

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front cover: Mayfield CE Primary School Nativity Play

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

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



The Newsletter team sends their very warmest wishes to you all for a peaceful, happy and healthy 2025. We all hope that you enjoy this January edition of your Newsletter. It is brimful with heartwarming articles, featuring reports on recent past events, upcoming talks, meetings and general events as well as wonderful photographs, some taken by local residents and some by our very



talented Photo Editor, Julie Salwey, who can often be seen around and about trying to get into the very best position for “the” shot of the month! And don’t forget to check out all the advertisements in the second half of your Newsletter. They are, in the main, local businesses who rely on local work. Please do support them.

Jeanette Hore & Philip James

DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com by noon on the **15th of each 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

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** 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 for you 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.

LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BIG SWITCH-ON

Thank you to everyone who came to the High Street on Friday, 29th November to listen to the schoolchildren singing and the Mayfield Youth Band playing. It was a memorable evening with Santa's Grotto being a particular highlight for the children. It was an enchanted land so beautifully decorated by our creative team! Thank you to all the shops who opened their doors for this special evening as well.

FEATURES

THE MAYFIELDIANS

Making Christmas Happen

Living in Mayfield and Five Ashes, we have no excuse to be bored. There are so many different societies, clubs and events spread across the calendar year along with opportunities to help out, volunteer and take part. It could be said that one of the pinnacles of life in Mayfield is the turning on of the Christmas lights, Late Night Shopping and Santa's visit to his magical grotto in London House. This is in addition to the yearly Mayfair and one off events such as the Mayfest and the two recent street parties; celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and King Charles' Coronation the following year. None of this would be possible without the hard work and planning of the Mayfieldians, a group that evolved from the previous 'Mayfair Committee' and 'Mayfield Christmas Lights

Committee'. They are now a Community Interest Company (CIC) which was introduced by the government in 2005 'for people wishing to carry on activities for the benefit of the community'. The Mayfieldians have a core of five or six led by Ian Parker and around eighteen or so additional committee members. There are around 55 helpers who give a hand when they can and various subcommittees which focus on specific events. I was lucky that Marion Robinson agreed to be interviewed for this article as she has a wealth of knowledge and plays a large part in all the events throughout the year and was able to give me the low down on the Christmas Lights event and the very important organisation of Santa's Grotto.

This year is the third time that there has been a Grotto. It used to be run at Rosina's



and Rosemary would organise the presents for the children. Once she had retired, there were a few years when this tradition stopped until the Mayfieldians formed the Father Christmas subcommittee which consists of Vinny Lee, Sam Jarvis, June Thomas, Sue Hanley, Liz Junor, Jeanette Hore, Marion Robinson and Jo Eates. They meet up in September and start to plan. The first job is to source around 50 presents which then have to be wrapped; there are some for older children and some more suitable for under 2s. Vinny organises the Grotto, sourcing suitable material and all the Christmassy trimmings, most of which can be used again. The room is prepared the night before, turning the second room of London House into a magical, twinkling, snow covered wonderland with a large chair in the centre which rests expectantly for its very important visitor. The children prepare for their visit in a cosy sitting room, decorated and fitted out to look suitably warm and welcoming. While waiting with their parents, they listen to stories which helps create a calm and reassuring atmosphere. They spend between five and ten minutes in the Grotto chatting to Father Christmas and the Snow Queen. Most children are quite happy but the Snow Queen supports those who can sometimes be a little anxious. As well as a present from Father Christmas, they receive a goodie bag which includes chocolate coins and sweeties. The tickets cost £3.00 and are normally supplied by the Post Office but this year Blackbird kindly stepped in.

Father Christmas has a busy evening but is helped by his wife Mother Christmas who welcomes the children and also the Snow Queen who sits with him in the Grotto which opens for visits at 3pm. Father Christmas has a short break when he leads the Mayfield Band through the village followed by children from all three schools; Mayfield Primary, Five Ashes and Skippers Hill singing Jingle Bells at the tops of their voices. The evening continues for Santa as he returns to the Grotto until 8pm. 45 trees are cut to size by Sussex Trees in Five Ashes and are then decorated with lights and put up by a wonderful helpers



changing speed with the humidity. With the aid of the underfloor heating we warmed up, ringing rounds and call changes and finally rang down two sets of three bells in peel. We drove on to Newick via a drive-through café which was interesting.

St. Mary's Church in Newick is an old church but under the Rector, Thomas Baden Powell (1818-1868), was extended and redecorated in the neo gothic style. It is pristine and has the lightest peel of bells in Sussex.

They sounded beautiful –

group. They are turned on at 6.30pm. We are now all ready to celebrate and to be thankful for living in such an amazing village with people like the Mayfieldians who are so good at making things happen.

Barbara Murray

ST. DUNSTAN'S BELLRINGERS TOWER TOUR

On the morning of Saturday 9th November, St. Dunstan's Bellringers set off to ring in five church towers, all on the south-west side of Ashdown Forest. The tour had been organised by Barry Humphreys, who had scouted the route earlier and received permission from the various churches.

At the first tower, St. Bartholemew's Church, Maresfield, we were met by Mike who is the only bellringer at the Church. There are eight bells. The original six bells were cast in 1750 by Rudhall of Gloucester. In 1950 the 'Tenor' and '2' were added from Whitechapel. It is a ground floor ring. The sallies were brown. Mike rings the '6' on Sundays which weighs 800 cwt. A man called Richard came in to watch. Richard is responsible for the church clock and explained how temperamental it was -

clarion not tinny. The 6 bells are rung from the ground floor. They had new ropes with green, blue, and red striped sallies. We were introduced to them by Julien Avis who is fourth generation Tower Captain. The Tenor bell was half muffled in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. The Flower Guild were busy with poppies. We rang Jokers and there was mild disagreement over the church's decoration.

St. Margaret's Church, West Hoathly, was also mid-decoration for Remembrance Sunday. The flower ladies gave us a tour of the church with especial attention to an enamelled brass war memorial set in a polished Sussex marble frame. There was a beautiful altar frontal, vestiges of medieval wall paintings and wonderful squat pillars in the nave. To get to the ringing chamber we had to climb up a wooden staircase behind the organ loft. The chamber was made even smaller by the stair access and the clock mechanism housing. To ring the Tenor you could polish the wall with your shoulder. The six bells had purple and white sallies and numbered mats on the floor. All six bells were half muffled for the

following day when six of their own ringers would be using them. We were told the bells had 'Hastings' stays – meaning the ash stays have a metal tip called a 'dingler.' The half-muffled bells gave clarity to our rounds. We finished, returned down the stairs, and found the church dark, peaceful and the flower ladies gone.

Light was fading as we arrived at All Saints Church in Danehill, an enormous late nineteenth century church above the village. The ringing chamber, reached by a tall stone spiral staircase, was high up in the tower. The six bells were easy to ring with green and white sallies and numbered mats. We rang rounds and Plain Hunt on 5, admired the bells generally and admired the clock mechanism which had a miniature clock face display in reverse. From the chamber there was a small peep hole into the nave, dark below us.

It was now dark and we got to the church of SS Andrew and Mary the Virgin in Fletching. The church was warm, clean, and glowing with light but this was not where we would be ringing. The ringing chamber at the base of the tower was accessed from the outside. Inside, the tower had massive cross bracings, and 18th century slate memorials. The eight bells had blue, red, and white sallies and were not muffled. We rang six of them while the tower creaked and groaned above us.

We finished with supper at the Hare & Hounds in Framfield. All day we had received generosity, enthusiasm, and trust from complete strangers in their churches and bell towers. Our thanks to Barry for organising such an enjoyable and fascinating day, and to all those we met who welcomed us into their churches and to ring their bells.

