

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front cover: Mayfield Fireworks by Harry Baker (<https://www.baker-photography.co.uk>)

Many thanks to all the organisations for their photographs. Please do send your images to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Christmas approaches and it's not too late to get your stamps and post your letter and parcels from our new Post Office! Wonderful to see things turned around so quickly and to have this facility restored. It is a vital feature for those residents who cannot easily travel outside the village but also plays a part in the sheer numbers of



people visiting the High Street and thus helps keep all our shops alive. Congratulations to all who helped to make this happen and every success to this community venture. Elsewhere in this edition you'll find plenty to whet your appetite for the festive season so we should take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New year.

Jeanette Hore & Philip James

DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com by noon on the **12th December**. Please note change just for this month. 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

SEW INSPIRED THREE YEARS ON

It is three years since Nicola Johns opened 'Sew Inspired' at the end of the High Street. Talking to her about achievements, innovations and progress made, it seemed the shop should be called 'Sew Much More'. As well as offering a wide range of fabrics, wools, threads, needles etc., it provides a centre of activity, fun and learning for all ages and acts as a warm hub for those who may be struggling to keep warm in the winter months. At the other end of the age spectrum, she has started a children's sewing club which runs on a Tuesday from 4-6.30

and has capacity for 8 children, and the youngest is only 5. Health and Safety is key and all the children learn how to use a sewing machine and scissors safely, resulting in the creation of a lined tote bag complete with zip and button holes. Nicola is also in the process of developing a monthly miniature club where items for a doll's house will be made, including miniature teddies, sewing boxes, knitting needles and furniture for a six-room doll's house. She was inspired by an entry at the Horticultural Show which she had sponsored, from Idske who had made a 12 scale miniature William Morris rug and will be sharing her expertise at the club.

Full-time attendance at school is not for everyone and for many reasons a small number of pupils are educated at home. Over the last eighteen months Nichola has been supporting a pupil to create a textiles portfolio which has won her a place on an Art Foundation Course in Brighton. The work has covered every type of sewing and has been underpinned by historical and artistic context. This major achievement is



Credit: Barbara Murray

hopefully not a 'one off' as Nichola is now working with another home educated pupil on her portfolio development.

All this is in addition to classes and groups that have been running since the shop started in November 2021. The Yarners still meet on a Monday afternoon; Get to Know your Sewing Machine has been well attended throughout and if you are a man with an interest in sewing, there is also something for you: Fabric Engineering using an Indoor Power Tool, part of the Secret Gentleman's Sewing Club. Silver Viscount sewing and overlocker machines plus tuition can now be bought through Nicola. She is brimming with new and inclusive ideas, which has not gone unrecognised as she was nominated for the East Sussex Woman of the Year which is an event where everyone nominated is a winner and recognises women for what they have done for their communities.

Sew Inspired will be open on 29th November as part of the Mayfield Late Night Christmas Shopping event.

Information about the courses and other services will be available as well as a warm welcome. Hopefully, you will be "Sew Inspired".

Barbara Murray

FEATURES

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

I'm scrambling through the woodland undergrowth, anxious, sweating and clutching a 2kg pouch of white powder and a spoon. I may look like some Colombian cocaine smuggler but I've got the perfect excuse for the police: "I'm researching my parish magazine article". I've been writing articles for Sussex parish magazines for many years and I've received some lovely comments from many people - thank you. It's nice to know they are being read and enjoyed.



When I was a kid, I would read loads of wildlife books with names like 'The Amateur Naturalist' (not to be confused with 'The Amateur Naturist', a mistake you only make once). Each book promised to make you a wildlife detective and was filled with tips on tracking mammals in the countryside. Most British mammals are nocturnal and, after centuries of persecution, all of them are understandably rather wary of humans. We hardly ever see them. Yet these invisible animals leave behind tantalising clues which let us know they really exist: droppings, nibbled nuts, pellets. But the biggest giveaway of all are their footprints.

Primitive mammals (such as Hedgehogs, Stoats, Badgers and you) are plantigrades. We stroll about on the soles of our feet and have five toes. When we run, we use our toes and the balls of our feet. For the mammals who spend a lot of time running and jumping this basic mammalian plantigrade foot has evolved and adapted over time. Some animals have lost a toe (foxes, cats, dogs, hares) while the real gymnasts, such as deer, leap around on two toes, and horses race on just one toe enclosed in a hoof. Like Sherlock Holmes with a foot fetish, you can examine each footprint's formula of toes, claws and pads to deduce just who has been sneaking around at night.

My books told me that, once you find a footprint, the best way to capture it is to make a cast – which explains why I'm crouched here in the undergrowth excitedly mixing up plaster of Paris powder and pouring it into a footprint in the muddy woodland floor. I've always wanted to do this since I was a kid but, well, I guess life got in the way. Now, sitting proudly on my desk, I have my first footprint cast: a Badger (with five toes, a wide pad and obvious claws). And somewhere out there is a Badger completely unaware that its footprint has created a deeper enjoyment of wildlife and inspired someone to preserve it. Which now I think about it, is all I have hoped for from these articles too. I hope



I've made an impression. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2025.
Michael Blencowe

OUR CHURCHES

COLKINS MILL

All of us here would like to wish Mayfield & Five Ashes Newsletter readers a very Happy Christmas. We will be celebrating with a Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm. Young and old are welcome and there will be mulled wine and mince pies. We are also looking forward to our Christmas Celebration for people with learning disabilities which is at 4pm on Sunday 15th December. It's always a joyful occasion. Finally, for those who can tear themselves away from their Christmas stockings to focus for a moment on what Christmas is really about, we have a short family service on Christmas morning at 10.30am. Christmas jumpers, new toys and outrageous socks are all welcome, though we will be thinking and singing about a very special baby. **Steve Harland**
contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk

ST. DUNSTAN'S

December is a busy time here and we invite you to join us at our Christmas celebrations:

Sunday, 1st December: Candlelit Advent Carol Service at 6pm - Our Church choir will be singing a selection of carols – with some beautiful congregational Advent Carols. Please do come and join us. All are most welcome.

Christmas Market - Saturday, 7th December between 10am and 2pm and see what marvellous local vendors we will have with us this year. A huge range of products will be on sale – from jewellery, honey products, Christmas decorations, crochet animals, wooden toys and turned wooden items, bobblehats through to jumpers and so much more. This is your opportunity to 'shop local' and support our local craftspeople. We will also be selling

delicious bacon and sausage baps, teas, coffees, mince pies and mulled wines. Our fabulous cakes and homemade produce will be on sale and you will have a chance to take part in our Grand Raffle to win the top prize of £100, our Festive Hamper or our Drinks Hamper. If you would like more information then please contact Nicky in the Parish Office on 873484 or by email: office.stdunstans@gmail.com.

Candlelit Christmas Carol Service:
Sunday, 22nd December 6pm - Come and join us in singing some of the more popular Christmas carols; our choir will also be singing two carols and there is an option of joining the choir in singing 'O Holy Night'. If you are interested in joining in singing 'O Holy Night' please contact Lucy, our Director of Music on music.stdunstans@gmail.com. We hope you will join us for this wonderful festive evening.

