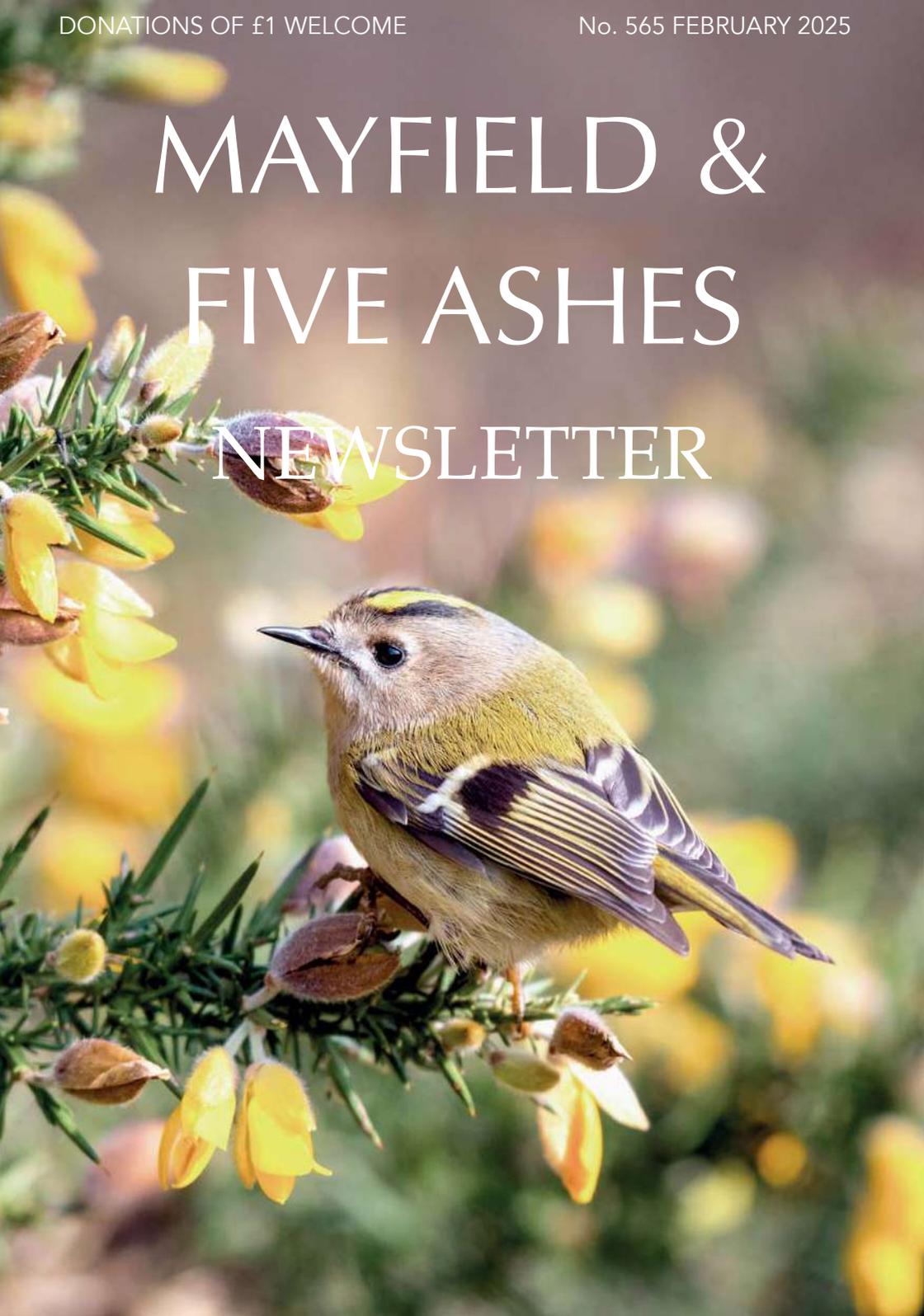


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No. 565 FEBRUARY 2025

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front Cover: Goldcrest by Piers Fearick

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

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome to your February edition of the Mayfield & Five Ashes Newsletter. As part of our campaign to promote and support all our local shops and businesses, we have included a comprehensive list of High Street shops and services. Please do read it - it might surprise you what Mayfield has to offer. Not only are we lucky enough to have a vibrant High Street but we also have many groups,



clubs and societies, many of whom send in regular reports of upcoming events which are included in the Diary at the end of the Newsletter. And finally, we should mention the wonderful team of teenagers, as well as the more mature parishioners, who helped many drivers facing difficulties in the recent snowy weather. They worked so hard and saved the day for many, who but for them would have had to have abandoned their cars causing even more chaos than there was. Also, we should mention the team who gritted the pavements in the High Street during this period. Thank you all.

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.

MORE USEFUL INFORMATION

NEAREST LIBRARY:

HEATHFIELD LIBRARY

21 High Street

Heathfield

TN21 8LU

Opening hours:

Monday 10am to 1pm

Tuesday 10am to 5pm

Wednesday Closed

Thursday 2pm to 6pm

Friday 10am to 4pm

Saturday 10am to 1pm

Sunday Closed

Phone Enquiries 10am to 5pm Monday to Saturday - 0345 6080196

CROWBOROUGH WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The minor injuries unit (MIU) at Crowborough War Memorial Hospital - Southview Road Crowborough TN6 1HB 01892 652284 open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week

UCKFIELD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) Uckfield Community Hospital Framfield Road Uckfield TN22 5AW Tel: 01825 721501 Monday to Sunday: 8.00am - 8.00pm

POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD

- **OPENING HOURS:** Monday - Friday 09.30 – 16.30; Saturday 09.30- 1pm.

Closed Sunday

NATWEST MOBILE BANKING SERVICE

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

BUS ROUTES

Mayfield, Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross – Route 51/251/252 (Eastbourne-Polegate-Hailsham-Heathfield-Mayfield-

Rotherfield-Town Row-Mark Cross-Tunbridge Wells). New hourly Monday to Saturday evening service to/from Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne. Service to be numbered route 51 throughout.

226 Mayfield to Crowborough Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Single trip to Crowborough is £2.00 and a return fare is £4.00 Concessionary passes are accepted on this service.

Departs from Southmead via the High Street then St. Thomas of Canterbury

Departs Southmead Arrives at Crowborough

10:16 10:47

12:16 12:45

Departs Crowborough Arrives at Southmead

11:45 12:16

13:15 13:46

29a - connects Heathfield and Brighton

231 between Etchingam and Heathfield

225 from Heathfield to Rushlake Green

MOTOR VEHICLES INFORMATION

MBS MERCEDES BENZ SPECIALISTS

Now moved to Wadhurst but will collect and deliver to/from Mayfield

Paul Emmett AMIMI Mobile: 07955 878 544 Email: paul@mbsmobile.co.uk

WELLBROOK MOTOR SERVICES Unit 3, Wellbrook Farm Berkley Road Mayfield TN20 6EH – Neale Robinson - 873568 MOTs and servicing undertaken

DC ENGINEERING – Vehicle Repairs - Pennybridge Lane, Mayfield, Dustin Barnes - 01435 873862 dceng2014@gmail.com

MAYFIELD GARAGE – second-hand vehicles sold – High Street, Mayfield, Phone 873286 / 07774 161007

FEATURES

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

The Little King

In this, our littlest month, I'd like to celebrate our littlest bird, the Goldcrest. Crowned with a yellow tuft, this aptly named species has an equally grand and, if you ask me, quite adorable, Latin name: *Regulus regulus*, or 'little king'.

At a mere 9cm in length, the Goldcrest weighs a featherlight 5-6 grams; the same as a 20 pence piece. Despite their size, Goldcrests are a surprisingly easy spot. A fan of coniferous and mixed woodland, these birds can often be seen zipping about in pairs in your local gardens, parks and nature reserves, picking morsels like spiders and moth eggs from tree needles with tiny expert beaks. Their characteristic squeaking refrain, a 'fiddle-di-di' on loop, is so high pitched that not everyone can hear it. If you think you hear one, stop, wait, and listen, as you will most likely hear it again.

The only real confusion species is the similarly diminutive Firecrest, *Regulus ignicapilla* (meaning 'fire-capped'). This rarer species, whilst sharing in the Goldcrest's olive-green plumage, has notable black lines around the head and eye. Think of the Goldcrest as having not yet applied its eyeliner. Following the on-point naming convention, the Firecrest has an orange crest. This creates an additional challenge for identification, as the male Goldcrest does have a line of orange feathers hidden within their crest, which they show during territorial displays.

