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# MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front cover: The Passion Play by Julie Salwey. Thanks 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 FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our May edition. We are so privileged to live in this Parish with not only its beautiful countryside but also an abundance of societies and groups providing stimulation and friendship. Mayfield's Mayfair is this month – come and participate in this very special event in the High Street. Mayfacs is trialling their Little Munchkins Baby & Toddler Group for the May half term on



Wednesday, 29th May, with a view to continue this group year-round if there is sufficient demand. They are also launching new Youth Support Activities with Create @ The Shed. See the Mayfacs section for more information on this and much, much more. We are also lucky to have fascinating people locally running exceptional businesses. We are featuring one such family business under Village People - Kathy, Gary and Christy Jordan - Read All About It! **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

**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.

**POST OFFICE NORMAL OPENING HOURS:** Monday - Friday 09. 30 – 16. 30; Saturday 09. 30- 1pm. Closed Sunday.

### **NATWEST MOBILE BANKING SERVICE**

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

**BUS ROUTE 226** operates 3 days per week on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays**. For fare paying customers a single trip to Crowborough is £2.00 and a return fare is £4.00. Concessionary passes are accepted on this service.

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

Departs Southmead Arrives at Crowborough

10:16 10:47

12:16 12:45

Departs Crowborough Arrives at Southmead

11:45 12:16

13:15 13:46

## **FEATURES**

### **MAYFIELD IRON V: ROYAL GUN-RUNNING**

In 1619 King James I had a grand plan to bring peace across Europe by marrying his son, Prince Charles, to the Infanta in Madrid. The deal with the Spanish was that the marriage would take place if tons of guns were delivered and a fleet sent out to combat the Barbary Pirates of North Africa. The King had an extraordinarily close relationship with the Spanish Ambassador, the Earl Of Gondomar.

Nicholas Eversfield received a secret Royal commission to produce hundreds of cast-iron cannon, some as large as nine foot long, weighing a ton. Nicholas ran the Pounsley Furnace, just south of Mayfield's old boundary. He was described as being of a very contentious and malicious spirit and was the Sheriff of Sussex and Surrey, a Royal appointment. His link to the King probably came from Thomas Sackville (Lord Buckhurst) who was James I's Lord Treasurer, a major Sussex landowner, and Lord of the Manor of Framfield where the furnace was situated. In 1570-1 his agent had written to him that within three or four miles of Pounsley there were seven furnaces and seven forges. His son, Robert Sackville, had been a partner in the Mayfield Furnace at the turn of the century. There had been Eversfields in the area since at least 1285 when the south west extremity of the parish was named "Eversfield", inhabited by Gunnora, Alditha and William Eversfield.

In the 1590s Katherine Eversfield (sister of Nicholas) married Thomas Aynscombe and moved to Mayfield, soon living in the newly built "Aylwins" which still exists. The family also built the Middle House at that time, around 1600. Thomas, like his father (who had moved from Pounsley) was a successful London lawyer, specialising in Chancery cases. Young Thomas had been nominated for the Inner Temple by Lord Buckhurst. In 1621, Chancery reform was tackled by Parliament which accused lawyers there of charging





James I: Credit Wikimedia

exorbitant fees and dragging out cases. With this income and their iron-founding, the family became enormously wealthy. Stephen Aynscombe, less ambitious than his brother Thomas, had the lease of the Eversfield Furnace at Pounsley from 1619 and so had the task for meeting this challenging order for guns. He probably shared the Middle House with his brother John. He contracted some of the work to the Brownes of Brenchley and probably to others, most likely being Sackville Crowe (friend of the Eversfields) at the Maresfield Furnace which was also worked by sub-contractors from Pounsley. Crowe had married a Sackville. Casting guns was limited to winter when there was sufficient water to power the bellows. Furnaces operated 24 hours a day; if production stopped, the furnace would need re-lining. As casting progressed, the furnace

expanded so larger guns were cast. Rural Pounsley probably had at least 100 workers, making it one of the largest industrial sites in the country.

Stephen exported to Portugal the first consignment of 100 guns in September 1620, probably delivered by an English fleet sent to the Mediterranean. Days after the fleet had left, the largely Calvinist Privy Council, which had been kept in the dark, began to uncover the shocking plot to arm Catholics. They ordered the Customs officers in Lewes to be arrested and wrote to the Sheriff of Sussex ordering him to investigate, seemingly unaware that this was Nicholas Eversfield whose furnace had made the guns. Unsurprisingly, since Nicholas was the main law enforcement officer, there was no investigation. After several meetings of the Council, they discovered the second shipment of guns at Lewes and in Maidstone and accused the Spanish Ambassador of a dastardly plot. They ordered the guns to be put into his Majesty's care which probably amused King James. The Privy Council reported directly to the King but he disclosed nothing. The only thing he did was at Christmas when he gave the Royal patent or monopoly to Sackville Crowe at Maresfield before Parliament had time to attack the issue. King James did not admit his involvement until 13th February 1621, fully six months after the bare bones of plot had first been discovered. He later said, referring to Nicholas Eversfield, that he had made a grant to one man alone whom he trusted with the making of iron ordnance, that he might exactly take account of him. This lame excuse attempts to convince that the export of the guns was well-regulated with a clear line of command. MPs received his admissions in stunned silence.

This long delay took place at the expense of those involved, including the gun founders (Stephen had fled to “forrain parts” and his furnace destroyed) and no doubt the Lewes Customs Officers. Stephen eventually received a full Royal pardon in 1622 and his second consignment of guns was restored to him and sold at the Tower of London.

The King's contempt for both the Privy Council and Parliament had long-term consequences which resulted in Civil War 20 years later. Thomas Aynscombe died in 1620 leaving instruction in his Will that Nicholas Eversfield (his brother) should look after his children. His wife died in 1633 having arranged for the splendid monument to them which can be seen in St. Dunstan's. The monument displays symbols of fortitude and justice. Mayfield's wealth at this time can also be seen in the monument and the buildings which they left behind.

The 12-vessel fleet against the Barbary pirates returned after a futile year at sea, bedevilled by corruption. Amongst the officers were ex-pirates and the man responsible for overseeing the export of guns from Lewes, but that is another story. My book “Medieval Mayfield: Archbishops and Peasants” is on sale at “Sew Inspired”.

**Tim Cornish**

## **SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST**

### **Hawthorn**

You could set your calendar by it. Around the first day of May, our ancestors would step outside to find foamy white clouds erupting across the Sussex countryside; the Hawthorn was blooming, spring was turning to summer. The sight was so visually stunning and so linked with the arrival of May that Hawthorn became the only British plant to be named after the

month in which it blooms. Well, the name Hawthorn is derived from the Anglo-Saxon hagathorn (haga meaning hedge). I'm referring to that other name for Hawthorn: May.

Unlike the impetuous Blackthorn, which flowers in March before it's even bothered to grow leaves, the Hawthorn is more dignified. It waits until it has clothed itself in undergarments of lobed leaves before it dons a resplendent gown of exquisite white flowers. This stunning costume and perfect timing meant Hawthorn took centre stage at May Day celebrations and it partied with Green Men, Morris Dancers, Maypoles and May Queens. 'Gathering nuts in May' actually refers to 'gathering knots of May' to make May Day garlands and decorations.

Then, in the middle of the eighteenth century, tragedy struck. I don't know about you, but I get thrown into disarray twice a year when the clocks change. My life would have gone into meltdown in 1752 as our whole calendar changed from Julian to Gregorian, and we lost an entire 11 days. In this new timeline, Hawthorn now found itself late for the party, blooming around May 12th.

It wasn't the first time Hawthorn had been cast aside. Superstitions dictated that bringing Hawthorn indoors led to misfortune – even death. This could stem from the fact that Hawthorn blooms



Credit: Derek Middleton

release trimethylamine, which gives the flowers that unpleasant smell of cat's wee and attracts pollinating insects. It's also a chemical formed in decaying tissue and reminded people of the smell of Black Death – and nobody wanted to be reminded of that.