Tom Treherne

MEMORY LANE

Recently I was lent a copy of a Mayfield Directory and Guidebook of 1939 which contains some intriguing facts about this village which others may also recall. At this time there were several organisations which are now obsolete. One was the local branch of the Peanuts Club, a voluntary organisation, dedicated to raising money to enable poorer residents of the Parish to receive free treatment at the Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells, which had opened a few years earlier. This was under a Honeycomb Scheme which operated in other parishes. It was of course some years before the National Health Service was introduced.

There was also an R.A.O.B.* which held meetings at the Rose and Crown Hotel, and which had an Honorary Secretary. Any suggestions on what this was?). There was the Mayfield Conservative and Unionist Association, Mayfield Tenants Ltd., Mayfield Mothers Union, the Mothers Convalescent Home, the Quoits Club, Mayfield Foresters Benefit Society, and Mayfield Chapel also had a Benefit Society. There was also the Mayfield Girls Friendly Society which somebody I spoke to remembers. I wonder for how long these organisations survived.

There was a drama club which continued for some years before lapsing; this was revived for a few years in the 1980s and 90s as the Mayfield Players. The W.I. was already going at this time as was a Woman's League of Health and Beauty. Several other organisations listed are still also with us today. There were many businesses running which older residents can probably recall, among them A.J. Russell (Butchers), Collins and Gray, G.J. Rogers, Lesters (Bakers and Tea Room). and G.H. Evans and Co. Curiously there

was a photographic specialist operating from the Brew House! Of course, The Middle House is advertised as well as the Royal Oak which mentions only lunches and teas, but no mention of alcoholic beverages. Many of the residents' names are listed which are totally unfamiliar to me and I don't recall my parents mentioning them. Interestingly a great many of the house-names have remained unchanged to this day. A few of the residents I knew, and who are listed, still lived in these houses up until the 1970s. I see that a G.M. Vaughan-Williams lived in Meres Lane, Five Ashes and I have heard it said that when the Convent school built its concert hall just before the War, the celebrated Ralph Vaughan-Williams was one of the first to perform there. I note that the word "Miss" appears before many of the names listed - a sad legacy no

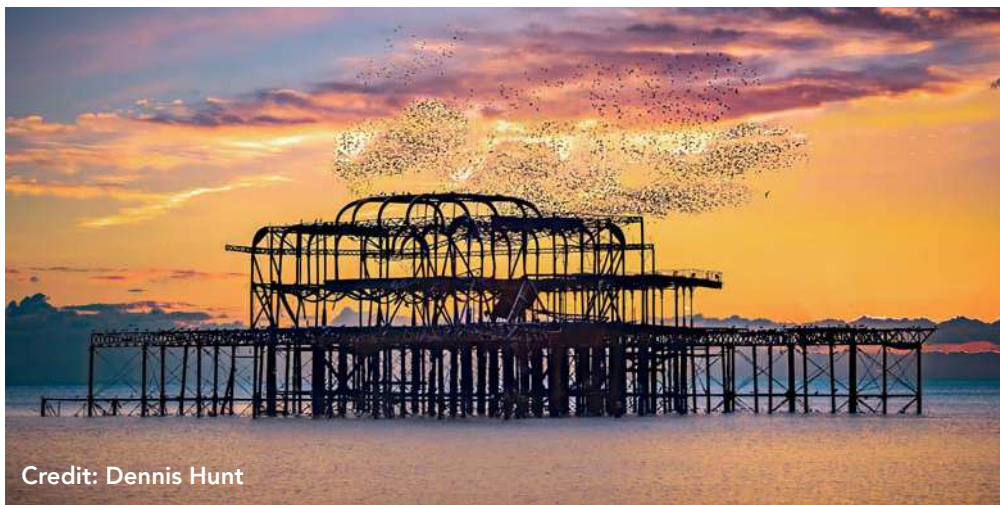
doubt of the Great War. The Bus and Railway times are listed showing a frequent service, although the bus routes from Mayfield to Tunbridge Wells appear to terminate only at the railway station (no mention of Five Ways). There were many footpaths existing at this time, but I don't know how many have survived. Disappointingly there are few photographs but I believe this publication was an annual one, and no doubt there are others lying around in different homes. Does anyone know when these publications ceased to exist?

Cynthia M. Baker

***Note from the Editors:**

The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) is one of the largest fraternal movements in the United Kingdom. The order started in 1822 and has since spread throughout the





Credit: Dennis Hunt

former British Empire and elsewhere in the world. It is known as the "Bufs" to members. Buffalo Lodges have existed widely throughout the former British Empire. Buffalo lodges have also existed in other countries not associated with the Empire.

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST A CASE OF THE NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope you all celebrated the festive period with cheer and are still basking in the twinkly afterglow, hoovering up remaining treats and reminiscing over time spent with loved ones.

As that sparkle fades to a glimmer, don't give in to that looming January chasm of grey-blue doom. Instead, focus on the new. Think of Month 01 as a springboard for all the things that await you this new year; new wildlife, new experiences, new Parish magazine article authors... and, with that shameful segue, let me introduce myself.

I'm Kerry, 'Communications Officer – Conservation' for Sussex Wildlife Trust. My role consists of running the Trust's wildlife information advice service, WildCall, and also writing content for blogs, our website, and social media.

In December, Michael Blencowe signed off with his last Parish Magazine article about footprints, fittingly leaving me with mighty big shoes to fill. Flicking back through the past library has been a wonderful read, and considering Michael's term of seven years (!), it's a challenge to find a fresh new topic he has not covered. As it's a new year, how about Newness itself?

So, to January newness. I'm looking forward to fieldfares and redwings delicately tweezing berries from treetops. Huddling on Brighton Pier, amid ghost train squeals and the smell of sweet doughnuts, to watch Starlings sky-dance. Drops of snow and Snowdrops. Chilly stomps up the Downs, on roaring fire Sundays.

From now on, the days ever so slowly get longer again, giving more precious minutes to get out there and explore. Last year I visited Ebernoe for the first time, searching for Fungi in early autumn. I look forward to heading back to experience its Old-England-come-fairy-whimsy in the crunching frost. I'll head back to Rye Harbour to hole up in hides, be-gloved and binocularled, to spot winter waders and hovering Marsh Harriers.

I will search for paw and hoof prints in the snow or the mud. I'll be vigilant for too-witting and wooing Tawny Owls and scan darkened woodlands to see one; I never seem to succeed, but maybe this is my year. Whatever you choose to do with this often-condemned-as-miserable month, I hope it instead brings you joy. Let your only January blues be that of the sea and sky. Here's to 2025!

Kerry Williams: Communications Officer – Conservation

ANALOGUE TELEPHONE SWITCH-OFF AND DIGITAL MIGRATION TO FULL FIBRE BROADBAND

You may have heard that the U.K.'s analogue phone networks are being switched off to be replaced by digital technology. The government says that most customers are expected to have made this transition by the end of January 2027. This date has been moved back more than once. It was originally 2025. The switch off is an industrywide change but timescales may vary by service provider. BT expects all customers to be moved to the new system by the end of January 2027. The switch will use an Internet connection to upgrade landline services to digital technology, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), digital voice, capitalise digital voice or All-IP telephony. You don't need to do anything until your provider contacts you to let you know when the switch will happen. You can also move to a VoIP service now by upgrading to a new phone and broadband package. There is government guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines#details>

The Government is aware that there are vulnerable individuals who require special attention. Since digital telephony depends on an electricity supply, if there is a power cut any new digital landline will not work. Those especially who may need to be able to contact emergency services or summon assistance urgently, perhaps through age or infirmity, will need to have a mobile phone and a reasonable mobile signal inside their home. For the switchover to be effective, it is essential that there is adequate mobile service with a strong signal and preferably fibre broadband installed. You are probably aware that much of Mayfield and Five Ashes has a patchy mobile signal and few properties have full fibre to the property (FTTP).

