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No. 562 NOVEMBER 2024

# MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER





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Front cover: Crowborough Ploughing Match. Thanks to all the organisations for their photographs. Please do send us your images to [mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com)

# WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome to your November bumper-bundle of an issue! We have been featuring recently shops and businesses in the High Street in the hope of generating more footfall for our hard-pressed retailers. This month we are showcasing Hannah Mold's Gabriel's and Scarlett's; two very different shops but both outstanding in what they offer. We

also have a lovely interview with Sisters Maria and Jean from Mayfield Girls School who have recently relocated to Harrogate as well as an interview with Emily Craig, our local Olympic Gold medallist. You will find information on Mayfield's **Big Christmas Lights Switch-On and Late Night Shopping event** and how to buy tickets to see Santa in his very special Grotto! Read All About It! Finally, thank you to everyone who came to the "Know Your Parish" event. The aim was to raise the profile of our many clubs and societies; we hope you found something new and of interest.

**Jeanette Hore & Philip James**

## DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

**MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS** to [mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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**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](mailto:mfansubscriptions@gmail.com). Or you can pay by cheque sent to Graham Soar, Owl Lodge, Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, TN6 3RJ – again please remember to include your name and address

## USEFUL INFORMATION

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

## UP AND DOWN THE HIGH STREET

### As part of our promotion of shops and businesses in the High Street, this month we are featuring Hannah Mold's **GABRIEL INTERIORS & SCARLETT'S FROCKS AND THREADS**

Hannah Mold is the mastermind behind not one but two shops in Mayfield High Street: Gabriel Interiors and Scarlett's Frocks and Threads which is next door. Although the two shops offer a totally different range of products, they are both dependent on the sewing expertise of Hannah and her team which consists of three part time staff: Maura, Rosie and Sue. Gabriel Interiors supplies all manner of bespoke soft furnishing including handmade decorative cushions, box

cushions and window seats, throws for bedding and sofas and a huge range of beautiful fabrics including Sanderson, Jane Churchill, James Hare, Linwood and Osborne and Little. They provide a made to measure curtain and blind making service, all created locally in East Sussex and have a large variety of curtain tracks and poles, suitable for all windows, fully fitted. They can also supply and install stylish plantation shutters. Everything they produce is made to measure, hand stitched and individually tailored. They also sell seasonal items and currently have some pumpkins and a great selection of Christmas baubles and decorations, crackers, candles and ribbons. It is six years since Hannah opened these two adjacent shops in Mayfield High Street and



Credit: Barbara Murray



she now has customers across East and West Sussex as well as Surrey and Kent.

## **SCARLETT'S FROCKS AND THREADS**

When Hannah was preparing for her school prom there was nowhere in the area that catered for girls of her age who wanted to wear a colourful, glamorous well-fitting prom dress. In fact, her mother had to make her one on the kitchen table. Times have changed and it is now possible to be



Credit: Barbara Murray

fitted for a Mori Lee dress with the 2025 collection available between January and June here in Mayfield High Street. A dress can be chosen from the colourful range, alterations can be made and there is also an exclusivity guarantee so nobody else at a particular school will be wearing the same dress. It is often the first time that a girl has worn this type of dress and they tend to make a day of it, visiting other local shops and hostelrys in the Village as part of the experience. The shop also has many wedding dresses which can be fitted during a calm, 'closed door' experience, providing the privacy necessary to make that all important decision. Hannah also provides an alteration and dry-cleaning service.

Gabriel Interiors is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm or by appointment in your own home for design advice and measuring.

Scarlett's Frocks and Threads is open on Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm by appointment only.

**Laundry and dry cleaning** can be dropped off, any day, to Gabriel Interiors and is collected and taken to Southborough Dry Cleaners on Thursday.

[gabrielsinteriors.co.uk](http://gabrielsinteriors.co.uk) [scarlettsfrocksandthreads.co.uk](http://scarlettsfrocksandthreads.co.uk) 873520

**Barbara Murray**

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BIG SWITCH-ON, SANTA'S GROTTO AND LATE NIGHT SHOPPING!**

**FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 6PM START – HIGH STREET CLOSED FROM 5PM**

Our Christmas Lights Switch On and Late Night Shopping is Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November with the **procession starting at 6pm** outside the old NatWest Bank. Shops will be open offering their festive wares starting at Blackbird at the eastern end of the High Street down

to Sew Inspired at the western end. The Christmas trees have been purchased from Sussex Trees in Five Ashes once again – “Shop Local” in action! Santa’s Grotto will be located in London House which will be decorated beautifully by The Mayfieldians; tickets to see Santa will be available from Blackbird from 4<sup>th</sup> November and are £3 per child.

Local Hero, Raj Sharma, will be in charge of The Big Lights Switch On at approximately 6.30pm. Raj is so well-known in the Village it is a surprise he hasn’t been invited before now!

The Mayfield Youth Band will be leading the music, with local Schools singing, including Mayfield Primary School, Five Ashes Primary School, Skippers Hill and Mayfield Girls School. The evening is a two-way thank you from the shops and businesses in the High Street and from the residents of our Parish. There is always a lovely atmosphere so do come along to this very special Mayfield event. You can be sure there will be mulled wine flowing.



## FEATURES

### “OLYMPIC GOLD IS THE PINNACLE”

Emily Craig Talks About Growing Up Locally and Her 20-Year Rowing Career

If you followed the Paris Olympics this year, you will be aware of the success of Team GB in the Rowing, and especially in the Women’s Lightweight Double Sculls, when Britain’s Emily Craig and Imogen Grant won Gold by ‘clear water’, or by more than a boat length.

Many of you may also know, if only from our September issue of the Newsletter, that Emily is a former student of, what is now, Mayfield Girls School and that she came back recently to open the School’s state of the art Wellbeing Centre, to celebrate her



Credit: Row 360

Olympic medal and to share her positive experience with the girls.

Having been brought up in Mark Cross, where her father still lives, you will see from the photos that Rotherfield village post box is also sporting a very smart and clever crocheted topper, with figures of the two Olympians in their boat. What better tribute could there be?!

Emily began rowing when she was 12, with Bewl Bridge Rowing Club. Having once been with her family to the British Indoor Rowing Championships, she had immediately showed some interest and aptitude, and, even at that young age, announced that she was going to be an Olympic rower. Her career developed quickly from there and she credits her school with helping to further it, in allowing her time off to attend at Bewl every Wednesday, in term-time, to train.

Her talent has been continually recognised since. Studying for a BA in History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, she joined the University of London Boat Club on the Tideway and got into the University's Under 23's at the age of 21. Whilst studying for her master's degree in Asian art in 2015, she was allowed to submit her dissertation early, in order to join the Under 23 GB Squad's senior training camp before taking part in her first senior World Championships.

Among many other achievements, in 2016 she won the World Championships in the Quadruple Sculls and in 2017 she broke into the Double Sculls, rowing with Kat Copeland, the Olympic Lightweight Double Sculls Gold medal winner of 2012. She joined up with Imogen Grant in 2018, and with several major successes under their belts, they went into the 2024 Olympics as undefeated 3-time winners of the European and World Series in 2022, 2023 and 2024. All this despite having



very narrowly missed a bronze medal in a photo finish at the Tokyo Olympic Final, which Emily says was "gutting". As a result, their Paris success is even more satisfying.

Rowing is described as 'one of the most physically and mentally demanding sports, requiring extreme endurance, strength and ability to push yourself well beyond your limits'. Had Emily known what it takes to make it in rowing at the age of 12, she is not sure she would be celebrating as she is today. Rowing has taken up virtually all her time, certainly since university, and for her it has been a life-changing experience.

Now living near Maidenhead, and close to her Thames training ground, her average day is made up of 3 sessions, the first involving 2 hours of continuous rowing for about 20 kilometres, the second on intensive drills either in the boat or on the rowing machine, and the third working with weights. Her Squat Personal Best is lifting 93kg.

The Coaches are very strict and allow members of the Olympic Squad one day off a week. They get 3 days after the World Cup, 3 weeks after the World Championships and 10 days at Christmas.

The rest of the time is spent rowing or keeping fit to row at their best and with perfect technique.

It is hardly surprising therefore that having reached the 'pinnacle of success' so far, Emily is now considering her future, having committed the best part of 20 years to her sport.

She must review anyway, as in 2028, Lightweight Double Sculls as a sport will have disappeared from the Olympic schedule, leaving room for Beach Sprints, which is a one on one, head-to-head competition, considered to be a better spectator sport and more inclusive for smaller nations.

If she were to stay in rowing and move to an Open Weight boat, she would have to gain weight and physically alter her body shape. Given that she has already damaged a disc in her neck over recent years, changing to a new format is not therefore her priority.

There is also the small, but very important, matter of being able to survive financially. During her Olympic training, she and Imogen have been fortunate to enjoy a share of the UK Lottery Funding made available to British Rowing. This funding will expire in March next year, so she does have to focus on what happens next.

For now, however, she is happy to sit back and reflect in the glow of her Olympic Gold Medal, albeit, ironically, that the weight of it at 530 grams, worn around her neck for long periods of time during publicity sessions, has contributed to the overall discomfort in her neck.

She has had a busy time since the end of the Games, being on 'Good Morning Britain', visiting her old schools, Bewl Bridge Rowing Club, her former universities and 8 or 9 other schools besides.

