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No. 558 JULY 2024

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front cover: The garden at Meads, which opened in aid of the Bonfire Society. Thanks to all the organisations for their photographs. Please do send us your images to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome to your July Newsletter. You will find many photographs and reports of last month's activities in the Parish. Open Gardens certainly seem a real draw to villagers - or is it the tea and delicious cakes as much as the gardens? Certainly Hoopers Farm and East Street and The Warren gardens raised a lot of money for deserving causes. Well done to everyone involved - it takes a lot of



work behind the scenes to make these events look effortless! Our D-Day commemorations are featured - again thank you to the combined efforts of RBL and the Bonfire Society in particular. We have reports on the ongoing situation as far as the Post Office and the new Community Centre and Surgery are concerned. Well done to our Parish Councillors for their continued hard work to achieve success. We wish you all a wonderful warm and sunny summer and hope, that whether or not you are lucky enough to be able to go away for a holiday, that you all have a happy and peaceful time.

Jeanette Hore & Philip James

DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com by noon on the 15th. Please include your organisation, name or the topic of your copy in the 'Subject' line of your email. Submissions must show the subject, name of author and a contact number in case of queries. No anonymous submissions will be accepted.

FOR BLACK/WHITE & COLOUR ADVERTISING email: mfanadvertising@gmail.com.

DEADLINE FOR BOOKING SPACE IS 10th WITH PDF ARTWORK BY 16th

FOR ANNUAL £25 SUBSCRIPTIONS: You can set up a standing order and pay online as follows:- £25 to Mayfield & Five Ashes Newsletter; NatWest Bank, Sort Code 60-10-30; Account No. 60849975. Please remember to email us your full name and address at mfansubscriptions@gmail.com. Or you can pay by cheque sent to Graham Soar, Owl Lodge, Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, TN6 3RJ – again please remember to include your name and address

USEFUL INFORMATION

LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS: **Five Ashes Primary School** - accessible from the pavement; **Woodhill Surgery** - in the entrance porch; **Mayfield Primary School** - on the wall by steps to main entrance; **Telephone Kiosk outside the Rose & Crown**, Fletching Street; **Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club**. Defibrillators are housed in weatherproof boxes and are accessible 24/7. Full audio prompts guide you through as soon as you open the lid.

FEATURES

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Purple Emperor

In any book on British butterflies, you'll find our 58 species segregated into social ranks: the common browns, the blue-collar blues, the working-class whites. But turn the page, past the lepidopteral lower-classes, and you'll find a butterfly so unique, so magnificently majestic, so breathtakingly beautiful that for centuries British naturalists have bowed before it. Draped in resplendent robes of iridescent amethyst, obsidian, and ermine the Purple Emperor has to be one of the most impressive animals on our island. In July the purple reign begins.



Aside from an alluring appearance, Emperors also possess that combination of rarity and elusiveness which has elevated them into an almost mythological figure: a butterfly bigfoot. How a large, shiny, purple butterfly manages to exist undetected in our countryside is down to an arboreal existence. Purple Emperors spend almost all their time on lofty thrones high above our woodlands. If we're lucky we may glimpse the glide of a wide-winged silhouette as we stare sore-necked and squinting at the Sycamore skyline.

Up there, in their canopy kingdom, Emperors compete in a power struggle for territory and males gather for summer tree-top tournaments. Their wings flash as they clash in acrobatic aerial jousting, and they spar and spiral high into the Sussex skies. The Emperor's ferocity and fearlessness in the defence of his realm are famous. Butterflies, bumblebees and other insects get a battering if they trespass and, incredibly, bemused birds (including Sparrowhawks, woodpeckers, gulls and herons) also receive a warning wing-slap.

Emperors don't lower themselves to feast on flowers like other butterfly riffraff. The Emperor sups sugars by quaffing only the finest honeydew distilled by aphids in the treetops. Yet, in complete contrast to its aristocratic high life, the Emperor has some dirty habits which drag him down to the filthy forest floor. To get his majesty's mojo working he requires a mid-morning meal of minerals, which he obtains by probing his proboscis into the most disgusting muck he can find. Dog poo, used nappies, dead animals, sweaty feet – nothing is too repugnant. It's like finding the King rummaging through the bins at the back of Tesco.

The female Empress does not have the shining sheen or horrid habits of the Emperor but she too descends to lower levels searching shady Sallows for a place to lay her eggs. Camouflaged caterpillars munch from August to June before giving rise to another distinguished (but disgusting) dynasty.

Recently, the Emperor has extended his empire eastwards. Once a butterfly of north-west Sussex it can now be found all across the north of the county and has been reported

around Uckfield – there have even been rumoured sightings in the very heart of Brighton – so keep your eyes to the skies.

Michael Blencowe

MAYFIELD IRON VII: “Ancient Splendour” and Decline

For 200 years the world had beaten a path to Mayfield's door but this early industrial revolution was replaced by another in the mid-1700s. The weaknesses of poor-quality iron ore, labour intensive charcoal production, drought and lack of innovation were the local causes of decline. However, the main threat came from Falkirk in Scotland where a cheap new process using coke and steam-powered metal cylinders for the blast led to the sudden collapse of Wealden gun-founding in 1765. The local price of £19 a ton could not compete with the £14 of the Scots. Gun-founding was the first part of the industry to suffer. The Seven Years War was the last national emergency to inject life into the market but this ended in 1763. The Furnaces had cast guns, grave-slabs and firebacks as well as bar iron. Large bars were “sows” and

the small ones “pigs”. They were then sent to the Forge where the carbon, introduced by charcoal-fired smelting, had to be hammered out to make it workable.

Samuel Baker, who lived at the Middle House, left behind correspondence detailing his backward-looking attempt to keep his head above water. In this year the Hawksden Forge, near Rolfe's Farm, north of the Witherenden Road, was declared bankrupt. Glynde Estates still owns Hawksden as it has done since 1278. Their local 18th Century agent was Roger Challice, supplementing his salary as Mayfield's Vicar. He aimed to lure Samuel into taking the tenancy. But the need for repairs at the forge included work on the dams or pond bays, the water supply and the forge itself. Samuel drove a hard bargain and quoted the declining prices for iron but eventually agreed terms which included collecting the fish when the ponds were drained. He then began work, using imported bar iron and scrap metal. The substantial hammer was driven by waterpower. He probably made wire, nails, latches and hinges and may also have made agricultural implements such as



ploughs and harrows. Transport out of the Parish was sometimes impossible between September and May due to the Wealden clay and deeply rutted tracks.

Samuel's slow resolution of the issues frustrated the Oxbridge-educated Challice who was particularly irritated by Samuel's attitude to the proposal for a new Turnpike. The Vicar wrote to the Steward at Glynde: "We are here in great hopes that the once famous, though long-neglected Mayfield, will resume its ancient splendour." He later described the response: "One of the principal Headpieces of that place (Mayfield) has infused a notion into the populace that a turnpike will be prejudicial to the farmers", denying "an unspeakable advantage to Mayfield." And yet, Samuel made a long excursion to Bristol (by turnpikes), probably to buy imported American bar iron. Walter Gale, Mayfield's raffish schoolmaster, composed a poem to mark his historic journey.

However, Samuel closed the forge around 1775. Challice was now faced with his earlier concern about how to exploit local reserves of timber. Some was used for the expansion of hop-growing which used 4,000 (??? need to check this??) poles to the acre, but it was a risky business and often unprofitable. Mayfield began the drift towards widespread poverty. Expenditure on relief for the poor grew to a level where only one parish in Sussex spent more. Attempts to reform the system led to a riot in Mayfield in 1830 where new threshing machines were destroyed. New blood from the Kirby family shook up the reactionary Bakers, and widespread reform followed.

Some of the legacies of Hawksden forge are visible on the site. The dam is still there, strengthened using both furnace and forge slag. Upstream from the bridge

can be seen several forge bottoms in the stream. These were waste material discarded, made by digging a circular depression in the ground into which impurities were tapped. The iron-founder's house is nearby, originally a small, two-bay 16th Century timber-framed building, with a third bay added in the 17th Century. The roof is a Queen post construction. Two other remains are to be seen on the floor of St. Dunstan's nave. Thomas Sands died in 1668 and his burial is recorded in a crude iron grave slab in the Nave of St. Dunstan's. Not only is the figure 7 reversed (as in "aged 72 years"), but his true age was 62. He was illiterate and made his mark on his will which described him as "Thomas Sands the elder, hammerman". His son is marked by a second slab. He met his end in November 1701 after the Mayfield Fair, aged 32. He had fallen off his horse at night on the way home; clearly the celebrations proved too much for him. This slab was professionally made, describing him as "citizen and wine cooper of London." He rented a vault under St. Paul's Chapter House ("Mr. Sands of the Green Dragon.") Above was the site office of Christopher Wren who was re-building the Cathedral. The tomb slab depicts the arms of the Wine Cooper's Company. These slabs would have been cast in a furnace.

Tim Cornish

Tim's book "Medieval Mayfield" is on sale in "Sew Inspired".

HISTORICAL RAILWAY ACCIDENTS - MAYFIELD

"Railway Work, Life and Death" University Of Portsmouth

The aim of this project is to highlight accidents that occurred 100 years ago. One such accident involved Harold Gadd, who is buried in St. Dunstan's Churchyard.

Gordon Dudman writes:-“The following article, will I hope generate a little interest, as the centenary of his death approaches. There are no Gadds listed in the electoral roll for Mayfield but in the wider area there are some 21 listed. It would appear the Gadd line died out with the death of his younger brother in 1990.”

HAROLD GADD (1898 – 1927)

St. Dunstan's Church walls and fine stained-glass windows recall many local luminaries and remarkable deeds going back centuries but the Church's very busy churchyard commemorates many a lesser mortal. A much-loved local Scottish GP who fell in love with Mayfield. A family struck by ill-fortune in the inter-war period.

This article is about a local man, although living in Langton Green at the time of his death, who is interred in St. Dunstan's Churchyard.

Harold Gadd was part of a gang of “about 20 men” who, on the morning of 4th November 1927, were walking back to Crowborough and Jarvis Brook Station to catch a train back to their Groombridge base from their worksite which was described as “the Buxted side of Crowborough tunnel”. The tunnel is 1,022 yards in length and has a series of refuges (described as ‘manholes’) placed alternately on each side of the tunnel 22-yards apart. Each refuge was 4ft wide and 3ft 6in deep, allowing 4 men to stand clear of the running lines. Given that 20 men would have needed to occupy a minimum of 5 refuges, covering over 100 yards of tunnel, it would be quite possible that there would be insufficient time for some of the gang to reach a place of safety. The railway rulebook did provide for staff in this situation to lie down in the 6-foot space between the two sets of running rails or press tight against the tunnel wall.