Join us at our Christmas Services this year are which are taking place on:

Christmas Eve: 5pm Christingle Service

Midnight Mass: 11pm

Christmas Day: 10.15am Christmas Morning Communion. At this service we encourage children to bring a toy, a Christmas present they have received, with them so we can share in their joy.

Please, can you help to make the Christingles on Monday, 23rd December from 10am in St Dunstan's? It's such a fun morning so please do come along, lend a hand and join in the fun of preparing to celebrate Christmas.

Future Weddings:

St. Dunstan's is now taking bookings for weddings in 2025 and 2026. If you are interested in marrying here then please have a look at our website:

www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk or

contact our Parish Administrator by email:

office.stdunstans@gmail.com for further information.

Nicky Higgins Parish Administrator

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Mass times in December

Sunday 8th December 10.00am

Saturday 14th December 6.00pm

Sunday 22nd December 10.00 am

Saturday 28th December 6.00pm

Christmas Masses

Tuesday 24th December 9.00pm in Mayfield School Chapel

Wednesday 25th December 9.00am in St. Thomas' Church

CAFOD Coffee Morning

10.30-12.30 Saturday 21st December - In the Courtyard at Mayfield School

ST. DENYS' CHURCH, ROTHERFIELD

St. Denys' Church is presenting an Angel Festival from 30th November - 8th December. Angels made by the community, local businesses, schools, clubs, societies, families and individuals will be on display in our beautiful Grade 1 listed church. Open from 10.30 to 4.30, & from 12.00 on Sunday.

On Friday 6th December at 6pm, we are pleased that Imogen Corrigan, a popular lecturer in Anglo-Saxon & Medieval History & Art, will premiere her talk entitled 'An Avalanche of Angels'. Tickets at £8.00 will be sold during the festival, at events@stdenysrotherfield.org.uk or at the door. Light refreshments available every day. All visitors will be able to vote for their favourite angels. Free entry but donations to St. Denys' Church.

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

New Pre-School Manager Paige Merrick started this month. We are very excited to have you leading the Pre-School Paige!

The first fundraising event of this academic year is the **Ho-Ho-Hoedown** at the Scout Hut, after the Christmas Village Lights Switch On at 7pm on Friday 29th November. You can buy tickets in advance for £15 by following this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mayfield-ho-ho-ho-down-tickets-1056556351489> or from the Pre-School. £20 on the door.

We are also planning a jumble sale for early in the New Year so please keep us in mind when you are having a clear out after the festive period! More details to follow.

INTRODUCTION TO PAIGE MERRICK

I would like to introduce myself as the new Manager of Mayfield Pre-School. I have worked at Pre-School for over 20 years, starting when my children attended there. For the last few years, I have been the Deputy Manager and look forward to continuing the success of the school with the great team we have.

This term the children have loved helping to change our environment by digging and moving the soil about. We were fortunate to have a donation of logs, bark and sand to the delight of our children. A very big thank you to Houndsell Kennels. We are always grateful to receive resources for our outside area, and paper & crafts especially as we approach the Christmas season. We have also been talking about how we eat healthily and look after our teeth; every child has been given a toothbrush and toothpaste and an information leaflet to promote Oral Health from East Sussex County Council.

Paige Merrick, Manager

FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are embracing the autumn season full on here at Five Ashes CE Primary School. All the children had a wonderful time taking part in a range of activities at Lymley Woods. The children were able to make fires, have a go at archery and create art installations using natural materials. We have also taken part in the HASP football tournament and came a wonderful 4th out of 9 teams. We also had a number of children who made it through to the local Cross-Country final at Beacon Sixth Form which was fantastic. The school came together with the local community for 2 minutes silence on Remembrance Day. Maple class wrote a number of poems which are currently still by the Memorial. We look forward to keeping you updated with the Christmas season approaching and all the exciting things we will be up to.

Darren Gurr Head of School





MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been learning about the significance of the poppy and we made our own wreath to take to our village War Memorial. The children took time to look at all the names and we talked about how brave they all were.

MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

An invitation to Live Crib at Mayfield School

Residents of Mayfield and Five Ashes are warmly invited to attend Live Crib at Mayfield Girls School on Sunday 15th December, Monday 16th December and Wednesday 18th December. The procession starts at 6.30pm from the Old Bank in Mayfield High Street, with the service commencing around 6.45pm in Mayfield School Chapel.

The Live Crib is one of Mayfield Girls School's oldest, and proudest traditions, with this year marking our 65th anniversary. Every year since 1959 the students have recreated the timeless story of Mary and Joseph, being turned away from the inn, and finding shelter in the stable - otherwise known as Mayfield's 14th Century Chapel.

Please be aware that this is a popular event and seating is limited. If anyone requires wheelchair access, please contact Narelle on nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org
We hope you can join us.

Sleep Out Fundraiser

On a cold Friday night in November, a group of girls braved a night sleeping outdoors to



gain insight into the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness. Organised by Mayfield's Justice and Peace group, the event supported the Cardinal Hume Centre, a charity that helps families, children, and young people overcome poverty and avoid homelessness in London. Without phones, creature comforts, or the usual privileges of daily life, the girls took on an experience designed to be as realistic as possible. They coped admirably with the discomfort and, in doing so, raised an impressive £3,000.

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday, our Headmistress and students were privileged to come together with the local community to lay a wreath on behalf of the School at the Remembrance Service at St. Dunstan's Church.

Equestrian Success

MGS Equestrian Team achieved a historic milestone, winning a record-breaking eight national titles at the NSEA National Schools Championships over the half-term break at Addington. With five team titles across Show Jumping, Dressage, and Combined Training – and three individual titles – MGS set a new benchmark for school championships. Jill Barker, Director of Riding, praised the team's effort, saying: "I am immensely proud of our riders, coaches, supporting staff and parents. It takes a huge team effort to win any

championship title, and MGS's ethos of 'work hard, play hard' truly shone through this week."

Riding Captain Flo, who won three team titles and two individual honours, reflected: "Having competed at the National Championships since Year 8, I was determined to finish on a high in my final year. I'm so proud of this team, we support each other and work together as one, no matter the year group. It was an amazing weekend."



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Visit Local Prep School

In support of AntiBullyingWeek, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABAs) have been hard at work. Not only have they organised events for our own community, but they're also spreading the message further to local schools. This year's theme from the Anti-Bullying Alliance, #ChooseRespect, aligns perfectly with our Cornelian Principles. Our 13 ABAs presented to our School community and visited Sacred Heart and Granville Primary Schools, engaging with over 100 students. They led discussions on bullying behaviours and shared ways to stand against bullying, empowering everyone to choose respect in every situation.



Dates For The Diary

Live Crib - 15th, 16th & 18th December - Procession in High Street from 6.30pm, followed by service in School Chapel

Christmas Midnight Mass, Mayfield School Chapel December 24th - Carols from 8.30pm, Mass at 9pm

SKIPPERS HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The theme for anti-bullying week this year was respect and the message reinforced to the children was to 'choose respect'. The week poignantly started off with the whole school gathered in the playground to observe the two minute silence, honouring the courage and sacrifice of those who died in service.

The children took part in a variety of activities over the week. These included writing postcards to people who might need cheering up in the community, odd socks day, sunshine boards and writing anti-bullying pledges.

Phil Makhoul



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ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

MAYFIELD POST OFFICE

By the time you read this Newsletter, the Post Office should be open in the High Street again!