When I spoke to her, she had been speaking at 'The Big Row', Love Rowing's annual charity fundraiser for inclusive and accessible rowing projects, about the ergonomics of rowing. This is a subject on which she should be well-informed, being a qualified personal trainer, with an online bespoke personal training business.

She is also keen to further her specialist career in Asian Art so there is much in the future to keep her occupied, if she does not continue to row.

Given the commitment and drive she has demonstrated in reaching the top in her rowing career, there is little doubt that she will succeed in the same way in whatever she chooses to do next. Good luck Emily and thank you for letting those of us in the local area bask in your reflected glory!

**Sue Smith**

## **HORSE AND TRACTOR PLOUGHING MATCH**

I went with our intrepid photographer Julie Salwey, to see the Horse and Tractor Ploughing Match hosted by Richard and Annabel Padfield at Renhurst Farm (turn right at the end of Lake Street and on the right for their farm shop). I had been





interested in this for some time as something that clearly engages many members of our local farming community. We were welcomed at the gate by Andrew Firrell, who is hosting next year's show (the 80th!) and pointed out to us where the

in the ground with twin handles – truly back breaking effort.

I suppose over 100 people were either in the field watching or milling about by the refreshments tents, including a couple of classes from nearby Mark Cross CEP



action was.

Beyond a series of food and drink tents and agricultural machinery stands, was a huge field of stubble across which were snaking all kinds of tractors with ploughs attached. From today's four-wheel-drives to many two-wheel drives with familiar names such as John Deere. I enquired of one gentleman as to the age of his Ford, given its immaculate condition, to discover it was a 1965 model. Many even older tractors were performing well in the slightly sticky conditions after the recent rain and of course dealing with good old Wealden clay. I was assured that vintage tractors were worth money these days but I'm also sure they take a lot of work to keep in condition. Whilst not everyone was a farmer, most were and that must've taken time and effort from the day job. We were told that the steam tractors wouldn't be coming today because their transport was too heavy to get into the field, however, there were several gorgeous horses pulling ploughs in pairs; their ploughmen either precariously mounted on the plough or else following behind, keeping the plough

school. There were also parents who had brought their toddlers with them to admire the tractors and horses, irrespective of the rainy weather and the considerable mud which seem to worry them not one jot.

It was explained to me that ploughing a field properly could be done in more than one way, but essentially it is to produce a nice straight and deep trough into which the relevant seed could be sown. Although I'm not sure I followed the whole



explanation, it was clear that it wasn't simply running up and down the field but there would be careful adjustment to ensure a good starting line against which all the other rows would then flow – a much more precise task than a mere townie would suppose. **Philip James**

## **SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST: JAYS**

Each autumn a lot of my conversations go like this: "This morning I saw a weird pink and blue bird on my lawn." Me: "It's a Jay." "There's a parrot on my bird table!" Me: "It's a Jay." "I've just seen..." Me: "It's a Jay". Spotting such an exotic looking bird in the back garden gets even my most wildlife-averse friends reaching for the Blencowe bird identification hotline. Yet, despite looking like it has flown in direct from the jungles of Costa Rica, the Jay lives in Sussex all year round. For most of the year it withdraws to the woodlands and leads an elusive life amongst the leaves, but in October it is time for the Jay to step out of the shadows.

Jays look fabulous, with extravagant pink plumage, a drooping black moustache and a snazzy electric blue flash through the wings. It is no surprise that the eminent Sussex naturalist, W.H. Hudson, called the Jay 'the British Bird of Paradise'.

Surprisingly, it is a member of the Crow family but while the related Ravens, Rooks, Crows and Jackdaws all wear black funereal feathers, the Jay obviously did not get the memo about the dress code! Gather the Crows for a family portrait and the Jay stands out like Danny La Rue in full drag amongst a crowd of coal miners. However,, when the Jay opens its beak, it reveals its family heritage. The song of the Jay is a rough, rasping, nails-down-the-blackboard shriek, which would make any Crow proud.



Credit: Alan Price

The reason we see more Jays in the autumn is because they are busy. Jays are nuts about acorns and at this time of the year their favourite food is in plentiful supply and it is a clever bird. Aware that there are lean times ahead it starts making a long-term investment for surviving the winter. With up to nine acorns jammed in its beak and throat, the Jay flies far from the woodlands hiding these nuts in nooks and under dead leaves. With an impressive ability to remember exactly where he has stashed them, the Jay will return, and tuck into these life-saving larders in the cold days of winter. (I have employed a similar strategy many times at parties! Faced with a full buffet at the start of the night, I hide a few piles of crisps and vol-au-vents behind curtains and cushions to help me get through the even)

One Jay can store up to 5000 acorns in a season. Not all are remembered and retrieved and from these lost acorns, mighty Oaks grow. I often wonder how many of the huge Oaks we see in Sussex were originally planted by Jays. Through the centuries these birds have been architects of the English countryside: a landscape created by the forgetfulness of a pink crow.

**Michael Blencowe**

## VILLAGE PEOPLE

### INTERVIEW WITH SR. JEAN SINCLAIR AND SR. MARIA DINNENDAHL

Conducted by Izzy Gill (year 13), Mia Graham (year 12) and Aurelie Pushack (year 8)

#### ***Can you tell us about your time at Mayfield?***

Sr. Jean - We have both been here a very long time. I first came to Mayfield in 1959 when I entered the Society. When you entered the Society in my day, that meant you had three years Postulancy to Noviceship. And then I moved elsewhere. I came back here in 1971 and stayed until 2000 and then I retired, and I came back here again in 2012. So, I've been here altogether 44 years.



Sr. Maria – Well, the first time I came to Mayfield to stay was a year earlier in 1958 and in those days, the three years of training, like the Noviceship and Postulancy is where the Sixth Form Centre is now. Sometimes we go in there and apart from, 1 or 2 rooms, it's extraordinarily difficult to remember what was in those days. I came back to teach from 1971 to 1982. And then, 2007. I can't believe that's 17 years.

#### ***Could you please describe a typical school day for the girls when you taught them?***

Sr. Maria - Well it isn't all that different, is it? You know, the church has changed so much. I think nowadays. The girls would come to Mass; was it half past eight or half past seven? In the morning.

Sr. Jean – Half past seven.

Sr. Maria - On feast days the whole school would come, but, otherwise, you indicated if you wanted to be called early.

Sr. Jean – Yes, and in 1975 parents could ask for education in relation to their religious convictions. East Sussex approached us and said there was no provision this end of the county for secondary education for girls. Would we take Day girls? We decided that we would do so. So, it changed from being an all boarding school to a boarding and day school, and that probably made a bit of difference to the way in which the school day worked.



***What sorts of sports did they play; did they do the same netball? Swimming? Or was it different?***

Sr. Jean - Netball, swimming, hockey, athletics. Riding came in largely with day girls in the 1970s. We had several day girls who were very good riders and Sister Mary Hilary, who was a devotee of all things equestrian got them organised and we won at Hickstead in the 70s but obviously the current situation is far grander.

***What are your favourite memories?***

Sr. Maria - One thing which I miss now, which would happen soon after half term, is the Michaelmas Fair as it's advertised now. But in those days, the boarders and the day girls would all come, and we would have what's called a Christmas Bazaar. About a week or two after half term, the different houses would produce or make things, like St Raphael's, which was one of the three boarding houses then, would do a bottle stall and they usually made most money.

I can't remember what Gab's did, but I remember St. Michael's because for six years, I was housemistress. We made soft toys and things like that, and we raised quite a bit of money too. I'm really sorry it doesn't happen anymore. There are too many restrictions and safety regulations now to make soft toys.

***What were the challenges during your time here?***

Sr. Maria - I think you have more challenges being Head.

Sr. Jean - I think the challenge in school is always keep the best in it going strongly and I think Mayfield is lucky because with other Holy Child Schools we have got the Book of Studies, and it is quite demanding. You won't have read it but



there will be extracts around the school. The book has quite demanding requirements for those teaching, which I think make Mayfield the school that it is. I don't think many schools have a requirement that the mistresses are to treat the pupils with truly maternal affection as the most precious charge that Christ could give them. If you're trying to live up to that you've got a lot to live up to.

Sr. Maria - I think quite often it comes down to principles, at least I hope it does. Trust, you know, it's important that the students feel that they're trusted and that doesn't happen in all schools. Too much supervision.

Sr. Jean - And, also if something has gone wrong for an individual you try and give them something that shows that you trust them.

**What will you miss most about Mayfield?**

*Sr. Maria - The Chapel, I think. But the school, too. Seeing the students around even at a distance as we don't see that much of them, but all the same, it's nice to have young people around - even if they're sometimes noisy!*

Sr. Jean - Also, the staff. Some of the support staff we've known for many years, some have been here over 40 years.

**Have you any advice the current students at Mayfield?**

Sr Jean - Live your life to the full. Take up all the many available opportunities. Sometimes, people hold back and think I can't try that because I won't be very good at it; I think it's very important to see what you can do. A lot of areas relate to confidence. My teaching subject is Mathematics, and that is an area where, if someone can gain some confidence, they can overcome the problems they see. It works in other fields, but Maths is perhaps a particular one, because you can say, "I can't do it" and it's not true.

Sr. Maria - I think to go into the future with hope, that's really important, and to build your friendships, something Mayfield is very good at. In many cases, the friendships will last a lifetime.