At 7.30am whilst the gang were about two-thirds of the way through the tunnel they were confronted by a freight train coming up from Brighton. The driver, James Andrews, reported seeing the gang all standing on the down line. Halfway through the tunnel, he reported seeing a down passenger train enter at the far end (the tunnel is straight) and he whistled to warn the gang of the approaching danger. Understandably, on the long up-hill gradient, James Andrews would have not wanted to have the regulator wide open, rather conserving power until clear of the tunnel. This, he stated in his evidence to the Coroner, reduced emissions from the locomotive to just steam.

In his evidence driver Arthur Leonard, in charge of the down passenger train, reported seeing a couple of men emerge from the tunnel and one man, looking back into the tunnel indicated to Arthur to whistle and reduce steam. Arthur estimated his speed, on entering the tunnel, was no more than 15 miles an hour. Neither driver reported hitting anyone in the tunnel and both proceeded to their destinations, unaware of what had happened.

What happened next was never made clear but once the trains had passed and the smoke had cleared, it appeared that 29-year-old Harold Gadd had been seriously injured along with 54-year-old Thomas Paige and 49-year-old Richard Geer. All three were taken to Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, where Harold Gadd died the same night whilst Thomas Paige died the following day. Richard Geer seems to have been largely ignored from this point onward since it was reported that he survived “severe injuries to his head”. We know from the 1939 Register that he was employed as the crossing Keeper at Hamsey, on the line between Keymer Junction and Lewes (just to the East of Cooksbridge). This suggests that he was deemed unfit for further work on the tracks.

The accident was widely reported in newspapers circulating across Sussex and Kent. A brief synopsis was however reported in many of the regional daily newspapers across the country. The Ganger in charge of the Groombridge gang knew that the freight train was running about 12 minutes late, which, by implication meant he would have been aware that the down passenger train was also due. The assumption might have been that if the gang had waited south of the tunnel, they would have then missed their train back to Groombridge. The gang carried between them 12 flares for warning, yet none were used. The Inquest jury gave a verdict of "Death from accidental causes", even without needing to retire to consider the evidence, suggesting this was considered by the inquest jury as just a risk associated with railway employment. No formal investigation appears to have been carried out, with the Board of Trade inspectors relying on the Coroner's report to record in their annual return of accidents to railway employees.

There are touching accounts in the local press of Harold's funeral. His coffin was carried from the Church out into the churchyard by four of his workmates who had survived unscathed; Messrs Divall, Hart, Tasker and Dadswell. The National Union of Railwaymen were represented by Messrs Willis and Brockhurst. The Sussex Agricultural Express of Friday 11th November of that year reported that 20 members of the close family were present along with many other locals. They also listed details of the 29 floral tributes.

His death must have been a terrible blow for his parents, Jesse and Ellen. They had between them 4 sons, 3 of whom had fought in the Great War; the youngest Ben born in 1902 would have been too young

to serve. His eldest brother, also Jesse, served throughout the war with the Royal Sussex (his military records were lost during WW2). Harold's have survived and we know he spent almost the entire war on the Western Front, serving with the Royal Field Artillery. He was kicked by a horse in May 1918. The records show that his injuries were thought to be sufficiently severe for his commanding officer to write to his father. It looks as if he was treated back home, for there is a remark in his record later in 1918 as being at a camp near Forest Row. His younger brother James served with the Royal Garrison Artillery, and like his brother Jesse, his records were lost during WW2. Thus, for his parents to have seen three sons go off to war and for all to return, compared with many others whose names we see every time we pass the war memorial, then to lose Harold, less than 8 years later, must have been a heavy burden.

What also made his death tragic was that Harold had only been married 3 weeks before the accident to Nellie (Harmer); their banns would have been read out in church during late September and early October prior to their marriage in Langton Green. Her death, as a widow, was recorded in 1980. According to church records, her ashes were interred in the grave adjacent to her husband and that of her parents-in-law Jesse and Ellen Gadd.

We know from the inquest that his younger brother Benjamin was also a gang member who gave evidence of identification at the inquest held in Tunbridge Wells on 17th November 1927.

BOOK REVIEW

"Summertime" by Vanessa Lafaye

This is a beautifully written novel which, while fictitious, is set against the true

horror of one of America's worst 20th century natural disasters. The Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 struck at the remote Florida Keys, claiming the lives of 408 people, as an 18ft tidal surge swept in, the greatest on record. Tragically, of those 408, 256 were military veterans who had already suffered after failed attempts to appeal to President Hoover for early payment of a bonus they had been promised for serving in WW1. They had been brutally chased out of Washington DC. which was a national scandal still recalled today. When Hoover's successor, F.D. Roosevelt, came to power, one of his attempts to alleviate the misery was to send some of the veterans to Key West in order to build the Overseas Highway, thus giving them work. The pay was extremely poor, and the once-prosperous town went into rapid decline. Suffering from PTSD, many of the veterans were heavy drinkers and, although sometimes causing trouble, they were usually treated with compassion by the townspeople. However, all the townspeople were soon to suffer. This is the background of the novel which begins optimistically, as the townspeople of Heron Key prepare for their annual 4th July barbecue. Apart from some apprehension among the respectable citizens as to the veterans' behaviour, as well as possible racist problems arising, there seemed little to fear in a day that dawned hot and humid. Among those attending is the well-healed, white Kincaid family, whose coloured maid Missy is helping with the preparations. Missy has, for years, secretly doted on one of the veterans, Henry Roberts, whom she hasn't seen since childhood. Now grown up, she is supported by Henry's sister Selma, who longs to see his safe return, but he lives in a makeshift camp outside town where he helps to oversee the other veterans.

Having served in France, where racial barriers were unknown, the coloured veterans find the old prejudices all the more galling. Henry turns up at the barbecue and Missy is unsure as to how he will regard her, but in fact their feelings are mutual. Hilda Kincaid is a vain former beauty queen, now unhappily married. Betrayed by her husband she leaves the party but is later found almost beaten to death. Unfortunately for Henry he was the last to have been seen dancing with her and, although innocent, he immediately falls under suspicion. Trouble immediately flares up and matters become very difficult for Henry.

Meanwhile the far greater storm was brewing in the Atlantic which would bring disaster to the entire community, black and white alike. The enormous surge swept across the Keys, devastating the buildings and killing hundreds. Much of the tragedy could have been avoided were it not for the authorities' scandalous lack of organisation and over-optimistic reliance in the technology of the times. The veterans' houses were particularly vulnerable and an evacuation train which had been built in readiness for such a disaster was not assembled in time.

This real-life disaster is vividly brought to life in Lafaye's fictionalised account and makes for unforgettable reading. To add to the shame the verdict passed on the tragedy was that it was due to the "hand of God". Memories quickly faded.

Vanessa Lafaye was born and raised in Florida and so was no stranger to hurricanes. She lived for many years in England, but sadly died at a relatively young age. Having so enjoyed this novel I would highly recommend it. Her descriptions are wonderful.

Cynthia M. Baker

VILLAGE PEOPLE

MUSIC IN MAYFIELD GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF LUCY PIERCY AS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

It is now nearly 2 years since my interview with Jack Gonzalez Harding appeared in the Newsletter, following his appointment as Director of Music at St. Dunstan's Church, although the time he was with us now seems remarkably short. When I spoke to him, I had little doubt that I was in the presence of a greatly talented young man, and I am sure that many of our readers, members of the Church's congregation and supporters of the Mayfield Festival, would agree with that assessment, and that he is likely to have a remarkable musical career in the future.

He is a hard act to follow one might say, as indeed Lucy Piercy herself does, but having spent a lovely hour in her company, I am equally sure that she has sufficient ability and a refreshingly different approach to Mayfield's music to more than satisfy many people in the next few years to come.

Born in Tenterden in Kent, she grew up in Tunbridge Wells and studied at TWGGS, in a family where music has always played a huge part of her life, by dint of her father's incredible musical talent as a composer, pianist, singer, and player of double bass, guitar and keyboard, despite the fact that he has never had a lesson in his life and cannot read music sufficiently well to play it, thus only playing by ear. Lucy's two sisters are also imbued with his talent, both being singers, and her younger sister indeed sang at the St. Dunstan's Mayday Evensong this year.



Lucy in her own words was 'very square' at school. She concentrated totally on her academic studies and learning to play the organ, being fortunate to be taught by the Head of Music, David Poulter, who is the former Director of Music at the Cathedrals of Liverpool, Chester and Coventry and whom she describes as 'inspirational'. The hard work paid off as she got into Jesus College Oxford with an Organ Scholarship, which meant she was responsible for the College choir and became Senior Scholar in her third year. It also meant she could live in college throughout her degree, which was unusual but a real bonus, as managing the choir, in addition to her undergraduate studies, and practising the organ, took up nearly all her time. She did however also manage to sing with Schola Cantorum of Oxford, conducted by Jeremy Summerly, the current Artistic Director of Mayfield Festival, and she met up with him again, by chance, in Mayfield this year.

Once she had graduated, she took a year out travelling in Australia and Spain. Returning home she found a job as a wine buyer with a small importing company, which took her to many regions of France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and California, until the company was taken over by Berry Bros. and Rudd. For a time, she also helped to run a gastro pub in Kingston-on-Thames. Yet, throughout, she continued singing, which she loves, including with the Choir of St. Martin in the Fields in London.

Later, moving back to Tunbridge Wells with her two small children, she had a stroke of good luck when she met a friend from TWGGS who told her of a vacancy for the Head of Music at the New Beacon Preparatory School in Sevenoaks, which subsequently merged with Tonbridge School in 2021. Lucy started at New Beacon soon after and within a year was teaching all middle and senior school music, alongside her role as Organist in the Chapel.

This role included taking the choir on annual tours to St. Mark's in Venice, Dubrovnik Cathedral, St. Peter's in Rome or St. Paul's Cathedral in London, with Lucy conducting the choir and playing the organ. This was a daunting responsibility for her, especially when on her first occasion in St. Peter's, with the key to the organ initially having been lost, she found herself in the organ 'cockpit' with seconds to spare before the service started, with the words and music all in Italian, when the student, turning the pages of her music, dropped them all over the floor, so that she had to improvise for some minutes in front of the whole congregation! She coped well!

Other duties included acting as Music Director for various well-known musical productions, organising charitable

fundraising activities with the choir and arranging workshops with professional musicians for the students.