I remember at primary school being taught 'Ne're cast a clout 'til May is out'. I translated this gibberish into the fact that you should keep your warm clothes on until the end of May. I've only just discovered that 'May is out' refers to Hawthorn blooming. My clouts could have been cast weeks earlier.

But the world has changed since I was a nipper – we're warming up. For a temperature-sensitive plant like Hawthorn, the blooming times are changing again. Hawthorn is responding to climate change by flowering up to two weeks earlier than it was thirty years ago. It has crept back to bloom around May Day and is now more commonly seen flowering at the end of April. So, this May Day, cast your clouts, get out into the great outdoors, and welcome the return of the real May Queen.

**Michael Blencowe**

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

### FROM STELLENBOSCH TO MOUSEHALL - GARY, KATHY AND CHRISTY JORDAN

For those of you who walk the footpaths around Mayfield, you may have noticed as you progress along the path which runs by Mousehall that there have been some major developments afoot over the last few years. The property was bought in 2017 by Kathy and Gary Jordan who had been searching for a small farm in the South of England for eighteen months. They had specific requirements as their plan was to use their extensive experience of viticulture, developed over 40 years at their 164-hectare Jordan Wine Estate in Stellenbosch, South Africa and develop wines and spirits on a much smaller scale as a pre-retirement project. They were well aware of the burgeoning wine industry in the UK and wanted to be a part of this exciting new marketplace. After a long search they found Mousehall and were not put off by the dilapidated state of the grounds and the buildings. They fell in love with the ancient house originally owned by James de Mouleshale and mentioned in the Domesday book, along with its witch markings and beautiful 100-year-old wisteria which clings to the beamed exterior. The land had all the right



attributes, with south facing fields and the possibility to grow apple trees, essential if vines are to thrive. They found out as much about the property as they could and took time to look at ancient documents which are kept in the Keep, formerly in Lewes, and asked previous owners for information. This included an explanation of the apotropaic symbols and scratched marks which they had noticed around the house and were pleased to hear that they were there to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck to the property. Some of these symbols have been used in Mousehall's labels and marketing materials which are also based on local flora and fauna.

The Jordans were not put off by hard work and initially were tasked with major restoration of the land which included removing tree-high brambles and many weeds. This taming of the wild was carried out alongside careful planning and development of a business model, products and buildings. They were joined in 2019 by their daughter Christy who had a degree in Photography and Graphics plus several years in the hospitality industry both in ski seasons and safari lodges. She attended a distilling course and practised her craft in Ireland, really getting to grips with the minutiae and expertise required for producing distinctive and appealing spirits. In 2021 the Jordans transformed the old and crumbling barn into a state-of-the-art distillery and tasting centre. The Copper Pot Still was custom-made by a 4<sup>th</sup> generation coppersmith in Germany and is a thing of beauty and precision. The whole family are involved in the subtle and creative process which goes into the making of Mousehall Gin and Vodka; a blend of spirit and 13 selected botanicals including English Coriander and South African Rooibush (Redbush) tea and Juniper which is essential for gin production. The spirits are produced in a traditional 400-litre copper pot still. From distilling to bottling takes a month. The Jordans, having honed their palates over years of tasting and blending their South Africa wines, were able to decide on the style and

flavours of the final blend of their signature gin, Mousehall Dry Gin. It is possible to book online to taste these gins and vodkas at tasting events run on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; platters using local products are available and groups of up to 12 people can book. Gins and Vodkas can also be ordered online: [www.mousehall.com](http://www.mousehall.com). Mousehall Gin will be available at the forthcoming Mayfield Festival.

The Jordans will also be launching their first Tidebrook Wines this year. They have produced three wines from the 2022 vintage: a Rosé (Six Petals Rosé), a barrel fermented Chardonnay, (Staddle Stone Chardonnay), as well as a Pinot Noir (The Tipping Point Pinot Noir), which is produced in vintages when the weather is favourable. As if this wasn't enough, they have also, by successfully combining a





potting shed and an old oast house, created a charming 3-bedroom holiday rental. I was lucky enough to be shown round and was wondering how I could justify spending a weekend in a property only three miles from home. It is absolutely beautiful and has been furnished to a high standard with en-suite bathrooms and a large, well-equipped kitchen. Again, the overwhelming feeling was that everything the Jordans set their hands to is done with care and precision. Christy's boyfriend, Nick Siersema, will be joining the team soon to work on the Sales and Marketing side of the business so I expect we will all be hearing much more from Mousehall in the future.



**Barbara Murray**

## UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

### **MAYFIELD'S MAYFAIR - SATURDAY, 11TH MAY 1PM-4PM - HIGH STREET WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10.30AM - 5PM**

The Mayfair will start at 1pm with a procession from the bottom of the High Street (West Street end) to the Maypole outside the Middle House. The May Day Battle between Winter's Ice Queen and the Green Man (our very own Ian Parker) will then be staged by Wateryard to herald Spring, when Winter's Ice Queen is vanquished by the Green Man. To bring this battle to life we are thrilled that local professional Fight Director Amy Bolger Floyd will direct and choreograph our battle again this year. The traditional crowning of the May Queen will then take place.

The deadline for applying to be 2024's May Queen is 30th April from the Hair Studio - if you are quick there might still be time to enter the May Queen Competition. It is free to enter – and it is **NOT** a beauty competition!

The Maypole dancing will start at 1.20pm with the Mayfield Primary schoolchildren taking centre stage accompanied by the Mayfield Band. Other schools participating are Skippers Hill, Sacred Heart, Pre-School, Five Ashes Primary, and finally Mayfield Girls School. As a grand finale, beware, you might find yourself volunteering to do a turn round the Maypole!

We will have the Morris Men, the Robin Hood Mummers and hopefully a blacksmith demonstrating his skills. There will be a BBQ, cakes, jams, chutneys, pickles, jewellery, and much, much more. The Children's Home, Mayfield Girls School and other local schools will be taking part, all adding to what will be a wonderful village celebration.

**PLEASE DO COME AND SUPPORT THIS VERY SPECIAL MAYFIELD EVENT!**

**IT'S  
BACK!**

# **MAYFIELD MAYFAIR**

**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF  
MUSIC, MAYPOLE DANCING, FOOD,  
DRINK, CRAFT STALLS AND MORE!**

**A GREAT DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE  
FAMILY - YOUNG AND OLD!**

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024  
1PM - 4.30PM  
HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD**

# OUR SCHOOLS

## MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

### Visitors From Our Sister Schools

We have had the pleasure of hosting two of our sister schools from the USA this past month. We hosted five girls from Oak Knoll in New Jersey for two weeks before Easter and they thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in school life in England. We were also lucky enough to meet 75 staff and pupils from Connelly School in Pasadena, CA, who joined us for liturgy and fun on Easter Saturday.



We are all honoured to be part of the worldwide network of Holy Child Schools. Cornelia Connelly, the foundress of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ) had a passion and a vision for girls' education that we all embrace and are proud to be a part of. There are 35 SHCJ schools worldwide.

### Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts: 26<sup>th</sup> April – 12<sup>th</sup> May

We are delighted to be hosting a number of events during the festival at Mayfield School, including a talk on Mayfield's Medieval Great Hall (the School's Chapel) and the Tunbridge Wells International Music Competition. See [mayfieldfestival.co.uk](http://mayfieldfestival.co.uk) for more details.

### Cornelian Lecture

Sigrid Koerner is coming to Mayfield on 8<sup>th</sup> May to talk about Medieval Theatre. Sigrid is a graduate of Jesus College, Cambridge and is currently a doctoral student in the English Faculty at the University of Oxford. Her research addresses the intersection of visual arts and poetics in the late Middle Ages, with a particular focus on animated sculptures of Christ crucified.

Please email [nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org](mailto:nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org) if you would like to attend. The talk starts at 7pm.

