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No. 566 MARCH 2025

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Front Cover: Skippers Hill Pupils Celebrating Wellbeing Week.

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

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Dear reader, we trust spring is on the cusp of arrival as you read this. We have had a proper winter; now for a proper spring? To warm the cockles of your heart meantime we have an interview with the lovely Lorraine Chapman; a choral "first" at St. Dunstan's; a report on the wonderful "Seedy Saturday", Mayfacs' visit to Parliament and all the usual reports from our Villages' many societies and clubs. And if you have contributions for us to include, please get in



touch. Positive articles that celebrate the Villages in which we live are always welcome.

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.

FEATURES

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Flying Colours

Let's get the smug bit out of the way. This January I visited an incredible bird watching and conservation organisation in the Western Ghats, India, run by highly skilled and welcoming environmentalists, spotting 75 remarkable bird species, many endemic to this region. #sorrynotsorry.

A notable feature of these tropical species is their astonishing colour palette; vivid reds, brilliant pinks, and intense greens. There are a few reasons behind plumage colour. Bold colours can be flaunted as a display tactic in males to impress females and shame rivals in competition for a mate or territory. Colour can be used as a camouflage and survival technique, whether blending into surroundings, or by confusing predators with reflective iridescence.

A fellow Brit commented on how our birds don't really compare when it comes to colour, but there are some spectacular species to prove them wrong. Back in Sussex, spring is just starting to peep in; the season where we finally experience those explosions of colour after such a long wait. Aside from an excuse to show off about my grey-escape holiday, I thought a celebration of our most colourful birds was due.

Firstly, Kingfishers. They also reside in India, but they're too bright and beautiful to not make the cut. A wetland and reedbed regular, these fabulous fishers take blue to another level. There's no mistaking their tiny turquoise shimmer as they dart down a watercourse, or perch stock still on a branch, ripple-peering.

A regular on feeders, Blue Tits can be overlooked. Take a moment to appreciate that lemon and azure plumage, merging with navy and tinged with green. Once another common garden staple, Bullfinches are sadly now a rare treat to see. If you spot a male, peachy-coral chest set against muted hues of grey and black, it can't be anything else.



Credit: Claire Andrews



Credit: Jeremy Early

Although

wowing crowds with their aerial acrobatics in murmuration, you could be forgiven for thinking Starlings individually are somewhat ordinary. Think again. Up close, and in the right light, Starlings are a mass of beautiful iridescent purples, greens and golden yellows.

Corvids are considered a little plain, but what about an emerald Magpie tail or the sapphire flash of a Jay feather? A Jackdaw's pale iris can seem

blue against dark feathers, and sometimes, in low summer sun, jet-black Rook plumage can look purple.

Who needs a Malabar Trogon or a Flame-throated Bulbul? Not me! Well... not for 11 months of the year anyway.

Kerry Williams

Communications Officer - Conservation

SWIFTS AND HOUSE MARTINS

Talk at Mayfield Girls School

3rd March 7-8pm



Paul Stevens, expert in the conservation of Swifts, House Martins and Swallows will introduce you to the amazing life of Swifts and House Martins which spend precious weeks skimming our summer skies. Decline in numbers is happening for several reasons, one being due to the unwitting obstruction of nesting sites. Provision for nesting can easily be made for these clean and neighbourly birds. Decrease in insect populations and our changing climate also affect their success. We want to highlight the help that can be given to these wonderful summer visitors by our Parish.

Please go to the School Reception to sign in and make your way to the 6th Form Lecture Room. There are 50 places available so do contact Sarah through the

Mayfield Swift and House Martin page or email elm.green@btinternet.com if you want to be assured a seat. This is a free event.

The beautiful linocut image above is by printmaker Judith Westrup whose work is inspired by nature and our local landscape. Cards and original prints and cards are available from www.judithestrup.com



Credit: Barbara Murray

SUE DICKINSON: MASTERMIND BEHIND SEEDY SATURDAY

In the cold and dark months of winter we all need a boost, an injection of fun, friendship and purpose. These things were all present in abundance at the second local Seedy Saturday which took place in the Scout Hut on Saturday 1st February and was organised by Sue Dickinson. She has lived in Piccadilly Lane with her husband and her mum, for thirteen years. Early on, despite enjoying gardening, she didn't have time to join the Mayfield Horticultural



Society (MHS) as she was working in technology in the holiday industry but on taking a career break to care for her mum, she became a member and was soon asked by Tessa Crowe to join the committee. Sue suggested a Seed Swap and before she knew it, was tasked with organising this community event put on by MHS. Seedy Saturday is a term that was created by a Canadian organisation, Seeds of Diversity back in the 1980s. It came to this country when a couple of holidaymakers from Brighton attended one in Canada and on their return, started up Seedy Sunday in their hometown. Having lived in Brighton previously, Sue knew of the event and was determined to get it going in Mayfield. She admitted to feeling some anxiety before but was overwhelmed by people's enthusiasm and generosity. She contacted big seed companies who donated seeds of all types, mainly those near their sow by date, but still perfectly

viable and this gave it the momentum it needed. This year seeds came from Chiltern Seeds, Moles Seeds, Thompson and Morgan, Suttons, Plant World Seeds, Sarah Raven and many more including our local gardening communities including Rapkyn's Nursery. Morag Hockin from Rapkyn's who was helping on the morning, said how she loves to imagine all the seeds on the table growing in a garden, full of colour and beauty.

On arriving at Seedy Saturday I was amazed by the vibrant buzz in the Scout Hut which was crowded with people of all ages including lots of children. Sue stressed the importance of it appealing to the younger generation; what better time to develop an enthusiasm and understanding about how things grow? Drinks and biscuits were provided free for children to keep their energy levels up while choosing seeds, entering the raffle and looking at Critters Corner run by Sue's

sister Jane from Devon alongside Sue Lancaster and Becky Morris. Children are our future gardeners and in the time of climate change may well need expert growing skills and will also benefit from the pure joy that can be had from working the soil and seeing the results of one's labour. Critters Corner is an area for our young people to explore seeds, the plants they become and their relationship with the critters and the natural world. It's also where the annual tallest sunflower growing competition is launched with free seeds, growing guides and a trophy to keep for the Sunflower Champion 2025. The Summer Show schedule has entry details. Seeds for tasty things to grow and eat that appeal to our youngest gardeners were also on offer. Last, but not least, there were takeaway goody bags with some insects and butterflies to build and decorate plus something to carry their seeds home in. Many grandparents were also given some to share with their grandchildren. The event was laid out with flower seeds



Evie, Emma and Oscar by Barbara Murray

seeds, which were exceptionally popular, were in pots at one end of the hall with many varieties nearly out of stock by the time I looked at them. These are harvested from the garden of a local lady who wanted to remain anonymous and sorted into ice cream tubs supplied by her husband who has an enduring love of ice cream. The idea was for people to choose the packets that they wanted to grow and make a donation to the Mayfield Horticultural Society; the proceeds are a welcome contribution to the costs of running this thriving local organisation. For those people who were just starting out on their gardening journey or those who needed an update, Tessa ran several demonstrations on how to grow seeds successfully and how to 'pot on' to gain positive results. She shared so many useful tips and it seems we don't need to grow huge trays of seeds which result in 1000 baby carrots with the subsequent waste, but can use much smaller dishes and even recycle the tubs from supermarkets. She also advocated using proper seed compost and covering the seeds with horticultural grit which stops fungal growth, prevents weeds and keeps the moisture in so reducing the need to water. What's not to like?