During her time at the school, she married the Headmaster, Mike Piercy, and as his wife, she also supported staff members, managed the school's website and social media content and during Lockdown helped to establish two Covid centres in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge. Indeed, for this she earned the title of Community Hero of the week, nominated by the sitting Tory M.P. for Sevenoaks, Laura Trott, who is now Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

It is following her husband's recent retirement from the school, to pursue a career in educational consultancy and writing, that they find themselves settled in Sussex, living in Burwash, with intermittent visits from both hers and Mike's two children. Not yet being of retirement age herself, she has pursued several opportunities to continue her career in music, including taking on a part-time role as Choral Director for Kent in the National Schools Singing Programme (Southwark Catholic Diocese). This involves one day a week going into state schools teaching singing and music and growing the enterprise, which began in Leeds and is gradually percolating its way down through the U.K.. In September she also starts a peripatetic role at Ardingly College teaching the organ and piano.

Her appointment at St. Dunstan's is however 'something else' about which she is enormously excited. She and her husband love Mayfield and she feels it is a privilege to be able to play our organ. She has found everyone, especially the Choir, very friendly, welcoming and tolerant, although she had a 'baptism of fire' when singing the May Carols with them at the top of the Church tower, as she suffers

from vertigo and nearly collapsed over the edge!

Although it is early days, she has great plans for music in Mayfield. With her educational background, she is very keen to get children of primary school age involved and, with Father Michael and Jo Warren, the Head of Mayfield Primary School, has already planned a service run by the children in Church on Sunday 18th August.

She would, at some stage, also like to bring local children together to perform a Children's Cantata (a musical composition for voices and instruments) to be performed in the Church and she wants to take the Choir on tour to more cathedrals, following in the tradition set by Jack, her predecessor.

Having listened to her play and conduct the choir several times and now, having met her, I have no doubt that Lucy is more than equal to the task of following in Jack's footsteps, in more ways than one, and I am sure that everyone will look forward to seeing where her journey takes us, not least Lucy herself! **Sue Smith**

YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

Support for dark skies is growing, with eight other parishes in Wealden and Rother now joining Mayfield in seeking International Dark Sky Community Status and the maintenance of our wonderful night skies forming a key part of Wealden District Council's planning and climate change policy positions too.



After last year's fantastically successful event, we are planning to hold another night walk in the autumn, when the High Weald National Landscape Partnership will also be supporting a Dark Skies Festival, with funding from the Lund Trust enabling a range of events. Meanwhile, don't miss the opportunity to sign a pledge on responsible outdoor lighting, which will form a key part of our dark sky application. We will be inviting signatures at suitable events in the coming months or you can pop into Burnett's to do so at any time.

As previously reported, two open energy homes will be welcoming visitors in conjunction with NGS Open Gardens on 13th-14th July. The energy options have never been greater from simple solar generation to more complex combinations involving battery storage, air and ground source heat pumps, even wind turbines. Battery storage opens up exciting opportunities to store the energy you generate from, say, solar panels and to buy energy at the cheapest available overnight rates while selling it back to suppliers at a profit during periods of peak evening demand. Some batteries also have the added advantage of kicking in seamlessly when power cuts occur with what seems like increasing regularity!

The evidence is growing that, while maximising the insulation potential of your home will always make good economic and environmental sense, even older homes with less potential to insulate may be suitable for a heat pump. Once an electricity input to energy output ratio of 1:3 is exceeded, the cost comparison with a gas boiler becomes favourable, while a government grant of £7,500 currently cuts the cost of purchase and installation by about half.

mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

We have been exploring the great outdoors this term and the children have loved strolling down to Court Meadow for stories, listening walks, bug hunts and all things nature.

Thank you for all your support at the Open Gardens at Hoopers Farm in June. The Pre-School cake stall raised a massive £1,515!

We will be back running the cake stall at Hoopers Farm at the next Open Gardens on 13th and 14th July. Please come along for a glass of Pimms and a slice of cake whilst you wander around the beautiful gardens. Pre-School parents Milly and Hermione successfully completed the Ultra Challenge, walking over 26 miles, and wanted to thank everyone for the support - they have raised an amazing £1,500 so far! It's not too late to sponsor them <https://www.gofundme.com/f/marching-for-mayfield->



Millie and Hermione who successfully completed the Ultra Challenge

Pre-School

We still have a few spaces left for September this year so please do get in touch for more details or to arrange a visit - 872523. More information can also be found on our website www.mayfieldPre-School.co.uk

Charlie - Pre-School Manager; Rebecca Pearce - Pre-School Trustee

MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kingfishers' and Nightingales' Cuckmere Haven Trip



Kingfishers' and Nightingales' classes went on a trip to Cuckmere Haven on a rather grey day in April. In class the children have been learning about rivers and their features. When we arrived the children were handed a clipboard with a set of questions about their knowledge and what they could see. The children had a great time sharing their learning with the adults and observing the features of the river. We finally made it to the beach where the river meets the sea. As the rain was still holding off, we decided to have our lunch on the beach with the chalk cliff behind us. On our way back, we climbed up one of the hills to see a bird's eye view of the rivers. The children loved seeing the distinct Cuckmere meanders. We then made our way back along the rest of the river to the coach. The children found so many interesting things including a little crab and many snails. Overall, the children and adults had a fantastic day and we were really proud of the children's behaviour. A huge thank you to Mrs Smith, Mrs Finlay and Mr Crabtree for coming along and supporting us throughout the day.

We had a fantastic Sport's Day on Friday 7th June. The children competed in lots of different field events from javelin to long jump, earning points for their house teams Herstmonceux-blue, Bodiam-green, Hastings-red and Pevensey-yellow. Then they took to the running track for the races a relays! After all of the points were added up the winning house was Bodiam! The youngest and oldest boy and girl in Bodiam proudly lifted the cup!

Katie Hawkrigde



The winning house, Bodiam

FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are now in full steam in our last term of the academic year and the school is a hive of activity. Our year 5 and 6 children went on their residential trip for 4 nights at the end of term 5 and had a wonderful time. They visited Hindleap Warren and experienced a huge range of activities and thrived in this environment. Our year 5 and 6 children have also visited Preston Manor for a school trip taking on various Victorian roles. They also visited Crowborough Fire



Hindleap Warren



Preston Manor

Station to take part in Safety in Action. The children are given information on how to deal with emergencies and how to be safe in the world. During this term we will also be taking part in woodland days, sports day, a small production, year 6 leavers ceremony and a mini Olympics competition with the other schools in Heathfield. We look forward to letting you know all about these events in the next edition.

Darren Gurr Head of School

SKIPPERS HILL SCHOOL

Taking part in the Mayfair is always a highlight in the Skippers year. We love the wonderfully quintessential village tradition which provides such great entertainment for the whole family. The Skippers children took great pride in being part of a community event, processing with children from other local schools through the village to the sound of the brass band and then opening the Maypole dancing. Maypole dancing is much more complicated than it looks! It required the children to be highly focused, remembering all their steps and keeping in time. A big shout out to all the children for working so hard to prepare for the day and also to Miss Bigwood and Simon Rudge who gave up their time to practice with them





The Teddy's Bear Picnic



Year 8 Leavers

each week, Miss Bigwood even had to nobly stand in and dance at the last minute! We always enjoy our community events at Skippers and our annual Teddy Bear's Picnic

is one of the highlights of the Summer Term.

We welcomed new joiners for Reception this September as well as all our Kindy families to come and picnic along with their teddy bears in the school grounds.

Despite the ever changing forecast the rain held off, the sun shone and as one parent said we all had a ball! It was lovely for parents and grandparents to see the children all playing together, joining in all the activities and having fun. Some of our Year eight children, who have finished their exams and are in the middle of their leavers programme of exciting activities came down to help out. It really doesn't seem that long ago that they too were in Kindergarten and now they are about to leave us for pastures new in the next stage of their journey.

Phillip Makhoul Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School

MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

Confirmation

On Sunday 16th June we came together as a Catholic community to celebrate 28 people receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation. Nine of our Mayfield girls, along with 19 members of the wider area, including Mayfield, Wadhurst, Heathfield, Crowborough and Uckfield parishes, gathered to receive the Sacrament from The Right Reverend Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. Congratulations to all!

Summer Spark Camps: 29th July – 9th August

Spark Camps are exciting, fun and educational holiday programmes for boys and girls aged 5 to 13. The children have fully supervised access to the School's facilities, including the swimming pool, tennis courts, astroturf and athletics track, cookery rooms, IT suites, and outstanding art, textiles and ceramics classrooms. For more information, or to book, please go to: <https://www.mayfieldgirls.org/spark/summer-camp-2024>



D-Day Exhibition

Thursday 6th June marked the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, which began the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi occupation during World War Two. To commemorate this, girls in the Sixth Form History Society, with some willing Year 8 helpers, contributed to a D-Day exhibition in St. Dunstan's Church. For the exhibition they chose to research the


GENEROSITY

BY SOPHIE

IN JUNE 1944 12 YEAR OLD MARTHE RIGAUT AND HER FAMILY OFFERED SHELTER AT THEIR NORMANDY FARM TO LOST AMERICAN PARATROOPERS.

AROUND 170 US TROOPS FROM THE 507th PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT HAD LANDED SEVERAL MILES SOUTH OF THEIR INTENDED DROP ZONE, FINDING THEMSELVES SOAKING WET IN MARSHLAND, IN GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. SEEKING SHELTER IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF GRAIGNES, THE TROOPS WERE AIDED BY THE RIGAUT FAMILY WHO FED AND HID THEM. FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS, MARTHE, WITH HER SISTER AND FATHER, ROWED OUT INTO THE MARSHES TO RETRIEVE EQUIPMENT AND MUNITIONS THE SOLDIERS HAD LOST IN THE CHAOTIC LANDING.

RIGAUT'S FATHER, GUSTAVE, WAS AWARDED A CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY EISENHOWER (AS COMMANDING US GENERAL IN EUROPE, ON BEHALF OF THE US PRESIDENT) EXPRESSING THANKS FOR HELPING THE PARATROOPERS. IN 1986, THE US GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED MARTHE FOR HER COURAGE AND GENEROSITY, DESPITE THE THREAT TO HER OWN LIFE, IN AIDING THE TROOPS ON D-DAY AND OVER THE FOLLOWING DAYS OF THE INVASION OF NORMANDY, AWARDING HER WITH AN AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE



COMPASSION

BY NICOLE

LIEUTENANT PATSY RIGBY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE TO FOLLOW THE BRITISH TROOPS INTO NORMANDY.

SHE CARED PASSIONATELY ABOUT HER JOB AND DID ALL SHE COULD TO CARE FOR THE INJURED AND SUPPORT THEIR RECOVERY.

