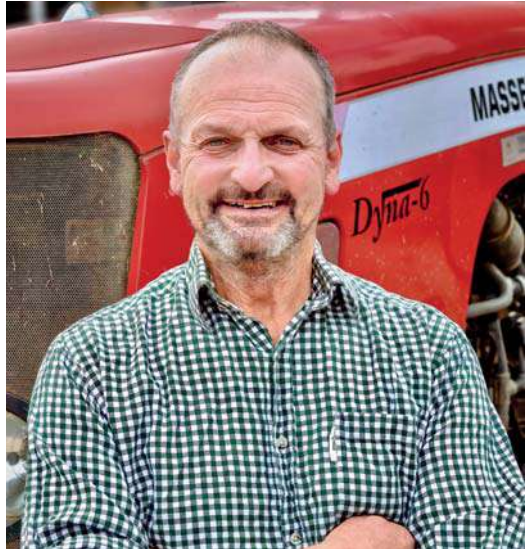
It is thus that Guy has sold his animals and machinery, and he is to set off on 8th November this year to undertake his first challenge, a sponsored trek and mountain climb in Cambodia to raise funds for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association** and the **Multiple Sclerosis Trust**.

So, Guy needs everyone's support for these fantastically worthwhile causes, which are really in need of funds for research to find cures for these horribly debilitating diseases.

Guy has a JustGiving page, the link for which is shown below. Please do click on it, especially in the next week or so before Guy leaves, but afterwards as well, and please give generously to

www.justgiving.com/page/guy-brickell-1723147791115

Sue Smith



YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

STUDENTS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS SHOW THE WAY ON TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Mayfield Climate Action's (MCA) ideas competition, now in its second year, has triggered fantastic winning ideas from students at Heathfield Community College and Beacon Academy in Crowborough.

Mayfield Climate Action (MCA) has been established to develop and implement a plan combining meaningful, eye-catching local initiatives with effective engagement on the need for urgent system change. The competition set out to tap the talent of local schools in relation to communication and innovation. This year we have decided to award a Winner's and a Runner-up prize for innovation, given the outstanding quality of entries.

The winner, India, has just entered Year 9 at Heathfield Community College. She has produced a brilliant video full of ambition and novel thinking. Eco Homes lays down a challenge to policymakers at local (and national) level to raise their game in terms of the quality of new housing, from design through to materials, including the use of recycled plastic.

Tessa Younger, one of the judges, comments: "As we address the need for a big housebuilding programme, India's video shines a timely light on the poor quality of a lot of modern development and proposes a range of ways in which we could do so much better for people and the environment."

Caroline Barlow, headteacher, adds: "It is great to see one of our students addressing this issue in such a holistic, eye-opening way."

Jasper, now a Year 8 student at the Beacon Academy in Crowborough, has won a Runner-up prize with a beautifully produced video, showing him sketch ways in which gyms could incorporate dynamos in equipment to generate electricity.

John Murray, also one of the judges, says: "This is a clever idea, neatly expressed and could easily have been a winner in another year."



John Murray of Mayfield Climate Action, with India, this year's winner of The Climate Change Competition

MAYFIELD CLIMATE CHANGE

Wild About Dark Skies Festival

As we approach the Dark Skies Festival from 28th to 10th November, MCA has been delighted to have a constructive and productive meeting with Mayfield Girls School, (such an important part of the village), about ways in which its light emissions can be reduced. This will take time and must be consistent with the safety of students and staff, but past, present and future steps will be set out in a plan for publication before the end of the year. This will form a key, and much appreciated, part of Mayfield's application to become an International Dark Sky Community. This year's Hunter's Moon Walk starts from the War Memorial at 7pm on Thursday 17th October. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1002843189977?aff=oddtcreator>. Full details will be shared with registered ticketholders a few days beforehand. The Festival proper will be marked in Mayfield by a talk on 'Why Dark Skies Matter' at Mayfield Girls School at 7pm on Monday 4th November. The speaker is Dan Oakley, an expert in the field, who led the South Downs National Park's successful application to become an International Dark Skies Reserve. Dan will explain why dark skies are more than just an aesthetic consideration, having a very real impact on animal, plant and human health. You can register for free tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-dark-skies-matter-tickets-1014547648327>.

WADHURST PARK

Launch Of Community Lost Habitats Map

Wadhurst Park has launched an exciting new tool to help the local community rediscover lost habitats and find grant funding to restore them. The free online map covers the whole Upper Rother River catchment, overlaying present-day satellite imagery with historic maps to highlight 110 miles of lost hedges, 620 acres of lost woodland, 113 acres of lost orchards and 200 lost ponds. These are landscape features that our ancestors and predecessors managed for up to 800 years before government subsidies and market pressures encouraged their removal in the last century. The tool enables today's farmers and land managers to easily find out how their own land has changed, and to consider whether they could restore historic features. A key element is being able to click on a lost hedge or woodland and be directed to the public and private grants available to support putting them back. To see the map for yourself, please visit upperrotherlandscape.co.uk



OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

As a fabulous start to our science topic on rocks and soils, Nightingales and Skylarks classes had a visit from Kerry, a geologist who is the Stem ambassador for presenting rock workshops. She had a marvellous array of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks, which the children were able to handle, and discuss their original geographic locations throughout the UK.

The children could also explore a variety of different sands from around the world, trying to spot one sand out of a dozen that didn't come from a shoreline, (Uluru – formerly Ayres rock.)

The Learning Journey for both classes this term is the Stone Age to the Iron Age and having been introduced to the geology of the UK we are now diving deeper into our local area.

We are already looking forward to our High Weald Heroes presentation about why Stone Age people came to the High Weald.

Katie Hawkrigde



FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Maple Class (years 3 and 4) took part in a workshop about The Stone Age. The workshop was led by The High Weald Heroes and the children had a wonderful time learning about the lives of Stone Age people. **Darren Gurr**



SKIPPERS HILL

The start of term has been incredibly positive in many ways. The children have settled in quickly with a lovely calm manner while enthusiastically engaging in activities, lessons and a full set of matches.

As you can see, the children have also been particularly excited to be reunited with Elvis and Toffee, our resident goats, who have brought so much joy to the school since their arrival in April.

Phillip Makhoul



MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

GCSE Results

We were delighted over the summer to celebrate an impressive set of GCSE results, with 25% of grades at grade 9, the School's best performance by this measure since the numerical grading system was introduced, excluding the Covid affected years.

Mayfield's Year 11 girls achieved exceptional results, with over half of students achieving a grade 8 or 9 across 16 subjects. Two girls were amongst the top performers in the country in Ceramics, gaining full marks and a commendation from the exam board. Here's an update on how a couple of our local students fared:

Mia achieved six grade 9s and four grade 8s, and outside of the classroom, was selected for the London Pulse Super league U15 Netball Long Squad and represented Kent at Netball. She said: "I am incredibly happy with my GCSE results and extremely grateful to Mayfield for all the support. My teachers have gone above and beyond to prepare me and help me to achieve these grades. As a sports and art scholar I have been able to pursue my hobbies simultaneously with my academic studies due to the dedicated mentors that Mayfield has provided."

Rose, a local day pupil, achieved five grade 9s, three grade 8s and a grade 6. Reflecting



Mia

on her success, Rose shared: "I'm delighted with my results, and I'm so grateful to all my teachers who have helped me achieve them. I can't wait to start Sixth Form, where I am taking on subjects from an exceptional range of choices that I have a passion for, and will be continuing my journey as a Mayfield girl. Thank you Mayfield!"

Mayfield's Headmistress, Deborah Bligh, commented: "I am thrilled with these outstanding results, which reflect the dedication and effort our girls have put in, alongside the unwavering support and encouragement from their teachers.