Raffle Prize: Cake by Viv Izzard

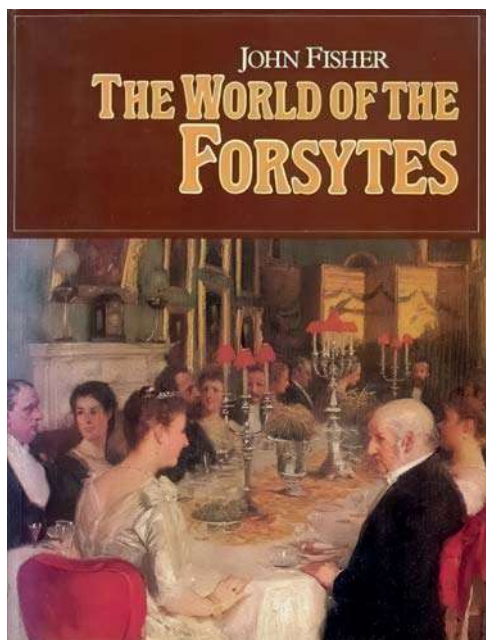
down one side of a long trestle table and veg seeds on the other, the wild flower

There was a mouth-watering cake stall run by Jackie Coghill and Viv Izzard who had made many of the cakes including the beautifully iced and exceedingly large and delicious looking specimen which was being raffled alongside the general raffle with a good range of prizes. The cakes could either be taken home or eaten as an accompaniment to a cup of tea or coffee which was provided by members of MHS with Helen Laine, Claire and Robert Montagu running the café. While families were enjoying their refreshments I managed to ask what they thought of the event: James Rowland who attended with his wife and two young children said: "It's a lovely event which really gets the community together. The best thing being that gardening knowledge can be passed down through the generations". Emma, mother of Evie and Oscar said: "All of us have been inspired by what's available. The kids are now keen to get on with gardening and it's great being able to ask for advice". Sue and Tessa managed to publicise the event widely and were on Radio Sussex "Dig It" which seemed to work well as there appeared to be lots of people from further afield. Sue is keen that next year Seedy Saturday will go from strength to strength with even more attending from local villages and towns; there are so many seeds to go round you don't need to bring any but they are always welcome and there is such fun to be had.

Barbara Murray

THE WORLD OF THE FORSYTES - by John Fisher published 1975

How many of us senior citizens can fail to remember the enormous popularity in the late 1960s of the brilliant television drama "The Forsyte Saga"? How can we forget,



whether we followed it or not, how the nation was utterly gripped on Sunday evenings by this phenomenal production? Perhaps to some at the time and since, it may well have seemed ironic that the Forsytes should have been so popular, alien as their world was to that of the Swinging Sixties. Yet popular they were, not only here but in other countries, even behind the Iron Curtain. What was their secret? I recently read John Fisher's book published soon after the Saga had been televised several times on BBC 1 and 2 which gives a fascinating insight into the world in which this upper middle class English family lived. John Galsworthy published this work which contains six novels in 1930 and which reflects the world into which he himself was born and bred. Fisher's book is highly readable, beautifully illustrated and covers many aspects of the England of 1886 until the mid-1920s, aspects which may or not have affected different Forsyte generations who while

fictional were so typical of their era and status. What were their chief characteristics? Perhaps this is best summed up by young Jolyon who replied when asked how if there were "hundreds of them" they could be identified, replied: "By their sense of property. A Forsyte takes a practical - one might say a common-sense view of things....based fundamentally on a sense of property. A Forsyte never gives himself away". Jolyon went on to add that "It's their wealth and security that makes everything possible; art, literature, science, even religion, even though they believe in none of these things." Then again "They are the middlemen, the pillars of society, the cornerstones of convention, everything that is admirable". So late Victorian! How curious this drama should have held such apparent fascination for television viewers in so-liberated, hedonistic late-1960s. Was it nostalgia for a more staid society which had now become such a thing of the past? Yet in their own times, the world of the Forsytes was changing around them and part of the fascination of this saga is seeing how these generations dealt with, successfully or not, the enormous vicissitudes taking place in the outer world and in their homes. Moreover, this being a family drama viewers can so readily identify situations so often prevailing in their lives. Add to this the heady mix of fierce loyalties, betrayals, inner conflicts as well as marital breakdown and tragedy. Topped of course with glamour: Nyree Dawn Porter was tailor-made, cast as the seductive Irene while Eric Porter was equally unsurpassable in his role as the uncharismatic Soames. There have of course been other dramatisations of the Forsytes on television, as well as in film, stage and frequently radio. As early as 1920 the Forsytes were filmed on silent screen while in the U.S. Errol Flynn, Walter Pidgeon and Greer Garson acted in a 1949 film version. In the U.K. the last television series in 2002 starred Damien Lewis as Soames and Gina McKee as Irene; this, unlike the 1967 version, was in colour. While the producer of the 1967 serial regretted that he just missed being able by a few years to produce his own work in colour, I feel that somehow viewing it in black and white today brings it a little closer to its own age. The Saga reflects the huge turbulences of the early 20th century, wrought by the Great War and finally featuring the 1926 General Strike. Some of the older actors in 1967 might well have had their own early memories of these times which could have had a bearing on their performance which I felt was not present in the 2002 serial, excellent as Lewis and McKee generally are in screen appearances. On its own Fisher's book is an illuminating read. **Cynthia M. Baker**

OUR CHURCHES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE PREPARED BY THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF THE COOK ISLANDS - 10am FRIDAY 7TH MARCH

Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Station Road, Mayfield, TN20 6BU

Kia Orana! Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us!

This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection with nature. Join us as we pray together and reflect on the theme: "I MADE YOU WONDERFUL".

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. It is celebrated in over 120 countries beginning in Samoa. Prayer, in native languages, then travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

In Mayfield this provides a wonderful opportunity for our Churches to come together and this year we will be hosted by St. Thomas'. Do come and join us!

Tea and cake after the service. For further information:

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>



LENT IN ST. DUNSTAN'S

Lent Bible Study

Do join us in St. Dunstan's church (please be aware depending on numbers we may move elsewhere after our first session) at 10am on Tuesday 11th March and the following four Tuesdays. We shall be focusing on the 10 Commandments given by God to Moses thousands of years ago; but how relevant are they today? And how relevant to both a multi-faith world and a secular world. There is a list to sign up in the back of church if you are interested, but you are still welcome to come along, even if you don't sign up.

Exhibition of Paintings

From Ash Wednesday on 5th March and throughout Lent, we will be exhibiting a series of paintings depicting the Stations of the Cross. The paintings are unusual in that they portray the events of Holy Week through the eyes of Jesus. Each painting will be displayed with a thought-provoking meditation. St. Dunstan's is open from 9am until 4pm (5pm after 30th March when British Summer Time begins).

Our Lenten Lunches will be taking place again this year, on most of the Thursdays during Lent from 12noon until 2pm in London House. Each charity (shown below) will be preparing homemade soups to be served with bread, cheese and fruit. Payment will be by donation and all the monies will go to the charity of the day. Please make a note in your diaries as your support is greatly appreciated.

13th March - Hospice in the Weald

20th March - MAYFACS

27th March - Friends of the Holy Land

3rd April - Friends of St. Dunstan's

10th April - Family Support Work

Our **Ash Wednesday Service** will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 5th March in St. Dunstan's. Everyone welcome.