**What led you to join the religious life and how did you feel to be called to work in education?**

Sr. Maria – I really have to say, I'm too old to remember, it's so long ago. I always find it very difficult to say what it is. When you're a few years older and you meet the one man you want to marry, I wonder whether you'd be able to make it very clear to people who ask you, "now, what do you see in him?". It just was like that.

And the culture I grew up in; there were Sisters around all the time - they were part of our world. That just isn't the case anymore.

Sr Jean - Well, my background is very different because I'm a convert. My family was Scottish Presbyterian. I was at a devoutly Anglican school. My father taught for 40 odd years at a Jesuit school, so I had a very mixed religious experience when I was growing up. I came in to the Church at University and I think I had had for some time some idea which could be interpreted as preliminary ideas of a religious life; but I think probably when I went to do a postgraduate certificate in education at the college, which the nuns then ran in London, they were very different from a number of other nuns I had encountered.

**What was your favourite aspect about teaching at Mayfield?**

Sr. Jean - Getting someone, or several someones, who had failed maths five times - who needed it for university - through on their sixth attempt.

**What would you say has changed most about the school over the years?**

Sr. Maria (to Sr. Jean) - Ceramics?

Sr. Jean – Yes, could be. Ceramics used to be exceedingly solid, not remotely creative. Then Mrs. Allen came in and absolutely transformed it. I remember once, for some reason I was taking parents around which I didn't normally do, and we arrived to see year 7, and there was Mrs Allen with a block of clay about to make a dog. Well, until the dog was achieved, I couldn't move the parents, and it was absolutely fantastic to later see the different dogs, which the year 7 class had

produced. The ceramics, and the art as well with Mr. and Mrs. Joy – it's good now – but they were the people who actually made a real difference to it.

***What made Mayfield for you a special school to teach at?***

Sr. Maria - What stood out is, as I said before, the trust. I think that, for me personally, that's what's important. Cornelia Connolly talks about it in her Book of Studies too.

Sr. Jean - I think what's interesting is the way in which friendship groups seem to continue for many people for many years, and they're there for people in good times and bad, and perhaps particularly if something goes badly wrong their friends are there for them and I think that's very important. I mean, it's important when we're in school, probably even more so.

***How has preparing students for meeting the New Age change from when you were first taught?***

Sr. Jean - It's quite a different world. I think the pressures on young people nowadays are probably much worse. Experientially, the pressures are always going to be similar. There will be pressures, but I think some of the pressures, particularly from social media and some of the ways in which adults behave is much more challenging for them.

***What do you hope that current and previous students remember you for?***

Sr. Jean - If I can give them what might be a rather predictable answer; I always hope students will always remember that God's love is unconditional.

Sr. Maria - Yes, we hope that, and we live that and give witness to that.

***What do you think makes Mayfield girls stand out from the crowd?***

Sr. Maria - I think that what Mayfield girls have that's really struck me, and certainly since I came back, is their self-confidence and we hope and I'm sure the present staff also hope that all girls will leave with it. What you don't find, and I hope you never find in a Mayfield girl, is arrogance. Yes, self-confidence, you need in life.

Sr. Jean - I think that the way in which the girls are there for each other and particularly that they don't take certain things too seriously, I think they're on the whole very good at that. I do think the support they give each other as important. Sr. TJ and I always said we were often coping with adolescent muddle rather than malice when things went wrong, and I think that was very true.

***Is there anything else you'd like to share about your time here, or your experiences that you haven't covered yet?***

Sr. Maria - This is the happy place. Well, you can't say anything better, can you about a school? I hope that's your experience too. I think you can say that we're sorry we are leaving, and I hope the school will flourish and you will go into the future with hope and confidence.

**Note from the Editors:** we wish Sisters Jean and Maria a peaceful move to Harrogate. We know you love the village of Mayfield as well as MGS. You have been part of the fabric of Mayfield and will be missed by many. Bon voyage!



# **OUT NOW!**

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# OUR SCHOOLS

## MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

We have had a fantastic first term back at Pre-School. The children have enjoyed exploring the outdoor environment and change in the season. We were even lucky enough to spot a few rainbows which led to some fantastic story play, large mark making (which got very creative and messy) and treasure hunts.

We really do like to go out in all weathers and the new puddlesuits included in the registration process are a great way for the children to explore without the worry of wet/

muddy clothes. Outdoor play enhances physical development, improves lifestyle and wellbeing but can also lead to some fantastic investigating, imaginative play. From puddle jumping, mini beast hunts and collecting natural rainfall, these activities allow the children to learn about nature in a more in-depth way, understanding where rain comes from, why it rains, water cycle, clouds and the weather.

We still have spaces available for September 2025 starters, so if you have a little one who you would like to start at the Pre-School, please get in touch as soon as possible - 872523 or [preschoolmayfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:preschoolmayfield@hotmail.co.uk)

Our lovely manager Charlie is stepping down at half term for pastures new. Charlie has been a shining light at the Pre-School for the last 5 years, going above and beyond to ensure the children's safety and happiness. We wish her all the best for her next endeavours.

We are very excited to announce that Paige Meirrick, current Deputy Manager has been successfully appointed as the new Pre-School manager, after a competitive selection process. She will be sharing more about herself in the next Newsletter.

The first fundraising event of this academic year will be The Hoe (HoHo)-down at the Scout Hall after the Village Christmas Lights Switch On on 29<sup>th</sup> November. More details to follow. Finally, the Pre-School AGM is being held on 11<sup>th</sup> November.



## MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's been a busy term for the new Reception Robins. We've been learning so much. This week we went out onto Court Meadow to look for signs of autumn. We're going to be venturing out a few more times over the coming weeks to see how the autumn colours progress.

**Katie Hawkrigde**

## FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are now approaching the end of our first term back since the summer break and it really has raced past. The children have settled into their new classes and are enjoying all the exciting learning they are taking part in. Fr. Michael joined us at the Village Hall for our Harvest Celebration with the children singing beautifully.

"Young at Heart" have visited us twice this term. They have really enjoyed meeting and chatting with the children. Lastly a huge thank you to Clara and John for coming into school to weigh our pumpkins this year. This year's winners were Archie and Ava Gorringer and Will Vincent-Smith. A huge well done to them!

**Darren Gurr**



Ava Gorringer  
Credit: Penny Kemp

## SKIPPERS HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

At the beginning of October, the children in Year 8 were invited to take part in the Model United Nations (MUN) conference held at Bede's Senior School. Over 150 students from various secondary schools took part and this was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to engage in diplomacy, public speaking and international affairs. The day consisted of the children from Skippers representing Greece or Egypt, learning about its policies, challenges and role in the international community. Topics for debate included stopping arms sales to groups involved in proxy conflicts, phasing out of plastic and repatriating cultural and historical artefacts to their countries of origin - critical issues that mirror real-world discussions in the UN.





The conference fostered teamwork and negotiation skills. The children worked in committees where they had to cooperate with delegates from other countries to draft resolutions, negotiate compromises and vote on proposed solutions.

All children were praised for their professionalism and ability to engage with difficult topics in a thoughtful and mature way. Special mention should go to Mia, Emilio and Molly who were commended for representing their country in the Committee for the Environment and the Committee for Health.

Thank you to Bede's for hosting and giving our pupils this valuable educational experience that extends beyond the classroom and encourages the children to think globally and learn how the UN works.

## **MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL**

### **Emily Craig Unveils New Wellbeing Centre**

Mayfield Girls School was thrilled to welcome back former pupil and Olympic Rowing Champion, Emily Craig, to officially open their new Wellbeing Centre in September. Emily, who attended MGS from 2004 to 2011, spent the day with students, sharing her inspiring Olympic journey—from narrowly missing out on a medal at Tokyo 2020 by just 0.01 seconds to triumphing with a Gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics alongside her lightweight double sculls partner, Imogen Grant.

Emily Craig said: "I was genuinely delighted to return to the school I called home for seven years and to open St. Raphael's Wellbeing Centre. It's wonderful to see that the same nurturing ethos that shaped my own journey remains strong. This incredible space is a



testament to the school's commitment to supporting students in every aspect of their wellbeing. In my career, I've learned the importance of balance and looking after both mind and body, and it's inspiring to see a centre like this that embodies those values. I have no doubt that St. Raphael's will provide a sanctuary of calm, helping students thrive for years to come."

Headmistress Deborah Bligh added: "It was a joy to welcome Emily back to Mayfield. She epitomises what it means to be a Mayfield Girl—her journey is one of courage, resilience, and determination. Emily is an outstanding role model, and we are incredibly grateful she took the time to visit. The entire school was buzzing with excitement, and we couldn't be prouder to call her one of our own."

### **Celebrating Our First Grandparents' Day**

In October, we welcomed over 60 families—many of whom were from the local area—to join us for our inaugural Grandparents' Day. The day began with a beautiful Liturgy, after which our students proudly led their grandparents on personalised tours around the school, showcasing all the things that make MGS so special. The festivities wrapped up with a delightful buffet lunch in the Dining Room, giving everyone a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. It was a truly memorable day for our Mayfield community, and we're excited to announce that Grandparents' Day will now be an annual tradition.



**Dates for the Diary: Why Dark Skies Matter, A talk by Dan Oakley, Light Pollution Expert** - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm, Mayfield Girls School

**Mayfield Fashion Show** - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 for adults, £5 for Under 18s - [Book here](#) All proceeds go to Hospice in the Weald.

