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No. 573 OCTOBER 2025

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER



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Front Cover: Mayfield Carnival by Monica Wells Photography. Thank you to all the organisations for their photographs. Please do send your images to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com

WELCOME FROM THE EDITORS



Welcome to the October edition of the Newsletter . So much happening in our Parish: the Bonfire Procession and Carnival; a visit from the Barbican Sinfonia; a new Head at Skippers; wonderful art from local artists, an interview with Vicky Streeter of 'Four Winds' and we are featuring Lakedown Taproom. Much to enjoy this autumn. We are fortunate to have so many prepared to make things



happen in our community. And with Christmas not that far over the horizon, local Christmas cards go on sale (more information on back page) and how about gifting an annual subscription of our Newsletter to your nearest and dearest? Even if they are in Australia, our electronic edition will reach them! Find out more at: <https://www.mayfieldandfiveashesnewsletter.com>.

Jeanette Hore & Philip James

DEADLINES AND HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

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

FOR ANNUAL £25 SUBSCRIPTIONS: You can sign up as a new subscriber or renew your subscription with a few simple clicks: <https://www.mayfieldandfiveashesnewsletter.com> or you can pay by cheque sent to Graham Soar, Owl Lodge, Tubwell Lane, Crowborough, TN6 3RJ – please remember to include your name and address.

PLEASE NOTE - ALL LOCAL NUMBERS ARE NOTED THROUGHOUT THE NEWSLETTER WITHOUT THE 01435 PREFIX

USEFUL INFORMATION

POST OFFICE - Now open from 9am to 5.30pm weekdays (excluding public holidays) and from 9.30am to 3pm on Saturdays. **LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS:** **Five Ashes Village Hall;** **Five Ashes Primary School** - accessible from the pavement; **Woodhill Surgery** - in the entrance porch; **Mayfield Primary School** - on the wall by steps to main entrance; **Telephone Kiosk outside the Rose & Crown**, Fletching Street; **Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club**. Defibrillators are housed in weatherproof boxes and are accessible 24/7. Full audio prompts guide you through as soon as you open the lid.

FEATURES



LAKEDOWN TAPROOM

Just a few miles outside Mayfield, in Swife Lane, you will find your local brewery; Lakedown. Some of you are already familiar with Lakedown Taproom, sitting lakeside and a firm favourite for locals, and those further afield, looking for a lovely place to enjoy a drink, grab a bite, regular entertainment and even a celeb spot (if you know, you know).

Since being established in 2020 Lakedown Brewery has led the way in modern craft brewing in the county. Starting off locally supplying The Rose and Crown and The Middle House, Lakedown also now supplies over 500 venues across the southeast, latterly including London.

Lakedown prides itself on using the finest ingredients to brew their beer, starting with Sussex spring water and locally grown hops. In fact, every autumn

the brewers pop over to the neighbouring hop garden to pick up fresh hops for their green hop ale (this is a seasonal special which can only be brewed at harvest time). This year harvest came early so it is already under way, using exclusively Phoenix hops. Phoenix Green Hop IPA will be ready soon – look out for it!

Recently Lakedown have received recognition from the World Alcohol Free Awards for their Sound Juicy Pale Ale, which has gained a huge following in a very short space of time.

As well as making great beer, the team are keen to reduce their impact on the environment by using solar power and feeding spent grain to the cattle that roam the farm. As a modern brewery, you will also find that most of their beers are gluten-free and vegan. Find out more, order online or book a brewery tour at lakedownbrewing.com

The Taproom runs regular



events, with street food pop-ups at weekends and live music and entertainment to boot! Please find out what's coming up in the listings section of this Newsletter.

Thanks for all your support so far – it's been hard work and fun in equal measure!

For any queries or to book at the Taproom (though you're welcome to just drop in during opening hours)

email helen@lakedownbrewing.com

Events

There's a wide variety of events coming up at your local brewery taproom – some have limited spaces and are by ticket only (links below), others are free You can book a table or just drop in. For information visit www.lakedownbrewing.com

or email helen@lakedownbrewing.com

Wednesday 1st October 7pm LUKE WRIGHT Fun + filthy poems from someone who knows what they're doing. Performance (Comedy/Poetry)

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/luke-wrights-pub-grub-tickets-1372531200769>

Thursday 2nd October 7pm MIKE WILTON Live music. Book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com or just turn up!

Thursday 9th October 7pm HISTORY OF HOPS with Chris Levitt

Talk – places limited – book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com

Thursday 16th October 7pm SANDY JOHNSTON SINGS Live music

Book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com or just turn up!



Thursday 23rd October 7pm EDWARD TRIPP: NO MAN IS AN IRELAND

No Man is an Ireland is a surreal, genre-bending, standup poetry show, performed by award-winning Northern Irish comedian and poet. Performance (comedy / poetry)

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/edward-tripp-no-man-is-an-ireland-tickets-1631857251969>

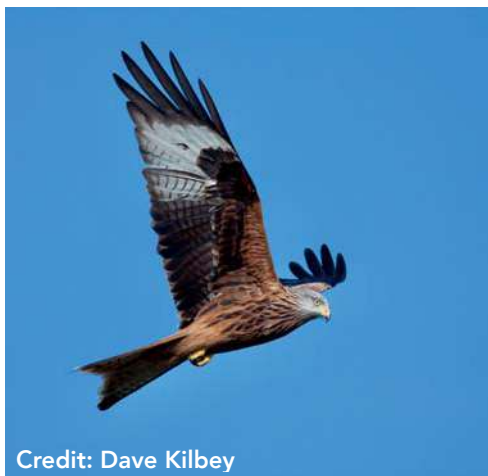
Thursday 30th October 7pm MUSIC QUIZ RETURNS! Book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com

Thursday November 6th 7pm ELVIS MCGONAGALL A return visit from stand-up poet, comedian and broadcaster, armchair revolutionary and walking shortbread tin. Performance (comedy / poetry)

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/elvis-mcgonagall-live-lakedown-tickets-1632117901579>

Thursday November 20th 7pm BINGO with Will Book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com

Thursday November 27th 7pm MUSIC QUIZ Book by email to helen@lakedownbrewing.com



Credit: Dave Kilbey

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

A Red Kite Tale

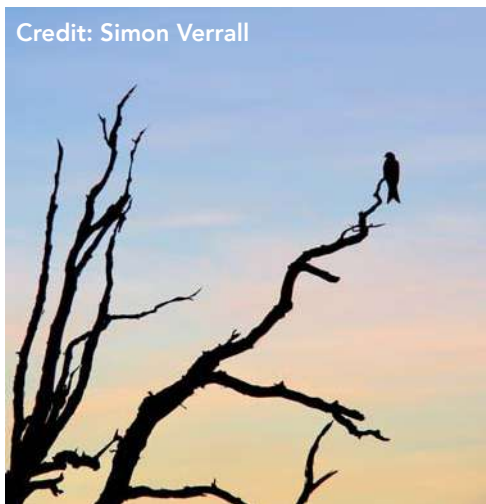
On holiday in the late 90s, my family and I made a visit to a working Mid-Wales farm. As we watched from purpose-built hides, a group of magnificent wild birds of prey started to gather in the surrounding trees, eventually descending to pick up scraps of meat from the ground, a flurry of auburn feathers and forked tails. I remember being stunned by the sheer number. I was used to spotting a lone Kestrel or Buzzard but had never seen so many birds of prey at once.

The farm is famed for their supplementary Red Kite feeding, held there daily since advised by the RSPB in 1992 to support efforts to encourage the preservation of the species. The UK Red Kite population had been decimated due to long-term persecution, driven by an incorrect belief that they threatened game birds. Red Kites will hunt small mammals, such as rabbits, but are mostly scavengers, preferring to take carrion rather than live prey. By the late 1980s numbers were drastically low, and with only a handful of breeding pairs in Wales, the species was nearly extinct in the UK.

However, change was in the air. Following a release of several birds in the Chilterns in 1990, efforts by many conservation organisations and committed individuals to support and resettle the species have made the Red Kite reintroduction one of the most successful and renowned conservation stories in the UK. The species now soars in many areas of the British Isles, which is home to an estimated 4,500 breeding pairs. Whereas during my Welsh farm visit we perhaps saw 80 birds, they now welcome up to 500.

