

# MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front cover: The Feast Scene, Mayfield Community Film by Philip James.  
Many thanks to Simon Heaton, and also to all the organisations for their photographs.  
Please do send us your images to [mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com)

# WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome to March's Newsletter. Spring is almost upon us with all the promise that brings. Buds are bursting forth and the lambing season has started. Very sadly, we have had many recent reports of dogs not being under control, whether they have escaped from their gardens, or are just not sufficiently supervised, and some have wreaked havoc on livestock. There is a Q&A in the



reading, whether or not you are a dog owner. We would urge you to read it. We do have one piece of excellent news - Lynne and Joe Carroll heard our clarion call for help for our Advertising Secretary and have very kindly stepped into the breach. Welcome both! Now all we need is for someone to step forward to help Simon Rudge with the Maypole dancing which is such an integral part of our beloved Mayfair. Without the Maypole dancing it just would not be the same. **SO PLEASE MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES - THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP!** Jeanette Hore & Philip James

## DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

**MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS** to [mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com) by noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please include your name, organisation, 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](mailto:mfanadvertising@gmail.com). DEADLINE FOR BOOKING SPACE IS 10<sup>th</sup> WITH PDF ARTWORK BY 16<sup>th</sup>

**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 or by cheque sent to Graham Soar, Owl Lodge, Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, TN6 3RJ. Payment must be received by the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month to receive the following month's edition by post. Don't forget to also send us your name and address - you can do this by email to: [mfansubscriptions@gmail.com](mailto:mfansubscriptions@gmail.com)

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### BRUSH UP YOUR LIFESAVING SKILLS - MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES

Heathfield & Waldron First Responders have kindly agreed to hold two CPR demonstrations, one in Mayfield, one in Five Ashes. As we now have four defibrillators in the Parish, we thought it was important to follow this up with CPR demonstrations. The first one will be held in the Scout Hall, Mayfield on **Tuesday, 23rd April at 8pm** and the

second on **Tuesday, 21st May at 6.30pm** at Five Ashes Village Hall. Each location can hold a maximum of 20 people so please do apply in good time. Contact Jeanette Hore on [jeanette.overleigh@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeanette.overleigh@yahoo.co.uk) or 01435 872975 to reserve your place for Mayfield, and Geoff Gregory for Five Ashes on [geoff.gregory@outlook.com](mailto:geoff.gregory@outlook.com) or 01825 830642.

**LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS:** **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**. Defibrillators are housed in weatherproof boxes and are accessible 24/7. Full audio prompts guide you through as soon as you open the lid.

## FEATURES

### MAYFIELD SHEEP WATCH

Some people may be aware there has been a significant rise in dog attacks on sheep in the Mayfield and Five Ashes area, both since the pandemic and particularly very recently.

Apart from being very distressing or fatal for the sheep and their unborn lambs, this seriously affects the farmer both emotionally and financially and **could result in dogs being shot**, with the person responsible for the dog being prosecuted.

Whilst most dog owners are very responsible and know how to act appropriately, there are sadly some who are not, but also some who are simply unaware of what is expected of them when exercising their pets in the countryside.

Farmers are animal lovers too and do not want to shoot dogs but if the present level of attacks continues it is only a matter of time before someone's beloved pet is killed.

As lambing season is approaching, sheep are carrying unborn lambs and can easily abort them if disturbed. Livestock worrying is a criminal offence and even barking at or "just chasing" sheep is an offence.

In an effort to reduce the rapidly rising trend, a number of local sheep farmers, dog owners, dog trainers and the Police met with a view to producing information for both experienced and inexperienced dog owners. The aim is to produce a series of Q&As as well as leaflets and posters, to illustrate the issues and provide advice on how to prevent these attacks.

The problem is not just dogs being walked but also escaped or "lost" dogs. It can also affect other livestock such as cattle and horses. **If a dog is "lost" it is not under control** and this is also an offence if it causes issues on the highway or with livestock.





which there are sheep. This also applies to other livestock such as cows and horses.

**Q2: What should I do if I see an unaccompanied dog in the countryside?**

If it is worrying livestock or is loose on a highway and could be a danger to traffic, call the Police on 999. If it is worrying livestock try and take a video and forward that to the Police. If there is no immediate danger to traffic and it is not worrying livestock report it to the Police on 101. Posting details on local social media, such as the Mayfield Village Facebook group may also help to alert the owner. You should have description of the dog and an accurate location (If you have mobile phone signal, The What 3 Words App or website is ideal [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com) ).

**Q3: Where are livestock "allowed" to be?**

Farmers can keep livestock on any land they wish. Many sheep farmers rent land as well as own their own. Livestock are regularly moved around as grazing becomes depleted and it is often not practical for farmers to put up signs for specific fields, not least as these can be interfered with and so would not be reliable. Sheep that have escaped from their field but are still on agricultural land are still protected by the Act.

**Q4. Can farmers shoot my dog?**

In short, yes! If a farmer comes across worrying in progress and the dog is out of control then they can legally shoot the dog. There is no compensation due to the dog owner, and the farmer may claim compensation from the dog owner for the loss they have incurred. If the attack has already happened and there is evidence to identify the dog(s) concerned, the Police

Lambing has already started on farms with indoor lambing facilities and lambing in the fields is starting in the coming weeks, so over the next couple of issues we are planning a series of Q&As and some links to further information.

**Because of the recent attacks, local farmers have set up a communication network to alert each other of potential problem dogs so they can respond to reports quickly and appropriately.**

Loose, unaccompanied dogs are unacceptable in the countryside and if you witness one please do the responsible thing and report it immediately to save unnecessary harm and suffering to both livestock and the dog (see below for how to do so).

We hope the following will raise awareness of the issue and encourage responsible use of the countryside.

**Q1: What is livestock worrying?**

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, states "worrying" includes not only attacking sheep but chasing them in a way that may cause injury, suffering, abortion or loss of produce, or simply a dog being at large not on a lead or otherwise under close control, in a field or enclosure in

can prosecute the owner, and, in some circumstances, seize the dog(s).

**Q5: Where can I walk my dog safely in the countryside?**



Firstly, you should stick to the designated footpaths or bridleways. In some places there are “permissive paths” that are not rights of way but are where the landowner has granted permission to walk. All paths are marked with waymarkers (see example image), and although a path may cross a field neither you nor your dog have the right to stray from that path. Footpath maps can be found online including <https://row.eastsussex.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx> and there are other printed maps and Apps available.

**Q6: Should my dog be on a lead?**

You should always have your dog on a lead when near or potentially near livestock. It is permissible to have your dog under “effective close control”, which means that it is close to you and will ALWAYS return to you immediately on command, even when distracted. As the majority of dogs will not do this reliably, it is good practice to keep your dog on a lead at all times when around livestock, or where you are not completely certain there is no livestock nearby.

**Q7: What should I do when walking my dog in the countryside?**

Whether or not around livestock, your dog should be always in sight and you should be aware of what it is doing. When entering a field, check that you can see the whole field and that there is no livestock present before letting your dog off the lead. If you cannot see the whole field area then do not release your dog until you can and put it back on the lead before crossing into another field.

**Q8: What if my dog escapes from my property?**

You must make sure that your dog cannot escape from your property, particularly if you live in or near a farming area, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep and livestock. If the dog causes an accident, or worries livestock, you could be prosecuted. Lost or escaped dogs have been the cause of several recent sheep attacks locally.

**Q9: My dog wouldn't hurt anything and just wants to play, so isn't that OK?**

No! All dogs, even the most friendly and docile, have the ability to worry livestock, and should be on a lead or under close control at all times where livestock are, or could be, present.

**Q10: What should I do if I see sheep loose on a road or in a garden?**

If you don't know who the owner of the sheep is, contact a local farmer, report them (with an accurate location eg What3Words) on local social media and if they are on the highway, report it to the Police.

Next month we aim to offer tips and advice on dog training and other considerations to be aware of when using the countryside so it can be enjoyed by everyone, whether for recreation, or as part of a livelihood.

More information can be found in the Countryside Code [www.countryside-code.org.uk](http://www.countryside-code.org.uk) or search Countryside Code on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### The Mayfield Sheep Watch group

### **MEN IN MIND: Free Men's Mental Health Skills And Training Available In East Sussex**

Mind in Brighton and Hove, a mental health charity working across Sussex, is delivering a project for men in East Sussex called Men in Mind, supported by Grassroots suicide prevention and funded by East Sussex County Council. Men in Mind delivers free mental health and suicide prevention training for people who work in places where men work and visit. The training provides skills to help you start a conversation if you are worried about someone, to talk about mental health, to connect people to support, and to know what to do if someone is feeling suicidal. Training is free, available in person or online, and is flexible to fit around the needs of different workplaces.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the project coordinator: [Peter.Bray@mindcharity.co.uk](mailto:Peter.Bray@mindcharity.co.uk) or call or text 07871 855 794.

### **SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST**

#### **The Wheatear**

It's been a long winter, but rest assured that our summer migrant birds will soon be with us. As you read this, beating hearts and beating wings are powering tiny bodies through north African skies.

Wheatears are our earliest returning African migrants. It's a fast 3,000-mile flight from sub-Saharan Sierra Leone to Sussex for a 1-ounce Wheatear, and they've been recorded migrating at 500 miles a day. The dashing males arrive first, their soft, sun-



Credit: Derek Middleton

bleached shades of pink and buff topped with a dapper black bandit's mask. At Sussex Wildlife Trust's Southerham Nature Reserve near Lewes, you'll see them scurrying over the grazed downland turf or perched along the valley's fence lines. When they fly, Wheatears flash the white rump which gives them their name. Because Wheatears have nothing to do with wheat or ears. Their original name...well, courtesy prevents me from writing their old English name in such an upstanding publication – but let's just say they were named after their white behinds. Victorians and vicars bird watching in mixed company blushed when they were called upon to identify one, so their name was subtly censored.

Wheatear is a more palatable name for a tragically palatable bird. In Sussex, Wheatears were considered a local delicacy and were served at the finest banquets in Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne. Sussex shepherds would trap them to increase their income; in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century the birds fetched 3/6d a dozen (£17.50 today). Shepherds could earn £14 per season (£1,260 today) trapping Wheatears - half their annual wage. Around the town, shepherds were eventually banned from trapping

Wheatears as it distracted them from their sheep.