**Navigating the Teen Social Scene**, A talk by Alicia Drummond, The Wellbeing Hub - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm, Mayfield Girls School

**Live Crib** 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December

## **OUR CHURCHES**

**TAIZE SERVICE - AN ECUMENICAL SERVICE - 7.30pm Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November Mayfield School Chapel**

What is Taize? An ecumenical Christian community was founded in Taize in France in 1940, originally as a hideaway for Jews. A Taize service is a simple meditative form of worship with short readings, prayerful silence and mantra songs like "Jesus remember me" to guide the focus of prayer. All are welcome to this ecumenical, candlelit service of approximately 45 minutes.

## ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Mass times in November

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 6.00pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 6.00pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 am

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 6.00pm

### **Date for December**

10.30-12.30 Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

CAFOD Coffee Morning **Mary Brentnall**

## COLKINS MILL

As the clocks go back, I always feel more conscious of the dark evenings. There seems to be so much darkness in the world, and weighty matters in the balance. I think our meditation at the Remembrance Day Service this year will be especially thoughtful, and I'm so glad that we meet together as a village to reflect in this way. One of my favourite sayings of Jesus is "I am the light of the world". Followers of Jesus then and now have always found that he sheds light even in the darkest place, and that he brings love and hope to every anxious heart.

Join us on Sundays for a buffet breakfast from 10am, with the service starting at 10.30am. **SteveHarland**

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

## ST. DUNSTAN'S

### **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Memorial Service**

**'In Loving Memory'** Our annual service in memory of all those we have loved will take place on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6pm. Please do come along and join us for an evening of reflection; everyone is most welcome.

### **Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance**

**Sunday.** We will once again be remembering all those who fought for their country and for all those who gave their lives during WW1, WW2 and other recent conflicts. We will gather at the War

Memorial at 10.50am for a short service and will observe a 2-minute silence at 11am. You are then most welcome to come into St. Dunstan's and join the Ecumenical Service with our Scouting Groups and other members of the uniformed services. Later that afternoon there will be a brief service at the War Memorial in Five Ashes.

### **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December: Advent Carol**

**Service at 6pm** This Service will be candlelit and our Church choir will be singing a selection of carols – both traditional and modern - with some beautiful congregational Advent Carols. Please do come and join us.

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December** – We will be holding our **Christmas Market** again this year from 10am until 2pm and all our stallholder spaces have been booked. This is always a chance to 'shop locally' and we will have more fabulous stallholders with us again this year. We will have our Christmas Hamper raffle and be selling bacon butties, teas, coffees, mulled wine and cakes. If you would like more information then please contact Nicky in the Parish Office on 873484 or by email.

### **Carol Service: Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December at**

**6pm:** The focus of this service is congregational, with the option also of joining the choir in singing 'O Holy Night'. Anyone of any age is very welcome to join us. Please contact Lucy, our Director of Music on [music.stdunstans@gmail.com](mailto:music.stdunstans@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**Future Weddings:** We now taking bookings for weddings in 2025 and 2026. If you are interested in marrying here then please have a look at our website: [www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk](http://www.stdunstansmayfield.org.uk) or contact our Parish Administrator by email: [office.stdunstans@gmail.com](mailto:office.stdunstans@gmail.com) for further information. **Nicky Higgins Parish Administrator**



## ROUND AND ABOUT THE VILLAGES



### FIREWORKS SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**5.00PM – 7.30PM COURT MEADOW – MAYFIELD**

We will have food stalls, bar, hot drinks, face painting, candyfloss, marshmallows on sticks! It's a family friendly as low noise as possible Professional Fireworks Display. Organised to raise funds for local charities & groups in the Parish, including MAYFACS, Mayfield Scouting Association, Friends of Mayfield Primary School & Mayfield Pre-School.

The event is free, but we would be grateful for a donation per family of say £5, £10, £15 or £20. Please give what you can.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible: Burnett's Estate Agents Infinity Group; Kingsline Solutions; C.L. Leppard of Mayfield; Mercator Digital; The Travel Concept; Wellbrook Motor Services

### MAYFIELD EVENING WI

Our October meeting was a film night held at Five Ashes Hall. Our film choice was

'Hidden Figures', a fascinating story of three brilliant African American women working at NASA in the 1960s. They played a pivotal role in the space race between the US and the USSR, whilst having to deal with segregation and prejudice. They were the brains behind astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit. Thank you to Andrew Ratcliffe, Chairman of Film on Friday, for presenting the film for us.

Our next meeting is on November 12<sup>th</sup> and will feature a talk by Dr Helena Griffiths on Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis.

We meet every second Tuesday in the month at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Colkins Mill Church. Do come and join us at any one of our evenings. We love to see you! For any further information, please contact **Chrissie Robinson** on 862825.



**MAYFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY**

Wow, another spectacular evening of torchlit processions. Your Bonfire Society



Credit: Monica Wells Photography

and village groups were joined by a record 30 visiting societies and 4 bands, creating a procession of fire though the village stretching about a mile long. So long, that the procession took extra time and the fireworks were a few minutes late. The crowds in the High Street and along the procession routes clearly enjoyed the show and it was great to see the youngsters waving our new kids torches.

This year the early revellers were serenaded by Mayfield Band, who set up beside the Bonfire Bar, and they even played the theme tune to Pirates of the Caribbean whilst a Bonfire walker dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow strolled by. The torchlit processions then began with the Memorial Service and fiery poppy banners, and this year the wreath was laid by Ann Martin, in memory of her late son, and in celebration of her 50 years' service as Mayfield's lollipop lady.

We would like to thank the dozens of helpers who work throughout the year to make it such a success, including fundraising the £10,000 needed to run the event, cutting and assembling the 5,000 torches and creating the banners; arranging the fireworks and running the bar and catering; as well as the many behind the scenes roles of organising road closures and putting out the hundreds of cones and signs; manning the barriers; and then clearing up afterwards so the village looked like nothing had happened.

We would also like to thank those who shook collection buckets on the night, and you for your generosity donating £1,800 to the following local causes - the Mayfield 1st Scouts, Mayfield Youth Band and MAYFACS Sheddars, as well as for the senior citizens' Christmas party and the Cricket Club. Thank you, Mayfield.

But there's no rest for the Boyes and Belles, and we have already held our first



fundraising quiz to raise money for 2025. Our next event will be the senior citizens Christmas party on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December in Colkins Mill Church, where we will be serving a buffet lunch with Christmas songs and music from Mayfield Band. The party is a wonderful event and free for all senior citizens from Mayfield and Five Ashes. If you would like to come along, please put your name down with Nicola in Sew Inspired.

**Catherine Hawley** [bonfire@gawain.online](mailto:bonfire@gawain.online)

## **MAYFIELD COMMUNITY & HEALTH CENTRE**

The project, now in RIBA stage 3, is proceeding at pace with numerous meetings addressing a myriad of topics taking place but, as is often the case with construction projects, the contractor has experienced some delay in getting all the quotations needed from the various sub-contractors to confirm the overall project cost. The contractor is therefore currently working with prospective sub-contractors to confirm pricing and to investigate options for further reductions in costs – in so far as this is possible.

The design is fundamentally as shown at the information event in July 2024, although there may be some small changes to achieve possible cost savings, most of which will not be apparent to the casual observer. This exercise has meant that the planning application is now likely to be submitted in early November 2024.

Once we have agreement on what is known as stage 3 costs, we will proceed to the next stage (RIBA stage 4). This involves specifying every detail of the build including such things as the colour of the walls, type of taps in the toilets, etc. At the end of stage 4 there is a further costing exercise, which, due to the competitive nature of the sub-contractor procurement at that time, could result in additional savings, which is then used as the basis for the actual build contract.

Further information can be found on the village Facebook site and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website [www.mayfieldfiveashes.org](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org) where the designs that were presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> July Information Event remain available to view.

## MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES U3A

**Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2.30pm -  
Five Ashes Village Hall - El Greco**

One of our most popular speakers, Imogen Corrigan, will tell us about El Greco, otherwise known as 'The Greek'. Born in Crete, Domenikos Theotokopolous, as he was originally named, became one of Spain's most successful painters, although he still managed to be frequently in debt and involved in lawsuits, which suggests an interesting life. He trained with, and was influenced by, great artists such as Titian and Tintoretto, but he developed his own, instantly recognisable style, which is so

modern that it is hard to believe he lived in the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries. "Jewel Colours", "intense spirituality" and "towering flame-like figures" are words that have been used to describe his work, although some critics have wondered whether he was, in fact, insane, or had an eye disorder.

Whatever view one takes of his paintings, it is clearly going to be a fascinating lecture. Imogen Corrigan never fails to interest and inform. It is lovely to be able to welcome her back to our U3A.

The start time for our talks has changed to 2.30, but all else remains normal. Entry is of course free to our members; visitors, who are very welcome, will be charged a small fee. For more information go to our website, which is [www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield) or contact our Chairman Mary Brentnall at [marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com](mailto:marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com)



## FILM ON FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEASON

Five Ashes Village Hall. Doors and licensed bar open 7.45pm, film starts 8.15pm.

