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No. 568 MAY 2025

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front Cover: Wild Garlic near Mayfield by Julie Salwey. Thanks to all the organisations for their photographs. Please do send your images to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



COMING SOON!

Mayfield and Five Ashes Newsletter is going "online". We are pleased to announce that our website will go live on **Monday 2nd June**. This will allow us to enable two very important developments:



Regular subscribers who have an email address and a credit or debit card will be able to register and

renew their subscriptions with a few simple clicks. You will also be

able to choose 'autorenew' meaning next year's subscription just needs a click to confirm. Our current system requires you to pay by BACS or standing order and it works but occasionally there are errors! The new system will be safe and secure and reduce our workload.

We will have an online electronic version of the Newsletter with page turning as if you were reading a printed copy. All paying subscribers will have access to this new service, and we are also making it available for those who only want an electronic version at a cost of £12 per annum. Many readers have asked us for such a version, so we hope you will take it up. If you register on our website for a postal subscription at a cost of £25, the electronic version will be also available to you free.

Those subscribers due to renew in June will receive an email with full instructions as to how to sign up, and we will do the same each subsequent month.

If you want to take out a new subscription – either just electronic or for a printed copy delivered to you each month, you can do so from 2nd June. The cost of the printed copy is still, after nearly 5 years, only **£25 per annum**. Full instructions on how to sign up will be included in our June edition.

Printed copies will still be available to pick up from the many outlets in the villages. If you don't have an email address and don't use the internet, you will still be able to send a cheque in the post for your subscription, enclosing your name and full postal address.

Finally, if you have already set up a standing order for your Newsletter subscription, you can continue with this if you wish, although it will help us as volunteers if we have almost everyone on the automatic system. We don't want anyone to miss out on having access but if you don't register for the website and pay by card you won't get access to the electronic version.

We feel very proud of the Newsletter, which we work hard to produce each month and proud to bring you this latest development. However, the Newsletter is nothing without the contributions that many make to our articles, the advertisers, without whom we would not be able to bring you something so good and so inexpensive, and you, our readers. So please give this innovation a try from Monday 2nd June if you can and let us know what you think.

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

POST OFFICE - Now open from 9am to 5.30pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) and from 9.30am to 3pm on Saturdays. **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.

ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

MAYFIELD'S MAYFAIR - SATURDAY 10TH MAY 1PM-4.30PM - HIGH STREET CLOSED 10AM-5PM

Mayfield's popular Mayfair will be held in the High Street commencing at 1pm with the procession starting from the old NatWest Bank followed by the battle between the Green Man and the Frost Queen. The Green Man, associated with nature and the awakening of spring, clashes with the Frost Queen, who embodies the winter season. The Green Man's "victory" signifies the return of life and the triumph of spring. This is followed by the crowning of the May Queen. If you know anyone who might like to be crowned there might just be time to enter the ballot - tickets available from the Hair Studio in the High Street. Schoolchildren from Mayfield's Pre-School, Primary School, Five Ashes Primary School and Mayfield Girls School will be dancing round the Maypole to the music of the Mayfield Band; there will be street entertainment, including Punch & Judy, Morris Men and the traditional Mummers. Ice cream, strawberries & cream, cakes, biscuits, soft and alcoholic drinks will be available. In short, a veritable feast of entertainment! This is always a wonderful afternoon out for all the family. Please come along - you will be sure of receiving a very warm welcome.

The Mayfieldians

WOODHILL SURGERY

We are delighted to learn that planning permission has now been granted for our new surgery at Court Meadow!

This is a huge milestone for the future of GP services in Mayfield and Five Ashes. Since taking over the Practice in 2013, our patient list has grown from 2,200 to nearly 3,800 and our current premises are no longer able to meet that level of demand. The new surgery will provide us with 350 square metres of clinical space, in line with national standards, compared with just 80 square metres today. The Court Meadow site is the only location we have found that truly meets the needs of our growing Practice and the wider community. We are incredibly grateful that Wealden District Council has committed to funding the building, with the GP Partners and NHS Sussex signing a 25-year lease. This is a clear sign of our shared commitment to local healthcare. We are also very pleased that the new surgery will be located alongside a proposed new Community Centre, led by Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council. This shared vision presents an exciting opportunity to create a vibrant hub at the heart of our village, bringing together both healthcare and community services.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to the Parish Council for their ongoing support and leadership on this initiative and in helping to shape a brighter future for everyone in the community.

Back in 2022, we wrote to all our patients as part of our engagement process, and we were truly heartened to receive 96% positive feedback in support of the plans. Your encouragement has helped drive this forward, and we cannot thank you enough. This is a vital and exciting development, not just for the Practice, but for the whole community and we will keep you updated

with progress and key milestones as the project moves ahead.

Thank you for your continued support. We cannot wait to welcome you into the new Woodhill Surgery when the time comes!

Warm wishes.

Andrew Cornell Managing Partner,
Woodhill Surgery & the entire Woodhill
Surgery Team

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Annual Plant Sale, Saturday 10th May

This annual, much anticipated event is your chance to buy locally grown plants at great prices. There will be a range of annuals for the garden, pots and hanging baskets; perennials from the gardens of Mayfield villagers; a range of vegetables; herbs and loads of different tomatoes, including lots of heritage varieties. There will be plenty of advice on hand as well.

Watch out for more specific details nearer the time on posters round the village and on Facebook, etc., but get that date in your diaries, set the alarm because the early grower really will get the best choice.

Opens 9am till 11.00 on Saturday 10th May, Memorial Hall car park or the Scout Hall if it's wet.

If you have any of your own plants to spare for us to sell, please bring them along to the Scout Hall on Friday 9th May at 2.30pm, or EARLY on Saturday morning. There'll be someone there to receive them from about 8 am. Thank you in advance!

We'll be very grateful for your support, as this is our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Shirley Holland

'We're Making A Garden'

Thanks to all who came to my talk about our garden at Colkins Mill Church on 15th April. As you could no doubt tell I was a

tad nervous at the start, but you were a brilliant audience and in the end I really enjoyed it!

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 11th June Visit to Great Dixter.

Contact Claire Montagu for details on
claire.montagu@icloud.com or 872648

Saturday 19th July Mayfield Summer Show

Tessa Crowe

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



MAYFIELD TENNIS CLUB OPEN DAY SATURDAY

10th MAY, 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Mayfield Tennis Club welcomes non-members to join us for a morning of tennis. We invite adults and juniors of all standards to enjoy FREE coaching sessions and hopefully encourage them to take up or to return to the wonderful game of tennis.

Our LTA qualified Coach will organise play and introduce newcomers to the game. Although both adults and juniors are welcome at any time between 10am and 1pm, the day is being specially arranged for juniors coaching between 10am and 11:30am and for adults coaching between 11:30am and 1pm. Tennis balls and rackets can be provided, if required, and refreshments will also be available. Anyone joining the Club at the Open Day will have their one-off entrance fee waived and will also be offered a free group coaching lesson for one hour with our Coach at a later date. Please do try and join us at our lovely Club for a fun morning of 'all things tennis'. For more details about the Club please look at our website www.mayfieldtennisclub.co.uk

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A: S'WONDERFUL - A Gershwin Entertainment

Our next talk will be given by Roger Hind on May 15th - 2.30pm - Five Ashes Village Hall, who previously gave us a memorable talk in 2021 on another musical theme.

"S'Wonderful" promises to be equally good. Roger is an accomplished musician with broad interests and who always leaves his audience, not only smiling, but usually humming a tune or two. We are fortunate to have him coming to Five Ashes, and don't make the mistake of thinking this will only appeal to avowed music lovers, as it won't!

Our talks are free to our members but we also welcome their friends and other visitors, who are asked to pay a small fee of £3.00 for the talk and the tea afterwards. If you would like to find out more about our small, but thriving, branch of the U3A, please visit our website, which is www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield.

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

And that's a wrap for this year. Thank you to all our members and visitors who joined us to hear about Pevensey Castle, Folk Songs in Sussex, The Founder of Mayfield, Ivan Margary and (hopefully) Inn Signs of Sussex. As some of you are aware we had a few technical

issues at our March talk, but we are pleased to say that we are the proud owners of a new projector so no more issues!

We are planning two summer trips. The first to **Dover Castle on Thursday 22nd May** and is a joint trip with the Mayfield Branch of the Royal British Legion. There's no group talk so the day will be yours to wander as you please. In addition to the castle itself, there are two underground tours that are very interesting: the Secret Wartime Tunnels and the underground hospital; and there's even a Roman lighthouse. Entry for English Heritage members is free & non-member tickets cost £22. The second trip is to **Pevensey Castle on Tuesday 8th July**. With a history stretching back over 16 centuries, Pevensey Castle chronicles more graphically than any other fortress the story of Britain's south coast defences. This trip will have a tour guide. Again, English Heritage members are free & non-member tickets cost from £8.10.