Gluttonous gourmets were so desperate for fresh Wheatear that they would prowl the Downs and take birds straight from unmanned traps, leaving a pile of coins for the shepherds. In 1900, outspoken and outraged Sussex conservationist W.H. Hudson wrote, "It is not fair that Wheatears should be killed merely to enable London stockbrokers, sporting men, and other gorgeous persons who visit the coast, accompanied by ladies with yellow hair, to feed on them at the big Brighton hotels."

But the damage was done. Trapping and the gradual loss of their sheep-grazed downland habitat caused the birds to disappear from the Sussex Downs. The Wheatears we now see around Lewes, unsurprisingly, don't hang around. Each spring they briefly return to their old downland haunts, flash their behinds at the people of Sussex and keep on moving. From Lewes, they'll head onwards to breeding sites in northern England and northern Europe. But for some of these birds, their amazing migration continues for a further 2,000 miles across cold oceans to Greenland and Arctic Canada.

**Michael Blencowe**

## **UTILITY SERVICES SUPPORT**

MAYFACS want to highlight the support that is available for utilities and services to anyone who is vulnerable within our community. Many of these applications can be undertaken by individuals or by family members as well, so if you need any extra support, please do use the available services.

**Wealden District Council: Assisted Collection Service for Waste** – W.D.C. recognise that some people are unable to place their containers at the boundary of

their property on waste collection days for a number of reasons. They are able to offer "assisted collections" where the bin operatives can collect and return the containers from an agreed and convenient location. There are certain criteria to be eligible for this support (not to be used for long driveways, or absence for example) so please refer to the Council's website for more information and register for the scheme via the online form - <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/assisted-collection-service/>

### **South East Water Priority Register**

During periods of water shortage, if you are unable to collect water from the emergency water stations and you are a vulnerable customer (age/mobility/health) then you can be added to the Priority Register and receive deliveries of emergency supplies to your doorstep whilst the outage is ongoing. Please call SE Water directly on 0800 952 4000.

### **Energy Suppliers Priority Register**

Energy Suppliers and Network operators also carry a Priority Register so that you can get advanced notice of scheduled power cuts, priority support in an emergency, nominating someone to manage bills and communications from suppliers and accessibility information. You may also be able to access free gas safety checks.

You will need to register individually directly with your supplier, and if using different suppliers for gas and electricity, you will need to apply to each supplier separately. If you need any further support or information, please contact MAYFACS and we can point you in the right direction. We also have a pool of incredible volunteers who can assist with any one-off assistance or support needed.

## MAYFIELD CLIMATE CHANGE

The threat to dark skies, our ability to see the stars and the adverse impact light pollution has on animal and human health has been gaining increasing publicity. The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is home to some of the darkest skies in the southeast. But this can easily change and light pollution is already greater than you might expect in our parish. Mayfield is therefore delighted to be joining with other Wealden parishes, such as Wadhurst and Ticehurst, in seeking Dark Sky Community certification. To achieve this, we need our Parish Council to adopt a robust dark sky policy and we need Wealden District Council to apply that policy when reviewing planning proposals. That will help to stop the problem getting worse. At the same time, we need a lighting plan to deal with the worst pollution. We need to make sure light is used where it is needed, with nature friendly bulbs and directed downwards to the ground, rather than upwards where it is wasted, polluting our dark night sky.

If you want to learn more about Mayfield Climate Action and to help shape our work as well, come along to the Community Forum. The next meeting is being held at Wadhurst Park and will be receiving presentations from its CEO on carbon auditing, while Wealden District Council will be seeking views on its new climate change strategy.

The meeting is at 6pm on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March. You can secure places, which are limited, on request to [mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com)

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

### TIM SCHOOLEY - ESTATE DIRECTOR MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

It is exactly a year since Tim Schooley started his role at Mayfield Girls School as Head of Grounds. Prior to 15 years running his own horticultural business, which included design and landscaping projects, he had worked on historic estates and period properties, gaining knowledge and a deep understanding of the issues related to maintenance and development of listed buildings and the ancient crafts associated with them. Thankfully, his skill set beyond his initial role was quickly recognised and, within two months, he became Estate Director.

Tim was faced with a complex and challenging job description which spanned a huge range of areas over the 85-acre estate and included: utilities, buildings, grounds, security, horticulture, the equine centre and specialist PE facilities. This made all the more



Credit: Barbara Murray

complex due to the age of the buildings and systems, the position of the school within the heart of the village and the proximity of public footpaths running through and around the school grounds, together with the fact that in term time there are 400 pupils, including over 200 boarders who are at the school day and night.

So, Tim, assisted by three managers and the grounds team, set to work. The first task was to investigate the utilities and identify the myriad of pipes which lay under the site. What they found was a maze underground, including 2 buried BT lines that were meant to feed the village, 3 gas mains not on a network, asbestos drainage pipes and 2 redundant water pipes, one of which ran through the site with no apparent end. There was no clear way to attribute energy use to specific areas with three mains supplying the site. It is now a much tighter ship with separate feeds to 9 different buildings and a meter attached to each. If there is a surge in energy use, it is now easy to see where this is coming from. There are also new manholes which enable ease of access for maintenance. The site being on a hill lends itself to the downward flow of water which can occasionally cause havoc while tracking down through a range of school buildings. There are two natural springs in the grounds and some of the fields used for grazing are permanently waterlogged. A pond has been dug on the corner where the footpaths diverge which will ease the drainage situation and make way for a much more user-friendly footpath. The local council have recently visited and placed new waymarkers so that permitted paths are now clearly signposted hopefully reducing any tension that misunderstandings around this issue can cause.

Tim is keen to liaise more closely with the community in order to explain the reasons behind developments and changes on site and he has agreed that a regular update in the Newsletter might be a useful way to get this information across. As a village, we are so fortunate to have the school and its historic buildings in our midst, providing an atmospheric backdrop for many events such as the recent filming in the Chapel of the feast scene for the Community Film.

One of Tim's passions is biodiversity; he is well aware that over recent years there has been a huge urbanisation of the school with the new sports facilities, driveways and car parks. As part of Biodiversity Net Gain, a government scheme, he is keen to ameliorate the impact of this by planting a mixed hedgerow with trees along the route of the footpath which will act as a wildlife corridor and on the other side, a wild flower meadow. This will have the benefit of low maintenance but will encourage a wide range of insects and wildlife. Tim is a knowledgeable plantsman and has many exciting plans for beds, borders and courtyards. These include an eye-catching 'hot' planting scheme which will include sunflowers, cosmos and banana plants near the lower school which will replace an area previously covered in woodchip. He has rejuvenated the area outside Reception which, once the plants have developed, will provide a stylish welcome to visitors as well as a calm seating area for staff. As if this wasn't enough, there are also renovations being carried out to old-fashioned boarding houses and staff accommodation, all in tandem with the building of a new Wellness Centre. This will be a safe refuge for girls who may be feeling vulnerable and below par. There will be comfortable places to sit and through the glass doors will be a courtyard with curved benches where the girls can enjoy the garden. I think

it is evident that Tim is working above and beyond, not only to bring the pipework under control and continue the upkeep and development of buildings but also to provide, through thoughtful planting and design, a nurturing, biodiverse and caring environment which will support the girls on what is not always an easy journey, especially when many miles from home. **Barbara Murray**

## UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

### YOUR MAYFAIR NEEDS YOU

The Mayfair is back on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Currently arranging all the maypole dancing and music falls to me, and in the interests of succession, variety, and fresh ideas, I would love to hear from anyone else who might want to get involved. That could mean helping to go round the schools to teach the dancers, or if you are a musician you could perhaps help with accompaniment. You don't need to know anything about the dancing, as I can show you the ropes, or should I say ribbons, and likewise the music, although if you have a little musical knowledge you will be off to a head start. It's a lot of fun, and very rewarding, and you will be working as part of the fantastic group of people that is The Mayfieldians. If you are a musician who has never played folk, worry not. We just need enthusiasm and a love of the music. Fiddlers, recorder players, accordionists, percussionists, guitarists are all welcome, as long as you are reasonably competent. As a guide for younger players, maybe grade 4/5 would be the level, but there's no hard and fast rule.

Give me a call. You don't have to commit, and you can just tag along with me to see how it all works and take it from there.

**Simon Rudge** – 872007 - [simonorudge@gmail.com](mailto:simonorudge@gmail.com)

## OUR SCHOOLS

### MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

It has been lovely to welcome some new faces to Pre-School over the last few weeks. We have been focusing on the children's interests which has led to some fantastic mark making outside and exploring the colder weather from ice painting, animal marks and large-scale mark making to improve those important gross motor skills. The children have also loved exploring our beautiful surroundings, from listening walks, nature hunts and adapting our own 'we're going on a bear hunt'.

We have been promoting oral health at Pre-School and the children have enjoyed brushing the teeth moulds leading to some fantastic conversations and even a quirky song.

At the end of last year, we elected new Committee members at our annual AGM meeting and we are now registering them with the relevant bodies and look forward to their help and advice as we move forward with our plans this year.



Pre-School took part in the 'Big Give Christmas Challenge' match-funding campaign, raising a superb £2600 for our outdoor areas, including a new space for wellbeing for the children. Once the weather starts to improve, we will finalise plans and share more! We want to thank everyone in the Parish for their kindness and generosity for supporting this, and all our other events during 2023.

Due to the many other events in the village at the same time, we decided to postpone our December Pre-School Pop Quiz – and will look forward to rescheduling this later in 2024. We are additionally planning another jumble sale, cake sales will also have parents taking part in sponsored activities this summer, all to raise much needed funds. So please watch this space and do let us know if you would like to help out!

We have spaces available for September 2024, so if you have a little one who you would like to start at the Pre-School, please get in touch as soon as possible – 872523 or [preschoolmayfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:preschoolmayfield@hotmail.co.uk)

**Charlie Cranch – Pre-School Manager;**  
**Ben Pearce – Chair**

## **MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It's been such a busy term at Mayfield Primary. We have been learning so much and having so much fun! We even had a school disco, complete with glowsticks and UV face paint. This term, in Robins Class, we have been celebrating the



Lunar New Year. This year we will be in the Year of the Dragon so we have made our own dragon puppets to celebrate! We've also been exploring Chinese music and food. This term we also had a whole school



competition to design a bee garden. These are our winners from KS1 and KS2, Artur and Evie. We think they did a really fab job!