While we celebrate these impressive achievements, the true measure of a Mayfield girl lies not only in her grades but in how she uses her skills and talents to make a positive impact on the world around her.

As our girls move into the Sixth Form, they will have countless opportunities to flourish, building on their strengths and taking on leadership roles within the School. Each girl is encouraged to make her own unique and meaningful contribution. I am excited to watch their journey unfold as they step into the Sixth Form."



Mass

A reminder that Mass is held at 6pm every Tuesday in the School Chapel. All are welcome.

Summer Trip to Lourdes

Helen Lavery, who many of you will know, led this summer's trip. Here's what she had to say: "I had the honour of accompanying five students on their Lourdes Pilgrimage with Ampleforth in July - a week spent in prayer and service to Our Lady of Lourdes.

"We accompanied Ampleforth with their 'Assisted Pilgrims' - pilgrims, just like us, but who may need some medical attention. Our students helped the pilgrims with personal care as well as joining them for ice cream and coffee in the cafés after Masses and Processions. The schedule was full, in order to experience all that Lourdes has to offer. Most mornings started at 7.30am to get the Assisted Pilgrims up and ready for the day; this included assisting in rooms, helping in the dining room and cleaning the bedrooms. We accompanied the Assisted





Pilgrims to all services including Mass of Anointing, Lectio Divina, Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament, Passage through the Grotto and a visit to the baths at the Grotto.

"Our Mayfield students joined together to light a candle and pray in Mayfield's name, for the intentions of all Mayfield students past, present and future; our Staff, including those no longer with us; and all our friends and family".

Rachel, one of our students, had this to say about it: "Our week in Lourdes with Ampleforth College was one of the most incredible experiences I have had. It was packed with activities focused around the spirituality of the place, from taking the Assisted Pilgrims to the Sanctuary Baths, having daily Mass in various locations, going along to late night grotto visits, and the torchlit procession. What I particularly enjoyed was making friends with the other student pilgrims from around the world, especially at our students' ice cream night! I am so grateful for everyone at Mayfield who made the trip possible, it was unforgettable and I can't recommend it enough to anyone who is thinking of going."

Saturday workshops

Saturday 5th October 10.00am - 12.00pm

We're hosting three fun-filled workshops for girls currently in Years 5 or 6 thinking of joining Mayfield. Whether you're curious, creative, or love to explore new ideas, these sessions provide an unforgettable learning adventure. Book your place at www.mayfieldgirls.org/admissions/open-mornings.

OUR CHURCHES

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Our farewell to Sister Jean and Sister Maria was a tea party held at Colkins Mill Church. Over 70 parishioners came to enjoy delicious cakes and raise a glass to the Sisters who have been such an

Sister Maria and Sister Jean



important part of both parish and village. We wish them well in their new life in Harrogate. Instead of a leaving present, the sisters asked for a collection for the charity Mary's Meals. Over £600 has been raised.

Masses at St. Thomas' October
6.00pm Saturday 5th
10.00am Sunday 13th
6.00pm Saturday 19th
10.00am Sunday 27th

www.stthomasmayfield.org.uk

Mary Brentnall

COLKINS MILL

You will be aware of our Sunday morning services, and probably our youth clubs on Thursday and Friday evenings. I thought this month I would mention our other main programmes. I especially love a creative event we run for people with learning disabilities every month on a Sunday early evening. There is singing, a Bible story, prayers, craft, tea and biscuits, with plenty of special events through the year. It's

always fun for the 20 to 30 people who come - and for the leaders! On other Sunday evenings we often meet together with a focus on prayer or worship. We also have a number of mid-week small groups in people's homes to read the Bible and encourage one another in life and faith. We are wanting to follow the Apostle Paul's advice in one of his letters; "encourage one another and build one another up". Do get in touch to find out more.

Steve Harland
contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk

ST. DUNSTAN'S

Sunday, 6th October – join us for a Parish Walk. This will be a very gentle walk starting from the Church Porch at 2pm. Dogs are most welcome to come. We will return to St. Dunstan's at about 3pm for tea and cake when there will be a short Service (dogs can stay). There will then be a chance to have a get-together and chat. Join us for either the walk, the Service or the tea, or all three; you will be made most welcome.

Saturday, 7th December – we are holding our Christmas Market from 10am-2pm in St. Dunstan's. This is a chance to 'shop locally' and we will have more fabulous stallholders with us again. We have booked stallholders selling jewellery, honey, Christmas decorations, crochet animals, wooden toys and turned wooden items. We will have our Christmas Hamper raffle and bottle tombola and we will be selling bacon butties, teas, coffees, mulled wine and cakes. If you would like more information then please contact Nicky in the Parish Office on 873484 or by email: office.stdunstans@gmail.com.

Nicky Higgins Parish Administrator

Carnival Fireworks, Court Meadow by Monica Wells with thanks to Simon Heaton.
More photos of the Carnival will be included in next month's Newsletter.



ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

MAYFIELD FIRE STATION & FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARITY FUNDRAISING CAR WASH -

Sunday 6th October 10am-3pm Mayfield Fire Station

Come and get your car shiny and clean! All donations to The Firefighters Charity & Friends of Mayfield Primary School. Delicious refreshments will also be served.

MAYFIELD FIRE STATION

Letter from the Parish Council

At the September Parish Council meeting it was agreed to send the letter below to East Sussex Fire Authority to object to their proposed closure of our on-call Fire Station.

"We write to you as a Parish Council to express our concern with the current consultation regarding the potential plans to close the Mayfield Fire and Rescue Services Station.

Primarily we feel that the information provided has not been clear and, in several cases, not even correct. As pointed out by a local resident, the number of local listed buildings was wrong, there have also been questions on the availability of statistics, and costs etc. The fact that the consultation events have taken place during the school holidays will have restricted the availability to attend for many.

We feel that the process has not been fair and that the decision to close the station has already been made, the consultation being merely a PR exercise.

We do appreciate that you have budget restraints, and it must be extremely difficult providing an effective service with less

money each year, but we ask that you look again at possible alternatives.

The Mayfield Fire and Rescue Services Station is an important part of the community, the firefighters are ever-present in the Parish, regularly attending village events and hosting fundraising exercises like the charity car wash which has become very popular.

More importantly they are a great comfort to the Parishioners; people know that if needed they are on our doorstep and ready to endanger themselves to protect us. We know that the station has been understaffed of late but rather than simply closing it could you not look at better recruitment practices? As you said, this is a nationwide issue and there must be other viable options.

Yours sincerely

***Ian Parker on behalf of Mayfield and
Five Ashes Parish Council***



WATERYARD IS LOOKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Wateryard Group is a charity that was started in 2008 by a group of dedicated people in the local community to bring live theatre to our countryside. Wateryard has a democratic and open commitment to stage thought-provoking plays in venues in Mayfield, such as St. Dunstan's Church, Mayfield Girls School, our village halls and the streets of our community. Its aim is to act as a steering committee to bring productions to fruition. The ethos of the Group is to involve professionals and amateurs and to encourage the

community to get involved to share their enthusiasm and expertise.

Wateryard focuses on a wide spectrum of dramatic activity, from classic plays such as *The Seagull* (Chekhov), *Jane Eyre* (Bronte) and *Female Transport* (Steve Gooch), drama education for children in our primary schools and through holiday workshops, to much acclaimed community street productions such as *When the Devil Comes Calling* (2018), *Shakespeare Sonnet Saunter* (2022) and *Mayfield Passion Play* (2024).

The Wateryard Group is supported by the generosity of many local people, both in time, expertise and donations. Our patrons are Dr. Lisbet Rausing, Kirrie Wratten and Kathryn Pogson.