Jo and Holly will be back behind the counter not just for postal services but for all your everyday banking needs: you can pay in cash and cheques, withdraw money and check your balance – everything you used to have to go to your bank to do. We will progressively expand the range of services we offer, not just other financial services but also collect & return, travel money and insurance, and Government services such as passport check & send and DVLA and Council Tax payments. And we will be stocking all the other goods you would expect at a post office: stationery, pens, paperclips, rubber bands, glue, sellotape, string, wrapping paper, cards..... Tell us what you want and we'll get it.

A massive thank you to everyone one who has bought shares or made donations so far. You have made this possible. We still need your support for continuing funding to make sure we stay open and you can now get a copy of the Fundraising Document from the Post Office.

This is your Post Office, owned by the community, run by the community, for the community. Please use it.

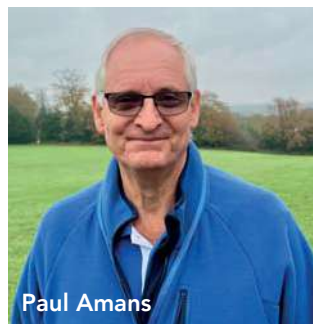
Andrew Ratcliffe, Chair

Our intrepid roving reporter, Barbara Murray, strolled up and down the High Street and asked:

"What does the Post Office mean to you?" We thought it might be helpful in support of the new Post Office to ask a range of local people what they missed and what they find useful about having a Post Office in Mayfield High Street. Thanks to everyone who provided comments.

Paul Amans

'For me I don't use it much. Eve used it more for sending parcels and posting letters etc. I did use it for cash and I really miss cash, I now have to go to Cross in Hand or Jarvis Brook, it was handy. I wouldn't do without it and I am going to contribute to the running of it as I think it is essential.'



Illias - The House Café

'The Post Office definitely has an impact as small businesses in the village need as much help as possible and the Post Office is one of the most important places that everyone needs. I need it for change for pens; I need it for everything basically. As I am next door I also benefit when there are queues as there often are, people will come in for a drink while they are waiting. So it works very well for me.'

Stephen and Susan Moir

'I use it as I am the Treasurer of the choral society and we get subs and I have to pay them in, which is fantastic, now I have to keep the cash and do a transfer from my own account.'

'Will the Post Office be a shop as well? I think it needs a good selection of envelopes, tape and packaging materials, they used to have those plastic bag things to send parcels, I used to use those for the kids, it needs to be all that as well. It's also very social with great conversations in the queue.'



Margaret Woodley

'Everybody was so friendly, you knew when you went to the Post Office that there would always be a laugh as well as the valuable service they would give you. I really miss the banking and I find trying to get stamps difficult as you have to queue so much at other post offices.'

Ian Parker

'Personally I think its essential to the community and the village and the Parish. It's a service for the elderly and infirm, they are the people who need it most and I think it's the lifeblood of our High Street. We are lucky to have a vibrant High Street and if it doesn't open it will affect all the other businesses. All the time it's not here we all go elsewhere to use the services and shops of other towns and villages which makes things even harder than it is anyway here in Mayfield.'

Pauline Marsh

'From an elderly point of view, it is vitally important. Sooner or later I won't be able to drive and I can walk up there; if I can't drive I won't be able to go. We need it, I think it's a right'

Fiona Mason

'I'm relatively new to the village but during the pandemic it showed its real value, it was like a gem of the village. Everyone went to the Post Office and and chatted and people in the queue would talk to each other, there was a real sense of community.'

Annette Adsetts

'When the Post Office closed I felt heartbroken for everyone living in the village, including myself. It is a treasure and is absolutely key and there are many people who can't just get in the car to another village or town and for those that do it can be a big and stressful trip with parking etc. I feel joyous at the news that the Post Office will be opening again.'



Lizzie, Annie and Marion

Lizzie Annie and Marion - The Middle House Deli

'Without the Post Office there have been problems with cash and change. It has also affected the footfall into the deli.'

Anonymous comments

'I miss it dreadfully, I really, really do. What I fear is that people have to take public transport to go to the Post Office and, when they take my driving licence away when I'm too old, I will need a Post Office.'

'Maybe we could share the premises with a community shop, selling local produce'.

Barbara Murray

HISTORY OF MAYFIELD POSTAL SERVICE

The first mention of a Mayfield letter is in 1260 when the Pope wrote giving permission for its foundation. The same messenger from Rome probably also carried news of the canonisation of St. Richard, Patron Saint of Sussex.

Eminent figures always wrote letters, usually delivered by their specially commissioned messengers. In the 1590s Henry Neville wrote letters from the Old Palace about the guns he made. In the

1750s Thomas Turner, East Hoathly merchant, regularly used John Streeter, the Mayfield postman, to deliver his goods and cash across Sussex. He detailed news of the Arundel postman who almost lost his life in the snow. Vicar Roger Challice wrote about the new turnpikes in the 1760s, a system which improved communications considerably, and the mail coach became commonplace. Challice often visited his parishioners and found that they were not at home, an indication of the difficulties of communication.

In 1840 Edward Tench moved into the Middle House. He worked in London for the Stamps and Taxes Office, which in 1849 had merged with the Excise to become the Inland Revenue. Tench was involved in one of the many Victorian reforms, this time of the postal service. His office had been responsible for the production and sale of the new postage stamps; in 1841 the Penny Red had replaced the Penny Black. This allowed for the development of a national postal service network. John Eldridge wrote in 1904 "The Mayfield postman's task was to walk from Uckfield to Mayfield. His arrival was announced at 9am by a vigorous blowing of a horn. The letters were then quickly delivered in the village by the postman but not in the surrounding neighbourhood. At five o'clock in the afternoon the same postman took his departure for Uckfield, the horn again sounded."

The railway from Lewes to Uckfield had opened in 1858 which changed the scale of mail deliveries. When the nuns came to the Convent school in the Old Palace in the mid-1860s, Mayfield's postwoman had her nose put out of joint. The nuns' correspondence for Mayfield exceeded the capacity of the postwoman's apron.



"Will they always want the wheelbarrow?" she inquired. "It will be the killing of me if they do."

The first evidence of a Post Office in Mayfield is in a photograph celebrating Victoria's Jubilee in 1897. It shows the shop on the north side of the High Street (which the Osteopath now occupies), Postmistress, Mrs Grace Richardson, and Postman George Unstid (who also worked as a wheelwright) stand proudly outside in their Sunday best. A number of Victorian post boxes still exist in the area, for instance at the top of East Street near the Rose and Crown. Further down East Street was another Post Office and there was a third in Five Ashes; both these were in operation within living memory.

The main Post Office site in Mayfield has changed frequently over the last century, usually in the High Street. The current location of the main post box dates from when the Office was located in what is now the Wine Shop. Services changed over the years. For instance, in 1949-50 letters from the main post box were dispatched to London at 10am and delivered on the same day. In 2004 the second delivery of the day was cancelled. The national structure of the Post Office has often changed, most recently in 2012 when Post Office Counters was separated from Royal Mail, a process which contributed to the Post Office scandal. Debate about the social service element of the network and the core activities of banking and servicing online shopping still continues.

Tim Cornish

History for Christmas? Tim's book on Medieval Mayfield is on sale at "Sew Inspired".



MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

We are getting into the festive mood with two events this month. On Saturday 14th December we will be hosting our annual Christmas party for senior citizens. The event is free to all senior residents of Mayfield and Five Ashes, past and present. Most of the helpers and servers also qualify for the free party. This year, Colkins Mill Church are again kindly letting us take over their space, the Mayfieldians are sharing their Christmas decorations and the Mayfield Band will be providing the musical entertainment. We will be offering a Christmas-themed lunch, with cold meats and salads, homemade mince pies and Christmas cake, followed by carol singing. It's lovely, heartwarming event, sharing

some joy across the generations. If you would like to attend, please check with Nicola at Sew Inspired if there are any places left. If you can help bake or serve, please do let me know.

Then, instead of our regular monthly bonfire drinks at the Rose and Crown, we will be enjoying an early Christmas supper at the Middle House on Thursday 19th December. We will be back at the Rosie in the New Year, on Thursday 16th January 8-10pm.

Catherine Hawley

bonfire@gawain.online

MAYFIELD EVENING WI

At our November meeting we had an interesting and informative talk on 'Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis' by Geologist and Earth Scientist Dr. Helena Griffiths. In a lively and well-illustrated presentation, Helena showed us how the immense energy of the earth's core can produce such spectacular and dangerous forces. Having explained how the instability of the global tectonic plate pattern creates areas of potential eruptions, we were reassured that, in the UK, we were unlikely to experience anything apart from a tiny ripple effect tremor.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 10th December and this will be our Christmas Party. At this meeting we will be making donations to our chosen charity which is Mayfield Pre-School. We hope to forge a continuous connection with the Pre-School and do what we can to support them.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month (not in August) at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Colkins Mill Church. Do come and join us at any one of our evenings. We would love to see you! For any further information, please contact **Chrissie Robinson** on 862825

FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL – CHARITY CAR WASHING

On Sunday 6th October, Friends of Mayfield Primary School teamed up with Firefighters from Mayfield Fire Station to hold another charity Car Wash to support both causes. From 10am until 3pm the volunteers grabbed sponges, brushes and chamois leathers to wash and buff the vehicles of Mayfield! Whilst the drivers looked on as their cars were made to sparkle, they tucked into hearty sausage sandwiches or a slice of delicious homemade cake. We'd like to thank everyone who came along and supported the event and helped us raise over £750.

MONTHLY QUIZ SHEETS

These quizzes, in aid of our two Church of England Primary Schools in Five Ashes and Mayfield, take place each month with a £5 prize for the winner. We have a very faithful group who do these each month together with some who support by donation. Some have been doing them for around 20 years! It would be good to have some more members join as the more quiz sheets we do the more the schools benefit. It is just £1 per month, which can be paid monthly, six-monthly or annually and can be done by post, email or in person. The Christmas sheet is always a double one but still only £1. The schools appreciate the money from these as it enables them to buy incidentals without dipping into other pots. To date we have raised just over £8,500. A big thank you to our supporters. Contact **Margaret Neve** 01825 830625/ email: margaretneve332@btinternet.com

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

We have been working hard to progress the project through regular meetings with

the contractor and our partner Wealden District Council (WDC). We all recognise that this is an important building which will serve our community for many years to come.

It is a complex project with many factors to consider, however the fundamental difference between this and the previous project is that we are doing a lot more pre-planning work to ensure we reduce the issues that may impact timely construction. The project is approaching the end of RIBA stage 3, which means that the basic design has been completed sufficiently so that a final costing exercise can be undertaken by the contractor. Costings have been sought from a selection of sub-contractors and various further value engineering options have also been investigated. This is an opportunity to look at ways we can reduce expenditure without affecting the building and so the contractor is looking at numerous options but it is taking longer than we'd hoped.

With this in mind, we have taken the decision to hold back the planning application originally forecast for November whilst finalising stage 3 costs. Meetings are being scheduled with WDC and Baxall Construction to finalise the options.

Whilst this is frustrating the Project Board has agreed it is the best way to proceed.

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

As do many organisations, our branch of the U3A is having a Christmas lunch instead of our monthly talk in December. It'll be one to look forward to as magician Bertie Pearce is entertaining us and Sue Wright is catering!

We will be celebrating a good year, with new members and new groups. If you are interested in joining our branch U3A, now is a good time. Please check our new

website, which is www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield.

We start the new year with an Arctic Mystery. Called **"Lost and Found, Captain Crozier"**, the talk is given by Michael Smith. He will tell us of the Franklin Expedition of 1845, and the loss of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror while they were searching for the Northwest Passage. Although many attempts were made to find the ships, it was not until 2014 that the Erebus was found, and HMS Terror a couple of years later. The details are bound to be fascinating and will show the importance of modern technology in situations such as these.

The talk will be at the new time of 2.30pm, at Five Ashes Village Hall, on Thursday January 16th. As ever all are welcome, with members being free and visitors charged a nominal fee.

Please contact Mary Brentnall at marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com for more information.

FILM ON FRIDAY 25th SEASON

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

THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS – 6th December

As the nights close in and Christmas approaches, we always look for a slower-paced, reflective film. In the forests of Piedmont, there is a handful of men – 70 or 80 years old – who, with their dogs, hunt for the rare and expensive white Alba truffle. It's a dying skill which they guard jealously. Footage of the men and the dogs on the hunt (including some from the dogs' point of view) is interspersed with their reflections on their art and the truffle brokers to whom they sell what they find.

Our leaflets are available from The House Café, MAYFACS, the telephone box and our poster on the school railings. Our



Our goal remains to make the event accessible to as many people as possible - entry and all seeds remain free to attendees, although donations are very welcome as every penny helps keep us going. We hope this will encourage everyone, young and old, to grow a variety of plants, regardless of gardening experience or financial situation.

Apart from the seed swap itself, there will be the Seedy Café with refreshments and homemade cake, seed sowing demonstrations and Critter's Corner to encourage youngsters to get growing from seed.

Seed boxes are already in Sew Inspired and The House Café in the High Street - so please drop off your collected seed anytime between now and the event. The earlier the better, so it gives us time to pack them up. All seeds welcome, but no out-of-date packets, please.

It just remains for us to wish a very happy festive season to all readers and members, and remember to get out in your gardens and allotments as much as the weather will allow. A bit late for crocus and narcissus now, but still time to plant tulips up to mid-January.

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



Soup and Social Lunch - 12th February
2025 Mayfield Cricket Club - £3 per head.
 Doors open at 12 noon and the bar will be open until 2.30pm. Please contact Rosemary Lillywhite to confirm your attendance, so that we can ensure we have sufficient soup. email:
withatwist@btinternet.com

website, www.filmmonfriday.org, has trailers for all our films and interviews with the directors and cast. If you would like to know more, email me on filmmonfriday@gmail.com, or phone 873310; or just come along on one of our film nights. We are on Facebook and X at [@filmmonfriday](https://twitter.com/filmmonfriday).

Andrew Ratcliffe Chairman

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Seed Swap & Social, Saturday 1st February

Last year, on a chilly February morning, over 140 of you very generously supported our inaugural Seed Swap & Social Community Event. It was a BIG success - and you headed home smiling broadly clutching small packets of seeds. You also told us you'd be back next year so we'd better plan on being there. Which was lovely.