These issues have been discussed by the Parish Council's Community Development Committee and we are now trying to ensure that the mobile signal is improved so that a full 5G signal is widely available. We are also pushing for the rollout of FTTP Internet connections. The decision-making for the installation of full fibre is shrouded in mystery caused by Openreach's very successful policy of not allowing direct communication, other than through a generic web enquiry form, responses to which are usually ignored. As a result of many and continuing frustrating efforts to make progress, we are now enlisting the support of Nus Ghani MP and Wealden and County Councillors, all of whom have expressed their willingness to help. It is hoped that a group of determined representatives may be able to move things forward for the benefit of us all in our lovely villages.

Councillor Rodney Warren

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

This term we have been in full glitter and paint season; the children have loved exploring the textures of lots of different materials in their craft making. We used our fine and gross motor skills decorating wallpaper making patterns using brushes/hands - so much fun. We have been busy decorating our Christmas tree and learning a poem and some Christmas songs to sing to our families.

The children have loved the recent wet weather. They have made huge puddles by moving the water around to make big muddy puddles to jump in and lots of mess



We got into festive spirits with the Hoe(HoHo)down after the Christmas lights village switch on Friday 29th November. Everyone had great fun and a whopping £468 was raised; vital funds to keep our amazing Pre-School running. Thank you so much to everyone who came along, bought a raffle ticket or volunteered on the night. We couldn't have done it without you!

In November a new Deputy Manager, Kerry Abbott, was appointed. Kerry is a long established member of the team. Congratulations Kerry!

Our first fundraising event of 2025 will be a jumble sale so please keep us in mind when you are having a clear out after the festive period! More details to follow.

We wish you all a very happy New Year.

FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are in full festive mode here at Five Ashes with Willow, our youngest class, performing their nativity at the Village Hall. It was truly magical and Maple class were brilliant in supporting the younger children with the songs. Maple class had a really interesting trip to Brighton Sealife Centre, where the children took part in a workshop about climate change.

Many of the children also sang beautifully with Mayfield Primary School to celebrate the turning on of the High Street Christmas lights which the children really enjoyed. The playground has been given a lovely facelift with a fantastic new Trim Trail, which the children are absolutely loving at play and lunch times. Young at Heart have also visited and enjoyed a dress rehearsal of our Nativity. Our Oak class will be





performing at Glyndebourne in a very special carol concert and the whole school will also be going to 'Aladdin' at Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall. We will also be having our Christmas Lunch and a joint Christmas Service at St. Dunstan's with Mayfield Primary School. A primary school is a special place to be during the Christmas period and the magic of Christmas is truly alive. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Darren Gurr, Head of School

SKIPPERS HILL MANOR PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Recently our children in Years 6, 7 and 8 were treated to an all-day law workshop led by James from All Rise Workshops.

The day consisted of an immersive and engaging introduction to law, the role it plays in our everyday lives and how the justice system works.



The children learnt how laws are created, the importance of evidence and how to assess it, the criminal legal system, sentencing and how the parole system works.

The children worked well in groups where they developed their problem-solving, creativity, team-working and critical reasoning skills as well as the importance of oracy through fun and interactive activities.

Frances Plummer Marketing and Admissions
Tel: **01825 830 234**

E-mail: frances.plummer@skippershill.com





MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children in Robins and Wagtails classes have been working hard this term preparing for their nativity show and we can't wait to show everyone all our hard work!

Katie Hawkridge



MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

We are delighted to announce Mayfield Girls School has been rated "Outstanding" by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. The report describes Mayfield as an "exceptionally joyful and supportive school," where "students feel

empowered to strive to be the best they can be in all elements of their lives.” The report goes on to say, “Kindness, welcome and respect are the golden threads of the school.” The full report can be found on our website:

mayfieldgirls.org/about/inspection-reports



Charity Fashion Show

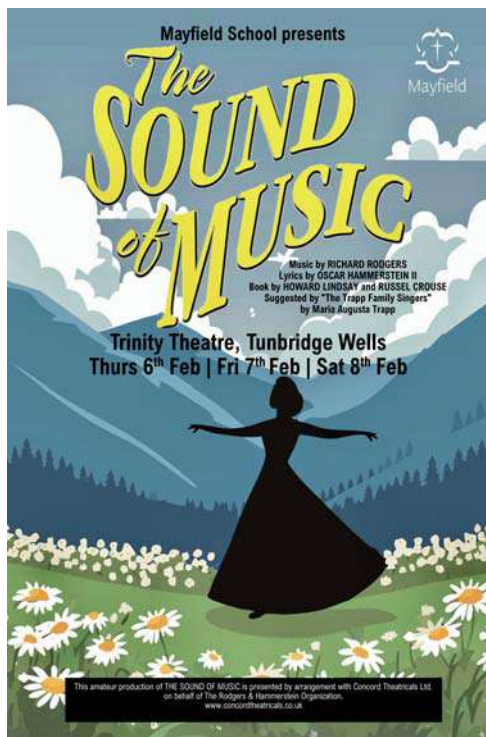
A big thank you to everyone who kindly donated to Hospice in the Weald at our recent Charity Fashion Show. The show, organised by Lydia and Emma in Year 13, raised an impressive £1,500 for the local charity!

Sound of Music

We are thrilled to present The Sound of Music: School Edition—a timeless musical celebrating love, family, and courage. This much-loved classic will take to the stage at Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, in February 2025, marking our exciting return for a second year. Featuring iconic songs like Do-Re-Mi and My Favourite Things, this enchanting production is perfect for audiences of all ages. Don’t miss the magic! Book your seats now at trinitytheatre.net

Dates for the Diary

Mass, Mayfield School Chapel, Tuesday 14th, 21st, 28th January 6pm– all welcome.



OUR CHURCHES

COLKINS MILL

Very best wishes to all readers for a Happy New Year from friends at Colkins Mill Church. Any resolutions this year? Common ones apparently include losing weight, getting fit, paying off debts, enjoying life more... I hope I am not alone in invariably abandoning my resolutions within a couple of weeks. This year I've remembered some advice that the apostle Paul gave to Christians, recommending a more regular pattern of resolve rather than something new and dramatic. He wrote to Christians in Galatia "walk by the Spirit... live by the Spirit... keep in step with the Spirit". I rather like this picture of keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. It may sound more pedestrian, but it takes following the way of Jesus into every part of our day and every part of life. It surely fosters goodness, purpose, kindness and hope. A life-long walk of change for the better! **Steve Harland**
contact@colkinsmillchurch.rg.uk

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2025 Mass times in January

Sunday 5th January 10.00am

Saturday 11th January 6.00pm

Sunday 19th January 10.00 am

Saturday 25th January 6.00pm

You are welcome to join us and please stay for coffee after the Sunday Masses.

For further information, see the parish website www.stthomasmayfield.org.uk

Mary Brentnall

ST. DUNSTAN'S

What a busy month December was here at St. Dunstan's. We do hope you were able to join us at some of our Christmas Events over the festive period.

Our Christmas Market took place on Saturday, 7th December and, whilst Storm Darragh raged outside, we were tucked up and cosy inside with an amazing range of local stallholders selling their wares. It was an amazing day, considering the weather, so thank you if you were able to come along and support us and our local stallholders. It was a great atmosphere and we managed to raise just under £2,500.



Credit: Sue Smith

Nicky Higgins
Parish Administrator

OUT NOW!