### Silent Auction

As a whole school fundraiser, we will be holding a silent auction and are looking for prizes to auction. Two examples that we have so far include four tickets to Wimbledon and a week's stay in a house in the South of France. Please email [nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org](mailto:nmorson@mayfieldgirls.org) if you have any prizes you would like to donate to the auction. Thank you. Look out for details on how to bid next month!

# OUR CHURCHES

## COLKINS MILL

It was thrilling that so many people came to see the Mayfield Passion Play - bringing this history-changing story to the streets of our village so enjoyably and so movingly. Well done to everyone involved.

We are just starting an Alpha Course - you may have heard of it. It's a meal followed by a video and a free discussion designed to explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. The course is on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and everyone is welcome. Contact us quickly if you are interested - by the time the Newsletter comes out we will have just started. Call Terry on 07568 560433.

**Steve Harland**

**[contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk)**

## ST. DUNSTAN'S

We extend a very warm welcome to Lucy Piercy, our new Director of Music who will be officially taking up her new role on 28<sup>th</sup> April.



Lucy Piercy

## **Craft and Food Market: Saturday, 8th June 11am until 3pm**

We are well and truly getting ready for our Craft and Food Market on Saturday, 8th June from 11am until 3pm. We do hope you can come and join us at our 'rebranded' Summer Fête.

We will still have our traditional Raffle, BBQ, Pimms Stall, Cake Stall and Cream Teas but we are also inviting local craftspeople and food stallholders to join us and sell their wares. There will also be lots of children's games (which adults can enjoy too!) so everyone should be kept entertained. Stalls booked (to date) are selling jewellery, crafts, cards and gift-wrap, local honey producers and Usborne Books. If you'd like to book a stall or volunteer to help run the event, please call Nicky in the Parish Office on 873484 or email: [office.stdunstans@gmail.com](mailto:office.stdunstans@gmail.com)  
Nicky Higgins Parish Administrator

## ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

During Lent we had several neighbourhood house masses. These gave us a chance to worship in a more intimate environment and they were followed by a simple supper. I hope we shall repeat this way of celebrating the Eucharist more often.

### **Masses at St. Thomas' during May**

6.00pm Saturday, 4th May

10.00am Sunday, 12th May

6.00pm Saturday, 18th May

10.00am Sunday, 26th May

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)



# ROUND AND ABOUT OUR VILLAGES

## MAYFIELD FIRE STATION & FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL CHARITY CAR WASH

**Saturday 4th May 10am - 3pm Mayfield Fire Station**

Come and get your car cleaned and enjoy some delicious refreshments while you wait! All donations shared between The Firefighters Charity and Mayfield Primary School.

## THE MAYFIELDIANS' PHOTO OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

This winning photograph for March was taken by **Emily Gayton**. Congratulations Emily. We are now inviting entries for April and May. All entries should be in as high a resolution as possible, ideally 1mb file size minimum. All photographs must be of an identifiable location in the Parish and sent to [mayfieldians@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldians@gmail.com).

**Wellbrook Wines** have very kindly agreed to donate a bottle of wine each month to the winner of the competition. Ian says

"We import most of our wines directly and are thus able to offer amazing value for money. If you're a local wine lover who is fed up dealing with the big guys and you want a friendly, helpful, expert service from a local company, give us a try." [www.wellbrookwines.co.uk](http://www.wellbrookwines.co.uk)



## ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

Open on the following dates from 2.00 to 5.00pm:

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

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 TENNIS CLUB - OPEN DAY SATURDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Mayfield Tennis Club (in Station Road next to St. Thomas of Canterbury Church) will be welcoming visitors on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May. The Open Day has been arranged in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association's "Big Tennis Weekend" incentive to get local tennis clubs to allow people of all standards and ages to play tennis for free in order to encourage them to take up or to return to the game of tennis. On this Open Day our LTA qualified coach will organise play and introduce newcomers to the game. Although both

adults and juniors are welcome at any time between 11am and 2pm, the day is being specially arranged for juniors between 11am and 12.30pm and for adults between 12.30pm and 2pm. Tennis balls and rackets will be provided as well as refreshments. We ask that people wear soft shoes in order to protect the court surfaces. Anyone joining the Club at the Open Day will have their one-off entrance fee waived and will also be offered a free group coaching lesson for one hour with our coach at the Club at a later date.

## **NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME (NGS)**

### **Hoopers Farm Open Garden**

Hoopers Farm (TN20 6BD) will be open for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) on **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June** between 11am and 5pm. Tickets cost £6 and can be bought at the gate or booked online at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk).

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

Homemade teas will be provided by the efficient and capable Pre-School team and lovely plants will be on sale from Rapkyn's Nursery.

Our Mayfield trail of five open gardens this year will be on the weekend of **July 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>**.

All proceeds will be donated to the nursing and health charities which are supported by the NGS.

**Sarah Ratcliffe**

## **MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY**

We have a busy month this May underway as well as a couple of meet us and find out more about and organising for the Carnival September is going well. We have



fireworks, food stalls and first aid and recently had our road closure application approved. We are hoping the wet weather is over as we are unfortunately behind schedule on cutting and preparing the 5,000 torches we will need to assemble this summer for the procession. A small team of volunteers and members are working most Saturday and Sunday mornings to cut and drill the sticks; if you can spare a few hours to help please do get in touch.

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May we will have a stall at the Mayfair where you can meet other members and find out more about everything that goes on behind the scenes to put on the spectacular Carnival Procession. You can also join the 59 Club, see our new range of merchandise and get tickets for our events coming up in June - the Open Gardens on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> (see below for more details) and the Rocky Horror Picture Show on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

On Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding our Annual Meeting in the Rose and Crown at 7.30pm, before our regular monthly social get together at 8pm. The annual meeting will

be brief, members are invited to join us to elect our directors and approve the accounts, then we will revert to the bar for drinks and a catch up with friends and members on everything happening in the society. Do come along and get involved with your friendly bonfire society.

**Catherine Hawley Bonfire@gawain.online**

## **OPEN GARDENS: EAST STREET AND THE WARREN, SUNDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 1.30-5PM**

We are supporters of the Mayfield Bonfire Society and will be opening our gardens to raise money towards putting on our fantastic carnival on 21st September.

We are ordinary gardeners, lucky to live in an extraordinary place, who would like to welcome you to visit our private gardens and enjoy an afternoon exploring and enjoying home-made tea and cakes. Tickets are £6 (children under 16 free) and available in advance from Sew Inspired, Burnetts and online at [www.mayfieldbonfire.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldbonfire.co.uk) but also on the day at each of the gardens. Limited parking will be available in the High Street, East Street and Southmead Close and there are two free car parks in Mayfield. Dogs welcome on a short lead. Gardens to visit are:- The Meads and Summer Lawn South in East Street; Paddock View, Cottington, Terrigal and Broadlands in The Warren.

## **WADHURST PARK NGS OPEN GARDENS**

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 10am-4pm TN5 6NT**

Wadhurst Park gardens will be open to visitors on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June from 10am – 4pm. The naturalistic gardens were designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, created on a 19th century site, situated within a 2000-acre estate and managed organically to enhance its wildlife, cultural heritage and beauty. The gardens invite the wider landscape in with native woodland trees and ground cover, meadows and hedgerows, framing views to hills and lake. We strive to garden with a greater respect for the natural world.

Features include a restored Victorian orangery, naturalistic gardens planted with mainly native species, meadows, potager and woodland walks. Home-made teas including vegan and gluten-free cakes and local produce are for sale. Due to uneven paths, please wear sensible shoes. Sorry no dogs.

For more details visit the NGS website [www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/wadhurst-park-tn5/](http://www.ngs.org.uk/gardens/wadhurst-park-tn5/)

## **MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE**

We are pleased to report that the first stage (design) of the two-stage procurement project to build the new community and health centre is now fully underway with regular meetings and site visits between the main contractor, Baxall Construction, and their architect being held. These activities, together with the design brief and prior pre-planning feedback from Wealden District Council (WDC), will enable the final basic design to be produced. This should be available in May at which point there will be a cost review to double check that the build remains within budget. Following this, we hope to share the design with the community.