Depending on numbers, we may be able to get a group discount for both trips and, for those who don't wish to drive, there will be a minibus option for a small additional charge.

Jo Andrews honsec@mayfieldlhs.org.uk



May is a busy month for your Bonfire Society with three events as well as the behind-the-scenes preparations for Carnival.

On the evening of **Thursday 8th May**, to commemorate the **80th anniversary of V.E. Day**, we have an evening of 1940s-themed entertainment on Court Meadow,

culminating in the lighting of our Beacon. There will be a display of military vehicles, music from Mayfield Silver Band and singing from MayZing choir, with food and drink and a licensed bar. It's a free family event; do come along and join us from **6.30pm** and see Sylvia Leeves light the Beacon at 9.30pm.

Then on Saturday 10th May we will have a stand at the Mayfair. To find out more about everything that goes on behind the scenes, from organising events to making torches, come and meet the Bonfire Boyes and Belles.

On **Thursday 15th May** we have our regular monthly **social drinks at the Rose and Crown** from 8pm. Beforehand we will hold our AGM at 7.30pm and aim to beat last year's record time and complete the formalities in under 10 minutes.

Do you have any leftover foreign currency? We can convert coins and notes into cash to support our fundraising, even if they're obsolete or phased out. Please donate in the Post Office or bring it with you to our stand at the Mayfair. Every penny counts towards our £13,000 target! Tickets and more information are available online now for our June fundraising event, **Snail Racing, on Friday 20th June** at Crowborough Social Club. Join us for a hilarious evening for all ages, a race night with a twist, with virtual on-screen races using cartoon snails – no snails will be harmed in the process! Have fun betting on your favourite snail characters, or sponsor a race, and help raise funds for Carnival 2025.

Catherine Hawley
bonfire@gawain.online

ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

The next two days this beautiful local landmark is open are **11th May and 8th June**. Our dedicated team of volunteers meet every Tuesday morning to continue work on the maintenance and restoration of the mill. If you would like to know more, please visit our website or Facebook page. We hope to see you soon!

<http://www.argoshillwindmill.org.uk/>

CLASSICAL STARDOM

On **Sunday 4th May at 7.30pm in St. Dunstan's**, Mayfield Festival Choir directed by Jeremy Summerly with the Ripieno Players and soloists from the Royal College of Music will be performing the all-time classic Mozart's *Requiem* with his *Exsultate jubilate* and Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*.

Jeremy writes: Mozart's iconic *Requiem* is justly famous. Not only does it contain some of Mozart's most scintillating music, but it was left unfinished at his early death at the age of 35. Why and for whom the *Requiem* was written remains the subject of debate and speculation. In this performance by Mayfield Festival Choir, conducted by Jeremy Summerly (in the completion by Mozart's younger contemporary Franz Süssmayr), the brilliant Ripieno Players and young vocal scholars from the Royal College of Music are joined by Soprano Sofia Kirwan-Baez, all of whom have become regular features of music-making in Mayfield. Sofia's ravishing tone and dramatic approach will shine not only in Mozart's *Requiem*, but also in *Exsultate, jubilate*, a brilliant virtuoso motet written in Italy when Mozart was killing time at the end of an operatic run in Milan; if you were a teenager in 1773 – and in the anachronistic absence of TikTok – you presumably needed something to while



Credit: Wiki Media Commons

away the hours while you were waiting for the evening performances of your most recent opera.

Mozart's dazzling music is heard alongside that of Haydn, the other star of Classical-era composition. Haydn's '*Little Organ Mass*' is a sparkling miniature designed to entertain as much as to provide music for church worship. The name '*Little Organ Mass*' is a reference to the glittering Benedictus, where the organ comes to the fore (here played by Andrew Benians) to accompany Soprano soloist, Diva Kirwan-Baez. Join the Mayfield Stars on **4th May**.

TICKETS

£30, £25, £15 & £8 (under 25s free);

Online: www.mayfieldfestivalchoir.org In

person: Sew Inspired, High St, Mayfield;

Telephone: 0333 666 3366 (this is a general booking line operated for us by Ticket Source) Enquiries:

boxoffice@mayfieldfestivalchoir.org

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

We are very pleased to announce that Councillors voted in favour of the new

Mayfield Community and Health Centre planning application at Wealden District Council's (WDC) Planning Committee North 10th April 2025 meeting. The MCC committee would like to thank all those who have supported the project and the speakers who addressed the planning committee formally at the meeting, including representatives from both MAYFACS and Woodhill Surgery.

This welcome news means that we can now press forward with the important task of demolishing the old Hall and building the new combined Centre, along with the associated landscaping and parking areas.

Despite increasing building costs since the previous 2022 approved submission, the new Hall and Health Centre have been re-designed in line with the revised budget. Now that RIBA Stage 4 of the project (the detailed specification of requirements) has been completed, the various sub-contractor work packages are being obtained. The final project cost is therefore expected in early May 2025 after which it will be considered by Mayfield & Five Ashes Parish Council .

This is a joint project involving funding for the Hall by the Parish Council, with the Health Centre element being funded by Wealden District Council. It will provide an up-to-date community space in the heart of the village combined, with a fit-for-purpose, state-of-the-art facility housing the GP Practice. It will be sustainably built, incorporating materials, such as brick and sandstone, to reflect the local environment.

We hope that the main contractor will be appointed, with the contract in place, in June, which will allow for construction work to commence around mid-July 2025. The contractor has already liaised with the local schools about the implications for traffic flow during the construction phase. The remaining contents of the old Memorial Hall are to be removed by the end of May, in readiness for demolition in late June this summer.

The legal documentation, which comprises a Development/Funding Agreement and Head Lease for the Surgery, are also nearing completion. If the schedule goes according to plan, completion is anticipated in mid-2026.

Further updates will be made available via the Newsletter, Village Facebook and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk.

MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.

At our April meeting we had a captivating talk by Robin Keyte about 'The Amsterdam', a 260-year-old Dutch East India Company cargo ship, which was wrecked off the south coast at Bulverhythe beach near Hastings. The ship lies remarkably intact, including its cargo of silver ingots. It remains hidden from view except during very low tides when the timbers become exposed and the shape of the vessel becomes visible. Some of the findings from the site are in The Shipwreck Museum in Hastings and a replica of the ship is on display in Amsterdam.

We also had a visit from Jo Eates, our village Postmaster, who gave us an update on how the new Post Office is running. Our Post Office is a unique institution, as it is owned and run by Mayfield Community Benefit Society, which is, in its turn, owned and run by our community. The Society earns commission on each transaction so the more we use the Post Office the more money it makes. We were all encouraged to continue to use the services as much as possible, in order to keep this valuable asset on our High Street.

We will be having a cake stall at the Mayfair on May 10th with the usual array of lovely W.I. cakes on sale. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 13th. This will be our AGM and will also feature a talk by Gill Halcro on the Secret Operations Executive (Churchill's Secret Army): a fascinating insight into our country's recent history.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month (apart from August) at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Colkins Mill Church, just at the end of the High Street.

Please feel free to pop in at one of our evenings and meet us. For any further information, please contact

Chrissie Robinson 862825



BRANCH CENTENARY - Thursday 22nd May

What an achievement! Our Branch has continued to be active for 100 years. We decided at our AGM to visit Dover Castle for everyone to celebrate on Thursday 22nd May. The cost of the entrance ticket will be £22 per person but may be less if there are more than 15 of us in a group. Free if you are a member of English Heritage. Depending on the numbers of people who are going, we will travel by minibus/private cars or a combination of both. We ask for a donation towards the cost of transport. The plan would be to meet at Dover Castle in the morning for a coffee, then re-join for lunch, and travel home together afterwards. There are no group tours so the day will be yours to wander as you please. In addition to the castle itself, there are two underground tours that are

very interesting: the Secret Wartime Tunnels, and the underground hospital, and there is even a Roman lighthouse. Use the weblink below to read more about it. This celebratory trip is for **branch members and anyone else who would like to join us**. Please can you let **Carole Stilwell** carolestilwell@hotmail.com or me know if you will be attending, so that we can arrange tickets and transport.

Victory in Europe (VE) Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025 and Victory in Japan (VJ) Day 80th Anniversary on 15th August 2025 - we will be displaying some interesting material in front of the Mayfield War Memorial early in the month. This will concentrate on how the various anniversaries have been celebrated over the years, featuring local residents, wherever possible.

At our last Branch Meeting on Wednesday 2nd April we were entertained by Delia Tayloy's wonderful, informative, humorous and very nostalgic look back at 'The 1960s A Decade of Change'. Nearly 40 members and guests attended and all agreed they had enjoyed the occasion immensely.

Our Next Branch Meeting - Wednesday 25th June, 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 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/e-mail me.

Our supper will be followed with a talk by Wing Commander Ian Woodhouse MBE

Bravery and Sacrifice - Thanks you to Judith Burns, Museum Manager, East Grinstead Museum for allowing us to include her following article.