**Katie Hawkrige**

### **FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Our pupils below, who participated in the Heathfield and Partnership Sports Hall Athletics held at Heathfield College.



## MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

### Mayfield School announces appointment of new Headmistress

The Governors of Mayfield School are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Deborah Bligh as Headmistress from 1st April 2024. Deborah Bligh is currently Mayfield's Senior Deputy Head, having joined in September 2023 from St. Richard's Catholic College, where she was part of the senior management team for 18 years, helping the school to rank in the top 2% of all state schools in the country for value added. She studied Theology at the University of Durham and completed a Postgraduate in Education at Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge. She has an MA (Distinction) in Educational Leadership, a professional Headship qualification (NPQH), and as a lifelong learner, recently completed a Certificate in Advanced Mental Health School Leadership (Level 4). Lady Davies of Stamford, Chairman of Governors, said: "It gives me great pleasure to announce Deborah Bligh as Mayfield's next Headmistress. She was the unanimous choice of the selection panel. Having already proved her leadership qualities as Senior Deputy Head since joining in September, she will, I'm sure, prove to be an inspirational Headmistress in the years to come.

"We have an exciting year ahead as we look forward to the opening of our new Health and Wellbeing Centre, which reflects the vital importance we place on the wellbeing of our school community. Mayfield recently celebrated its 150th Anniversary at the Old Palace and, as we look forward to the next 150 years, Cornelia Connelly's vision of educating girls to respond to the needs of the age remains as relevant as ever. The governing body will be working with Deborah and our excellent senior team to prepare the



school for its next chapter to ensure many more generations of Mayfield students, free from stereotyping, fulfil their potential and develop the skills and confidence to make a difference in the world."

Deborah Bligh added, "I am thrilled to become the next Headmistress of Mayfield School. I would like to pay tribute to the incredible legacy of Antonia Beary, whose model of leadership is an example to us all. Since joining in September, I have felt very much at home in the school's inclusive and welcoming environment. Mayfield's Catholic ethos and values of joy, compassion and generosity are close to my heart and help to foster a great relationship between staff and pupils, enabling everyone to excel. A key priority for me is to listen to the voice of the girls and parents alike. As a lifelong learner I passionately believe in the highest academic standards and being ambitious for every girl. I intend to maintain and build upon the rich tradition of the school and prepare, as our foundress said, 'every girl to meet the needs of the age'."

A keen theatre goer and performer, Deborah also enjoys skiing and walks in the countryside with her husband, Jamie, and two daughters, who both attend the school.

### **Mayfield Students Strengthen Community Bonds**

Here at Mayfield School, we've been busy strengthening our bonds with the local community. Our Sixth Formers have been visiting Mayfield and Five Ashes Primary Schools, as well as Mayfield Pre-School, to lend a helping hand to teachers. This is part of our commitment to service through our Actions Not Words programme.

Every week, our students step into the classroom, ready to assist with reading sessions and other activities. Thank you to all involved for helping to make these community links stronger than ever.

Quotes:

"I've had some very positive feedback from teachers on how helpful the Actions not Words students have been this term. Thank you."  
Miss J Warren, Acting Headteacher at Mayfield Primary School.

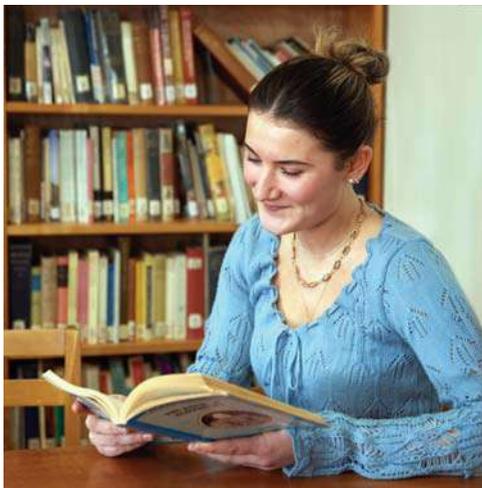
"The Mayfield Sixth Formers have conducted themselves with the highest of standards while instantly building relationships with the Year 5 and 6 children who have enjoyed learning with them. They are a real credit to themselves and to your school." Stuart Atkins, Year 5/6 class teacher, Five Ashes Primary School.

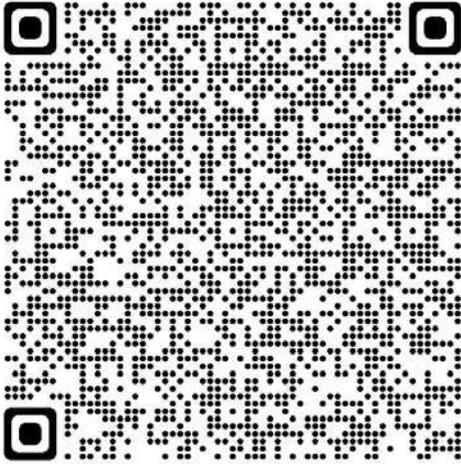
### **Join Us For Our Next Open Morning**

Please join us on 15<sup>th</sup> March for our next Open Morning, when you will be able to take a tour of the School, hear from our Head and Head Girl, and have the opportunity to ask our teachers any questions you have about life at Mayfield. We look forward to seeing you.

### **Best Foot Forward For Beary**

Old Cornelians Alice Reynolds and Caroline Cardozo, like all of the Mayfield community, were devastated by the loss of Headmistress Antonia Beary in October and





are running the London Marathon in April in her memory. Neither are runners and both are sitting their finals this year, but they thought it important that they honour Antonia in a way that would make her laugh! The girls are running in aid of Maggie's, a charity that provides free expert care and support in centres across the UK. Please donate by scanning the QR code and support a wonderful and thoughtful cause. You can guarantee there will be cake after they complete the 26.2 miles! "Work hard, play hard, eat cake and say your prayers" Antonia Beary

## OUR CHURCHES

### 2PM FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born,



ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our Churches to come together and this year will be hosted by St. Dunstan's. Do come and join us! After the Service, tea and cakes will be served.

For further information: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2024>

### COLKINS MILL

I'm getting quite excited about the Mayfield Passion Play! I've just been at a "full cast rehearsal" and loved it - I would recommend anyone to come along to the High Street at 2.30pm on Sunday 24th March. From what I have seen it will be a combination of funny, moving and thought-provoking. It's a wonderful collaboration of people from the Churches

with pros from Wateryard, brilliantly directed by Kathy Pogson (a total pro!).

The play will take us around the village, so pray for a dry day. And pick up a free ticket from Sew Inspired or Burnetts beforehand to help the team plan for numbers. **Steve Harland** [contact@colkinmillchurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@colkinmillchurch.org.uk)

## St. Dunstan's

What a busy month March is going to be in St. Dunstan's! The month starts with Coffee and Chat in London House on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March from 10am until 11.30am and everyone is welcome to join us for coffee, chat and cakes.

We are hosting our second Organ Trust Plus concert on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Doors will open at 5.30pm (with a licensed bar) with the Concert starting at 6pm. Tickets cost £15 and are available from Sew Inspired, online at

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-mayfield-organ-trust](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-mayfield-organ-trust), or on the door; students are free. This Concert again features Gerard Brooks on Organ with Richard Deacon on trumpet. There will be a variety of works played, including by Fantini, Hovhannes, Peeters, Stanley, Torelli, Purcell and Bach. Please do come along and enjoy this fabulous Concert.

Our Lenten Lunches take place on Thursdays in Lent in London House from 12noon until 2pm and all monies raised will go to the charity that is organising the lunch for that day. The dates are:

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March:** Family Support Work

**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March:** Hospice in the Weald

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March:** Friends of St. Dunstan's

All the lunches are very informal and consist of homemade soup, bread, cheese and fruit and payment is by donation. Everyone is most welcome.

Our Easter Services in St. Dunstan's are as follows:

**Maundy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Mass of the Last Supper at 7.30pm

**Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Good Friday Service at 2.00pm

**Easter Eve, 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Easter Vigil at 7.30pm

**Easter Day, 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Festival Parish Eucharist at 10.15am

Easter lilies will, once again, be in St. Dunstan's and if you would like to buy one to dedicate to a loved one then please look out for the envelopes that will be in St. Dunstan's in early March. The cost of each lily is £3 and we ask that you put your dedication on the front of the envelope and drop this through the Vicarage letterbox. **Nicky Higgins**

## ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

### Dates for the Diary

**2.30pm Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Wateryard Theatre Group with Churches Together are putting on a Passion Play. This community event is one not to be missed, starting at the Convent Gatehouse. (see elsewhere in this Newsletter for further details)

### Masses at St Thomas' during March

6.00pm Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

10.00am Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March

6.00pm Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday)

7.00pm Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March (Maundy Thursday)

3.00pm Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March (Good Friday) in school chapel

9.00am Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Sunday)

You are welcome to join us and please stay for coffee after the Sunday Masses. For further information please see the parish website. [www.stthomasmayfield.org.uk](http://www.stthomasmayfield.org.uk)

**Mary Brentnall**

# ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

## WOODHILL SURGERY

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, we will see some permanent changes to our **GP schedule**:

**Monday: Dr Richard Baxter & Dr Anna Cannon**

**Tuesday: Dr Catriona Maciver & Dr Anna Cannon - (AM only)**

**Wednesday: Dr Justin Baseley & Dr Stephen Fletcher - (AM only)**

**Thursday: Dr Catriona Maciver & Dr Stephen Fletcher - (AM only)**

**Friday: Dr Stephen Fletcher & Dr Steven Miller**

In addition to the above, we are also supported by the following additional roles that have been put in place to grow additional capacity known as ARRS roles.

**Care Co-ordinator – Karen McQuillen** is our Care Co-ordinator. She acts as a link between outside organisations, patients and the surgery providing support for cancer patients and their families, patients diagnosed with dementia and other social needs. She runs clinics at the surgery and visits patients in their homes if required.

**Physician Associates –** We are lucky enough to have two, **Hannah Tweed and Oliviya Doos** who work various days throughout the week, although Hannah is about to embark on Maternity leave. Physician Associates (PAs) are healthcare professionals with a generalist medical education who work alongside doctors providing medical care as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. Physician Associates are dependent practitioners who work under the supervision of a fully trained and experienced doctor within a defined scope of practice and limits of competence. They are able to: take medical histories from patients; carry out

physical examinations; see patients with undifferentiated diagnoses; see patients with long-term chronic conditions; formulate differential diagnoses and management plans; perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures; develop and deliver appropriate treatment and management plans; request and interpret diagnostic studies; provide health promotion and disease prevention advice for patients.