Baxall Construction has provided the first issue of a timeline which currently forecasts completion in December 2025. An Employers Agent and a Quantity Surveyor have also now been contracted. They will provide an interface between the contractor and the purchasers (Mayfield & Five Ashes PC and WDC) in a day-to-day advisory capacity.

The necessary legal documentation continues to be refined by the lawyers and is expected to be finalised shortly. Additional funding opportunities are also being pursued.

As the Parish Council is keen that the design should be as 'eco-friendly' as possible, a statement of green credentials has been produced as follows:

1. No gas connected to site - so when the electricity grid is decarbonised, the CO<sub>2</sub> operational footprint of the new buildings will achieve net zero carbon.
2. Solar pv panels on roof.
3. Air source heat pumps together with mechanical ventilation with heat recovery system for additional heating
4. High level of insulation for external building fabric to meet latest Building Regulation requirements
5. Double glazing
6. Energy usage control
7. Dark skies design features for minimising light pollution
8. Automatic roller blinds to screen horizontal light egress at night
9. Waste re-cycling
10. Renewable electricity sources e.g., Octopus Energy
11. EV chargers with on-site battery storage to supplement electricity needs
12. Rainwater harvesting
13. Low water usage systems for toilets
14. Point of use hot water heaters
15. Underfloor heating for meeting rooms etc

16. Travel plan to promote walking and cycling (bike shelter to be provided)

17. Biodiversity net gain (BNG) compliance. Landscape architecture will include native plants to encourage wildlife and fauna, greatly improving the biodiversity value of the poor-quality vegetation that exists in the immediate vicinity of the proposed buildings and no use of pesticides

18. LED low energy lighting throughout the building

19. Special design of external car park lighting to take account of the requirement to meet the dark skies policy

20. On-site surface water storage will control the release of surface water into the watercourse at the bottom of Court Meadow (removing the current problem of surface water from the Memorial Hall and car park overwhelming the existing soakaways and running down Court Meadow)

21. Off-site sustainable construction techniques to reduce material wastage, improve quality and minimise the on-site construction programme

Further information can be found 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 EVENING W.I.**

At our April meeting we learnt a lot about chocolate! Pam Bateman who, with her son, runs the chocolate processing company Monty Bojangles, gave us a lively and interesting talk about production of their chocolate from bean to bar. The company was formed in 2006, based in London, and now has a turnover of £13 million and has gone on to achieve several awards including the first ever King's



Award for Enterprise, International Trade 2023.

We were given samples to taste and it was surprising how we could tell the difference between the percentages of cocoa in each sample; some had a fruity flavour, others bitter. It was a bit like wine tasting as we had to clean our pallet between tastings. It was a fun and indulgent evening!

On 28<sup>th</sup> March a group of members attended the East Sussex Federation of WIs annual meeting at the Winter Gardens in a very windy Eastbourne. This event offers an opportunity to meet other members from across the county and to learn more about the wider WI organisation. One of the guest speakers was Patrick Grant, of The Great British Sewing Bee fame, who spoke engagingly about his life and his love for exceptional quality everyday clothes made from the best natural materials. He flies the flag for British factories, and is convinced that by simplifying the business model, everyone will be able to afford to wear great quality clothes that are ethically and sustainable made.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, this will be our AGM and the speaker is from Pic N Mix Cocktails, perhaps there will be samples!

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 AND DISTRICT U3A

Our next talk is "Black Teeth and Dirty Fingernails" by David Allen 2.00pm May 16<sup>th</sup> - Five Ashes Village Hall.

David Allen is a master of blending fascinating facts with light hearted silliness. An experienced and sought after speaker, he has a fascination with Victorian history, and this talk is about the Victorian underclasses, fighting for survival in a world where the rich were pondering about which bonnet or wig to wear.

All are welcome to come, and though of course free to our members, there is a small fee of £2.00 for visitors. For more information, please email our chairman [marybrentanllu3a@gmail.com](mailto:marybrentanllu3a@gmail.com), or visit our branch [www.u3asites.org/mayfield](http://www.u3asites.org/mayfield).

## ART EXHIBITION

Agneta Sutton is holding an art exhibition in London House on July 14<sup>th</sup>, from 12.00 noon until 5pm. This is one of the Mayfield Open Garden days. The exhibition will be supporting Mayfacs.

## MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### Plant Sale

Our renowned bumper annual Plant Sale will take place on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May** from 9.00 - 11.00 am in the Memorial Hall car park. Hundreds of different plants for sale at bargain prices!

Choose from a huge variety of bedding plants, everything you need for pots and borders: petunias, geraniums, lobelia, sweet peas, cornflowers, love-lies-bleeding, marigolds, verbena, snapdragons, cosmos, etc.. Our vegetable plants are second to none! Tons of different tomato plants, including many heritage varieties. In addition, there will be squash, courgettes, beans: runner, broad & french, salad crops, beetroot, kohlrabi, herbs: parsley, basil, lemongrass, chives, rosemary and a lot more.

There will also be a wide variety of perennial plants on offer.

If you have any spare plants that you think will sell, please do donate them to the Horticultural Society. The Plant Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year and it all helps to keep the Society afloat. You can bring your plants to the Memorial Hall car park on Friday afternoon 2pm to 3.30 pm or on the day between 8am and 9am. If that's not convenient, please contact me or Shirley Holland to arrange a pick up.

As always, the early bird catches the worm here, so if you want to get the best choice, get there early!

**Membership** of the Horticultural Society runs from March to February each year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for the current year, you can pay the fee of £7.50 by bank transfer to: Mayfield Horticultural and Gardener's Association, Sort Code 20-88-13, Account Number 10685259, Reference: Fee. Alternatively, you can renew (or join) at any our events such as the upcoming Plant Sale on 11th May. Contact Louise Pitcher [membership@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk) for any queries relating to your membership.

### Dates For Your Diary

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**, annual outing to Clinton Lodge Gardens in Fletching, £14 plus small cost for travel, contact Claire Montagu for details at [claire.montagu@icloud.com](mailto:claire.montagu@icloud.com).

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July** from 2.30 pm, Mayfield Summer Show, Mayfield Scout and Guide Hall

**Tessa Crowe**

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

### Next Meeting Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June at Mayfield Cricket Club

– our speaker is Fr. Michael Asquith who will be talking about 'Chaplaincy'. Clearly with his vast experience this is a talk not to 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 telephone 872130, by **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** to indicate that you are able to attend and to place your order for a fish, chicken or scampi meal.

### 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

On 6th June at Court Meadow in the evening there will be a lighting of a Beacon to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day. Food and drink will be available together with music; various local Mayfield societies will be taking part in different ways. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May at St. Dunstan's Church, Mayfield there will be displays by our local schools and the History Society depicting not just the important D-Day anniversary but also associated interesting facets of this momentous period in our history and how it affected a number of local people.

## Summer Garden Party – Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July

We will have musical entertainment again at this event. This event will be popular and early booking will be essential. The location for the event last year was so perfect we will again, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Mantoura, be holding it at their residence at Wellbrook Hill. Convenient parking will be at Wellbrook Farm and the venue can be reached by a short walk, not involving the main road. Full details will be available nearer the event.

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

Shortly, research is to commence on collecting details of Mayfield and Five Ashes fallen of WWII. Any information available from local family or friends of the WWII fallen will be gratefully accepted by Carole Stilwell or Brian Oldfield on [carolestilwell@hotmail.com](mailto:carolestilwell@hotmail.com).

**Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465 [kevinswaine@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinswaine@btinternet.com)**

## MAYFIELD BAND

I listened, as you should, to a fascinating interview with Antonio Pappano the other day, former conductor of the orchestra at the Royal Opera House. He spoke of his regret that opera is seen as elitist in the UK, in a way that it isn't in say Germany or Italy. This means that people tend to be frightened and rather suspicious of it. It made me think, therefore, that maybe there is also a degree of suspicion around brass bands. People don't really know what goes on, and don't really understand why we exist. You don't hear us much on the radio, or see us on the telly, so it's all a bit odd and mysterious, and what's the point? And why would you want to learn to play a brass instrument, given that it seems to be a lot of hard work, with seemingly very little opportunity to make any money out of it. Well, when I say *little* opportunity, I mean absolutely NO opportunity whatsoever in the case of our little band of minstrels. But, of course, that is missing the point, and all I can say to allay your suspicions is that we have thirty or so people, young and old, from all backgrounds, of varying ability and experience, who turn up every week to take part. So, by the law of averages, we must have at least one or two vaguely sane players, and you need not be afraid. It's just a nice thing to do, with nice people. If you don't believe me, you are very welcome to come and have a look for yourself.

We're looking forward to playing at the Mayfair on 11<sup>th</sup> May for our first engagement of the year. We hope to see you there – don't forget your sunscreen!

## Mayfield Youth Band

If you read my reports each month, which seems unlikely, you will know that I have been running some after school drop-in sessions to enable kids to come in and see what we are all about, and maybe have a go at playing. You will be pleased to know that I didn't get trampled in the rush of prospective players, and I have survived to tell you that despite the



modest take up, we will be starting a beginners' group on Friday evenings at 5.15 to 5.45. It is certainly not too late to come and join us, and indeed you are welcome to drop in and have a go whenever you want to. Just give me a call. But I do know that kids tend to do best when they are in a group, as the social side is as important as the music, and learning together is more fun, so now would be a really great time to start.

**Simon Rudge 872007/07919 810765 [simon@mayfieldband.co.uk](mailto:simon@mayfieldband.co.uk)**

## **MAYFIELD PASSION PLAY**

'Where is that donkey going? Come back!' Some moments of the first Mayfield Passion Play (at least since the Middle Ages) were hilarious, some very moving, some rumbunctious, and some solemn and thoughtful. I shouted myself hoarse as a disciple welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem and Mayfield, remembered the gist of my lines, just about,

and wondered at just how impactful the whole thing was. At times it was like being with a rugby crowd going to the match – everyone cheerful and good natured, blessed by the wonderful weather on the day (it hailed on dress rehearsal!), at other times the silence of 350 people listening; taking in the key moments of Jesus' last days – the supper, the betrayal, the trial and the crucifixion, was moving in itself apart from the memorable performances of the key characters. The empty tomb and the sense of surprise and upset was wonderfully enacted round the big yew tree in the churchyard and the bellringers practising somehow managed to set off a peal just as Jesus re-appeared resurrected – happy accident? So many people had to strive hard to make this a success, which it truly was and I could dwell on the costumes, props, actors, stage



**Kathy Pogson**

management and the background hard work to keep the road closed safely, but I really want to pick out Kathy Pogson, the Director and the person who both envisaged how it could be done and re-imagined how it would have to be done to work, ably supported by Jo Compton. What came across in telling the story again was a passionate commitment to love and forgiveness, to humanity and seeing everyone as having a part to play and contribute, and to the possibility of new life, renewed life, in embracing the Easter story afresh. I earnestly hope this becomes another tradition in the community which brings us together to celebrate with gratitude all the good things we have been given in trust.

**Philip James (aka 'James the Great')**





Above, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, below, paying taxes to Caesar





The Garden of Gethsemane - Jesus praying and his betrayal by Judas







Jesus is arrested and tried





Above, Jesus collapses and below, The Crucifixion







Above, the empty tomb and below, The Resurrection





# YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

The theme for this year's Earth Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April was plastic pollution, targeting a 60%



reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040, with a rapid phasing out of all single use plastics. Work is underway to draw up a UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution but we can achieve a lot, and more rapidly, through our own buying decisions. Every time we opt for foods without plastic wrapping, retailers from the High Street in Mayfield to the major supermarkets take note and adjust accordingly. We don't need apples and pears encased in plastic wrappers or citrus fruit and onions in plastic net bags. Most shops now sell loose fruit and veg and we can all do our bit for the planet in the process.

Earth Day also marked the start of this year's Climate Change Competition, inviting bright ideas on how to change behaviour, technology and speed of adoption through innovation and communication. Beacon, Heathfield, Mayfield and Uplands Schools have formally signed up but entries are equally welcome from students living in the Mayfield area attending other colleges or schools. Full details are available from [mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com). Entries close on World Environment Day, 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## WEALDEN'S CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY

W.D.C. is creating a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and is asking residents to take part in a survey to gather opinions on climate change action in the district. The survey takes on average 15

minutes to answer and the views and opinions expressed from feedback will help to form the new strategy and plan, and ensure it meets the needs of local communities, captures climate action taking place already and reflects future priorities.

To complete the surveys, visit <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/hub-page/climate-change>. The survey **closes on Friday, 10th May at 12pm**

## NO MOW CAMPAIGN

The No Mow Campaign was started in 2019 by the charity Plantlife as a way for many of us to contribute to biodiversity, be it a private lawn or a community area, simply by not mowing. Sections can be left to grow but with edges to beds and borders mown it becomes the cheapest of all garden features. It's one that changes over the season if you resist the temptation to reach for the mower over the summer.

When we moved here, the No Mow May campaign was still in the future, a small 1930s farm cottage with a garden made from the fields. The grass grew as we painted walls and made it home.

Under wraps from persistent lawnmowing for decades, this meadow began to reveal itself. It was the orchids that we noticed that first year, just a few that we treasured. We moved most of them to a creche in what was to be our small "wild garden". We borrowed a lawnmower at the end of the summer to cut it all. A year later and we were late to make the first cut and I noticed one or two more orchids... the hunt began for more, and I lost count.

From those beginnings we left more and more to the insects with paths and border



edges shorter for the clover, cuckoo flower and selfheal to flourish; we felt more and more guilty to cut and ruin this new habitat and we enjoyed the ruffled look of knapweed, hawkbit and devils-bit scabious later in the summer. Such pleasure in seeing goldfinches and linnets feeding from the larder of dandelion, sorrel and thistle. Now writing in April, birds are collecting remaining stalks from some of last year's growth that we left standing; dry-stem nests will nurture new life. We are not big enough for a barn owl to 'quarter' over in hunt of field voles that can now make safe runs through the longer grass, but kestrels find them as do the tawny owls that are near residents to us all. Slow worms and grass snakes, amphibians, bats and hedgehogs come too.

By not mowing we can connect up small patches of habitat to make a more viable ecosystem and chance for success of many of our once common species. Insect populations are in decline, through loss of habitat, insecticide use and climate change. Many birds will appreciate the insects, worm and larvae that the longer lawn will encourage. Your lawn is likely to be hiding many plant species in the rich green of spring. On verges, closely mown outside houses we regularly see the emerging leaves of orchids, violets, betony and I would presume the gardens behind could equal this if chemicals haven't been used - after all our gardens and amenity areas are mostly made from fields, as was ours. Use the PlantNet app to help with identification.

If you make it through a No Mow Summer, cutting back in autumn can be hard work if it is a large area but it doesn't have to be done in a day. We use a scythe, but a lawnmower works too, collector off and rearing horse-like over longer sections. Cut and remove to help to make great compost. Leave some stems for seeds if you can and with a shift of perspective enjoy the muted dry stems of winter. The vibrant green of spring is more glorious. Next year your "meadow" lawn will be healthier; its plants have been allowed to grow and photosynthesise more successfully. They will be more resilient to drought, the land better able to cope with extreme wet, and more carbon will be there too ...it is so much quicker than growing a tree!

