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**FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR**


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4<sup>th</sup> July may be Independence Day in the USA and 14<sup>th</sup> July Bastille Day in France but here in England for gardeners on the one hand and sun worshippers on the other, there is more interest in St. Swithun's Day (15<sup>th</sup> July).

“St. Swithun's Day if thou dost rain  
for forty days it will remain  
St. Swithun's Day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair”

Who was St. Swithun? He was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester and subsequently Patron Saint of Winchester Cathedral who died in 863 AD. About a hundred years later his bones were dug up and moved and legend has it that there was a terrific storm which lasted for forty days, people saying that the Saint in heaven was weeping because his bones had been moved.

Much later the weather proverb quoted above arose. According to the Royal Meteorological Society in fact ever since official records began in the UK there have never been forty days of drought after 15<sup>th</sup> July and equally no instance of forty consecutive days of rainfall. Nonetheless the proverb is based on the careful observation by country folk in bygone centuries of weather patterns in this country. The middle of July tends to be about the time that the Jet Stream settles into a relatively consistent pattern. If it settles to the north of the UK throughout the summer continental high pressure is able to move in bringing warmth and sunshine. If it settles further south, Arctic air and Atlantic weather systems are likely to predominate, bringing colder, wetter weather. Whilst this does not always hold true it does more often than not. In France they have a similar tradition. “Quand il pleut a la Saint Gervais il pleut quarante jours après” (If it rains on St. Gervais' Day (July 19<sup>th</sup>) it will rain for forty days thereafter.)

Let us hope though for weather this year which keeps everyone happy (rainfall at night for the gardeners and sunny days for everyone) and certainly for weather which is kind for all the activities there are to enjoy in Mayfield this July. See the calendar for details.

Andrew Watson & Jeanette Hore Editors

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**HOT OFF THE PRESS: WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL TELECOM MAST DESPITE PARISH COUNCIL AND PUBLIC OPPOSITION**

**PLANNING APPLICATION:** Location: Land to the South of the Oast House, Little Trodgers Lane, Mayfield, TN20 6PN

Proposal: The installation of 1 No. 18.0m lattice tower on a 4.0m x 4.0m concrete base with 6 No. antennas, 1 No. dish, 4 No. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto.

**Decision: Prior Approval Not Required**

**Decision Date: 22/06/2017**

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**MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**


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**Planning application for a telephone mast - WD/2017/7506/T:** Mayfield and Five Ashes Planning Executive consulted on the above numbered planning application at a meeting on 05 June 2017 that was attended by 26 members of the public. Although the Parish Council understands the requirement of improved mobile phone reception in Mayfield, the Planning Executive Committee **strongly objected** to the proposal for the following reasons:

- The siting of the proposed telephone mast is inappropriate at the entrance to the historic village of Mayfield and adjacent to Little Trodgers Lane where the road becomes an accident black spot in icy conditions.
- The design of the mast is inappropriate and would create an eyesore in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The height of the mast is not correctly represented in the consultation and would exceed 21m in height excluding the concrete base and therefore would not be screened by the surrounding trees.
- A monopole design would be less intrusive particularly if camouflaged as a pine tree as are other masts already installed in Wealden.

- The applicant has not adequately assessed other more appropriate locations in Mayfield.
- The applicant has not consulted adequately with the local community. In January 2017 we requested that the applicant arrange a public consultation, however no response to this request was received.
- There is no reference in the application to the existing telephone mast off the A267 and Tunbridge Wells Road and why co-location is not an option.

Residents at the meeting suggested the following locations to be assessed for the installation of the mast: On top of the tower adjacent to Mayfield Fire Station; Land behind Mayfield Fire Station; Land adjacent to the A267 to the north of the junction with Tunbridge Wells Road; Land adjacent to the A267 south of the junction with Tunbridge Wells Road; To extend the existing telephone mast off the A267; To the rear of the telephone exchange; Towards the roundabout on the Mayfield bypass Land north of Mayfield tennis club; Land to the north of the North Street allotments; Land north of the Aylwins Development

We recommended to Wealden District Council that the application is withdrawn and that additional more suitable locations are assessed and that the applicant holds a public consultation with the local community before resubmission.