Thank you again for helping to make the event the success it was.

We're preparing to welcome you all back to the Scout Hall for our second Seed Swap & Social Event on Saturday 1st February 2025, 10.00 till 12.30.

or telephone: 872130

Centenary of the Formation of Mayfield & Five Ashes Branch early 2025 – Further information about how we intend to celebrate this to follow in due course.

Our Annual General Meeting of the Branch took place on 23rd October. There were 36 members and 3 guests present. After a welcoming address by Carole Stilwell, the Chairman's report covered various aspects and activities of the last year. She also reminded the meeting of the importance of the vital work done by the RBL in supporting our injured personnel and their families and urged all to continue supporting the RBL in any way possible.

The following people were elected to office:

President: John MacDonald 873138

Chairman: Carole Stilwell 01892 668667

Vice Chairman: Brian Oldfield 692015

Treasurer: Brian Stilwell 01892 668667

Secretary: Rosemary Lillywhite 872130

Poppy Appeal Organiser Gavin Ross 873770 & 07771 965517

Welfare Representative: John Logan 883371

Committee Member: Kevin Swaine 07970 787465

Committee Member: John Buddle 872229

Committee Member: Guy Mantoura 07580 108110

Branch Webmaster: Carole Stilwell

The Branch committee has absolutely no spare capacity and volunteers (must be members) to assist in committee work will be very welcome. Contact any of the above if you wish to help either by joining the committee or purely on a temporary basis.

Following official business and supper, we enjoyed an excellent and informative talk from Rod MacArthur entitled 'The History of a Medal'. This covered the history of Rod's father's service as a Merchant Navy Officer in World War II on the Gibraltar, Atlantic and Russian convoys and the D-Day Landings, and the personal journey of Rod to claim his father's posthumous Arctic Star. A faultless performance by Rod, packed with information as to how he went about this daunting task.

Remembrance Sunday – At the War Memorial there was a large turnout of those wishing to pay their respects. Father Michael welcomed all before a brief service. Then wreaths were laid before the two minutes silence. The Church Remembrance Sunday Service followed. St Dunstan's Church choir and the Mayfield Band again performed beautifully. The names of the fallen, from Mayfield and Five Ashes, from the First and Second World Wars were read out.

In the afternoon there was a further gathering at the Five Ashes War Memorial. Father Michael welcomed all before a brief service. Then wreaths were laid before the two minutes silence.

Armistice Day - There was a good turnout for this and Father Michael welcomed all before the two minutes silence.

Poppy Appeal – Our Poppy Appeal Organiser and Assistant Group Scout Leader Gavin Ross advises that we will not know the total of our collection for a little while especially the takings from the card machines or paid direct to the Royal British Legion bank. In these days of a high-on cashless society we are extremely grateful to those of you who ensured you had cash to donate. We also dropped off envelopes with poppies and the Royal British Legion Bank details at homes. This allowed those not at home or without cash to make their own direct contribution. If you haven't done so as yet please do and also add our branch reference code SFG21 to ensure it is added to the branch collection total.

A huge thank you to all of our collectors who braved the cold and extreme wet to trudge around the villages and make the collection happen. We had three Saturdays collecting in the High Street culminating on the 9 November when the 1st Mayfield Scouts and Avery Explorer's yet again



brought their enthusiasm, dynamism and creativity to the event.

For what is now the sixth year, we laid a wreath at the grave of our Mayfield Major General "Pip" Roberts CB, DSO, MC. on behalf of the German people of Schleswig-Holstein with their grateful thanks for saving them from Soviet rule. Even more poignant given the current tragic events in Ukraine.

London Stations Poppy Appeal

– This took place on Thursday 31st October and I attended this at Moorgate Station for the fifth year running. At each London underground and mainline station poppy collectors made up from serving members of our Armed Forces, veterans, Royal



British Legion members and other volunteers work their nominated stations for a full day starting at 07:00. The organisation to make this happen in a secure way is colossal. This year this one day only event raised £1,285,000.

The Ongoing Need for the Work of The Royal British Legion - the need for our case workers increased beyond belief last year due to the cost-of-living crisis. Last year our welfare teams managed more than 40,000 cases. This is an increase of 43% compared with the year before. Your support means we are always there for our Armed Forces community, to provide personalised and complete support.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465 kevinswaine@btinternet.com

MAYZING & VOLYA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

MayZing Community Choir are once again teaming up with the Ukrainian Choir, Volya, on Friday 20th December. Doors open 7.00pm, start time 7.30pm, in Crowborough Community Centre TN6 1FE for an evening of Christmas songs uniting two different cultures. Those who saw the summer concert will know just how moving, entertaining and colourful Volya Choir ladies were. MayZing and Volya will sing some joint numbers and there will be opportunities for audience participation! Tickets are available from Burnetts Estate Agents, via choir members and via the QR code on the posters. They are £10 each for adults (£5 children) and include one free drink. A licensed bar will be available. It promises to be a great evening, so please do come and support us even though it is in Crowborough.

Ralph (Ginger) Millington. MayZing Choir

MAYFIELD BAND

The Band thoroughly enjoyed its joint concert with Lingfield Band last week at St. Dunstan's Church, and if you were there, we very much hope you did too, and thank you for coming. We really appreciate your support. If you weren't there, worry not, because we are hoping to do the same again next year.



On now to Christmas. We are not planning a Christmas concert as we can't get everyone in the right place at the right time but we do hope to be out and about playing carols to brighten your festive shopping and celebrations. Provisional dates are 7th and 21st in the High Street at around 11am, and Friday 20th around 7.30pm at the Rose and Crown. Do come and have a listen and sing along if you feel the urge. And then the final blow at Tesco Jarvis Brook at 10.30am Christmas Eve.

In somewhat sadder news, we lost a much-loved ex-player and stalwart of the band last week. Many of you will have known Maurice Pursglove as he has been part of village life



Maurice Pursglove

for over 50 years, holding the band together both musically with his fine tuba playing, and also as our property officer, keeping tight control of the band's equipment. He was also committed to the Youth Band, together with his widow Jenny, and he was a loving, caring, and passionate bandsman, well worthy of the cliché "they don't make them like that anymore". He even helped to build our bandroom back in 1972. He was a real character, and will be greatly missed by us all, and will leave a big hole in the local banding community. Our thoughts are with his loving family.

MAYFIELD YOUTH BAND

We are looking forward to playing at the Big Switch On in the High Street on 29th November. It's a mad rush now to get our carols knocked into shape but we'll get there. Singing along with us will be the Mayfield Girls Lower

School choir, and hopefully the church choir as well. So do please come along and join in. We'll be starting at around 6.30pm.

As there is no senior band concert this year, we will be holding our own festive fun mini concert for friends and family in the bandroom, accompanied by the senior band to give the kids the experience of playing in a big band.

I am delighted to report that one of our youngsters has received a grant to assist with their further studies, from the local charity Friends of Music in Mayfield. We are very grateful to FMM for their commitment to support promising local musicians. The band may well be a low cost entry to music, but when players get serious, the costs can mount up.

And finally, the annual reminder that the best possible present you can give your kids is the time it takes for you to bring them along every Friday to learn to play a musical instrument. The cost is minimal, and the joy is huge. I appreciate that it's not so easy to wrap that up and put it in a stocking, but wrapping paper and ribbon is bad for the planet anyway.