We know that memorable interactions for children and young people with our natural world can create lasting connections, vital to the continued conservation of our precious wildlife and habitats. Even though they are now

Credit: Simon Verrall



abundant in places, I am still overjoyed to see a Red Kite perched in a bare branch or hovering over a motorway. When I do, I am often put in mind of that experience at the farm 25 years ago. I had no idea I was witnessing part of such an incredible story.

Kerry Williamson

ROUND AND ABOUT OUR PARISH

THE BARBICAN SINFONIA COMES TO MAYFIELD

Jack Gonzalez-Harding, currently working as assistant to Sir Simon Rattle at the Berlin Philharmonic and Czech Philharmonic Orchestras, returns to Mayfield in October to conduct the Barbican Sinfonia in a concert that features works by some of the compositional giants of the Classical and Romantic eras (including one of the greatest symphonies ever written).

The highlight of the concert is **Beethoven's** remarkable **Symphony Number 3** ('Eroica'). When first performed in public in 1805 it received a generally lukewarm reception because it challenged the ideas of the day

about the symphonic form. However, over the following two centuries it has become recognised as one of the truly great symphonies. Beethoven's Eroica will be preceded, during the first half of the concert, by performances of Wagner's Siegfried Idyll and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante in E Flat Major (this latter piece featuring soloists from the Royal Academy of Music).

Mozart and Beethoven conducted by Jack Gonzalez-Harding featuring the Barbican Sinfonia with soloists from the Royal Academy of Music

Sunday 12th October at 7.30pm

St. Dunstan's Church, High Street, Mayfield, TN20 6AQ

Ticket Prices: £30 (centre), £15 (side), £5 (age 25 and under)

Tickets are available:

Online: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/mayfieldfestival> (a booking fee applies)

Telephone: 0333 666 3366 (Monday to Friday 9am - 7pm; Saturday 9am - 5pm), quoting 'Mayfield Festival' (a booking fee applies)

In person: Sew Inspired, Tandridge House, High Street, Mayfield, TN20 6AL (a booking fee applies to payments made by debit card and credit card)

On the door: From 30 minutes before the start of the performance (subject to availability)



MAYFIELD COMMUNITY AND HEALTH CENTRE

The Design and Build contract with Baxall Construction to build the combined Mayfield Community and Health Centre has been terminated at the end of the 'Design' element as we are not moving forward with them to the construction phase.

A new construction company has been commissioned to review the current design and determine what changes may be necessary to reduce the project cost. However, this is at no fee to us and a new overall price is anticipated to be available on 13th October 2025.

This company has already produced some preliminary design changes which are thought likely to bring about major reductions. We, and our partner Wealden District Council (WDC), are also involved in all meetings, which are focused on the requirements alongside cost savings, and which have included experts in different fields of construction. Hence we have complete visibility regarding the way forward. This is a well-established company with many similar projects under their belt. For example, they are currently building a new sports centre in Hailsham for WDC, which is making good progress and so far positive reports have been received.

Additionally, a new firm has been appointed as employers' agent also providing quantity surveyor services, and they are already completely embedded in the current process.

Both new companies are working in a very constructive manner with a view to developing an affordable solution.

Moreover, over the last couple of months, WDC has re-affirmed their total commitment to the project and have stated that they will do whatever they reasonably can to make it happen. This, combined with our ongoing commitment to the project, means that we are all hopeful of a successful outcome. As mentioned, the key date is mid-October when hopefully we will know that we have a design that is viable.

This being the case, WDC is planning to seek the necessary approvals from their cabinet meeting in November and the PC will be doing the same at its November 2025 meeting.

Further updates when available will be made via the Newsletter, village Facebook and the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council website <https://mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk>

CROWBOROUGH OPEN STUDIOS '25

The Mayfield Hub Does It Again!

The weekend of 6th/7th September was blessed with plenty of golden sunshine and warm temperatures which may have brought more people out than normal to see the work of 15 local artists exhibiting in 7 studios in and around Mayfield as part of Crowborough Open Studios. We were all delighted to greet so many visitors, engage in such interesting conversations about art and part with a wide range of artworks. Being an artist can be a solitary occupation with many hours spent alone, sometimes having to make difficult decisions and choices and it is so uplifting to welcome visitors and hear their comments, feedback and advice. Thank you to everyone who turned out to see us and I'm sure the positivity will help us all through those slightly dark months of January and February.

Barbara Murray



Credit: Barbara Murray



Above, works by June Thomas (left) and Johnny Marsh (right), below Barbara Murray





Above works by Jacqueline Horwood(left) and hand dyed items by Woolly and Scrappy (right). Below works by Justin Todd on the left and right, Catherine Hawley



FILM ON FRIDAY - FIRST DOUBLE HEADER MONTH

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

My Favourite Cake – 10th October



Whatever you think of the politics, Iranian cinema continually surprises with its creativity. 70-year-old Mahin gossips with her friends and passes the time. After a chance meeting with taxi driver Faramarz, she decides to revive her love life and live a little, leading to an unforgettable evening. As well as a story of unlikely love at first sight, the film is quietly subversive. The two writer-directors were forbidden to leave the country and placed under house arrest. The cake of the title is vanilla crème and orange blossom. Does anyone have a recipe?

THE OUTRUN – 24th October

Based on a personal memoir by Amy Liptrot, this is a British indie production from the German director whose film *System Crasher* was the last we were able to show before lockdown. Saoirse Ronan plays Rona, whose life is in free-fall: drunk and thrown out of a pub in London, her relationship with her boyfriend breaking down, she leaves London for her childhood home in Orkney where her parents still live to try and come to terms with her addiction. But they have their own issues. The wild landscape and its fauna help Rona's recovery.



This season's leaflets are available from

The Post Office, MAYFACS, and our poster on the school railings. Our website, www.filmonfriday.org, has the trailers for all our films, as well as interviews with the directors and cast. You can email me on filmonfriday@gmail.com, or phone 873310, if you would like to know more, or just come along on one of our film nights. We are also on Facebook.

Andrew Ratcliffe Chairman

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

October Talk

Tuesday 21st October - Ed Flint, 'My Woodland Garden, a Robinsonian Dream', Colkins Mill Church, 7.30 for 8.00 pm.



One of our regular and most popular speakers for the Society, Ed has spent 25 years developing a beautiful woodland garden at the estate where he is head gardener. Get some inspiration for that shady corner in the garden as we learn about his trials and triumphs along the way. We're expecting a sell-out...

Seedy Saturday 2026 alert

A long way ahead, I know, but please put the date of 7th February 2026 in your diary! We are already planning next year's 'Warm Up the Winter' Seedy Saturday event and we'd like to know how your seed sowing went this year - how did your seeds germinate? Is there anything you'd like to see at Seedy Saturday seed swap next year? We'd love to hear about your successes - or indeed failures! It would be lovely to see any photos you might have taken of your gardens or produce this year, especially if they include plants you have grown from Seedy Saturday - send them to chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk and we'll publish a selection in a future Newsletter. September and October are perfect months to collect seed for next

year, either for your own use or for swapping at Seedy Saturday, so get those paper bags out and start snipping! Just ensure that the seeds dry well before storing in envelopes, clearly labelled.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 18th November Zoom talk, Steve Edney, 'Think beyond the flower - perennials for winter structure' 7.30 pm

Tessa Crowe,

chair@mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

www.mayfieldhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

MAYFIELD EVENING W.I.

At our September meeting we enjoyed a wine and cheese tasting evening presented by Mayfield's very own Wellbrook Wines. Our scheduled speaker cancelled at the last minute and we were so grateful to Ian for stepping in at very short notice.

It was a hugely enjoyable evening. Ian explained in a very engaging manner about the origins of his company, which is based at Wellbrook Farm in Mayfield. He brought five different wines and suggested a cheese to accompany each one. We all learnt a lot about the subtleties of taste in both the wines and the cheeses. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 14th October and will be a fish and chip supper – more food and drink!

If you would like to know more about Mayfield Evening W.I., please come along to any of our meetings. You will find that we are a very welcoming bunch and our meetings are sociable, informative, creative and lots of fun!

We meet every second Tuesday of the month (apart from August) at 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Colkins Mill Church, just at the end of the High Street. Contact **Chrissie Robinson** on 862825 for more information.