On 17th March 2025, the death at the age of 105 of the last surviving Battle of Britain pilot, John 'Paddy' Hemingway, was announced. His squadron shot down 90 enemy aircraft during an eleven-day period in May 1940. Prince William's tribute on social media said, *"We owe so much to Paddy and his generation for our freedoms today. Their bravery and sacrifice will always be remembered."*

What is not so well-known about the Lentaigne family is that Mollie

Little is then known of John until his death is recorded in the Supplement to the London Gazette, (dated 13th August 1942), where it was announced that he was killed



in action near El Alamein on 25th July 1942. His record on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website shows he is buried and/or commemorated at the El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt.

John was just 20 years old when he died. However, not only was he killed in action at such a young age but he was also awarded the Military Cross, which is only awarded for an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy.



For those with an interest in local history, John's name is recorded on the War Memorial at Uckfield Parish Church, East Sussex; the brass memorial has 92 names

for World War 1 alongside their regiment and rank, and a carved wooden board records 44 names (with initials only) for World War 2.

Whether 20 years old, or 105, we will do well to remember their bravery.

Judith Burns, Museum Manager, East Grinstead Museum

For more information on Mollie Lentaigne and her drawings please visit East Grinstead Museum or contact us at:

info@eastgrinsteadmuseum.org.uk.

Kevin Swaine 07970 787465

kevinswaine@btinternet.com

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Hoopers Farm (TN20 6BD) will be open for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th June between 11am and 5pm. Tickets cost £6 and can be bought at the gate or booked online at ngs.org.uk.

This is a large south-facing garden with wide ranging views. It is tucked away at the bottom of Vale Road. The garden features many roses, including a rose arbour and an abundance of island beds packed with early summer flowering herbaceous plants, annuals and shrubs. There is a productive vegetable plot, a rock garden and a lawn area which has been repurposed to create a wildflower meadow with meandering grass paths. There is also a long meadow walk to a wild-life pond and, as always, two friendly donkeys!

Homemade teas will be provided by the very efficient Pre-School team and lovely plants from Rapkyn's Nursery will be on sale. There will be live music on the afternoon of Sunday 15th.

Also open in June, after a long break, is the superb garden at Tidebrook Manor, Sunday 1st June, 11am – 4.30pm. See more details of this garden and many

others in the Sussex County booklet, available at local shops, cafes and garden centres.

The Mayfield trail of five Open Gardens will this year be on the weekend of **August 2nd/3rd**. Proceeds from these visits are donated to nursing and health charities. In 2024 the NGS donated just over £3.5million to charities including Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support, Hospice UK and Parkinson's UK. **Sarah Ratcliffe 873310**

MAYFIELD BAND

Rehearsing for the V.E. Day 80th anniversary, rehearsing for the Mayfair, teenagers fretting about exams, waiting for alphabetically challenged players to find their music, too quiet, Blues Brothers, tea and biscuits, too loud, old friends, Cobblers (March of the), am I still in the right place? Playing music that we don't like, playing music that we can't play, playing music that we can play now, playing music that we really like now, ooh that wasn't the note I hoped for, Nat King Cole, when do I get to breathe? A discussion on Trump (clearly never played in a brass band), missing that C sharp again, still too loud, you're a bar late, Vaughan Williams, and why is there an inflatable chicken on wheels in the band room?

Youth Band

Phones away, instruments out, music out, I've forgotten my music, my valve's stuck, QUIET! I haven't got that piece, found it, quieter, B flats please, REPEAT, has anybody actually practised? No not there, better, excellent, again please, once more, once more but quicker, now together, YESS!

For chaos and harmony, loud and soft, fast and slow, tea and biscuits, loves and hates,

young and old, challenge and achievement, and no increase in tariff, contact **Simon** on **872007** or simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

STOP PRESS - Open morning of Diverse - a new hair salon for Mayfield. Next to Blush. May 17th 10.30am-1.30pm. You will be made very welcome.

NUS GHANI - MP FOR SUSSEX WEALD

This month, we come together to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and pay our respects to those who fought in the Second World War. A series of events will take place locally in Sussex Weald and across the United Kingdom to mark this momentous occasion in our country's history and bind us together in a moment of reflection, celebration and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed defending the values of our great nation.

Our British Armed Forces are the ultimate defenders of our security and freedom. They are respected the world over and I always convey our gratitude when spending time with local residents whose family members worked with our Armed Forces overseas. I'm proud to have been working with the local branches of the Royal British Legion for many years and it is always an honour to stand with local veterans on Remembrance Sunday and meet those who serve our country at home or abroad today. Given the county's proximity to Europe, East Sussex has often been on the front line of war. As a result, many of our towns and villages across Sussex Weald have had a long connection to the military.

To highlight a few of those local connections, Horam was home to a former RAF Squadron Leader and WWII Spitfire pilot Jack Hemmings, who sadly died at the age of 103 earlier this year. In Crowborough, we have a memorial dedicated to soldiers of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment from Canada, who were killed when a V1 bomb struck their encampment. Similarly, Wadhurst was a home to William Broughton Gingell, a pilot from the Photographic Reconnaissance Units, which was an unarmed and unprotected unit taking photographs of strategically important sites which were then analysed for intelligence and used in strategic planning. Moreover, I am pleased to be supporting a new permanent memorial for Flying Officer Percy Burton in Hailsham, to mark the spot where his plane tragically crashed during the Battle of Britain.

Throughout the weekend and the week leading up to VE Day, many of our towns and villages including Hailsham, Crowborough, Heathfield, Wadhurst and Rotherfield will be lighting beacons and hosting a programme of events for our communities and families to bring the commemorations to life.

We shall never forget the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought for our country and our freedoms. I hope local residents of all ages will take the opportunity to reflect on and mark this important anniversary in our history, and I look forward to joining our communities at celebrations across Sussex Weald.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

ONE OF MAYFIELD'S IRONMEN STRIKES AGAIN

As if swimming 3.8 kilometres in open water (this is like swimming from Wales to Bristol), cycling 180k (like cycling from Bristol to London) and then running a marathon of 42.2k., all done consecutively and completed within 17 hours wasn't enough, one of Mayfield's Ironmen, three of whom were interviewed for this Newsletter in January 2024, Matt Botterman, has decided to attempt to swim from England to France during the first week of July. The English Channel is a 21mile stretch of cold, tidal water and is one of the busiest shipping routes in the world. Swimming it is widely considered the Mount Everest of the swimming world and far more people have actually reached the top of the mountain than have competed the swim!

Matt spoke to Newsletter Co-Editor Jeanette recently about his latest challenge, saying: "Under the channel swimming regulations I am not allowed to touch the boat, anything that floats or anybody during the swim. The regulations also state that no wetsuits are allowed for this swim - it's a Speedo, a thin rubber hat and a set of goggles! The water is likely to be 15-16C in July. To put that into context, your local indoor pool is likely to be around 25-28C. In short, it's going to be cold!

Fewer than 4000 people have ever completed the swim solo but I hope to make it in 12-13 hours before hopping back onto the fishing boat that will escort me during the

swim, and head back to Blighty for some fish and chips! I am doing this for a fantastic local children's charity, **Taylor Made Dreams**. If you Google "**Matt Botterman Just Giving**" you will find my page."

We will keep you up-to-date with Matt's training. Please do help spur him on by donating to this very worthwhile local charity. Good luck Matt.



TAYLOR-MADE DREAMS - MATT'S CHOSEN LOCAL CHARITY

In 2008, Taylor Mitchell was diagnosed with a condition that changed his, and his family's life forever. After courageously fighting against an incurable illness for four years, Taylor's family were informed that he had just two years left to live, a life shattering blow for the whole family. His family set about fulfilling Taylor's wish list of things he wanted to do whilst he still could. It was whilst fulfilling Taylor's dream list that Mum Suzi decided she would set up a charity to do the same for other children with life-limiting illnesses. In 2012 Suzi, together with friend Amanda, got charitable registration status for Taylor-Made Dreams. Primarily the aim of Taylor-Made Dreams is to assist in the creation of a unique 'Bucket List' which is 'TAYLOR-MADE' to meet the specific needs and desires of the individual child with a critical illness. Their objective is to enable children and their families to experience unique quality time and experiences together, which otherwise may not be possible without financial and empathetic emotional support.

<https://www.taylormadedreams.org.uk/what-we-do/>

FEATURES



FINDING OUT WHAT PARAGON IN FIVE ASHES HAS TO OFFER

“Some people don’t know they want a Porsche until they come in here and fall in love with one”

When I walked into the Paragon showroom in Five Ashes in early April, I was warmly greeted by George Gibb in Porsche Sales, who I quickly discovered had been born and brought up in Mayfield, went to the Primary School, and now, at age 26, lives here too. Some regular readers might think that there is a recurring theme in this and my last 2 articles about residents who are true ‘Mayfieldians’, and yes, it does look like that, but in this case, George is part of a much bigger story.