Simon Rudge 872007 simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

An evening of wonderful music awaits when the world-famous London Mozart Players will be performing Handel's *Messiah* in St. Dunstan's Church at 7pm. In a concert that is promoted by St. Dunstan's Parish Church Choir and supported by the Mayfield Festival the London Mozart Players will be joined by the choir themselves, the Mayfield Consort, four superb soloists and conductor Jack Gonzalez-Harding in a rendition of this perennial and seasonal favourite. *The Messiah* is Handel's most widely acclaimed work, and it is no surprise that this is the case. Throughout the work the composition for both orchestra and solo voices is exceptional, but it is the choruses that raise *Messiah* to another level, showcasing Handel's ability to grasp the dramatic potential of each text and the astonishing power and variety of his choral writing. This really does promise to be a special night of magnificent music and outstanding performance so don't miss out. 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. On the Door: from 30 minutes before the performance to 5 minutes before the performance (subject to availability). Please note that 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.

"A FEAST FOR ST. CECILIA"

Outstanding music in a beautiful setting, again and again Much Music is Made in Mayfield month after month.

Capturing music-making in print is helped by two recent pictures: Pic ref 17.24 - Mayfield Festival Choir in the informality of its concert day final rehearsal. A cross-section of recognisably 21st century individuals assemble as a group force to create something phenomenal, timeless and transcendent, this time from 18th century compositions by Handel and Lotti Pic ref 2223 - accompanied by Mayfield Baroque, established here by Jeremy Summerly, bringing to St. Dunstan's Church the finest young virtuosi inspiration from London's orchestras, colleges and academies. Their combined visionary joie de vivre is nothing short of spellbinding. Whether you have been in a Mayfield Festival audience this year, or are a music-maker yourself, aren't we living joyously in St. Cecilia's backyard here ? If you are a would-be maker of music is it perhaps time you joined us? In early 2025



Mayfield Festival Choir, in its 55th year, will start its next ten week high octane rehearsal cycle, sumitting in April with Mozart Requiem. An autumn rehearsal cycle, on Thursdays at 7pm, will lead to a second 2025 MFC concert in mid-November, and we're inviting Mayfield voices, one and all, to participate in singing a Messiah for Everyone this time next year, most thrillingly brought to life after probably a day-long workshop by the Festival's inspirational director, Jeremy Summerly.

MayfieldFestivalChoir.org

MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY

26 players turned out for the last 18 holes of MGS golf this year at Seaford Head Golf Club. The day was cloudy but dry meaning that for the second year running, not a single event has been lost to the weather (we ignore December).

Despite (or because of) the absence of our Club Secretary on holiday in Spain, the event was (almost) perfectly run by James Gallifant and our Captain.

Scoring was very good, with the average score per player of 35.6 points. The Last Chance Trophy winning score of 44 points was recorded by Tony Willmott whose handicap has been slashed from 21 to 16. In second and third places, with 43 and 42 points were Rob Weavers and Adrian Underwood. They both received a handicap cut of 3 shots.

The winning team's best two scores on each hole added up to 93 points, 2 clear of the team in second. The winning team comprised Tony Willmott, John Collingwood and Kelvin Paterson. Tony would have walked away with 2 bottles of wine had the (absent) Secretary remembered to provide it. Fortunately, our Captain improvised and found an empty bottle to feature in the post golf photos. But not before he forgot to award the Trophy and, having remembered, tried to give it to the wrong person. We soon realised why the bottle was empty! And so to our last event of the year, on 6th December where a full day of 9 holes of golf, lunch at the Middle House and post-lunch AGM and drinks is due to take place.

Mark Hughes

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

The Mayfieldians are again offering a recycling facility for your Christmas trees at **£5 per tree**. Come to Court Meadow on **Saturday, 4th January 2025 between 10am and 1pm** where you can drop off trees and they will be recycled. If anyone would like a tree collected from their home, for **£10 per tree** we can collect and take it away **between 10am and 1pm**. Trees must have no decorations left on them. Please contact Jeanette on mayfieldians@gmail.com before midday, Friday, 3rd January to arrange this or call 872975/077 483 70717. The Mayfieldians have organised this with Ace Total Treeworks who are offering their services free of charge.

NEWS FROM NUS GHANI, MP FOR SUSSEX WEALD

As we approach the end of another busy year, please allow me to reflect on some of the local successes and work that has been done to support our communities.

I am hugely grateful to the voters of Sussex Weald for returning me to Parliament in July. I continue building on my strong record of delivery and I am pleased that we've had some

great news for several local organisations receiving Government support. Amongst others, these included: Beacon Academy in Crowborough and Uplands Academy in Wadhurst benefitting from multi-million-pound funding for building upgrades; and over £297,000 for a new Community and Health Centre in Mayfield and Five Ashes. Improvements to water infrastructure are also taking place across the constituency as well as the £30 million upgrades at Bewl Water reservoir.

It's also been a year of huge success for TeamGB and I'm incredibly proud that Sussex Weald has its own Olympic Gold Medallist Emily Craig from Mark Cross, who began her career at Bewl Bridge Rowing Club. I was pleased to meet Emily to congratulate her in person, and I continue working with our organisations on boosting accessible sports facilities in the area.

There are many ongoing projects which I will continue progressing next year including work with: Southern Water to prevent flooding and sewage overflows; Sussex Police on tackling rural crime and enhancing road safety; Ashdown Forest CEO and Conservators; our local charities including Rotherfield St. Martin, Care for the Carers and the National Farmers' Union and our fantastic local farmers.

Please be assured that I will continue to work hard in 2025 to campaign for more resources for Sussex Weald and to ensure that your concerns are heard in Westminster. I continue to hold weekly surgeries to provide advice and representation. If you need my assistance, please email me at nusrat.ghani.mp@parliament.uk or visit my website www.nusghani.org.uk for more information. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

TRIBUTES TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WAR AT ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, MAYFIELD



NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

COTTAGE HOSPICE – FIVE ASHES

We are holding a Tea and Cake gathering at 3pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Do come and meet the locals and perhaps make new friends. This is a lovely building – come and join us. The first get-together is Tuesday, 3rd December.

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

November and December mark the start of the new Horticultural Society year. The first job is to review our Schedule – to change or amend where necessary – guided by the success (or otherwise) of the 2024 Schedule. It is important to strike a balance between “regular” and “interest” classes.

Changes are written up and presented to full Committee in January. With winter here the garden is slowing down and we can all prepare for Christmas. Happy Christmas everybody.

Graham Playfoot 01825 830511

FIVE ASHES WAR MEMORIAL

At the short service on Sunday 10th November with Father Michael there was good attendance particularly with the animals; we had 5 dogs and a horse. Five Ashes C of E Primary School attended the War Memorial on Monday 11th at 11 o'clock where they observed the 2-minute silence. They placed the 22 poppies representing the 22 names on the Memorial, also a purple poppy to recognise the animals and a poppy for the 'Unknown Warrior'.

The Reception Class recited a poem and 3 children read 'In Flanders Fields'. Maple Class (Years 3 & 4) had written their own poems which had been laminated and were placed in the ground around the War Memorial.