Goldcrests breed around April time, creating intricately curated nests of moss, lichen and spider webs high in the treetops. Overall, Goldcrest numbers are stable, with a 600,000 strong breeding population throughout the UK. These are joined by a Scandinavian migratory population for the winter, boosting your chances of seeing one during the colder months.

Despite their success, Goldcrests are at risk from several threats. Their size means they are vulnerable in the cold weather, so the more erratic weather patterns we experience due to climate change, including unexpected cold snaps and storms, are a danger to these birds. As with all UK species, habitat loss is a problem, and in the Goldcrest's case this includes deforestation.

If you are walking in woodland and catch a glance of a little ball of energy in the treetops, try to spot them with binoculars to be rewarded with a millisecond's glance of their worried-looking little face, before they're off again, much to do. Heavy is the head that wears the crown.

Kerry Williams: Communications

Officer – Conservation



Credit: Firecrest by Martin Casemore

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME (PREVIOUSLY MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE)

Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Car Scheme is a service which provides transport to any medical appointment. MAYFACS organises this vital service. It is currently an answerphone service, which is checked regularly. More drivers are always needed so if you or someone you know would like to be involved they would love to hear from you.

Contact: Freya Huxtable on 07389 050605.

Read on to find out more about the service, what it does and how you can be involved.

History

The Community Car Service was started in 1999 by a dedicated group of local volunteers. These volunteers had previously been undertaking driving duties for the Red Cross but felt that the service they provided was too expensive and did not benefit our local residents as much as it should. This Car Service has proved invaluable to the residents of our two villages ever since its inception and was honoured to be given the prestigious Queen's Award for Community Service in 2005.

What does it provide?

The Car Service provides transport to any medical appointment, not only those at a doctor or hospital, but also includes dentist, optician or chiropodist. You need to live within the Parish of Mayfield and Five Ashes to be eligible to use the Car Service.

A door-to-door service is offered. The driver will pick you up at your home, take you to your appointment, stay with you whilst you are at the hospital, doctor's surgery, etc. and bring you back to your home. You may take a friend or relative along with you if you wish. All this is provided at a very modest cost.

Destinations

Local destinations include: Mayfield; Rotherfield; Crowborough; Pembury; Tunbridge Wells

Further afield destinations include: East Grinstead; Eastbourne; Hastings; Lewes; Maidstone; Central London

I have a disabled parking badge, can it be used?

Yes, it can. Please bring it with you if you are using Community Cars.

CONTACT DETAILS - Please ring 873888.

This is an answerphone service so please clearly leave your name, telephone number and brief details of the date you require transport and location and you will be called back to make arrangements.

PLEASE give as much notice as possible.

THE MAYFIELD TRUST

(Mayfield Charity - Registered Charity No 212996) - Located in Mayfield, East Sussex

How the Trust can help you

Subject to availability of funds the Mayfield Trust can offer grants to individuals or organisations for a variety of purposes related to health, social and educational needs. This could include purchase of medical or mobility equipment, helping with a family emergency or giving a grant to a playgroup. All requests by individuals are treated in strict confidence.

Restrictions affecting grants are:

The applicant must live within the ancient Parish of Mayfield, which includes Mayfield, Five Ashes and part of Hadlow Down.

We cannot give grants for religious or political purposes.

Grants are normally given on a one-off rather than an on-going basis.

Although we do not make detailed enquiries into people's financial circumstances, it is only fair that we direct our grants to those with a very limited budget.

How you can help the Trust

The Mayfield Trust is a very long-established body, having existed in various forms for about 230 years. Its funds

originate from money or property left in the wills of a number of benefactors, notably the Baker family.

If you feel you would like to commemorate your life in Mayfield what better way to do so than to leave a legacy to the Trust? The needs we have to meet may change over time – they do not diminish or cease.

For further information contact the Chairman or the Clerk.

Chairman - Mrs Joy Pettit, 3 Station Road, Mayfield TN20 6BL, 873231

Clerk - Mrs Hilary Hughes, 6 Richmead Gardens, Mayfield TN20 6DE, 07855 762097; hugheshilaryuk@gmail.com

OUR CHURCHES

COLKINS MILL

It's good to see the days getting a little longer again, and bulbs starting to show the promise of spring!

If I haven't said it before (I think I have!), everyone is welcome to come and visit Colkins Mill Church one Sunday. We serve a buffet breakfast from 10am every week for half an hour, and it's a lovely social time to catch up with one another, and visitors are always made welcome. The service starts at 10.30am and includes singing and prayers, a talk and communion twice a month. We have just started a series of teaching on the early life of David before he became King of Israel.

As well as Sundays, we have four mid-week fellowship groups meeting in people's homes. We also run mid-week clubs for young people from school year 4 upwards. Finally, we hold a lovely celebration for people with learning

disabilities once a month on a Sunday evening. If anyone is interested in any of these groups do get in touch.

Steve Harland

contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk website
colkinsmillchurch.org.uk

MAYFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

All are warmly welcome to join us for worship at the Chapel.

Our Sunday services are at 11:00am and 6:00pm; we meet on Tuesdays for prayer and bible study at 7:15pm.

Please visit our website for more information. Our Sunday services are also uploaded onto our YouTube page.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 7th March in St. Thomas' All are invited to join in an ecumenical service

written by Christian women in the Cook Islands. ALL WELCOME!

Further details in next month's Newsletter

ST. DUNSTAN'S

Services:

Sundays 10.15am: Sung Parish Eucharist;
6pm Choral Evensong – Sunday 23rd
February

Wednesday 10am: Said Communion

Said Eucharist, Chapel Of The Good Shepherd at The Cottage Hospice In Five Ashes at 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Sundays monthly

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Services: please see the parish website.

www.stthomasmayfield.org.uk; email

martin.georgeson@btinternet.com

872021

Father Patrick has returned to his Carmelite community and we would like to thank him for all he has done to strengthen our Faith over the past six years. We shall continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

We are entering an interim period and during this time, until the appointment of a new priest, the parish community will be welcomed in the Mayfield School chapel for the 11.30am Mass on a Sunday. We plan to hold services during the week at St. Thomas' and these will be advertised on the noticeboard outside the church.

Mary Brentnall

NEWS FROM NUS GHANI, MP FOR SUSSEX WEALD

I am always keen to ensure that our democracy and Parliament is as open as possible. There are several ways you can take advantage of the unique experience of exploring the beating heart of our democracy, and as your MP, I would be

happy to assist you in arranging a visit, free of charge. I am only able to assist with the booking of the tour itself and all travel to Parliament must be covered by visitors themselves separately. Palace of Westminster Tours: With the help of a tour guide, you can explore the House of Commons, House of Lords and Westminster Hall, where Parliament first sat. You will also get to see the Speaker's Chair, the famous green benches, the lobbies where votes take place, the Royal Throne in the House of Lords chamber, The King's Robing Room and other iconic spaces in this world-famous building. Tours last approximately 75 minutes and take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons when Parliament is sitting. Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) Tours: MPs only have a yearly allocation of eight tickets each to distribute to constituents free of charge, so you may be added to a waiting list. If you would rather book and pay for your own tickets, they are released to the general public to purchase on the second Wednesday of each month at £30 per adult. Big Ben tours run from Monday to Saturday, last approximately 1 hour 45 minutes, and you will be at the Belfry for the o'clock bongos. Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) tickets: Every Wednesday at noon, this 40-minute session is very popular and due to limited tickets, there is a several months' waiting list. However, if you register your interest, I will contact you when tickets become available. I am always delighted to welcome local residents to Parliament for a first-hand experience of our democracy. If you are interested in any of the above, please get in touch with me via my website www.nusghani.org.uk/visitparliament and I will be happy to assist.

YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

MAYFIELD CLIMATE ACTION

2025 begins with the welcome news that Mayfield Girls School has published its promised Lighting Plan for the period to 2030. The overarching intention is to introduce lower energy units with improved orientation, so light is focused where it's needed, minimising the impact on neighbours and the wider night sky. Most immediately, one of the two ultra-bright north-facing floodlights over the Ceramics building has already been decommissioned and the second will follow as soon as bollard lights have been installed alongside the new Wellbeing Centre. A continuous programme of improvement is planned in accordance with High Weald National Landscape advice and the Parish Council's statement on dark skies, consistent with the safety of all using the site. Copies of the Plan are available from mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com on request.