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES 2025 CALENDAR



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MAINTENANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, CHARITIES AND GOOD
CAUSES IN MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES**

YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

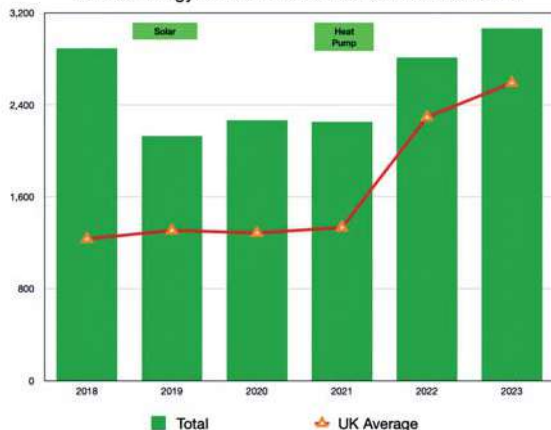
This year a few of us opened our homes during the Open Gardens Weekend to share our experiences of Eco-energy initiatives. It was a bit daunting to begin with, not knowing what visitors would be interested in, and whether they would ask any tricky technical questions. Instead, it was great to be able to share our experiences of the practical aspects of going green and to make some new friends. Questions ranged from seeing what a heat pump actually looks like, to how we use our battery storage, and which suppliers we used.



We have had a small installation of solar plus battery storage since 2019 and replaced our gas boiler with a heat pump in 2021. Only a small part of our roof is south facing, even so, with 8 panels we generate most of our needs in the summer months, and we have the addition of the battery charging up at cheap rate overnight and reducing our peak usage during the day.

Early heat pumps were noisy and not very efficient, and friends had had bad experiences. The newer ones are vastly different. Ours is sited next to our bedroom and doesn't disturb us at all. The heat pump operates at a lower temperature than a gas boiler, so you need good insulation and large radiators or underfloor heating. Our house was built in the 1920s and then extended. We already had cavity insulation and double glazing, and needed to

Annual Energy Costs £ - Before Government Subsidies



Catherine's cost savings



add only one extra radiator to the lounge. The installation was a big plumbing job, taking several days to make the switch. Our loft looks like the bridge of the starship Enterprise with all the fancy controls. The house now actually feels warmer than when we had the gas boiler. Instead of heating the house for part of the day, the system now keeps the house at a steady temperature, dropping just a couple of degrees overnight, and heating a full tank of water overnight using cheap rate.

We are now warmer and feeling glad that it's better for the environment. However, both the solar and heat pump were expensive to install, and it will take time to pay back, typically 7+ years. The massive increases in energy prices in recent years make it hard to know precisely what we have saved. In the 2022 energy price shock, average prices in the UK went up by 72% and ours only went up by 25%, plus we get funding from the Government, so we think our payback is nearer 5 years.

Catherine Hawley bonfire@gawain.online

ROUND AND ABOUT OUR VILLAGES

A CHRISTMAS CAROL COMES TO MAYFIELD

Our resident sword fighter, Amy Bolger-Floyd, is bringing their theatre company's acclaimed production of *A Christmas Carol* to Mayfield this festive season! This is the same company (Shadow Road) that opened the Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts with *Macbeth: Sleep No More* in April.

Date: Friday 3rd January - **Time:** 6.30pm

Location: Colkins Mill Church, Mayfield, TN20 6BT

www.ticketsource.co.uk/shadowroad



MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

We held two lovely festive events in December. Our annual Christmas Party for Senior Citizens took place at Colkins Mill, which was transformed into a winter wonderland with the generous loan of decorations from the Mayfieldians. This year the guests were treated to music from the Mayfield Band, including some of the youth band members, who played festive songs as well as special requests for favourite carols. We then served a turkey lunch, followed by mince pies and savoury treats made by our kind bakers. We were delighted to be joined by representatives from local charities to hand out cheques to Mayfield Scouts, Mayfield Youth Band, MAYFACS Sheddars and Mayfield Cricket Club. The Christmas lunch party and charity cheques were all funded by the collections of £1,800 taken in the buckets on Carnival Night. Thank you Mayfield residents for your generosity.

We also had a great drinks party at the Rose and Crown to say thank you to the dozens of people who help behind the scenes to put on your Carnival Procession, and would like to extend thanks to those who couldn't join us. As well as your small committee, it



takes around 60 people to raise funds, prepare the torches and run the processions, then to clear up afterwards. Thank you!

Last year we tried out some new ideas for fundraising, including our Open Gardens, where six generous supporters in The Warren shared their gardens and served tea and cakes on a rare sunny afternoon. In addition, Ian Bruce led the organisation of the excellent D-day Beacon and celebrations.

This year we will be organising a VE Day celebration for 8th May and will also be experimenting with more fundraising ideas. As well as our regular spring Quiz on 22nd February, look out for our next event of Snail Racing! Don't worry, no snails are harmed in the process, instead, it will be a hilarious take on a race night, a family-friendly evening with charming cartoon "racing" snails.

Meanwhile, we wish our friends, helpers and supporters a peaceful new year and look forward to seeing you soon. **Catherine Hawley** bonfire@gawain.online

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

We have received the good news that the National Lottery has agreed to provide funding of £250k towards the project in recognition of the importance of the combined Community and Health Centre to our community.

The project has now reached the end of RIBA stage 3, which means that the basic design and costing exercises undertaken by the contractor appointed for the Design stage of the Design and Build contract, Baxall Construction, have been completed. This has involved them in seeking estimates from a selection of sub-contractors, and investigating various further value engineering options.

The combined Wealden District Council (WDC) and Parish Council (PC) Project Board will have met in December, but at the time of writing, the outcome will not have been available in time to meet the deadline for publication. All being well, the project will be moving on to the next phase – RIBA stage 4. This stage involves the detailed specification of everything pertaining to the project and defines such things as the colour of the walls, type of flooring, location of power sockets etc.

Towards the end of Stage 4 formal competitive quotations for the various sub-contractor work packages will be obtained, which will generate the final project cost. Given acceptable quotes, the main contractor will then be formally appointed, who will subsequently appoint the various sub-contractors.

The plan is that, following a successful Project Board meeting in December 2024, planning permission will have been applied for just before Christmas. The outcome of the planning exercise determines exactly when the main contract can be placed. However, this cannot be awarded until planning permission has been successfully obtained, which in turn determines when project completion can be estimated.

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Happy New Year! Somewhat like Santa's elves but without the pointy hats, your Horticultural Society committee have been busy, busy, busy packing seeds and getting ready for our second Seedy Saturday community event on Saturday 1st February.

Fantastic and interesting seed donations from Chiltern Seeds, Heritage Seed Library, Marshalls, Plant World Seeds, Thompson + Morgan, Suttons, Real Seeds and Special Plants have been decanted into smaller seed envelopes so we can share the love. There are also seeds from our own gardens, members' gardens, and more to come from seed companies in January.

As well as all the popular herbs, annuals and veg, there are some really interesting perennials. Wildflower seeds will once again be available from the wonderful Cynthia. Plus seeds for pollinators, cut flower patches, edible flowers and companion plants. Cosmos has its own basket this year with many lovely varieties.

Entry is free, as are soft drinks and biscuits for children. If you don't have seeds to swap, no problem, we've got plenty. Donations not expected but appreciated. They help us cover our modest costs.

Seedy Cafe will be open with hot drinks and homemade cakes as well as a raffle with prizes for adults and children and Tessa is back with her fantastic seed sowing demos.

In our dedicated children's area, "Critters Corner", we're launching our annual children's Giant Sunflower Growing competition for our Summer Show. Seeds and growing instructions will be available along with other things to inspire our younger growers. Chiltern Seeds have generously donated a load of Mongolian Giant sunflower seeds for this year's competition. Plenty on offer for all ages. Whatever the weather, we'll be snug in the Scout Hall lifting the spirits and getting excited about spring.



Pop in to say hello at our Seed Swap & Social on Saturday 1st February in the Mayfield Scout Hall: 10am to 12.30pm.

Don't forget to keep taking your winter photos and sending them to Showcommittee@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk. You just might win a prize in the Summer Show!

Keep in touch with us at chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk or our website

www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

and on Facebook (Mayfield Horticultural Society page).