Mayfield Local History Society

Our talks start again this month, on Wednesday 29th October with Mark Glubb talking about his grandfather, Sir John Glubb (1897 – 1986). Sir John or, as some of you may have known him as Pasha Glubb, was a famous Mayfield resident who built Jordan's Arab Legion into one of the most formidable fighting forces in the Middle East. There's a stained-glass window in St. Dunstan's church celebrating his life and legacy. 2025 is also Mayfield Local History Society's 50th Anniversary so please join us for a glass of fizz. The evening will be preceded by the AGM.

Doors open at 7.15pm for tea, coffee and a biscuit or two and talks start at 8pm. A season's membership remains £15, which covers admission to all of the talks, or you can always dip in and out as a visitor at a cost of £5 per talk; why not bring a friend? We're really looking forward to welcoming everyone back and to hopefully meet some new faces!

We've got an exciting 2025/2026 season, so come along and find out more about our local history. Hope to see you there!

Jo Andrews Secretary

Honsec@MayfieldLHS.org.uk

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



Battle of Britain Day 85th Anniversary -

As I write this, on 15th September, it is Battle of Britain Day, when we remember the pivotal air campaign in the summer and autumn of 1940 in which the RAF successfully defended British skies from the German Luftwaffe. On 15th September 1940 the German Luftwaffe launched a



massive assault in the skies over the south-east, with the aim of obliterating the Royal Air Force. It was a day of heavy fighting, and the Luftwaffe suffered significant casualties and a decisive defeat. Since then this date has been celebrated as 'Battle of Britain Day'. At its zenith, the RAF had only 749 fighter aircraft compared with 2,550 available to the Luftwaffe. It really was a battle to save Britain. Defending our skies came at a significant cost, with 544 RAF aircrew killed during the Battle and 312 RAF personnel killed on the ground. The indomitable bulldog spirit shone through as many thousands used their skill, judgement and tenacity to safeguard their homeland. (Extracts from the RAF Website)

On 31st August, Fighter Command suffered its worst day of the entire battle but the Luftwaffe overestimated the damage it was inflicting and wrongly concluded that the RAF was on its last legs. This air campaign was a crucial turning point in World War II and prevented a German invasion of Great Britain.

Our Next Branch Meeting on **Wednesday 22nd October** will be held at Mayfield Cricket Club. The bar opens at **6.30pm** and the meeting commences at **7.00pm** with a brief session of Branch business which will incorporate the 2025 AGM, followed by a fish and chip supper

(or chicken or scampi). We would love to see new faces at this Branch meeting. As usual there will be a raffle and any prize that you are able to donate will be much appreciated. There is no fee, nor indeed any association with the armed forces necessary for guests' attendance and I think you would enjoy the evening in convivial surroundings with bar, speaker and pre-ordered supper. Fish, chicken or scampi and chips suppers will be available, and the cost will be £9 per person, but if you would like to add a £1 donation and round the cost up to a crisp £10 note we would be delighted! If you are interested or would like further information, please telephone/email me (details below) or our Secretary, Julia Molony email mayfieldhadlow.secretary@rbl.community. If you would like to join us, please advise your meal choice by Sunday 19th October. After supper the speaker is our Branch Vice Chairman, Brian Oldfield, whose talk will be about the background of the founding committee members, who, 100 years ago, formed the Mayfield R.B.L. Branch in 1925. This will include some of their background, community work and contribution to daily life in Mayfield and there may be a few surprises.

2025 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. There are many ways you can take part and support the R.B.L.'s Poppy Appeal. The Appeal runs from the Saturday 23rd October to Tuesday 11th November.

We always need offers of assistance from anyone willing to help with the house-to-house collections or for static locations. If you would like to help, please contact our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Gavin on

873770, 07771 965517 or email gavin@rossma.co.uk.

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday 2025

– Every year in November, the nation marks the wars that have scarred our past and the bravery of the men and women who fought them. Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, which fall on Sunday 9th November and Tuesday 11th November respectively this year, offer us all a chance to remember not just those who fought, but what they fought for. The names of the Fallen in WWI and WWII 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.

Armistice Day - on Tuesday 11th November, 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 9th 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 two minutes silence at 11.00am. Immediately following the silence 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.

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

Famous and the Not So famous War Poets - It is some time since I included a war poem and, having found a relatively recent (penned in 2005) example, here is 'Poppies' by Jane Weir. Jane was born in Manchester and is the author of several collections of poetry. In free verse, the poem describes a November morning in an English village. It was written in response to a call for more poems about the deaths of British soldiers in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Weir's poem imagines the trials and difficulties of war from the perspective of a mother who sends her child off to fight. The poem investigates this feeling, through an extended metaphor, comparing going to war with a more mundane kind of departure: a mother sending her child to school. Though the child is full of energy and enthusiasm, a metaphor for the patriotic fervour that soldiers feel as they go to fight for their country, the mother is decidedly less enthusiastic. Instead of celebrating the glory, bravery and sacrifice of soldiers, the poem focuses on how war affects those who stay behind, specifically exploring the anxiety and grief parents may feel knowing they can no longer protect, and in fact may forever lose, their children.

POPPIES

Three days before Armistice Sunday
and poppies had already been placed
on individual war graves. Before you left,
I pinned one onto your lapel, crimped
petals,
spasms of paper red, disrupting a
blockade
of yellow bias binding around your
blazer.
Sellotape bandaged around my hand,
I rounded up as many white cat hairs
as I could, smoothed down your shirt's

upturned collar, steeled the softening
of my face. I wanted to graze my nose
across the tip of your nose, play at
being Eskimos like we did when
15 you were little. I resisted the impulse
to run my fingers through the gelled
blackthorns of your hair. All my words
flattened, rolled, turned into felt
slowly melting. I was brave, as I walked
with you, to the front door, threw
it open, the world overflowing
like a treasure chest. A split second
and you were away, intoxicated.
After you'd gone I went into your
bedroom, released a song bird from its
cage.

Later a single dove flew from the pear tree,
and this is where it has led me,
skirting the church yard walls, my stomach
busy making tucks, darts, pleats, hat-less,
without a winter coat or reinforcements of
scarf, gloves.

On reaching the top of the hill I traced
the inscriptions on the war memorial,
leaned against it like a wishbone.
The dove pulled freely against the sky,
an ornamental stitch, I listened, hoping to
hear your playground voice catching on
the wind.

Kevin Swaine 07970 787465
kevinswaine@btinternet.com



**MAYFIELD BONFIRE
SOCIETY**

It takes a year and a whole village to put
on the torchlit bonfire celebrations. With
more than 50 people helping behind the
scenes, your Bonfire Society are immensely
grateful for our wonderful members and
volunteers who help keep this spectacular
village tradition going. There are so many
different activities throughout the twelve

months of Bonfire, there's something for all ages and abilities to enjoy being part of what makes Mayfield special.

The Twelve Months Of Bonfire

Twelve months of torches: stick cutting, torch drilling, torch making, torch dipping, torches transporting.

Eleven months of organising: event planning, helpers organising, volunteers recruiting, fireworks booking, fire-crew finding, first aid sorting, portaloos booking.

Ten months of fundraising: quizzes holding, raffles selling, snail racing, wine & cheesing, sponsors recruiting, competitions running, charity bucket shaking.

Nine months of publicity: programme designing, leaflets delivering, posters making,

Facebook posting, website updating, members emailing, newsletters writing.

Eight months of processions: societies inviting, insurance organising, bands booking, procession marshalling, radios manning, barriers co-ordinating, torches lighting, spent torches collecting.

Seven months of creating: cross and banner making, poppy banner making, costumes making, jumpers knitting, kids torch making, street banners hanging.

Six months of catering: catering stalls booking, bars stocking, cakes baking, bacon butties grilling, drinks serving, food preparing, refreshments serving.

Five months of roads: councils consulting, signs marking, roads closing, cones marking, barrels filling, roads sweeping, litter picking.

Four months of bonfire: pallets collecting, turf stripping, bonfire building, bonfire guarding, turf relaying.

Three months of marshalling: marshals recruiting, barriers manning, visitors directing, crowds protecting.

Two months of parties: seniors Christmas lunching, helpers thank-you partying.

One day of Bonfire Celebrations.

It takes a village!