Forthcoming Events In St. Dunstan's

Our Choral Evensong is on Sunday, 23rd March at 6pm. Please do come and join us and enjoy this wonderful Service.

A first for St. Dunstan's

On Sunday February 9th Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (pictured) joined us for our church service. Joanna has recently composed a new choral work based on Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and St. Dunstan's Choir, as one of the co-commissioning choirs, will be delighted to give one of the early performances of this work on May 24th in the evening (more details in April's Newsletter). Our choir sang the opening work of this piece at the start of the service, which is the first time ever, anywhere, that it has been performed in public, and it sounded amazing!

Nicky Higgins Parish Administrator



COLKINS MILL

We are holding an afternoon of Spring Crafts on Saturday 15th March from 2pm to 5pm at Colkins Mill Church in Station Road. Everyone is welcome to come and try out some new craft ideas, or to share your own skills.

It is a charity event to raise money for "Matthew 25 Mission", an experienced organisation providing meals and support for homeless people in Eastbourne. The afternoon costs £5; half price for children, and this includes refreshments and craft materials. Hope to see you there. **Steve Harland**

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

During this interim period, until the appointment of a new priest, the parish community will be welcomed in the Mayfield Girls School chapel for the 11.30am Mass on Sundays. Eucharistic Services will be held at 10.00am on Mondays and Fridays at St. Thomas' and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held at 6.00pm on Tuesdays in the School Chapel during term time.

On Ash Wednesday (5th March) - Mass in the School Chapel at 9.00am and Eucharistic Service at St. Thomas' at 7.00pm

All are welcome to these services. For further information please contact:

Martin Georgeson, Chairman St. Thomas' Pastoral Committee,
martin.georgeson@btinternet.com

St. Thomas' is hosting the World Day of Prayer service at 10.00am on Friday 7th March, details of which can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. All faiths and none are invited to this ecumenical celebration, this year prepared by the women of the Cook Islands.

Mary Brentnall

BAPTIST CHAPEL

At Mayfield Baptist Chapel we have been studying the letter of James, which he wrote to Christians who were scattered in his time. In James' letter he does not promise prosperity but explains that trials in life are certain. Trials will show us what we truly are and how much

we are truly trusting in God. James says, "Count it all joy when you meet trials". Why? Because "the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2). So often when an unexpected circumstance comes upon us, we feel like a little boat on a stormy sea but God promises something better is possible! God does not stop suffering in this world, but for those who confess their sin and acknowledge their need for a Saviour (1 John 1:9), God walks through suffering with them. He strengthens Christians through trials in this world and promises a perfect heaven where there is no more pain or suffering (Revelation 21:4). If you would like to join us on a Sunday, our service times are 11am and 6pm.

Contact:

Bradley Hammond (Elder): 07426 034515 Email: mayfieldbaptistchapel@gmail.com

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

We celebrated Valentine's Day by making some delicious biscuits, decorating hats and creating hearts with sequins and shapes to take home to our families.

We have had lots of lovely walks around the meadow and have visited the local bakery and charity shop, during which the children loved the independence of choosing items and paying for them.

Paige Merrick, Pre-School Manager



FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

The mornings are at last getting lighter and we have just finished term 3. As you would expect we have been extremely busy as usual. We have taken part in the Heathfield Partnership with Indoor Athletics and Netball events and were crowned the netball champions which was a huge achievement for our little school. Our youngest children had a very exciting visit from Heathfield Fire Station. The children had a wonderful time getting to try lots of the equipment and sit within the fire truck. The older children in our Oak class were invited to Trinity Theatre to watch "The Sound of Music" performed by Mayfield Girls School. Oak class also had a very different last day of term after being evacuated to Five Ashes and spending the





day as the children would have during the Second World War. A number of children also attended an Organ Workshop at St. Dunstan's church. The children loved attending and were very keen to have further lessons. The children had a wonderful time and we would like to thank Mayfield Girls School for their invitation. The Friends of Five Ashes ran a school disco for all the children, which was a great success and raised much needed funds for our school.

Darren Gurr Head of School



MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a busy term in Robins Reception & Year 1 Class! We took part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch. We made some bird seed cakes to attract more birds to our garden and to help them keep going during the cold weather. On our birdwatch we saw pigeons, magpies, blackbirds, a robin and a blue tit.

We have also been learning all about the Lunar New Year and how it is celebrated. We have welcomed the year of the snake with a range of fun activities from lantern making to a Chinese dance workshop.

Katie Hawkrigde





SKIPPERS HILL MANOR SCHOOL

Last month we celebrated Wellbeing week. The children participated in lots of different activities to help promote the importance of wellbeing and ways in which they can support their own positive mental health. They had an amazing skipping workshop to learn a new skill, played games together in Form Time to connect with other year groups, took notice of our beautiful surroundings with a nature walk, plus mindfulness



sessions. Additionally, they have donated items to our school charity Family2Family and raised money with a cake sale. At the end of the week they were treated to a disco to promote being active. This was a particular highlight for the older ones as all the teachers were dressed up in costumes and took part in a masked dance-off!

Phil Makhoul

MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

Mayfield Girls Shine in The Sound of Music

In the first week of February, students from Mayfield Girls School wowed audiences with four fantastic performances of *The Sound of Music* at Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. The production was truly a team effort, with girls not only starring on stage but also playing in the orchestra and managing lighting, sound, stage design, and hair and makeup. Despite some last-minute cast changes due to illness, their dedication shone through, culminating in a spectacular sold-out Saturday night show. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful production—we couldn't be prouder.



Dr. Matthew Ward

We're thrilled to share that our very own Dr. Matthew Ward, Director of Music, has been commissioned by Catholic Truth Society (CTS) to compose the music for the new Lectionary psalms. If you're attending Mass and notice a new resonant version of the psalms being played, chances are you're listening to Matthew's inspiring work. Congratulations to Dr. Ward on this incredible honour. To get your copies:

For The Organ: www.ctsbooks.org/product/psalms-for-all-seasons-for-organ

For Voice: www.ctsbooks.org/product/psalms-for-all-seasons-for-organ



Masses And Services For The Parish Of Mayfield And Five Ashes

Mass – Every Sunday at 11.30am, Mayfield Girls School Chapel

5th March - Ash Wednesday – Mass at 9am, Mayfield Girls School

15th March – Taizé Prayer Service at 7pm, Mayfield School Chapel

Swifts & House Martins: A Talk on Conservation

Join us on 3rd March 7-8pm, for an insightful talk on the lives of Swifts and House Martins and the urgent need to protect their nesting sites. Conservation expert Paul Stevens will discuss the threats these birds face, from habitat loss to climate change, and share ways

we can help. Please contact Narelle Morson, nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org, if you would like to attend.

Open Morning

At Mayfield Girls School, 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.



GCSE Revision Courses

We are delighted to announce that Mayfield Girls School is running Easter GCSE revision courses aimed at Year 11 students who are taking GCSEs this summer. Five courses are available to book, offering a different GCSE core subject on each day. These courses will take place during the second week of the Easter Holidays (7th April - 11th April) and are open to students from local schools. For more information, please visit: www.mayfieldgirls.org/gcse-easter-revision-courses

VILLAGE PEOPLE

LORRAINE CHAPMAN: A MAYFIELD GIRL THROUGH AND THROUGH

I would guess there are few in Mayfield and Five Ashes who can claim to have been born in one of our villages and spent their whole life here too, but Lorraine is one of those few, and, unusual though it is in this day and age, from what I know of her, it has done her no harm at all. Indeed, not only was she born in Dunstan's Croft, in Mayfield 1937 but her father, Jack Finch, was born in Mayfield too, at Argos Hill. He was employed as a carpenter with one of the local builders, and there are still pieces of his woodwork around Mayfield, including the Parish Council noticeboard near the bus stop. Her mother Thelma, a well-known scion of the Mayfield Afternoon W.I., and latterly the evening one, was Welsh but had come to Mayfield early in her life, to work in domestic service in the larger houses in the area. She met and married Lorraine's father in St. Dunstan's Church and lived in Mayfield for the rest of her life.