They bring new talent and add to the skill mix within teams, providing a stable, generalist section of the workforce, which can help to ease the workforce pressures that the NHS currently faces.

**First Contact Physiotherapist – Gary Kennedy (Wednesday afternoons).** First Contact Physiotherapists (FCPs) are qualified autonomous clinical practitioners who can assess, diagnose, treat and manage musculoskeletal (MSK) problems and undifferentiated conditions and, where appropriate, discharge a person without a medical referral. FCPs working in this role can be accessed directly by self-referral or by staff in the surgery, without the need for a GP referral.

**Social Prescribing Link Worker – Jo Wood.** Social prescribing enables all primary care staff and local agencies to refer people to a link worker. Link workers give people time and focus on what matters to the person as identified through shared decision making or personalised care and support planning. They connect people to community groups and agencies for practical and emotional support. They work within multidisciplinary teams and collaborate

with local partners to support community groups to be accessible and sustainable and help people to start new groups. Social prescribing complements other approaches such as 'active signposting'. Link workers typically support people on average over 6-12 contacts (including phone calls, meetings and home visits).

**The Friends and Family Test (FFT)** is an important feedback tool that supports the fundamental principle that people who use NHS services should have the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience. Listening to the views of patients and staff helps identify what is working well, what can be improved and how. The FFT asks people if they would recommend the services they have used and offers a range of responses. When combined with supplementary follow-up questions, the FFT provides a mechanism to highlight both good and poor patient experience. This kind of feedback is vital in transforming NHS services and supporting patient choice. Please visit our website [www.ashdownmedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.ashdownmedicalgroup.co.uk) and complete the FFT. It should not take any longer than a couple of minutes to complete and I thank you in advance.

**Pharmacy First:**

From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, people in Mayfield and Five Ashes can go to St. Dunstan’s Pharmacy for help with seven minor conditions, which would previously have required a GP appointment. Most pharmacies will offer the new service, giving advice and, if needed, NHS medicines, to people in certain age groups seeking help to treat seven common health conditions, without needing to get a GP appointment. NHS prescription charges apply if you normally pay for medicines supplied on prescription.

Should the pharmacy team be unable to help, you will be directed to your GP surgery or A&E as appropriate.

By thinking 'Pharmacy First', people will find it easier and quicker to get the help they need. The new service is part of a wider expansion of healthcare services that will empower pharmacists to use more of their skills and give people more choice about their healthcare. It is also hoped that the service will be expanded to include more conditions in the future.

**The conditions that the pharmacy can now help with are:**

Clinical Pathway	Age Range
Acute Otitis Media (Ear infection)	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites	1 year and over
Shingles	18 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Sore throat	5 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract infections	Women 16-64 years

**Andrew Cornell – Managing Partner – Ashdown Medical Group (Woodhill Surgery)**

## MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

Work is now proceeding at pace. A preliminary design has been produced with the main criteria being that both the Hall and the Community Hub will look out over Court Meadow – deemed to be an important requirement for those using the Community Centre in the future.

The architect's contract is about to be placed whereupon the design will be finessed with a view to having a public consultation in the next couple of months, followed by an application for planning permission. This is the outcome of discussion with the local Planning Authority, which suggested that despite the original Plan A having received planning approval, Plan B, being slightly smaller to meet the budget, is sufficiently different to require a new application. The outcome of the planning process is expected in the autumn.

Once planning approval has been obtained and the final design drawings have been made available, the main build contract will be placed, which is expected to be around the end of the current calendar year. We are therefore still targeting completion for December 2025 if all goes to plan.

An independent quantity surveyor was appointed by the Parish Council to analyse the submissions that we have received from interested contractors for the building contract. The analysis suggests that the current approach provides value for money, together with some certainty regarding costs via a fixed price contract. The experience and quality are also what we would wish for, so we have the confidence that we are proceeding in a justifiable manner. The cashflow projections have been further finessed and

the project is still viable, especially with the grant awarded from the Community Ownership Fund (COF) which comprises a capital and revenue element amounting to £297,463 in total. Other grant applications are in the pipeline, all of which should provide some contingency as well as ensuring the design brief can be achieved. Further information will also be available on the village Facebook site and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website [www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk), as it becomes available.

## MAYFIELD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

The 2024 Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts is being held from 26<sup>th</sup> April to



12<sup>th</sup> May (inclusive) and the Box Office is already open. The Festival's Artistic Director, Jeremy Summerly, has excelled himself this year: the quality of the artists booked to perform at the Festival is simply breathtaking.

Coming to Mayfield during the Festival period will be one of the world's leading interpreters of the baroque repertoire, **Rachel Podger**, the musical phenomenon, **The London Community Gospel Choir**, the world-renowned pianist **Imogen Cooper** and Festival favourites **Oxford Camerata**. Add to this

an opening night adaptation of William Shakespeare's **Macbeth** that played to rave reviews at last year's Edinburgh Fringe, and performances of the complete **Brandenburg Concertos** over two nights (featuring a rising star of the world of classical music, **Jack Gonzalez-Harding**, and an array of world class period soloists). There will also be two appearances by the **Mayfield Festival Choir**, a performance of **Elgar's Cello Concerto** and a night of songs by **Cole Porter** and it is clear that Mayfield's cultural cup will be overflowing with talent during the period of the Festival.

As if the foregoing was not enough, perhaps the most anticipated event at the Festival is **Gin and Phonic**, the third instalment of Oz Clarke and Armonico Consort's series of events exploring the history of alcoholic beverages through the prism of classical music. This year, their focus is gin and such is the extent to which their reputation following past performances at the Festival that there are already only a few tickets left for this event. Widespread marketing of the Festival in surrounding towns and villages starts in the first full week of March so if you want a ticket for Gin and Phonic and have not yet got one now is the time to make your purchase.

Full details of all events are available on the Mayfield Festival website at [www.mayfieldfestival.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldfestival.co.uk) and tickets can be purchased either online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfieldfestival](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfieldfestival), by telephone on 0333 666 3366 (quoting Mayfield Festival) or in person at Sew Inspired, High Street, Mayfield. A special offer discount applies - if you buy tickets for 5 separate events or more in a single purchase transaction, you get 10% off the price. Tickets for those aged 25 and under are free at all bar two events.

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

As part of the Festival, the Tunbridge Wells International Music Competition will be taking place between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. The aim of the Competition is to encourage youthful musical talent, and it has been going since 1979. In that time, it has seen many of its winners, such as Paul Lewis and Anne-Sofie von Otter, go on to international careers in music.

The Competition held in 2022 was a great success, with a record number of young people taking part. The three finalists, Edvard Pogossian, cello (also overall winner and Audience Prize Winner); Tabea Streicher, piano; and Sofiia Matviienko,



flute, have gone on to even greater things since then, winning more prizes and taking part in concerts around the world. This is also true of other former finalists, with some even taking to composing – a piece by Joy Lisney, cello, who was a strings finalist in 2018, was recently premiered at the Wigmore Hall, in a concert by the Mithras Trio, made up of two

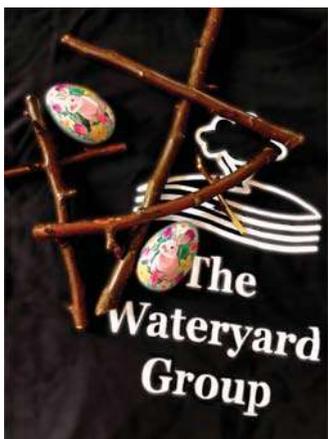
former finalists, Dominic Degavino, piano and Ionel Manciu, violin, together with Leo Popplewell, cello. The trio won the Royal Overseas League Music Competition in 2019 and has just launched its first CD.

The Competition is held in the beautiful surroundings of Mayfield Girls School. A programme of wonderful playing will be on offer on all six days: the first round from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May; the semi-finals on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the finals on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone can come along to the school to hear the stars of tomorrow play at a very reasonable cost. Edvard Pogossian will be giving a concert during the Festival, as one of the aims of TWIMC is to offer performance opportunities to its finalists. In fact, he will be playing the iconic Elgar Cello Concerto in the final concert of the Festival. The winner of this year's Competition will return in 2026.

As ever, there will be an impressive panel of judges casting a firm but fair eye over the young competitors. This year, they are Martin Roscoe and Susan Tomes, piano section; Juliet Bausor and Richard Watkins, wind; and Raphaël Pidoux and Louise Williams, strings. Two of the judges, horn player Richard Watkins and pianist Martin Roscoe, will also be giving a concert on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, in a tradition started by Levon Chilingirian, the President of the Competition.

The Competition is run by volunteers and funded by donations, and the Friends Scheme, a link to which can be found on the website, is open to anyone. We are always looking for volunteers who can help in a variety of ways, from reception to driving to stewarding. If you would like to be involved, please contact: [info@twimc.org.uk](mailto:info@twimc.org.uk). In addition, we offer accommodation to the competitors, so if you have a spare bedroom for a few days, we would be most grateful, in which case please contact [hosts@twimc.org.uk](mailto:hosts@twimc.org.uk). It is always fun to get to know one of the competitors better and hosts can become very proprietorial towards 'their' musician. So, plenty on offer – from coming along to watch to getting very involved – and it would be lovely to welcome more Mayfield residents contributing to the success of the Competition.

## **MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PERFORM 'THE PASSION' EVERYONE IS INVITED!**



It will not be quite on the scale of what you might experience in York or Coventry but, on Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm, members of our dramatic and music groups and societies, in association with Colkins Mill, St. Thomas' and St. Dunstan's churches, will come together in Mayfield High Street to perform Mayfield and Five Ashes' very own Passion Play.

Directed by professional actress and director, Kathy Pogson, who lives locally and is well-known to many, every resident of Mayfield and Five Ashes is invited, indeed enthusiastically encouraged, to come along and take part as a community, with an assembled cast, in the High Street, in what promises to be a truly engaging and movingly dramatic representation of the trial, suffering,

death and resurrection of Jesus.

There will be those amongst you who will immediately be thinking "Oh no, that is not for me!" simply because, to them, such a Play means church and religion, and the organisers do understand that reaction. Passion Plays have always been a traditional part of Lent in several Christian denominations for centuries, which is why several of our Churches are involved in this production. For Kathy, who was invited by Judy Harland of Colkins Mill Church to bring it all together, it also offers an opportunity to witness and reflect on sacrifice, courage and sharing.