Catherine Hawley bonfire@gawain.online

MAYFIELD GOLFING SOCIETY

Our September venue was a welcome return to Dale Hill's Woosnam course. This was a pairs event so the players assembled hoping to be drawn with the best, most reliable players. Pity our Captain, Kevin, who was paired with one of the best, Alan Bigley. Pre-match chat had them down as one of the favourites. Alan was observed sitting on the 10th tee holding his head in his hands, having failed to score whilst his opponents putted out on the 9th. And their opponents used their higher handicaps and jokers well to confound pre-golf predictions

As for the winning pair, there was no surprise given that the whole event was organised by former Dale Hill captain Richard Hannam. The winning pair of Richard and Tony Willmott were able to exploit local knowledge and cruise to victory by 4 shots.

I would normally mention the runners up but they were so far back I have decided not to! Instead, I'll mention the smart people who regularly win prizes that don't result in a handicap deduction. Nearest the pin on hole 5 was Stuart Bourne. Nearest the pin in 2 on hole 17 was Graham Smith (our handicap secretary). Enough said.

Our next event on 17th October is at Copthorne Golf Club. See

mayfieldgolfingsociety.com

for details.

Mark Hughes

MAYFIELD BAND

Huge congratulations to our girls Pippa Nunn, Lucy Robinson, Georgia O'Neil and Francesca Fraser on their excellent GCSE and A Level results. Sadly, for the band though, it means another player is off to pastures new, and we have another seat to fill but that's the way it goes. Our youngsters give us much joy as they rise through the ranks of the band and it's great to see them growing into talented players and impressive young adults. Some of you will have seen the impressive performance by Alison Balsom at the Last Night of the Proms and I think it's worth mentioning that she, in common with most top brass players, started out in her local brass band and played with them from the age of eight. This is where it all starts folks.

Mayfield Youth Band

Much as I like Christmas music, the one downside of playing in a brass band is having to start playing carols in late September. Worse still is even mentioning the word as I sit here in my shorts typing this while looking out over a beach in Cornwall but with our first Christmas job being the "Big Switch On" on 28th November, we only have nine rehearsals left after we return from our summer break. However, it is also a great time to learn to play brass, because the music is great, and everyone knows the tunes. If you want to start the new term by joining a brass band and learning to play an instrument in a fun group, then just call me. Beginners are welcome.

If you put in regular practice, I'll have you playing Jingle Bells by Christmas and I can guarantee that being able to play a musical instrument will be the best Christmas present you will ever have. Just call me Santa. **Simon Rudge** 872007

simon@mayfieldband.co.uk
www.mayfieldband.co.uk

NEWS FROM NUS GHANI – MP FOR SUSSEX WEALD

Sussex Weald continues to be a safe place to live with consistently low levels of crime but I am aware that incidents of rural crime, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour remain an area of concern. I have been working with local residents, community groups and the Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team and Rural Crime Team so our communities continue to feel safe. I have been keeping the pressure up to ensure that we have the appropriate resources to tackle and prevent rural crime, and that Sussex Police have a more visible presence locally. I have also welcomed the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner for several meetings in the constituency. Local residents had the opportunity to raise their concerns with me at a virtual Q&A session, which provided an opportunity to discuss what matters to their communities. I know that rural crime such as the theft of machinery and equipment is of particular concern. I continue supporting our communities and joined a public meeting held this spring to help put the case forward for a more robust cross-border multi-agency response, after similar operations led to positive results and multiple arrests previously. Thanks to the fantastic turnout at the recent Farmers' Forum near Mayfield, we secured further support from Sussex Police on marking farming equipment and better coordination of forces to tackle cross-county crime. I am grateful for all the ongoing work that our police officers are doing to improve response times, increase visibility and secure arrests and convictions, and I will continue working with them as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner on securing additional resources for Sussex Weald.

NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After a brief lull in activities after the Summer Show we now, at the time of writing, have a late flurry of business leading up to the end of the Society's year. On Monday 22nd September we will have held our Village Pumpkin weigh-in at The Five Ashes Inn, and on 23rd September the Schoolchildren's Pumpkin weigh-in at Five Ashes School.

On 8th October our AGM at Five Ashes Village Hall will commence at 7pm, not 7.30pm. This is to ensure there will be adequate time to rearrange seating etc. before our speaker, Karen McClure, starts at 8pm.

Karen's illustrated talk will be on Landscape and Garden Design and everyone is welcome to come and listen and learn. There will be tea and coffee, wine and nibbles afterwards.

I look forward to seeing you.

Graham Playfoot, 01825 830511

HOSPICE IN THE WEALD FIVE ASHES

Open Morning: 10am-noon, Thursday 9th October

Pop in for a cuppa at Hospice in the Weald's Open Morning during Hospice Care Week to meet our friendly team and find out what's happening at your local hospice. Learn about how our exciting transformation programme will see inpatients welcomed back to our hospice in Five Ashes and the improvements we have made to the building in readiness for this.

Whether you, or someone close to you, has been diagnosed with a life-threatening or life-limiting condition and would like to find out more about our free care and support, or you are simply curious about how our plans might affect you, all are welcome. Over a hot drink and a slice of cake, learn about how our free care and support is tailored to help people to do the things that matter most to them. Hear about our exciting plans to transform care for patients now and in the future, what these changes might mean for you, and what will happen and when at our hospice site. Have a tour of our beautiful building and private bedrooms overlooking the fields beyond. Learn about our resources for carers and planning end-of-life matters. You do not need to book in advance, but, if possible, please register your interest to help our team make the visit as smooth as possible.

Where: Hospice in the Weald, on The Street (A267), in Five Ashes. There is free parking on site, plus the hospice is wheelchair accessible.

When: 10am-noon. Talks at 10.30am and 11.30am.

Email: communications@hospiceintheweald.org.uk to confirm attendance – or just turn up on the day!

UP AND DOWN OUR HIGH STREET

FOUR WINDS - A SHOP OF DELIGHTS

Many people in the village will be familiar with the wonders of Four Winds, run by Vicky Streeter from 2005, having inherited the shop from her mum, who created it in 1971, as an alternative lifestyle to all the mass production that was taking place at the time. The shop is supplied by a large range of mainly local arts and crafts 'makers', who sell their wares for 25% commission, which goes



Credit: Barbara Murray

towards shop overheads and displays. I thought I was reasonably well versed in the shop and its contents until Vicky showed me around in some detail for me to write this article. I was shocked, delighted and sorely tempted by the huge range of unusual, beautiful and quirky items on display. Vicky mentioned that her mother had been an ardent conservationist and was way ahead of her time, ensuring that most things in the shop were locally sourced, made by ethical producers and avoided plastic as much as possible. Vicky has carried on this tradition with over 22 local makers. The locality is often reflected in the items displayed, such as an array of knitted mice, many of which are currently in appropriate costumes for the Mayfield Carnival, and Criad Teddy Bears which are made in Five Ashes and now filled with buck wheat instead of harmful synthetic fibres.

It was 2 years ago when Vicky increased and diversified her offering by introducing vintage clothing and jewellery. She sees this is as the most ethical and important sector in the shop, because very little is remanufactured, upcycled or changed. The clothes come from a range of sources, but mainly local people, including two vintage specialists, one of whom won a BAFTA award for Costume and Design many years ago. The clothes are 'tenderly' preloved, maybe worn a few times for special occasions, but definitely not worn out, and they are now able to have a new life and be worn again, being of such good quality. They may have been forgotten for years having been languishing in a mother's or grandmother's wardrobe.

Vicky showed me some exceedingly special clothes, which were all for sale at reasonable prices. These included a taffeta evening dress from the 1950's, a velvet dress and jacket and a dress which had been worn by one of the witches on the West End stage in a production of "the Scottish play". I took photos of her wearing a beautiful Christian Lacroix woollen jacket, as well as a hat with leather appliqué flowers from Palm Beach. Alongside the authentic vintage clothes, there is a rail of imported ethically produced clothes from



Credit: Barbara Murray:

other countries, some of which are Fairtrade and are supplied by a Sussex importer. Vicky emphasised that these are only sourced from 'happy people', who work in pleasant conditions, with all children being cared for professionally rather than having to work alongside their parents. No outfit is complete without accessories and a wide range of diverse and colourful modern and vintage jewellery is displayed in several areas of the shop, including some items made of carved mother of pearl, like that used on guitar fretboards. The handbags which cost a fraction of high street prices are also exceedingly tempting, as I found out when I succumbed to an irresistible 1950s evening bag in perfect condition.