Wealden District Council has provided the following information:

That alternative sites and options for delivering 4G to the village have been reviewed in the application, and they are aware the fire station has been added to the assessment, but discounted as a workable option. The site review is not expected to be an exhaustive review of locations, and whilst the current site (at the entrance to Little Trodgers Lane) has its critics, it is extremely rare that a technically suitable site would attract no objections. They have noted that 9 alternative sites have been provided to the applicant by residents, but cannot comment on their actions on these. In their view there has been evidence provided that alternative sites have been assessed on technical and environmental grounds. This process cannot include all sites. Any location serving Mayfield will not be able to avoid some of the landscape constraints for example the AONB.

There is evidence on the website from the Agent that pre-application consultations took place with the community and written responses were received, including concerns from Mayfield Parish Council, from January 2017. Whilst a judgment is still to be formed on the mast and this site, there is reasonable evidence of exploring other sites, and these will be given due weight, along with the Fire Station option more recently referred to. We are seeking further comment on the mast share possibilities on the A267.

Now the application is lodged, the community/ residents have given views, and these are to be taken into account. WDC offered a further week (i.e. 3 weeks total) to comment than is required under legislation for Prior Approval. There is no pre-condition upon lodging of this prior approval application that the Code of Best Practice and its Ten Commitments is followed, but I do think Harlequin could make a good case they have engaged.

The Parish Council has asked Cllr Brian Redman to call the application in so it is discussed by the Planning Committee North but due to legislation changes in November 2016 up to 20m high masts (plus antenna on top) do not need planning permission but prior approval therefore it cannot be called in to the Committee.

**A plea for parking: Please can business owners and residents of the High Street refrain from parking in Mayfield High Street during business opening hours as it is preventing disabled residents from accessing the amenities and please could members of the public respect the two hour parking restrictions that are in place for the same reason. Parking on the double yellow lines is also unacceptable as these are often the only places where blue badge holders are able to park.**

**Friends Against Scams:** At its recent meeting, the Parish Council heard a presentation about the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership encouraging local organisations, businesses, clubs, councils, societies, and voluntary groups to sign up to a Charter and pledge to help raise awareness about scams. By doing so, everyone can work together to make it harder for residents to fall victim to scams. It will be Scams Awareness Month in July so we will start seeing and hearing a lot more messages about how to protect ourselves and others from being scammed.

The meeting also heard about Friends Against Scams, a national initiative aimed at encouraging everyone to learn about the different sorts of scams. You can go online and do the 20 minute Friends Against Scams awareness session.

Some key facts about scams:

53% of people aged 65+ have been targeted by scams and criminals. (*Action Fraud*)

- Scams cost the UK between £5-10 billion each year. (*Annual Fraud Indicator*)

- Anyone can be a scam victim, regardless of age, gender, education or economic background. However, the average age of a scam victim is approx. 75 years old, showing that criminals tend to prey on older and often more vulnerable members of society.
- Scam victims might not always admit (or be aware) that they are a victim of a scam. Only 5% of victims report the crime. (*Age UK 2015*)
- Scams are the product of organised, predatory criminals who gain trust to exploit and steal money.

#### Tips to help protect yourself and/or others - Take Five

- Never disclose security details, such as your PIN or full banking password.
- Don't assume an email, text or phone call is genuine.
- Don't be rushed – a genuine organisation won't mind waiting.
- Listen to your instincts – you know if something doesn't feel right.
- Stay in control – don't panic and make a decision you'll regret.

#### Other practical tips to help protect yourself and/or others:

- If in any doubt, say "NO" or to end a conversation and put the phone down or to tell someone to leave your property.
- If you're not sure, don't open the door – Don't engage with traders at your door, especially if you don't know who it is or are unsure about their legitimacy.
- If you're suspicious, talk to someone you trust and get a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion - if you have any doubts about a phone call, email, letter or visit at the door.