FOR EXAMPLE, AS THE ALLIES BROKE OUT OF NORMANDY, SHE FOUND HERSELF IN CHARGE OF TWO GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO HELP THE ORDERLIES ON THE WARD. SHE DESCRIBES THEIR IMPRISONMENT AS "ANYTHING BUT MERCIFUL" AND WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO SHOW THEM KINDNESS BY OFFERING THEM LEFTOVER PORRIDGE AND RACON FOR BREAKFAST.

DESPITE TREATING SO MANY INJURED ALLIED SOLDIERS, PATSY WAS STILL ABLE TO SHOW COMPASSION TO THESE PRISONERS AND WE REMEMBER HER FOR THAT.



history of D-Day through the lens of the School's Cornelian principles, and identified individual stories that exemplify those values and can serve to inspire us today.

Helping Out At Sports Day

At the beginning of June, ten of our Year 12 students helped out with Sports Day at Mayfield Primary School. Armed with

clipboards and stopwatches, the girls ably coordinated various races and competitions, all while cheering on and encouraging the students they had been working with in classrooms throughout the past year!

Note From Editors: We are lucky to have some talented students in our local schools. Breanna Asante is one such student at Mayfield Girls School and she is keen to produce an occasional piece for our Newsletter. Here is her first submission.

WHY YOU SHOULD CAST A FEMALE HAMLET

Here's the pitch. In your next production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, be it an amateur staging or a star-studded motion picture, cast a woman to play the Danish Prince. I'm not fussy about the details. You can make her masculine – all pixie cuts and trench coats sweeping across the stage. Or keep it androgynous – unclear and opaque, her gender presentation as ambiguous as the character's sanity. Perhaps you'd want to lean into the femininity, with blood red lips and high heels? *'Frailty, thy name is woman!'* has a different ring to it when you stage it in stilettos.

Would you change the production around her, shifting the other characters around to make her piece of the puzzle a perfect fit? Surround her with a female Horatio, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern and weave chains into the ghostly queen's haunted hair? A male Ophelia does sound tempting – Oscar-worthy, even, in the right director's hands. Or you could stick with traditional casting for the rest of the actors, and let the dominos fall where they please. The potential of watching the fissures forming in Hamlet and Getrude's mother daughter



relationship in real time gives me shivers already.

But don't stop with Hamlet! Feel free to turn other Shakespearean heroes to heroines: crown Lady Macbeth as King of Scotland; let Mercutio spout bawdy jokes through purple lipstick and let's be honest, *As You Like It* has so much gender bending already that nobody would bat an eye at a male Rosalind.

I genuinely believe that adding diversity into classics, far from ruining these stories, can lift them up. If done with intention and care for the audience and source material, and with a creative team who knows the difference between respect and pandering, it can even *improve* the foundations on which these retellings stand.

There are several common criticisms with these types of stories. Many of the less

useful critiques boil down to ‘these remakes are unnecessary! What’s the point in writing them?’ Diversity is important, for artists and for the audience. Having people on stages, screens and pages that look, sound and act like you being shown in a variety of roles is vital for one’s self-image at all ages. For too long, the only roles available to minorities were sidelined side characters, often with little emotional depth or impact on the plot outside of the occasional tragic death. So called ‘woke casting’ can give new and experienced actors the chance to branch into roles they’d never get the chance to fill otherwise and bring a fresh perspective with them. Besides, the same type of person performing one role gets stale pretty quickly, so what’s the harm in opening up the echo chamber?

Some go further than this, asking for people to ‘stop ruining our stories and write your own’. This complaint does have some merit to it: new productions and movies should be given more support. Original stories written by modern authors can have better representation than classics that have diverse casts added after their publication, as they have fewer limitations for the types of narratives they can tell, and who gets to tell them. Instead of combing through the West End looking for a female Hamlet, you could save your energy by watching *Heathers* instead, and enjoy the murder, ghosts and biting social commentary without needing an Elizabethan translator. But classic fiction has benefits that modern stories inherently lack because of natural changes in storytelling over time: slower pacing allowing us to dive into the deeper crevices of a character’s psyche; ornate language more fitting for poetry than dialogue and complex morality, that challenges the viewer in ways stories today

can’t replicate. Protagonists are often unheroic, villains are sympathetic to the modern eye, and you’d be surprised what dark depths are brought to light in stories first told hundreds of years ago. Hate, anger, envy and greed – just look at Hamlet! Shakespeare rips into these issues with such an edge it feels contemporary. Those are all reasons to dislike classic fiction as too difficult. But there’s so much value lying outside our comfort zones. Isn’t it unfair to exclude some from the challenge just because they don’t fit into the traditional mould?

What of the complaint that it’s all ‘woke cash grabs’, with no care put into these casting decisions? Although an accusation made in bad faith, it is a fair complaint. We live in a world where franchises and brands reign supreme and where the name is more important than the art. Studios are more than happy to use diverse voices as scapegoats, to hire talented actors to play main roles in their remakes and sit back as the social media circus harasses them. The reaction against Halle Bailey after her role as Ariel was announced comes to mind. But that doesn’t mean remakes are inherently or commercial success flawed, on the contrary, some of the most successful stories of all time are just reimagining of old tales. Shakespeare especially was a master at this – Hamlet is just a rip off of Amleth, another Danish Prince with a much happier ending.

For diverse casting to be truly successful, it needs to be done with thought. You don’t want an all-white production of *Othello*! If done right, diverse casting can bring certain elements of a story into context for a modern audience. For example, a Romani actor portraying Heathcliff instantly shows his isolation from an enclosed upper class Victorian society and justifies the constant commentary on his racial origins

made by *Wuthering Heights*' other characters. As *You Like It* is in the same boat. A boy, acting as a girl, pretending to be a boy who sometimes pretends to be a girl is (literally) how Shakespeare intended it.

It can also bring social inequalities to the front of audience's minds with a carefully applied sense of irony. *Lady Windemere's Fan*, like most of Wilde's work, is a play poking fun at the ridiculous social standards that both sexes insist on imposing on women, so casting men to play female characters and women to play male characters really shows the audience how much of Victorian society – and to a lesser extent our society today – relies on the performance of gender roles.

And it can be in total service to the themes of a story. Roald Dahl's widow has stated how Charlie himself from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was supposed to be a black child, but he was persuaded to change this by his agent who believed it couldn't appeal to readers. Knowing this, the scene where Charlie's teacher explained why richer children were more likely to win 'random' lotteries than others hits a different spot.

So why cast a female Hamlet? It's not like a secret Danish Princess has much support in the text. I believe the most important reason behind diverse casting should be that it makes the audience think: the hatred that Hamlet shows towards the women of the play changes from pure

misogyny into another expression of his self-hatred, an interpretation already supported by the text. In the society that Shakespeare lived in women were powerless, unable to influence the world around them and little more than their closest male relations' property. Hamlet sees his own indecision as a weakness and equates it to symbols of femininity, especially from a modern perspective. When he hasn't taken his revenge, he is '*unpregnant of my cause and can say nothing... am I a coward?*' It isn't a stretch to suggest that the powerless Ophelia and Gertrude, forced to bend to the will of the men around them, draw the character's ire already directed at his own powerlessness. By keeping Hamlet as the only gender swapped character, you can also show how much of an outsider the character is to the court of Elsinore: lying outside of the gender binary and the court's claustrophobia that the other cast members are trapped in.

This interpretation of Hamlet is, in all honesty, in conflict with the traditional portrayals of the character and some may view that as a reason not to bother, and to stick to the script. But conflict is the fuel of drama. Creatives, be it actors, writers, or directors, shouldn't shy away from a challenge. Instead, they should embrace it: plenty of mistakes will be made on the way, but why should that scare you away from making something truly wonderful?

Breanna Asante

OUR CHURCHES

COLKINS MILL

Politics has been dominating the headlines for weeks! Some of us may be loving it, some of us disillusioned, some just feel not well-qualified to decide who to vote for! As Christians we know that God cares about good society and good government, that he has ordained work, commanded us to 'take care' of the land, to 'administer true justice', to 'show mercy and compassion', to 'not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the foreigner, the

poor'. I think it's a privilege and a responsibility that we have the right to vote. It is an opportunity to wisely and prayerfully direct our vote towards the policies that each of us believes best align with God's pattern for human flourishing. The Bible encourages us to pray for those in authority, praying for wisdom in decision-making, for stability in our land, for good and honest governance and for policies that enable the flourishing of all. Let's do that for our newly elected Parliament!

Steve Harland

contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Summer Fayre 10.30am-2.30pm on Saturday 6th July in the Convent Garden

Barbeque, teas, coffees, cakes. Tombola, raffle, stalls. All welcome.

Masses at St. Thomas' during July

10.00am Sunday 7 July

6.00pm Saturday 13 July

10.00am Sunday 21 July

6.00pm Saturday 27 July

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

Mary Brentnall

ST. DUNSTAN'S

We are delighted to announce that at an Extraordinary Vestry Meeting held on Sunday 9th June, Carl Walters was elected Churchwarden. Both Carl and Stephen Blurton were officially sworn in as Churchwardens at the Archdeacon's Visitation at All Saints' Crowborough.

ST. DUNSTAN'S SUMMER FAIR, SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2024





ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES

MAYFIELD POST OFFICE

Mayfield's Post Office is still closed but we are working hard to reopen it. Helping me with this are: Shirley Holland, who needs no introduction, Freya Huxtable of MAYFACS, Kate Burgess, whose varied career has included PR for local post offices, David Hathaway, who used to run post offices, and Jo Eates as the Sub-Postmaster. I am most grateful to them for joining me on this adventure.

We have reached agreement in principle for the new Post Office to be in the right-hand side of Ted Handley's office, three doors down from the previous premises in the High Street. I am most grateful to Ted for agreeing to let us use this office. We are now drawing up the lease and planning the fitting out of those premises.

We have also started negotiations with The Post Office to reopen there. Although it is nearly next door and Jo is continuing as Sub-Postmaster, there are some set procedures that they need to follow. We were concerned that these would be held up by the General Election, but they are now underway. Once we have agreement with them, we will need a bit more time to set up the new premises and move all the equipment in there before we can open. But we will get there!

As I said in these pages a month ago, we need to raise funds to restore the Post Office to the High Street. I am most grateful to the local businesses and individuals who have pledged contributions (many anonymously) to fund the costs of set-up and move to the new premises.

We will also need continuing contributions to operate. The results of my Facebook poll about this have been very

encouraging and, since I know that many residents do not use Facebook, I am confident that there will be enough support for this too. Once we have a bank account, there will be leaflets everywhere with details of how to contribute.

I will continue to keep the village informed of progress on Facebook and through this Newsletter.