Moving on from the clothes and jewellery, Vicky showed me an eclectic mix of items including English soaps, Christmas

decorations, many plastic-free alternatives, such as knitting needles and toothbrushes, hair accessories and handmade children's dresses and baby clothes. Artists' works are showcased including Alice Harrington's works in clay and Mary Canny items, made from recycled glass, including dishes, and 3D pieces of Raku which is a Japanese technique, taking red hot pottery and immersing it into a sandbox lined in wood chippings straight from the kiln. The heat of the pottery creates shapes of leaves and feathers to appear in relief on the surface of the item. The only stock items that are bought in are a new range of Mayfield Souvenirs which are all made in England. These include hessian bags for £7.50, tea towels and calico bags for £6.99 with a special offer of 4 tea towels for £24.00. Four Winds also has greetings cards and

notecards featuring a diverse range of artwork, including many breeds of dogs and wildlife, to local landscapes.

There are many interesting objects found in Four Winds but the best way to really appreciate the scope and diversity is to visit the shop, which is open between 10.00 and 16.00 Monday to Saturday. Many items have a backstory or history, which the makers share and provide interesting facts for customers. Vicky is always happy to look at items to sell which have been created and she will also be delighted to take in some seasonal vintage 'tenderly loved' clothes, which are more than 20 years old but ready for a new chapter in their lives.

Barbara Murray

LITTLE GALLERY BIG ART

Mayfield Gallery Box installed its first exhibition in time for Bonfire Night. We had more pictures than we could show at one time so it will be a rolling exhibition and we will announce a new theme in a few months. Pick up a card from the Post Office if you want to be part of creative Mayfield.



VILLAGE PEOPLE

SKIPPERS HILL PREP SCHOOL WELCOMES CRAIG AUSTEN-WHITE

"Happy children is what we do" says its new Headmaster

It seems no time since I interviewed Phil Makhouli as the new Head of Skippers for the Newsletter, but looking back it was almost exactly 5 years ago when I spoke to him on Zoom as we began to emerge from Lockdown. Ironically, we never actually met, despite exchanging many emails over the years, but he clearly made a big impression with his students while he was there. Indeed, Craig Austen-White's son and daughter spent a term at the school with Phil before Craig joined as Head in April this year, and he says they were both in tears when Phil left, so Craig feels he has big shoes to fill! Having now actually met Craig twice, he is clearly having no difficulty in doing so.



A local boy, he was the first person in his family to go to university and the first teacher too. He attended Cross in Hand Primary School and Heathfield Community College but went north to study for a Politics degree at Leeds University. He then returned to Sussex to do a PGCE in Religious Studies at Brighton, and in Sussex he has since, so far, remained, teaching first in state schools, in Eastbourne for three years and then Robertsbridge for a further four.

He did not make a conscious choice to move to the independent sector but structural changes at Robertsbridge prompted a move and the opportunity to become Deputy Head (Academic) at Battle Abbey, a charitable independent school, and teach Religious Studies, was too good to miss. This put him in a good position to take up the post of Head at [Battle Abbey Prep School](#) in Bexhill four years later, where he remained for three years, gaining valuable experience for his move to Skippers.

Married to a teacher with two children of 11 and 8, both of whom now go to the school, he therefore arrives at Skippers, in its 80th Anniversary year, with a wide range of experience in both state and independent schools. He has great faith in the whole teaching profession, but in the independent sector he sees significant benefit in the greater freedom teachers are afforded to teach and lead, because of being privately funded. This is particularly evident at Skippers, and he is truly passionate about 'the lovely balance of pastoral and academic care' which he has found at the school, with an ethos of every child, as an individual, being valued and helped. This involves discussing and preparing with every parent for the educational journey their child will take, which he greatly enjoys, and getting them to allow the teachers at Skippers to unlock their child's potential.

With a background in state education, he recognises that not all parents can afford to educate their children in the independent sector but he does believe that the grounding children get, especially from Early Years to Year 2, in terms of literacy, numeracy and social skills, is crucial and the effect can be seen even at the A level stage. If it can be gained at an independent prep school, so much the better, but if not, there is still a significant benefit in children coming to Skippers for Years 7 and 8 rather than going up to Secondary School from Year 6 at Primary School. It is a time when the student is at the in-between stage of being neither child nor adult, so Craig can work with the parents to plan the best secondary education possible for their offspring.

Craig gives the impression of someone with a strong belief in the qualities that make us human; the ability to love and have compassion, to be creative and not be robotic. "90% of the human side is the ability to connect with each other". These beliefs possibly stem from his upbringing and from his religious studies when training to be a teacher. He is



fascinated by religion and reads widely, which underscores his strong desire for everyone who works at Skippers to know each one of its pupils individually and to pass on the wisdom and knowledge they have gained from their own life experience.

He is also keen, as was Phil Makhoul, to engage with the wider East Sussex community, both through the local state primary and secondary schools, believing that the whole education sector needs to support each other, and with local churches, charities, sports, and drama clubs and W.I.s. To that end, all Skippers' recreational facilities are for hire at reasonable rates, so that, for instance, the games field is hired out to [Mayfield \(Next Gen\) Football Academy](#) every Saturday and Sunday morning. A 'Young at Heart' scheme also sees older local people regularly coming into the school to meet Year 7 and 8 pupils, eating tea and scones and answering their questions.

Craig says that the introduction of VAT on fees has had a big impact, though the school has passed on only 9.5% of the increase to the parents, which is the lowest in the area. Being part of the [Bellevue Group of Schools](#), which includes preparatory and secondary independent schools in the UK and Europe, does enable economies of scale and [has allowed the school to maintain stable staffing](#). The school tries to be as accessible as possible, giving a 10% sibling discount for second children, providing for monthly payment of fees, and awarding a limited number of Year 7 and 8 scholarships. Nevertheless, they need to be frugal in management and there is much more upcycling, which is often incorporated in teaching life skills to the children, such as the value of money. However, he acknowledges that working in the state system must be much more difficult.

Craig clearly gets "infinite joy from being a teacher." He encourages every one of his pupils to "be hopeful about the world and to go out and seize the opportunities." It is a scary

place but if they can become confident, adaptable, flexible, and sociable, then he hopes that, under his leadership, the school can enable each one of its charges to become “the best version of themselves.” In the current political and economic climate, one cannot ask more than that.

As I leave, Craig is rushing off in his sports gear to take a Holiday Club tennis session. He’s not a tennis player as such, but he says he will manage, such is his enthusiasm to be involved at every level and in every area of the school. Being a Head teacher really is a ‘hands on’ job and Craig does enjoy it. As a result, I am sure that he will be immensely popular and successful during his time at Skippers. **Sue Smith**

YELLOW PAGES GOING GREEN

POETRY BY MOONLIGHT

To mark the end of this year's Wild About Dark Skies Festival, a magical evening of night-related poetry is being held from 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th November at the top of Court Meadow. A general invitation is extended to read and listen to poems under the light of The Beaver Moon - a supermoon. The only stipulation is that poems, original or otherwise, should be on a night-related theme. Adults and accompanied children welcome. Contact **John Murray** at mayfield.darksky@gmail.com if you would like to perform this!

MAYFIELD CLIMATE CHANGE

Hello Mayfield neighbour, autumn has arrived! Keep an eye out for the following events.