Remember: scams are fraud and fraud is a crime. Don't ignore scams, report them so others can learn about what's going on in East Sussex. Some useful scams contact numbers for sharing with your family, friends, and fellow workers and the contact number for organisations to sign up to the Charter are:

- For support and advice on scams (eg rogue traders, romance scams, scam mail, telephone calls, text messages, emails), call Citizens Advice on 0345 40 40 506
- If you are concerned about financial abuse speak to Health and Social Care Connect on 0345 60 80 191
- For a non-emergency response (if you have been a victim of a fraud/scam), call Sussex Police on 101
- If you have been affected by crime, get emotional and practical help from Victim Support on 0808 168 9274
- To report a fraud, or suspected fraud, and share information to help stop others from becoming victims, call Action Fraud 0300 123 2040
- For more details about the East Sussex Against Scams Partnership or to sign up to the charter, contact: Elaine Bowdery 01273 335670 or Elaine.bowdery@eastsussex.gov.uk

Information on the charter commitments is also available at the Parish Council offices and you can also sign up to receive Community Safety Monthly updates if you provide your email address.

**Beat the Street:** Beat the Street went live on 7 June for 7 weeks. It is a free game for the communities of East Sussex to see how far they can walk, cycle and run around our area. By tapping Beat Boxes placed on lamp posts everyone can join in and record their journeys, earn points and win prizes. There are three installed in Mayfield: West Street, Station Road/Rotherfield Lane and Stone Cross.

Tapping a card or fob on the first Beat Box sends the location information to a database. The second Beat Box that is tapped will record a journey. You must tap at least two Beat Boxes within one hour to record a journey. Visit <https://beatthestreet.me/eastsussex> for more information and to access the maps.

**Improvements to Wealden District Council's online services:** Wealden District Council has launched *MyWealden*, a personalised online portal to improve the way residents can access its services. There were more transactions made last year via the Wealden website than by residents phoning. This is a quicker, more convenient and simpler way for residents to contact us. You can register your account at <http://my.wealden.gov.uk>

You can report that your bin was missed alongside other waste enquiries, request removal of graffiti, report pollution, property name change, register an address and more. For a video guide showing a step-by-step guide of how to register for *MyWealden* search for "Registering for *MyWealden*" on Youtube.

**Stay Cool but Stay Secure:** When the weather is hot and sunny people get out and about more, or spend time in the back garden, so it's doubly important to remember home security.

When you're in the back garden remember to keep the front door locked. And either shut the front windows or

fit opening restrictors to prevent someone climbing in. Many people forget that when they are in the back garden, they might as well be out altogether as far as the burglary risk is concerned.

Never leave valuables on view, day or night, even when the house is locked up. Car keys, purses and wallets should all be kept out of sight.

At night, or when you are out at any time, remember to secure your garden gate if there is one and to put a good, sturdy lock on your shed door if there is expensive equipment inside.

Two security options you may like to consider are security lights and where possible gravel, as the noise of crunching stones is likely to deter thieves.

**Wealden Tourism Video:** If you would like to view the new Wealden tourism video it is now available on YouTube with the following link: [https://youtube/fjN\\_pWMHyQw](https://youtube/fjN_pWMHyQw)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THE MORNING OF FRIDAY 7 JULY 2017.**

**Dates of Council meetings this month:**

Meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Community Safety & Traffic	Monday 03 July	19:30	Parish Council Office
Full Parish Council	Monday 10 July	19:30	Mayfield Memorial Hall
Planning Committee	Monday 17 July	09:30	Parish Council Office

**Minutes of meetings and other documentation are available for viewing online at: [www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk) and at the Parish Council Office.**

Janna Todd

Parish Clerk to Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council

The Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield TN20 6AL

Telephone 873784

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

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## FEATURES

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**WILDLIFE SPLASH: THE WHITE ADMIRAL:** This gloriously warm weather has brought out the best of British nature and isn't it just magnificent?

One group that benefits greatly from the heat and sunshine is the butterflies, and walking along a footpath through any local meadow will disturb clouds of Meadow Browns along with perhaps the occasional Skipper, Marbled White, Ringlet and Common Blue. However, one of our jewels within the crown is the White Admiral, an elusive woodland butterfly, at home high in the canopy basking on sun-drenched oak leaves and sipping aphid honeydew. Those with the patience to watch and wait may well be rewarded with a glimpse of the White Admiral along sunny woodland edges around the village. The velvety black wings with a striking white band are unmistakable as it flits along the edge of the canopy and then gracefully glides to the ground to sip water or feed on the dissolved salts in dung.