Credit: Penny Kemp

WADHURST & BURWASH WINDOW

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

What a joy the November meeting was! Mig Kimpton, demonstrator extraordinaire, spent the afternoon guiding a full house of members and guests through Floral Pantoland. His theatrical life, merged with his love of flowers, creative flair and amusing anecdotes created some sensational designs. The venue, Stonegate Village Hall, could not have been more appropriate, as the stage was set for the forthcoming production of Aladdin.

Tickets for the Christmas Lunch and Demonstration are now sold out.

There will be no meeting in January but a full programme of demonstrations and workshops has been arranged for 2025. It should be a very interesting year, so why not come to a meeting and discover what fun flower arranging can be.

If you would like to know more about Wadhurst Flower Club, please contact Sonia 01892 785671 or email sonia.hobbs2@btinternet.com.

WADHURST BOWLS

We move into the bowls 'silly season' at this time of year. Christmas is just round the corner. Then New Year, Valentines, Easter and eventually Bowls 2025!

Before then we will have our end-of-season lunch and presentation event at Dale Hill plus our AGM where we will vote to stop calling our new influx of members 'Newbies' and refer to them as 'members' or by their names!

We now have a new green-keeping team to maintain the green through the winter and into next season. Did you know that to combat disease, the grass gets 'swished' every morning to remove worm casts and then swept to remove the dew? A task undertaken throughout the year by a dedicated team of 'Dew Boys'.

As the sun sets on our 2024 season we look forward to a fresh dawn in 2025, new members, old rivalries and sunshine!

Have a great Christmas and New Year and Wadhurst Bowls look forward to seeing you in 2025

Wadhurst Bowls - steeped in tradition not stuck in the past.

www.wadhurstbc.com

Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

Note from the Editors re Walking Footballers: we acknowledge that although normally we will only include Mayfield & Five Ashes activities, on a regular basis we include group reports from Wadhurst and occasionally from other nearby villages when we are aware that our residents are members as there isn't the equivalent locally.

BURWASH WALKING FOOTBALLERS

Southern Combination Over-60's League – East Sussex Division

Looking slightly rusty and a bit off the pace, Burwash opened their 2024/25 'Over-60s season' against last year's champions with a creditable 0-0 away draw.

Early defensive lapses left Hastings two-against-one on a couple of occasions but Hastings had left their shooting boots at home and Burwash were able to ride out the early storm before starting to get into the match. Peter Manning gave way for new-boy Kevin up front but with an opportunity opening up before him he scuffed his shot. However, with the rest of his team mates, and all the 'neutrals', urging him forward on his debut Big Kev was able to fashion another chance and with their 'keeper beaten hit the far post. Into the second half and Burwash looked a far more settled side having most of the possession but unable to beat 'The Cat' in the Hastings goal who made a couple of good saves until he was beaten but saved again by the woodwork when Nigel's shot from 15 yards cannoned back-out off the cross bar. For all our second half dominance there was always the risk that, given half a chance, Hastings could grab a goal but with a steady defence Burwash were able to claim the point and return to the Salehurst Halt PH to replenish liquid levels and agree that before kick-off we would have been very happy with that result. But if only....

Our next match was against The Atha Strollers from Bexhill. On this occasion we completely outplayed the league leaders for a thoroughly deserved 3-1 win. Burwash also had two goals disallowed for minor infringements. This was possibly our best team performance against a very good side and we just have to keep the momentum going for our next match at Ringmer.

We have a stronger squad of league players this season than ever before (I know they may not look it from the photo!) but as we improve, so do the opposition. So, if you think you can improve on 'near perfection' get in touch. Or just get in



touch anyway and come along for a weekly kick-about session!

We finished the month with a social trip to the CM Booth Collection of Historic Motor Vehicles in Rolvenden and stopped for lunch at the new Lakedown Brewery pub - The Eight Bells Hawkhurst - on the way back. Tough job but it had to be done!

Chris Booth, the museum curator, bought his first Morgan three-wheeler in 1960 aged 16yrs and has been collecting and restoring them (along with other vehicles) ever since. With so many available he can only display around a dozen at a time on a rotating basis but what a sight they are! Chris has just finished restoring the 'Beaney' World Speed Record three-wheeler from the mid 1920's and has recreated the very first vehicle constructed by HFS Morgan for his own use in 1909. Acknowledged as the world leading authority on pre-war Morgan vehicles Chris is always happy to chat about his love and his passion (and I don't mean Mrs Booth!). Contact Steve 'Minty' Mintram on 882444 for more information.

www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk

MAYFACS

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

www.mayfacs.org.uk 873888
(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

Christmas Office Closure: Closed From Saturday 21st December And Reopening On Monday 6th January 2025. No activity groups will be taking place during our closure. We will be checking phones occasionally during this time and dealing with URGENT enquiries and drives only. Please do allow additional time for any requests if possible. Thank you.

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

December News

Christmas Bingo. This Christmas, we are bringing the celebrations together for our own Christmas Bingo Fundraising Event and everyone is welcome. Friday 13th December, doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start at Five Ashes Village Hall. Raffle, refreshments and a pay bar will be available – card and cash payments. No need to book – just turn up. Bring friends, family, neighbours or just yourself. All funds raised will support our working within the community.



Little Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group

- Last session Wednesday 18th December, returning Wednesday 8th January 2025. 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're also welcome to still help run the groups with a child joining in too. All ages welcome.

Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance – Next session Wednesday 11th December 10.30am – 12pm

Please do drop by and find out what support they can offer (including battery replacements) or where you can be signposted to if they cannot support your specific need.

Friday Matinee Film Programme

Our programme of films run every fortnight at Five Ashes Village Hall. Please come in and get your copy of the programme so you can plan your Fridays carefully.. Please note - only one film in December. Transport 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.

Friday 6th December: WONKA



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.

Support For All On Our Website: Www.Mayfacs.Org.Uk

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 and the surrounds. This is on top of signposting for financial and other support.

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 1st FEBRUARY 2025** (No session in January) 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 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.

Community 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 are always welcome.

For more information, please visit our website www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed or email theshed@mayfacs.org.uk

Our next Repair Café will take place at MAYFACS Shed on Saturday 18th January 2025 between 10am – 1pm (last repairs accepted 12.15pm) – please note no Café in December.

We welcome you to 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

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 5th December 2024 Christmas Bowling trip £17

Saturday 27th January 2025 Rotherfield Panto (Cinderella) £20

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

A Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all residents of Mayfield and Five Ashes.

2025/26 Precept

At its meeting on 11th November 2024 the Parish Council approved the 2025/26 budgets and voted for the precept to remain unchanged with no increase next financial year. However, it is anticipated that it will most likely have to be increased the following year as costs are rising quite considerably.

Within the budget came the approval of the following grants payable in 2025/26:

Mayfield Bonfire Society - £500

Five Ashes Village Hall - £500

Mayfield Band - £500

Kent Sussex & Surrey Air Ambulance £500

Wealden Citizen Advice - £500

TBW District Samaritans - £250

In addition to the above, annual grants of £150 are paid to each of the primary schools. Other contributions that have been approved in the budget are annual contributions of £5,250 to MAYFACS, £1,050 for the Bonfire Society towards next year's Bonfire Festival and £1,250 to the Parochial Church Council towards graveyard maintenance.