### IVAN'S CHILDHOOD – 8<sup>th</sup> November

An archive presentation of the first film by the Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky, and a product of the Khrushchev thaw. 12-year-old Ivan's family was murdered by the invading Germans, and he is desperate for revenge. Slipping easily through the lines, he moves between the partisans and the Russian army. *"Startling, bleakly poetic, debut feature from one of movie pantheon greats"*





### **IO CAPITANO – 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Two teenage boys leave Senegal to seek their fortune in the EU. Naïve and foolish, they embark on a harrowing journey to the Mediterranean, meeting bandits, corruption and people traffickers. The film is based on researched migrants' experiences and becomes a present-day odyssey as the boys grow up quickly and take control of their lives. It will have you on the edge of your seat. "...chilling indictment of the refugee exploitation economy" – *The Guardian*

Our leaflets are available from The House Café, MAYFACS, the telephone box and our poster on the school railings. Our website, [www.filmonfriday.org](http://www.filmonfriday.org), has trailers for all our films and interviews with the directors and cast. If you would like to know more, email me on [filmonfriday@gmail.com](mailto:filmonfriday@gmail.com), or phone 873310; or just come along on one of our film nights. We are on Facebook and X at [@filmonfriday](https://www.facebook.com/filmonfriday).

**Andrew Ratcliffe Chairman**

bread at a modest price of £3 per head. Doors open at 12 noon and the bar will be open until 2.30pm. Please could you contact Rosemary Lillywhite to confirm your attendance, so that we can ensure we have sufficient soup available. (email: [withatwist@btinternet.com](mailto:withatwist@btinternet.com) or telephone: 872130)

**Centenary of the Formation of Mayfield & Five Ashes Branch early 2025** – Further information about how we intend to celebrate this to follow in due course.

### **2024 Poppy Appeal**

Every poppy counts. Which is why our Poppy Appeal collectors in the local communities are so important. Your support is as vital as ever for some members of the Armed Forces community who need our help. The Appeal runs from Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a collection point in front of the Mayfield War Memorial on Mayfield High Street on the three Saturday mornings that fall within the Poppy Appeal period – 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2<sup>nd</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> November. I do hope that you will support the Poppy Appeal as generously as you have done in the past.

**Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday** – Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day fall on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November respectively giving us all a chance to remember not just those who fought, but what they fought for. The names of the Fallen in WW1 and WW2 from Mayfield and Five Ashes, giving details of their ages and service units at death, will be displayed beside the Mayfield War Memorial throughout the Remembrance Period.

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



### **Soup and Social Lunch - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November Mayfield Cricket Club**

This will be a very simple format of a choice of homemade soups and French

**Armistice Day** - there will be an informal gathering at the Mayfield War Memorial at 11.00am to observe the National two-minutes' silence. Wherever you are at this time please pause and observe the two-minutes silence, an Act of Remembrance that the UK has honoured since 1919.

**Remembrance Sunday** – On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am the National two minutes' silence will take place to honour the fallen. In Mayfield anyone wishing to observe in public should gather at the War Memorial in the High Street at 10.45am. There will then be a short ecumenical Service of Remembrance. Wreaths will be laid. This will be followed by the National two minutes' silence at 11.00am. Immediately after there will be a full Remembrance Service in St. Dunstan's Church, during which the names of the Fallen from Mayfield and Five Ashes will be read out..

**Remembrance Sunday at Five Ashes** - at 2.30pm there will be a brief Service of Remembrance at the Five Ashes Memorial.

**The Mayfield and Five Ashes Branch website** holds much information about our branch and activities.

<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/mayfield>

Kevin Swaine 872197 / 07970 787465

[kevinswaine@btinternet.com](mailto:kevinswaine@btinternet.com)

## MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### November Zoom talk

This month we revert to our winter Zoom talks and on **Tuesday 19th November at 7.30 pm**, writer and author Sally Morgan is going to talk us through **Creating and Maintaining a Healthy Vegetable**

**Garden.** Now is the time over winter to prepare your vegetable patch or allotment for the season ahead next year so get a head start and tune in!

Sally is an experienced no-dig gardener and wildlife enthusiast with a degree in botany. She has written 3 books: The Healthy Vegetable Garden, Living on 1 Acre or Less, and Climate Change Garden. All members will automatically receive a link to the talk a few days before. Non-members are also welcome: please contact me on the email below for instructions on how to pay a £5 entry fee.

### Date for your diary:

Saturday 1st February- Seedy Saturday Seed Swap and Social, Scout Hall

**Tessa Crowe**

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

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

## LAKEDOWN BREWERY, FISHERY AND TAPROOM

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – George Egg: Set Menu

This award-winning, multi-sell-out, international-touring performer presents a delightful evening of cooking-with-laughs comprising the best bits from his previous acclaimed shows, plus a few new surprises. TICKET ONLY EVENT – book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/george-egg-set-menu-tickets-1007368475227>

If you haven't been to Lakedown before, you should. Swife Lane TN21 8UX

## WATERYARD IS LOOKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Wateryard Group is a charity that was started in 2008 by a group of dedicated people in the local community to bring live theatre to our countryside. Wateryard has a democratic and open commitment to stage thought-provoking plays in venues in

## The Wateryard Group

*Bringing live theatre to the countryside*



Mayfield, such as St. Dunstan's Church, Mayfield Girls School, our village halls and the streets of our community. Its aim is to act as a steering committee to bring productions to fruition. The ethos of the Group is to involve professionals and amateurs and to encourage the community to get involved to share their enthusiasm and expertise.

Wateryard focuses on a wide spectrum of dramatic activity, from classic plays such as *The Seagull* (Chekhov), *Jane Eyre* (Bronte) and *Female Transport* (Steve Gooch), drama education for children in our primary schools and through holiday workshops, to much acclaimed community street productions such as *When the Devil Comes Calling* (2018), *Shakespeare Sonnet Saunter* (2022) and *Mayfield Passion Play* (2024).

The Wateryard Group is supported by the generosity of many local people, both in time, expertise and donations. Our patrons are Dr. Lisbet Rausing, Kirrie Wratten and Kathryn Pogson.

We are always looking for new members and for interested parties to join our committee to assist the whole creative process of facilitating drama-related activity in our community.

To find out more please email Charles Marshall, our treasurer:

[c.h.marshall@btinternet.com](mailto:c.h.marshall@btinternet.com)

## MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

(Full programme can be found on the society website at <http://www.mayfieldlhs.org.uk>)

## Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November - Talk & Dutch Supper - "Folk Songs from Sussex"

It is fair to say that of all the counties in England, it is Sussex that appears to have drawn the greatest attention from folk song collectors over a period of some 130 years.

Anyone can play a part in keeping our English traditional musical heritage alive, and learning a couple of songs is a good place to start. There is no right way to sing them but listening to the precious recordings available to us of the old country singers is certainly the place to start. After all, it was their music, handed down, often orally, through the generations with little or no outside influence. Their approach to the songs was every bit as natural as their Sussex accents. Today, traditional songs and music can be heard regularly in Sussex with folk clubs or smaller sessions at established venues in many towns including Lewes, Brighton, Eastbourne, Arundel, Horsham, Worthing and Chichester.

To hear a selection of songs, visit

[www.sussexlife.co.uk](http://www.sussexlife.co.uk) or

[www.hatmusic.co.uk](http://www.hatmusic.co.uk)

**Brian O'Connor**, Chairman 873477 **Gill Marengi**, Secretary, **John Buddle**, Treasurer 872229

## MAYFIELD BAND...BRASS IS BACK

The bandroom was rocking last Friday, as we held a joint rehearsal with our old friends from Lingfield Silver Band. Why was this, you may ask? Well, it's all very exciting really. Historically, we have a close relationship with Lingfield, and as both bands are relatively small at the moment, we can create a proper big brass band sound by joining forces. And we are doing all this just for you, as we are putting on a concert here in Mayfield at **St. Dunstan's**



# BRASS IS BACK

FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 7.45

ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, MAYFIELD.



## Church on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at

**7.45pm.** We have put together a great programme, with a mixture of contemporary, film, and original brass band music. The joy of a brass band concert is that you will hear arrangements that you will not hear anywhere else, and great compositions that only see the light of day on occasions such as this, by composers with ridiculous names like Handel Lancaster, whose parents presumably had a different genre in mind when he was christened. Anyway, there will be something for everyone, including music that you will feel compelled to sing along to, and certainly tap your feet to, in which case just go along with your urges. This is after all a brass band concert, and it is our intention that you should enjoy it. And as if the music isn't going to be enjoyable enough, there will be a licensed bar. Tickets are £7 each, free for U18s accompanied by a ticket holder, and they can be obtained online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfieldband](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mayfieldband) or through our website [www.mayfieldband.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldband.co.uk), or from "Sew Inspired" in the High Street.

We will also be out and about carolling throughout December and will confirm dates in the next Newsletter.

## Youth Band

Our Christmas repertoire is coming together, including all your favourite carols, so that we will be ready to perform at the Big Switch On event on November 29<sup>th</sup> in the High Street. You are very welcome to come and sing along with us, and why would you not want to, when the hearty singing of carols with a brass band on a winter's night has to be one of the best things ever and will definitely get you primed for the festive season.

Whilst "The gift of music" is something of a cliché, it has never been a better gift than it is today when our addiction to screens threatens to take away all the simpler pleasures in life. Not that music is simple, but it is a whole lot easier when started at an early age. So, whilst you are all in gifting mode, let me just remind you that the best gift you can ever give your



Mayfield Band at 'Know your Parish'

children, is to hold their hand, walk them into the bandroom, and start them off on a journey with yet another cliché, "The gift that keeps on giving". Oh, and a final cliché for you, "The best things in life are free". Well £30 a year, which is pretty much free.

**Simon Rudge, tel. 872007**

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

## MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY

Heavy overnight rain made the 27 players signed up for our day at Westerham golf club fear the worst.