On the evening of 29th January, MCA's Community Forum (open to all) will meet at Wadhurst Park to learn more about renewable energy and the associated need for an increase in transmission capacity. We typically think of this in terms of giant pylons defacing beautiful countryside and that is indeed an issue. Less recognised, but of growing importance, private households are developing the ability to generate and store significant amounts of electricity, including car batteries, opening up the prospect of a much more local component to grid distribution. To help us understand the potential of this exciting new world, we are lucky to have Dan Hamza-Goodacre joining us to talk about "Public participation in the UK electricity system: opportunities, benefits and behaviours." Dan has 26 years' experience in the sector, so is well placed to explain what the future might hold. Contact mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Finally, Jan Rich will be taking over responsibility for Mayfield Climate Action in February. Jan has a lifelong interest in the environment, is keen to broaden engagement in taking steps to reduce Mayfield's environmental footprint and can be contacted via MCA's email address.

JAN RICH - NEW IDEAS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In February, John Murray is standing down from Mayfield Climate Action and is to be replaced by Jan Rich who has kindly agreed to take the project forward. She and her family moved to Mayfield, having fallen in love with the place 13 years ago. She is looking to take the community with her on this 'green' journey and is brimming with ideas. Despite a new government on the other side of the Atlantic, which seems uninterested in doing anything about the rising temperature of the planet, with a recently announced new high of 1.6 degrees in global temperatures recorded last year, Mayfield is carrying on. Jan believes that small changes at a local level all matter and can make a difference. She has worked in Mental Health for 25 years and this new role will be in addition to a fairly heavy workload as a Neuro and Clinical Psychologist, as well as being a Systemic Practitioner.



Jan Rich

Her interest in the environment stems from the time when, as a teenager she became passionate about the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, fell in love with orangutans and other endangered wildlife and joined various organisations such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund. Before becoming a psychologist, Jan worked for United Gas, followed by Aquila Energy and was involved with the deregulation of the energy industry. She was always full of ideas and every week would send the staff a snippet of suggestions about helping to 'reduce, reuse and recycle', her last one being how to have a 'green' funeral, which, for anyone who is interested, includes using recycled cardboard instead of wood in the burner.

Jan wants to stress that she is coming to the role as a lay person, not having technical or engineering skills, but believes strongly that we can all make small changes by reducing energy use and waste in the home. She understands that people have busy lives and may not feel that they

have the time to be truly 'green'; they have to get the children to school, cook meals and do their day jobs, but she believes that if everyone made a few adjustments to small aspects of daily life, this could start to make a difference. By trying to live a more carbon neutral life, people can also save money.

Like many people in Mayfield, Jan lives in an old house which gets damp, but she has created a win-win by using a dehumidifier which collects water from the atmosphere and is then used to flush the toilet. The rule in her house is: 'If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down'. If there is no dehumidifier, used bath water can be substituted. This approach can save gallons of water. All the light bulbs in her house are LED and use a fraction of energy compared with the old ones; they also seem a lot safer as they don't get hot. She reuses all the plastic that comes into the house and composts everything. She buys second hand tools and clothes, and even unravels old, knitted items to knit again. She encourages everyone to have a pond in the garden, if practical, as this encourages amphibians and insects; she also reuses old wood to make garden structures and is hoping to build a greenhouse using recycled wood. Jan has found that the use of a hybrid car, despite initial outlay and being bigger, has slashed the cost of petrol by 2/3rds. She uses her car to drive to work, but the rest of the time she tries to walk. She also mentioned the new and smaller energy providers such as Octopus, which has flexibility in their tariffs and free energy hours at certain times of day and are one of Europe's leading investors in green energy.

Jan believes in the power of the community and that there is much that could be done on a local level. She would like to attempt to support the people of

Mayfield to make green choices, in terms of travel, water consumption, use of local amenities and the small changes that people can make in their own homes - doing the washing without a tumble dryer, for example. We discussed the benefits of applying some of the habits and ways of the past, closing doors, turning off lights, using up left overs, mending socks etc. She is keen to investigate the practicalities of having a zero-waste shop or outlet in the village, like the one in Ticehurst. Maybe a local produce market would be a good start and a 'green' theme street party. Jan would be grateful for any information about how to start setting up these initiatives. She is also keen to set up some kind of book exchange in the village, and to carry on with the Night Walks, as a

way of developing a green community and supporting existing work on dark skies.

There are also more complex issues that she feels need to be explored by the local community, such as the development of a biomass incinerator, better insulation in any newbuilds, using the Danish method of triple insulation as a model and openness to having a Mayor, who could be a lead for environmental change.

So, clearly Jan is full of ideas and she is looking forward to meeting the committee, and working with them and other members of the community in order to bring about positive change for Mayfield.

For further information please contact Jan on: jan_a_rich@icloud.com

Barbara Murray

UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SERVICE

Thank you Mayfieldians for organising the collection and recycling of Christmas trees. This service was taken advantage of by many parishioners who were grateful for their efforts. Ace Treeworks gave their services for free and all trees will be recycled.



THE HIGH STREET – WORKING DOWN TO THE WEST

NAME	TEL	EMAIL/WEBSITE	DETAILS
MAYFIELD GARAGE	01435 873286	Mayfieldgarage.co.uk	Family run Garage
HAYLEY COOPER AESTHETICS	01435 873354	haley@haleycooper.co.uk	Aesthetic treatment, medical grade skincare
BLACKBIRD OF MAYFIELD		blackbirdofmayfield@gmail.com	Clothes & Gifts
THE HAIR STUDIO	01435 873323	www.hairstudio.uk.com	Unisex Hair Salon
LONDIS	01435 873577	Countrywise@hotmail.co.uk	Mini-Supermarket
THE MIDDLE HOUSE	01435 872146	www.mhmayfield.co.uk	Pub, Restaurant & Hotel
GABRIEL INTERIORS	01435 873670	hannah@gabrielinteriors.co.uk www.gabrielinteriors.co.uk	Curtains, Blinds & Fabric Alterations
SCARLETT'S	01435 873520	www.scarlettsfrocksandthreads	Bridal and Occasion Wear
BURNETT'S ESTATE AGENTS	01435 874450	www.burnetts-ea.com andrew@burnetts-ea.com	Independent estate agents
DIRTY PAWS	07506 467218	dirtypawsinfo@yahoo.com	Dog Grooming & Supplies
ST. DUNSTAN'S PHARMACY	01435 873191		Independent pharmacy
CENTRAL BARK	07872 654326	Chris Dalton	Pet Nutrition, Treats etc.
THE HOUSE CAFÉ	01435 872557		Café
THE OLD ARMOURY	01435 872102	www.antiques-atlas.com	Antiques & Books
TED HANDLEY & CO LTD.	01435 692058	https://tedhandley.co.uk	Property Consultants & Advisers
POST OFFICE	01435 872707		
FLOWER HOUSE & HOME	01435 874762	www.flowerhouseandhome.co.uk	Florist & Rustic Antiques
SOUTH CLIFF DENTAL SURGERY	01435 873659	www.southcliffdentalgroup.com	NHS & Private dentists

We intend to follow up with other small businesses who are in and around the Parish as well as including a list of the nearby farms and farm shops selling local produce in the Mayfield and Five Ashes area. We welcome help from our readers to identify these - email us on MayfieldNewsletter2012@gmail.com

THE HIGH STREET – BACK UP TO THE EAST

SEW INSPIRED	01435 817892	www.sewinspireduk.square.site	Fabric & Haberdashery
MAYFIELD OSTEOPATHS	01435 873051	www.mayfieldosteopath.co.uk	Osteopathy & Sports Physiotherapy
FOUR WINDS	01435 872418	info@fourwindsmayfield.co.uk	Ethical Handmade Gifts
MAYFIELD CHIROPODY & PODIATRY CLINIC	01435 873848	www.mayfieldpodiatry.co.uk office@mayfieldosteopath.co.uk	
C.L. LEPPARD	01435 872335	Carlleppard@hotmail.com	Traditional Family Butcher
MIDDLE HOUSE KITCHEN & DELI	01435 872993	middlehousekitchen@yahoo.com www.facebook.com/middlehousekitchenanddeli/	Deli/ fresh fruit & veg
MAYFIELD FINE WINES	01435 872371	www.finewinesofmayfield.co.uk paul@pauladamsfinewines.co.uk	Independent Wine Merchant
HOSPICE IN THE WEALD	01435 873369		Charity Shop
TRUFFLES BAKERY	01435 510936	www.trufflesbakery.co.uk	Family Bakery & Café
WOODY'S BARBERS	01435 873759		Men's Barbers
BLUSH	01435 873444	www.blushbeautyofmayfield.com	Beauty Salon

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

The children returned after the Christmas break to the wonderful delights of snow. We had a great time exploring by digging and making footprints.