Sue Dickinson

MAYFIELD'S FOUNDER: A MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY TALK.
Wednesday 29th January 7.30pm for 8.00pm - Scout and Guide Hall

Few places were founded by Papal decree, but Mayfield was one of them. In 1260 AD a messenger from Rome arrived with a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, giving permission to build a manor in "his forest at Mawefeld". The same messenger also brought news of the canonisation of the Archbishop's Registrar, now known as Saint Richard, Patron Saint of Sussex.

The Archbishop was Boniface of Savoy, a man from the most powerful family in Europe. Mayfield was just a clearing in the huge Wealden forest, probably made by itinerant iron workers. He built the first stone church on the site of the decayed remains of Dunstan's wooden structure. Boniface built a farm and hospice to cater for his large travelling household and established a market. The village gradually grew up around the "Palace" as the Victorians called it. Boniface and his family established a dynasty in England, the physical remains of which are the Duchy of Lancaster, the Welsh Castles, the Savoy Hotel on their estate on the north bank of



the Thames in London and now the site of Mayfield Girls School.

Tim Cornish will flesh out this foundation and its founder, pose some questions and provide a few answers, designed to aid understanding of this special place and its remarkable early history. Tickets £5.00

Tim's book "Medieval Mayfield: Archbishops and Peasants" will be on sale on the night.

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Dutch Supper was as usual well supported and Mak Norman's talk on "Folk Songs from Sussex" was greatly enjoyed. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year and prepare for four excellent presentations in the New Year.

These will be:-

Wednesday, 29th January Boniface of Savoy, Tim Cornish (As described above)

Wednesday, 26th February - Ivan Donald Margary (1896-1976): Dr David Rudling

Wednesday, 26th March Children and the Poor Laws: Dr Mary Rudling

Wednesday 30th April The Inn Signs of Sussex - Dr Janet Pennington

Brian O'Connor, Chairman **873477**; **Jo Andrews**, Secretary

andrews@x1edy.co.uk; **John Buddle**, Treasurer **872229**

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



Soup and Social Lunch - 12th February

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 or telephone: **872130**

Centenary of the Formation of Mayfield & Five Ashes Branch in March 1925 –

Further information about how we intend to celebrate this notable centenary will follow soon. Meanwhile, we would like to include in this centenary celebration those who made this event possible – the various individuals who decided to form the Mayfield branch of the Royal British Legion all those years ago. Towards this aim we would like to share with you the following information.

From the Kent & Sussex Courier dated 27th March 1925 we learn Mr F H Nias presided and an address was given by General Sir Gerard Watson, GCB, CBE, MC at a meeting held at the Railway Hotel when the Mayfield Branch of The Royal British Legion was formed. It would therefore appear that General Watson was the prime

moving force behind the setting up of the Branch in Mayfield.

At that meeting the following were elected: President - Col. E Plismall; Chairman - Major V Stapleton-Bretherton; Secretary - Capt. C Reid; Treasurer - Mr C Spencer; Committee: Messrs: Hayes; Hart; J. Pierson; Pierson; T. Skinner; Harris; J. Taylor; Reed; Rummary; Miles; Barnes Relief Committee: Chairman:

Mr J Taylor; Secretary - Mr J Pierson

Your current committee are endeavouring to find out all we can about these individuals from various sources available to us. We would like information from family members who may have very interesting stories to tell and information about their forebears. Would you all please ask around your family and friends to see if any of these names are known to you. If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me or Brian Oldfield our Vice President on 692015, email glosbeebo@btinternet.com.

The Mayfield and Five Ashes Branch Website – We have an on-line facility which can be accessed at: <https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/mayfield>

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465
kevinswaine@btinternet.com

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

As a relatively small branch of the national organisation that is the U3A, we are really positive about the New Year to come. We have new members, new groups starting, and are looking forward to welcoming more.

Please visit our new website, which is www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield for more details, or contact our Chairman, Mary Brentnall at marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com.

Lost and Found, an Arctic Mystery - A talk by Michael Smith, acclaimed author and speaker – January 16th

Our first talk this year is about the ill-fated Franklin Expedition. Two well supplied ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, under the leadership of Captain Francis Crozier, set sail in 1845 in search of the Northwest Passage, but never returned. Many subsequent attempts to find them failed, but in 2014, the Erebus was found by an expedition led by Parks Canada.

As usual, we will meet in Five Ashes Village Hall, but at the new time of 2.30pm. Entry is free for our members and a small fee of £3.00 is charged for visitors, who are always welcome.

MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.

Our December meeting was our Christmas party when members gathered in their festive finery and shared a sumptuous collaboration of savoury and sweet dishes. We were entertained most delightfully and creatively 'in house' with a 'selection of Christmas whimsies' – readings, songs and sketches with a comic twist. We have some very talented ladies amongst us!

Donations were collected at the party for our chosen charity for this year which is Mayfield Pre-School and raised £265.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 14th January. This is entitled 'Exercise for Wellbeing', seated and standing exercises guided by yoga teacher Sarah Ratcliffe. This will be gentle movement designed to improve posture and maintain strength, including breathing exercises and relaxation techniques.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Colkins Mill Church. 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 AND FIVE ASHES POST OFFICE OPENS ITS DOORS AGAIN

Andrew Ratcliffe explains how it happened.



Credit: Sue Smith

The new Post Office in Mayfield High Street was officially opened by Emily Craig, the Double Sculls Olympic Gold medallist, on December 7th, albeit that the doors actually opened for business on Monday 25th November. Despite it being the wettest and windiest day in December (at the time of writing!), lots of people crammed into the fairly narrow space which is now the Post Office's home, (in a cordoned off section of Ted Handley's office, which he is kindly letting the Post Office use), and cheered the return of this much needed and used facility to our community.

Many of us will be aware of the huge effort that has gone into getting it back off the ground, especially when it has become so difficult to run and manage such an operation, with letters almost a thing of the past, so many benefits provided digitally, and all this combined with the demands imposed by the Post Office as an employer.

Leading the charge has, of course, been Andrew Ratcliffe, with his quiet and unassuming authority and dry sense of



Credit: Sue Smith

humour, which was very evident in his introductory remarks to the assembled company. When you realise that the previous Post Office only closed in May, it is no small feat to have managed to get it up and running in 6 months, given the financial backing required to ensure that such an operation is viable.

I was therefore really interested to hear from Andrew his personal 'take' on this achievement, and true to his word, he let me have it as follows:

"When I heard that the Post Office had closed in May, I knew something had to be done.

I used the Post Office a lot myself and it always struck me that people didn't mind being in the queue. I have subsequently read some research that found that, in a rural community, one in five people regard their Post Office as a social hub.

The same research also shows that one in three people who visit a Post Office then make a purchase in an adjoining shop. So, there was a real danger that, if we lost our Post Office permanently, we could start to

see the decline of the High Street, which is such an important part of Mayfield.

I had a long chat with Jo Eates, our Postmaster, who showed me the numbers. Despite its social and economic value to our village, a Post Office of our size does not receive enough commission from the transactions it does to be financially viable.

The only way forward was for this to be a community Post Office, owned by the community and which the community supports financially. I put a post on Facebook asking people to 'like' it if they would consider giving such support. I got 250 likes in 24 hours.

I knew I was on to something, so I found out about community benefit societies, the best vehicle for a community business. Ted Handley – bless him – volunteered that we could take part of his office. The Post Office agreed to treat this as a relocation of the old Post Office rather than opening a new one – something that saved us about six months.

From then on, it was all about getting on with it. Jo and I got a great team together

to help us – Freya Huxtable from MAYFACS; Shirley Holland who knows everyone; Kate Burgess who is a PR whizz and David Hathaway who used to help run post offices in a chain of stores. We got the plans prepared for separation of the premises and obtained Listed Building consent to attach the partitions to the 15th century beams. The Post Office did all the planning to move the safes and install the alarms. That all took to the end of October. Once completed, and only then, when there were no conditions left to meet, could we launch the fund raising. We started the work to get the premises ready at the same time. Ideally, we would have waited until we had the money in to pay for it, but we were determined to open before Christmas, so we took a bit of a flier and carried on.