**Sarah Litchfield**

# NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

## FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We held our Spring Show on 23rd March in Five Ashes Hall on a day of reasonable but definitely un-springlike weather. Inside the Hall was a display of 210 entries – exactly the same as last year despite the awful weather leading up to the Show, of which 48 were in the daffodil/narcissus classes. The Domestic Division classes were also well-supported; indeed, there were 10 entries in each of class 30 Fruit Stones and class 32 chocolate cake. Overall, there were entries in every class.







Some of the Winning Exhibits



Images by Penny Kemp

After an afternoon of tea, cake and chat the Trophies were awarded as follows:-

The Morse Cup - Karenna Wrightson

The Barr Vase - Carolyn Tester

The Penn Memorial Cup - Karenna Wrightson

The Foy Trophy - Carol Down & Kay White

The Jack Wade Memorial Trophy - Susanna Parkes

In the Children's Divisions:-

The Hayter Trophy - Emily Strong

The Dando Cup - Archie Gorringe

The Thompson Trophy - Ava Gorringe

We now look forward to our Summer Show on 27th July – after some dry weather I hope!

**Graham Playfoot 01825 830511**

## **FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL**

A few changes to the regular clubs at the hall for the summer months – no Table Tennis or Rifle Club but they will resume in September.

Film on Friday has also finished for the summer but will resume in September – look out for information on the films that will be shown from September – contact Andrew Ratcliffe, [filmonfriday@gmail.com](mailto:filmonfriday@gmail.com)  
Happy Tai Chi with Tara has two classes on Thursdays now

12:00-13:00 and 19:00 – 20:00 Contact Tara on 07582 279908 or email [happytaichi@btinternet.com](mailto:happytaichi@btinternet.com)

Starting Monday 22nd April 08:30 – 09:30 – Strength class with Tanya Rundle  
[tanyarundlept@gmail.com](mailto:tanyarundlept@gmail.com)

### **Some dates coming up: -**

2nd May, 07:00 – 22:00 Committee room - Police and Crime Commissioner Election

8th May, 08:00 – 09:00 Five Ashes Village Hall will be the drop off and collection point for Five Ashes Primary Schools' Bag2School fundraiser.

10th May, 19:00 – 21:00 East Sussex Dance Studios Bingo and Children's Disco, raising funds to support the ESDS competition team to attend the Dance World Cup in Prague.

More information from Ruth, 07787198801, [ruthbootland@aol.com](mailto:ruthbootland@aol.com)

21st May 18:30 CPR and Defibrillator training, contact Geoff Gregory, [geoffgregory@outlook.com](mailto:geoffgregory@outlook.com)

Five Ashes Village Hall is available for the whole community to hire. Details about the hall can be found on the website: [-https://fiveashesvillagehall.wixsite.com/fiveashesvillagehall](https://fiveashesvillagehall.wixsite.com/fiveashesvillagehall)

To book the hall either use the contact form on the website or email:

[5asheshallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:5asheshallbooking@gmail.com)

**Penny Kemp 07858 808030**

## **FRIENDS OF FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing. All the bags will be weighed and the school will be paid for the total weight collected. The more bags collected the greater the benefit to the school. When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items of men and ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets, or pieces of fabric please)

Please deliver bags to FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL - Wednesday 8th May 08:00 – 09:00

Thank you.

**Penny Kemp  
07858 808030**



**CPR DEMONSTRATION - FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL** - Tuesday, 21st 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.



**Five Ashes Village Hall CIO**

## **Cardiac arrest can strike without warning!**



### **What is a Heart Attack?**

- A heart attack is when one of the coronary arteries becomes blocked. The heart muscle is robbed of its vital blood supply and, if left untreated, will begin to die because it is not getting enough oxygen.

### **What is Cardiac Arrest?**

- A cardiac arrest is when a person's heart stops pumping blood around their body, and they stop breathing normally.

### **Can you answer these questions?**



- 1) Can you identify a sudden cardiac arrest?
- 2) What should you do if a person is suffering a heart attack?
- 3) What is the best response when someone experiences a sudden cardiac arrest?
- 4) Could you perform CPR and keep a person alive until the emergency service arrives?
- 5) There are a number of defibrillators within the parish, could you use one in an emergency and save a life?

### **Why not come along to Five Ashes Hall to find out more?**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 18.30**

Reserve a place now. Places are limited.  
**01825 830642 or [geoff.gregory@outlook.com](mailto:geoff.gregory@outlook.com)**



\*This is a free session provided by the Heathfield and Waldron first responders.

# WADHURST WINDOW

## WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

The April meeting of Wadhurst and District Flower Club proved once again that flower arranging is both a joyful and entertaining occupation.

The demonstrator showed members how to create a hand-tied bouquet and a floral wreath that could be gifted to family or friends. The use of small cans as containers for flowers showed an ability to recycle and all the designs that she created were small enough to be easily replicated at home.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>, a workshop where members will be shown how to create buttonholes suitable for weddings. There will then be an opportunity to make one to take home. Patience and dexterity will be required by all participants: it should be a fun afternoon!

The Flower Club's Summer Lunch and Demonstration will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> when National Demonstrator Michael Bowyer will be celebrating the month of June. Tickets are available from Debbie 882851 at £25.00 per person. New members are always welcome; if you would like further information, please contact Sonia 01892 785671.



## WADHURST BOWLS

This Is It – The Big One! Wadhurst Bowls Club is participating in the Bowls England – Big Weekend where we will be throwing our doors open to all and sundry for you to have a go at bowls for the first time. It's not the whole weekend though! On Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May between 11am and 2pm you will be able to have a fun hour or so playing with our balls and if that isn't incentive enough the bar will be open for refreshments.

There will be a half price (£40) membership offer for registered participants for the two weeks following the open event. There will be free, unrestricted views across the rolling Wealden countryside too – what more could anyone ask for? All you need is a pair of trainers.

Give **Laurence** a call on **07714 935915** to book your place (or just turn up)

[www.wadhurstbc.com](http://www.wadhurstbc.com) Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

# MAYFACS

**London House, High Street,  
Mayfield, TN20 6AQ**

[www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk)

HELPLINE 873888 (answer phone system). MAYFACS Post Box is at the back entrance to the office (follow the signs from outside the entrance of St. Dunstan's Church)

Office Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 10am - 1pm every week. Helpline phone number is monitored Monday to Friday only.

Mayfacs Office [info@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:info@mayfacs.org.uk)



## **May Half Term: Little Munchkins Baby & Toddler Group Trial**

Due to interest from our lovely Little Munchkins, we are trialling our Baby Toddler Group remaining running in May Half Term on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, with the view to continuing this group year-round if there is enough demand. Please do come along and join us in half term with your little ones (from newborn to pre-school age). £3 per family. Mayfield Scout Hall.

**Bank Details:** (for donations, payments of trips and activities)

## **Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services (MAYFACS)**

Account No 00029924 Sort Code 40-52-40

## **May News**

Huge thanks and congratulations to Matthew Holland for supporting Mayfacs by running the London Marathon in April. And thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported him! It's not too late to still sponsor him ([www.mayfacs.org.uk/matthewmarathon](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk/matthewmarathon)) or pop into the office to sponsor in person. At the time of writing, Matthew has already raised over £1000 for us! What a star!

## **Bingo Fun – Thank You For Your Support**

A big thank you to the lovely Kevin and his helpers, who ran a fantastic evening of Bingo in April raising money for Mayfacs. With 75 people of all ages attending, it was an evening of bingo calls, winning lines, full houses, and raffle mayhem! Thank you to all our fantastic cake bakers for baking the mid-way treats, and to all for coming along to support.

## **Mayfacs Launch New Youth Support Activities With Create @ The Shed!**

We are excited to announce the launch of our new creative sessions for young people. For young people aged between 13 and 15 years old (suggested ages) and interested in getting involved in exploring new skills, being creative and hanging out with like-minded people, these sessions are for you! Exploring different forms of creative genres including art, music and tech, sessions begin on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May and then **every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month**. Booking is essential for each session with limited spaces available. Suggested donations cover basic materials and are kept to a minimum with funding support (and will vary depending on the activity organised). If you would like to attend but need further financial support, please get in touch to discuss.