Andrew Ratcliffe; anratcliffe@gmail.com
Hoopers Farm Mayfield T20 6BD

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE

Further to last month's update, the architects have now completed the revisions to the Community Hall floor plans, which include enlarged meeting rooms and kitchen spaces, plus three sets of external double doors. We are therefore pleased to announce that a Mayfield Community and Health Centre Information Event will be held on Sunday 7th July between 10am and 3pm in the Mayfield Scout and Guide Hall, when these revised floor plans, together with the site plan and external elevations, will be shared with the community. Comments and suggestions for improvements that will not increase costs will be welcomed and there will be a ballot box for responses.

Following this event the design will be displayed for the month of July in the window of Hayley Cooper Aesthetics in the High Street. A formal public consultation will be run by Baxall Construction in August.

The architects have developed a design based on the key elements of the original design brief, which can be constructed within budget. We can also confirm that the external elevations remain close to the

original 'Plan A' which proved popular at the previous information event in November 2021 but which had to be aborted due to the higher cost of construction.

Members of the project team had a positive pre-application meeting with Wealden District Council's (WDC) Planning Department with no major issues reported on the project or design. Following the information event and the public consultation, a planning application will be submitted in August with a decision anticipated in November 2024. If successful, we hope that site work will still commence in January 2025 with completion by end of December 2025.

We can also confirm that the design for the new Community and Health Centre has excellent eco credentials including high levels of insulation meeting the latest Building Regulation requirements, renewable electricity sources, solar panels and rainwater harvesting to name but a few, full details of which can be found on the Parish website. The Hall also remains the same size as the old Memorial Hall, has a Mayfacs office, two versatile meeting rooms and an ample kitchen. In addition, the Hall can be split into three parts by means of full height dividing doors, and is designed to be suitable for activities like performing arts, film, badminton, table tennis and art clubs, dance, yoga and Pilates, plus it has a community hub for everyone to enjoy.

The site plans have also been re-configured to allow for up to 80 car parking spaces, some of which will have EV charging points.

Monthly Project Board meetings with WDC are held to review progress and address any issues. Baxall Construction, having signed a Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) with WDC in March,

has now appointed all its sub-contractors. Working relationships with Baxalls and these sub-contractors have been formalised with monthly Client Engagement meetings and two weekly Design Team meetings, both attended by representatives of the Parish Council.

Funding and grant opportunities continue to be actively pursued by the MCC committee and MCC Fundraising Group.

Further information can be found on the Mayfield Village Facebook site and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk, as it becomes available.

ANOTHER DEFIBRILLATOR FOR MAYFIELD

After securing funding from the British Heart Foundation and fundraising within the Tennis Club, we are pleased to announce another defibrillator has been acquired and is located at Mayfield's Lawn Tennis Club, outside the clubhouse building and available 24/7.

MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

Do join us on Saturday 20th July at Five Ashes Village Hall for a 50th anniversary showing of the cult movie, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and help raise funds for the Carnival. Doors open at 7.30pm for the bar. Simply enjoy this great rock and roll movie, maybe join in with the audience participation, sing along to your favourite tunes, dance the Time Warp, or even dress up with the chance to win a prize for best costume. Tickets £10 are available online from our website or for cash in Burnetts and Sew Inspired. <https://mayfieldbonfire.co.uk/events/rocky-horror/>

Our Open Gardens fundraising event for June was a tremendous success, with 200



The Warren Ladies

visitors enjoying a stroll around the six beautiful gardens, with lovely sunshine and homemade cakes. We would like to thank our generous garden hosts, who worked tirelessly in the dreadful spring weather to get their gardens looking amazing and the army of kind helpers who baked the cakes, served the teas, stewarded the gates, moved the furniture and cleared up afterwards. We raised £2,000, almost enough to pay for the fireworks, though not quite enough to cover the cost of the insurance for the Carnival.

This month we will begin making the 5,000 torches needed for the Carnival torchlit procession. The sticks are chopped, the board cut and the 30,000 holes drilled all ready for assembly. We will be meeting at the Scout Hut on most Saturday mornings throughout July and August from 10am till 1pm. If the rain stops, we will be outside having a chat and cuppa whilst we work. If you can spare an hour or so, please do come along to help. It's easy but dusty work, so wear old clothes and gloves.

Catherine Hawley

bonfire@gawain.online

MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

Russia in 20th and 21st Centuries - Dr Nicholas Henderson

July 18th, 2pm at Five Ashes Village Hall

Sue Sabine, who does an amazing job finding and choosing our speakers must have found herself in a quandary this time. Dr. Nicholas Henderson, our July speaker, has a large enough repertoire of talks, equally interesting and with a huge range of subjects, to bemuse even the most experienced of 'speaker choosers'.

However, Russia it is this time, and I have no doubt it will be a fascinating talk.

It's easy to think we all know the absolute basics about this vast country, the geography, history and politics and have perhaps read some Russian literature, but this afternoon's talk promises us so much more.

Come and join us, and over the tea and cake afterwards we can reflect on how little we all really knew.

Entry is free to our members and those of Wadhurst and Heathfield groups but the talk carries a small fee of £2.00 for visitors, who are always very welcome.

Details of our U3A can be found on our website www.u3asites.org/mayfield, where you will also find our newsletter, or from our chairman Mary Brentnall, at marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com.

Anna Thompson

MAYFIELD OPEN GARDENS

National Garden Scheme (NGS) Saturday July 13th and Sunday July 14th, 11am-5pm

Five gardens will be open for the Mayfield NGS trail. These are: Abbotsbury in Fir Toll Close, just off Station Road, Hoopers Farm, at the bottom of Vale Road, South Street Plots, below the car park, The Oast in Fletching Street and 2 Southview Villas

in East Street. Entry will be £7 for the whole trail, free for children. Tickets can be bought at each garden or booked online at ngs.org.uk

Teas will be available at The Oast in aid of Mayfield Primary School and at Hoopers Farm in aid of Mayfield Pre-School. Plants will also be on sale and there will be live music at Hoopers Farm on Saturday afternoon. Dogs are welcome on short leads in all the gardens except the Plots.



Hoopers Farm was open last month, raising £2,245 for the NGS charities and a further £1,515 for Mayfield Pre-School from the sale of their excellent homemade teas. Thank you to everyone who came to visit and to all the volunteers who helped to make the event such a success.

The NGS raises money for nursing and health charities. Last year, over £3.4 million was donated to charities including Macmillan Cancer Care, Hospice UK, Marie Curie, The Queen's Nursing Institute and Parkinson's UK. Come and see us again! You can buy tickets at any of the gardens or book online at ngs.org.uk

There are lots more gardens open for the NGS in the local area throughout the summer so have a look in the Sussex NGS booklets which are available in shops around the village and local garden centres, or use the National Garden

Scheme app to find gardens to visit in any area of the country.

Sarah Ratcliffe

FRIENDS OF ST. DUNSTAN'S GARDEN PARTY

The Friends of St. Dunstan's Garden Party will be held on **Sunday 14th July** at **Clayton's Farmhouse, Newick Lane**, from 12 noon to 2pm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Richard Nabavi. Everyone is welcome.

Clayton's Farmhouse is situated about 1 mile down Newick Lane on the right. The farmhouse dates from about 1420 and is surrounded by garden, orchard, woodland and farmland. It even has its own railway tunnel! Ample parking will be provided.

All are welcome. Tickets are £10 at the gate and include a glass of wine, light refreshments and a walk around the garden.

All the proceeds from this event will go to supporting the work of the Friends.

The Charity's remit is focused exclusively on raising funds for the preservation and maintenance of the church building and it was set up as a charitable trust to enable everyone in the Village and beyond to contribute towards this goal. We have so far raised around £250,000 and projects include the repair of the ancient timbers in the church tower, restoration of marble memorials, the cleaning of stained glass windows, the re-leading of the chancel roof, the installation of French drains and much more.

Come and enjoy a lovely walk around the garden and help ensure the church remains in good repair for everyone to appreciate.

Annette Nabavi Chair, Friends of St. Dunstan's Parish Church 873476

MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.

Our June meeting was our summer party held at Colkins Mill Church. Members were asked to bring a dish, either savoury or sweet. The table was laden with a delicious array of choices – there are some very accomplished cooks amongst the members. It was a very convivial evening, although not warm enough to open up the patio doors, but with the sumptuous meal, a few glasses of Pimms and an intriguing word game, we had great fun.

Our July meeting will be on Tuesday, July 9th and will be a talk by retired comedy writer, Colin Bostock-Smith. He will be tracing his career, recalling successes and disasters from television shows that he wrote for during the Eighties, Nineties and Noughties. He has written for stars such as Bob Monkhouse, David Jason, Rowan Atkinson, The Two Ronnies and not to be overlooked, Basil Brush. It should be another fun evening with which to round off our summer programme.

There is no meeting in August so we will meet next on Tuesday, September 10th for a talk by Michael Wachter from Great Dixter entitled 'Autumn Foraging'.

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

Please feel free to pop in at any one of our evenings and meet us all. For any further information, please contact **Chrissie Robinson on 862825**

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

June Outing To Clinton Lodge Gardens

A group of 28 enjoyed a great day out to lunch at Dennikers Farm Shop and Cafe, followed by a visit to Clinton Lodge Gardens in Fletching. We were given a private tour by Lady Collum, who told us

about the fascinating history and background to the beautiful design. After looking around the many different "rooms" featuring herbs, an old rose garden, a potager garden and a wildflower meadow, we were able to sit outside for delicious tea and homemade cakes.

Claire Montagu

Summer Show Saturday 20th July

It's show time again! There are plenty of classes for adults and children to suit the green fingered, bakers, creative crafters and photographers amongst you. All the budding young gardeners who have grown sunflowers – don't forget to get a photograph taken to send to us. Get that Lego out to make your models and the seed tray gardens, which many think are the best bit of the whole show! If you would like us to print any photos (adults and children), please make sure you have sent them to

showcommittee@mayfieldhorticulturalandsociety.org.uk by Sunday 7th July.

Full details are in the schedules, available in many outlets in the village, or at

www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

Please submit your entry forms before 4pm on Thursday 18th July at the very latest. Please take them to either Sew Inspired or The Flower House. You can still enter on the day if you forget! Bring your prize exhibits to The Scout Hall from 9am and by 11am at the very latest, then come back from 2.30pm to see the wonderful displays, see if you've got a rosette, or even a cup, and enjoy delicious teas from the Friends of Mayfield Primary School. Entry is free (donations welcome). If you have any questions, please contact us at the email address above. See you there!