Christmas waste collections

Usual Collection Dates - Revised Collection Dates

Wednesday 25th December/Friday 27th December

Thursday 26th December/Saturday 28th December

Friday 27th December/Monday 30th December



Monday 30th December/Tuesday 31st December

Tuesday 31st December/Thursday 2nd January

Garden Waste collections are suspended from Wednesday 25th December 2024 and resume on your usual collection day, from Wednesday 8th January 2025.

Check your collection days online:

www.wealden.gov.uk. Extra recycling can be placed out in non-black plastic bags next to the recycling bin for collection (except for glass which should only be placed into the recycling bin). All your wrapping paper and cards (except foil/glitter) can be placed in the recycling bin. Recycle your real tree in your Garden Waste Bin. (See information on The Mayfieldians recycling service in this Newsletter.)

Community Speed Watch

There is a newly formed Community Speed Watch for the Parish comprised of local residents who have kindly volunteered their time to take the training courses and to carry out speed checks. At the time of writing this article there had been two sessions in Five Ashes and one in Mayfield. There have been a surprising number of offenders caught speeding in excess of the speed limits.

Children's Roundabout At Court Meadow

Following the antisocial behaviour and fire damage, the central area of the children's roundabout has been made safe so no fibreglass splinters can harm little fingers. The delay in repairs is due to trying to locate spare parts. Unfortunately, it these

are now obsolete so the plan will be to get the whole piece of equipment replaced. An insurance claim will be made to assist with the funding as the costs will be significant.

Booking System Consultation - Household Waste Recycling Sites

East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is seeking views on proposals to introduce a booking system at household waste recycling sites across the county. The proposals are part of the authority's work to identify areas where savings can be made to address an expected £55 million funding gap next year.

The consultation runs for eight weeks, closing on Sunday, December 22nd 2024.

ESCC informs that the move could reduce queuing at sites, help save as much £50,000 a year and ensure only residents' waste is being disposed.

They also inform experience of neighbouring County Councils is that booking systems have provided a range of benefits to residents, including:

less queuing, particularly at sites that can get very busy; less traffic at and around the Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRSs), because customers take their waste in bulk and visit less often; reduced crowding within the HWRSs; less disruption to customers as site servicing can be planned around customer demand; residents have been able to plan their time more effectively with the certainty of a booking and less chance of getting caught in a queue; a deterrent to traders who try to tip business waste for free at our sites - a cost unfortunately passed on to the taxpayer / resident; allows staff to concentrate more on managing the site and less on managing queuing traffic.

Newsletter readers should consider whether would like to see this introduced or whether they would prefer the convenience to be able to continue to visit household recycling sites spontaneously. The consultation will run for eight weeks, closing on Sunday, December 22nd. For more information: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk> You will need to click on "See all open consultations".

Roadworks Information - A267 Argos Hill And B2101 Bicycle Arms Road, Rotherfield

Balfour Beatty will be carrying out drainage investigation works on the A267 Argos Hill and B2101 Bicycle Arms Road. The works will be carried out on Monday 9th December 2024 to Thursday 12th December 2024 between 9am and 4pm.

The work involves CCTV surveys of the underground drainage system so they will also be using high pressured water to clear the pipework.

The team will start work outside property 'Gables Cottage' and continue approximately 500 metres South to outside property 'Green Ridge'. They will also be working from the junction with Argos Hill and Bicycle Arms Road. The roads will remain open with temporary traffic signals in place whilst the work is undertaken.

All of these works are subject to favourable weather conditions, for example heavy rain may affect the progress of the works. Also, it can be a noisy process and there may be flashing lights and reversing sirens.

Wealden Community Grants Programme

As mentioned last month, the Wealden Community Grants Programme has launched to fund services and activities supporting residents living in the district.

Organisations and community groups across the Wealden district are being invited to apply for grants, which have been made available through Wealden District Council's budget and supports the priorities within the new Wealden District Council Strategy. The council is asking not-for-profit organisations, such as charities, community and voluntary groups, community interest companies and more to apply. Organisations will need 50% match funding, which can include in-kind and/or cash match funding. The deadline for applications is 4th December 2024. For more information visit:

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/community-and-safety/information-on-grant-funding/community-grants-programme/>

Office closure over Christmas

The Parish Council office will be closed from 23rd December and will reopen as usual at 9am on Monday 6th January 2025.

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

E-mail:

clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

OPEN FORUM

OPEN LETTER FROM MARY PENNINGTON

I was watching the King and Queen arriving in Sydney and attending Morning Service in North Sydney recently. My memories flashed back nearly 80 years ago to St. Thomas' Anglican Church in that very city, where my father had been Churchwarden for many years and where my brother and I were christened as babies.

Sure enough, shown on the next news bulletin was the very same pillar that I had stood behind for four years, and the sloping lawns where we enjoyed our farewell service in 1948, leaving for England, and the year of Prince Charles' birth. Déjà vu!

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
	St. Dunstan's Bellringers Practice	8pm - 9.15pm
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

DECEMBER

Sunday until 8th	1	Angel Festival	St Denys Rotherfield - 12-16.30 Sundays, 10.30-16.30 other days
Sunday	1	Candlelit Advent Carol Service	St Dunstan's 6pm
Tuesday	3	Coffee and Chat	Cottage Hospice 3pm
Friday	6	Talk: 'An Avalanche of Angels' Imogen Corrigan	St Denys' Rotherfield - 6pm
Friday	6	Film on Friday - the Truffle Hunters	Five Ashes Hall 7.45pm
Saturday	7	Christmas Market	St Dunstan's 10am-2pm
Saturday	7	Mayfield Band Christmas Carols	High St. 11am
Wednesday	11	Hearing Aid Maintenance at Mayfacs	London House 10.30-12.00
Friday	13	Christmas Bingo, Mayfacs	Five Ashes Village Hall 7pm
Saturday	14	Senior Citizens Christmas Party	Colkins Mill Church, 1pm
Saturday	14	Handel's Messiah with London Mozart Players	St Dunstan's 7.30pm
Sunday	15	Live Crib procession and service	6.30pm from Old Bank, High St.
Monday	16	Live crib procession and service	6.30pm from Old Bank, High St.
Wednesday	18	Live crib procession and service	6.30pm from Old Bank, High St.
Friday	20	Mayzing and Volya Concert	Crowborough Community Centre 7.30pm
Saturday	21	Mayfield Band Christmas Carols	High St. 11am and Rose and Crown 7.30pm
Saturday	21	CAFOD Coffee Morning	10.30-12.30 Mayfield Girls School Courtyard
Sunday	22	Candlelit Carol Service	St Dunstan's 6pm
Tuesday Christmas Eve	24	Mayfield Band at Jarvis Brook Tesco Cristingle at St Dunstan's Christmas Midnight mass Mayfield school chapel Midnight Mass St Dunstan's	10.30am 5pm 8.30 pm carols 9pm Mass 11pm
Wednesday Christmas Day	25	Mass Christmas Morning Communion	St Thomas' Church 9am St. Dunstan's Church 10.15am



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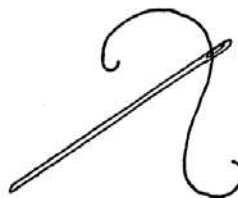
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