We are enjoying the Gruffalo story, retelling the story, using props and making lots of animals on the craft table, and some amazing Gruffalo pictures. We are going to go on a Gruffalo hunt in the woods looking for footprints to help us find him and his friends. The children love to cook and the Gruffalo loves crumble so that will be their next task!

Paige Merrick, PreSchool Manager



Wishing everyone a Happy New Year. There have been some exciting developments at the Pre-School over the festive period with a much needed brand new kitchen installed. After our AGM in November, we are very excited to welcome two new Trustees to the Pre-School Committee: Lou Hilman and Hannah Oliver who are both teachers. We look forward to utilising their wealth of experience.

Our first fundraiser for the New Year is booked in. A jumble sale at Mayfield Scout Hut on Saturday 22nd March 10am to 12pm. We would be grateful for any high quality jumble which can be given into Pre-School before the event or dropped at the Scout Hut before 10am on the day itself.

Mayfield Pre-School Committee

FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome back to term 3 everyone. I hope you all had a lovely festive break. You will see from the photos in this edition we had a wonderful end of our Christmas term. The children had great fun at our Christmas lunch and absolutely loved our whole school trip to the pantomime to watch Aladdin. This term, Willow will be taking part in a Chinese Dance Workshop as well as indoor athletics and high five netball for our Key Stage 2 children. "Young at Heart" will also be visiting us later in the term.

Darren Gurr Head of School



Trip to the Pantomime



Christmas Lunch

MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

O.C.s Recognised in New Year Honours List

We are thrilled to share that three of our remarkable Old Cornelians have been recognised in the New Year Honours list for their outstanding achievements and contributions in their fields:

Emily Craig MBE (Class of 2011) – Gold medal Olympian, awarded an MBE for her services to rowing.



Emily Craig, MBE with pupils from Mayfield Girls

Georgina Worrall OBE (Class of 1996) – Honoured with an OBE for her dedication to diversity and inclusion in the Energy Sector.

Dr. Bonnie Kwok MBE CMgr FCMI FRSA (Class of 1997) – Received an MBE for her services to education.



Dr Bonnie Kwok MBE, far left



Georgina Worrall OBE

We are so proud of these inspiring women and the incredible mark they've made, and how they continue to inspire our current students and the wider community. Congratulations!

Celebrating the birthday of our Foundress

On Wednesday 15th January we celebrated the birthday of our Foundress, Cornelia Connelly, with a special Mass in her honour. Our motto, Actions Not Words, and our Cornelian Principles – Joy, Compassion, Integrity, Generosity, Gratitude, Respect, Courage – are all rooted in her teachings. Everyone at Mayfield Girls learns to channel our Foundress' pioneering spirit, and she remains a guiding influence in all we do.



Snowfun

There was much excitement at School when the snow arrived on the first day of term!

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



Open Morning

At Mayfield Girls, education is an adventure of the mind, heart and soul. Please join us at our next Open Morning on Friday 14th March to find out more. To book your place, please visit our website www.mayfieldgirls.org or contact Shirley Coppard, our Director of Admissions, on **874600 x418**.

Want to find out more about Mayfield?

Join our next Open Morning
Friday 14 March

www.mayfieldgirls.org/open-mornings



VILLAGE PEOPLE

AS VALENTINE'S DAY APPROACHES, MEET HOLLY OF 'FLOWER HOUSE AND HOME'

As I write this, the sun shines on a lawn quite thickly covered with snow in the cold January air. Christmas tree pine needles still lie around, and the decorations sit, (in our house if not yours), waiting to be put away for another year (though they seem to reappear increasingly quickly as the years go by!).

For shops and supermarkets, Christmas is gone and forgotten, and Valentine's Day is the next annual event to be celebrated, with ever more ostentatious cards and 'romantic' gifts already on the shelves.

For good florists, who rely on selling fresh flowers every day, it is not possible to start selling 'hearts and flowers' until nearer the time, and Holly Cheveralls of 'Flower House and Home' is no exception. However, it is worth knowing of the exceptional quality and service that Holly provides from her lovely shop in Mayfield High Street, so that you can get your order in as soon as possible for the Big Day.

Holly, a former London fashion designer, began her business in Mayfield some 8 years ago, having decided that designing fashion at the corporate level was stifling her creativity. For a couple of years, she went to work Saturdays in a Sevenoaks florist, training 'on the job', whilst still living and working in London and Paris. She quickly grew to love the craft, as it allowed her to use her creative skills with colour and design and she also fell in love with the surrounding area.



As a result, she knew exactly the type of floristry business she wanted to set up and began scouting around local villages in Kent and East Sussex for a suitable place to start.

The village of Mayfield, and the premises in which she is now to be found, really fitted the bill and as there was a lot of interest in the shop, she appreciates her luck in getting it. From there 'Flower House and Home' has blossomed, combining simple but beautiful country vintage style flowers with antique and reclaimed industrial homewares and lovely floral and interesting fragrances.

Holly is greatly supported by her partner Elias, with whom she has two very young children, and who now runs The House Café nearby. They met when he came into the shop one day, but he is no stranger to the area, having lived in and around Mayfield for 35 years. It is he, with his love of antiques, that introduced the antique element into both the Flower House and the Café.

As she continually puts her 'heart and soul' into the business, Holly does not deny that having two children has impacted her capacity to be available full-time in the shop. However, she has a reliable team of local freelancers, Freya, Emma and Becky, who support her throughout the week and whom she now regards as friends. She and Elias also rely very much on village support and Holly feels they have a good relationship with other shops and businesses, providing some of them with flowers, in return for the services they provide. It is all part of the community buzz and spirit in the village, which she felt was so evident when she 'people watched' before deciding to come to Mayfield in the first place.

Not only that, but she is very sure that the reopening of the Post Office next door to the shop has been very beneficial both for the Flower House, and for other shop owners in the village too. Indeed, she was instrumental in the Post Office being based in Ted Handley's offices, when she told him how detrimental its original closure would be to the village.

'Flower House and Home' has clearly been a great success story, although not without a huge amount of hard graft from Holly and Elias along the way. One can see just by walking into the shop that a lot of love and personal creativity has gone into it. Holly's windows are always beautifully designed and will be especially so for Valentine's Day. She will be offering bouquets of mixed flowers in romantic colours and her vintage country style, which can be made up to any size and price, however big or small. She will also be selling red roses for those of us who still believe that they are an essential part of any Valentine's Day gift.

The flowers will last because they are all fresh daily (and if treated in accordance with her careful instructions) and she has little wastage because of judicious ordering, which can even be made into the early hours of the morning to get same day delivery to the shop. Her suppliers come from not just the UK, but also Holland, France and even Ecuador.

She can also arrange for flowers to be delivered to customers anywhere in the UK by Royal Mail (NOT Interflora); another benefit in having the Post Office next door.

So as soon as you open this issue of the Newsletter and have read this piece, get along to 'Flower House and Home' and start planning your Valentine's offering with Holly or one of her team. You will receive a warm welcome, safe in the knowledge that your loved one will be thrilled with whatever you buy from this lovely shop.

As Tennyson wrote: "If I had a flower for every time I thought of you.... I could walk through my garden forever" and there is nothing like 'saying it with flowers'! **Sue Smith**

ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

We can confirm that the full planning application was submitted to Wealden District Council (WDC) Planning Department just before Christmas and that it is now listed on WDC's online Planning Cases' register.

The planning application reference number is WD/2024/2958/MAJ.

Comments on the application can be made between 24th January and 14th February 2025.

Interested parties are therefore invited to review the application and express their views during this period. It is important that as many people as possible make their opinions known, whether in favour or against, as comments are relevant in the planning application process.

As mentioned in the previous monthly update, the project is now in RIBA stage 4, which 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. This work is expected to be completed by mid-March 2025.

Providing that planning permission is successfully granted by WDC's Planning Committee North at its March 2025 meeting, the contractor (appointed for the Design & Build stage of the project) will then obtain formal competitive quotations from the various sub-contractor work packages. In parallel, any building conditions that WDC might have as part of the planning approval will be addressed. These will enable the final project cost to be obtained.

Given acceptable quotes, the main contractor will be officially appointed.

Contract placement should follow in early June. The building contractor requires a month to mobilise, which means the significant first 'spade in the ground' would occur in mid-July although this timeline is dependent on the above schedule.



MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

The Boyes and Belles welcomed in the New Year with Wassailing at Big Nose and Beardy brewery, to help with blessing their coming year's crop and chasing out evil spirits from the orchard, assisted by a few glasses of mulled cider. Our next social drinks will be at the Rose and Crown at the regular time of 8pm on Thursday 20th February.

Then it's our first fundraising event of the year with our popular quiz and ploughman's supper at Five Ashes Village Hall on Saturday 22nd February. Doors and the bar open at 7pm, with the quiz running from 7.30pm till 10pm. Tickets are available on our website and from Sew Inspired. <https://mayfieldbonfire.co.uk/events/>

The sums are done for last year and with rising costs we will need to raise around £13,000 to put on the procession this year, so please do come along for a fun evening and help support your Carnival.

Finally, we would like to thank the two Rays and our friends from MAYFACS Shed who have been working hard helping to repair our dilapidated shed, and the working party who organised all the torch sticks and equipment to tidy up the field.

Catherine Hawley Bonfire@gawain.online

ST. DUNSTAN'S BELLRINGERS

As with the first half of last year, the second half of 2024 saw St. Dunstan's Bellringers' activity return to its norm. Besides Tuesday practice nights and church services, we also supported various church activities such as ringing for weddings (see later in this entry) and the Remembrance Sunday service, along with the Christmas services and festivals which concluded the ringing year.

We hope the villagers will feel the quality of the ringing has been better than simple norm, especially since we now have a team of experienced ringers who can ring more complex methods or tunes.

One notable difference in 2024 has been the number of weddings held at St. Dunstan's in the year - in total nearly three times normal numbers and a record number in the living memory of current St. Dunstan's ringers.

Listed below are those couples the ringing team had the pleasure and honour to ring for at their marriage service in the second half of 2024:

20/07/2024 - Angela Haynes & Christopher Chruciel

27/07/2024 - Chloe Chapman & David Tranter

17/08/2024 - Emma Howie & Jon Dunn

24/08/2024 - Hayley Chapman & Daniel Summerhayes

19/10/2024 - Lucy Reid & Matt Davis

The St. Dunstan's bellringers wish each couple a long, happy and fruitful marriage. Visiting ringers continue to request the use of the St. Dunstan's bells. It seems the enhanced reputation as to the quality of the bells and the ringing room is the principal reason.

Finally if you wish to participate in a traditional village activity such as bellringing please contact me on 872064, or the Tower Captain (Vanessa Kolberg) on

07796954812, to arrange a suitable Tuesday practice night to try out the activity.

James D Morgan

DEMENTIA TRAINING



MAYFACS are hosting 3 FREE Dementia Friends Training Sessions to increase awareness and understanding of living with Dementia. These sessions are only 50 minutes long and can make a huge difference not only for individuals who want to gain further understanding for personal reasons or awareness but also for all groups, societies, businesses, and shops who can improve understanding of working with clients who may be living with dementia. The sessions are on the following Tuesdays at 9-10am: 21st January and 4th and 18th February in the Middle House.

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

The Century of Deception is our monthly talk by Ian Keable.

February 20th, 2.30 pm at Five Ashes Village Hall

Women giving birth to rabbits? A man climbing inside a 2pt bottle and singing once inside it?

These and other memorable hoaxes are discussed by Ian Keable. He will also explain the differing motives of the tricksters, which were brilliantly depicted by satirists such as Hogarth and James Gillray.

Ian is a professional magician himself, and a member of The Inner Magic Circle. He divides his time between performing magic, giving talks, researching and

writing, and we are lucky to have him coming to our U3A.

As usual, non-members of the U3A are welcome to come to hear our talks, for a small fee of £3. Members of course are free. There is always a delicious tea, for which we welcome donations to cover the cost of reimbursing our bakers, and a chance to catch up with friends and meet our new members.

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Scout Hut - 7.30pm for 8pm Wednesday, 26th February - Ivan Donald Margary (1896-1976): Dr David Rudling. Margary's name is synonymous with the study of Roman roads. Indeed he has had more influence over our understanding of the Roman road network in Britain than any other individual researcher. His gazetteer, "Roman Roads in Britain", remains the most comprehensive and detailed work ever written, over 60 years since it was first published. Margary numbers, the system he devised for numbering and classifying Roman roads, is still used by archaeologists today. Ivan Donald Margary died on 18th February 1976.

Dr David Rudling is the Academic Director of the Sussex School of Archaeology. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Roehampton.

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

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

Summer Outing - Please advise committee members of where you would like to go.

Brian O'Connor, Chairman 873477; Jo Andrews, Secretary andrews@x1edy.co.uk; John Buddle, Treasurer 872229

FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD CHURCHYARD

Annual Report for the year ending 5th April 2024

Trustees

Miles Smith (Chairman); Barrie Martin (Treasurer); Kim Chiffey; Mike Hand-Bowman; Peter Driscoll (Secretary).

Mayfield Churchyard belongs to the Parish Church of St. Dunstan for the benefit of all inhabitants of the Parish of Mayfield & Five Ashes, and remains open to new interments.

Its maintenance is the responsibility of the Mayfield Parochial Church Council (PCC), the purpose of the Friends of Mayfield Churchyard being to raise money towards this work. Our churchyard is one of the largest in East Sussex and, unlike many, still open to everyone. At a time when open spaces are under great pressure from developments of every kind, our churchyard is a precious asset. It should also be noted that it is consecrated ground and should be treated accordingly. Strictly speaking, dogs are not allowed in the churchyard, and should never be allowed to run free, especially across the graves.

Chairman's Report

In the last couple of years we have seen a steady improvement in all aspects of the churchyard's appearance, but costs have been controlled to some extent by some areas, now treated as nature reserve, being mown only at certain times of the year. Even so maintenance costs continue to rise, and the financial support of the

Friends is not keeping pace. For the calendar year 2023 the Friends from its 2023/24 budget gave £3586 towards churchyard maintenance, compared with £4000 for 2022. For 2024 the call for help is expected to be significantly greater.

New donations are vital, particularly as gifts in memory of loved ones buried in this beautiful place, but also from all those who enjoy the churchyard.

In every case putting donations, especially regular subscriptions, within the Gift Aid scheme is a significant help. 'Friends of Mayfield Churchyard' is accepted by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes under reference XT26828. Donations from taxpayers can therefore bring additional revenue through Gift Aid.

The PCC also receives funds from St. Dunstan's itself and the other religious congregations in the Parish as well as the Parish Council.

Treasurer's report for 2022/23

Funds as at April 2024 stood at £276 (compared with £465 in the previous year separate to which was an additional £3000 from the estate of Fr. Mario Sanderson for specific tree maintenance, which is not in the comparisons below, being paid to the PCC separately).

Income during 2023/24 came from standing orders of £2799 (previously £2614), income tax refunds of £578 (previous year £538), and donations from funerals of just £20 (previously £895), to give total income of £3397 (previous year £4046) which with a starting balance of £465 (previously £419) gave total funds of £3862 (previously £4465).

Expenditure during the year for churchyard maintenance by way of payment to the Mayfield Parochial Church Council was £3586 (previous year £4000).

These figures show that the Friends' support for the churchyard is not keeping up with the needs of the PCC, and standing orders urgently need to increase. Please consider becoming a supporter of the Friends and help to maintain the Mayfield Churchyard. You can call the Treasurer Barrie Martin on 873837 or contact him at barriemartin4@gmail.com.

Peter Driscoll (Secretary)

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



Soup and Social Lunch – 12th February

Mayfield Cricket Club 12 noon until 2.30pm

Homemade soups and French bread at a modest price of £3 per head. We hope that this will provide a welcome opportunity for social interaction between members and guests, without the formality of a speaker. Please could you contact Rosemary Lillywhite to confirm your attendance, so that we can ensure we have sufficient soup available! (email: withatwist@btinternet.com or telephone: 872130)

Dates for your Diary: Branch Meetings

Wednesday 2nd April – Speaker Delia Taylor - "The 1960s – A Decade of Change".

Wednesday 25th June - Wing Commander Ian Woodhouse MBE BSc MRAs with "Bomber Command in the 1980s".

2024 Poppy Appeal – Our Poppy Appeal Organiser and Assistant Group Scout Leader Gavin Ross advises that the final total for 2024 is £4,263.16. This has been achieved as a result of the enormous

efforts our committee, volunteer collectors and branch members – we thank you all.

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 next month.