Kathy really only understood why she needed to be part of this project when having a political discussion about the current state of our divided society, the world economy and the global suffering being endured by so many. These are very human issues affecting our very existence, and to come anywhere close to dealing with them, let alone solving them, requires an element of sacrifice on the part of everyone.

Participating in this event is a sacrifice of time and a sharing of skills to bring the villages together, as a group, and provides the chance for each one of us to think about and reflect on the themes of kindness, love, tolerance, forgiveness, and redemption.

Indeed, the cast of over 30 people have already been sacrificing every Saturday afternoon, for some weeks now, to rehearse the script, which is an adaptation of several Passion Play scripts previously used by churches and venues in other locations. This version of the story will have some contemporary touches, which perhaps will help us access this representation of the Passion. Many academics regard such Plays as the basis of British theatre, as they brought dramatic

performance into public awareness, and that without their use in religious settings, the works of Shakespeare, for instance, may never have been written.

The Play is very much intended to be a grassroots production, produced by the community for the community. The production team, however, is fortunate to be supported on the technical front by the Wateryard Theatre Group of which Kathy is one of the Patrons. Wateryard is supplying the stage crew, the props, the wardrobe, and the Stage Manager is a professional whose experience will be invaluable to the team.

Not only that, but Kathy is hoping to involve many of the village choirs and music groups including the choirs of the churches involved, MayZing Community Choir and Mayfield Band.

If everyone turns up there is every reason to think that it will be a joyful coming together of our community, our beliefs, and our passions. What is more, it will cost you nothing to come along, other than your time and your enthusiastic engagement. However, you are asked that, if you are minded to attend, you pick up a ticket from 'Sew Inspired' or Burnetts beforehand to ensure that you get a hot cross bun! This also enables the organisers to gauge the level of response for practical staging reasons. It is hoped that lots of people intend to turn up, which will be a very positive outcome, but it does need to be planned.

Please do come and get involved, bear witness and add your voice to the most famous and enduring story of all. There is no more important time for our community to come together than now. See you there!

**Sue Smith**



## THE MAYFIELDIANS' PHOTO OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

This winning photograph for January was taken by Simon Heaton. Congratulations Simon. We are now inviting entries for February and March. All entries should be in as high a resolution as possible, ideally 1mb file size minimum. All photographs must be landscape, be of an identifiable location in Mayfield or Five Ashes and be representative of each particular month and ideally sent to [mayfieldians@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldians@gmail.com) or posted on the village FaceBook pages and Mayfield In A Frame.

Wellbrook Wines have very kindly agreed to donate a bottle of wine each month to the winner of the competition. A substitute prize can also be offered if wine is not an appropriate option.

## NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME Mayfield Gardens Open For Charity

Dates for your diary:

**Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** -  
The Oast, 11am-5pm

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> June & Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June** –  
Hoopers Farm, 11am-5pm

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July & Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July** –  
Mayfield Open gardens, 11am-5pm

In 2023 the NGS nationally donated over £3.4 million for nursing and caring charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK, The Queen's Nursing Institute and the Carers Trust. More recently the NGS has also been supporting small projects for community gardens and allotments.

Our open weekends make a valuable contribution to these worthwhile causes.

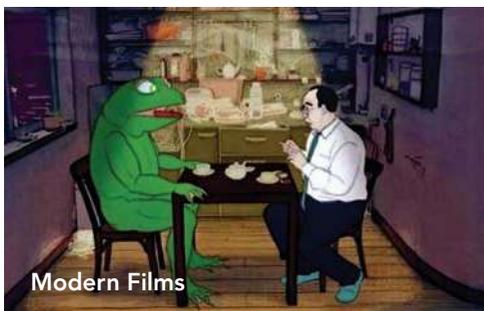
Details of the Mayfield days and all other local NGS garden openings are listed in the Sussex County booklet which is available now at local shops, cafes and garden centres. Lots more information about the work of the NGS can be found at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).

**Sarah Ratcliffe**

## FILM ON FRIDAY

**Five Ashes Village Hall. Licensed bar before the film starts**

**BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN – 8<sup>th</sup> March, doors open at 7.45pm**



Modern Films

Combining several short stories by the cult Japanese author Haruki Murakami, this animation follows multiple characters navigating post-tsunami life in Tokyo. They include an unambitious bank employee, his disheartened wife, a delusional accountant, a lost cat and a giant talkative frog.

**BROKER – Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, doors open at 6.30pm** - Our dinner film from master filmmaker Kore-eda starts earlier. Two small time crooks with hearts of gold are taking abandoned children from church “baby boxes” and selling them for adoption. A young prostitute returns to reclaim her baby but then decides to join the racket. This leads to a quietly eccentric, and surprisingly funny, road



Filmbank

movie of an unusual accidental family with two policewomen on their trail.

If you would like to attend the dinner for Broker, catered for by Elm Green, and do not yet have a ticket, get in touch with me and I will see if we can accommodate you.

Our programme is available from The Post Office, The House Café, MAYFACS office or our poster on the Primary School railings. Trailers for all our films are on our website, [www.filmonfriday.org](http://www.filmonfriday.org), together with interviews with the directors and cast. Email me on [filmonfriday@gmail.com](mailto:filmonfriday@gmail.com), or phone 873310, if you would like to know more or just come along on one of our film nights.

**Andrew Ratcliffe** Chairman

## ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

Argos Hill Windmill will be open on the following dates from 2.00 to 5.00pm:

- 10<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday
- 1<sup>st</sup> April - Bank Holiday Easter Monday
- 21<sup>st</sup> April - Sunday
- 11<sup>th</sup> May - Saturday National Mills Weekend
- 12<sup>th</sup> May - Sunday National Mills Weekend
- 9<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday
- 14<sup>th</sup> July - Sunday
- 11<sup>th</sup> August - Sunday
- 25<sup>th</sup> August - Sunday
- 15<sup>th</sup> September - Sunday

13<sup>th</sup> October - Sunday

Entrance is free but donations are invited. In addition, guided tours, tea/coffee and cakes will be offered.

**Geoff Daughtrey** Chairman Argos Hill Windmill Trust

## **MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.**

We were all very saddened to hear of the death of Berenice Blurton. Berenice had been an active member of the Mayfield Evening W.I. since 1975 and over that time had held the post of President four times. She had also spent time as Secretary and Treasurer. Not only had she been involved with our local group but she had also been the East Sussex Federation County Chairman, 2001-2004 and a member of the Executive Board. Berenice was a stalwart of the organisation and a lynchpin in the production of the annual W.I. pantomimes which were such a great part of the Mayfield community Christmas celebrations. She will be sorely missed at our future meetings and throughout the wider W.I. community.

Our February meeting featured a fascinating presentation by Donna Lane, Colour Image Consultant. Donna explained to us how choosing the correct colour and style of clothing can improve our self-confidence and have a positive effect on our sense of wellbeing.

The March meeting, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, is a craft evening when we will be creating Easter themed decorations. A chance to get creative!

We meet every second Tuesday (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 all.

**For any further information, please contact Chrissie Robinson on 862825**

## **MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY**

September 21st may seem a long way off but we are already getting ready for Carnival 2024. The fireworks are booked, as well as the first aid, and the road closure order applied for. On the few dry days last month, we tidied up the storage shed and field as well as looked for sources of hazel to cut for torch sticks. This month, we will be starting the marathon job of drilling torches and prepping them for assembly.

Normally we would hold a spring fundraising quiz but with several quizzes taking place recently in the village, we will be holding ours later on. Instead, our friends at the Rose and Crown have kindly offered to host a Wine & Cheese Tasting to help raise funds for us on Thursday, 21st March. Harveys will be running the Tasting, with a wide selection of wines and local cheeses. Space is limited to just 30 people and tickets sell out fast for this popular event. Tickets are available from the Rose and Crown for £20.

The Wine & Cheese Tasting will replace our regular monthly social and we will be back at the Rose and Crown on April 18th for a drink and catch up.

**Catherine Hawley**  
**bonfire@gawain.online**

## **MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY**

After several days of heavy rain, it was suggested that reading Charles Kingsley's novel, *The Water Babies*, could provide inspiration ahead of our golf meeting at Eastbourne Downs. An epic Victorian tale, it tells the story of a boy who gets soaked falling into a river, but is rescued by fairies, becomes a water sprite and develops a wholesome moral outlook.

As it turned out, the rain of the early part of the week went away and 20 players had a dry, if breezy day with occasional

sunshine. No one got soaked, and no one needed help from the fairies. Unfortunately, one person's moral compass went completely missing as he shamelessly collected another prize and showed no remorse or consideration for those golfers who did not have the benefit of his over-generous handicap.

Having walked away with the top individual prize last month, Rob Montagu did it again at Eastbourne. Despite having 5 shots cut from his handicap, he posted another high score of 39 points beating Graham Meadows by one point and 3 others on 37 points. Sad to report but there was some booing and hissing as Rob collected another bottle of reserva wine. There was some suggestion that Rob was looking to take advantage of the Handicap Secretary's absence on holiday in the Antarctic but be assured this result will go back to him for action. Who knew global warming was so bad that the Antarctic was now a winter sun destination?

The team competition was not so close and the team of Alan Bigley, Mark Hughes and Kevin Leftley took the honours with a score of 85 points, 5 clear of the runners up.

Another day of good weather, good course and (mostly) good golf.

Next month's meeting is on 14th March at East Brighton Golf Club.

## **ORGAN PLUS!**

St. Dunstan's Church was the venue early in February for a concert of music called Organ Plus! with Gerard Brooks on the organ and Patsy Gable on saxophone. Previously the Organ Trust at the Church had tended to focus on organ recitals but felt the repertoire could be expanded by introducing another instrument as well.



A large audience attended and, more importantly, left happy and quite intrigued by the effectiveness of the organ and saxophone in unusual combination. The programme provided a balance between the unknown in powerful compositions by each of the performers and some more familiar items such as Gabriel's Oboe by Morricone. The theme of Remembrance, borne out of the performer's personal experiences during Covid, linked each of the items together.

Hopefully the first Organ Plus! concert has set the tone for the sequel which takes place in early March and links the trumpet, played by Richard Deacon, with the organ, again being played by Gerard Brooks. The Organ Trust looks forward to another successful evening at St. Dunstan's!