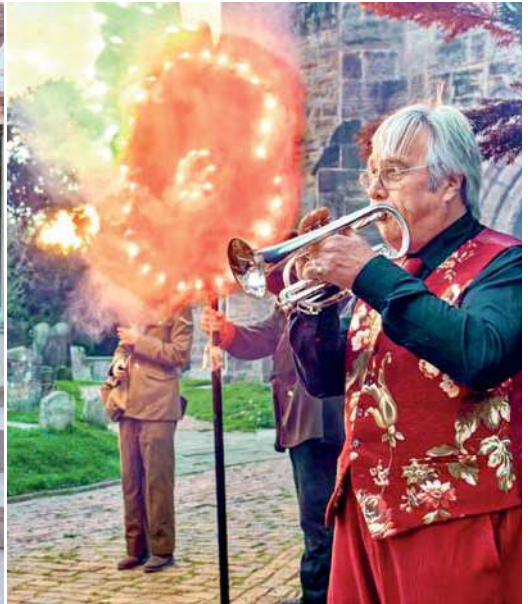
1. Community Forum to be held in October: Date time and location to be confirmed
2. Community Litter Picking - this was a great success and six bags of rubbish were collected. This could be a regular event. However, we can all be mindful to not drop things out of car windows and pick up if we see something. Recycle it when you get home.
3. Talks will be held in the New Year starting in January. Watch this space for more information closer to the time.
4. Open Energy Home: 2nd & 3rd of August was a great success where 900 people came round to the gardens and homes. We hope it gave some visitors some ideas as to how they can make small changes.
5. I received the following response from the Waste Manager of the Wealden: “At present there are no plans to collect on- street recycling in Mayfield due to people putting non-recyclables and food waste in the bins making it non-viable for recycling and ending up being incinerated, this was the reason for them taking away the large bins in Court Meadow.” At the end of 2027 the Government is planning to introduce a Deposit return Scheme to reduce plastic waste. This will require payment of a small fee at purchase to be claimed back when the item is taken back for recycling.

Regarding the booking system for the waste tip, I have been informed that it will come into place in the autumn; I have looked at the site and it isn’t live yet. Signing off with the hope of a cleaner greener Mayfield. Thank you for all your support.

Dr. Jan Rich Director MCA



Credit: Monica Wells



MAYFIELD CARNIVAL, SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025



Credit: Monica Wells







Credit: Monica Wells



Credit: Monica Wells



Credit: Monica Wells

OUR SCHOOLS

FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

A huge welcome back to the new school year. The children have settled extremely well particularly those who have a new teacher this year. All the children are already up to speed with their new classroom routines and enjoying their new classes. A very warm welcome goes out to our new Reception children who started this week and also to the families who have joined the school in both reception and other year groups.

We extend a very warm welcome to Mr MacNicol, who has been appointed as our



Darren Gurr Head of School

Year 5 and 6 teacher in Oak. Mr MacNicol is an experienced teacher and has already made himself at home and enjoying everything Five Ashes brings.

We have been excited to launch our new wrap-around care offer which will hopefully make many of our families managing their days slightly easier. Children can now be dropped off at school from 7.30am and be picked up at 5.30pm.

As always it is key that our name is out there in the local community. Five Ashes is a special school which makes such a huge difference to all the children who pass through the door. The school was ranked amongst the highest in the county for its recent End of Key Stage results and had a very positive recent Ofsted. Please share and sing the school's praises in anyway you can to prospective parents who may be interested.



MAYFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL

World Challenge expedition to Sri Lanka

Over the summer, our adventurous Year 11 & 12 girls set off on a 16-day World Challenge expedition. From budgeting and cooking to mixing cement, laying bricks and repainting classrooms at a village school near Kandy, they embraced every challenge. They also trekked through the stunning Knuckles Mountain Range, camping under the stars and forging unforgettable memories. The girls returned with practical skills, new confidence, and memories to last a lifetime.

Beauty and the Beast Coming to Mayfield School!

Our talented students wowed us in recent auditions for *Beauty and the Beast*, with incredible singing and acting from Years 7–13. With such standout performances, some lead roles will be double cast — giving even more stars their moment to shine! Rehearsals are underway for this magical production, which will be performed at Trinity Theatre in February 2026. **Saul Harris**



Skippers Hill

Skippers have had a great start to the school year welcoming lots of new families and staff. Everyone is looking forward to an exciting term ahead.

Craig Austen-White



MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL

It was lovely to see all the children back to Pre-School after the summer break. We also welcomed lots of new children. The children have enjoyed exploring and having fun. With autumn arriving the children have found lots of leaves and acorns to create in the mud kitchen, making a delicious Acorn Crumble!

Paige Merrick Pre-School Manager



OUR CHURCHES

ST. DUNSTAN'S

All Souls' Tide Service: Sunday, 2nd November at 6pm

We will be holding our All Souls' Tide Service on Sunday, 2nd November at 6pm in St. Dunstan's and invite all those who have recently lost loved ones to come and join us to remember them.

Nicky Higgins Parish Administrator

MAYFIELD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Contacts: Bradley Hammond (Elder): 07426 034515

Email: mayfieldbaptistchapel@gmail.com

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

The parishioners of St. Thomas' Church in Mayfield continue to work closely with those of the Sacred Heart Parish in Wadhurst. As well as 'sharing' Father Raymond, we have a joint newsletter and many examples of close collaboration. A bereavement group for the two Parishes and the wider community is being set up and contact details for this will be available in the near future. If you would like to receive our newsletter please contact Martin Georgeson and ask to be added to the mailing list.

Our Sunday Mass continues to be celebrated at 11.00am in the Mayfield School Chapel, followed by tea and coffee. Everyone is welcome at all our services.

Weekday Masses are at 10.00am in St. Thomas' Church on Mondays and Fridays.

For further information please contact: Martin Georgeson, Chairman St. Thomas' Pastoral Committee, martin.georgeson@btinternet.com

COLKINS MILL

The autumn term is well under way, and our youth clubs have started - Thursday evenings for school years 4 to 6 and Friday evenings for our secondary school students. Everyone is welcome.

Over the summer we have been to almost every home in Mayfield offering a Luke's Gospel. It's been a real pleasure to meet so many people in the village. If you were out or away and would like a copy, please feel free to pop up any time the building is open and take one (they are just inside the door).

To celebrate Luke's amazing story, we will be reading it out in full in the Church garden on Saturday 11th October from 10am. Please feel free to stop by and listen for a while. We are only guessing how long it will take to read - 2 hours?!

A date for your diary We are hosting an Autumn/Christmas crafts event on Saturday 4th October from 2pm to 5pm. All ages are welcome. There will be a small charge to raise some money for a charity in Eastbourne supporting people facing hardship. Craft materials and refreshments will be provided.

Steve Harland contact@colkinsmillchurch.org.uk

WADHURST WINDOW

WADHURST BOWLS

Buxted Park hit winning ways at Wadhurst! The 27th Wadhurst Open Mixed-Triples Bowls Tournament was played-out under ideal bowling conditions. Play started at 9.30 and it took 36 games to determine the emerging worthy champions after They received their Cup and Gary Tate of Tate Fencing, along 100 players and spectators were in Kent and as far afield as the superb Wadhurst green.



winner, with Buxted Park Bowls Club eight hours of intense competition. trophies from tournament sponsor with £200 prize money. In total over attendance, with clubs from Sussex, Southampton, all wanting to play on

Wadhurst win the Horam League! Once again, the club secured the League title going the whole season, playing 22 matches, and winning all of them!

Over 30 different players featured in the matches, all of them playing a part in our success and all of them marshalled by our 'Captain Extraordinaire' Mr. Dave Hacker, who put in all the hard work behind the scenes to ensure we could meet our commitments and field a competitive team. Well done Dave and well done Wadhurst!

As you read this, the bowls season will have finished, the green will have been put to bed and the waterproofs packed away for another year.

However, when we reflect on the tremendous season we have had as a Club, winning the Horam League and gaining promotion in the Tunbridge Wells League, in addition to the individual success of players, we can feel confident that the Club is in good hands. The new green-keeping team, under Ivor, have done a fantastic job during a very dry summer, and all members have pulled together to ensure we remain competitive but also friendly and welcoming to all, whether bowler or spectator.

We thank our sponsors too. Their support is very much appreciated. Without them the outlook could be quite bleak!

www.wadhurstbc.com Washwell Lane, Wadhurst TN5 6BN

WADHURST AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB (NAFAS)

What a splendid beginning to the Flower Club's autumn programme!

The members spent a joyful and very social afternoon creating their Petite Arrangements in glass ramekins, each design reflecting its creator's personal skill and taste. Stonegate Village Hall was filled with the sound of laughter and supportive chat. The afternoon concluded with tea, cake,



and a raffle.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday October 2nd; a demonstration entitled "Rediscovering Ancient Skills". If you would like to attend as a guest or would like further information about Wadhurst and District Flower Club, please contact **Sonia** 01892 785671 or sonia.hobbs2@btinternet.com. New members are always welcome.

AND JUST BEYOND OUR PARISH

The **CROWBOROUGH PROBUS Club** recently held their August social event for members of the club. The event was a visit to The Tangmere Military Aviation Museum, at Tangmere near Chichester, which was an RAF fighter station at one time. It proved to be a popular event for us. More interesting events and lunches are planned for 2025 and 2026 so why not join us for social activities and to make new friends?