Both father and daughter went to Mayfield School, as it was then known, (the Convent at that time going by the name of St. Leonard's, Mayfield.) This is what we now know as Mayfield Primary School but as secondary education was only available on a very limited basis in the U.K. at that time, he would have finished his schooling there aged 15. Lorraine was however fortunate to move on to the newly built Heathfield School at 13, where she spent 'two marvellous years', having specific teachers for each subject, and where a male teacher took the boys for P.E. and a female one the girls.

Choosing to remain in Mayfield when she left school, being somewhat shy and retiring, she went to work serving customers for Collins and Gray, Gentlemen's and Ladies' Outfitters, who were to be found in what is now Sew Inspired, a shop which has seen several incarnations prior to its current use. She worked happily there for 11 years and says that providing an individual service for the customers was good for her confidence, being so "shy and silly". It was during that time that she married her husband, Les, in St. Dunstan's. He was also born in the village, she had been at school with him, and she only left the shop when she had their children, Jane and Priscilla, who were both brought up in Mayfield too, christened in the Church and sang in the Church choir.



After leaving school Les, at 16, was called up for National Service and went into the Royal Marines where he spent 5 years. She says that he actually spent most of his time playing cricket, as the war was now over, but the school was still very proud of him, especially when he performed at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court in honour of the Queen's Coronation in 1953. So much so that the headmaster commissioned a coach to take the pupils to London for it, and pinched Thelma's binoculars to watch the whole show, much to her annoyance.

Looking back over her life in Mayfield, Lorraine is very much aware of how times have changed and, in some ways, possibly not for the better. Mayfield High Street has altered somewhat, in that she remembers when there was a "full kit of tradesmen" so that you could get everything you wanted without leaving the village. That is possibly not quite so true now, but she does acknowledge that for a relatively small village, Mayfield does still "punch above its weight".

Nevertheless, when she and Les were raising their family, it did have 3 builders, including Harris and Pipers, Parkers the electricians and Nappers the hardware store, next to which Les had opened a tiny Barber's shop, having trained in Barbering after leaving the Marines. To the left of his shop was Cornford's the Grocers, which would be roughly where the House Café is now, and across the road, there was Grinham's the Grocer, which occupied the current Middle House Deli. Mr. Grinham, a former Churchwarden of longstanding, lived in London House and accessed the shop through a door and down some steps in the back corner of the front room adjoining the shop. It is known as the Grinham Room to this day.

Smith and Homewood, Greengrocers were to be found on the stretch of the High Street between London House and what was then Bucks newsagents. Mr. Smith used to grow all the fruit and vegetables himself in the village and Mr. Homewood would sell it, wrapping all customers' purchases with utmost care.

There were also 2 sweet shops, including Fenner's, which even I remember, where the schoolchildren used to crowd in after school, to choose their gobstoppers and mint humbugs from the tall glass jars which lined the walls.

I was also surprised to learn that the old Post Office, which is now occupied by Mayfield Wines, was a tailor's shop, and the tailors used to sit cross-legged in the window doing their tailoring and mending.

For Lorraine, what remains a constant for her is Mayfield's Women's Institute of which she has been a long-standing and revered member, as was her mother, Thelma.

The original Mayfield Afternoon W.I. began in the late 1800s, and when the Evening W.I., which Lorraine joined in 1963, began, the two operated in tandem until the Afternoon one closed for lack of members, in the last decade or so.

The W.I. is where Lorraine has gained the most confidence, especially when taking on the responsibility of staging the W.I. Marquee for the County at the Ardingly Show, 2 years running. Having done a week's course in Staging, which involves the display of W.I. skills and talents, and with her sales experience at Collins and Gray, she was volunteered for the role by the former late great President, Berenice Blurton. Though it was a very demanding job which took over 6 months to plan each time, she is proud of her achievements and not a little surprised at how well she did.

Living alone in Mayfield for the last 26 years, since the untimely death of Les, Lorraine is well settled in the centre of the village, supported by her friends from W.I. and the Church community, of which she is a staunch supporter and a formidable organiser of the cake stall at any Church market or fair. She sees her daughters often and loves to hear about the progress of her 21-year-old grandson, who has just joined the RAF. Life is quiet and uncomplicated and though she may not have travelled the world, she has seen enough to know that there could be a lot worse places to enjoy her retirement than the village in which she has spent her life these last 88 years. Here's to continued health and happiness in the future Lorraine!

Sue Smith

ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

FILM ON FRIDAY'S 25TH SEASON COMES TO A PULSATING FINALE

Five Ashes Village Hall

EASY RIDER – 7th March: 7.45pm for
8.15pm as usual

The original road movie. Billy and Wyatt go looking for America in this frazzled portrait of the end of the 1960s. A landmark counterculture film that kick-started a new era of filmmaking in Hollywood with the demise of big budget

musicals and historical epics, and the rise of smaller scale features with directors given more freedom.

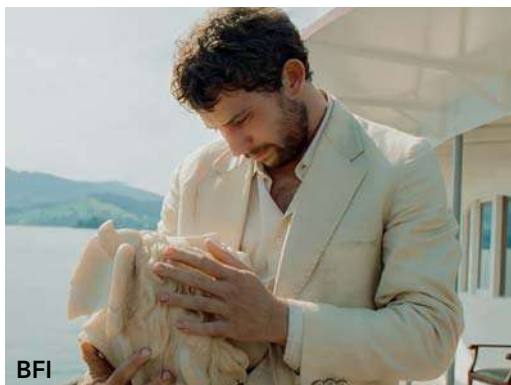


LA CHIMERA – 22nd March: doors open
at 6.30pm. Dinner interval – ticket
required.

Arthur is an archaeologist with psychic powers. Just released from jail, he rejoins his happy-go-lucky gang of grave-robbers who loot Etruscan tombs and sell the ancient treasures. But he yearns for his lost love.

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.



Andrew Ratcliffe Chairman

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

Wealden District Council's (WDC's) online Planning Cases register has now closed for public comment relating to the new Mayfield Community and Health Centre planning application.

At the time of writing, over 150 responses from Mayfield & Five Ashes residents had been received by WDC, and like with previous public consultations, feedback has been overwhelmingly in support of the project.

In parallel with the planning activity, the project has entered into what is known as RIBA Stage 4, which is an intensive phase involving the specification of every imaginable detail

of the building, both internally and externally, with all the documentation being scheduled for finalisation by the end of March.

The outcome of the planning application is expected to follow WDC's Planning Committee North meeting in the latter part of March 2025. Providing the application is successful, the 'Design & Build' stage contractor appointed for the project will then invite the sub-contractors involved in the various specification packages to submit formal competitive quotations.

At the same time, any building conditions stipulated as part of planning approval by WDC will be dealt with. These processes will allow the final project cost to be ascertained.

Assuming the schedule remains on course and the quotations are acceptable, the project's Building Contractor will be appointed. Mobilisation requires approximately a month, which should permit building work to commence in mid-July 2025.