We needn't have worried. The community has been magnificent. More than 150 local businesses and residents have put up the money to pay for our initial costs, and we have more than 80 standing orders to give us the continued funding we will need. The offer for community shares had to close at the beginning of December, but we are still accepting donations and standing orders.

The most important thing everyone can do, now we have the Post Office back and running, is to please use it. The more it is used, the more commission we will receive and the more commission we get, the more secure our future will be".

There you have it. Mayfield and Five Ashes are truly fortunate to have someone such as Andrew in our midst, who got on with it and took the action needed, despite it presenting as a formidable challenge. So don't just sit there. Make your donations! Our Post Office still needs financial support and will continue to do so, and more importantly, as the saying goes: "use

it or lose it". Never has that been truer than here and now in Mayfield and Five Ashes, and what a waste of time, money and effort losing it would be! See you in there!

Sue Smith

FUNDRAISING RACE NIGHT AT THE ROSE & CROWN

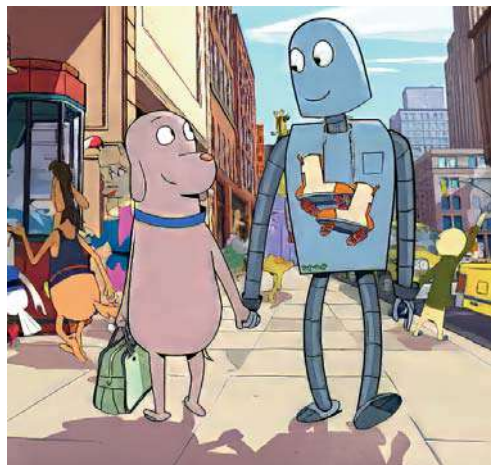
Richard and Sara Gladwish held a successful fundraising event on behalf of our new Post Office at the Rose & Crown. They thanked everyone who attended their charity race and commented that the support given made it a truly special event. They also thanked Des and Helen from Lakedown Brewery, not to mention Sid who ably assisted them, and their amazing staff for all their hard work in making the evening so much fun. They also thanked Lakedown for generously donating a cask of Kicking Donkey, with all proceeds going directly to the Post Office. It was a really fun evening.

FILM ON FRIDAY 25th SEASON

Five Ashes Village Hall.

Doors and licensed bar open 7.45pm, film starts 8.15pm.

ROBOT DREAMS – 10th January



Following the success of the canine-focused film we showed in December, we have another – but this time it is a joyous animation. Set in 1980s New York, where all the characters are animals, Dog is lonely, so he builds his own robot as a companion – echoes of last season's hit Brian and Charles. There is no dialogue but a banging soundtrack.

DRIVING MUM – 24th January



At last, a new Icelandic black comedy! A road movie in which an ageing, repressed bachelor tries to come to terms with lost opportunities and resolve his relationship with his mother. She is dead in the back seat but still talking to him.

Our leaflets are available from **THE POST OFFICE**, The House Café, MAYFACS, the telephone box in the High Street and our poster on the school railings. Our website, www.filmonfriday.org, has trailers for all our films and interviews with the directors and cast. If you would like to know more, email me on filmonfriday@gmail.com, or phone 873310; or just come along on one of our film nights. We are on Facebook and X at [@filmonfriday](https://www.facebook.com/filmonfriday).

Andrew Ratcliffe Chairman

MAYFIELD BAND AND MAYFIELD YOUTH BAND

Our Christmas concert this year was, for various reasons, an in-house affair. The band hut was transformed into an intimate

festive concert venue, and an audience of friends and family were invited to share a very special evening with us. We put the Youth Band and the Senior Band together, so that the kids could experience playing with a big band, and so that they could hear some of the senior band arrangements that they can expect to be playing themselves in a few years' time. We also enjoyed solos from Emily Harris and Elsie Palmer, aged 8 and 12 respectively, who despite having only been with us since the summer, were brave enough to perform in front of a crowd, and did so beautifully. A great future awaits them both.

The Pursglove Trophy for the most improved junior was awarded jointly to Harry Delstanche and Charles Sibley, and Harry Woodcroft received an award for turning up on his birthday - brass banding is all about commitment! The evening was capped off with a visit from Father Christmas, taking advantage of the fact that there were several children on the Nice list all gathered in the same place.

So that's that, and by the time you read this your living room floor will be carpeted with pine needles, and you'll be busy packaging up your returns or scouring the





hedgerows for those gifts that never quite made it to your doorstep. January has all the potential of being a gloomy time, and something of an anti-climax, but it doesn't have to be that way. It's a happy coincidence that at a time when you might be feeling a little low, the Mayfield Band just happens to be looking for the next generation of players, and if playing in a brass band doesn't lift your spirits, then nothing will. Trust me, I'm not a politician. Give me a call. Remember that we provide the instruments, so all you need to do is turn up. Adults and children are welcome. It remains only for me to wish you a Happy

New Year, which will be all the happier if you come and join us. **Simon Rudge 872007**
simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

HANDEL'S MESSIAH AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

If you were thinking of where you might experience a standing ovation, perhaps Carnegie Hall in New York would come to mind, or Lord's Cricket Ground. Those of us who attended this Messiah rightly gave one to the performers at the end of a magnificent evening's music.

The man at the centre of it all, bringing together three local choirs, a top London-based chamber orchestra and four young vocal soloists, was Conductor Jack Gonzalez-Harding, formerly of Burwash and Director of Music at St. Dunstan's, who will soon be known to a much wider audience. As he demonstrated in his recent harpsichord performance in Mayfield Baptist Chapel of Bach's Goldberg Variations, Harding has an instinctive feel for Baroque music. This was apparent in every detail, from the way he encouraged the London Mozart Players to shape their parts like a period ensemble to the vivid word-painting that we heard from the Choir. Rhythms were sharp and everything was kept on the move.



Credit: Simon Heaton

The contrast between Theano Papadaki's Soprano, with its bright colours and cutting edge, and Louisa Stuart-Smith's Mezzo, all darkness and eloquent expression, was ideal. Tenor Michael Lafferty appeared after an eleventh-hour search for a singer to replace Sebastian Hill, who was ill. He rushed over from Glyndebourne, having missed all the rehearsals, and somehow slotted in perfectly after a slightly hesitant start. George Robarts made the most of the opportunities given to the Bass soloist, bringing a chilling atmosphere to 'The people that walked in darkness'.

The Messiah is a long work and can have its less uplifting moments. It is of course traditionally performed at Christmas and there lies one of the problems. The most famous sections are found in Part I which tells the story Christ's birth, ending with the rousing 'His Yoke is easy and his burden is light'. Part 2 followed after an interval and recounts the events leading up to the Crucifixion. Even in a performance as good as this, it was evident that Handel's inspiration was not burning as brightly here, until our spirits were restored in the Hallelujah Chorus. Handel's training as an opera composer shows through in Part 3, as we celebrate the Resurrection with three festive numbers in which trumpets and drums are to the fore. Gonzalez-Harding was in his element here and a packed church responded in the only way possible. **Jonathan Zoob**

MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY

This year our December 9 holes of golf took place for the first time at Holtye Golf Club, followed by lunch at the Middle House and our AGM. Somehow we managed to find a window of clear blue skies and sunshine. The course was wet but playable.