Our first and second session is all about ANIME! Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> June. 10am – 1pm. Suggested donation £10. See the poster below or visit [www/mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk) for full details on how to book.



**CREATE @ THE SHED**  
**CREATIVE SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**ANIME:**

**SATURDAY 4TH MAY 2024**  
**10AM - 1PM, MAYFACS SHED**

@wills\_whims

Our first Create @ The Shed for younger people begins with an ANIME workshop with the wonderful Wills's Whims. Learn to paint your favourite character with top tips & tricks. Create top notch illustrations with useful techniques and cheats under your belt! Learn about layering colour and transferring images to get that cool ANIME illustration vibe. All materials provided. Final Artwork will be mounted and packaged to take home!

**Suggested donation per person £10. Booking essential!!**

**TO BOOK: VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk)



### **Art At The Shed Returns – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

The very popular Art at the Shed sessions return this month with our wonderful volunteer artist Hannah leading very informal and friendly art workshops at the Shed. If you enjoy drawing, or just want to give it a go, come along to this friendly group every month where we will be getting outside as much as possible to be inspired by nature! Materials all provided, suggested donation of £3 per person, teas

and coffees provided. Booking required as places limited.

Mayfacs Shed holds 3 Sessions every week for anyone to come along and join in. With inside and new external workshop spaces available across all sessions every week, as well as lots to get stuck into in the community garden, there is plenty to get involved in whenever you are available. New Sheddors always welcome. For more information, go to [www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed)

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Yarners</b> (chat and knit, sew, crochet)	Sew Inspired, Mayfield High Street 1.30-3.30pm, £2. (Not Bank Holidays)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Tuesday Chat</b> (with refreshments)	Colkins Mill Church, Station Road, Mayfield. 2-3pm, £2. (Not first Tuesday of the month)
	<b>Tuesday Afternoon Club</b> (Social group including speaker, raffle and light afternoon tea)	First Tuesday of the month in COLKINS MILL CHURCH (change of venue) 2-3.45pm, £3. Please bring a small prize to share on the raffle if available.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>MAYFACS "Little Munchkins" Baby and Toddlers Group</b> (Term time only). Join us every Wednesday, with activities for all, from new borns to pre-school age! Activities include craft, sensory play, and fancy dress! We welcome all parents, grandparents and carers.	Every Wednesday in the Scout Hall 9-11 am, £3 per family. Refreshments provided but please bring your own lidded cup.
	<b>Wednesday Chat</b> (with refreshments)	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2-3pm, £2. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Transport available, please book this in advance.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Crowborough Community Café</b> (for those living with dementia and their carers)	Crowborough Oasis Church and Community Café. Last Thursday of the month 2-4pm, £3.
	<b>Poetry</b> 1st Thursday of the month 11am-12.30pm, £2 at Come along and explore the world of poetry in a fun and relaxed social setting. I	Coach House Cottage, Royal Oak Mews. £2. Please contact Pat Robson on 872445.
	<b>Middle House Lunches</b> (Invitation only - Two course Lunch and Coffee) for those who live alone and are aged 70+ years young) Last Thursday of each month	Middle House special discounted rate of £12.50 per person. Please contact Freya on 873888 to be added to the list. Our volunteer Sue Wren will be ringing around and arranging this for us.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>MAYFACS FILM CLUB (Matinee Films)</b> continue at FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL February 10 <sup>th</sup> : King Richard February 24 <sup>th</sup> : Cabaret March 10 <sup>th</sup> : Operation Mincemeat	Doors open at 1.30pm, Film starts 1.45pm. £6 admission on the door. Transport runs between Mayfield and Five Ashes, leaving from Memorial Hall at 1.20pm and St Thomas of Canterbury at 1.30pm. No need to book, please just wait at the allocated stops! Additional cost of £3.
	<b>Scrabble/Games/Cribbage</b> 3rd Friday of the month (tbc venue)	2-4pm, £3 Bring along a game to play with others. Contact the office for confirmation of details.



The next Repair Café will be back at **Mayfacs Shed** on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May**. We welcome you to find out more about our Repair Cafés, join us for some tea and cakes (you do not need to bring a repair to attend) and find out more about our MAYFACS Shed and MAYFACS community.

### Monthly Trips

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

**Thursday, 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 \*\* last few places available \*\*

**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

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)

## OPEN FORUM

I would like to thank whoever it was who handed into the village store my mobile phone and wallet. One big thank you. Kind regards from **Hilda**



Bluebells and Stitchwort near the Mayfacs Shed

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Annual Parish Assembly

This year's Annual Parish Assembly Ashes Village Hall at 19:30. This is meeting of the parish residents that 1st March and 1st June each year. residents can contribute to the the community. If your organisation or society would like to report to the meeting or if you have any current issues that you believe should be added to the agenda for discussion, please contact the Parish Council office before 8th May. The agenda is issued ten days before the meeting and will be displayed on the noticeboards and on the community website meeting schedule as usual.



will take place on 20th May in Five not a council meeting but a must, by law, take place between Organisations, societies and agenda and debate current issues in

## Reminder: Wealden's Draft Local Plan

Wealden District Council's Draft Local Plan consultation is open until 5pm, Friday, 10th May 2024. Residents, businesses, and communities are welcome to give their views as this will help shape the final version of the Local Plan.

Their final face-to-face consultation is at Horam Village Hall, TN21 0JE on Saturday, 4th May from 10am to 4pm. For further information visit: <https://consult.wealden.gov.uk/kse/> A paper copy of the plan is also available for viewing in the Parish Council office – please advise if you would like to view the documentation to ensure that a meeting in the office is not scheduled.

The Community Development Committee and Planning Executive Committee are working hard to formulate a response on behalf of the Parish Council. The proposed total figure for housing delivery in the Parish is 68, comprising:

Committed - 15; Local Plan allocation - 0 (as there are no SHELAA sites in the Parish (explained below); Windfall Sites - 51

Total - 68

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) is an essential piece of evidence which is required to support the Local Plan process. It is a technical assessment which considers the suitability, availability and achievability of land in the district for possible development. The assessment does not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for development but is a high-level assessment used as a starting point to decide whether sites could be developed for housing, economic development or other uses in a Local Plan.

## South East Water Infrastructure Improvements

Cllr Blakebrough has been communicating with South East Water subsequent to their presentation to the Parish Council last November to answer two questions about four improvements they said they were planning to improve the water supply to the Parish. The questions left with them were:

When will the improvements take place?

Has the required budget been allocated?

A summary of their response is:

One of their schemes to connect the Bewl Water treatment plant to Cottage Hill reservoir that supplies us, is now underway and is scheduled for completion in March 2025. Once completed they inform it will increase supply capacity by around 60% - a significant increase in about a year's time.

Other improvements 'in the pipeline' are:

a) Increase maximum transfer flow from Horsted Keynes to Ashdown Service Reservoir from 80 litres/second up to 110 litres/second.

b) A supply from Hourne Farm to Cottage Hill Service Reservoir – 30 litres/second.

c) Increase maximum transfer flow from Popeswood to Cottage Hill Service Reservoir from 30 litres/second up to 50 litres/second.

These three improvements are included in their next five-year Asset Management Plan that hopefully will be approved by OFWAT for completion April 2025 to March 2030 and will transform the supply situation.

### **Temporary Road Closure Warnings:**

Rotherfield Lane is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Station Road to the junction with the A267 at Argos Hill from 18th June - 21st June to allow South East Water to carry out apparatus repair works.

### **Watch Out For SMIDSY! Motorcycle Campaign**

Sorry Mate I Didn't See You! It's a phrase commonly heard by motorcyclists who have come to a rapid halt when a vehicle pulls out in front of them. These "SMIDSY" incidents are one of the leading causes of motorcycle collisions and the focus of a new campaign led by Surrey and Sussex Police as covers come off motorbikes ahead of the spring bank holidays.