Not having been in the market for a Porsche, I was surprised to learn that Paragon is an independent specialist dealer in used, mainly 2-door, Porsche sports cars. It is not a Porsche main dealer, the nearest one being in Tonbridge, and it does not sell new or electric cars, or big SUVs. The only 4-door car it will deal with is the Macan, a sporty lightweight 4-seater SUV.

Paragon specialises in buying used Porsche sports cars, mainly from existing customers, who bring their cars in to be serviced, or from a network of contacts owning Porsches, who are known to the team at Paragon or from whom they have bought cars in the past. They are very selective in what they buy and will only purchase cars outright so that they can be prepared and sold on. They deal with about 150 cars a year (compared with main dealer sales of 750), prepare all cars to the same high standard in each case and do not sell to the mass market. Their market is largely in the UK and Europe, but they do export to Australia too where right-hand drive cars are driven. There is little export to the US for that same reason, and there is likely to be even less in the future due to the current economic situation.

George has been with Paragon for 3 years. He is part of a staff team of 13 and his main role apart from sales, is to focus on the company’s external communications and social media presence, organising videos, photoshoots, some of which happen in and around

Mayfield and Five Ashes (always with Paragon cars) and podcasts which often feature on YouTube and Spotify. He was brought in to make Paragon accessible to that part of the younger generation who are making a lot of money, for example as social media influencers, on TikTok and dealing in bitcoin. It seems he has been very successful

All members of the team (some of whom have been with Paragon for 20 or even 30 years), whilst having a specific role in either selling, servicing, communications or finance and administration, can, and are encouraged to, get involved in all aspects of the business, to the extent that they all get to know each other's customers who, in many cases, are regarded as friends of the Paragon 'family'. Customers, who may often already have a Porsche from there, often drop in for a chat and are never turned away. Indeed, one is made so welcome, as I was, that I am surprised the staff get any work done at all!

It is great customer relations built on trust and good communication. Some regular customers will buy without even seeing the car before it arrives, duly prepared, in the showroom, such is the confidence they have that the team will provide what they

want. Others may come in for an MOT and a chat and leave with yet another Porsche for their collection!

The team is led by Mark Sumpter, the owner, who bought the VW Garage and local shop in 1993, having worked for DBS Ford in Jarvis Brook. As a Porsche owner, he knew where he wanted to be and saw the garage as a way to become independent and follow the dream. With little money and in the wake of a recession, but with passion and energy, he built the business up and his dream has now become a reality, one he can justifiably be proud of.

The secret is to provide an overall high-quality service, a cut above that delivered by other Porsche dealers; a holistic experience which, because of the modern-day pressures of the car industry, those dealers cannot now provide. Paragon is in the rare position of having the time, and, because of astute financial management, the money, to look after and care for their cars and their customers in a style redolent of the 80s. As an example, it is not unusual for a staff member to travel some distance to pick up or deliver a Porsche to the customer, as part of the all-round service which Paragon provides.



Many customers will also travel long distances to visit Paragon, even from as far afield as Scotland and the Continent, and many of them are collectors, a passion Mark shares and understands. He has been known to sell a Carrera GT for over £1m, which is almost exceptional. Such cars would be bought and sold on commission, because they would not have needed attention, having been held as part of a collection and never driven. Having a mileage below 1000 is very critical. He has even bought and sold the same car 3 times over, but each time going to a different collection.

Mark's own Porsche collection includes some old racing cars and Paragon has a team which races at a semi-professional level. Mark is the main driver, taking part in 10 races every year on Grand Prix tracks all around Europe, including Silverstone and Spa in Germany. He has also raced at Daytona in Florida.

The team has won 5 championships including the British GT, the Porsche Club Championship and the 2 Litre Cup, which involves 1965 Porsche 911s racing against Ferraris and Aston Martins at Le Mans. Last year Mark also raced an ex-Le Mans 911 GT2 in the Endurance Racing Legends. Originally, he used to race relatively current cars, but now the team only race historic ones.

In addition to being out there on the racetrack, Paragon has good contacts with Driver Tuition on and off the track, whose specialists can be hired by customer groups to provide Advanced Road driving courses for the day. Paragon also likes to keep in contact with customers by holding Car and Coffee events, hosting breakfasts and running charity events, at Goodwood for instance. The staff are also keen to be involved in the local community, and Five Ashes readers may recall the Quiz/Charity

Night, which was held not so long ago to raise money for a defibrillator, when residents were invited to attend and look around the showroom.

So, what about buying a Porsche? When you walk into the showroom, every model looks good as new, and the assumption must be for most that there will not be much change out of £50,000 at the very least. Yet apparently, you could pick up a Boxster, admittedly 20 years old, for £15,000! Boxsters are the baby of the Porsche range, but as Mark says, they are still a Porsche made to the same high standards as any other in the range and can cost anything between £60,000 and £160,000 new. The 911 is the 'flagship' and is the same shape as when it was first made in 1964.

Porsche cars 'age gracefully' and Porsche 'drip feed the market' to keep residual values high. Some appreciate more than others, but at 20 or 25 years of age, any Porsche will rise significantly in value. They are also less expensive to insure than you might think, and they are fitted with trackers to deter theft. Mark told me 'The brand has a lot of love out there', and, if you think about it, you do see them around much more now

Like me you may not be in the market for a Porsche, even a used one, or at least I didn't think I was until I went in and met the Paragon Team, but it was a great experience to look around the showroom to see and hear what is happening there. So why not pay Paragon a visit? You can be assured of a warm welcome and, who knows, you might just fall in love with a Porsche too!

Sue Smith

JO ANDREWS & THE REPAIR CAFÉ

I met Jo Andrews who organises the Repair Café:

'It's been going two and a half years now. Usually, it's in the shed at Merrieweathers every month on the third Saturday and then once a year we take it to Five Ashes Village Hall with a 'go-box' for all we need on the road. We are so lucky that we have a permanent base. The ethos is all about recycling where possible: mending, saving money, saving the environment, be a bit

the repairers are really happy to show you how to do it.

What's your role Jo? My skills are making tea and coffee cake, talking to people and the admin including tracking the jobs with a spreadsheet. Originally, new to the village, I wanted to meet people, so I decided to see what it was about - you don't have to bring a repair down to enjoy a cup of coffee or a slice of cake. So, I was talking to them and they said, well come and help us. So that's how I got into it. I track the repairs: you find out what's needed, show it to a repairer and they triage it, they say, yes, we can fix it or no, I'm sorry, we can't. And we are repairers, not restorers.

We don't ask for donations - some people can't afford a donation - but many do and it helps to fund the Shed as a whole. A lot of people really respond if you've managed to fix something. One lady, her son had made her a box when he was at school. He was now grown up and abroad and she'd dropped the box and it had broken! One of our repairers who works with ceramics -she does dolls houses, tiny, tiny things - fixed it for her. When she



greener. We're so lucky because we have got some amazing repairers. We've got a gentleman who specialises in clocks. He can do watches, replace batteries for example, but then he can turn his hand to all sorts. Others are generalists but they are super good at what they do. We've got Jeff who does woodwork and he's happy to show people how to do it. In fact, all of





came back it looked amazing and that lady was all tears. That's a special moment.

We never know what's coming in - some days it's a clock day and at this time of year, a lot of garden implements may need sharpening, patio cleaners need fixing. We've got somebody who can solder, somebody who can weld, a woodwork expert, ceramics, clocks, mechanics, electricals, sharpening. And if we can't do it (clothing, jewellery) we signpost them to people who can. Some of the favourites we have fixed include a Tibetan telescopic mountain horn that had been converted into a lamp but the lamp holder was broken; an Italian

rocking chair came in - absolutely beautiful; and a mosaic jewellery box made with slivers of tortoiseshell - that was a painstaking job by Idske.

One of my favourites was an ornate metal bird feeder that was looking a bit battered and broken. The lady who brought it in said it was her husband's but he was now in a home with dementia but he'd remember the bird feeder so could we repair it? So, with some welding from Stuart, we fixed it. When she saw it there were tears. And that's often the best thing - the emotional connection for people, you see it in their faces. So come in and see us - plenty of parking, bring your dog and just have a cuppa and a piece of cake if you like. ***Thanks Jo that's a great offer!***

Philip James

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST - CUCKOO: SOUND OF SPRING

It's become a tradition of mine to go camping locally for a few nights in May. Being immersed in nature, spending evenings by firelight, and absorbing the abundant buzz of wildlife, it's a good-for-the-soul time to be outdoors in Sussex.

Hawthorn, or the May tree, is flowering in fragrant blooms. Bats are flitting en-masse from maternity roosts at dusk to forage. Badgers are on the trundle and Foxes on the trot. And yes, there are loads of lovely baby bunnies. In Sussex, we are lucky to retain a population of visiting Nightingales, and on uninterrupted May nights the males are in full rattling, palpitating symphony. Tawny Owls ke-wik and Barn Owls shriek. Woodlands burst into carpets of indigo as Bluebell scent fills the understory.