Show Committee – Shirley, Sarah, Nicky, John, Sue and Suzanne

www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Summer Outing

The Summer Outing this year will be on **Wednesday July 3rd** to the National Trust Property, Standen House and Garden, just south of East Grinstead. Due to its proximity, travel will be by private car - lifts can be arranged if required. It will help Standen if cars can be shared where possible. Entry will be free for National Trust members, £15 for non-members.

Please arrange to arrive at 10am, meeting in the property car park, from where we will proceed to the Barn Café for coffee and light refreshment. At 11.30am we will hear a talk about Standen, the house, its gardens and grounds and its history, lasting around 30 minutes. Thereafter, you will be free to explore the house and grounds at your leisure. You will be able to order light lunches in the Barn Café if you wish. For those wanting to enjoy a picnic, sites in the grounds are available.

Brian O'Connor, Chair 873477; Gill Marenghi, Secretary; John Buddle, Treasurer 872229

Summer Garden Party – Sunday 7th July

at 1pm will be held at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Mantoura at Wellbrook Hill. Convenient parking will be at Wellbrook Farm, situated at the end of Berkeley Road, Mayfield, TN20 6EH and the venue can be reached by a short walk, not involving the main road. There will be signage to the garden party venue. Tickets available from Sew Inspired in Mayfield High Street, Tandridge House. Cost £5 per adult (18+) and those under 18 free when accompanied by an adult. Alternatively, please ring our Treasurer Brian Stilwell on 01892 668667. Although tickets are selling well there may still be some available.

Members and non-members are all welcome. We have a singer providing entertainment during the afternoon. A wine bar will be available but please bring your own soft drinks and picnics. We hope you do come along and join us for an afternoon which promises to be full of fun and friendship. All proceeds will be donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Review of Mayfield's 80th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day 6th June - We

started to plan for our D-Day commemorations earlier in the year. The Branch had also been approached by The Mayfieldians and the Bonfire Society who were interested in our plans, keen to avoid any overlap or duplication of effort. Following discussions with the Mayfield History Society, it was decided to out together an exhibition, not only to commemorate the men of Mayfield who lost their lives during June 1944 but to engage with the local schoolchildren to gain an insight into how they viewed D-Day and their thoughts on how to commemorate the event. Mayfield Girls School, Mayfield CE Primary School, Five Ashes CE Primary School and Skippers Hill

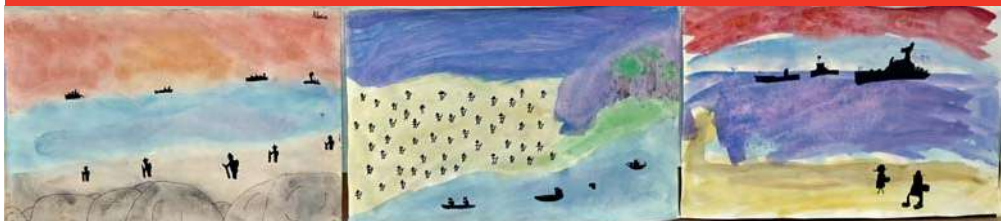
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION -
MAYFIELD, FIVE ASHES
AND HADLOW DOWN



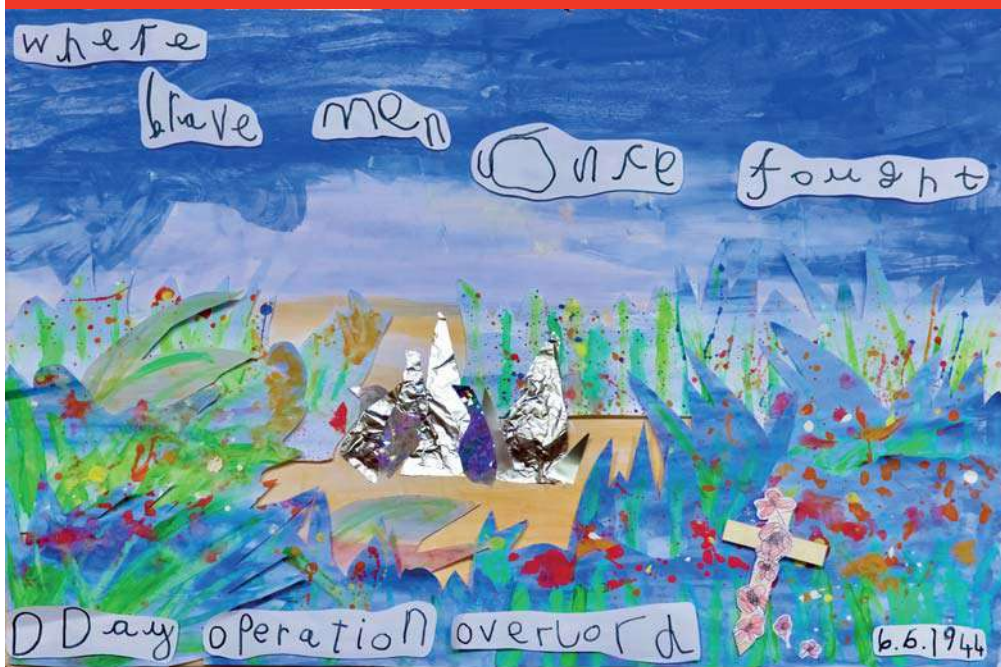
Our last Branch meeting was well-attended and an informative and humorous talk was given by Fr. Michael Asquith. He gave us his own and wider experiences of Chaplaincy in the Air Cadets; how it helps those younger people who join Cadet organisations learn new skills, mature, attain qualities of leadership, purpose and community standards. Thank you Fr. Michael.



Above a model of a Spitfire by Dylan Jones, Mayfield CEP



Above, Scenes from Omaha Beach by Five Ashes CEP. Below: D Day by Skippers Hill





Scocoes Farm, Five Ashes, after the raid on August 16th, 1940. Two sons of the farmer, Messrs. J. W. Berry and A. A. Berry, were killed, together with 13 cows

Manor Preparatory School provided outstanding contributions from the youngest to the oldest in both thought and design. A truly astonishing collection of vision, design, portrayal by the younger pupils and very interesting, intellectual contributions from the senior teens. The RBL Branch and Mayfield History Society gathered material on how the war in 1944 touched on the daily lives of Mayfield residents; and researched the background of men recorded on the Mayfield/Five Ashes War Memorials as having lost their lives in Normandy during June 1944. Research revealed that on 7th June 1944 the first of three local men to lose their lives during June in Normandy was a Chaplain. He was mortally wounded rescuing/attending the wounded. St. Dunstan's Church was kindly offered as a suitable venue for the exhibition and following a suggestion from Fr. Michael a theme of Chaplaincy introduced/

accompanied the pen pictures/information of the three local men. The History Society researched and provided evidence of how the residents of Mayfield and District were subjected to the uncertainties of war, as the Germans unleashed their airborne terror weapons against London and the



Chaplain Rev Alexander Kay who was killed in the D Day campaign, collecting the wounded

Home Counties. Rocket attacks on London which fell short of their target or were shot down over/around Mayfield and Southern England were documented for display, together with other local wartime information. With the assistance of many local helpers and with kind permission of St Dunstan's Church, the D-Day material was assembled into a display devised largely by the Chair of the local British Legion Branch, Carole Stilwell. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the thoughtful and successful conversion of all this material into the wonderful exhibition that was displayed in St. Dunstan's for three weeks to 27th June. We do hope you were able to see it during this period.

Branch Meeting - Wednesday 23rd October Mayfield Cricket Club

- Our speaker will be Rod MacArthur and his talk is entitled 'History of a Medal'. This will be an interesting talk about the bravery of the armed forces and sailors during the operations of the supply convoys of WWII. 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, including the AGM, at 7.00pm, followed by a fish and chip supper (or chicken or scampi). If you would like to join us, you will be warmly welcomed. Further details to follow.

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 fallen will be gratefully accepted by Carole Stilwell or Brian Oldfield

carolestilwell@hotmail.com

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465

kevinswaine@btinternet.com

ONE MAYZING LIAISON

MayZing Community Choir are teaming up with the Ukrainian Choir, Volya on Sunday 14th July, doors open 6.30pm, start 7pm, in St. Dunstan's Church for an evening of songs uniting two different cultures with one common goal - to find peace, harmony and happiness through song. Tickets are available from Burnett's Estate Agents or via choir members, are £8 each and include one free drink. A licensed bar will be available. All profits will go towards supporting Brain Tumour Research, Parkinsons UK and the Volya choir and their families. It promises to be a great evening, so please do come and support us. **Ralph (Ginger) Millington**

MAYFIELD BAND

Should you be looking for some respite from the false hope given by our footballers and politicians, just turn off the TV, and turn up at the bandroom. No winners and losers, no disappointment, no cheating, dishonesty, hypocrisy, bad behaviour, and definitely no penalty shoot-out. Just reward for hard work, an emotional uplift, a lifetime of fulfilment, and a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit. We do nonetheless have a mixture of footballing allegiances, including none but if there is any particular political leaning, it's Monster Raving Loony.

We are busy rehearsing our summer repertoire but unusually this year, three of our remaining performances are private weddings rather than fetes. Which is perhaps just as well, as we were hit by a flying gazebo at our last fete, although in true Titanic spirit, the band played on. Dangerous things, fêtes!

Youth Band

Whilst we're on politics, one thing is for certain. Music education in schools will

remain underfunded and underrated, and given the enormous benefits that it can deliver to everyone, it remains a complete mystery as to why it continues to be largely overlooked when the facts and the science are staring us in the face. And there's potentially no overall cost – the improvements in mental health, attendance, confidence, concentration, and behaviour would save millions



and improve academic outcomes. But if you wait for the politicians to come to their senses, your child will no longer be a child, and will have passed the prime age for learning to play an instrument. I see no mention of music in any manifesto headlines, so your vote will not make a semiquaver of difference. Instead, vote with your feet, and vote Mayfield Youth Band for your kids. We've got the instruments, so all you need to do is turn up. Children love music, and they will get to love it a whole lot more if they can play an instrument. And if they can play that instrument in a real live band, the enjoyment is then through the roof. Don't hold them back - give me a call and find out what we're all about.

Simon Rudge 872007 www.mayfieldband.co.uk simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

ST. DUNSTAN'S BELLRINGERS

Having had two consecutive years of unique ringing for the St. Dunstan's bellringers, the first in 2022 with the ringing of fully muffled bells to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the second in 2023, ringing to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, we were hoping 2024 would be a more normal year. It began so in January with the Tower holding its Annual General Meeting at which the Tower officers of 2023 were re-elected unanimously for 2024 as follow: -Tower Captain, Vanessa Kolberg; Deputy Captain, Mandy Savage; Tower Treasurer, Barry Humphrey; Tower Secretary, James Morgan; Training officer, Richard Barroclough; Steeple Keeper; Alfie Poland.