We will however keep you updated via the Newsletter, village Facebook and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk.

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our AGM takes place on Tuesday 18th March at Colkins Mill. From 7.00 pm the doors will be open to welcome all our members and invite them to renew their membership for the 2025/6 season whilst enjoying a glass of wine and some nibbles on us. Please allow some extra time as there might be a queue and don't forget you can park in the Roman Catholic Church car park if the road is busy. Everyone who attends the meeting will



also receive a free raffle ticket to win a lovely prize, see below...!

Annual membership costs just £7.50 and includes free entry to all our talks and events (excluding outings) for the coming year. Non-members pay £5. New members are always welcome to join our friendly and thriving club. Come along and find out what we're all about and make new friends with those who share a common interest in gardening. You definitely don't need to be an expert to join in, and we have an exciting schedule of events lined up for this year!

Following the (usually short!) AGM, we will be treated to a demonstration from our friends in the village from the Flower House of a beautiful seasonal spring flower arrangement and receive some tips on some of the best flowers to grow for spring cutting. One lucky raffle ticket owner will win the display to take home! Hope to see you there.

Tessa Crowe

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

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,

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

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

March 20th - 2.30pm 5 Ashes Village Hall

Tulipmania

Our monthly talk in March is given by Martin Heard, an art historian with a career that has also included publishing and IT. He has worked in Continental Europe and North America, and now he has retired he spends his time sharing his enthusiasms with "every type of audience".

Tulipmania was a period of economic speculation in the Netherlands and was considered one of the first examples of an economic bubble and crash in history.

The 1630s was a decade in which the middle and upper classes wanted to display their wealth with extravagant gardens. Rare tulip bulbs, that were fragile and took years to grow from seed, could cost up to six times an average salary, and houses were mortgaged to buy them, often just as a commodity to resell at a profit rather than to merely adorn their grounds.

The bubble burst in 1637, leaving many people ruined. However, there are conflicting opinions on whether the crash wreaked havoc on the Dutch economy, or whether it was a relatively small and short-lived market for a very beautiful luxury.

Non U3A visitors are very welcome to our talks, for a small fee of £3.00, but of course our members are free. If you are not a member and are interested in joining the U3A, please look up our website at www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield We are a small but thriving branch with a growing variety of interest groups.

ST. DUNSTAN'S SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club takes place every Sunday during the 10.15am Parish Eucharist for approximately 30 minutes. After this we join the rest of the congregation in church during the 3rd hymn, when children join their parents for the rest of the service. Fr. Michael welcomes Sunday Club members at the end of the hymn. We are all in church together for the Eucharistic prayer, The Lord's Prayer and receiving Communion or a Blessing. Members are encouraged from the age of 8 to have a few meetings with Fr. Michael before receiving First Communion.

The activities during Sunday Club are the reading of the Gospel of the day (at children's level) which is also read in church, an explanation/discussion about the reading, a craft or a visual such as Godly Play, a game and/or a hymn or a chorus – basically anything that helps them to understand the story etc. The youngsters are very good at picking up a tune when we sing. Everything we do is related to the reading so that when we are in church anything that is said is familiar for the youngsters. At the end of the service, providing we have some confident ones, a

couple of children will go to the front and tell/show the adults what we have been doing. The adults love this because often they are made to laugh by the young ones. Not all the youngsters are confident on their own but will often go up with someone who is. There are always 2 adults on duty and we are all DBS checked. Any child is welcome and if necessary, parents are very welcome to stay too until their child gains confidence to stay on their own while the parents go into church. Youngsters are welcome to arrive from 10am for start at 10.15am. We are a small group but a happy group.

Any further questions please contact **Margaret Neve on 01825 830625** or email:

margaretneve332@btinternet.com

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME (NGS)

Mayfield Open Gardens

Dates for your diary 2025

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April: The Oast, Fletching Street, 11am-5pm

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th June: Hoopers Farm, Vale Road, 11am-5pm

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd August: Mayfield Gardens 11am-5pm – five private gardens within walking distance of the High Street, 11am-5pm

All proceeds from these events will go to the nursing and health charities supported by the NGS.

There are many other Sussex NGS gardens opening throughout the spring and summer. Plan your visits by looking in the Sussex booklet now available in local garden centres and shops. You can also visit www.ngs.org.uk or use the National Garden Scheme app to find gardens to visit in any area of the country.

More details next month.

Sarah Ratcliffe

MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.

Our chosen charity for this year is Mayfield Pre-School and at the beginning of February we were pleased to present the staff with a cheque for £265. We hope that Mayfield Evening W.I. can develop closer links with the Pre-School, perhaps helping with creative activities such as cooking and craft skills.

At our February meeting we had a very interesting talk by Jane Elson, who is a retired lecturer from the London School of Fashion. Jane told us of her journey through the fashion industry, having first been inspired as a young girl by her mother's homemade 'Dior' New Look outfit. We learnt of Jane's progression from school in



Manchester to The Royal College of Art in London where she studied alongside legendary 70s designer Ozzie Clark. She then worked closely with all the main fashion houses in both London and Paris, eventually adding teaching to her skills. Her main interest was in tailoring and pattern cutting, although she was well versed in all aspects of garment making. She brought along some delightful half-size mannequins which she had made and dressed in exquisite detail.

Many of our members are skilled needle women so this talk was perfect for them. Even for those not so involved with sewing, Jane's presentation was totally absorbing.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th March. This will be our craft evening when members are invited to try some different handicrafts such as jewellery-making and decorated eggs for Easter.

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 862825**

think you would enjoy the evening in convivial surroundings with bar, speaker and pre-ordered supper. If you are interested or would like more information, please telephone/email me or our secretary Rosemary Lillywhite 872130. Also please let us know if you would like to join us and to advise your meal choice by 31st March.

Our supper will be followed with a talk by Delia Taylor. Delia is a wonderful speaker who has spoken at previous meetings and we welcome her back to talk to us about "The 1960s – A Decade of Change". Her talks are always illustrated with many picture and video clips. Many of you will no doubt remember this period and if you don't, why don't you come along and learn more.

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

Royal British Legion – 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 - 07970 787465

kevinswaine@btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Charity Secondhand Clothes Collection - Wednesday 23rd April

8.30-9am Memorial Hall Car Park

Bring along your unwanted clothing in good condition, paired shoes, handbags etc. No items of school uniform please.

Bags2schools collect unwanted clothes and pay Friends of Mayfield Primary School by the kilo. The collection van is

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



Our Next Branch Meeting - **Wednesday 2nd April** at Mayfield Cricket Club. The bar opens at 6.30pm and the meeting commences at 7.00pm with a brief session of branch business, followed by a fish and chip supper (or chicken or scampi) at a cost of £8.00. All guests and non-members are very welcome. There is no fee for attendance and we would dearly love to see new faces at this branch meeting. I

coming to the car park to collect that morning. Unfortunately, we don't have anywhere to store the clothes so we need to get them donated **during the exact time specified.**

Mayfield Fire Station & Friends of Mayfield Primary School charity fundraising Car Wash - Saturday 17th May 10am-3pm

It's the final Charity Car Wash before the Fire Station closes!

Venue - Mayfield Fire Station - Come and get your car shiny and clean!

All donations to The Firefighters Charity & Friends of Mayfield Primary School.

Sausage sandwiches and delicious cakes and refreshments are also being served.