Amidst this, an undulating 'beep-boop' can be heard, a natural metronome. It is one of our most recognisable bird calls, and the onomatopoeic sound of spring and summer; the Cuckoo.

Arriving from Africa in March, Cuckoos infamously lay their eggs in other birds' nests, sneakily replacing an egg of an unsuspecting parent for them to incubate, feed and fledge. The not-so-little Cuckoo nestling shunts other eggs, and even youngsters, out of



Cuckoo chick and adult Reed Warbler
by Derek Middleton

the nest, outcompeting any remaining for resources, becoming the last chonky chick standing. Regularly hoodwinked are Reed Warblers, Dunnocks and Meadow Pipits. Mostly insectivorous, with a penchant for Hairy Caterpillars, adult Cuckoos spend their days feeding prior to their homeward migration. Having not had chicks to rear and fledge, they leave around June, with the new generation following later in summer.

Overall, it sounds like Cuckoos are having a pretty easy time of it. However, as is the story of so many of our native species, they are under threat. Cuckoos have declined by 65% since the 1980s and are now on the UK conservation Red List. The usual suspects are at play of habitat loss, climate change, and pesticide use resulting in food scarcity. Additionally, these issues have befallen many of their host species, leading to similar population declines, or, at the least, Cuckoo-bewildering behaviour changes such as earlier breeding.

Despite their size and familiarity, these elusive birds are not an easy spot. In a second act of mistaken identity, their barred chest can often resemble that of a Sparrowhawk.

Although their calming calls have accompanied many a spring sundowner for me, I'm still yet to see one myself. Perhaps this year could be my year. Maybe.

**Kerry Williams –
Communications Officer:
Conservation**

WADHURST PARK - FARM AND NATURE RESERVE

It was a glorious April afternoon when I visited Wadhurst Park to interview Harriet Bristow, Head of Community and Operations and Luis Brown, Chief Executive. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience between them and hold a deep interest in the environment and biodiversity, working hard to manage the 2,100 acres, in order 'to protect its nature, wildlife, cultural heritage and beauty'.
www.wadhurstpark.co.uk.

Harriet, who is a Geographer and worked at the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for 10 years, coordinates the day-to-day running of the Estate. She is responsible for the community programme which includes a range of events and projects. This includes opening the garden as part of the National Gardens Scheme, which takes place this year on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th June**, hosting knowledge exchanges with people from other Estates and organisations, such as the National Trust, engagement of children through visits from schools, Brownies, Scouts and Rainbows, the MAYFACS Shed and Community Orchard and a Market Garden



Luis Brown and Harriet Bristow by Barbara Murray

called the Lost Peacock. She is also responsible for courses, some of which are held in conjunction with the Sussex Wildlife Trust e.g. Bird, Butterfly and Dragonfly ID and Bird and Bat watch. If you have always struggled with your wildflower meadow, there is a Scything course which teaches how to manage small meadows through the correct use of the scythe. These courses are for limited numbers but are all advertised on the website and Facebook.

Luis, who studied Environmental Technology and International Development at university, followed by an MA in Land Management, is interested in using technology to map and record what is happening on the Estate. This includes the review of ecological data, which shows how things are doing and shows the progress of regeneration. It is also used for land management, for example, working

out the grazing plan and forestry plan. In the past there were 30 tenant farms on the land now owned by Wadhurst Park, each farm having had a full complement of workers. At present, to cover the same land, there are 4 staff including 1 stockman, 2 full time rangers, 1 conservation land manager and 2 trainee rangers, so the technological systems mentioned above are invaluable in ensuring that all the work on the estate is dealt with as efficiently as possible. There are also opportunities for traineeships for young people who are keen to develop a career with an environmental focus.

Luis and Harriet showed me a website they are developing, which will show how the habitats including hedgerows, woodland, orchards and ponds on land in the upper Rother valley have changed since the 1870s. www.upperrotherlandscape.co.uk The site consists of four layers, the bottom layer a recent satellite view of the area

onto which is transposed an 1870s Ordnance Survey Map, above which is a colour coded map of lost habitats across the region, and another layer shows the public footpaths. There is also information relating to all aspects of regeneration. It is believed that the area has lost 110 miles of hedgerows, 620 acres of woodland, 113 orchards and 200 ponds. It is possible to focus in on the map to find your local area and to see where the hedgerows, ponds, orchards and woodlands would have existed. Ideally people will be inspired to recreate these features, even in a small way, in their gardens. When walking out in the area it is also possible to spot where habitats might have changed; if for example you see a Wood Anemone or a Bluebell growing in an open field, it is a hint that in an earlier age the field you are walking across was once woodland, as these flowers only traditionally thrive under the canopy. If anyone is inspired by this website and is actively creating a new habitat for the benefit of wildlife, it would be appreciated if they could let Wadhurst Park know, post it on Facebook or mention it to the Newsletter.

The whole ethos of Wadhurst Park is to create and maintain traditional orchards, hay meadows and coppice woods. They never use herbicides, pesticides or fungicides, believing that intensive farming hastens biodiversity collapse. The management of woods is an important part of this system, and the park runs a Coppicing Club where a group of 37 people assist with the annual coppicing, bringing light onto the forest floor and kickstarting a new cycle of life.

The farm has 100 head of Sussex cattle and two kinds of sheep, Hebridean and Wiltshire Horn. Sheep belonging to Charles Fuggle are also grazed periodically throughout the year. Luis and Harriet believe that the habitat is formed by the long-term relationship between the land, the wildlife, grazing animals and human beings who work on the land. Walkers are welcomed on the public and permissive paths but there have been some issues with dogs, which have unfortunately attacked sheep and worried cows. This can all be avoided by owners keeping dogs on leads when near livestock, keeping both the animals and humans safe. It is also preferable that dogs are kept out of ponds and streams, as there is newly emerging evidence that dogs' flea treatments can harm aquatic life and disrupt ecosystems. Walkers may have noticed a certain amount of regeneration work being carried out at Sharnden. This is all being done by Wadhurst Park using traditional materials and methods, for example, lathe and plaster alongside up-to-date technology, such as wood fibre insulation and heat pumps.

It struck me, while writing this piece, how lucky we are to live near such an ecological haven. So thank you Wadhurst Park for all you do for the community and the local wildlife.

Barbara Murray

OUR CHURCHES

COLKINS MILL

Easter was a special time for us. In addition to the Good Friday walk with the cross, and the celebrations of Resurrection Sunday, we were privileged to be led through a Passover celebration by a Messianic Jew on Maundy Thursday. It was full of rich insights into Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament scriptures. A great privilege for us.

May brings the Mayfield Mayfair - do come and visit us on our stall!

At Church we are spending a little more time with David the outlaw - looking at some of the poetry he wrote in those early fugitive years before he became King of Israel. Then we hope to move on to learning from Mark's telling of the life of Jesus. Visitors are always welcome to our 10.30am meeting, or earlier for breakfast!

Steve Harland contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Father Raymond Tumba OSA has now moved from Crawley to be our new parish priest. While living in Wadhurst, he will minister to both the Sacred Heart and St. Thomas' parishes. We welcomed him in time to celebrate the Triduum and the Easter masses.

Sunday Mass will continue to be offered in the Mayfield School Chapel, **at the new time of 11.00am**. For further information please contact: Martin Georgeson, Chairman St. Thomas' Pastoral Committee, martin.georgeson@btinternet.com **Mary Brentnall**

MAYFIELD BAPTIST CHAPEL

At Mayfield Baptist Chapel we have continued our study through the letter of James. In Chapter 5 of James, it says "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms."

In this verse we are instructed that we can come to God through prayer when we face troubling times, but how can we pray? Many are familiar with The Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew Chapter 6. This gives us not a 'prayer to pray', but an example of how to pray. The Lord's Prayer gives us a framework for us to fill.

The opening words "Our Father" show the personal relationship we can have with God, knowing he will listen and care about us as a loving Father does to his Children; "Hallowed be thy name" tells us that God must be approached reverently, because of His holiness. "Thy will be done" reveals that all that we say in prayer must agree with what God wills. "Give us our daily bread", is a request for the things that we need, acknowledging that all we have is because of God's goodness to us, and so we ask for this to continue. "Forgive us" shows to us that we must daily confess our sins before God. We do this because, if we confess our sins, He will forgive us (1 John 1:9). The phrase, "Lead us not into temptation", is because, with our own strength, we will fall into temptation, but with God's strength we can overcome temptation.