In February, very much at the behest of the family and friends of Mrs. Berenice Blurton, whose family had been stalwarts of the village over many years, the bellringers rang half muffled bells at her funeral. A busy March saw the St. Dunstan's bellringers requested to ring for the village Passion play and later in the month sound recordings were taken on a practice night of the bells being rung. Further in March the ringers were proud to support one the recitals of the Mayfield Arts Festival by ringing before it commenced. March also saw what has become an annual visit by students from Mayfield Girls school on a Saturday afternoon to receive instruction on how the bells function and have a try at ringing.

More recently, the bellringers were honoured to ring in support of the Bonfire Society's D Day event on 6th June marking 80 years since military forces landed in Normandy. The month of June also saw St. Dunstan's hold its Craft and Food Market. The bell tower was opened to the public to view the ringing room and steeple clock room. Both proved popular.

St. Dunstan's bells are frequently used by visiting ringing groups from around the area and beyond. For example, earlier this year a ringing group from Brighton rang a complex quarter peel. Later this year another group wish to ring at St. Dunstan's. We also have individual ringers requesting to ring with the team on a Sunday before the Family Service. A very experienced ringer Jill, from Dallington, has regularly joined in the Sunday ringing and due to her experience the quality ringers in the St. Dunstan's ringing team are able to ring such methods {tunes} as Grandsire Doubles and Bob Doubles. All of which inspires the less experienced to try to ring beyond rounds and call changes and plain hunt. One cannot move on from visitors without a mention of Woody from Hadlow Down who regularly appears at the St. Dunstan's bellringers' Tuesday night practices and adds his own dimension to the evening.

Finally, the weddings at St. Dunstan's for which the ringers have been honoured to ring to date are: Ms. Sarah Jane Johnson and Mr. Christopher Collingwood; Miss Steph Fowler and Mr. Angus Duthie-Jackson. The ringers wish each couple a very happy marriage. Should you wish to experience the satisfaction ringing can bring do not hesitate to contact either the Tower Captain, Vanessa Kolberg (07796954812) or the Tower Secretary, James Morgan (872064) to arrange a suitable Tuesday practice night (8pm - 9.15pm) to try out your skills.

James Morgan

MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY

In June, the society played the Nevill Golf Club in Tunbridge Wells, with 15 of us having completed (or at least survived) a brief successful golf tour to Le Touquet shortly before.

The evening before we were due to play golf at the Nevill, Stuart Bourne messaged everyone to relay a weather forecast he had seen predicting thunderstorms, heavy rain and strong winds. Like Private Fraser in Dads' Army, he was convinced we were "doomed" and wanted to know if the golf was going to be cancelled. Our very own Private Jones (Kelvin) helpfully told everyone not to panic, and 23 players (including a guest and potential new member) duly turned out the next day. Overnight rain cleared, and we enjoyed an almost totally dry day, with some wind and some sun.

There were several competitions on the day: the Strokeplay trophy for players with handicaps of 19 or below; the Stableford trophy for those with handicaps of 20 and above; a team competition as well as 2 nearest the pin holes. It was a heavy prize bag for the day with 2 trophies and 7 bottles of wine to dish out.

When the results came in, it seemed there might have been method in Stuart's previous evening madness. Stuart was defending the Strokeplay title he had won the previous year, and he may have been trying to scare off the opposition so he could win it again. Which he duly did with a score of a net 71 shots off handicap 13, a narrow win by one shot from Mark Hughes (net 72 off 17). Alan Bigley was third (net 74 shots off 6 handicap). In the Stableford competition there was a clear winner. With a magnificent 43 points off a handicap of 20, Rod (Lefty) Lunn won by 5 shots from Micky Mann, with James Gallifant and Kevin Leftley 1 further back.

Unsurprisingly, the team competition for the best 2 scores from 3 was won by the group of Rod Lunn, James Gallifant and Keith Townsend with a very good 92 points, 7 clear of their nearest challenger. A great day was enjoyed by all. Next

month we visit Sweetwoods Park Golf Club, on Thursday 18th July. For details, see mayfieldgolfingsociety.com.

Mark Hughes

NETBALL SESSIONS IN MAYFIELD

Every Thursday - 7-8pm - £8 - Mayfield Girls School

PH Netball is all about bringing the community together for some fun netball. Our evening sessions are aimed at ladies who fancy getting out of the house to meet new people, play a bit of netball and

have fun. Players must be over 18, however our average age is around 30-65. You don't need to be fit or have ever played before. We welcome all abilities!

phnetballcoach@gmail.com

For more information and to see what other adult and kids' programmes are available – please visit www.phnetball.com **Polly Howell**

NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Summer Show

At the time of writing in early June, we are hard at work preparing for our Summer Show which will be held on Saturday 27th July at Five Ashes Village Hall. Hopefully, by then, the Playing Field will have dried out from the deluges in winter and spring. We also hope for a dry spell for the Show, but not too hot!

Schedules are available from The House Café, High Street, Mayfield, White's Garden, Meres Lane, Five Ashes Inn and Five Ashes Village Hall and directly from myself. Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you. **Graham Playfoot 01825 830511**

WADHURST WINDOW

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

"Just Because it's June" was the theme of last month's meeting of the Flower Club. The demonstrator truly celebrated the profusion of flowers and foliage available from the garden in June as many of the blooms he used were taken from his garden and allotment. Many of the designs were created without the use of floral foam; reverting back to the days when chicken wire and pin holders were the only means of securing flower arrangements. The finale was an epic Constance Spry-type design that definitely had the "wow factor". The lucky winners of the raffle returned home with arms full of flowers.

The demonstration had been preceded by a delicious cold lunch provided by the Committee.

As July 4th is General Election Day the scheduled meeting has had to be cancelled, therefore the next meeting will be in September.

If you would like more information about Wadhurst and District Flower Club please contact Sonia 01892 785671 or Debbie 882851. New members are always made very welcome and we would love to hear from you.

OPEN FORUM

AUDREY HUTTON - CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Anyone living in Mayfield in the mid-fifties and sixties might remember Audrey Hutton. Audrey and her husband Bert enjoyed a very happy fifteen years managing The Royal Oak Hotel (now Royal Oak Mews)

After Bert died Audrey moved to Eastbourne with her sister Dorothy to be near her daughter Isabelle and her family.

During her years in Eastbourne Audrey has enjoyed attending a language class improving her French. She volunteered in a care home and has been a regular weekly swimmer in the sea and swimming pool right through into her late eighties. It must be her positive attitude and active life that has contributed to her longevity.

Audrey's 100th birthday was a lovely occasion celebrated at The Grand Hotel, Eastbourne with afternoon tea for family and friends.

Veronica Coppard



MAYFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Parish Council will soon be presenting new plans for a Mayfield Community Centre on Court Meadow. After years of hard work, we will be asked for comments on a building which will provide a new surgery and a new village hall. It is no secret that I think there is a better place for our new surgery rather than on Court Meadow which is dedicated to recreational use only. It was acquired by compulsory purchase for this purpose and no other. But, that said, we all need to examine the new plans with an open mind, especially as regards the design of the new hall.

1. How is the new hall to be identified? At present we use the word "Memorial" for a very good reason, the same reason we come together on Remembrance Sunday.
2. Will the new building be attractive, and fit in with the beautiful landscape of Court Meadow?
3. Will it provide the same space as now, with a ceiling high enough to accommodate activities such as badminton? Will it have a stage?
4. Will the kitchens and other amenities be well-placed? Will there be changing rooms for outside sports?
5. Will the new building be reserved for recreation, or will it, as suggested already, have permanent offices for the Parish Council?

Come the public presentation, our comments need to be as helpful as possible. Our Parish Councillors deserve this, having tried so hard to meet the village's needs.

Peter Driscoll

MAYFACS

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

www.mayfacs.org.uk 873888

(answerphone system)

MAYFACS Post Box is at the back
entrance to the office (please 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. Email
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

July News

Art Exhibition Sunday 14th July

Agneta Sutton will be holding an Art
Exhibition at London House on Sunday
14th July, to raise money for MAYFACS.
Please do look out for more information in
our windows and noticeboards.

Create @ The Shed! Youth Sessions

**Next Session Saturday 6th July 10am –
12.30pm**

Exploring different forms of creative genres
including art, music and tech, sessions take
place every 1st Saturday of the Month.
Booking is essential for each session with
limited spaces available. Email us on
create@mayfacs.org.uk to secure your
place. Suggested donations cover basic
materials and are kept to a minimum with
funding support MAYFACS receive (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.



Art At The Shed – 4th Friday of every month. Next Session: Friday 26th July 10am – 12pm

The very popular Art at the Shed
sessions returned last month with
our wonderful volunteer artist
Hannah, leading very informal and
friendly art workshops at MAYFACS
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-£5 per person,
teas and coffees provided! Booking
required as places limited!

Little Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group – Additional Holiday Sessions

We will be running to the end of July (last
session currently 31st July) as we continue
to test holiday opening sessions for the
group. We will not currently open in
August due to volunteer availability.
Please do join us every Wednesday from
9am – 11am for just £3 per family. All
carers, grandparents and parents are very
welcome.

MAYFACS Shed holds three sessions
every week for anyone to come along and
join in. Inside and external workshop
spaces available across all sessions, as well
as lots to get stuck into in the community
garden, there is plenty to get involved in
whenever you are available. New
Shedders always welcome! For more
information please visit our website
www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed

The next Repair Café will be at MAYFACS Shed on Saturday 20th July

Find out more about our Repair Cafés.
Join us for some tea and cakes (you do



MAYFACS Weekly Activities

Mon

Mayfacs Shed Session: Monday 9.30am - 12.30pm Mixed Group
Merrieweathers Farm, East Street, Mayfield TN20 6RJ



Mon

Yarners: Chat and knit, sew and crochet in Sew Inspired shop in the High Street,
£3.50 per person, 1.30-3.30pm.



Tue

Tuesday Chat: Regular meet up & chat with refreshments in Colkins Mill Church,
Station Road. 2-3pm. £2. Every Tues apart from the first Tuesday of the month.



Tue

Tuesday Afternoon Club: First Tuesday of the month in Colkins Mill Church,
Station Road, Mayfield 2-4pm £3 including a Speaker, raffle and a light afternoon
tea. Please bring a small prize to share for the raffle.

Wed

Little Munchkins Baby & Toddlers Group: For all carers, parents and grandparents
and under fives. Every Wednesday, term time only in the Scout Hall 9-11 am.
£3 per family. Refreshments provided.