We are always looking for new members and wish to keep in contact through our mailing list. We are also looking for interested parties to join our committee to assist the whole creative process of facilitating drama-related activity in our community.

To find out more or to keep in touch, please email Charles Marshall, our treasurer: c.h.marshall@btinternet.com.

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

The project to build Mayfield's combined new Community and Health Centre has now moved into what is called RIBA stage 3, which means that although the overall design and appearance remain the same as presented to the Village at the 7th July Information Event, aspects such as heating and ventilation, power supplies and lighting are being developed in greater detail.

Despite our hopes for an earlier submission, the planning application is now expected to be submitted by 10th

October in order to be considered at the Wealden District Council Planning Committee North meeting in February 2025.

The Public Works Loan Board has re-confirmed the loan of £2.3M for the Community Centre but has advised that it has to be drawn down by mid-July 2025. This, however, broadly aligns with when we expect to have to pay our share of the construction costs.

Applications for grants to support the project continue to be pursued and a submission to the National Lottery funding has successfully passed through the initial stage of assessment. We expect to be informed of the outcome within the next 4-8 weeks.

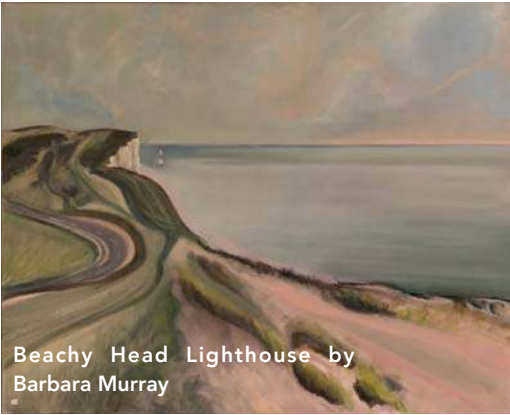
The later planning application submission will inevitably slightly delay the placement of the building contract for the construction project although the construction period is still predicted to be around 11 months. An expected completion date of the end of February 2026 is therefore predicted. However, all efforts are being aimed at bringing this date forward.

Further information can be found on the village Facebook site and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website

www.mayfieldfiveashes.org where the designs that were presented at the 7th July Information Event remain available to view.

CROWBOROUGH OPEN STUDIOS - THE MAYFIELD HUB

Thank you all so much for attending the Crowborough Arts Open Studios event in Mayfield. I am sure that I can speak for all 10 artists exhibiting to say that we were all surprised and pleased with the interest and enthusiasm of all who came and appreciated our efforts. Hopefully it will



FILM ON FRIDAY 25th SEASON FIRST DOUBLE HEADER MONTH

Five Ashes Village Hall. Doors and licensed bar open 7.45pm, film starts 8.15pm.

AMA GLORIA – 4th October

We have shown several films with a child's point of view (*Summer '93*, *Petite Maman*, *Playground*). Here's another. Six-year-old Cléo (a stunning performance from wide eyed Louise Mauroy-Panzani) and her Cape Verde nanny, Gloria, are

become an annual event. Many thanks to Crowborough Arts for facilitating it and Barbara Murray and Barbara Todd for getting us organised. The work was of a high standard and we all received much positive feedback and encouragement. Lastly, many thanks to Dörte Heston and Joy Pettit for the use of their premises.

SATURDAY PICNICKERS

Weekends tend to be family orientated which means that Saturdays can be a bit too quiet, especially for those who live alone. Picnickers has been running in London House, since 2022. People bring their own snack or pop into a local shop and buy a sandwich, pasty or pie and we make tea or coffee.

If you would like a bit of cheerful company on Saturdays, do come along and join us. We are in London House from 12.30 until 2.30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Valerie Donovan 873253

WOODHILL SURGERY

Our Flu Clinic will be held at Five Ashes Village Hall on Saturday 19th October – 10am - 12.30pm. Patients will receive a text message to book their preferred time. Catch up appointments will also be available at the surgery.

Andrew Cornell Managing Partner



devoted to each other. When Gloria has to return home to look after her own family, Cléo must come to terms with the realisation that she is not the centre of the universe anymore. Animation sequences and low camera angles take us into Cléo's world.

ALL OF US STRANGERS – 18th October

This is a strange film, adapted from a novel that is even stranger. Adam, a screenwriter, starts a new relationship with Harry, seemingly the only other inhabitant of the London tower block in which they both live. Adam is struggling to write about his past and, during a visit to his childhood home, he meets his deceased parents. They are unchanged and living as they did before they died in a car accident 30 years before. There is the warmth of memory



This month we welcome Len Bernamont, Head Gardener at Bateman's, home to one of Britain's most famous authors, Rudyard Kipling, and our most local National Trust property in Burwash. (Len also has responsibility for the gardens at Scotney Castle).

He will be describing Kipling's influence on the garden at Bateman's and how the team maintain the gardens today. It will be fascinating to learn some of the background and history of the garden. It is also one of my favourite gardens to visit in spring, when the scillas make a beautiful blue carpet in one of the meadow areas. All welcome, members free, visitors £5.

Tuesday 19th November at 8.00 pm - Zoom Talk, Sally Morgan, Writer and Author, 'Creating and Maintaining a Healthy Vegetable Garden'.

Sally is an experienced no-dig gardener and wildlife enthusiast, with a degree in botany. She has written 3 books: The Healthy Vegetable Garden, Living on 1 acre or less and Climate Change Garden.

Membership Reminder - It's not too late to join or renew your membership for the current year which runs until March 2025. Membership is extremely good value at £7.50: this entitles you to free entry to all our talks, and 10% discount on horticultural items at local outlets and nurseries. We also hold a Plant Sale, Summer Show, Outings and a Seed Swap & Social morning. Download a membership form from our website or contact Louise Pitcher at membership@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk.

Tessa Crowe
chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk
www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

and security, but also some long overdue conversations.

This season's leaflets are available from The House Café, MAYFACS, the telephone box and our poster on the school railings. Our website, www.filmonfriday.org has the trailers for all our films, as well as interviews with the directors and cast. You can email me on filmonfriday@gmail.com, or phone 873310, if you would like to know more. Or just come along on one of our film nights. Facebook or on X (formerly twitter) at [@filmonfriday](https://twitter.com/filmonfriday).

Andrew Ratcliffe Chairman

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Tuesday 15th October 7.30pm for 8.00 pm, Colkins Mill Church



MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.

At our September meeting we were treated to a fascinating talk by Michael Wachter, an experienced outdoorsman, hunter, fisher, forager and primitive skills practitioner, who is on the staff at Great Dixter Garden. He began his talk with some examples of common herbs and native plants which can be used to enhance our diets and promote wellbeing. These included nettles, St. John's wort, hogweed and berries such as hawthorn, elderberry and sea buckthorn. We were amazed at his skill in living off the land, not only by hunting and foraging, but also by making his own clothes from deerskin, bowls and utensils from wood, 'stone age glue' from tree resin, spinning yarn from nettles and making ropes and fishing line by twisting plant material. Michael is passing on his foraging and outdoor skills through lectures and courses, in the hope of halting the ongoing loss of countryside knowledge.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8th. This is our Film Night and will be held at Five Ashes Village Hall, 7pm for 7.15pm. There will be choc-ices! We will be showing 'Hidden Figures', the story of three brilliant African-American women working at NASA in the 1960s. They were the brains behind astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Colkins Mill Church, (apart from the Film Night). Do come and join us at any one of our evenings. We'd love to see you! For any further information, please contact **Chrissie Robinson** on 862825

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING DAY

Wednesday, 30th October 7.15pm for 8pm (collection of subs)

Pevensey Castle - James Dickinson - This talk introduces and tells of the great characters associated with the castle's history, such as King John and Simon de Montfort, whose actions so influenced the story of this country. Pevensey Castle lies on the south coast of England between Bexhill-on-Sea and Pevensey. It is an intriguing place to begin a look at English medieval history as, in one sense, this is where it all started. In 1066 William of Normandy landed at Pevensey.