However, an early morning call to the club confirmed the course was playable and open. The only question was whether shorts were in order. Several people chose that option and were vindicated by the sunshine that soon made an appearance. Very pleasant post golf drinks on the beautiful outside terrace at the club rounded off a good day.

The 27 players included 2 guests, one of whom (Peter Alfieri) made a quick impression with a table topping 39 points in the individual competition. However, as usual, our handicap secretary (Micky Mann) used the rules to his advantage pointing out that guests and first time players cannot win. Micky duly claimed first place with 38 points. Second was Stuart Bourne also on 38 points. But another arcane piece of handicapping meant that Micky prevailed because his inside leg measurement was longer than Stuart's (or something similar).

In the team competition (where the best 2 scores from 3 players counted), the winning score of 87 points was unsurprisingly made by the team of Micky Mann, Peter Alfieri and Chris Buck, 5 points clear of the team in second.

Our next event is at Seaford Head golf course on Friday 15th November. For details see [Mayfieldgolfsociety.com](http://Mayfieldgolfsociety.com).

**Mark Hughes**

## "A FEAST FOR ST. CECILIA"



On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in St. Dunstan's, Mayfield Festival Choir, directed by Jeremy Summerly, with Mayfield Baroque Orchestra and soloists from the Royal College of Music, will be performing Handel's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day* and Lotti's *Missa Sancti Christophori*.

Jeremy writes "The combination of Dryden's poetry and Handel's music is a winning one. Handel's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day* delighted audiences at its première in 1739, showcasing, as it does, soprano and tenor soloists, and a virtuosic orchestra. Mayfield Baroque returns to St. Dunstan's, as do the glittering young singers Sofia Kirwan-Baez and Francis Melville. Dryden's text cites trumpet, flute, organ, and violins, and Handel responds with a dazzling composition in praise of the Patron Saint of music. Never mind that Cecilia's martyrdom in a steam room has been wrongly appropriated (steam is fed through pipes and organs have pipes): music needs a patron saint, and since the medieval period that role has fallen to St. Cecilia.

This concert pairs Handel's Cecilian Ode with a Mass setting by the Venetian Baroque composer Antonio Lotti. The St.

*Christopher Mass* has become famous because of its outstanding 'Crucifixus' section at its centre. The instruments drop out and the choir branches out into eight parts to sing one of the most sublime few minutes of choral music from any era. This performance places Lotti's Crucifixus within the whole Mass setting – a rare event. Join us for this unmissable musical feast on the Sunday before St Cecilia's Day."

Tickets cost £30 (centre), £15 (south side), £8 (north side). Free for 25s, and are available: online at <https://www.mayfieldfestivalchoir.org/concerts/>; in person from Sew Inspired, Mayfield and Lambert & Foster, Wadhurst; by phone from 0333 666 3366 (This is a general booking line operated for us by TicketSource.) Please be sure to say that you are booking tickets for Mayfield Festival Choir – A Feast for St. Cecilia. A postage fee of £1.80 will be applied to each order.)

Would you like to sing with us? We would love to hear from anyone who has experience of choral music and is keen to be part of a friendly but ambitious choir. Contact the membership secretary through the website <http://www.mayfieldfestivalchoir.org/join-the-choir>

**Jane Bolger**

### **BAD WEDNESDAY – MELFORD HOUSE – OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup>**

"Bad Wednesday" is the title of a fictional play commissioned by Theatre Director and local resident, Martin Parr based on the real-life events of perhaps Mayfield's most famous one-time resident, Pamela Lindon or, as she is better known, PL Travers, writer of the famous book "Mary Poppins". Martin commissioned playwright, Nick Harrison, to write it in 2024 shortly after relocating to the area and discovering more about Travers's fascinating backstory. "Bad Wednesday" was performed in the warmly intimate studio-theatre of Richard Field and his partner's Melford House in Fir Toll Road.

Seating about thirty-five people with a beautiful set design by Robertson Ay replicating the intimacy of her 1958 drawing room, the play opens with PL Travers, played superbly by Joanna Bending engaged, in a spikey monologue on the telephone arranging her social affairs whilst preparing for a dinner party that evening.

We do not get to see the dinner party due to the unexpected arrival of a young man, going by the name of Anthony Hone, purportedly to measure and fit curtains to her drawing room. Hone, played (again, superbly) by 24, year old Gabriel Lumsden making his professional debut has a wit as sharp as one of his needles, supposing of





course, he has any, and he and PL Travers are quickly embroiled in mores spiky repartee. He clearly knows an uncomfortable amount about PL Travers & her lifestyle.

Then enters her louche and bored son, Camillus Travers, played again (yes, superbly!) by Ryan Heenan. He takes to Hone immediately and joins the verbal combat on his side, demanding that he stays for dinner, too.

The plot weaves and twists with power shifts and conflicts between all three characters and involving a constantly changing but unpredictable balance of power. It is a truly absorbing piece of

theatre but I am reluctant to reveal too much of the plot.

I am sure Bad Wednesday will be performed elsewhere; it would suit an intimate venue at a large theatre, say the Littleton at the National Theatre. If it does, I would highly recommend any theatre lover, Mayfield resident or Mary Poppins fan to discover its delights for yourself. It really was superb or, without making light of it, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

**Jonathan White**

## YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

### MAYFIELD CLIMATE ACTION - FINDING A NEW PILOT FOR A NEW STRATEGY

Mayfield Climate Action CIC is a community-generated initiative which came into being two years ago. Since then, it has recruited nearly 100 members to its Community Forum and mounted a range of initiatives including:

- a travel document setting out ways to reduce our carbon footprint through better choices
- two climate competitions for local schools
- the first steps towards becoming an International Dark Sky Community
- meetings on everything from Mayfield's carbon footprint and Wealden's Climate Change Strategy to doughnut economics
- open energy homes in conjunction with NGS Open Gardens
- engagement about future-proofing energy arrangements for the village hall.

In the light of this experience, the Steering Committee has conducted a review of MCA's strategy and elected to adopt a tighter focus on engagement with the local community in taking steps, large and small, both to reduce Mayfield's environmental footprint and to build relationships with other like-minded communities and organisations over time. Climate change is a massive, systemic issue but, as John Le Carre said: "The fact that you can only do a little is no excuse for doing nothing".

The adoption of the revised strategy is an opportune moment to bring in fresh blood to take the project forward from the start of 2025. This is a great opportunity for someone to put their stamp on a young organisation at a key time. For more information, do drop me an email via [mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldclimateaction@gmail.com) or give me a call on 07764 230117.

**John Murray**

# NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

## FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After holding our Annual General Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October, our Society's year is completed. The AGM was successful and well-attended. It was followed by a talk by John Pedder on Pigs, Poultry and Potatoes, all about those things, individually and collectively and their history and development. Prior to the AGM, we held our Village Pumpkin Competition weigh-in at The Five Ashes Inn, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and it also was also well-attended. There were ten pumpkins to be weighed with the following results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Peate with a pumpkin weighing 44.2kg
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nick Noble with a pumpkin weighing 23.6kg
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bryn Gorringer with a pumpkin weighing 23.5kg

The following day we held our Schoolchildren's Pumpkin Competition weigh-in at Five Ashes School, where there were also ten pumpkins with the following results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Archie Gorringer with a pumpkin weighing 23.5kg
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ava Gorringer with a pumpkin weighing 19.2kg

3<sup>rd</sup> Will Vincent-Smith with a pumpkin weighing 18.6kg  
Well done everyone in the difficult growing conditions this year.  
We know look forward to our 2025 Horticultural Society year.

**Graham Playfoot 01825 830511**



Theo helping with the weigh-in



Nick Noble's pumpkin, with Baxter left, and some of the entries, right

## OPEN MORNING AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL

Attendees from across the County descended on Five Ashes Village Hall on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October to view the various Energy-saving devices installed within the building. This was very much an eco-event, to raise awareness of the features which were available to both homeowners and larger organisations, of whom there were six representatives from different village halls within the County, who were attending with a view to using Five Ashes as a benchmark for what they may be able to achieve in their own buildings.

The Chair of Wealden District Council, Councillor, Jessica Hulbert opened the event. Councillors from Heathfield and Crowborough were also in attendance and attendees took the opportunity to network with them to update themselves on current policy, and exchange ideas with fellow likeminded members assembled.

A short presentation about the various features, which were installed in the building and the reason why these items were chosen, followed the introductory remarks from Councillor Hulbert.

The presentation began with a look back in time at the general state of the building as it was in 2007 and the shortcomings which were identified. The ongoing developments over the next 15 years or so to date, were recognised and their contribution towards energy saving and cost reduction was highlighted. As an all electrically dependent building, the increase in the cost of bought-in power in recent times had become a central issue for discussion. A best guess of the likely extra cost in a full year, with a new electricity contract in place for electricity supply, was £1800. With the margins on hire costs already minimal, an easy fix would be to simply increase the hire charges to pay for the increase in cost of electricity. This course of action would clearly see some of our regular users having to close their activity, due to financial constraints. As a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status, the Hall is not run to make large surpluses but to ensure it covers its costs with a residue for further development and unforeseen events. As one of the few public buildings within the village available for social gatherings, it is very important to make it available to all those who can benefit from it.

Alternative arrangements were discussed to ameliorate the increasing costs in running the building. The obvious solution was to generate as much power as possible, store it for later use or for immediate consumption, with any excess being exported for income generation purposes.