Last year five riders died on the roads in Surrey and Sussex, including on busy Bank Holiday weekends, so the new campaign

aims to equip motorcyclists to enjoy their holiday rides and get back to their garage safely. The most recent combined data from the Department for Transport and National Road Traffic Census from 2021 reveals that 310 motorcyclists lost their lives and 5264 were seriously injured on Britain's roads.

Five-year data from 2016 to 2021 on reported road casualties cites failing to look properly on the part of a rider or driver as the most common contributing factor in fatal or serious collisions. The data also reveals that T, Y or staggered junctions are the most common locations of motorcyclist casualties, representing 34.7% of combined fatalities and injuries.

The campaign will help riders identify a SMIDSY situation and protect themselves against these collisions, as well as sharing other riding techniques provided by some of the nation's best riders.

### **Funding For Community Orchards**

A total of £27,756 of funding has been awarded to Wealden District Council to support community orchards in the Wealden district. The funding has been allocated by the UK government through The Coronation Living Heritage Fund, which celebrates the coronation of King Charles III and supports tree planting projects nationwide and honours the King's dedication to preserving the natural environment.

Wealden council is asking schools, residents' associations, village hall trusts, parish and town councils, businesses, community and voluntary groups, charities, not for profit organisations, and landowners with publicly accessible land to apply for grants between £1,000 and £3,500. The aim is to bring fruit and nut trees back to life and make orchards thrive.

Applications to apply for a grant will close Friday 10 May 2024 at 5pm. For more information and how to apply go to our Climate Change Hub on Let's Talk Wealden or contact [sustainability@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@wealden.gov.uk)

**Wealden Is 50 Years Old!**

Wealden District Council marked the start of its 50th anniversary this week with a special flag raising ceremony. The District Council was formed on 1st April 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972, which reformed local government in England and Wales. The new authority covered the area of two former districts, Hailsham Rural District and Uckfield Rural District, which were both abolished at the same time. The new district was named Wealden after the landscape and woodland.

Wealden District Council provides residents with a number of services including waste and recycling, housing, planning, environmental health, benefits, licensing, community safety, leisure facilities and building control services. The council also collects Council Tax from residents – retaining only 9% of the total bill - on behalf of East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire & Rescue, Sussex Police and town and parish councils.

**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**



**PUBLIC OPENING TIMES**

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

**OFFICE ADDRESS**  
**Mayfield & Five Ashes Parish Council**  
Old Manor House, High Street,  
Mayfield TN20 6AL

☎ 01435 873784  
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**Q**  
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[www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### REGULAR WEEKLY GROUPS

Monday	Art Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 10-12.30pm
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Yoga	Scout Hall 6.30 – 7.45pm
	Ideal Performing Arts	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.00 – 8.00pm
	Table Tennis Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.15-21.45pm (Sept-May)
Tuesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.30-9.30am
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Circle Dance	Scout Hall 2.30 – 4.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.15-7.30pm
Wednesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 9-10am
	Discofit Gold - Fitness Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10-11am
	Creative Social	Sew Inspired High Street 10am – 1pm
	Heathfield Fitcamp	Five Ashes Hall - 18.30-19.30
	Studio Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 18.50-19.50pm
	The Rose & Crown Quiz	Rose & Crown, Fletching Street, 7.30pm
	Mayzing Choir practice	Mayfield Scout Hut: 8.00 – 10.00pm
Thursday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10.30–11.30am
	Baby Explorers	Five Ashes Village Hall – TBC
	Happy Tai Chi	12-1pm
	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
	Happy Tai Chi	Five Ashes Village Hall – 7-8pm
Friday	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 5.15-5.45pm; Junior group 6-6.30pm; Youth Band 6.30-7.30pm; Senior Band 7.45-9.45	
	Cogs – School Years 7-9/10	Colkins Mill Church 7-8.30pm Year 10s 7.45pm
Saturday	Saturday Picnickers	London House 12.30-2.30pm



## MAY

Wednesday	1	Mayfield Festival: Schumann's Dichterliebe	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Thursday	2	Mayfield Festival: 'Just One Of Those Things'	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Friday	3	Mayfield Festival: Recital - Horn and Piano	Mayfield School, Concert Hall, 8pm
Saturday	4	Mayfield Fire Station & Friends of Mayfield Primary School: Charity Car Wash	Mayfield Fire Station, 10am - 3pm
Saturday	4	Mayfield Festival: The London Community Gospel Choir	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Monday	6	Mayfield Festival: Fauré Requiem, Bruckner Motets & Wilbye Madrigals	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Tuesday	7	Mayfield Festival: Rachel Podger, Flying Solo	Mayfield School, Chapel, 7.30pm
Wednesday	8	Mayfield Festival: 'Gin & Phonic' by Oz Clarke	Mayfield School, 7.30pm
Thursday	9	Wadhurst & District Flower Club	Stonegate Village Hall, 1.45pm
Thursday	9	Mayfield Festival: Enid Blyton - Noddy, Big Ears	Mayfield School, Concert Hall, 3pm
Thursday	9	Mayfield Festival: 'The Organist Entertains...'	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Friday	10	Mayfield Festival: Imogen Cooper	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Saturday	11	Mayfield Horticultural Society: plant sale	Memorial Hall car park, 9 - 11am
Saturday	11	<b>MAYFIELD MAYFAIR</b>	High Street 1pm-5pm
Saturday	11	Churchyard Working Party	St Dunstan's, 10am - 12.30pm
Saturday	11	Festival: The Great American Songbook'	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Saturday	11	Argos Hill Windmill Open Days	2pm - 5pm
Sunday	12		
Sunday	12	Mayfield Festival: Festival Eucharist	St Dunstan's Church, 10.15am
Sunday	12	Mayfield Festival: Puccini Messa Di Gloria	St Dunstan's Church, 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	Mayfield Evening W.I.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.30pm
Thursday	16	U3A monthly talk	Five Ashes Village Hall 2pm
Thursday	16	Bonfire Society AGM & social drinks	Rose & Crown, 7.30 - 10pm
Saturday	25	Mayfield Tennis Club: Open Day	11am - 2pm
Monday	27	Wadhurst Bowls Club open sessions	See article

## JUNE

Saturday	1	Churchyard Working Party	St Dunstan's, 10am - 12.30pm
Sunday	2	Open Gardens in The Warren & East Street in support of Mayfield Bonfire Society	1.30 - 5pm
Wednesday	5	RBL meeting	Cricket Club 7pm
Thursday	6	Flower Club Summer Lunch	Stonegate Village Hall
Saturday	8	St. Dunstan's Food and Craft Market	St Dunstan's, 11am - 3pm
Saturday	8	Hoopers Farm Open Garden	11am-5pm
Sunday	9		
Sunday	9	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	12	Mayfield Horticultural Society: annual outing	
Friday	14	Wadhurst Park NGS Open Gardens	Wadhurst Park, Wadhurst, 10am - 4pm
Saturday	15		
Saturday	22	Mayfield Bonfire Society: Rocky Horror Picture Show sing-along	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.30 - 10.30pm

## JULY

Saturday	6	Churchyard Working Party	St Dunstan's, 10am - 12.30pm
Sunday	14	Art exhibition in support of MAYFACS	London House, noon - 5pm
Sunday	14	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day	2pm - 5pm
Saturday	20	Mayfield Summer Show	Scout & Guide Hall, 2.30pm
Saturday	27	Five Ashes Horticultural Society: Summer Show	Five Ashes Village Hall, times TBA

## AUGUST

Saturday	3	Churchyard Working Party	St Dunstan's, 10am - 12.30pm
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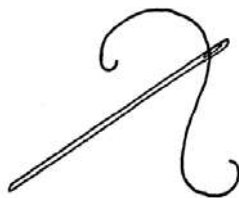
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