MAYFIELD BAND

"One small step..." said a man back in 1969. You know the rest, but it turned out to be a pretty hollow proclamation, with the moon landing turning out to be utterly pointless, and mankind taking a giant step backwards into countless wars and environmental destruction. Even that much vaunted by-product of the space race, Teflon, has now been found to be killing us. But he wasn't to know, and at least he tried. Had I thought to utter that famous epigram myself when I first entered Mayfield Band HQ, and had I thought to arrange for the world's press to be there to capture the moment, I think there would have been a lot more substance to my words, and whilst you might not think it would have been a giant step for mankind, if mankind had as one decided to take up the trombone on that day, the world would now be a better and happier place. Mr. Armstrong was clearly deluded as to the importance of strapping on his moonboots, but you can be assured that if you take one small step in our direction, it will be a genuine and lasting positive

contribution to a better world, and one of the best steps you have ever taken, without even the need for any specialist clothing. I can't promise you worldwide fame, but fame is overrated and rarely brings happiness in the way that a trombone can. So I am absolutely delighted to report that three adult beginners have made that small step this month, with the promise of three more joining next month, and on that basis, I think we can safely say that in these parts at least, mankind, and womankind, actually just womankind at the moment, are definitely taking a giant step. And it is a giant step to the individual; it's a big commitment, requiring a lot of hard work and sacrifice, and occasional moments of terror. But it is a little more accessible than walking on the moon, so come and join us in our mission. No experience or instrument required, although a packet of biscuits wouldn't go amiss.

Mayfield Youth Band

MYB's trip to the moon, our Grand Day Out, has been temporarily aborted, as we couldn't get high enough. Likewise, our deeper space mission to Jupiter. But we tried, and there are plenty more musical adventures in the cupboard. We are very much enjoying a bit of South African Township jive, and some New Orleans Jazz, but it's all pretty lively stuff, and what we also need to do is work on some quieter, slower stuff. It's so much harder to play brass quietly, but it's a skill that needs to be mastered. There are no limits to the range of the brass band repertoire, but the challenge is not just to play it but play it well. You are all very welcome to come and sit in on a session to see if it might be to your liking. Give me a call

Simon Rudge 872007

simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

NEWS FROM NUS GHANI, MP FOR SUSSEX WEALD

Nusrat Ghani was delighted to welcome 16 volunteers from Mayfield and Five Ashes charity MAYFACS to Westminster for a tour of the Houses of Parliament. Nusrat has been working closely with MAYFACS for several years, supporting many projects including the MAYFACS Shed and assisting with faster and safer arrivals for Ukrainian families and the Support Hub to help them settle in Mayfield.

Led by Wealden Hero Shirley Holland, who has been the previous project manager of MAYFACS since it first formed as a charity in 2016, the group had the opportunity to gain a firsthand experience of the history of the building, UK democratic processes and get a glimpse of the day-to-day responsibilities of MPs.

Nusrat Ghani said: "I'm always keen to ensure that our democracy and Parliament is as open as possible, and I was pleased to welcome MAYFACS volunteers to Westminster. MAYFACS is a fantastic local organisation, and I am hugely grateful for their continued provision of activities, opportunities and support services for our communities in the Mayfield and Five Ashes area. I continue working closely with current managers Lucy Jervis and Freya Huxtable and I was pleased to support them especially with securing visas for Ukrainian families and ensuring that they settle into the area well."

There are several ways Sussex Weald residents can take advantage of the unique experience of exploring the beating heart of our democracy, and as their MP, Nusrat would be happy to assist with arranging a visit free of charge. If you are interested in visiting the Houses of Parliament and live in Sussex Weald constituency, please get in touch with Nusrat via her website www.nusghani.org.uk/visitparliament.

This month marks International Women's Day and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank just some of them. Our incredible community champions and charity leaders including the team at MAYFACS, Rotherfield St. Martin and Wealden Works in



Heathfield; our very own 2024 Olympic Gold Medallist Emily Craig from Mark Cross; our business owners and leaders; our healthcare leaders and nurses; and our fantastic female teachers and headteachers including at Academies in Crowborough and Wadhurst and Community Colleges in Heathfield and Hailsham, for bringing up and empowering our future generations.

NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

SAD NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES - KEITH KETLEY

On 21st January 2025 our popular friend and landlord of the Five Ashes Inn died, leaving his widow Chris and son Keith.

Over the last two months or so, Chris has kept the Public House running, and will continue to do so with slightly reduced hours and with the help of her son Keith. What a strong woman.

Many times, over the past forty years, we have walked through the door and have been greeted by Keith's welcome and the sound of Elvis' velvet voice, specially played for this "follower"!

Keith's laughter and interest in village matters will be sadly missed by so many.

Mary Pennington

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

At the time of writing, early February, we seem to be stuck in a period of cold, wet, foggy and miserable weather. It seems impossible that spring is only weeks away and that anything will be ready for our Spring Show on 29th March but we live in hope that Mother Nature will work her usual miracle.

Our Show schedules are at the printers and will be available from early March from The House Café, Mayfield Post Office, Whites Garden, Five Ashes Inn, Five Ashes Village Hall and directly from myself.

So, trusting that spring will have arrived, we look forward to seeing you on 29th March at 2pm at Five Ashes Village Hall.

Graham Playfoot, 01825 830511

ANOTHER THOUGHT FROM FIVE ASHES

A Valentine?

"Birds do it...Bees do it... even educated fleas do it. Let's do it, let's fall in love!"

On a dark, grey February day, this seemed a good theme when my husband came into my warm kitchen and informed me of his bird count at noon. First, an owl hooting above in a tree; second, a woodpecker courting his intended with much tapping of his powerful beak; third, a pair of tiny Jenny wrens, dashing about; fourth, two fat robins speeding across the drive, asking for more bird food; fifth, a flight of little pied wagtails, tweeting and darting

like little fairies at the birdfeeder (my aunt used to call them washer uppers!). Finally, a magnificent pheasant in his male gorgeous finery, seeking diminutive Miss Grey to be his future wife, strutting about as if he owned Five Ashes and Mayfield besides! No wonder that Valentine's Day is when the birds choose their mates (as we did!).

Mary Pennington

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD - OPEN GARDENS SEASON

Explore some of the best-kept secret gardens in West Kent and East Sussex, which are opening their gates this spring and summer to raise funds for Hospice in the Weald.

During the season over thirty gardens across the community are available for you to visit. Take in the sights, sounds, and scents of some of the finest private gardens in the area. Enjoy refreshments in the spring and summer weather and pick up a few gardening tips along the way.

A new annual pass is being introduced this year offering a way to enjoy many more gardens at great value. For just £50, you can gain entry to sixteen of the beautiful gardens in this season's collection.

The first garden is open on 1st May, with the season going through until mid-September. All funds raised through these events help Hospice in the Weald to support adults and children with life-threatening or life-limiting illness when they need it most. As ever, we give our heartfelt thanks to all the garden owners, volunteers, and visitors who make the open season possible.

The events section of our website provides full details of the gardens, their location, and open times. **Visit the events pages at hospiceintheweald.org.uk**

Alternatively, for more information you can contact us at

fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk or call the fundraising team on **01892 820533**.



WADHURST WINDOW

WADHURST BOWLS

For the first time we organised a social event for members to keep us in-touch with each other over the winter and give our new members a chance to put those names-to-faces before they forget who everyone is.

We scratched our heads for a while trying to think what would be a suitable evening for a bunch of old(er) people in the middle of winter.