The £16,000 package, partly grant-funded, which was approved by the committee, would meet all the above criteria. Based on "today's rate" figures, it will pay for itself within six years. More importantly, it should generate an income of circa £2500 annually, thus offsetting the increase in cost of bought-in electrical supplies. Time will tell, as it is still early days for reliable data to be scrutinised.

Clearly, the presentation stimulated a lot of thought within the minds of those present. After quite a lengthy generic question time, the assembled dispersed to the various areas of the building to view the various installations. The opportunity for individual discussion about specific requirements continued with the technical experts, whilst other individuals enjoyed comparing notes with their colleagues over tea and biscuits, before availing themselves the opportunity for one-to-one discussion on the economics and logistics of heat pump technology and solar installations.

To view the presentation, visit the Hall website [Fiveashesvillagehall.wixsite.com](http://Fiveashesvillagehall.wixsite.com) . It can be found under Booking forms and documents.

**Geoff Gregory**

**MEDIEVAL FIVE ASHES SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - 7.00PM FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL - Free event, with donations to Five Ashes Village Hall. Doors open: 6.30 pm.**

Tim Cornish will give a talk, using recent research, about this dispersed woodland settlement, a remote place in the Archbishop of Canterbury's huge South Malling estate, which stretched from Lewes Bridge to Lamberhurst Bridge. If the Archbishop used a postal address, it might have been Yardhurst, "Within the Wood", Mayfield parish, South Malling. The name "Five Ashes" first appeared in 1498. Before this, the central area was tenanted by the Yardhurst family, headed in 1285 by Bellafilia, a widow with two sons. Did she live up to her parents' expectations of her name? They held 200 acres of serf land; since the Norman conquest the land all belonged to the archbishop who leased land to his serfs and a growing number of freemen.

The area has always been dominated by its main road, which at this time was a major route from Tonbridge to Cross-in-Hand and beyond, particularly to Lewes. The route probably used Pages Farm bridleway from Argos Hill, down Fir Toll Road to Butcher's Cross, then Criers Lane, and Brick Kiln Lane and on to Uckfield, where it picked up the Roman road to Lewes.

"Yardhurst" described a clearing for animals in the forest that covered the area ("hurst" means "wood"). The other distinctive local reference to the clearings is the suffix "... reed" as in Broadreed, Woodreed and Stilereed. Dudsland used to have Pikereed and Istedreed. (Middle English: "ridde", to grub up trees.) The forest had to be cleared before arable crops were possible on their smallholdings. The firewood produced was transported to Lewes by ox cart, to keep the archbishop warm. Peasants returned with barley for bread and small beer (or ale), to supplement the diet of oat gruel, eggs, fruit and vegetables and foraged nuts, berries and fungi. Meat was a luxury. Honey had to be handed over to their Lord, as did sparrow-hawk chicks. One of the first local amenities was the baker's oven, not a usual domestic feature. "Bakehouse ward" was the name of the area around Newick Lane.

Hard labour in a subsistence economy was the order of the day. If the wind was in the right direction, residents could hear the bells of Mayfield St. Dunstan's calling them to the relief of worship or the entertainment of festivals and feast days. They trudged through the deep clay in all weathers, hoping to arrive on time. A walk down the modern footpath east of Allen's Farm gives some idea of the difficulty of travel. Indeed, there was a road there going to Piccadilly Lane. Some romantic names survive: Sunset Farm, Hanging Birch Cottages near New Pin Farm in the centre, whilst Harlots Farm, Frog's Hole Lane and Jackass Wood sound less appealing. The Five Ashes landscape of small fields, deep ghylls and clogging clay made for a hard life. Salvation was an attractive prospect.

Tim's book "Medieval Mayfield: Archbishops and Peasants" will be on sale. See [www.mayfieldtimshistory.org](http://www.mayfieldtimshistory.org)



# WADHURST WINDOW

## WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Our October meeting saw us "Chasing Rainbows" with demonstrator Susan Shaw. All her arrangements had a rainbow theme and a story behind each one and the flowers she used included every colour of the rainbow. As always, these lovely flowers were then taken home by lucky raffle winners.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at Stonegate Village Hall at 1.45 pm. Do come and join Mig Kimpton in "Floral Pantoland". Expect an afternoon of stories and fun with flowers at one of his unmissable floral shows followed by tea and delicious homemade cakes. (Visitors welcome - £10).

Tickets are now available for the Christmas Lunch and demonstration on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. After lunch we can enjoy NAFAS National Demonstrator Nick Grounds with his demonstration entitled "The Appletree".

For more information, please contact **Sonia 01892 785671** or **Debbie 882851**. New members are always welcome. We look forward to hearing from you.

## WADHURST BOWLS CLUB

If there can be any doubt about the effects of global warming, then this summer has to be proof enough – 'wet and windy' would sum it up nicely! We had several matches initially postponed and then cancelled due to a waterlogged green, and we ran out of time (and dry days) to reschedule them. The poor access to the Club cancelled other games, when it became impossible to access the car park over the mud.

However, did we enjoy our bowls? – Of course we did and another successful year it turned out to be winning the Horam Triples League and coming second in the Tunbridge Wells Triples League. Wadhurst won the County Mixed Fours competition and Ronny Rossberg won the County Unbadged Singles title, and gained his County Cap.

At a time when many clubs are struggling with falling membership, we had 24 new members at the start of the season and with, several new sponsors coming on-board, the outlook for the Club looks very bright.

Peter Burns, our greenkeeper, 'retired' from his duties last month and as a club, we need to thank him for the time and effort that he has put into maintaining the green in such superb condition over the last six years. Wadhurst Bowls Club has an enviable reputation for the quality of its playing surface, but this does not come about without a lot of hard work. Thank you Peter!

Many of us will continue bowling over the winter in the dry (and warmth) of The Royals or Wealden Indoor Bowls centres so we will still get our 'fix' of bowls. We have our end of season Lunch and Presentation at the end of November and, a 'first' in January, a social Bingo Evening – eyes down for a full house!

Wadhurst Bowls - steeped in tradition not stuck in the past.

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

Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

# MAYFACS

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

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

**Bank Details:** (for donations, payments of  
trips and activities) Mayfield & Five Ashes  
Community Services (MAYFACS)

Account No 00029924 Sort Code 40-52-40

## November News

**Little Munchkins Baby and Toddler  
Group** - Join us every Wednesday (term  
time) from 9am – 11am for just £3 per  
family. All carers, grandparents and parents  
are very welcome. We are looking for  
**volunteer support** to help run this  
fantastic group. If you are interested in  
helping, even if occasionally, please let us  
know. You do not need to have a child  
attending the group to help but you re  
also welcome to still help run the groups  
with a child joining in too.

**Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance –  
Next session Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
10.30am – 12pm** - East Sussex Hearing  
are hosting monthly Hearing Aid  
Maintenance at MAYFACS office.

**Friday Matinee Film programme** -  
continues with our programme of 11  
carefully chosen films, every fortnight at  
Five Ashes Village Hall. Come in and get

your copy of the programme so you can  
plan your Fridays carefully. Transport will  
be available from Mayfield. £6 per  
person for Film admission, £3 for  
return transport. Collection from  
Memorial Hall (1.10pm) and St  
Thomas of Canterbury (1.20pm).  
No need to book.

## November Films:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November: Poms

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: Casablanca

We now have specific areas focusing on  
**Youth Support and Dementia Support**  
available to everyone within our  
community and the surrounds. This is in  
addition to signposting for financial and  
other support. Please do visit our website  
if you need any advice or help or come  
into the office and chat with the team.

We have a huge selection of **jigsaws**  
available from our office to borrow  
anytime, plus the back catalogue of **DVDs**  
from past Matinee Films. Let us provide  
the entertainment for a cosy afternoon.

**MAYFACS Create @ The Shed. Youth  
Sessions. Next Session Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
November** 10am – 12.30pm for any young  
people (secondary school age suggested)  
interested in getting involved in exploring  
new skills, being creative and hanging out  
with like-minded people. Exploring  
different forms of creative genres including  
art, music and tech, sessions take place  
every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month. Booking is  
essential for each session with limited  
spaces available. Email us on  
[create@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:create@mayfacs.org.uk) to secure your  
place. Suggested donations (£5) cover  
basic materials and are kept to a minimum  
with funding support MAYFACS receive  
(and will vary depending on the activity



# 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](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk) or contact us on 01435 873888.

organised). If you would like to attend but need further financial support, please get in touch to discuss.

**MAYFACS Community Shed** holds 3 sessions every week for anyone to come along and join in. With inside and new external workshop spaces available across all sessions every week, as well as the community garden, bee keeping and the orchard, there is plenty to get involved in whenever you are available. New Shedders always welcome. Throughout November, we are holding Open Mornings at the Shed for anyone interested. Please come down between 9.30-12.30pm on any Thursday during the month. For more information, visit our website [www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed) or email [theshed@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:theshed@mayfacs.org.uk)

**Next Repair Café - MAYFACS Shed**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November between 10am – 1pm** (last repairs accepted 12.15pm)

Find out more, join us for some tea and cakes (you do not need to bring a repair to attend) and find out more about our MAYFACS Shed and MAYFACS community.

### MONTHLY TRIPS

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November** - Annual Shopping trip to Bluewater  
£10 (This is currently full, however we will start a waiting list - if you are interested, please let us know.)