Known to the Romans as Anderitum, the fort appears to have been the base for a fleet called the Classis Anderidaensis. The reasons for its construction are unclear; long thought to have been part of a Roman defensive system to guard the British and Gallic coasts against Saxon pirates, it has more recently been suggested that Anderitum and the other Saxon Shore forts were built by a usurper in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to prevent Rome from reimposing its control over Britain.

Key events: Built by Romans (c. 290), massacre of 491, reoccupied by Normans (1066), First Siege of Pevensey (1088), Second Siege of Pevensey (1147), slighted (c. 1216), Third Siege of Pevensey (1264–65), Fourth Siege of Pevensey (1399), abandoned (16th century), state ownership (1925), reoccupied by Allies (1940–45).

Wednesday, 27th November - "Folk Songs from Sussex" & *Dutch Supper* – Mak Norman

It is fair to say that of all the counties in England, it is Sussex that appears to have drawn the greatest attention from folk song collectors over a period of some 130 years.

Anyone can play a part in keeping our English traditional musical heritage alive, and learning a couple of songs is a good place to start. There is no right way to sing them but listening to the precious recordings available to us of the old country singers is certainly the place to start. After all, it was their music, handed down, often orally, through the generations with little or no outside influence. Their approach to the songs was every bit as natural as their Sussex accents. Today, traditional songs and music can be heard regularly in Sussex with folk clubs or smaller sessions at established venues in many towns including Lewes, Brighton, Eastbourne, Arundel, Horsham, Worthing and Chichester.

To hear a selection of songs, visit

www.sussexlife.co.uk or

www.hatmusic.co.uk

Brian O'Connor, Chairman 873477 **Gill Marengi**, Secretary, **John Buddle**, Treasurer 872229

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION -
MAYFIELD, FIVE ASHES
AND HADLOW DOWN**



Next Branch Meeting - Wednesday 23rd October at Mayfield Cricket Club. The bar opens at 6.30pm and the meeting commences at 7.00pm with a brief session of branch business which will incorporate the AGM, followed by a fish and chip supper (or chicken or scampi) at a cost of

£8.00. If you are interested or would like more information, please telephone/e-mail me or our secretary Rosemary Lillywhite 872130. Also please let us know if you would like to join us and to advise your meal choice by 21st October.

Our supper will be followed with a **talk by Rod MacArthur** entitled '**History of a Medal**'.

Soup and Social Lunch - Wednesday 27th November - Mayfield Cricket Club. As the name suggests this will be a very simple format of a choice of homemade soups and French bread at a modest price of £3 per head. Doors open at 12 noon and the bar will be open until 2.30pm. We hope that this will provide a welcome opportunity for social interaction between members and guests, without the formality of a speaker or our usual Branch meetings. Please could you contact Rosemary Lillywhite to confirm your attendance, so that we can ensure we have sufficient soup available! withatwist@btinternet.com or telephone: 872130)

Poppy Appeal 2024 – Every poppy counts. Which is why our Poppy Appeal collectors in the local communities are so important. Your support is as vital as ever for some members of the Armed Forces community who are in need of our help. There are many ways you can take part and support the RBL's Poppy Appeal. The Appeal runs from the Saturday 26th October to Saturday 9th November.



We are always in need of offers of assistance from anyone willing to help with the house-to-house collections or for static locations. If you would like to help, please contact our Poppy Appeal Organiser Gavin on 873770, 07771 965517 or email gavin@rossma.co.uk.

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday

– Every year in November, the nation marks the wars that have scarred our past and the bravery of the men and women who fought them. Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day, which fall on Saturday 10th November and Monday 11th November respectively this year, offer us all a chance to remember not just those who fought, but what they fought for. The names of the fallen in WW1 and WW2 from Mayfield and Five Ashes, giving details of their ages and service units at death, will be displayed beside the Mayfield War Memorial throughout the Remembrance Period.

Armistice Day - on Monday 11th November, there will be an informal gathering at the Mayfield War Memorial at 11.00am to observe the national two-minutes silence. Wherever you are at this time please pause and observe the two-minutes silence, an Act of Remembrance that the UK has honoured since 1919.

Remembrance Sunday – On Sunday 10th November at 11.00am the national two minutes silence will take place to honour the fallen. In Mayfield anyone wishing to observe in public should foregather at the War Memorial in the High Street at 10.45am. There will then be a short ecumenical Service of Remembrance. Wreaths will be laid. This will be followed by the national two minutes silence at 11.00am. Immediately following the silence there will be a full Remembrance Service in St. Dunstan's Church, during which the names of the fallen from Mayfield and Five Ashes will be read.

Remembrance Sunday at Five Ashes - at 2.30pm there will be a brief Service of Remembrance at the Five Ashes Memorial. The Mayfield and Five Ashes Branch <https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/mayfield>

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465

kevinswaine@btinternet.com



MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

Carnival may only just be over, but there's no rest for the Boyes and Belles. We start fundraising for 2025 with our popular autumn quiz on Saturday 19th October at Five Ashes Village Hall. Doors and the bar open at 7pm and the quiz will run from 7.30 to 10.00pm. We will be serving our traditional ploughman's supper. Tickets are available online from our website <https://mayfieldbonfire.co.uk/events/> and in Burnetts and Sew Inspired. (Cash only in the shops).

We hope you can join us for a fun evening of friendly rivalry.

Catherine Hawley bonfire@gawain.online

LAKEDOWN BREWERY, FISHERY AND TAPROOM

A little slice of heaven - nowhere else quite like it - and as someone said only this weekend, 'it shows Sussex off at its best'. Beers brewed on site using spring water. Street food available every weekend. Bar snacks Wednesday – Thursday.

Thursday 3rd October – Live Music By Sheraton Brown – very, very happy to have them back – wonderful evening last time – free event with charity collection – bring cash.

Thursday 10th October – Music Quiz – it'll be about music. Come as a team or be made into one. Book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com – free event with charity collection – bring cash.

Thursday 17th October – Pete Brown Beer And Music Matching

Pete Brown is a British author, journalist, broadcaster and consultant specialising in

food and drink, especially the fun parts like beer, pubs, cider, bacon rolls and fish and chips. Across a dozen books, his broad, fresh approach takes in social history, cultural commentary, travel writing, personal discovery and natural history, and his words are always delivered with the warmth and wit you'd expect from a great night down the pub.

TICKET ONLY EVENT – book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pete-browns-beer-and-music-matching-tickets-1007357231597>

Thursday 24th October – Live music from Savannah Gardner (Savannahgardner.com) – quite the coup – music from 7 – 8.30pm (Free event with collection for charity)

Thursday 28th November – George Egg: Set Menu

This award-winning, multi-sell-out, international-touring performer presents a delightful evening of cooking-with-laughs comprising the best bits from his previous acclaimed shows, plus a few new surprises. TICKET ONLY EVENT – book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/george-egg-set-menu-tickets-1007368475227>

If you haven't been to Lakedown before, you should. Swife Lane TN21 8UX

FRIENDS OF ST. DUNSTAN'S AGM 1ST NOVEMBER AT 6PM

Please Note The Change Of Date

The Friends of St. Dunstan's Parish Church AGM will be held on Friday 1st November at 6pm in St. Dunstan's Church. All are welcome to the AGM and we will also serve light refreshments.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting, where the Committee will be available to answer questions about the work of the Friends.