**Chris Harris**

## **MAYFIELD BAND**

We're still working on organising a massed bands concert, but getting two bands together is, perhaps unsurprisingly, proving to be twice as difficult as getting one together. Herding cats springs to mind but we'll keep working on it.

You will note below that we will be running some after school drop-in sessions for prospective young players, and if any parents would like to have a go as well, you are more than welcome. And if you are an adult not on the school run, and you would like to drop in at some other time to find out about the band and try an instrument without running the risk of making embarrassing squeaks in front of anyone else, then just give me a call and we'll sort something out. Beginners welcome. No musical experience or knowledge required.

I am writing this on Valentine's Day, so here is my Valentine's gift to you. It occurs to me that a brass band offers the unique opportunity of an intimate, romantic relationship with an instrument that no other musical group can match, because the majority of our instruments have to be cuddled when played. The tubas, tenor horns, baritone horns and euphoniums all only work when given a hug. Bit like me really! So let me set you up with a date, without the expense of champagne and flowers.

### **Mayfield Youth Band**

#### **Drop-in and try out sessions**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 to 4.30**

What makes a brass player? Quite simply, practice. You don't have to be "musical" or talented, just organised and motivated. Just ten minutes of good quality, and preferably supervised practice every day, plus weekly band rehearsals, are enough

to enable a young beginner to make good progress. That's it. That's the tiny amount of time on which it all hangs. The small investment needed now that will bring a lifetime of joy. That's all.

When our kids do their ten minutes, it brings great joy to my heart, and we play sweet music. When they don't, I get a headache! But the current group are doing their practice, and are progressing very well, so it's time to bring on the next generation. I am, therefore going to be holding some open drop-in sessions to enable you and your children to come into the bandroom (Court Meadow, behind the Memorial Hall) to try an instrument or two and find out all about the band. These sessions will take place at 3.30pm to 4.30pm on Friday afternoons so that you can just drop in after school. There's no need to make an appointment, but there will be just three sessions, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> March, so get one of those dates in your diary. I look forward to seeing you.

**Simon Rudge 872007**

[simon@mayfieldband.co.uk](mailto:simon@mayfieldband.co.uk)

## **MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A**

Most months of the year sees many of our members meeting in Five Ashes Village Hall (on the third Thursday) for an afternoon of talks and tea.

These talks are so varied in content that it's hard to guess what is coming next, perfectly demonstrated by our talks in January to March this year. From the magic of Bertie Pierce, through the rural fascination of Michael Blencowe's Sussex Wildlife to the urban and secret delights of our capital city, given by fellow U3A member, Jo Livingstone. Contact [marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com](mailto:marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com) for more information. This last, titled "Odd Corners of London", has had so many good reviews that it is almost guaranteed

to give us pause for thought and the motivation to get on a train with a friend to try to find them ourselves.

Come to Five Ashes Village Hall on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm to hear Jo speak. It's free for our members, and £2.00 for anyone else who'd like to come.

## LAKEDOWN TAPROOM

Journeying from Mayfield to Swife Lane by car, bike, Flexibus or the occasional leisurely stroll, I am constantly captivated by the beauty of our surroundings and appreciative of the vibrant community I'm lucky enough to be part of.

Within this lively community has emerged a newcomer; Lakedown Taproom. Once the quaint fishing lodge for Lakedown Trout Fishery, it has been transformed into the charming taproom for the recently established Lakedown Brewery. Using pristine spring water from the land, Lakedown crafts an exceptional range of beers, distributed across the county and beyond.

Nestled by the lakes at Swife Lane (TN21 8UX), the Taproom offers an inviting space to experience their brews. A haven of unique charm, it features a diverse array of beers, plus wines and soft drinks, delectable bar snacks and a weekend culinary adventure with street food pop-ups from near and far – a culinary journey akin to bringing Borough Market to our idyllic corner of East Sussex. Drop in or reserve a table via [helen@lakedownbrewing.com](mailto:helen@lakedownbrewing.com).

Beyond the libations, Lakedown Taproom hosts a spectrum of events, ranging from quizzes and games nights to performances by esteemed poets, comedians, and authors. The atmospheric music nights promise a delightful escape. Stay updated on upcoming events and opening times

through our website <https://lakedownbrewing.com/pages/taproom>.

Some events do require tickets. The next highlight is on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, featuring the extraordinary Elvis McGonagall – a Radio 4 regular, poet, and stand-up comedian celebrated for his poetry slam performances. For the uninitiated “a poetry slam is a competitive art event in which poets perform spoken word poetry before a live audience and a panel of judges. While formats can vary, slams are often loud and lively, with audience participation, cheering and dramatic delivery.” Join us for an evening of mirth and creativity, a testament to the cultural richness that defines Lakedown Taproom.

Book your tickets here. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/elvis-mcgonagall-tickets-791985498947>

**NB** – these intimate events really do sell out so don't dilly dally. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Helen & the team at Lakedown Taproom**

## MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - AGM



On Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, we will hold our annual AGM at Colkins Mill Church. Doors open at 7pm for membership renewals. Join us in a glass of wine or tea/coffee, prior to the (usually brief!) AGM beginning at 7.30. After decades of keeping the fees at £5, renewal fees for this year will be £7.50.

Following the AGM, Simon, the owner of How Green Nursery near Sevenoaks will be talking to us about 'Growing for the Chelsea Flower Show'. Founded 42 years ago, this wholesale Nursery prides itself on growing bespoke plants for garden designers and landscapers and has been growing to order for the big designers at Chelsea for many years. It will be a fascinating insight into the lead up to the famous Show with all its twists and turns along the way. Not normally open to the public, there will be a unique opportunity for members to purchase plants from the Nursery on the night.

Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April**, 7.30pm for 8pm, Colkins Mill Church, Mike Abel on Pest & Disease Control in the Garden

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May**, Annual Plant Sale, 9am to 11am in the Memorial Hall car park (tbc) **Tessa Crowe**

[www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)  
[chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk)



**Next Branch Meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at Mayfield Cricket Club** – our speaker is Squadron Leader Nick Clark RAF. Nick is a logistics officer and air mobility specialist and his talk is entitled 'The Logistics of Leaving Afghanistan'. As he was on the spot his talk promises to

offer something very special and should not be missed. Licensed bar facilities will be available from 6.30pm. and the meeting commences at 7.00pm.

There will be a brief session of Branch business at 7.00pm, followed by a fish and chip supper (or chicken or scampi) at a cost of £8.00. If you would like to join us, you will be warmly welcomed. There is no fee for guests' attendance and we would love to see new faces at this Branch meeting. Please contact our secretary Rosemary Lillywhite by email at [withatwist@btinternet.com](mailto:withatwist@btinternet.com) or by telephone on 872130, by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March to indicate that you are able to attend and to place your order for a fish, chicken or scampi meal.

#### **Other Dates for your Diary;**

**Branch Meetings:** Wednesday, 5th June  
Wednesday, 23rd October, with Annual General Meeting

**Summer Garden Party** - Sunday, 7th July

#### **Have you considered joining the Royal British Legion?**

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community of serving men, women, veterans and their families. You don't have to be part of the Armed Forces community to join! We would particularly like to see some younger members! If you would like to join the branch we would be delighted to see you. We usually have up to four meetings a year locally and get involved in other activities from time to time e.g., the Annual Poppy Appeal. There is a very easy joining process either online, or by talking to your local branch. Please ring or email me or our secretary Rosemary Lillywhite (contact details above) **Kevin Swaine** 8 7 2 1 9 7 / 0 7 9 7 0 7 8 7 4 6 5 [kevinswaine@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinswaine@btinternet.com)

# NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

## **COTTAGE HOSPICE - OPEN DAY - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10.30am - 2.30pm**

Residents are once again being invited to discover what happens behind a Hospice's doors. Take a guided tour with our friendly nursing team, try your hand at one of our Living Well activities, and enjoy a cuppa. Whether you'd like to visit just out of curiosity, find out about our free care or explore career or volunteering opportunities, we'd love to see you.

Cottage Hospice offers free 24/7 end-of-life care for patients with non-complex needs and support for loved ones. To make stays as comfortable as possible, we encourage patients to bring whatever they need to create a home-from-home. Photos, plants, or pets - there aren't many restrictions, as long as it's safe and fits through the doors!

Tours: Gain unique insights into how we support patients and families.

Living Well: We offer support to do the things that matter most and adjust to the realities of diagnosis. Grab a cuppa and try one of our creative activities; from friendly seated exercise classes to arts and crafts.

Planning beyond tomorrow: Discover resources for planning and discussions on end-of-life matters.

Explore opportunities: Learn about careers, volunteering and fundraising over a coffee (or tea) in our gorgeous café. As your local Hospice, we are here for you and your loved ones. No need to book, just come along on the day to the Hospice, on The Street (A267), in Five Ashes.

## **FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Our year is firmly on its way. It's now March, the Schedule has been printed and is available from the Post Office Mayfield, Whites Garden Five Ashes, the Five Ashes Inn, Five Ashes Village Hall and directly from myself. All in readiness for our Spring Show which will be held in Five Ashes Village Hall on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 2pm.

We live in hope that the weather will turn warmer and drier so that everything can grow in readiness for the Show.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Show.

**Graham Playfoot 01825 830511**

**CPR DEMONSTRATION - FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL - Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May at 6.30pm** - to reserve your place please contact Geoff Gregory on [geoff.gregory@outlook.com](mailto:geoff.gregory@outlook.com) or 01825 830642. Only 20 places available so please do book well in advance.

N.B.: See "Useful Information" at the beginning of the Newsletter for more information.

# WADHURST WINDOW

## WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

**Where are the men?** This was a question asked at the Club's AGM last month. Many of the most famous Floral Designers are male: Howard Franklin, Jonathan Moseley, Stephen McDonnell, Simon Lycett and Mig Kimpton are some that spring to mind. They are talented, artistic men who have an international reputation for their innovative and inspiring designs. They began their careers either as Florists or as members of Flower Clubs. Wadhurst Flower Club would love to welcome men of any age to join them. No experience needed, merely a love of flowers and the joy they can bring into our lives.

DON'T BE SHY, GIVE US A TRY! Ladies, you are still very welcome.

We would also like to see some younger faces at our meetings. Flowers provide a wonderful foundation for new friendships, so if you would like to know more about our friendly and creative Club please come along to our next meeting on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March when Stephen McDonnell will be giving one of his inspirational demonstrations.