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Bowling trip £17

Visit our website [www.mayfacs.org.uk](http://www.mayfacs.org.uk) for updates of weekly activities or contact us at the MAYFACS Office. You can also join our monthly eNewsletter mailing list to get full details on everything that we do to support our community by contacting [clare@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:clare@mayfacs.org.uk)

## "KNOW YOUR PARISH", 28TH SEPTEMBER 2024





## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Local PCSOs Greck and Brashill attended the Community Safety and Traffic Committee meeting in October. The tragic road traffic collision on the A267 was discussed as was the Carnival. It was lovely to see so many young families enjoying the event and thankfully there was no repeat of last year's incidents. Thanks go to the Bonfire Society for arranging the fantastic celebration which, with the support of additional security and Sussex Police, was a resounding success.



**Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*)** - Concern has been raised at the Rights of Way and Trees Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee on the number of trees in the Parish with ash die-back.

**What is Ash Dieback?** - Ash dieback, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (also known as *Chalara fraxinea*), is the most significant tree disease to affect the UK since Dutch Elm Disease which was first recognised in the 1960s. It will lead to the decline and death of the majority of ash trees in Britain and has the potential to infect more than two billion ash trees (over 1.8 billion saplings and seedlings to more than 150 million mature trees) across the country. It is an airborne fungus that enters the tree via the leaves and occasionally the stem in young trees. During the summer these will turn black and fall to the ground. The tree then shuts down its water carrying vessels to stop the fungus spreading through the

tree. This causes the dieback of young and eventually all branches.

**If You Own An Ash Tree** - you should be aware of the responsibility you have to ensure it does not become a risk to people or property. Ash trees can decline rapidly once infected and become brittle and weak at the roots. If your ash trees are within falling distance of the public highway (which includes footpaths and bridleways) and shows signs of infection, you may be served with a notice to fell the trees by East Sussex County Council Highways. If you are unsure whether your tree(s) are infected, you can ask a reputable tree surgeon or look at the Tree Council website and search for ash dieback: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/>

**Have Your Say On Possible Service Changes** - East Sussex County Council has begun public consultation on proposals to reduce and reconfigure some of their social care services for adults. It faces a funding gap of up to £55 million next year as the demand for our services, and the cost of providing them, rise steeply. There are 11 consultations including day services, community support, employment training for people with learning disabilities, supported accommodation, housing support services and drug and alcohol recovery. They would like residents to tell them how you or our community would be affected by these changes so they can understand the full impact if they went ahead. No decisions have been made yet, but they need to prepare for possible savings in next year's budget. <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/adult-social-care/funding-gap-asch>

## **Be Deer Aware**

There is a lot of beautiful countryside in East Sussex, providing home to deer. Although it is exciting to spot them in the wild, they are a potentially serious hazard on the road. Road traffic accidents involving deer present a major problem in this country with up to 74,000 deer killed in collisions every year. During October and November there are usually more sightings due to the mating season when they will usually be seen on country roads between sunset and sunrise.

If a deer crosses in front of you, it is likely that another will follow. Slow right down or stop and wait if it is safe to do so. Deer are unpredictable so drive with caution at a speed that is appropriate for the conditions and environment. That way, if you do hit a deer, you are more likely to walk away unharmed.

## **Lookout For Warning Signs**

Along our roads there are warning signs placed exactly where deer are known to cross. If you see one, slow down, stay alert and be prepared to stop. Use full-beam headlights when there are no oncoming vehicles. This will illuminate the eyes of deer and give you more reaction time. If, however, you do see deer ahead, dip your headlights to avoid startling them.

## **If You Do Hit A Deer**

Park your car in a safe place with the hazard lights on. This will serve as a warning to alert other road users. If anyone is seriously injured or the deer is blocking the road, call 999. If the deer is injured, at the side of the road and not causing danger to others, call the police on 101. They will arrange for the deer to be looked at. It is best not to approach injured deer as it could cause further distress or cause it to run back into the road. An injured deer will not benefit from efforts to sit with it or keep it warm.

## **Wealden Community Grants Programme**

Organisations and community groups are being invited to apply for grants, which have been made available through Wealden District Council's budget and supports the priorities within the new Wealden District Council Strategy.

The Council is asking not-for-profit organisations, such as charities, community and voluntary groups, community interest companies and more to apply. Organisations will need 50% match funding, which can include in-kind and/or cash match funding. The deadline for applications is 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024. For more information visit:

<https://www.wealden.gov.uk/community-and-safety/information-on-grant-funding/community-grants-programme/>

## **Environmental Framework For Events and Licensed Businesses**

Wealden Council has also launched a consultation on our Environmental Framework for Events and Licensed Businesses. This concerns protecting and enhancing the natural environment, reducing emissions, and improving the quality of life for residents and is open until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The aim of the Framework is not to add regulation and stop certain events, if adopted it would act as Supplementary Guidance for applicants and licence holders on how they can operate in a more climate friendly way.

<https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk/environmental-framework-for-events-and-licensed-business>

**South East Water's Water Main Project Between Bewl Water Treatment Works And Rotherfield** - South East Water is halfway through this project, with almost

seven kilometres of pipeline installed across the project area. They have been working with East Sussex Highways to finalise dates for work on the B2100 (Wadhurst Road and Best Beech Hill) to keep disruption to a minimum. Road closure dates for October are as follows:

Best Beech Hill: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025; Tidebrook Road (at the junction with Best Beech Hill): Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

The B2100 work will be carried out under a rolling road closure within the dates specified. They will start on Best Beech Hill at the junction with Tidebrook Road and Best Beech Lane.

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

### PENSION CREDIT

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. It can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges. It is separate from your State Pension. You can get Pension Credit even if you have other income, savings or own your own home.

Pension Credit is worth, on average, £3,900 a year.

You might get extra help if you are a carer, severely disabled, or responsible for a child or young person. You can use the

Pension Credit calculator to find out if you're eligible for Pension Credit and how much you could get: [www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator)

If you get Pension Credit you can also get other help, such as: the Winter Fuel Payment; help with heating costs; Housing Benefit if you rent the property you live in; support for Mortgage Interest if you own the property you live in; Council Tax discount; a free TV Licence if you're aged 75 or over; help with NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments, if you get a certain type of Pension Credit

When you apply for Pension Credit your income is calculated. If you have a partner, your income is calculated together.

**Pension Credit tops up:** Your weekly income to £218.15 if you're single or joint weekly income to £332.95 if you have a partner. If your income is higher, you might still be eligible for Pension Credit if you have a disability, you care for someone, you have savings or you have housing costs.

You can apply for Pension Credit online: [gov.uk/pension-credit](http://gov.uk/pension-credit). You can also call the Pension Credit claim line on **0800 99 1234**

You'll need the following information about you and your partner if you have one: National Insurance number; information about any income, savings and investments you have; information about your income, savings and investments on the date you want to backdate your application to (usually 3 months ago or the date you reached State Pension age if this is sooner); You'll also need your bank account details. Depending on how you apply, you may also be asked for your bank or building society name, sort code and account number.

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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	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



## NOVEMBER

Saturday	2	Poppy Appeal Collection	Mayfield War Memorial - Morning
Monday	4	Santa's Grotto Tickets Available	Blackbird - High Street
Monday	4	"Why Dark Skies Matter"	Mayfield Girls School 7pm
Thursday	7	Wadhurst Flower Club	Stonegate Village Hall 1.45pm
Friday	8	Mayfield Band Concert	St. Dunstan's Church 7.45pm
Friday	8	Film On Friday	Five Ashes Village Hall 7.45pm
Saturday	9	Poppy Appeal Collection	Mayfield War Memorial - Morning
Saturday	9	Fireworks Display	Court Meadow 5pm-7pm
Saturday	9	Medieval Five Ashes - Tim Cornish	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.30pm
Sunday	10	Remembrance Sunday	Mayfield War Memorial 10.45am
Sunday	10	Remembrance Sunday	Five Ashes War Memorial 2.30pm
Monday	11	Pre-School AGM	TBC
Tuesday	12	Mayfield Evening W.I. - Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis.	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Friday	15	Mayfield Golfing Society	Seaford Head Golf Course
Tuesday	19	Mayfield Festival Choir - A Feast for St. Cecilia	St. Dunstan's Church 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Mayfield Horticultural Society - Creating A Healthy Vegetable Garden	Zoom 7.30pm
Thursday	21	U3A Monthly Talk	Five Ashes Village Hall 2.30pm
Friday	22	Mayfield Girls School Fashion Show	Wellbeing Centre 7.30pm
Friday	22	Film On Friday	Five Ashes Hall 7.45pm
Monday	25	Navigating The Teen Social Scene	Mayfield Girls School 7pm
Wednesday	27	RBL Soup & Social	Mayfield Cricket Club Noon
Wednesday	27	Mayfield Local History Society - Talk & Dutch Supper	Scout Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	28	George Egg - Set Menu	Lakedown Brewery
Friday	29	Christmas Lights Big Switch-On & Late Night Shopping	Mayfield High Street 6pm onwards



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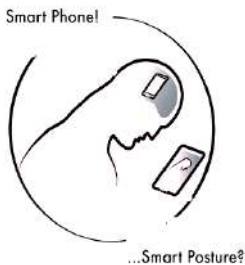
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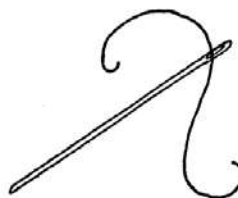
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