However, when we are in a season of happiness, a time of joy, there is another direction in this passage; to "sing Psalms". Psalms and hymns are one way that Christians praise and worship God for His goodness to them. For if we turn to God when we are going through times of trouble, how much more then should we turn to Him, thank Him and praise Him, when things are going well. **Lucy Hill**

EVENTS IN ST. DUNSTAN'S IN MAY

Our May Carols will take place at 8.30am on Sunday, 4th May from the Church Porch to welcome in the new month in traditional style. Please do come and join us.

St. Dunstan's Day: We will be celebrating our Patronal Festival on **Sunday, 18th May** with a Bring 'n Share Finger Food Lunch in St. Dunstan's after our 10.15am service. Please do come along and join us. If you can bring food, then please sign up on the list at the back of the church, letting us know if you are able to bring something sweet or savoury.

Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' comes to Mayfield : Saturday 24th May, 7.00pm at St. Dunstan's Church - St. Dunstan's Choir is delighted to be one of the international co-commissioning choirs for a new choral work – 'A Season to Sing' - a fun new vocal version, composed this year by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, ex-Director of the Swingle Singers and professional vocalist, as well as composer. This work has been commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and is taking the world by storm, with first performances around the UK, South Africa, Vietnam, the US, most recently at The Sydney Opera House - and Mayfield! We are lucky to have the composer herself conducting our concert.

This work will be performed on Saturday May 24th at 7pm and we are delighted to be joined by the Mayfield Youth Choir (and this will be the first public performance given by our choristers), Mayfield Consort and St. Ronan's Chapel Choir. The work will be played by Lucy Piercy on the organ and we are very lucky that Joanna herself will be conducting – a privilege for our choir. Tickets are on sale now at £15 (25s and under are free) and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/stdunstansmayfield. Joanna was recently a guest on Radio 3's 'In Tune' for an episode on 'Four Seasons in One Day' and you can listen to extracts [here : https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/) The concert programme will include a first half which will whistle stop the centuries from ancient to jazz and involving two local youth choirs. The evening is very much suited to old and young alike, so do bring the whole



OUR SCHOOLS



MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

We have been enjoying the recent lovely weather, enjoying lots of outdoor activities. The children have been having fun with building lots of amazing structures, water play, planting sunflowers and enjoying Easter crafts. We invited the parents in for an Easter Bonnet Parade, with a few songs and poems the children have been practising, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

As promised, the new Facebook page is now up and running, to be followed shortly by our new website.

Thanks to all those who came to our Jumble Sale fundraiser at the Scout Hut on Saturday 22nd March. We raised a magnificent £402 for the Pre-School!

We are very excited that Hoopers Farm in Mayfield have again selected Mayfield Pre-School as their local charity partner, helping us to raise further needed funds via the selling of teas, coffees, and cakes at two upcoming National Open Gardens scheme weekends. Many thanks to Sarah and Andrew Ratcliffe for this opportunity. The dates are 14th - 15th June and 2nd - 3rd August. Further details can be found on the National Garden scheme website: <https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/hoopers-farm-tn20/>

Paige Merrick- Manager

MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a very busy and creative term at school. In March, we celebrated World Book Day, with everyone dressing up as a favourite book character. Then the Year 6 children took part in The Big Dance at Heathfield Community College. To end the term, Skylarks' Class staged a brilliant performance of Roll Back the Stone to the school, parents and carers and finally, we had a wonderful Easter Morning in the last week of term hosted by Friends of Mayfield Primary School, where the children were able to share their home-made Easter Bonnets, Easter Egg Scenes and Easter Cakes. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children and to our judges who had a very difficult decisions to make!

FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

I really can't believe we are now at the end of term 4 already. Spring is now here and the sun is thankfully making more of a regular appearance and our school is as busy as ever. During the end of this term, we participated in the Heathfield and Waldron Rugby club's local tournament which was great fun. The team were supported by the clubs' coaches to play touch rugby and played against a number of local schools. The team finished equal

second in their group but unfortunately did not progress to the next round due to their try conversion average being lower than the other second place team. The team really enjoyed the event and gave it their absolute best.

Our netball team also participated in another tournament competing against the schools within our Federation. The tournament took place at Frant Primary School and we came a fantastic 3rd out of 6 teams. Oak took part in the yearly HASP Big Dance at Heathfield College and really did smash it.



They danced with such confidence and pride and made us all so proud of them. They even performed their dance in the playground the next day to the whole school who were amazed at their performance.

Maple had a STEM ambassador come to talk to them about extreme weather and natural events and they even observed a model which showed how a tsunami takes place. 'The Amelia' – Playtime Past workshop took place with our Willow class. The children had the opportunity to touch and play with a number of different aged toys. They also received a talk about the different toys and how materials and styles have changed over time. It was recently National Science Week and the children took part in a number of science activities. We also had a visit from a STEM ambassador who wowed the children with a number of experiments as part of an assembly.

Young at Heart also visited us this term and enjoyed catching up with all the children. They finished their visit with Oak performing a number of songs they have been learning which the group really enjoyed. Everyone here at Five Ashes Primary hope you all had a wonderful Easter.

Darren Gurr Head of School

MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

BAFTA Winner Visits Mayfield

BAFTA winning screenwriter and producer Hannah Richards, who won Best Documentary in 2022-3 for *The Real Mo Farah*, joined our Year 13 scholars in the final week of term as they led the entire scholars' cohort in a joyful celebration of their achievements this year.

Hannah's talk focused on the power of storytelling—particularly how the narratives we tell ourselves shape our achievements and sense of possibility.



The Year 13 Leavers shared their wisdom and advice with the younger scholars, passing on the baton to the next generation of leaders.

"The scholar's programme has given me so many opportunities throughout my time at Mayfield, but the best one has been the reminder that there's still so much to learn outside of the classroom." – Breanna

"We leave not as who we were, but as who we have become - bold, curious and ready thanks to the opportunities the Scholars' Programme gave us." - Charlotte

Spirit Week

In the final week of term, our Year 13 leavers marked the occasion with *Spirit Week*—a fun-filled celebration designed to boost morale, build team spirit, and get everyone involved. Each day brought a new theme, with dress-up days being a particular highlight. One standout was "Dress as a Teacher" day, which saw some impressive lookalikes, including a spot-on tribute to



Elizabeth Aherne, our Head of Sixth Form, and a brilliant impression of Andrea on reception!

Michaelmas Fair

Our annual Michaelmas Fair will be taking place on Saturday 27th September this year. If you are interested in having a stall, please contact Narelle on nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org.





PUBLIC OPENING TIMES

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

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www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HOSPICE CARE

We are delighted to let you know that Hospice in the Weald will be embarking on an exciting transformation over the coming year, designed to ensure we can provide the best care now and for years to come.

In Five Ashes, we are looking to again provide in-patient services at Cottage Hospice, as well as opening a new centre for children and young people. In Pembury, we will be refurbishing and upgrading our Hospice.

Nick Farthing, Hospice in the Weald's Chief Executive, said: "This transformation programme will help us continue to provide the compassionate care everyone deserves as they come to the end of their life, in the best possible environment, now and in the future. In the short term, there will be some changes and temporary service relocations, but we are working hard to ensure transitions are as smooth as possible and will keep everyone updated. We expect most of the work to be completed by next summer. We'll then have greater flexibility in what we offer to patients and their loved ones, an even better environment for our wonderful staff and volunteers and be in an even stronger position to support the communities we serve and those who support us."

Services at Cottage Hospice, Five Ashes

The in-patient ward at Cottage Hospice is getting ready to admit patients again, after a temporary pause in admissions. We are expecting to welcome in-patients to Cottage Hospice instead of our Hospice in Pembury in the autumn – this will allow us to carry out necessary refurbishment work in Pembury. Once complete, in-patient care will continue to be offered at both Cottage Hospice and the newly refurbished Hospice in Pembury.

Children And Young People

In addition, we are planning a new children and young people's centre in Five Ashes, to open later next year. We already support children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions through home visits, outreach services and special events. To further meet families' needs, we are looking to redevelop a property next door to Cottage Hospice to create a place where children can take part in arts and crafts, sensory play and music, and watch films in an accessible cinema room. Although we anticipate this will see only a slight increase in the number of people accessing the Five Ashes site, the scheme will consider how we can add additional parking to make best use of the available space.

A Fresh Look At Pembury

The Hospice in Pembury opened in 1998 and is now in need of refurbishment. The in-patient ward, reception, chaplaincy and spiritual care rooms, and Living Well centre will be given a fresh, new look. They'll be redesigned to provide a calm and uplifting environment. And they will be modernised, so we can offer a greater range of support well into the future. During the refurbishment, in-patients will be cared for at Cottage Hospice in Five Ashes. Some Pembury services will be also temporarily relocated, including Counselling and Support and Living Well services. These will return to Pembury once the refurbishment

is complete, with in-patient care being provided at both sites. We have appointed a specialist company that will, among other things, be responsible for ensuring the building work is carried out efficiently and that contractors are cooperative and considerate throughout. We will provide updates and details of engagement events as plans progress.