Venue: Stonegate Village Hall, where a large car park is adjacent to the building.

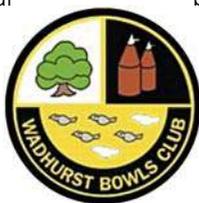
Time: 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start.

For further information please call **Sonia** 01892 785671 or **Debbie** 882851. We look forward to your call.

## WADHURST BOWLS: Yes, we are back – well almost....

With spring in the air and a skip in our step the Wadhurst bowlers are just itching to get back out there on the hallowed turf next month.

There is something special and so promising about the start of a new season. Will we continue where we left off last year? Will all those foibles and wrinkles have been ironed out as, just like a beautiful butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, we find we have turned into something new or will it be a year of disappointment, first round exits and missed opportunities? No, of course not. We are Wadhurst. We are the reigning Border Cup Winners. The Horam League Champions, The Tunbridge Wells league runners-up. We have winning in our blood! New sponsors have been signed up from the local business community to help with the costs of maintaining our green in such superb condition and we thank them hugely. During the autumn and winter, the grass was deeply scarified, top dressed and re-seeded and is now being regularly cut as the mower blade-height is gradually reduced to its optimum height of 5mm.



But what can we offer for new members who are coming to bowls for the first time? Put this date in your diary now – **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May from 11-2pm** - when we are throwing open the doors to anyone who would like to give bowls a try. All ages welcome. All equipment provided, just wear trainers, or go bare foot....This is the equivalent of a non-league footballer getting the opportunity to play cup-final football at Wembley or the local tennis player walking out onto Wimbledon's Centre Court. More information next month unless you want to register your interest now by phoning **Laurence** on 07714 935915

[www.wadhurstbc.com](http://www.wadhurstbc.com)

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Antisocial Behaviour On Court Meadow

It was upsetting to find out about the antisocial behaviour around 3pm at Court Meadow on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February when three disappointing that members of the land provided for recreational Many thanks to everyone who photographs of the suspects. It Police who are investigating the identify the suspects. Apparently, youths at the all-weather court who perhaps they took video footage that know anyone who witnessed the event and has evidence, it would be really appreciated if it could be sent to the office. Alternatively, it can be sent to Sussex Police directly – you will need to provide the crime reference number 47240028405. Perhaps it could be mentioned to your children or grandchildren?



quad bikes tore up the grass. It is public can have so little respect for purposes for the community. emailed information and has been forwarded to the crime and collecting evidence to at the time, there were several sensibly kept out of the way but could be used as evidence? If you

## Warning About A Fox

A distressed resident contacted the office informing us that a fox in their garden during the day had become aggressive and had bitten them. This occurred in a garden off West Street so please be aware that there might be one in the area that is not timid! Statistically, the risk that foxes pose is very small. However they can be dangerous to humans if they are cornered or provoked but even then, their natural tendency is to flee rather than fight. If you are attacked or bitten by a fox, try your best to stay calm. The fox might run away, but if it doesn't, try making a loud noise or even clapping to scare it away. If you are out walking a pet, don't be tempted to let your pet run after it. Instead, focus on getting some medical attention if bitten. Foxes usually have a natural fear of people so if you see a fox outside during the day, it's normally no cause for alarm and will more likely run away if it sees you.

## Tree Warden

Our volunteer Tree Warden, Ken Audsley, on the Rights of Ways and Trees Committee, has resigned and our thanks go to him for all his hard work. If anyone knows of someone with some tree knowledge who might be interested in taking on the role, please could you contact the Parish Council office.

## Proposed Upgrade Of Mast And Apparatus In Tunbridge Wells Road

EE has asked the Parish Council to consult on a proposed upgrade to the existing equipment where the 10m lamppost column mast (194mm diameter) is to be replaced by a 15m pole (406mm diameter), the removal of one cabinet to be replaced by two cabinets, with a total of 5 cabinets. This exercise is prior to any formal planning application being submitted to Wealden District Council for public consultation.

## **Don't Be Alarmed!**

Mayfield Girls School has notified the Council that the school will be testing a new Lockdown alarm system.

They will have master blaster sirens fitted that will cover the whole school site and will most likely be heard on the High Street. The full lockdown test is likely to take place in early March so be warned!

## **Temporary Road Closure Warnings**

Lake Street and Coggins Mill Lane are scheduled to be closed on 6<sup>th</sup> March from the junctions with Fletching Street and Little Trodgers Lane to allow BT Openreach to carry out apparatus repair works. Advance warning signs will be placed on site advising of actual date of works.

Newick Lane is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Stone Cross to the junction with the A265 Burwash Road from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> March to allow South East Water to carry out apparatus repair works.

Stonehurst Lane is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Skippers Hill to the junction with Dewlands Hill from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> March to allow BT Openreach to carry out further works at this location.

Little Trodgers Lane to Lake Street is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Lake Street to the junction with Tunbridge Wells Road from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 12<sup>th</sup> April to allow South East Water to carry out apparatus repair works.

## **Draft Local Plan**

Wealden District Council's Draft Local Plan was discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting of their Full Council on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February after which Councillors approved it and agreed for the formal Regulation 18

consultation to begin in March 2024. The consultation will run for eight weeks and people will be able to view the Draft Local Plan at a virtual exhibition and in-person drop-in sessions.

If adopted, the Local Plan will provide a vision for the Wealden District, its strategic and non-strategic planning policies to guide development and locations the Council proposes for new homes, jobs and infrastructure to help meet the district's needs. Dates and details of the consultation and exhibition will be released later. The information will be made available on the community website when received. Documentation for the Draft Local Plan can be found on the Wealden District Council website: <https://council.wealden.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=5650>

## **Volunteer Streets Weed Maintenance**

In the past couple of years East Sussex County Council (ESCC) undertook trials for alternative weed maintenance techniques in selected areas of Hastings and Lewes. It has been agreed that Volunteer Streets Weed Maintenance will become a standard option available to communities/residents who meet the relevant requirements if they choose to 'opt out' of the standard herbicide weed maintenance option.

The Volunteer Streets Weed Maintenance approach gives residents of certain streets the option to 'opt out' of Glyphosate weed spraying. This is done with the expectation that a Lead Volunteer for that road ensures a minimum of 60% of the residents of that street agree to be part of the option and that volunteers would undertake some form of weed maintenance. Please note the road must meet certain requirements

such as low-speed limits, residential / cul-de-sacs, to qualify. The ESCC team will be able to assess and confirm streets on an individual basis. Further information and an application for new groups can be found on the ESCC website at: <https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/services/community-highways-volunteering/2>

## Digital Chat Service For Young People

A digital chat service supporting young people affected by criminal or sexual exploitation is newly available in Sussex. Young people aged 13-18 can ask "Is this OK?" via a chatbot, - or connect to a real person for confidential support. "Is this OK?" is a free, anonymous, and confidential service, bringing trained professionals together to provide support for young people through a chat service. You don't need to provide your real name (a nickname is fine), and they don't need to know your address. They do not collect any data from your phone or computer (I.P. address). They will only know the things about you which you choose to share. Visit <https://www.isthisok.org.uk> for more information.

## Online Safety Act

In February important changes were made to the Online Safety Act with the intention of improving safety on the internet by putting in place policies and processes to manage harmful and illegal content online. The new offences introduced include criminalising cyber-flashing; sharing intimate images of another person on or offline without their consent; sharing fake news intended to cause non-trivial harm along with other online abuses. Indecent exposure, commonly known as 'flashing' is already a crime so it is right that cyber-flashing is also recognised as illegal. If perpetrators send unwanted or unsolicited

pictures to gain sexual gratification or to cause alarm, distress, or humiliation, they will now face up to two years' imprisonment.

Another offence introduced is the sharing of intimate images of another person without their consent, often known as 'revenge porn'. Those found guilty of sharing an intimate image could be jailed for up to six months or two years if it is proven the perpetrator also intended to cause distress, alarm or humiliation, or shared the image to obtain sexual gratification.

## Household Support Fund

The next round of the Household Support Fund is now live but the funding Wealden District Council has been given is limited, and the scheme will close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, or earlier if funds have been exhausted. If you don't receive a Cost-Of-Living Payment because you are not in receipt of a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit or tax credits, but you receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction, they may be able to give you a Household Support Fund (HSF) payment. More information can be found at: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/benefits/> - click on Household Support Fund on the bottom left.

## Parish Council Meetings

The meeting schedule on the website: <http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk/> shows this month's Council and Committee meetings as well as agendas, minutes of meetings and other meeting documentation

**Janna Todd**, Parish Clerk

Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield  
TN20 6AL

Telephone 873784 E-mail:

[clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](mailto:clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)

# OBITUARY

## BERENICE BLURTON

Extracts From "A eulogy to my mother" - Berenice Eileen Blurton (2<sup>nd</sup> March 1935 – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024) - read at her funeral on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at St. Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, by Philip Blurton.



Mum was born into the Godfrey family in Singleton, Australia, and grew up in the town of Gosford, New South Wales. She was the second of four children. Her younger sister, Lyndel, described Mum as the gregarious member of the family, who was good at maths, taught her to read music and had lots of friends. She liked to dress up, often making her own dresses, and to flounce around theatrically in her outfits.

At sixteen Mum finished school and went to teacher's college in Wagga Wagga. At age eighteen she was working as a primary school teacher in country towns, most notably Glen Innis, where she made many lifelong friends.

It was not unusual for young Australians to make a trip to Europe. In 1960 Mum bought a ticket to travel to England on the P&O ship, the Arcadia. One evening she was dining at the table of a charming young deputy purser, Dennis Blurton. Their courtship across the waves could not have been more stylish and romantic and led to their wedding in 1963 in Gosford, and wedding reception at Mum's favourite beach resort, Terrigal.

They honeymooned in Canada, and settled on a house being built in the Warren, Mayfield. They named it Terrigal and lived there for the rest of their lives.

Mum had two careers in England: her family and the Women's Institute. She was paid for neither of them and excelled in both. She joined the Mayfield Evening WI in 1975 and was a member for the rest of her life, attending her final meeting in January this year. She served on the WI committee in many roles over many years. She was President four times and also served at a county level, elected to the role of County Chairman of the East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes between 2001 and 2004. She was a Voluntary County Organiser, now called a WI Advisor, who visited and supported other WIs. She sang in WI singing groups, danced in dance groups, took part in WI Pantomimes and drama festivals, theatrical events, cooking evenings, and WI exhibitions. She baked cakes,



## THE WI - A CONSTANT FOR FIFTY YEARS

made jam, and sang Jerusalem from the bottom of her heart.