First out the hat was a half-marathon but that quickly got kicked into touch when we realised not everyone had a pair of trainers. Next up was bungy-jumping but two of our group were concerned about chaffing from the harness. Eventually we decided on mountaineering and were all set to go until we realised there were no mountains within a 20-minute drive of Wadhurst. So, we settled on the next best thing – Bingo!

Nearly 40 of us packed into the Sparrows Green Pavilion on a wet and windy evening to shout 'House' and 'B-I-N-G-O' at all the wrong times in an effort to win.

Some very good prizes were on offer, donated by local businesses. Other prizes were boxes chocolates and cash but we must thank: James The Barber; Piccolo; The Artful Grocer and La Petit France for their generosity.

With the start of the new season rapidly approaching we are getting our ducks in a row with regards sponsors, both new and old. If you are a local business who would like to sponsor us for the 2025 season or even just a generous benefactor with nothing to advertise but would like to help out please get in touch with Laurence so he can get everything in place for next month's opening.

Laurence 07714 935915 or hlworton@btinternet.com

www.wadhurstbc.com

Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on February 6th. It was well attended as members wanted to show their appreciation and thanks to the outgoing President, Chairman and Treasurer. These three officers have been members for many years and during their term in office had worked tirelessly on the Club's behalf. The incoming Committee promised to continue the good work and ensure that Wadhurst Flower Club moves forward in good spirits.

An opportunity to socialise whilst enjoying a delicious afternoon tea provided by the Committee was enjoyed before the meeting closed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 6th 1.45pm at Stonegate Village Hall; it will feature a demonstration entitled "Inspirational". An excellent and appropriate theme to begin a year that, we hope, will be inspirational.

If you would like further information about the Club, please contact Sonia 01892 785671 or sonia.hobbs2@btinternet.com. We hope to have the pleasure of your company very soon.

INTERNATIONAL FLAMENCO DRAMA

26TH APRIL - WADHURST COMMEMORATION HALL, 7.30pm , DOORS 6pm

PICASSO, HIS LIFE AND LOVES

International Flamenco Dance theatre company Cancion Gitana have created a unique Flamenco biography of the long, extraordinary, life of this remarkable artist.

Pablo Picasso is surely the most well recognised artist of the 20th century. His face is ubiquitous becoming his brand, dark piercing eyes, his prolific career as an important artist spans 8 decades, his enthusiastic involvement in modernism, in all of the confused and confusing artistic trends of the 20th century, trends he often led, his equal facility in painting, sculpture, pottery and ceramics are that of a true Renaissance man.

But disturbingly, the complexity of his many, many, often damaging, relationships with women as muses, models,

lovers and wives all had deep influences on his work. As often as he cast aside his lovers his art changed equally radically, a great artist but an honourable man....?

Picasso, his life and loves was created and choreographed by the Flamenco dancer Helena "La Leyenda" (Sadlers Wells, BBC TV, Channel 4, ITV, etc, etc) , the 100 minute, 2 act, spectacular features an international company of 6 dancers, guitarist, singer and narrator comprising Principal dancer Helena, presenting Alaric as the young Picasso, dancers Varina, Nancy, Clara, Natsuki, recorded poetry performed by Madrid's Rosario Serrano (Ballet Rambert, Duende Flamenco Company, BBC2 TV, etc.) the ethereal voice of legendary cante jondo singer Fernando Reyes and the passionate Flamenco guitar of Tomas de Cordoba.

With multiple costume changes, films, images, poetry , narrations and dramatic lighting it's a multi genre Flamenco spectacular of a kind rarely seen in the UK.

Authentic Spanish food and drink will be on sale from 6pm. **Tickets From www.duendeflamenco.co.uk**

Adults £22 , Under 12s £15 - or on the door. Limited seating so book early



MAYFACS

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

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

www.mayfacs.org.uk

HELPLINE 873888 (answerphone

Box is situated at the back

follow the signs from outside the

MAYFACS OFFICE OPENING

Wednesday between 10am - 1pm

number is monitored Monday to

MAYFACS

OFFICE

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

Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services (MAYFACS)

Account No 00029924 Sort Code 40-52-40



system) Please note MAYFACS Post entrance to the office (please

entrance of St. Dunstan's Church)

TIMES: Monday, Tuesday and

every week. Helpline phone

Friday only.

info@mayfacs.org.uk

MARCH NEWS

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.

Thank you to all of our new Dementia Friends.

With huge thanks to The Middle House, and Iona from Rotherfield St Martins (RSM), we are incredibly proud to have added nearly 50 new Dementia Friends to our community... We are working towards building a more dementia friendly community, a place where people with dementia are supported, respected, and included. The goal is to help people with dementia live well in Mayfield and Five Ashes. Thank you to everyone who gave 1hr to build awareness, including local businesses and organisations. If anyone would like to find out how they can access Dementia Friends training, please contact us on info@mayfacs.org.uk. Training is still available online or in person and is **FREE**.

LENTEN LUNCH in aid of MAYFACS will be taking place on Thursday 20th March in London House, High Street, Mayfield 12.00 – 2pm. Lenten lunches include soup, roll, cheese & biscuits and fruit. Pre-booking / Tickets are not required, but all donations are gratefully received. Please join us if you can. NB Lenten lunches will be taking place between 13th March and 20th April every Thursday raising funds for 5 different charities.



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.

Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance – Next session Wednesday 12th March 10.30am – 12pm, London House

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

FRIDAY MATINÉE FILM PROGRAMME

The 2024-25 season of Mayfacs Friday Matinée Film Programme comes to a close this month, with our final two films at Five Ashes Village Hall. Please come along and support our film seasons. 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 March: Barbie

Friday 21st March: The Lady In The Van

Support For All On Our Website: www.mayfacs.org.uk

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 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

Next Session **Saturday 5th April: 10am – 12pm Creative Beading**

Our next Create @ The Shed session takes place on Saturday 5th April 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 as spaces are limited. 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 (it will vary depending on the activity organised). If you would like to attend but need further financial support, please get in touch to discuss. For more information, please visit our website.

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

Our next Repair Café will take place at MAYFACS Shed on Saturday 15th March 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

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.

Thursday 6th March: Harvey’s Brewery in Lewes £15

Thursday 3rd April: Horse Sense UK £15

Thursday 1st May: Tulley’s Farm Tulip Festival £26

Thursday 5th June: Newhaven Fort £19

Thursday 3rd July: Visit to Rye £10

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



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-pc.gov.uk
www.mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk



Councillor contact details

For email correspondence please add
@mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk after a councillor name

Paul Amans
☎ 01435 872106
✉ paul.amans

Tommy Buck
☎ 07718 787748
✉ tommy.buck

Howard Blakebrough
☎ 07850 869881
✉ howard.blakebrough

Andrew Burnett
☎ 07919 002139
✉ andrew.burnett

Chris Dines
☎ 07557 238738
✉ chris.dines

Jo Eates
☎ 07876 032656
✉ jo.eates

Paul Jarvis
☎ 07730 382482
✉ paul.jarvis

Martin Lawson
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✉ martin.lawson

Chris Lilly
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Raj Sharma
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Sally-Ann Tibbles
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✉ sally-ann.tibbles

Rodney Warren
☎ 07860 628844
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www.mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk

New website and email addressing

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Migration To Gov.Uk Emails And Website

Towards the end of last year, the Council resolved to migrate to a gov.uk website and Councillor email addresses. The .gov.uk domain is recognised and trusted by the public as it signifies that the website is an official government site. This can increase confidence in the information and services provided, by reassuring users that the site is sanctioned by the Government. Using a standardised domain format across all Government websites promotes uniformity and makes it easier for residents to navigate and find official resources.