The Mayfield and Five Ashes Branch
<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/mayfield>

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465
kevinswaine@btinternet.com

FILM ON FRIDAY 25th SEASON

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

With St. Valentine's Day halfway between our two films for February, we have chosen two unconventionally appropriate stories.



PAST LIVES – 7th February Na-young and Hae-sung were childhood friends in Korea. Na-young immigrated to the USA and is now Nora. Hae-sung stayed in Korea. They reconnect after 24 years through social media: childhood crush, roads not taken, lives not led, and the futile luxury of regret. What will happen when they meet again?

BLACKBIRD BLACKBIRD BLACKBERRY – 21st February Etero is single by choice, having escaped her oppressive family. Her life revolves around running her austere little shop in rural Georgia. Suddenly, love

finds Etero in the unexpected form of her delivery man. Now, she must balance a new yearning against her hard-won freedom and independence.

Our leaflets are available from the Post Office, The House Café, MAYFACS, 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, 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 EVENING W.I.

We started the New Year with a session called 'Exercise for Wellbeing' led by local yoga teacher, Sarah Ratcliffe. Although this wasn't technically a yoga class, some of the breathing and relaxation techniques that we sampled have their origins in yoga practice. We were introduced to some gentle movements both seated and standing which are designed to maintain and improve strength, balance and range of movement. Most of us had probably experienced some inactivity over the holiday period so this session was just the ticket to encourage us to get moving again.

We welcomed some new members to the meeting, boosting our numbers for 2025. This will ensure that the W.I. in Mayfield will continue to thrive and remains a vibrant and lively group.

Joining the WI offers an amazing range of opportunities for making friends, sharing and learning new skills and creating real changes on issues that matter to us and our communities.

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'd love to see you! For any further information, please contact **Chrissie Robinson** on **862825**.



MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Zoom talk Friday 21st February at 7.30pm.

The Picton Garden near Malvern is home to the National Collection of Michaelmas daisies or asters. Over 400 varieties of these super autumn flowers make this a stunning place to visit in the autumn. Even when the daisies are not at their peak there is much to see with interesting woodland planting and herbaceous borders. The garden has featured in many gardening magazines and Gardener's World in the past. The specialist nursery next door is a great place to pick up some unusual plants and is owned and run by Picton family member Helen. I was lucky enough to pay a visit whilst on holiday in the autumn of 2023, and I was bowled

over - it's well worth a visit or making the effort to watch this Zoom talk.

On Friday 21st February at 7.30pm, Helen will be telling us all about the rise, fall and renaissance of the Michaelmas daisy. It should take about an hour and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end. There are bound to be some stunning photographs in her talk and we hope you can join us.

This Zoom talk is available to everyone. It will be automatically sent out to members a few days before. If you are not a member but would like to watch, please contact me to find out how to pay the £5 entry fee and receive the link.

Tessa Crowe

www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk
chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

MAYFIELD GOLF SOCIETY

The year started with our first event at Lewes Golf Club which is renowned for never having to close its course because of rain. At so it proved again, although the recent layer of snow only cleared a few days before we played. 20 players in 5 groups of 4 enjoyed the benign conditions.



With many of us not having played for some time, the 1st tee resounded to what sounded like rusty gates swinging on their hinges as the players warmed up.

With the course playing long, even off winter tees, the average score of 31.5 points was surprisingly good especially with some players complaining of sore backs (Jerry) and general excess over Christmas (also Jerry).

Both individual and team competitions were closely fought. There were 2 players on 37 points pipped by 2 players on 38 points with Tony Willmott winning from David Howroyd by virtue of a better back nine score. Neither featured in the winning team and blamed their playing partners for letting them down as their teams were amongst the also rans.

The winning team, by only one point, comprised Graham Smith, John Collingwood, Andrew Jenner and Rod Lunn.

Our next event, on Thursday 20th February, is at Pyecombe. Anyone interested in knowing more or getting involved should check the website at mayfieldgolfsociety.com

MAYFIELD BAND

www.mayfieldband.co.uk

I am willing to stake my dubious reputation on the fact that at least 10% of the 3,718 people in this parish once played a musical instrument, rather enjoyed it, but gave up when life got in the way, and have spent the rest of their lives vowing to play again only to be put off by lack of confidence, time, instrument, or somewhere to play it. And that's just silly. That's 371.8 lapsed musicians who can probably vaguely remember how to read music and can probably even count. All 3718 of you are welcome to come and join Mayfield Band, but today I am speaking to you ten percenters, including the 0.8, because I know



that you really want to play some music again. Brass has probably never crossed your mind, but music has, and the thing is, brass is here in the village, together with the opportunity to play in a band. It's all very accessible, with seats for all abilities, and biscuits for all tastes. I would strongly recommend that you banish any negative preconceptions that you have about brass bands, because they are irrelevant. What matters is being in a friendly group of people with a common interest, playing a broad repertoire, and challenging yourself. You can find the time, yes you can, don't argue, and the confidence will come. We will provide the instrument and somewhere to play it, and if we must, we will happily go out and buy another 371.8 chairs, because you are all very, very welcome. Adult learners and returners are really important to us, and currently make up a quarter of the band, so you will be in a supportive and understanding group, and given that you really want to do this, you should at least give it a try.

Youth Band

There were some flabby lips, sticky valves, and sluggish fingers as the kids returned from the Christmas break. What a difference a couple of weeks off makes. It was probably a little unkind therefore to present the group with some challenging new music, but we must keep pushing ahead. I have every confidence that once everyone is back to their daily practice, the playing will become a whole lot sweeter. Musically, we have started at West Wallaby Street, and will be moving on to Mexico, and then outer space. You should come and share in our journey. Tank tops, sombreros, and space helmets are not compulsory. Practice is!

Simon Rudge 872007 simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

MAYZING AND VOLYA MEET AGAIN TO GET THE CHRISTMAS PARTY STARTED

Mayzing Community Choir joined forces with Volya, the Ukrainian ladies' choir from Battle, on Friday 20th December 2024, at Crowborough Community Centre in a concert to celebrate the imminent arrival of Christmas. Playing to an almost full house, and led by the talented and irreplaceable Ginger Millington, the two choirs entertained with some well-known English and Ukrainian carols and songs. The Volya ladies also performed some traditional dances to a scenic backdrop, brought along some tasty and interesting samples of the type of food eaten in their country at Christmas for people to try, and held a very generous raffle with some lovely prizes.

It was a truly happy evening, and with only 5 days to go, everyone really got into the spirit of Christmas as hopefully the photo will show. As ever, Ginger generously gave up his time to put the concert on, and the net proceeds of £830 were split between the Shelter and Acorns for Cancer UK (a group of ladies based in Crowborough raising funds for Cancer Research), in addition to funds collected on the night. The raffle and sale of food by Volya also raised a further £800 for emergency medical supplies for those fighting on the front line in Ukraine.

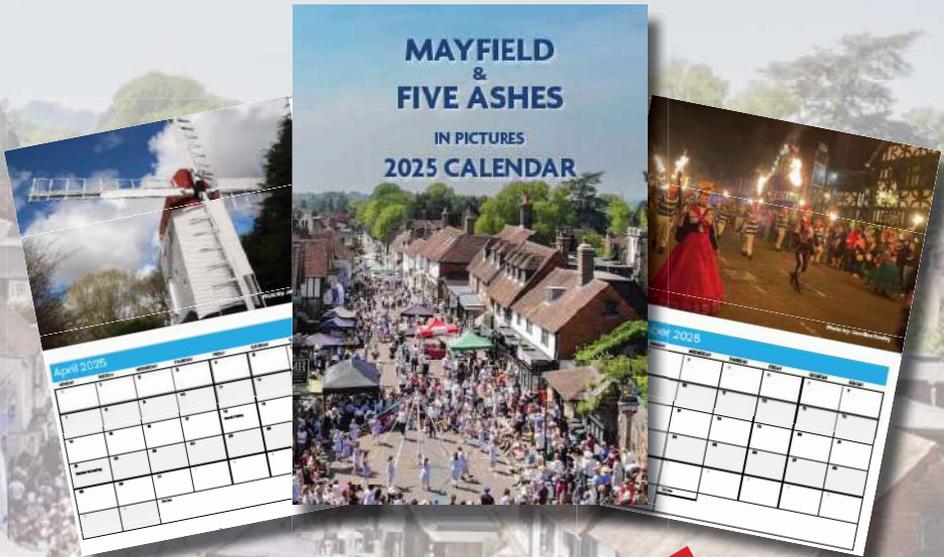
Sue Smith



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Mayfield School presents



The SOUND of MUSIC

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE
Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers"
by Maria Augusta Trapp

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Thurs 6th Feb | Fri 7th Feb | Sat 8th Feb



This amateur production of THE SOUND OF MUSIC is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We held our Committee Meeting on 15th January and agreed the changes to our Schedule for the coming year. The next job is to arrange for the Schedules to be printed ready for distribution. It is at this time of year that things start to speed up – after all, the Spring Show on 29th March is only eight weeks away! Oh well, onwards and for the plants, upwards! **Graham Playfoot** 01825 830511

OBITUARY

JANET MAUGHAN (NÈE SANDERSON) 09.05.1946 - 18.12.2024



Janet, always known as Jan (sometimes Calamity Jan), was born in Mayday Hospital, Croydon. She lived with her parents, Bill and Doris, in Thornton Heath. Jan suffered from asthma as a child and the family moved to Shirley, which was deemed healthier. She attended Ashburton School and left in 1962 to join Westminster Bank as an office junior based at the Addiscombe Branch. She was then transferred to NatWest, Croydon High Street. This was a large branch with over 50 staff. She was a great mimic and each Christmas was involved in the cabaret for the staff party.