The Charity's remit is focused exclusively on raising funds for the preservation and

maintenance of the church building. 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 £250,000 and projects include the repair of the ancient timbers in the church tower, 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.

Annette Nabavi, Chairman - Friends of St Dunstan's Parish Church, Mayfield 873476.

SCOUT AND GUIDES SUPPORTERS COMMITTEE

Are you looking for something to do in the Mayfield and Five Ashes Community? If so, the Supporters' Committee of the Dennis Blurton Mayfield Scout and Guide Hall would love to hear from you.

We are a small band of dedicated volunteers who support all the uniformed Sections of the Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) with any requirements that they may have. We also administer and maintain The Scout Hall premises in good order for, primarily the Scout Group's use but also for the use of the wider Mayfield community. This is even more relevant at present in the absence of The Memorial Hall.

If you'd like to find out more information, please do ring our Chairman, Andrew Firrell, on 883253 or our Secretary, Nicky Higgins, on 873054. We are a fun group of people, and it is not an arduous task but more volunteers to help us would be great. Hope to hear from you.

Nicky Higgins

MAYFIELD BAND

I have recently had the unusual experience of listening to the Mayfield Band. Normally

I am behind a tuba concentrating on playing the crotchets, quavers, semiquavers, minims, semibreves, or counting the rests, or looking out for the fortissimos and pianissimos, or trying to look at the conductor in order to make him feel wanted, or listening to the percussionist to try and work out whether he, the conductor, or the rest of the band are playing at the correct speed, or whether a b flat is the same fingering as an f sharp. But on this one occasion, namely the marriage of former band member Alice, who also happens to be my daughter, I had the immense pleasure of just listening to the band on account of being excused playing duties due to my FOTB responsibilities. And you may well say that I am biased, but the band, who played a repertoire of uplifting and romantic tunes as guests arrived, were absolutely brilliant, and I was immensely proud of them. What a band! It was their second wedding of the season, and all I can say is that if you are planning a wedding locally, you would be absolutely nuts not to invite the Mayfield Band, who will provide the perfect start to your special day.

Youth Band

Owing to my post wedding holiday, I am a little late returning to the fray, but we're back in business now, and I would urge you to complete your children's education by getting them into music as soon as possible. And as you have the good fortune to be a Mayfield or Five Ashes resident, you can achieve that simply and inexpensively by coming along to band practice, where we can provide you with an instrument and tuition. I am keen to get a 2024/25 beginners group going, so give me a call. Fridays are our rehearsal nights, and we will do our best to be flexible on timings, so let's have a chat. 7-8 is a good

age to start in terms of maturity and physicality, but there are no hard and fast rules, and we have a good mix of ages.

Simon Rudge 872007

simon@mayfieldband.co.uk



A CAPTIVATING AUTUMN PROGRAMME OF MUSIC EVENTS TO DELIGHT THE SENSES

Four events in Mayfield during the autumn provide something for lovers of classical music to look forward to with world class performers once again to the fore.

Jack Gonzalez-Harding returns to Mayfield to continue his association with the works of the greatest of baroque composers on Sunday 29th September, when he performs the Goldberg Variations. This concert will take place in the Chapel of Mayfield Girls School by candlelight. Tickets are £20 (free for age 25 and under).

On Saturday 19th October, MGS once again plays host, this time in the Concert Hall, when we welcome back to Mayfield six of the section winners of this year's Tunbridge Wells International Music Competition. Comprising the best of a strong field, all this year's section winners are already performing at professional concert standard and some could well go on to become stars of the world of classical music (as many previous winners of the Competition have done). The ticket price of £12.50 (free for age 25 and under) represents a bargain opportunity to see some outstanding young musicians in performance.

On 17th November St. Dunstan's Church plays host to the Mayfield Festival Choir for their autumn concert. The box office will open on the 6th October, when ticket prices will be announced (<https://www.mayfieldfestivalchoir.org/tickets/>).

Concerts by the Choir have a habit of selling out so make sure that you book your tickets early.

On 14th December is Handel's Messiah. Featuring the world-famous London Mozart Players, Mayfield Consort, St. Dunstan's Parish Church Choir and superb soloists, all conducted by Jack Gonzalez-Harding. Ticket prices are £30, £15 and £10 (free for age 25 and under).

The box office for the Goldberg Variations, Winners Concert and Messiah is already open and tickets can be purchased:

Online: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/mayfieldfestival>

By telephone: 0333 666 3366 (quoting Mayfield Festival)

In Person: Sew Inspired, High Street, Mayfield and Lambert & Foster, High Street, Wadhurst

A booking fee applies to payments made by debit card and credit card and an additional postal service fee applies to tickets that are sent from TicketSource by Royal Mail.

MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY

A lucky Thursday saw us enjoy a beautiful sunny day at Ashdown Forest's West course. Lucky because the meeting was pulled forward from our more usual Friday and we missed that day's pre-carnival hailstorm and torrential thunderstorm.

The list of prize winners reads like we had a day out for a group of family solicitors. This is because the main event was a pairs competition, with an (allegedly) random draw by our handicap secretary Mr Mann leaving each player in a dream team

pairing, or in a nightmare combo. 12 pairs took to the course, some with more success than others.

It was closely fought at the top, with only 1 point separating the first 2 pairs. Messrs Lunn & Lunn must have thought they had won it with 48 points, but they were pipped at the post by Messrs Hannam & Mann with 49 points. Messrs Hughes & Goulding were far behind in third with 46 points. Bottles of wine for the first two pairs, and for the Nearest the Pin winners who were Graham Smith and Phil Taylor. The winning pair also won unusual glass trophies which comprise 3 pieces precariously fitted together. It would be no surprise to see the trophies returned in more than 3 pieces next time.

It was good to see Micky Mann tutoring Graham Smith in the dark arts of the handicapping craft, and we fully expect to see Graham winning the next pairs event like his serial-winning tutor. One of the highlights of the day was seeing our Vice Captain suffering from the effects of a recent rule change he had campaigned for. Earlier this year, MGS allowed the time-saving practice whereby short putts could be picked up and regarded as having been holed (provided permission from another player was given). Kevin Leftley felt some players unduly benefited from this and therefore proposed the new "no gimmies" rule. On this day, he had 4 short putts which previously he could have expected to be given. He missed them all to the great amusement of his playing partners. How we laughed! Our next meeting is at Westerham Golf Club on 17th October. See

[Mayfieldgolfingsociety.com](https://www.mayfieldgolfingsociety.com) for details.

Mark Hughes

OUT NOW!

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NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We look forward to the Village Pumpkin and Schoolchildren's Pumpkin growing competitions followed by our AGM on 9th October in Five Ashes Village Hall at 7.30pm and then a talk on Pigs, Poultry and Potatoes by John Peddar. Drinks and nibbles provided. All are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Graham Playfoot, 01825 830511

ENERGY EXPO, FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL - COME AND MEET "EDDI"

Sunday October 6th, 10.30am

Five years ago, the Village Hall committee introduced a number of energy-saving measures into the building with a view to overall cost reduction for the running of the building as well as reducing the overall demand of the energy required to run it. The opportunity arose to incorporate a number of technologies into the redevelopment of the building after the successful bid to the National Lottery. The most recent investment was the installation of further solar panels to complement the existing ones and battery storage to make use of stored energy to offset some of the demand required to run the building overnight. As part of the new installation an "Eddi" was installed which monitored production from the panels and diverted some of this to the immersion heater to provide hot water for the building. The Hall will be open to anyone who wishes to come and view the various energy saving and generation systems we have in place. There will be a short formal introduction to our strategy in The Ash Hall followed by the opportunity to view the equipment and talk to Energy advisers afterwards. Please come along and take the opportunity to hear about the potential for your own situation. We will be featuring :- Air source heat pumps; Solar panels; Battery storage; Energy Diverter; Led Lighting; Underfloor heating; Motion sensors.