Funding

Thanks to funds previously raised and recent government funding, we have money set aside to carry out this project. This means that every pound raised or donated by our generous supporters and charity shop income can continue to go where it is needed most - to deliver our services, to be there for our community, and to raise the next pound. This year, Hospice in the Weald needs to raise £9 million, which is why the continued support of our incredible community has never been more valued. www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our Spring Show was held on 29th March, which was a mild, sunny day – so welcome after the dull and dreary weather we had earlier in the year. Ash Hall was a picture with spring flowers – daffodils, narcissi and tulips along with floral art, domestic classes and in particular paintings and collages of daffodils from Five Ashes schoolchildren.

We had 219 entries in the Show, our second highest total, an excellent result bearing in mind the poor weather in January and February. Especially popular this year was the class for cheese scones with eight entries.

The Hall was always busy with visitors enjoying the sights, scents and smells, followed by tea and cakes.

The Trophies were awarded as follows: -

The Morse Cup most points in classes 1-16 was won by Rosemary Duffin

The Barr Vase best exhibit in classes 1-8 was won by Carolyn Tester

The Penn Memorial Cup best exhibit in classes 9-16 was won by Rosemary Duffin

The Foy Trophy most points in classes 17-21 was won by Kay White & Teresa Fennings

The Jack Wade Memorial Trophy most points in classes 28-35 was won by Carolyn Tester
In the Children's Divisions: -

The Hayter Trophy winner of class 22 was won by Theodore Rowland

The Dando Cup most points in classes 22-24 was won by Oliver Strong & Theodore Rowland

The Thompson Trophy most points in classes 25-27 was won by Archie Gorrington

We now continue our planning and look forward to our Summer Show on 26th July.

Graham Playfoot, 01825 830511



Theo with his trophies



SOME OF THE WINNERS AND WINNING ENTRIES



WADHURST WINDOW

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

Demonstrators are always seeking new themes for their designs; our April demonstrator chose an old theme to create modern arrangements – Nursery Rhymes! Mary's garden had its shells and there were abundant roses on the ring. Bus wheels are difficult to transport so a bicycle wheel had to be used instead. No effort was made to turn it round as the flowers could have been damaged in the process! A splendid afternoon of flowers, friendship and fun with childhood memories evoked.

The May meeting on Thursday May 8th will be a Spring Wreath workshop - 2pm Stonegate Village Hall. In June we hold our Summer Lunch and Bring me Sunshine demonstration which is admission by ticket only. If you would like to know more about coming as a guest to this event, please contact Sonia sonia.hobbs2@btinternet.com. You will be most welcome.

WADHURST BOWLS

The new season is underway and matches come thick and fast at this time of year. The defence of our Horam Triples League title is a priority and, although too late to report the result for this month's Newsletter, we will already have played our arch rivals, and last year's runners-up, Cross in Hand at home. This could well be a 'league defining match' come the end of the year. The season started with a 'drive' on Saturday 19th April, followed by quick fire games against Grosvenor (Tunbridge Wells), Rotherfield and that all important Cross in Hand game.

For the uninitiated, a drive is a game involving all club members, and is a great way to meet newer members and re-kindle old friendships. Players are split into as many as twelve teams and play each other over a period of a couple of hours before a winning team eventually emerges and gets awarded Mars bars for their efforts.

Home games at Wadhurst during May:

Wednesday 7th - Horam*

Sunday 11th - Bidborough

Saturday 17th - Parade (Eastbourne)

Wednesday 21st - Club Drive 5pm

Sunday 25th - Deanland*

Tuesday 27th - Uckfield 6pm*

Friday 30th - Herstmonceux*

* Horam League Game

Why not come over and have a look? Matches start at 2pm unless otherwise stated and it can be a very relaxing way to enjoy some spring sunshine. There is a bar available should you get thirsty and there will inevitably be someone around who is happy to explain what's going on. Wadhurst Bowls is located at the far end of the playing field off Washwell Lane. It's a five minute walk from the village centre – a pleasant stroll one afternoon....

www.wadhurstbc.com

Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

OBITUARY

JAN MERYON 01.04.37 – 16.01.25

Jan led a full life. She loved people. She was resilient in the face of many challenges and generous with her time and skills, working as a counsellor and making everything from patchwork quilts to marmalade and Christmas goodies.

She learned early to cope with adversity when her father was made bankrupt in her early teens, and shortly after her mother fell ill, leaving Jan to bring up her younger sister Tricia.

She took a year out from nursing training to care for her mother, who died when she was 21, before qualifying and becoming a Theatre Sister and then a midwife. Her nursing training led to her making lifelong friends as well as acquiring essential life skills.

She was adventurous, going with a nursing friend on a long trip by car to Gibraltar in the early 1960s, as well as

annual skiing trips. She stood up for her rights, organising a petition of fellow nurses to complain about the bad food given to them by their hospital.

She made her own wedding dress when she got married aged 27. Shortly after, they moved from Sevenoaks to a remote smallholding on the Isle of Islay, where she brought up her sons Marc and Hamish. She became a self-taught potter, and trained as a counsellor, as well as working in the island's CAB and in the dispensary run by the local GP.

Life was hard and lonely, the bad weather unrelenting and the landscape bleak. Early on she had to milk a cow twice a day, as well as care for pigs and sheep, and her increasingly difficult and depressed husband.

Whilst she grew to love the big skies and the local community (she remained resolutely proud of her English roots) she recognised that "you can't live on a view", and in her early 60s she moved to Mayfield, close to where she had spent much of her childhood in Kent.

Despite knowing no-one, she threw herself into village life and became very active in numerous groups, including bowls, book club, fundraising for the Hospice, and the Mayfield Festival. She worked as a Verger in the Church for around 20 years and made numerous friends from all walks of life. She enjoyed frequent trips to the theatre and cinema. Mayfield provided one of the happiest periods of her life.

The move south also gave her a chance to see much more of her grandchildren, Rory and Elsa, and she was very proud of them both and their growth into confident young adults.



Although her small cottage didn't have a view, it became a focal point for her busy social life, being well situated in the centre of Mayfield. Her cottage was beautifully furnished, and she was always well turned out, being well-known for her love of red shoes.

During her illness she remained stoic and resilient and was very grateful for the support of her friends and community, who rallied round providing lifts to the hospital and visiting regularly. She was determined to stay in her cottage until the end but eventually accepted that she could be better cared for in Holy Cross Care Home, where she spent her last weeks, receiving numerous visitors. She died there peacefully in mid-January, aged 87.

She made the most of her life and the opportunities it provided. She led an adventurous and full life, overcoming many challenges and making lifelong friends along the way. She was much loved, and she will be sorely missed.

YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

MAYFIELD CLIMATE ACTION

Hello to fellow neighbours! My name is Dr Jan Rich, I have taken over from John Murray.

We are very excited to announce a Green Day sometime late summer, date to be confirmed. At this event we hope to have a number of green stallholders, some music and a few talks to give some really interesting and helpful advice as to how we as a village can reduce our carbon footprint whilst saving money and looking after our wonderful environment where we live.

We are also arranging a Community Forum where we hope many of you will come along. We hope to run this early July; the date is tbc.

Dark Skies status is ongoing with John continuing to get us closer to this goal. A number of interesting talks with various speakers will be held in the early part of 2026. Watch this space.

A final word. We hope to do some research on how we can improve our relationship with the natural world. We will have a stall at the Mayfair where you will be able to pick up a questionnaire. Your views are always welcome and we want to engage as many people as possible of all ages!

Dr. Janet Rich MCA

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

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

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

Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services (MAYFACS)

Account No 00029924 Sort Code 40-52-40



Paint and Sip Evenings

Our second Paint and Sip event took place on 2nd April at The Middle House, with our wonderful Ele leading us, painting Van Gogh's Seascape. These events not only raise much needed funds for MAYFACS but also are a great way to connect and meet people whilst being creative! Our next event will be in June so stay tuned for more information.

We are working with Lydfords Care Home for a special event on **Friday 2nd May** at 7.15pm in East Hoathly, with proceeds supporting MAYFACS and our community. Ele will be painting, with attendees, the Georgia O'Keefe painting we created in our first Paint and Sip event here in Mayfield. This event is open to everyone to attend so if you missed this painting and wanted to attend, please book in your place through Freya@mayfacs.org.uk

New Repair Café Facebook Page! We are excited to launch a newly created MAYFACS Repair Café Facebook page, which will allow us to better promote the incredible work the Repair Café volunteers do each month. Please do like and follow the page to stay up to date! www.facebook.com/mayfacsrepaircafe

Art at the Shed is back! For the summer months, we are pleased to confirm that our Art at the Shed Group will be back on the 4th Friday of the month, at MAYFACS Shed. With a new volunteer local artist (who many of you may know!) running the group for us, we will be utilising the Shed outdoor space and taking inspiration from the scenery around us to be creative. Join us through to July, between 10am – 12pm. £3-£5 donation per person, with materials provided, but feel free to bring your own as well. For more information, please email freya@mayfacs.org.uk or call 873888.