On behalf of all our family, I would like to thank friends and organisations here today for their attendance, and for the emails, cards, letters, and many acts of kindness that we have received since Mum died. Your words of condolence and memories

of Mum have made us smile and cry and have been a pleasure and a comfort to read.

We mourn her loss deeply. Rest in peace Mum.

**Philip Blurton**

# MAYFACS (Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services)

London House, High Street, Mayfield, TN20 6AQ [www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk)

HELPLINE 873888 (answer phone system)

MAYFACS OFFICE OPENING TIMES: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 10am - 1pm every week. Helpline phone number is monitored Monday to Friday only. MAYFACS OFFICE [info@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto: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

## MARCH NEWS

**'AD HOC' VOLUNTEERING FOR MAYFACS** Volunteering within our community doesn't need to be a regular or big time commitment and we are always on the lookout for ad hoc volunteers who can support occasional requests for individuals needing one-off support such as emergency shopping, changing lightbulbs, etc. If you are interested in being on our support list for small, one-off requests, please contact Becky on [becky@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:becky@mayfacs.org.uk)

**MATINÉE FILMS** Our specific MAYFACS Programme of films is open to everyone to attend. No booking necessary! Bring friends or family or come on your own and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments. Doors open at 1.30 pm for a prompt start at 1.45 pm. Admission is £6 on the door. Transport is available from Mayfield at £3 per person return. Please pick up a flier from our office or around the village for more information. Please note, the MAYFACS Matinee Films run a different programme to the Film on Friday evening series.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> - Fishermen's Friends:** One and All

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris**

This is the last month of our films for this season, so please do come along and support the two films in March. The next season will start again in October with a new selection of carefully selected films.

The next **Repair Café** will be at MAYFACS Shed on **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 1pm**. Our Repair Cafés have changed to the **THIRD** Saturday of every month from February onwards, to ensure we reduce clashing with other key events. Our April Café (Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April) will also take place at Five Ashes Village Hall as a special annual Community Repair Café.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our MAYFACS Shed fundraising **Quiz** in February. We raised **£1200** towards our Community Shed, ensuring that we can continue to fit out the shed with equipment and materials required, develop our projects further, grow more in the community garden, and provide a lovely space for people to come together. We hold three sessions every week. The inside and new external workshop spaces are available across all sessions every week, as well as opportunities in the garden getting ready for a new season, so there are plenty of opportunities to join us whenever you are available.

## MONTHLY TRIPS

We have added two new trips to our schedule – April to Brighton City Airport, formerly Shoreham Airport, the oldest licensed aerodrome in the UK, and the Festival of Flowers at

Chichester Cathedral as our big coach trip for 2024 in June.

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Ashford Outlets Shopping Centre £10

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Brighton City (Shoreham) Airport £15

**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May**

South Brockwells Farm and Shop and Café, Uckfield £10

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Festival of Flowers in Chichester Cathedral Coach Trip £35

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Farleys House and Gallery, Chiddingly £32

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July**

Busi Jacobsohn Vineyards tour and tastings, Eridge £36

**NEW Monthly Activity For The Summer -**

With the popularity of our monthly Middle House lunches, our friends at The Middle House have organised a summer series of MAYFACS Afternoon Teas. These events will begin in March through to September and will be by invitation only, on a rota basis (similar to our Middle House lunches). They are supporting senior citizens who live on their own for a subsidised price. Our volunteers will be in touch soon. Please visit our website [www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://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](mailto:clare@mayfacs.org.uk).



## MAYFACS SUPPORT SERVICES

MAYFACS has many services to help you should you need any additional support at any time. All requests will be treated in the strictest of confidence, and our team will do everything we can to ensure you have access to any help that you need - be it financial, personal, social or medical.

MAYFACS  
Hardship  
Fund

If you are finding it financially difficult and need some extra support, and live or work within Mayfield and Five Ashes, do contact us in confidence to discuss how we can support you through our Hardship Fund or email [hardshipfund@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:hardshipfund@mayfacs.org.uk)

Food Bank  
Referrals

We can refer families and individuals to local foodbanks for anyone in need of this support, be it short term or longer. Specific requests/dietary requirements can also be accommodated. Collections or deliveries both available.

Community  
Fridges

Community Fridges are open to anyone, no questions asked. They are there to prevent food waste and support our environment by ensuring food goes to a home. Fridges are available in Heathfield, Uckfield and Hailsham (set times).

Community  
Car  
Service

Our Community Car Service ensures you get to medical appointments when you have no other way to get there. It is open to anyone who needs it. Whether a local appointment, or further afield, please contact us. This is a paid for service – covering the cost of fuel for our drivers and cost of providing the service. If cost is a concern, please let us know.

Everyday  
Support  
Services

With our incredible team of volunteers, we can support you with emergency shopping, collecting prescriptions, getting to our activities, navigating other support services and agencies, as well as borrowing a wheelchair, DVD or Jigsaw! If we can't help, we can tell you who can! We are here for everyone.



For more information about the above or any of MAYFACS activities and services, please visit us in London House, Mayfield, email us on [info@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:info@mayfacs.org.uk) or call us on 01435 873888 or visit our website [www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk). Alternatively pick up our leaflets from various shops in Mayfield High St, Five Ashes Village Hall, Woodhill Surgery and our noticeboards. Join our eNewsletter mailing or follow our social media.



# 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,  
£2 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) 12pm for 12.30. £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 (April at Five Ashes)

No need to pre book, unless stated. Please visit [www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk) or contact us on 01435 873888.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## REGULAR WEEKLY GROUPS

Monday	Mayfacs Shed - mixed group	Mayfacs Shed 9.30am -12.30pm
	Art Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 10-12.30pm
	Mayfacs Yarners	Sew Inspired, High Street 1.30 – 3.30pm
	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
Tuesday	Table Tennis Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.15-21.45pm (Sept-May)
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.30-9.30am
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Mayfacs tea & chat	Colkins Mill Church 2 - 3pm - not 1st Tuesday of month
	Circle Dance	Scout Hall 2.30 – 4.30pm
Wednesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.15-7.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 9-10am
	Discofit Gold - Fitness Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10-11am
	Mayfacs Shed - Men Only	Mayfacs Shed 9.30am -12.30pm
	Mayfacs Baby & Toddlers	Scout Hall 9-11am (term-time only)
	Creative Social	Sew Inspired. High Street 10am – 1pm
	Mayfacs tea & chat	Five Ashes Hall, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Weds. 2 – 3pm
	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
Thursday	Mayzing Choir practice	Mayfield Scout Hut: 8.00 – 10.00pm
	Mayfacs Shed - mixed group	Mayfacs Shed, 9.30am - 12.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10.30–11.30am
	Baby Explorers	Five Ashes Village Hall – TBC
	Happy Tai Chi	12-1pm
	Mayfield 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
	Five Ashes Rifle Club	Five Ashes Village Hall – 7-9.30pm Sept-April
Friday	Happy Tai Chi	Five Ashes Village Hall – 7-8pm
	Art Class	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10.30-12.30pm
	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 from 5pm; Junior group 6-6.30pm; Youth Band 6.30-7.30pm; Senior Band 7.45-9.45	
	Cogs – School Years 7-9/10	Colkins Mill Church 7-8.30pm Year 10s 7.45pm
Saturday	Saturday Picnickers	London House 12.30-2.30pm

## MARCH 2024

Friday	1	World Day of Prayer	St. Dunstan's 2pm
Friday	1	Mayfield Youth Band: drop-in and try-out session	Bandroom, Court Meadow 3.30 - 4.30pm
Saturday	2	Organ Plus concert	St. Dunstan's 6pm
Tuesday	5	Tuesday Afternoon Club	Colkins Mill Church, 2 - 4pm
Thursday	7	MAYFACS Poetry Group	Royal Oak Mews, 11am - 12.30pm
Thursday	7	Wadhurst & District Flower Club monthly meeting	Stonegate Village Hall, 1.45pm
Thursday	7	Lenten Lunch	London House, noon - 2pm
Friday	8	MAYFACS Matinée	Five Ashes Village Hall, 1.45pm
Friday	8	Mayfield Youth Band: drop-in and try-out session	Bandroom, Court Meadow 3.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday	12	Mayfield Evening W.I. - creating Easter-themed decorations	Colkins Mill Church 7.15pm
Wednesday	13	Mayfield Climate Action: group meeting on the threat to dark skies	Wadhurst Park, 6pm
Thursday	14	Lenten Lunch	London House, noon - 2pm
Friday	15	Mayfield Youth Band: drop-in and try-out session	Bandroom, Court Meadow 3.30 - 4.30pm
Tuesday	19	Mayfield Horticultural Society: AGM + talk on 'Growing for the Chelsea Flower Show'	Colkins Mill Church 7.30pm
Wednesday	20	RBL - speaker Squadron Leader Nick Clark RAF	Mayfield Cricket Club, 6.30pm
Thursday	21	Lenten Lunch	London House, noon - 2pm
Thursday	21	Mayfacs Trip	Ashford Outlets Shopping Centre
Thursday	21	U3A meeting: Jo Livingstone talk on 'Odd Corners of London'	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2pm
Thursday	21	Mayfield Bonfire Society: Wine & Cheese evening	Rose & Crown TBC
Friday	22	MAYFACS Matinée	Five Ashes Village Hall, 1.45pm
Saturday	23	Five Ashes Horticultural Society Spring Show	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2pm
Sunday	24	Palm Sunday performance by Wateryard Theatre	Passion play + High Street



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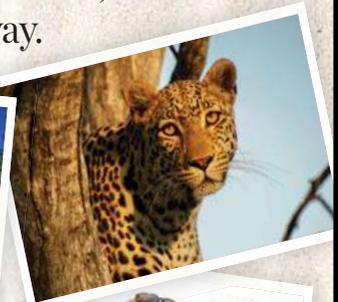
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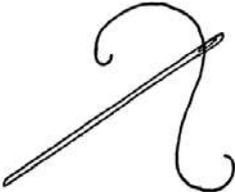
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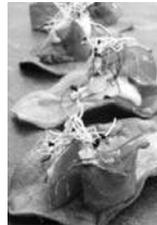
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For more information  
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