In 1970, due to her mother's poor health, the family moved to Crowborough and Jan commuted daily to Croydon, and later the Clapham branch. With her mother's failing health, she found the travelling too much and in 1977 she was transferred to Mayfield. Her

mother sadly died in 1978 and Jan involved herself with the Brownies and the Carpenters Arms ladies' dart team. In 1980 she met Chris who was working in the Royal Oak. They were married in 1981 and moved to Uckfield for four years before settling in Broad Oak.

In 1992 she headlined in the Kent & Sussex Courier: the bank wanted to transfer her to Hailsham! A petition was signed by over 200 Mayfield residents, but to no avail. She took early retirement in 1994 after 32 years' service for the bank. She worked briefly for Kent & Sussex Courier before working part-time in the Silver Mine and the Dress Shop, both in the High Street. In 1995 with Chris, they purchased Libra Bookshop in West Street which they ran successfully for 10 years. During this time, she was Treasurer to the Mayfield Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, to celebrate the Millennium at St. Dunstan's Church, she was part of the team which cross-stitched a new altar rail tracing Mayfield's history. She was an active member of the Mayfield Horticultural Society and was still attending chair yoga in the Scout & Guide Hall up to the week before she died. In 2023 she started having mobility problems which progressively got worse. Jan always remained positive and never lost her sense of humour.

WADHURST WINDOW

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

'Floral Design with Excellence' is the catch phrase of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies but Wadhurst and District Flower Club prefer 'Flowers, Friendship and Fun'. This is what we attempt and hopefully succeed in providing during the monthly meetings. We would very much like to have the opportunity to welcome YOU to one of our meetings this year. No experience of flower arranging is required.

The first meeting of 2025 will be the AGM on February 6th at 1.45pm, and the formal business will be followed by afternoon tea. The programme for the year consists of demonstrations, workshops, lunches and teas, all planned to educate and entertain the members and their guests. The Club regularly supports two charities; Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance and Marie Curie.

Meetings are held monthly in Stonegate Village Hall at 1.45pm. The large adjacent car park enables easy access to the building.

Membership for the year is £45.00, which covers insurance, demonstrators' fees and hall hire. There is a small charge for refreshments. The lucky raffle winners get to take home the arrangements that have been produced during the demonstration.

If you would like more information about this friendly Club, please contact Sonia sonia.hobbs2@btinternet.com. Or 01892 785671.

MAYFACS

MAYFACS (Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services: Charity No 1166647)

London House, High Street, Mayfield, TN206AQ (Accessible entrance to the rear of London House)

www.mayfacs.org.uk

HELPLINE 873888 (answerphone Post Box is situated at the back follow the signs from outside the MAYFACS OFFICE OPENING Wednesday between 10am - 1pm number is monitored Monday to Friday



system) Please note MAYFACS entrance to the office (please entrance of St. Dunstan's Church) **TIMES:** Monday, Tuesday and every week. Helpline phone only.

MAYFACS OFFICE info@mayfacs.org.uk

BANK DETAILS: (for donations, payments of trips and activities)

Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services (MAYFACS)

Account No 00029924 Sort Code 40-52-40

February News

We are excited to launch our new Groups: Men on the Move and MAYFACS Moving Sounds.

Men on the Move is a weekly 'walk and talk' group for men, to bring people together to explore the local area together, build connections and get some low-level exercise. Meet

every Tuesday 9.30am at Court Meadow, Mayfield. Free to attend.

MAYFACS Moving Sounds is six special sessions, led by Moving Sounds bringing together music and movement for well-being, learning and happiness for all attendees. These sessions are also FREE to attend, but places are limited, so please book ASAP to avoid disappointment. For

any more information on either of these new activities, please contact freya@mayfacs.org.uk or call us on **873888**



Taking place at **Colkins Mill Church, Mayfield**, these sessions aim to mix music and movement, to bring well-being, learning and happiness for all attendees.

Sessions are FREE to attend, but booking is essential as places are limited. Please book onto as many sessions as you would like to attend! Sessions will run from **2pm - 4pm** on the following dates:

WEDNESDAY 19th February

WEDNESDAY 19th March

WEDNESDAY 16th April

WEDNESDAY 21st May

WEDNESDAY 18th June

WEDNESDAY 16th July

Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance – Next session Wednesday 12th February 10.30am – 12pm. East Sussex Hearing are hosting monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance at MAYFACS office to provide support to Pembury, Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings Conquest Audiology patients, with the support of specially trained local volunteers. 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.

MAYFACS Friday Matinée Film Programme

The 2024-25 season of MAYFACS Friday Matinée Film Programme continues with 11 carefully chosen films, every fortnight at Five Ashes Village Hall. Please come in and get your copy of the programme so you can plan your Fridays. Transport will be available from Mayfield. £6 per person for Film admission, £3 for return transport. Collection from Memorial Hall (1.10pm) and St Thomas of Canterbury (1.20pm). No need to book.

Friday 7th February: **Nessie**

Friday 21st February: **23 Walks**



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.

We have been developing the 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. Please do visit our website if you need any advice or help or come into the office and chat with the team.

MAYFACS Create @ The Shed!

Youth Sessions

Next Session SATURDAY 1st MARCH: MINDFULNESS & DOODLING 10am – 12.30pm

Our next **Create @ The Shed** session takes place on Saturday 1st March for any young people (secondary school suggested ages) interested in getting involved in exploring new skills, being creative and hanging out with like-minded people. Exploring different forms of creative genres including art, music and tech, sessions take place every 1st Saturday of the month. Booking is essential for each session with limited spaces available. Email us on create@mayfacs.org.uk to secure your place. Suggested donations (£5) cover basic materials and are kept to a minimum with the funding support MAYFACS receives (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

REPAIR CAFE

MAYFACS Shed on Saturday 15th February between 10am – 1pm (last repairs accepted 12.15pm). 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 – 2025 Trips Schedule

Our new schedule has been released – some really lovely trips now available for booking.

Thursday 6th February: Visit to Bexhill Town and Seafront £10

Thursday 6th March: Harvey's Brewery in Lewes £tbc

Thursday 3rd April: Horse Sense UK £15

Thursday 1st May: Tulley's Farm Tulip Festival £tbc

Thursday 5th June: Newhaven Fort £19

Thursday 3rd July: Visit to Rye £10

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

Please visit our website www.mayfacs.org.uk for updates of weekly activities or contact us at the MAYFACS Office on 873888. You can also join our monthly eNewsletter mailing list to get full details on everything that we do to support our community by contacting clare@mayfacs.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Vandalism at Court Meadow

Sometime at the beginning of January some fires were set underneath the benches of the green shelter near the entrances of Pre-School and the Primary School. After this, on a different occasion a fire was lit in the litter bin beside the same green shelter. This has obviously caused damage and has been reported to Sussex Police who have informed they will add it to their areas to patrol. The cost of repair will be ascertained. It is a very worrying occurrence, as there is a link between setting small fires as an adolescent and then going on to commit arson on a grander scale. If you have any information at all on the perpetrators it would be very useful, so they can be educated on the impact it causes.



too costly. The requirement to purchase land to widen the roads to allow for additional lanes for turning traffic was also a factor that they informed would be necessary.