The community website is now active and residents using the old website address will be automatically redirected to the new address: <https://mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk>

Councillors are in the process of updating their email settings. Any emails sent to the old addresses ending in org.uk will automatically be forwarded to their new ones. Both email addresses will run concurrently while everyone gets used to the new ones. Therefore, please update any contacts you may have to ensure that Council email correspondence ends with @mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk after the relevant Councillor's name.

Devolution

In February, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), the Rt. Hon. Angela Rayner, made an announcement in the House of Commons that Sussex will be one of the places on the Devolution Priority Programme and that the Government will be moving to consult on the formation of a strategic



combined authority and elected mayor.

Below is the joint statement:

"Greater powers for Sussex come a step closer with government backing for devolution

An opportunity to gain new powers and investment for Sussex has moved a step nearer with the government's agreement to make the area a priority for devolution.

Following an expression of interest from the leaders of Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council, ministers have approved proposals to create a mayoral strategic authority for Sussex, made up of an elected mayor and two members of each constituent authority, with strategic powers for transport, public safety, health, environment and climate change, housing, economic growth, skills and jobs.

As well as unlocking new powers and investment for the region, it would give the people of Sussex a stronger voice in how national decisions affect them and enable more decisions to be taken locally.

The Government will now begin a consultation to seek the views of people and organisations in Sussex.

All three of Sussex's upper-tier local authorities – Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council – agree that devolution could unlock new funding and give people a stronger voice over national decisions which affect them and greater power to steer major projects across the area.

It follows the Government's White Paper on English Devolution published in December which outlined its aim to bring

more decision-making down from Westminster to local communities.

Cllr Paul Marshall, Leader of West Sussex County Council, said: "“This is fantastic news for the whole of Sussex and West Sussex in particular. A mayoral authority will give our communities greater influence in the big decisions that affect the region, such as our highways, housing, and economic growth, plus much-needed long-term financial stability.

“I’m pleased the Government has accepted us on to its priority programme, meaning we can unlock these benefits sooner rather than later. There is much to do, but please be assured we will continue our focus on delivering essential services and putting the needs of our residents first.”

Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of East Sussex County Council said: “I believe this is excellent news for the people of Sussex because it’s an opportunity for more decisions to be made locally and for greater investment here. I’m pleased the Government has recognised our potential to prosper and develop together.”

Cllr Bella Sankey, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council, said: “This is an historic and exciting moment for our region. I am optimistic and ambitious about devolution because of the direct benefits I know it will bring to all communities in Sussex. It will mean that more money is directly invested in our area and that better transport, affordable housing and skills and job creation can be accelerated.

“I’m looking forward to meeting with residents, businesses and partners to ensure that all of our communities have the opportunity to shape the future.”

Local councils in every part of Sussex would work closely with the mayoral

strategic authority and would continue to deliver day-to-day services.

Alongside devolution, the Government is asking for proposals for unitary councils in all parts of Sussex, moving away from the two-tier model of county and borough or district councils where those exist. Discussion with partners will continue on how this might be arranged.

There are no immediate changes to the operation of local authorities in Sussex or the services they provide.”

The Mayoral elections are anticipated to take place in 2026. It is not known what implications there will be for Town and Parish Councils or any financial consequences.

Extra Appointments for Urgent Dental Care

The NHS in Sussex is expanding access to urgent dental care appointments, following the success of a pilot programme last year. More appointments are being made available across Sussex, including Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, Rother, and Wealden.

The initiative will provide same-day urgent care appointments and offer courses of treatment, reducing the need for recurring visits.

People in need of urgent dental care who do not have a regular dentist can access the service by calling the Sussex Dental Helpline on 0300 123 1663 or emailing kcht.dentalhelpdesk@nhs.net

Sports Infrastructure Funding Available To Improve Outdoor Sports Facilities

Applications are invited for the Sports Infrastructure Fund programme recently launched by Wealden District Council to enhance and provide outdoor sports

pitches and facilities throughout the district.

The Council has committed £200,000 per year over a three-year period to organisations via a grant funding programme, to support the delivery of recommendations in Wealden's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy. These recommendations have been agreed with sports-governing bodies and Sport England. Funding can be used to improve amenities and pitches throughout the district.

Applications are being invited from local sports clubs, town and parish councils, schools and community organisations to support the delivery of a range of projects. The outdoor sports that could benefit from the funding programme include football, rugby union, tennis, cricket, lawn bowls, hockey, netball and stoolball.

For further information on the funding programme, please go to www.wealden.gov.uk/community-and-safety/information-on-grant-funding/sports-infrastructure-fund-2024-2027.

To request an application pack, organisations should email their details and provide a short summary of the proposed project to sportsinfrastructurefund@wealden.gov.uk.

Water Main Project Between Bewl Water Treatment Works And Rotherfield

In February, South East Water informed they have completed just under 65 per cent of this project. They are currently working in the following locations:

B2100 (Best Beech Hill/Wadhurst Road)

The working area has progressed along the road, working west from the junction with Best Beech Lane and Tidebrook Road.

Private land

They are working within private land near the B2100 (Best Beech Hill/Wadhurst Road) and alongside Cousley Wood Road.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE WARNINGS

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

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-pc.gov.uk

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

MARCH

Monday	3	Swifts & House Martins Talk	Mayfield Girls School, 7pm
Thursday	6	Mayfacs Trip - Harvey's Brewery, Lewes	
Thursday	6	Wadhurst & District Flower Club	Stonegate Village Hall, 1.45pm
Friday	7	World Day of Prayer	St. Thomas' Church, 10am
Friday	7	Mayfacs Film - Barbie	Five Ashes Village Hall
Friday	7	Film On Friday - Easy Rider	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.15pm
Tuesday	11	Lent Bible Study	St. Dunstan's, 10am
Tuesday	11	Mayfield Evening W.I.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Wednesday	12	Hearing Aid Mainenance	London House, 10.30-12noon
Thursday	13	Lenten Lunch in aid of Hospice In The Weald	London House, Noon-2pm
Friday	14	Open Morning	Mayfield Girls School
Saturday	15	Spring Crafts Fair	Colkins Mill Church, 2pm-5pm
Tuesday	18	Mayfield Horticultural Society Meeting	Colkins Mill Church, 7pm
Thursday	20	Lenten Lunch in aid of Mayfacs	London House, Noon-2pm
Thursday	20	U3A - Tulipmania	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2.30pm
Friday	21	Mayfacs Film - The Lady In the Van	Five Ashes Village Hall
Friday	21	Film On Friday - Dinner & La Chimera	Five Ashes Village Hall, 6.30pm
Wednesday	26	Mayfield Local History Society	Scout Hut, 7.30pm for 8pm
Thursday	27	Lenten Lunch in aid of Friends of the Holy Land	London House, Noon-2pm
Saturday	29	Five Ashes Horticultural Society Spring Show	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2pm



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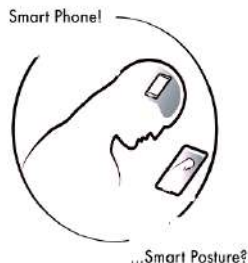
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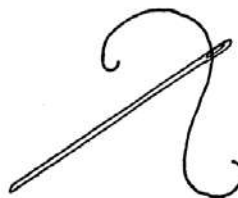
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