Wed

Mayfacs Shed Session: Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm Men's Shed Group
Merrieweathers Farm, East Street, Mayfield TN20 6RJ

Wed

Writing for fun: A monthly group on 3rd Wednesday of the month at
10am - 12pm in London House. £3 including refreshments.

Wed

Middle House Afternoon Tea (MAR - SEP): 3rd Wednesday of the month by
invitation only (rota basis) 2pm. £12.50 for senior citizens living alone.

Wed

Wednesday Chat: A chance to meet and chat with refreshments,
2-3pm in Five Ashes Village Hall. £2. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Transport
available. (Speaker on 4th Wednesday).



Thur

Mayfacs Shed Session: Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm Mixed Group
Merrieweathers Farm, East Street, Mayfield TN20 6RJ



Thur

Poetry: 1st Thursday of the month 11-12.30 Coach House Cottage, Royal Oak
Mews, Mayfield £2.

Thur

Middle House Lunch: 2nd Thursday of the month by invitation only on a rota basis.
£12.50 for senior citizens living alone. Subsidised 2 course meal.



Thur

Community Café Crowborough : A dementia friendly group for people to come
together to enjoy an activity and refreshments. Last Thursday of the month.
2-4pm. Chaperoned transport available from Mayfield.



Fri

MAYFACS Film Club (OCT-MAR): Five Ashes Village Hall. Please see our
programme of films. 1.45-4pm £6. Transport from Mayfield £3

Fri

Games/Scrabble/Cribbage: 3rd Friday of the month 2-4pm £3 at London House,
bring a game or join in with some friendly games.



Sat

MAYFACS Shed Monthly Repair Cafe 3rd Saturday of every month (except Dec)
open 10am - 1pm refreshments available. At MAYFACS Shed

No need to pre book, unless stated. Please visit www.mayfacs.org.uk or contact us on 01435 873888.

not need to bring a repair to attend) and find out more about our community.

Monthly Trips

Thursday 18th July Busi Jacobsohn Vineyards tour and tastings, Eridge £36

Thursday 5th September Groombridge Owl and Raptor Centre, including display £29

Thursday 3rd October Visit the historic Town of Battle £10

Thursday 7th November Annual Shopping trip to Bluewater £10

Thursday 5th December Christmas Bowling trip £17

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parish Assembly

This year's meeting was held on 20th May which was after the submission deadline for the June Newsletter article. For those residents who did not attend the topics that were on the agenda for which reports were received and questions taken from residents are listed below:

Sussex Police – their report included an introduction to our new PCSO, Leon Greck

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service - discussed the possible closure of Mayfield on-call fire station

Mayfield and Five Ashes Community Service (MAYFACS)- informed of the activities offered to the community and services they provide, including the need for more volunteers and donations

Mayfield Climate Action – climate change and their aim for dark skies accreditation and what you can do to help.

East Sussex County Councillors – referred to potholes, speed reduction petition on A267 on Wellbrook Hill, a new Youth Centre in Heathfield, the new Flexibus

service and the increasing budget required for adult and children's social care.

Wealden District Councillors – discussed the draft Local Plan and housing, their support for a new Health Centre in Mayfield as part of the Community Centre project (MCC).

Open Forum for residents' discussions – this opened with an update on the progress of the relocation of the Post Office in Mayfield and was followed by questions and discussions on the progress of the MCC project, for which there will be a public information session very soon. Please check the Community website for more information on this.

The minutes of the meeting are available online as is the Annual Report for 2023-2024.

South Street Public Conveniences

Our current caretaker has done sterling work looking after the toilets in South Street car park since 2013 and has always done a fantastic job and we are so very grateful. We are now looking for someone who would like to take this role on. It involves unlocking and locking the toilets



each day (excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day) and cleaning them once a day, which takes about an hour. If you would like to know more about what is involved and the pay, please contact the Parish Council office on 873784 or email clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk.

Parliamentary General Election 2024

The poll will be held on Thursday 4th July 2024 between 7am and 10pm and our parish is part of the Sussex Weald constituency. The polling station for Five Ashes Ward will be in the Committee Room at the Five Ashes Village Hall and the Mayfield and Rushers Cross Wards will be in the Scout Hall at Court Meadow, Tunbridge Wells Road.

Please be reminded that the Elections Act 2022 requires voters to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper

The most used ID includes:

Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country

Photographic Driver's Licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)

European Economic Area (EEA) photographic ID Card

UK Biometric Residence Permit

An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)*

A Blue Badge

Oyster 60+ Card

A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority (East Sussex County Council Bus Pass; Disabled Person's Bus Pass, Welsh or Northern Ireland travel card)

Please Note: Only original documents are accepted; scanned images, electronic versions or copies will not be accepted –

however expired documents are accepted if the photo is still a current likeness.

Temporary Road Closure Warnings:

Coggins Mill Lane is scheduled to be closed from 1st July to 3rd July to allow South East Water to carry out apparatus repair works.

The Avenue is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Fletching Street to the junction with South Street from 22nd – 24th July to allow South East Water to carry out apparatus repair works.

The B2100 Wadhurst Road/Best Beech Hill/Mayfield Lane, Mark Cross/Wadhurst road closure has changed dates to 24th July 2024 to 3rd March 2025.

Tidebrook Road is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Lake Street to the junction with the Riseden Road from 29th July to 31st July.

Tunbridge Wells Road is scheduled to be closed from the junction with the A267 Mayfield Bypass to the junction with the High Street from 13th August to 15th August to allow South East Water to carry out Apparatus Repairs works.

Fletching Street is scheduled to be closed from the junction with Tunbridge Wells Road to the junction with Coggins Mill Lane from 19th August to 21st August to allow South East Water to carry out Apparatus Repairs works.

Garden Waste Collection Service

A reminder that it is time to subscribe or renew Garden Waste Collections, the new subscription year running from 1st August 2024 – 31st July 2025. To quickly and easily subscribe or renew go to:

www.wealden.gov.uk/gardenwaste You can request up to four bins at £60/ bin and

can pay by debit or credit card. If you do not have internet access please phone Customer Services on 01323 443322 and renew by 17th July to avoid any disruption to your service.

Take Extra Care And Extra Time At Road Junctions

As we head into summer our roads get busier with visitors and trippers. Sussex and Surrey Police have campaigns, #OneExtraLook and the national Two Wheel campaign. This encourages all road users to take extra time and extra care at junctions to try to reduce the number of collisions and fatalities experienced by motorcyclists and cyclists. Taking just one extra look at a junction could save a life.

WhatsApp Scam

There is a WhatsApp scam going round whereby you receive a message from someone in your Contacts directory saying, "Can I ask a favour?" That's all it says. The temptation is to message back asking what they want but their phone has been hacked so it's not them you're contacting but some fraudster who's controlling their phone and their WhatsApp account. It is very easy to reveal information you shouldn't, so if you receive a message from a friend or relative just saying "Can I ask a favour?" ignore it or, if you can't do that, contact them in some other way NOT via WhatsApp or their mobile phone because either or both could have been hacked.

Temporary Partial Closures Of Cuckoo Trail

The Cuckoo Trail is a leisure 11-mile route running from Polegate to Heathfield used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders and parts of it will be closed so essential work can be carried out before the start of the summer holidays. Contractors acting for Bovis/ Vistry Housing will be installing a new pumped sewer along the route of the Cuckoo Trail between Sycamore Drive and Ersham Road in south Hailsham. The work is expected to last until Friday 19th July and during this time the Trail will be closed to all types of users to allow the work to proceed.

Unfortunately, there is no safe route available to bypass this location so, although other parts of the Trail will be available as usual, the Cuckoo Trail will effectively be closed as a through route during this period. Wealden District Council apologies for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are being carried out under a Sewer Requisition Notice over which it has no control.

Parish Council Meetings

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

Janna Todd, Parish Clerk

Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield TN20 6AL

Telephone 873784 Email: clerk@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REGULAR WEEKLY ACITVITIES

Monday	Art Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 10-12.30pm
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Yoga	Scout Hall 6.30 – 7.45pm
	Ideal Performing Arts	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.00 – 8.00pm
	Table Tennis Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.15-21.45pm (Sept-May)
Tuesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.30-9.30am
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Circle Dance	Scout Hall 2.30 – 4.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.15-7.30pm
Wednesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 9-10am
	Discofit Gold - Fitness Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10-11am
	Creative Social	Sew Inspired High Street 10am – 1pm
	Heathfield Fitcamp	Five Ashes Hall - 18.30-19.30
	Studio Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 18.50-19.50pm
	The Rose & Crown Quiz	Rose & Crown, Fletching Street, 7.30pm
	Mayzing Choir practice	Mayfield Scout Hut: 8.00 – 10.00pm
Thursday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10.30–11.30am
	Baby Explorers	Five Ashes Village Hall – TBC
	Happy Tai Chi	12-1pm
	Handbell Ringers	London House, 4-5.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 5-6pm
	Cogs – School Years 4-6	Colkins Mill Church 6.30-8pm
	Ladies' PH Netball	Mayfield School - 7 - 8pm
	Happy Tai Chi	Five Ashes Village Hall – 7-8pm
Friday	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

JULY

Wednesday	3	Mayfield Local History Society, summer outing to Standen House	From 10am
Saturday	6	Churchyard Working Party	St Dunstan's, 10am - 12.30pm
Saturday	6	St Thomas of Canterbury Summer Fayre	Convent Garden, 10am - 2pm
Sunday	7	Royal British Legion Summer Garden Party	Wellbrook Hill, 1pm
Tuesday	9	Mayfield Evening WI: talk by Colin Bostock-Smith	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Saturday	13	Mayfield NGS Open Gardens	11am-5pm
Sunday	14	Mayfield NGS Open Gardens	11am-5pm
Sunday	14	Mayfield Open Gardens: art exhibition in support of MAYFACS	London House, noon - 5pm
Sunday	14	Friends of St Dunstons' Garden Party	Claytons Farmhouse, noon - 2pm
Sunday	14	Argos Hill Windmill open	2 - 5pm
Thursday	18	MAYFACS trip to Busi Jacobsohn Vineyards, Eridge	
Thursday	18	U3A talk by Dr Nicholas Henderson on Russia in 20th & 21st centuries	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2pm
Saturday	20	Mayfield Horticultural Society Summer Show	Scout & Guide Hall, 2.30pm
Saturday	20	Bonfire Society presents 50th anniversary showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.30pm
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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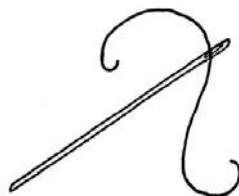
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