Geoff Gregory

WHATS ON AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 6th October 10am:- **Five Ashes Village Hall Open Morning**

Saturday 19th October:- **Mayfield Bonfire Boyes and Belles Quiz Night**

Tuesday 12th November 7pm-8.15pm:- **UK Owl and Raptor Centre** "An Evening with Owls". It is a magical evening in the company of beautiful owls. From little to large, step into their world as they fly just inches over your head. Discover the hidden lives of these secretive birds as we travel the world meeting owls from frozen forests and sunbaked grasslands. Book tickets online now at www.owlandraptorcentre.co.uk Five Ashes Village Hall is available for the whole community to hire. Please use the contact form on the website: <https://fiveashesvillagehall.wixsite.com/fiveashesvillagehall> or email

Sasheshallbooking@gmail.com

Penny Kemp 07858 808030

NEWS FROM NUS GHANI, M.P. FOR SUSSEX WEALD

This time of year brings us many celebrations of harvest and I am always pleased to support 'Back British Farming Day', which is an annual campaign to recognise the crucial role our farmers play in producing food for the nation and caring for the countryside. Sussex Weald is home to many exceptional family farms that are the lifeblood of our rural economy and produce some of the best British products enjoyed in the UK, as well as overseas. I regularly meet with members of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and their Next Generation Forum, to hear their views on the future of farming and agriculture, food and energy security, and the importance of buying local produce.

Having made representations to our local supermarket branches to stock and promote more locally sourced products, I was pleased that, earlier in the year, more national supermarket chains have launched 'Best of British' sections on their websites, supporting customers in becoming more aware of British options when online shopping.

However, our farmers are not only keeping the nation fed but are also doing a huge amount of work in managing the local environment, helping our communities to better understand agriculture and where our food comes from, and also enabling educational experiences. The Countryside Alliance Awards, also known as the Rural Oscars, are the annual celebration of the diversity in British farming, and, for the past two years Sussex Weald has been shining in the Rural Enterprise category. Smiles Sensory and Family Farm in Eridge have scooped up the trophy this year. They are the home to nearly 50 rescued or re-homed animals and offer interactive opportunities for individuals with learning difficulties and mental health challenges. I was proud to visit the farm and congratulate the whole team on this success, as well as thank them for making a positive difference to so many children and their parents. I will always champion our fantastic farmers, and I continue working closely with the NFU to support and advocate for them and their work.



WADHURST AND HEATHFIELD WINDOW

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

The autumn season of meetings opened with a display of floral designs depicting "Animals". The imagination of the Club members was boundless and the members of the animal kingdom represented varied. Owls, sheep, elephants, hedgehogs, lions, bees and dogs were all present on the competition table. Members were asked to guess what each design depicted and vote for their favourite; prizes were awarded to the person with most correct answers and to the designer of the favourite. This was an owl created from dried leaves perched on a tree branch; beautifully crafted and very attractive.

The meeting concluded with a cream tea provided by the Committee and a great deal of conversation.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday October 3rd and will feature a demonstration entitled "Chasing Rainbows".

The Flower Club meets on the first Thursday of the month at 1.45pm in Stonegate Village Hall, where a large adjacent car park enables easy access to the spacious modern hall. Tickets will shortly be available for the Christmas Lunch and Demonstration to be held on December 5th, always an excellent start to the Festive season.

If you would like more information about Wadhurst Flower Club, please contact Sonia 01892 785671 or Debbie 882851. New members are always welcome. Come and join us... Flowers, Friendship and Fun.... What's not to like?

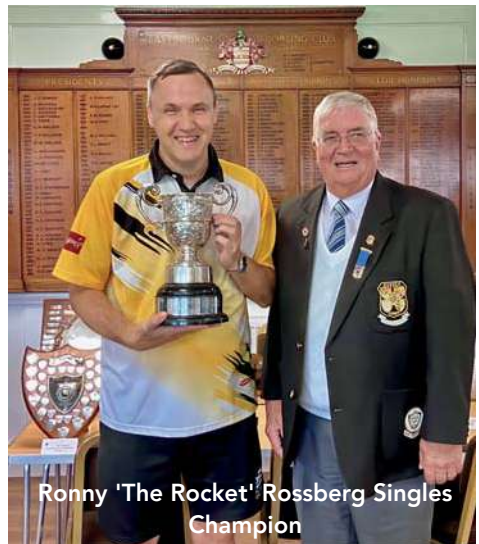
WADHURST BOWLS CLUB

Last month was all doom and gloom - but this month it's all 'Yay, Wadhurst are the best'.

In the Sussex County Bowls Finals day at Eastbourne, it proved a happy hunting ground for Wadhurst, with Ronny 'The Rocket' Rossberg walking off with the Unbadged Men's Singles title and Brian, Linda, Tracy and Barry winning the County Mixed Fours competition and a huge cup.

The next day saw our own Club Final's Day, where our 20 new bowlers had competed to win The Newbie Cup. This was a new competition devised just for our new-to-bowls members this season and very popular it proved too. David came away with the Cup, but Ivor didn't go home empty-handed as he got a commemorative shield. A great day for the Club and the new members too. The cup and shield were provided by our new Club sponsor Autumn Financial Planning so a big 'thank you' to them.

Horam Triples League - August saw us play our last seven league games. Our first



Ronny 'The Rocket' Rossberg Singles Champion

against Herstmonceux resulted in a 1-7 defeat , and with wins for our nearest rivals Cross in Hand and Hellingly, we needed to record some wins ourselves to maintain our position at the top of the League. The team responded with 8-0 wins against Deanland and Horam. A 7-1 win against Crowborough meant that we then needed 16 points from our remaining 3 matches to guarantee winning the League. A 4-4 draw away at Uckfield and a 7-1 win at Rotherfield left us 5 points short of our target, with one game left to play, a home match versus Uckfield.

August 31st. A cloudy, breezy and sometimes chilly afternoon saw Wadhurst welcome a strong Uckfield team. The opening ends saw Uckfield ahead on two rinks and with a slight overall lead. At half time Wadhurst were leading on three rinks, with a fragile 4 shot lead.

The second half saw Wadhurst extend their advantage to eventually run out 74-55 winners, gaining 7 points meaning we had won the League for the fourth straight season!

Thank you to all the 29 players who have played in the League this season, especially the 7 that played in more than two thirds of the matches. These members provided the team with an all-important consistent core.

Well done to everyone, we can look forward to next season, and the defence of our Horam Triples League title.

www.wadhurstbc.com

Brian, Tracy, Barry, Linda and the big cup



MAYFACS

London House, High Street, Mayfield,
TN20 6AQ (Accessible entrance to the rear
of London House)

www.mayfacs.org.uk 8 7 3 8 8 8
(answerphone system)

MAYFACS Post Box is at the back entrance
to the office (please follow the signs from
outside the entrance of St. Dunstan's
Church)

Office Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday
and Wednesday between 10am - 1pm
every week. Helpline phone number is
monitored Monday to Friday only. Email
info@mayfacs.org.uk

Bank Details: (for donations, payments of
trips and activities) Mayfield & Five Ashes
Community Services (MAYFACS)
Account No 00029924 Sort Code
40-52-40

October News

**Little Munchkins Baby and
Toddler Group** - runs term time
only (**please note there is no
session during half term on 30th
October**).

Please join us every Wednesday (term
time) from 9am – 11am for just £3 per
family. All carers, grandparents and parents
are very welcome.