5 teams of 4 players played a Texas Scramble, in which each of the 4 players takes their first shot at a hole and the team captain decides which shot to use (normally the furthest or best positioned shot). All 4 players then play their next shot from the chosen spot and so on until the ball is holed. The format should produce low scores because you are getting 4 attempts at each shot. The first group teed off. Two went right towards the woods. One went left towards the road. The other barely made it past the ladies' tee. You can see where this is heading. Despite the format encouraging birdies, none of the 5 teams finished under par. Some players rose magnificently to the challenge hitting their tee shot 200+ yards down the middle of the 9th fairway (well done John Collingwood). The rickety swings of others collapsed like ginger biscuits dunked in tea, resulting in a mediocre shot 20 yards into a bunker on the eighth hole (Rob Montagu). The upshot of all this is that the winning team of Chris Buck, Micky Mann, Adrian Underwood and Kelvin Paterson finished at level par.

We then adjourned to the Middle House for an excellent lunch. A brief AGM saw Committee members give their summaries of the year. Some reports were more intelligible than others (our Treasurer not only paid for the wine but gave it a good tasting). Andrew Burnett was elected as vice-captain for 2025, and Graham Smith is taking over as Handicap Secretary from Micky Mann, after over a decade of handicap cutting.. Finally, the winner of the Player Of The Year Trophy (for the best 4 round total across the year) was Rod Lunn. Our next event in January is at Lewes Golf Club. Venues and dates for 2025 can be found at our website mayfieldgolfingsociety.com. **Mark Hughes**

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 next get-together is 7th January.

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We have held our Schedule Meeting and have amended or changed definitions on several classes, whilst keeping the core classes the same. Whilst carrying out the review it is, in fact, remarkable what restrictions the Show date and the season of the year have on the variations of the classes.

We now look forward to 2025 and wish everybody a Happy New Year.

Graham Playfoot, 01825 830511

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD

On Saturday 7th December, Hospice in the Weald for Children transformed Pembury into a magical winter wonderland, bringing joy, comfort, and festive cheer to children with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses, and their families. The Christmas party was a celebration carefully crafted to ensure every moment was accessible, inclusive, and unforgettable. For families who often face barriers to attending events, the occasion provided a safe, familiar space where they could relax, connect with others, and enjoy the magic of the season together.

The Hospice was alive with festive activities, from crafting Christmas tree decorations to playing in the 'snow' with friendly polar bears and penguins. The enchanting 'magic carpet'—an interactive projection that responds to motion—offered endless fun and excitement for children of all abilities. No Christmas party would be complete without a visit from Santa himself, who delighted children with rides in his sleigh and the chance to capture those precious moments on camera. The building rang with laughter and the sounds of beloved Christmas songs created an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness.

Adding to the magic were entertainers from Embracing Arts, a theatre company specialising in inclusive theatrical experiences for children with special educational needs or life-limiting conditions. Hospice in the Weald for Children is dedicated to helping children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions make the most of every day with their families. Through a holistic approach, the team provides a range of tailored services, including respite care sessions at home, hospital visit support, talking therapies, memory-making, music therapy, and bereavement support.

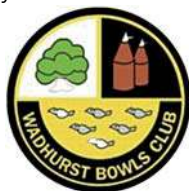
We believe in children being able to enjoy childhood as children, rather than as patients. Children, parents and siblings can benefit from the help that our friendly team of professionals provide. This includes home visits for respite care sessions, hospital visit support, individual and group talking therapies, tailored bereavement support, memory making, home music therapy, assistance for children at school, and practical and emotional support. We provide care and support between 08:00 – 18:00, Monday – Friday.

WADHURST WINDOW

WADHURST BOWLS

Wow, another year - Welcome to 2025 and all that it has in store for us!

But let's not ditch 2024 too quickly. awards presentation event at Dale November and they did us proud It was good to see old faces (and awarded to those lucky and competitions and plans were put Looking back, we remembered of the summer sunshine when only a bemoaning the terrible weather, the cold July and the non-stop rain – funny how short our memories can be!



We held our end of season lunch and Hill Golf Club at the very end of with a superb meal for 65 people. some not so old). Cups were gifted enough to win in place for the upcoming season. those halcyon days and the warmth few weeks before we had been

We have a Bingo Evening planned for later this month as a way of keeping in touch over the winter months. Our first ever and it's sure to be an interesting evening.....

Can you even still say 'two fat ladies - 88' or 'overweight - 28'? We may need to look again at 'old age pension - 65' and nowadays who will remember 'sunset strip - 77' or even 'Danny La Rue - 52'?

I can see us having to re-write Bingo-Lingo to bring it up to date and align with the politically correct world in which we now live.

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

www.wadhurstbc.com

Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

The Flower Club year of 2024 concluded in spectacular fashion with an extravagant array of floral designs created by National Demonstrator, Nick Grounds. Using a selection of hand- crafted containers and accessories Nick showed the guests how to use "Space" to create harmony and impact when arranging flowers. He also demonstrated many inventive methods of creating an arrangement without using floral foam.

The afternoon had begun with a two-course lunch prepared by members of the committee and ended with the fortunate raffle winners taking home some beautiful flowers.

The Club does not meet in January. The A.G.M. will be held on February 6th which will be followed by afternoon tea.

If you would like information about Wadhurst and District Flower Club please contact **Sonia 01892 785671**. New members are always welcome. A full programme of demonstrations and workshops has been organised for 2025 so why not come along as a guest and see for yourself how much pleasure there is to be found within the World of Flowers?

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 check phones occasionally during this time and dealing with URGENT enquiries only. Please do allow additional time for any requests if possible.

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

Fundraising Updates -Thanks to all those who came to our Christmas Bingo Fundraising Evening. We are so grateful for everyone's support.

Our next Fundraising event will be our **Paint and Sip** at The Middle House on **Wednesday 29th January**. Places are limited so please sign up ASAP if you would like to join us.

FREE Dementia Friends Training

MAYFACS have organised 3 sessions of Dementia Friends Training for anyone within our community to come along and

find out more about supporting people living with dementia. Whether you are caring for someone already, want to know more about how to support others, working for a local organisation or business, or it is something you would like to understand more about, join us for one of the FREE sessions in January and February and contact us to book your place. Join the millions of Dementia Friends across the country.

Little Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group. Returning Wednesday 8th January. 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 additional helpers to join our rota of volunteers in 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, but you are equally welcome to help if you do. All ages welcome.

Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance – Next session Wednesday 8th January 10.30am – 12pm

East Sussex Hearing are hosting monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance at MAYFACS office to provide support to Audiology patients, with the help of specially trained local volunteers. Drop by and find out what assistance they can offer (including battery replacements) or to where you can be signposted if they cannot manage your specific need.





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.

Friday Matinee Film programme - The season continues with our programme every fortnight at Five Ashes Village Hall. Transport is 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.

January 10th The Great Escaper (2023)

January 24th Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom

Support for All on our website www.mayfacs.org.uk We now have specific areas focusing on Youth Support and Dementia Support, available to everyone within our community and the surrounding area. 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.

Create @ The Shed Youth Sessions - Our next session takes place on Saturday 1st February 10am – 12.30pm for any young people (secondary school age suggested) 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 first 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 the 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 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 Shedders 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 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 – Trips 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 financial support, please talk to us in confidence.

Saturday 25th January Rotherfield Panto (Cinderella) £23

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. Contact clare@mayfacs.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council would like to send best wishes to all residents for the New Year!

The Parish Council was saddened to hear of the passing away of David Thompson, who was the Parish Clerk from 2005 to 2012, and that of Marianne Wapling who was one of the Council's Neighbourhood Watch coordinators on the Security Committee for many years. Our condolences go to their loved ones.



A267 Speed Reduction At Wellbrook Hill

Our East Sussex County Councillor, Anne Cross, was pleased to be able to inform that the speed reduction to 40mph on Wellbrook Hill is a step closer. It is expected that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be progressed in the second year of the County Council's programme for 2025/2026.