Fundraising Activities Coming Up

Please come along and support this month's Fundraising Activities raising money for MAYFACS:



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.

Saturday 10th May – MAYFAIR: MAYFACS are running a Bottle Tombola this year and we would love any donations of bottles, as soon as possible. Please bring them to our office by Tuesday 6th May for us to label and sort! Thank you.

Thank you to everyone for their support at the Spring Home and Garden Fair in April, where our MAYFACS Volunteers served yummy homemade cakes and refreshments, and the stallholders kindly donated items for our Raffle. We raised £500, so thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy the event, and thanks to our volunteers on the day especially our volunteer bakers.

Moving Sounds - Six special sessions led by Moving Sounds, bringing together music and movement for well-being, learning and happiness for all attendees. **Next Session: Wednesday 21st May.** These sessions are FREE to attend, but places are limited, so please book ASAP to avoid disappointment. For more information on either of these new activities, please contact frea@mayfacs.org.uk or call us on 873888.

Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance – Next session Wednesday 14th May 10.30am – 12pm, London House

MAYFACS Create @ The Shed! Youth Sessions

Next Sessions: **Saturday 3rd May: 10am-12pm** Creative Doormats! **Saturday 7th June:** 10am – 12pm Monoprinting with Ele Ross

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

Our next Repair Café will take place at MAYFACS Shed on Saturday 17th May 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

Thursday 5th June: Newhaven Fort £19

Thursday 3rd July: Visit to Rye £10

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

Save the date: This year's Annual Parish Assembly is at 19.30 on Monday 19th May at Five Ashes Village Hall

Vandalism And Antisocial Behaviour

Overnight on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March there were a series of acts of vandalism and antisocial behaviour, resulting in thousands of pounds worth of damage. The garden plots in South Street were vandalised, as were a vehicle in Fletching Street, the information kiosk in the High Street, the children's roundabout (again) and the skate park. The cork noticeboard in the information kiosk was ripped off the back and all the leaflets removed and used in a fire in the skate park. A hole was smashed through the centre of the roundabout so it has been removed and the skate park surface is badly damaged, so the area can no longer be used. These mindless acts have been reported to Sussex Police and some information on alleged suspects has been received. We would like to ask residents who live in the vicinity of the South Street car park, Fletching Street and the eastern end of the High Street who might have doorbell cameras to check to see if they have any suspicious activity recorded.

Speed Indicating Devices And Community Speedwatch

Traffic speed is one of the most complained about problems in the Parish. This is a summary of the Traffic Monitoring Report received by the Community Safety and Traffic Committee last month. We now are starting to build up two sources of traffic speed information, the Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs) and Speedwatch



sessions. It is fair to say that the SID data is the more representative as they are capturing data on a 24/7 basis and are passive devices, whereas Speedwatch sessions have personnel with hi-viz jackets who are pointing a speed gun at the traffic. This does tend to slow them down!

Speed Indicating Devices Update

This period's data covers January 2025 to 6th April 2025. I think many will be surprised that 93.16% of the vehicles were below 35mph, the speed that would incur a traffic penalty.

Speedwatch Group

There are eight trained members of the Five Ashes and Mayfield Speedwatch Group. We would welcome additional members. Please contact the Parish Council office if you would like to join. Nine sessions have taken place so far, six in Five Ashes and three in Mayfield. 88 vehicles exceeded the allowed limit, out of a total of 2559. They will have received a letter from the police to that effect. If anyone appears on a list twice, they receive another 'reminder' letter and if they appear a third time they are visited by the police and may be cautioned.

Planning Applications

You can follow planning applications you are interested in. By clicking on 'Track this App' will enable you to be alerted when any new documents are uploaded and be informed if the application is called in for consideration.

Sussex Police Rural Crime Team

Since 2020, Sussex Police's Rural Crime team (RCT) has worked to make positive inroads with the rural community across

the county, providing a reassuring presence and dedicated point of contact. The RCT has one unit based in Heathfield. There are always RCT officers working between 8am-midnight. The East Sussex unit currently has one Police Sergeant, six Constables and a few PCSOs. Most of their work takes the form of investigating rural crime reports and supporting their Police colleagues (e.g. response or neighbourhood policing). The RCT has a wealth of knowledge on specific countryside legislation that enables crimes to be dealt with effectively and robustly. The team also carries out proactive engagement by attending country and agricultural shows to offer support and advice to the rural community. The main message is that not every crime in a rural area is a rural crime. The main areas of business for Sussex Police's rural crime team are:

Agriculture

The most common crime is livestock worrying

Support farmers after break-ins/theft of machinery and fuel, advise on future security of property

Investigate damage caused by inappropriate use of quad bikes/off-road vehicles

Support farms and countryside businesses when there are instances of activism or protests on their land (e.g. animal rights)

Wildlife

Illegal hare coursing

Poaching

Crimes against protected species

Heritage

Damage to the actual fabric of a listed

or historic building (recent examples:

Bronze Age burrows damaged, and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery being disturbed)

Illegal metal detecting

Equine

Thefts from working stables or equine centres

Theft of horses themselves

Instances of animal cruelty are dealt with in partnership with the RSPCA

One You East Sussex Roadshow Returns

Wealden District Council is supporting One You East Sussex to bring free NHS Health Checks back to towns across Wealden. Residents are encouraged to book their NHS health check in advance as spaces may not be available on the day, by contacting:

hello@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk or calling 01323 404600.

Dates And Locations In May 2025

Friday 2 May – Crowborough, Croft Road car park; Wednesday 7 May – Uckfield, Luxford Field car park; Wednesday 14 May – Crowborough, Croft Road car park; Friday 16 May – Heathfield, Station Road East car park

Residents Must Meet The Following Criteria: Be aged between 40-74; Are not currently prescribed blood pressure or cholesterol medications; Do not suffer from diabetes OR heart/circulatory/kidney conditions or previously suffered from any cardiovascular events; Be an East Sussex resident; Have not previously had an NHS health check in the last five years.

Parish Council Meetings

The website meeting schedule at <https://mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk> provides information on 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

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 2.00 – 4.00pm
	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

MAY

Sunday	4	May Carols	St. Dunstan's 8.30am
Sunday	4	Mozart's Requiem	St. Dunstan's 7.30pm
Wednesday	7	Judith's Fitness Pilates	Colkins Mill Church 6pm
Thursday	8	80th Anniversary V.E. Day	Court Meadow 6.30pm
Saturday	10	Annual Plant Sale	Court Meadow Car Park 9am-11am
Saturday	10	Tennis Club Open Day	Mayfield Tennis Club 10am-1pm
Saturday	10	MAYFAIR	Mayfield High Street 1pm-5pm
Sunday	11	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day	2pm-5pm
Monday	12	Judith's Fitness Pilates	Colkins Mill Church 9.15am & 6.30pm
Tuesday	13	Mayfield Evening W.I.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Wednesday	14	Hearing Aid Maintenance	London House, 10.30am-12noon
Wednesday	14	Judith's Fitness Pilates	Colkins Mill Church 6pm
Thursday	15	U3A Monthly Talk	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2.30pm
Thursday	15	Bonfire Society AGM & Social	Rose & Crown 7.30pm
Friday	16	Mayfield Golfing Society Mtg	Kings Hill - Anniversary Cup
Saturday	17	Repair Café	Mayfacs Shed 10-1pm
Saturday	17	Open morning - Diverse - new hair salon next to Blush	10.30am-1.30pm
Monday	19	Judith'S Fitness Pilates	Colkins Mill Church 9.15am & 6.30pm
Wednesday	21	Mayfacs Moving Sounds	Colkins Mill Church 2pm-4pm
Thursday	22	Local History Society Centenary Mtg - Dover Castle	See article
Saturday	24	Vivaldi's Four Seasons	St. Dunstan's 7pm
Wednesday	28	Judith'S Fitness Pilates	Colkins Mill Church 6pm

JUNE

Monday	2	MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER WEBSITE LIVE	
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Herons Folly Garden



Apple Trees

November through March
And

Friday Veg Stall

8:00am – 12:00pm
During the Growing Season

Apple Juice, Honey, Cider Vinegar and Vegetables
Available Middle House Deli
and the House Cafe



All products are organic
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(01435) 873608

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Nikki Quitmann

Enquiries & Booking:
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Wadhurst Park

Riseden Road, Wadhurst, TN5 6NT

Friday 13 June

Saturday 14 June

10am – 4pm

Adults £6 Children free

Home-made teas including vegan & gluten free cakes.

More information at ngs.org.uk



Care and Choice

"Care and Choice have been absolutely brilliant, I wish I had found you earlier. I have particularly valued the personal service you offer - I really felt you understood our needs, the way you responded so quickly, your attention to detail, the quality of Carers and the fair and affordable fees"



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