The Club would be pleased to welcome you, both male and female, as guests at one of our monthly luncheon meetings, as a first step to becoming a member.

We meet at Crowborough Rugby Club, Steel Cross, Crowborough, on the second Thursday of the month at 12.30 for 1.00pm.

In the first instance please contact our secretary on 01892 740377 or by email on spicer191@btinternet.com or one of our members.

Further details can be found on our website: www.crowboroughprobus.org

John Bokor Ingram - Mayfield Resident

THE ARTS SOCIETY WEALDEN

Come and join us at Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield. TN21 OXG.

Our exciting programme of 10 monthly lectures started in September at 2.00pm

The annual subscription is £50, and we welcome guests to individual lectures for £7.50. If you would like to try us, you can come to your first lecture free of charge! To join contact: John Larum,

johnlarum@hotmail.com

Tuesday 14th October Travels with a Trowel, Adventures of an Archaeologist - Louise Schofield

Tuesday 11th November Christmas with Giles, Grandma and the Family - Barry Venning

Tuesday 9th December The Art of Snow and Ice: How Artists Transformed the Winter Landscape - Sue Jackson

theartssocietywealden.org.uk



MAYFACS

MAYFACS (Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services: Charity No 1166647)

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

www.mayfacs.org.uk

HELPLINE 873888 (answerphone)

Please note MAYFACS Post Box the office (please follow the signs Dunstan's Church)



system)

is situated at the back entrance to from outside the entrance of St.

MAYFACS OFFICE OPENING

Wednesday between 10am - 1pm

TIMES: Monday, Tuesday and

every week. Helpline phone number is

monitored Monday to Friday only. MAYFACS OFFICE 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

News

THANK YOU to Will Green for his Mighty Marathon in a Month for MAYFACS

MAYFACS would like to thank Will for his hard work in raising money for MAYFACS throughout August, by running a Mighty Marathon throughout the month and raising over £1000 for us in the process! What a champ!

Recycling your Ink Cartridges for MAYFACS

Don't forget that we are collecting empty ink cartridges, sending them off for recycling and turning them into funds for MAYFACS! Cartridges can either be dropped to MAYFACS office or to Mayfield Post Office. Thank you!

Matinee Films – Next Film Friday 10th October: Mr Burton - Five Ashes Village Hall.

Films are once a month for this season. 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 just be at the bus stop to be picked up.

Friday 7th November: Lee

As always, a delicious selection of cakes and refreshments will be available to purchase on the day.

Regular Activities

Little Munchkins Baby and Toddler Group (term time only)

Please join us every Wednesday (term time) from 9am – 11am at Mayfield Scout Hall for just £3 per family. All carers, grandparents and parents are very welcome! Lots of toys and activities available for the little ones, and a cuppa and chat for the others.

Monthly Hearing Aid Maintenance – Next session Wednesday 8th October 10.30am – 12pm, London House



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

Men on the Move: weekly "Walk and Talk" group for men, for any age.
Meet in Court Meadow 9.30am. *Free to attend.

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

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

Wednesday Chat: Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2-3pm in Five Ashes Village Hall.
£2. Transport available. (Speaker on 4th Wednesday).

Wed

MAYFACS Moving Sounds (FEB - JUL): Monthly music and movement in Colkins
Mill Church, Station Road. 2-4pm. *Free to attend. 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Thur

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

Thur

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

Thur

Middle House Lunch: 2nd Thursday of the month on a rota basis.
12.30pm £12.50 for senior citizens living alone.

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

Art at the Shed (APR-JULY): 4th Friday of the month 10-12 pm £3-5 MAYFACS
Shed. Materials and refreshments provided. Booking essential.

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

Create @ the Shed: 1st Saturday of the month 10am - 12.30pm refreshments
provided. Donations to cover materials. School age Years 7 - 11. Booking essential.

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. * Free to attend as Grant funded
Please visit www.mayfacs.org.uk or contact us on 01435 873888

Please come and find out what support they can offer (including battery replacements) or where you can be signposted to if they cannot support your specific need.

MAYFACS Create @ The Shed! Youth Sessions Next Session: SATURDAY 4th October & 1st November: 10am – 12pm WOODWORK

Our next Create@theshed session is really exciting! Working with our fantastic Sheddors at MAYFACS Community Shed, we will be working with a small group of young people to make your very own iPad or headphone stand from scratch. Using some basic woodwork equipment under close supervision and support, we are very excited to bring some woodwork skills to our sessions. As this will take place over TWO sessions commitment to both dates is required (£5 per session). Places are limited so please contact create@mayfacs.org.uk as soon as possible to secure your spot. Exploring different forms of creative genres including art, music and tech, CREATE@THE SHED sessions take place every 1st Saturday of the month. Booking is essential for each session with limited spaces available. Email us on create@mayfacs.org.uk to secure your place. Suggested donations (£5) cover basic materials and are kept to a minimum with funding support MAYFACS receive (and will vary depending on the activity organised). If you would like to attend but need further financial support, please get in touch to discuss. For more information, please visit our website.

MAYFACS Community Shed holds three sessions every week for anyone to come along and join in. With inside and new external workshop spaces available across all sessions every week, as well as the community garden, bee keeping and the orchard, there is plenty to get involved in whenever you are available. New Sheddors always welcome. For more information, please visit our website www.mayfacs.org.uk/theshed or email theshed@mayfacs.org.uk

Our next **Repair Café** will take place at MAYFACS Shed on **Saturday 18th October** between 10am – 1pm (last repairs accepted 12.15pm). We welcome you to find out more about our Repair Cafés, join us for some tea and cakes (you do not need to bring a repair to attend) and find out more about our MAYFACS Shed and MAYFACS community.

www.facebook.com/mayfacsrepaircafe_

MONTHLY TRIPS

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

Thursday 2nd October: Bedgebury Pinetum Talk and Walk £12.50

Thursday 6th November: Bluewater Shopping Trip £12

Thursday 4th December: Bowling at Hailsham £16

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Resilience Planning

At the September Community meeting, updating the Parish Council's Resilience Plan was discussed. To formulate the plan identify the following: the risks most likely to impact the community; steps to mitigate and respond to emergency situations; vulnerable people and groups in the community; and resources available to assist during an emergency. The main risks and hazards to the Parish identified included: extended power cuts; gales; flooding; interruption of water supply; interruption of telephone connections and broadband; fire. Obviously in times of a crisis the emergency services will be available in all but the most extreme cases and the County and District Councils have their own resilience plans. However, local resources that may be needed include: tractor/trailer, 4x4 vehicles; generators; chainsaw operators; two-way radios/other communication methods; basic equipment e.g. shovels etc. The Committee would therefore like residents with access to any of the above equipment, and happy to be contacted for assistance in times of an emergency, to provide their contact details to the Parish Council. Your personal information would only be used in a confidential section of the resilience plan and not shared with anyone or any other organisation. Please email clerk@mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk with information on how you may be able to assist in times of an emergency.



Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The draft business case for a single unitary council for East Sussex (One East Sussex) has been published. It is a detailed and evidenced case that weighs the benefits of a single unitary against other suggested options (two unitaries for East Sussex and/or an expanded Brighton & Hove) and suggests the single unitary is more efficient, saves costs and preserves identity and partnership working.

The County Council and all five boroughs and districts have worked this proposal up from an interim plan agreed back in March this year. It will now be considered by the cabinets of each Council by 26th September 2025, at which point each has to submit their proposed option to the Government. So nothing is yet decided and other options will be suggested in some places. More information is available using the following link: <https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=6861&x=1>

A recent media release from Wealden District Council has informed that they have always supported the development of a One East Sussex Council proposal for local government reorganisation in East Sussex and Brighton but has also made a clear commitment to remain open to exploring other options and other models, especially if government guidance changed. Initially the government specified guidance that unitary councils should have populations of around 500,000 but has since dropped that requirement and allowed proposals for smaller unitaries to be accepted.