**We are looking for volunteer support to
help run this fantastic group**, which is
supported by a rota of volunteers looking
after our lovely families. If you are
interested in helping, even if occasionally,
please let us know. You do not need to
have a child attending the group to help,
but you are also welcome to still help run
the groups with a child joining in too. All
ages welcome.



**Friday Matinee Film - Friday 4th October
- One Life**

Friday 18th October - Blind Ambition

Transport will be available from Mayfield.
£6 per person for film admission, £3 for
return transport. Collection from Memorial
Hall (1.10pm) and St. Thomas of
Canterbury (1.20pm). No need to book.

FREE Hearing Aid Maintenance (HAM)
sessions starting Wednesday 9th October
**10.30am – 12pm London House and
then the second Wednesday of the
month thereafter.**

These will include battery replacements,
equipment demonstrations, information
and support available. For more
information, please see [https://
www.eshrc.org/ham](https://www.eshrc.org/ham) or drop in to
London House.

THANK YOU for coming to visit us
at the Know your Parish event last
month – and thanks to those involved in
bringing our community together to see
just what makes Mayfield and Five Ashes
so wonderful! If anyone has any further
questions about MAYFACS or any other
activities within our Parish, do get in touch
and we can point you in the right direction.

We have been developing our **Support
Sections** on our website and now have
specific areas focusing on Youth Support
and Dementia Support available to
everyone within our community. This is in
addition to signposting for financial and
other support. Please do visit our website
if you need any advice or help or come
into the office and chat with the team.



MAYFACS Weekly Activities

Mon

Mayfacs Shed Session: Monday 9.30am - 12.30pm Mixed Group
Merrieweathers Farm, East Street, Mayfield TN20 6RJ

Mon

Yarners: Chat and knit, sew and crochet in Sew Inspired shop in the High Street,
£3.50 per person, 1.30-3.30pm.

Tue

Tuesday Chat: Regular meet up & chat with refreshments in Colkins Mill Church,
Station Road. 2-3pm. £2. Every Tues apart from the first Tuesday of the month.

Tue

Tuesday Afternoon Club: First Tuesday of the month in Colkins Mill Church,
Station Road, Mayfield 2-4pm £3 including a Speaker, raffle and a light afternoon
tea. Please bring a small prize to share for the raffle.

Wed

Little Munchkins Baby & Toddlers Group: For all carers, parents and grandparents
and under fives. Every Wednesday, term time only in the Scout Hall 9-11 am.
£3 per family. Refreshments provided.

Wed

Mayfacs Shed Session: Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm Men's Shed Group
Merrieweathers Farm, East Street, Mayfield TN20 6RJ

Wed

Writing for fun: A monthly group on 3rd Wednesday of the month at
10am - 12pm in London House. £3 including refreshments.

Wed

Middle House Afternoon Tea (MAR - SEP): 3rd Wednesday of the month by
invitation only (rota basis) 2pm. £12.50 for senior citizens living alone.

Wed

Wednesday Chat: A chance to meet and chat with refreshments,
2-3pm in Five Ashes Village Hall. £2. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Transport
available. (Speaker on 4th Wednesday).

Thur

Mayfacs Shed Session: Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm Mixed Group
Merrieweathers Farm, East Street, Mayfield TN20 6RJ

Thur

Poetry: 1st Thursday of the month 11-12.30 Coach House Cottage, Royal Oak
Mews, Mayfield £2.

Thur

Middle House Lunch: 2nd Thursday of the month by invitation only on a rota basis.
£12.50 for senior citizens living alone. Subsidised 2 course meal.

Thur

Community Café Crowborough : A dementia friendly group for people to come
together to enjoy an activity and refreshments. Last Thursday of the month.
2-4pm. Chaperoned transport available from Mayfield.

Fri

MAYFACS Film Club (OCT-MAR): Five Ashes Village Hall. Please see our
programme of films. 1.45-4pm £6. Transport from Mayfield £3

Fri

Games/Scrabble/Cribbage: 3rd Friday of the month 2-4pm £3 at London House,
bring a game or join in with some friendly games.

Sat

MAYFACS Shed Monthly Repair Cafe 3rd Saturday of every month (except Dec)
open 10am - 1pm refreshments available. At MAYFACS Shed



No need to pre book, unless stated. Please visit www.mayfacs.org.uk or contact us on 01435 873888.

As we start moving towards the colder months, remember we have a huge selection of jigsaws available from our office to borrow anytime. We also have the backlog of DVDs from past Matinee Films, so if you want to have a cosy afternoon in, let us provide the entertainment!

Create @ The Shed! Youth Sessions

Next Session Saturday 5th October: Illusion Photography 10am – 12.30pm - for any young people (secondary school suggested ages) interested in getting involved in exploring new skills, being creative and hanging out with like-minded people!

Exploring different forms of creative genres including art, music and tech, sessions take place every 1st Saturday of the month. Booking is essential for each session with limited spaces available. Email us on create@mayfacs.org.uk to secure your place.

Suggested donations (£5) cover basic materials and are kept to a minimum with funding support MAYFACS receive (and will vary depending on the activity organised). If you would like to attend but need further financial support, please get in touch to discuss. For more information, please visit our website.

MAYFACS Shed holds 3 sessions every week for anyone to come along and join in. With inside and new external workshop spaces available across all sessions every week, as well as the community garden, bee keeping and the orchard, there is plenty to get involved in whenever you are available. New Sheddors always welcome. For more information, please visit our website www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed

Our next Repair Café will take place at MAYFACS Shed on Saturday 19th

October between 10am – 1pm (last repairs accepted 12.15pm)

Come and find out more about our Repair Cafés, join us for some tea and cakes (you do not need to bring a repair to attend) and find out more about our MAYFACS Shed and MAYFACS community.

Monthly Trips - places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please email or pop into the office to secure your place. If you would like to attend any of our trips but need some financial support, please talk to us in confidence.

Thursday 3rd October Visit the historic town of Battle £10

Thursday 7th November Annual shopping trip to Bluewater £10

Thursday 5th December
Christmas bowling trip £17

Please visit our website www.mayfacs.org.uk for updates of weekly activities or contact us at the MAYFACS Office on 873888.

You can also join our monthly eNewsletter mailing list to get full details on everything that we do to support our community by contacting clare@mayfacs.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the end of the school summer holiday, it is saddening to have to report that there was further vandalism of children's play equipment. This time it was the children's roundabout in Mayfield – it would appear that it would be a good idea to have a fire in the middle. This has damaged the fibreglass centre and it is proving difficult to get quotations for its repair as finding spare parts has been difficult. The incident has been reported to Sussex Police, and in case any resident has information on the offence, the crime reference number is: 47240167546. If preferred, any information that might help identify the offenders can be sent to the office. Contact details are Tel: 873784 and email clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk



Please remember that Operation Notify is a Sussex Police initiative, designed to crack down on all anti-social behaviour (ASB) whether it be vehicle, drugs, neighbourhood, or youth related. The direct number is 07500 108147. If you see any offences being committed of course phone 999 straight away while the crime is in progress.

Temporary Road Closure Warnings:

There have been no notices of temporary road closures sent to the office during the last month but the following are still relevant to the Parish.

The B2100 Wadhurst Road / Best Beech Hill / Mayfield Lane, Mark Cross/ Wadhurst road closure has changed dates from 24th July to 3rd March 2025.

Froghole Lane: Information provided at the time of writing this article is that there is a provisional agreement to allow East

Sussex Highways to carry out culvert upgrade works to take place from 30th

September to 8th November (up to 40 days). This will be dependent on further details being finalised for the permit and permit conditions.

At this stage, they are unable to confirm the working hours and start / finish dates, as this will not be determined until the permit has been granted. Advance warning signs, however, will be placed on site advising actual date of works.

Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Survey

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne has launched a survey asking Sussex residents for their feedback on the policing service they receive. Now in her fourth term as Sussex PCC, Mrs. Bourne is eager to understand residents' concerns and ideas, in order to establish priorities in her new Police & Crime Plan. The PCC is elected to be your voice within policing, so it is her responsibility to ensure that the Chief Constable is delivering efficient and effective policing across the County. As the new Police & Crime Plan is developed, it would be useful to know if issues that mattered to residents previously have changed. The survey can be accessed online and only takes a few minutes to complete. It will run until 31st October. Please follow the following

link: <https://forms.office.com/e/9f9hYFVAFA>

Scam Alert!

During September Sussex Police saw an increasing number of reports of members

of the public receiving phone calls from people claiming to be the Police. Remember, they will NEVER ask for your bank details, or for you to make any kind of payment to them. If you receive a call from the 'police', they advise you to follow these steps:

- Take the details of the person calling you.
 - Advise that you will call back by phoning 999 to verify that you are in fact talking to the police (a genuine caller would never question this).
 - Wait five minutes or use a different phone to call 999. (Fraudsters are able to keep the line open, so that when you dial 999, the call goes back to them instead.)
- Please share this information with friends and family - anyone can be a victim to fraud.

Volunteers Urgently Needed

Wealden Citizens Advice is in much need of volunteers. Citizens Advice is a charity that helps people find their way forward. They provide free, confidential and independent advice to help people overcome their problems - helping 2.55 million last year. If you have seven hours a week to give, they would love to hear from you. The hours are flexible between 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday. Full training will be given. They are recruiting to support many people through the cost-of-living crisis. Volunteering could involve: giving information and advice; Trustee; Administration; Reception; Customer support; IT; Research and campaigns; Media and communications; Fundraising. You can volunteer with them from home, and in other flexible ways. To find out more: Tel: 01825 705723, Email: da@wealdencitizensadvice.org.uk or to check volunteer vacancies:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/support-us/volunteering/volunteering-opportunitiessearch/>

Electric Blanket Testing This October

Bring your electric blanket along for a FREE safety check at any of the below events. If you are unable to attend, please ask a friend or neighbour to bring your blanket for you. East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service working with partners for your safety. **Monday 14th October** - Mayfield Fire Station, Tunbridge Wells Road, TN20 6PJ **2.00pm - 4.00pm**

Parish Council Meetings

The meeting schedule on the website: <http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk/> shows this month's Council and Committee meetings as well as agendas, minutes of meetings and other meeting documentation

Janna Todd, Parish Clerk

Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield
TN20 6AL

Telephone 873784 Email:
clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REGULAR WEEKLY ACITVITIES

Monday	Art Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 10-12.30pm
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Yoga	Scout Hall 6.30 – 7.45pm
	Ideal Performing Arts	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.00 – 8.00pm
	Table Tennis Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.15-21.45pm (Sept-May)
Tuesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.30-9.30am
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Circle Dance	Scout Hall 2.30 – 4.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.15-7.30pm
Wednesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 9-10am
	Discofit Gold - Fitness Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10-11am
	Creative Social	Sew Inspired High Street 10am – 1pm
	Heathfield Fitcamp	Five Ashes Hall - 18.30-19.30
	Studio Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 18.50-19.50pm
	The Rose & Crown Quiz	Rose & Crown, Fletching Street, 7.30pm
	Mayzing Choir practice	Mayfield Scout Hut: 8.00 – 10.00pm
Thursday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10.30–11.30am
	Baby Explorers	Five Ashes Village Hall – TBC
	Happy Tai Chi	12-1pm
	Handbell Ringers	London House, 4-5.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 5-6pm
	Cogs – School Years 4-6	Colkins Mill Church 6.30-8pm
	Ladies' PH Netball	Mayfield School - 7 - 8pm
	Happy Tai Chi	Five Ashes Village Hall – 7-8pm
Friday	Yoga	Scout Hall 10 – 11.15am
	Pre & Post Natal Exercise	Scout Hall 11.30am
	Junior tennis coaching	Mayfield Tennis Club - 3.30 onwards
	Ideal Performing Arts	Five Ashes Village Hall 5.00 – 8.00pm
	Mayfield Band rehearsal times: The Bandroom, Court Meadow Beginners 5.15-5.45pm; Junior group 6-6.30pm; Youth Band 6.30-7.30pm; Senior Band 7.45-9.45	
	Cogs – School Years 7-9/10	Colkins Mill Church 7-8.30pm Year 10s 7.45pm
Saturday	Saturday Picnickers	London House 12.30-2.30pm

OCTOBER

Thursday-Sunday	3-6	"Bad Wednesday"	Melford House 3pm & 7.30pm
Thursday	3	Wadhurst & District Flower Club	Stonegate Village Hall 1.45pm
Thursday	3	Mayfacs Trip - Battle	
Thursday	3	Live Music	Lakedown Brewery
Friday	4	Film On Friday "Ama Gloria"	Five Ashes Village Hall 7.45pm
Sunday	6	Energy Expo	Five Ashes Village Hall 10.30am
Sunday	6	St. Dunstan's Parish Walk	St. Dunstan's Church 2pm
Sunday	6	Fundraising Car Wash	Mayfield Fire Station 10-3pm
Tuesday	8	The Arts Society Wealden Heathfield	Heathfield 2.15pm
Tuesday	8	Mayfield Evening WI - Film Night	Five Ashes Hall 7pm
Wednesday	9	Five Ashes Horticultural Society pumpkin competition, AGM & Talk	Five Ashes Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	10	Music Quiz	Lakedown Brewery
Saturday	12	Michaelmas Fair	Mayfield School 10am - 5pm
Monday	14	Electric Blanket Testing	Mayfield Fire Station 2-4pm
Tuesday	15	Mayfield Horticultural Society	Colkins Mill Church, 7.30pm
Thursday	17	Mayfield Golfing Society	Westerham Golf Club
Thursday	17	Mayfield U3A monthly talk	Five Ashes Hall 2.30pm
Thursday	17	Live Music	Lakedown Brewery
Thursday	17	Hunter's Moon Walk	War Memorial 7pm
Friday	18	Film On Friday "All of us Strangers"	Five Ashes Hall 7.45pm
Saturday	19	Flu Clinic - appointment required	Five Ashes Hall
Saturday	19	Bonfire Society Quiz	Five Ashes Hall 7pm
Saturday	19	Music Concert	Mayfield Girls School
Wednesday	23	Royal British Legion	Mayfield Cricket Club 6.30pm
Thursday	24	Live Music	Lakedown Brewery
Wednesday	30	Mayfield Local History Society - Pevensey Castle Talk	Scout Hut 8pm



PUBLIC OPENING TIMES

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

OFFICE ADDRESS

Mayfield & Five Ashes Parish Council

Old Manor House, High Street,
Mayfield TN20 6AL

☎ 01435 873784

F 01435 873726

✉ clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk



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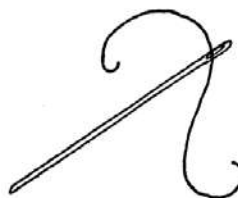
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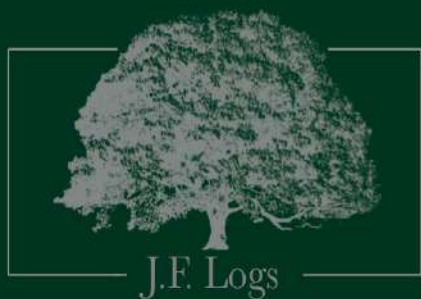
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Above: gouache by Fanny Instone. Below: left and right, paintings by Justin Todd and Barbara Todd.