One of the aims of the RSG is to reduce the speed limit, along the route from the Mayfield roundabout to Horam, to 40mph (excluding Five Ashes, already 30mph) to make it less confusing to drivers. Currently there are speed limits of 30, 40, 50 and 60mph within this Parish. Our thanks go to the RSG for organising the cleaning of the road signs along the A267 and to the Deer Warden for installing Deer warning signs at known crossing points.

Community Speedwatch (CSW)

Please contact the Parish Council office if you are interested to train and help our CSW group. With additional volunteers, sessions can be arranged more often to monitor traffic speed in Mayfield and Five Ashes. There are currently eight trained members of CSW. Four sessions have taken place so far – two in each village. 32 vehicles were exceeding the allowed limit out of a total of 894. A letter from the police is received after the first report of speeding. If a vehicle appears on any parish CSW list twice they receive another 'reminder' letter. If they appear a third time they are visited by the police and may be cautioned. The data is held centrally (by registration number) so it is the incident of speeding not the location of the speeding offence that is relevant.

Speed Indicating Devices

The below data from our devices currently installed in Five Ashes covers the period

Community Safety and Traffic Committee

This committee met in January and welcomed one of the members of the A267 Road Safety Group (RSG) to discuss the concerns on traffic speed and dangerous road junctions on the A267. They would like to increase membership numbers and promote awareness of their campaign to make the road safer. (See their Facebook page and article on ITV's Meridian on 13th January). There are three dangerous junctions between Mayfield and Heathfield that need safety improvements: A272/ A267; Mayfield Flat; Cross-in Hand opposite the petrol station.

The Parish Council has discussed the possibility of a roundabout or traffic lights at the junction of the A272/A267 with East Sussex County Council on numerous occasions but have been informed that it is

from 10th November 2024 to 8th January 2025. Residents may be surprised to learn that 93.85% of the vehicles were recorded travelling below 35mph, the speed at which would incur a traffic penalty. There has been a slight decrease in those travelling at 35mph and above year-on-year.

trips being cheaper than they were in 2024.

Under the East Sussex BSIP fare reductions, short hop trips will be capped at £1, with medium length rides costing £2. Longer journeys will be £3 under the new national fare cap. Children’s fares will be even lower, with short journeys starting at 50p.

Percentages	Nov/ Jan 25	Nov/ Jan 24	Nov/ Jan 23
Over 30mph	28.73	27.88	27.74
Over 35mph	6.15	6.99	6.27
Over 40mph	1.29	1.68	1.34
Over 45mph	0.29	0.38	0.57

Sussex Councils’ Expression Of Interest To Devolution Priority Programme

The Cabinets of the three Sussex upper tier Councils, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, have agreed to submit an expression of interest to be considered for the Government’s Devolution Priority Programme indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority, which could unlock new money and powers for the region.

Temporary Road Closure Warnings

As informed previously, information on roadworks can be found at [Causeway one.network](#). You can access the map using this link: <https://one.network> Then you need to search the area you are interested in. There is detailed information on road closure orders, the specific location of road works, what they are for and timings

If the Government accepts the initial proposal for Sussex to join the devolution priority programme, the Government will run a consultation to obtain residents’ views.

New Bus Fares For 2025

Good news! Bus fares across East Sussex will continue to be lower in the New Year, thanks to funding from East Sussex’s Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Across the nation, a £3 bus fare cap was introduced on 1st January 2025, that meant the maximum fare for a single bus trip would be limited to £3. However, thanks to BSIP funding from the Department of Transport, East Sussex County Council is introducing lower single adult fares of £1 and £2. The new lower fares will ensure passengers will pay less than £3 on several journeys, with some

The Government’s White Paper set out in detail the key areas that a strategic authority would be in control of, to drive growth and provide support on shaping public services. These include: Transport and local infrastructure; Skills and employment support; Housing and strategic planning; Economic development and regeneration; Environment and climate change; Health, wellbeing and public service reform; Public safety.

The expected timeline following the submission of the proposal is: A devolution consultation would be held before the end of March 2025. The results of the devolution consultation will be assessed in the spring 2025 following which a

Ministerial decision will be taken as to whether to proceed with a Mayoral Strategic Authority (prior to unitary re-organisation). The Spending Review will then confirm future mayoral investment funds for new mayoral areas.

Relevant legislation will be laid before Parliament in relation to the creation of Strategic Authorities.

In March 2026 notice of Mayoral elections will be given for a Mayoral election in May 2026. A decision whether to move to a Mayoral Strategic Authority under the reorganised arrangements would follow.

There will follow a separate process of Local Government re-organisation. A formal invitation to submit reorganisation proposals will be issued to all authorities in January 2025. At the end of 2025 and in early 2026 Ministers will consider unitary proposals and delivery phasing, with

statutory consultations being undertaken on the first tranche of proposals.

Timelines for the remainder of the reorganisation process will be subject to the proposals received.

More information can be found at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/devolution-hub/devolution-explained>

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



PUBLIC OPENING TIMES

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

OFFICE ADDRESS

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✉ clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

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www.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

FEBRUARY

Saturday	1	Mayfield Horticultural Society Seedy Saturday	Scout Hut, 10am-12.30pm
Tuesday	4	MAYFACS Dementia Friends Training	Middle House 9-10am
Thursday	6	Wadhurst & District Flower Club	Stonegate Village Hall, 1.45pm
Friday	7	Film On Friday - Past Lives	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.45pm for 8.15pm
Tuesday	11	Mayfield Evening W.I.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Wednesday	12	RBL Soup & Social Lunch	Mayfield Cricket Club, 12 - 2.30pm
Tuesday	18	MAYFACS Dementia Friends Training	Middle House 9-10am
Wednesday	19	MAYFACS 'Moving Sounds'	Colkins Mill Church 2-4pm
Thursday	20	Mayfield Golfing Society	Pyecombe
Thursday	20	U3A General Meeting	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2.30pm
Thursday	20	Boyes & Belles Social Gathering	Rose & Crown, 8pm
Friday	21	Mayfield Horticultural Society Zoom Mtg	7.30pm
Friday	21	Film On Friday - Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.45pm for 8.15pm
Saturday	22	Boyes & Belles Quiz	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7 for 7.30pm
Wednesday	26	Mayfield Local History Society	Scout Hut, 7.30pm for 8pm

MARCH

Thursday	6	Mayfacs Trip Harvey's Brewery	TBC
Friday	7	World Day of Prayer	St. Thomas' Church TBC
Friday	14	Mayfield Girls School Open Morning	TBC
Wednesday	19	MAYFACS 'Moving Sounds'	Colkins Mill church 2-4pm
Saturday	22	Pre-School Jumble Sale	Scout Hut, 10am-12.30pm
Wednesday	26	Mayfield Local History Society	Scout Hut, 7.30pm for 8pm
Saturday	29	Five Ashes Horticultural Society Spring Show	TBC



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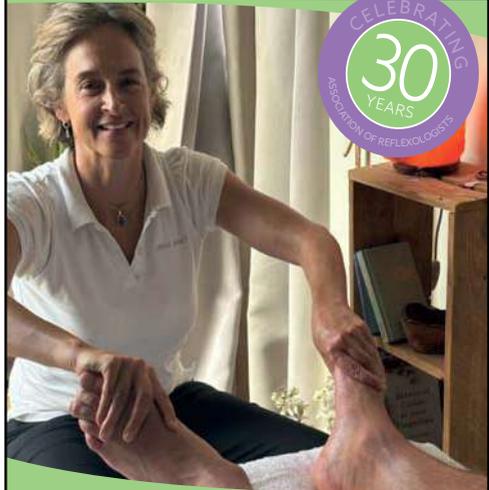
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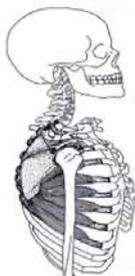
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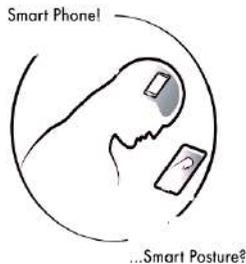
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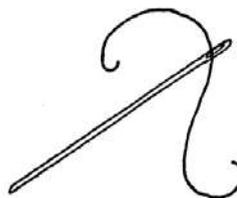
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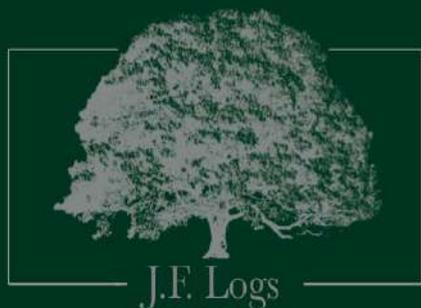
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