The current three-year speed management programme looked at 16 sites across East Sussex, three of which are in the Heathfield & Mayfield Division. All three reached the criteria for lowering speed limits. It includes the existing 40mph speed limit on the A267 at Five Ashes being extended to a point south of the A272 Summer Hill junction, and a 50mph speed limit be introduced between that point and the existing 40mph speed limit at Cross-in-Hand. The remaining section of the Battle Road past Heathfield through to Cade Street that is still National Speed Limit will also be reduced to 40mph.

A Traffic Regulation Order is a long process normally taking between six and nine months to complete due to the necessary consultations and pricing etc.

The Battle Road will be progressed in the first year and the speed limit reductions along the A267 in second year. So, a big thank you for everyone who signed the petition and thanks go to Cllrs Marlow, Tibbles and Cross for putting so much time and effort in pursuing this.

Holders Lane

You will be aware that Holders Lane is closed for access due to recent wind damage to the gable end of one of the adjacent properties. The end of the building is still unstable at time of writing and tiles continue to fall. The Parish Council would like to urge residents not to move the barriers and use the lane – they are there for your protection. Please use Star Lane for pedestrian access and the South Street/ West Street junction for vehicular access and the car park.

Mayfield On-Call Fire Station

The Parish Council is very disappointed that East Sussex Fire Authority decided on the closure and sale of the fire station site at its meeting on 5th December. The decision means the station's fire engine will be used as a spare appliance where required and its staff budget will be reinvested in operational firefighters.

The Chairman has written to the Chief Fire Officer to request information on whether the existing fire fighters will retain their jobs and if there will be a fire appliance in attendance at the annual Bonfire Festivals. A letter has also been written to the Chairman of the Fire Authority to express how outraged the Council is that a public authority has agreed to make such a profit from a site that was originally purchased

by East Sussex County Council for the benefit of the community. It is purported that the land has been valued at £500k without planning permission and £1M with planning permission for development - the Fire Authority has agreed to apply for planning permission.

Court Meadow

The hole that has opened up at Court Meadow opposite the play area needs investigation before it is filled. Please bear with us while the work is carried out and do not remove the safety barriers.

A reminder of the January waste collections:

Usual Collection Dates	Revised Collection Dates
Tuesday 31 st December	Thursday 2 nd January
Wednesday 1 st January	Friday 3 rd January
Thursday 2 nd January	Saturday 4 th January
Friday 3 rd January	Monday 6 th January
Monday 6 th January	Tuesday 7 th January
Tuesday 7 th January	Wednesday 8 th January
Wednesday 8 th January	Thursday 9 th January
Thursday 9 th January	Friday 10 th January
Friday 10 th January	Saturday 11 th January

Garden Waste collections will resume on your usual collection day from Wednesday 8th January 2025

Temporary Road Closure Warnings

The Wealden Clerks met last month and received a presentation from East Sussex Highways on their road maintenance. When asked why not all the road closure notices are being received, we were informed that Highways will now only be providing information on their own road

works. We will not be provided with any information from stakeholders such as BT Openreach or South East Water. The Clerks were not very impressed as the information has always been very useful for residents.

There is a website however where information on roadworks can be found - Causeway one.network is a platform used by road agencies to collaborate and communicate. It has over 20,000 operational users and many millions of public consumers that use the site for information on traffic operations across the UK. You can access their map using this link: <https://one.network> There is detailed information on road closure orders, the specific location of road works, what they are for and timings. Unfortunately as we will not be forewarned of up-coming works, it may not be until signs are installed that we know to look it up.

South East Water Road Closure Information

South East Water has informed that work on the new water main installation between Bewl Water Treatment Works and drinking water storage tanks in Wadhurst and Rotherfield will cease over the Christmas period and roads will be reopened in the week before Christmas. They will return to site on Thursday 2nd January 2025 then continue to work along the B2100 (Best Beech Hill and Wadhurst Road), Work will also continue in private land across the project area.

Keep Warm and Well in East Sussex

As it gets colder, Health and Social Care News East Sussex is encouraging you to wrap up and do all you can to stay warm and well over winter. If you're struggling to

stay warm at home then do look at the Warm Home Check Service, and how it can help people stay warm at home for less.

The East Sussex Warm Home Check service provides free impartial energy advice and support to help improve the energy efficiency of your home. The service can also provide free help including heating repairs and small home improvements for those who are eligible. In addition, low-income households who do not heat their homes using a gas boiler could also get current government grant funding for larger energy efficiency improvements.

Applications in East Sussex are open until the end of December. Find out more and apply on the website or by texting **WARM** to **80011** or by calling **0800 464 7307**. <https://warmeastsussex.org.uk>

On the website you can also sign up for free cold weather alerts. This is a FREE service provided by the Sussex Air Quality Partnership (Sussex-air) and funded by East Sussex Public Health. The service is operational between 1st November and 31st March, providing free severe cold weather warnings for individuals with respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, parents of young children, carers and healthcare professionals. The link for this is: <https://coldalert.info>

Wealden's Climate Green Paper

Earlier this year, Wealden District Council hosted a survey and three research reports which examined how climate change is likely to impact Wealden, how greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced and explored options for renewable energy.

The key themes were identified: Renewable Energy; Sustainable Transport; Biodiversity and Green Spaces; Community Engagement; Waste Reduction; Affordable Climate Solutions; Health and Lifestyle. They are asking for resident's feedback on the paper to formulate a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Wealden in 2025: <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/wealden-climate-green-paper> The survey will close Wednesday 12th February 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; 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
	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

JANUARY

Friday	3	A Christmas Carol	Colkins Mill Church, 6.30pm
Saturday	4	Christmas Trees Collection Point	Court Meadow, 10am-1pm
Tuesday	7	Tea & Chat	Cottage Hospice 3pm
Wednesday	8	Hearing Aid Maintenance at Mayfacs	London House 10.30-12.00
Friday	10	Film On Friday - Robot Dreams	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.45pm
Tuesday	14	Mayfield Evening W.I.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Thursday	16	Mayfield U3A Monthly Talk	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2.30pm
Friday	24	Film On Friday - Driving Mum	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.45pm
Wednesday	29	Mayfield Local History Society Talk	Scout Hut, 7.30pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday	1	Mayfield Horticultural Society Seedy Saturday	Scout Hut, 10am-12.30pm
Thursday	6	Wadhurst & District Flower Club	Stonegate Village Hall, 2pm
Tuesday	11	Mayfield Evening W.I.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Wednesday	12	Royal British Legion Soup and Social	Mayfield Cricket Club, midday - 2.30pm
Wednesday	26	Mayfield Local History Society Talk	Scout Hut, 7.30pm



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



Councillor contact details

Paul Amans

☎ 01435 872106
✉ paul.amans@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Tommy Buck

☎ 07718 787748
✉ tommy.buck@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Howard Blakebrough

☎ 07819 002139
✉ howard.blakebrough@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Andrew Burnett

☎ 07850 869881
✉ andrew.burnett@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Chris Dines

☎ 07557 238738
✉ chris.dines@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Jo Eates

☎ 07876 032656
✉ jo.eates@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Paul Jarvis

☎ 07730 382482
✉ paul.jarvis@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Martin Lawson

☎ 07776 137557
✉ martin.lawson@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Chris Lilly

☎ 01435 873631
✉ chris.lilly@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Joel Marlow

☎ 07969 078643
✉ joel.marlow@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Ian Parker

☎ 07971979137
✉ ian.parker@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Andrew Ratcliffe

☎ 01435 873310
✉ andrew.ratcliffe@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Raj Sharma

☎ 07532 003174
✉ raj.sharma@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

Sally-Ann Tibbles

☎ 01435 872469
✉ sally-ann.tibbles@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

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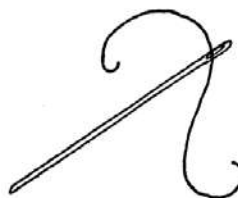
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