A county-wide survey on local government reorganisation in East Sussex showed that whilst almost half of residents in East Sussex thought a single unitary council for East

Sussex could provide cost savings when asked about any concerns about a single unitary council, again almost half of residents were concerned at losing local representation. A quarter of residents thought a single unitary council for East Sussex covered too big an area. There were also strong concerns about how a large single unitary could retain any sense of local identity and whether it would provide enough local political representation. What came out clearly from all the consultation is that high quality services matter the most – local residents are more concerned about services than about local government structures.

Wealden's press release also goes on to say that if a single East Sussex is formed it would become a £1.17 billion business. Taking into account all six councils' budget forecasts, it is forecast that any new One Sussex authority on 1st April 2028, the date when all councils would come together, would start with an annual deficit of £49m which over the first five years would rise to £61m.

Reminder: Wealden District Council – Elections Annual Canvass 2025

The Electoral Services Team will be contacting you for their annual canvass in different ways including email, post, telephone and occasionally a personal visit. Emails will be sent to residents using the GovNotify so, if you receive one it is not a scam or spam. Only one person per household will need to respond. If you have any concerns you can speak to a member of the Electoral Services Team direct on 01892 602407 or you can email elections@wealden.gov.uk.

Free Cyber Security Webinars

Every week our dedicated Cyber Protect team delivers free, engaging, and

interactive online webinars every week on a variety of topics covering the latest in Cyber Security: Online Safety for Beginners; Keeping Children Safe Online; The Dangers of AI; Cyber Security for Businesses: Threats you must address in 2025; Online Safety for Women and Girls; Cyber Security for Charities; Special Sessions (i.e. Crypto-currencies). With the UK economy losing around £27bn a year from Cyber Crime, the sessions for businesses and charities are essential to learn the latest cyber security measures such as phishing awareness, protecting against ransomware and business continuity. Parents and guardians can learn all about keeping children safe online, with the sessions covering social media, parental controls, gaming, digital footprints, trackers, AI and much more. Use the following link to enrol: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/police-south-east-cyber-77121396093>

UK Power Networks Free Priority Service

With winter fast approaching it might be worth considering registering for UK Power Networks' Priority Services Register to ensure you get extra care and support when it comes to your energy. By registering you will get: A 24/7 priority phone line; alerts if there is a major power cut near you and extra help like home visits, hot meal and updates to friends and family; energy saving tips and help understanding your energy bills. You can register if you are over 65, have a disability or long-term illness, use medical equipment at home, have children under 5, or are recently bereaved or recovering from hospital treatment. It is completely free, and registering only takes a few minutes. The link can be found easily if

you enter 'UK Power Networks priority services register' in your search engine.

Parish Council Meetings

The website meeting schedule at <https://mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk> provides information on Council and Committee meetings as well as agendas, minutes of meetings and other meeting documentation.

Janna Todd, Parish Clerk

Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield TN20 6AL Tel:873784

Email: clerk@mayfieldfiveashes-pc.gov.uk

OPEN FORUM

It seems that the old myth that I am descended from the Mayfield Baker landowners and iron founders is still alive and kicking. Intrigued as I would be, were it true, I am afraid there is virtually no evidence to support such a claim. Presumably the story arose from the fact that my paternal grandfather, George Baker and his brothers (originally from Herstmonceux} were employed when young at Sharnden Manor, which I believe was owned by the Baker landowners.

My father Stanley never believed that there was a blood connection and used to say that, George, his father, was proud of his humble origins and the ways by which he and his brothers made good. In the updated edition of Fred Lester's memoirs "Looking Back" published in the early 1950s, Fred recalls knowing George and his brothers but makes no mention of any blood connection to the landowners, and surely, he would have known, especially as he speaks of the latter in other sections of the book. Through sheer hard work, ambition and business acumen, the brothers were able to take on the leasehold of the farm before eventually setting out on their own. George later settled in Stonegate where he eventually enjoyed a comfortable retirement while setting up all of his seven sons on farms including one in California.

Naturally, I would like to think that I am probably the last living descendant in this village of an illustrious and historic family who bears the (not uncommon) name Baker, but I can see no real grounds for doing so. However, I still believe that in its own way, George's story is admirable.

Cynthia M. Baker

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REGULAR WEEKLY ACITVITIES

Monday	Art Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 10-12.30pm
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Yoga	Scout Hall 6.30 – 7.45pm
	Ideal Performing Arts	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.00 – 8.00pm
	Table Tennis Club	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.15-21.45pm (Sept-May)
Tuesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 8.30-9.30am
	Chair-based yoga	Scout Hall 10 - 11am Not Aug/Dec/April
	Circle Dance	Scout Hall 2.00 – 4.00pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 6.15-7.30pm
	St. Dunstan's Bellringers Practice	8pm - 9.15pm
Wednesday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall 9-10am
	Discofit Gold - Fitness Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10-11am
	Creative Social	Sew Inspired High Street 10am – 1pm
	Heathfield Fitcamp	Five Ashes Hall - 18.30-19.30
	Studio Dance	Five Ashes Village Hall – 18.50-19.50pm
	The Rose & Crown Quiz	Rose & Crown, Fletching Street, 7.30pm
	Mayzing Choir practice	Mayfield Scout Hut: 8.00 – 10.00pm
Thursday	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 10.30–11.30am
	Baby Explorers	Five Ashes Village Hall – TBC
	Happy Tai Chi	12-1pm
	Handbell Ringers	London House, 4-5.30pm
	Pilates	Five Ashes Village Hall – 5-6pm
	Cogs – School Years 4-6	Colkins Mill Church 6.30-8pm
	Ladies' PH Netball	Mayfield School - 7 - 8pm
	Happy Tai Chi	Five Ashes Village Hall – 7-8pm
Friday	Yoga	Scout Hall 10 – 11.15am
	Pre & Post Natal Exercise	Scout Hall 11.30am
	Junior tennis coaching	Mayfield Tennis Club - 3.30 onwards
	Ideal Performing Arts	Five Ashes Village Hall 5.00 – 8.00pm
	Mayfield Band rehearsal times: The Bandroom, Court Meadow Beginners 5pm - 6.30pm; Youth Band 6.30pm - 7.30pm; Senior Band 7.30pm - 9.30pm	
	Cogs –School Years 7-9/10+	Colkins Mill Church 7-8.30pm Year 10s 8pm
Saturday	Saturday Picnickers	London House 12.30-2.30pm

OCTOBER

Wednesday	1	Luke Wright - Poet	Lakedown 7pm
Thursday	2	Mayfacs Trip	Bedgebury Pinetum
Thursday	2	Live Music - Mike Wilton	Lakedown 7pm
Saturday	4	Autumn/Christmas Crafts	Colkins Mill Church, 2pm-5pm
Wednesday	8	Hearing Aid Maintenance	London House 10.30-noon
Wednesday	8	Five Ashes Horticultural Society AGM & Talk	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7pm
Thursday	9	Hospice Open Morning	Five Ashes 10am-noon
Thursday	9	History of Hops	Lakedown 7pm
Friday	10	Mayfacs Film Matineeé - Mr Burton	Five Ashes Village Hall
Friday	10	Film on Friday, My Favourite Cake	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.45pm
Saturday	11	Luke's Gospel Outside Reading	Colkins Mill Church, 10am
Sunday	12	Barbican Sinfonia	St. Dunstan's Church 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	Mayfield Evening W.I. meeting	Colkins Mill Church, 7.15pm
Tuesday	14	Arts Society Wealden talk	Heathfield Community Centre 2pm
Thursday	16	Mayfield U3A talk - Unusual MPs by Vivian Widgery	Five Ashes Village Hall, 2.30pm
Thursday	16	Live Music	Lakedown 7pm
Friday	17	Mayfield Golfing Society	Copthorne
Tuesday	21	Mayfield Horticultural Society	Colkins Mill Church, 7.30pm
Wednesday	22	RBL AGM & talk	Mayfield Cricket Club, 6.30pm
Thursday	23	Edward Tripp - Poet	Lakedown 7pm
Friday	24	Film On Friday, The Outrun	Five Ashes Village Hall, 7.45pm
Wednesday	29	Mayfield Local History Society - 50th Anniversary Celebration	Scout Hut, 7.15pm
Thursday	30	Music Quiz	Lakedown 7pm

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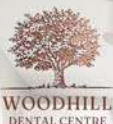
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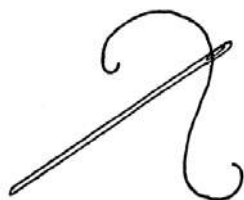
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