Eggs are laid upon honeysuckle – not the glorious honeysuckle displaying its clusters of bugle-shaped flowers for all to see, but the spindly, weakly growing honeysuckle that never flowers but lurks within shady woodland. The eggs resemble miniature disco balls – green and glassy – though with a sparse covering of hairs. The caterpillar feeds on the leaf tissue, and come the winter, not yet fully grown, it makes a snug retreat from a folded leaf and silk. Springtime, with renewed warmth, spurs the caterpillar into action once more until full size is reached.

Pupation is the process by which the cells of the caterpillar reform into those of the butterfly. During this time the individual is totally defenseless and so must be well disguised. The pupa or chrysalis resembles a half-dead leaf dangling below the honeysuckle – twisted and browning. However, some birds have cleverly learnt to spot this camouflage and so both the chrysalis and caterpillar stages undergo relatively high predation. Thankfully, hot summers such as this accelerate development, and therefore more butterflies survive to adulthood.

And what a treat for us, for the adults emerge, extraordinarily bright and beautiful, with numbers peaking in July. Their sole purpose is to mate and start the cycle of life again before they fade away into the late summer.

Jacqueline Thompson

**SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST: MINE'S A PINT:** Let me see. I've written about cuckoos and cuckoo spit. What's next? Ah, *Arum maculatum* or cuckoo pint; the most evil plant in the British Isles. Never mind its highly toxic berries, this plant has the power to steer the most pure-thinking botanist down the path to innuendo and obscenity. It's a tiny hybrid of Benny Hill and a triffid hiding in the hedgerow. Each spring a most bizarre plant appears in our countryside. Above shiny, speckled, trowel-shaped leaves arises a pale hood (the spathe). The spathe cloaks a purple poker-shaped flower-head (the spadix). This structure is a stinking beacon which gives off that sweet smell of decay so irresistible to insects. Flies are hypnotically drawn into the plant and are imprisoned by stiff bristles forcing them deep inside the hood where they pollinate the female flowers. After this pollination the male flowers develop, coating the insects with their pollen before the guard bristles wilt, releasing their prisoners to pollinate another plant. In the autumn, the pale hood drops to reveal the fertilised female flowers which have now developed into striking orange and red berries; a poisonous, lumpy lollypop.

What is even more fascinating than this complex performance is the huge array of common colloquial names that have been given to this plant. A few refer to its unusual appearance; 'parson in the pulpit', 'soldier in the sentry box' – but it seems that most people when they are confronted with the plant see something altogether more obscene. Over the centuries botanists have stared at this floral Rorschach test and have likened the appearance of its reproductive structures to our own and the plant has earned itself a lewd lexicon of local names. 'Mens and womens', 'Adam and Eve', 'cows and bulls' - names which have all given rise to its most commonly known title; 'Lords and Ladies'. I wonder how many people use this name not knowing that they have been lured in by the plant's vulgar charms? There are plenty of other 'colourful' titles for this plant too – some not befitting a classy publication such as this Newsletter (although I wonder if 'Willy Lily' gets past the editor?).

I'm just proud that I haven't been perverted by this plant. I've always referred to it as cuckoo pint – a wonderful evocative name, recalling the proud, lustful cry of the cuckoo and pint which means, well, I'm not sure. Strangely I've always pronounced it as 'pint' to rhyme with 'squint' not pint as in 'of Harveys'. I wonder why? Ah, here it is. "Pint. An abbreviation of the Old English vulgar slang word pintle meaning.....". Oh crikey!

Michael Blencowe - People & Wildlife Office  
[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**THE JOINT AND BACK CLINIC: TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA:** Some of my readers may have heard of this condition, mentioned over the years by friends and relatives; an unfortunate few of you may be afflicted with it.

The brain has 12 pairs of nerves that emerge directly from it, the fifth one being the trigeminal nerve. This nerve carries sensation to and from the face and motor supply (power) to the muscles involved in chewing. In this condition, the Trigeminal nerve starts to produce neurologically based/nerve pain. This condition is one of the most painful human beings can experience, inducing lightning like pain over the face, jaw, forehead, lips, eyes and nose. These episodes can last from minutes to hours. In another form of TN, symptoms of a lesser intensity occur, so patients only complain of more aching, burning and stabbing pains, in the same distribution but unhappily longer episodes.

The exact cause of TN is unclear but it is thought to be related to damage caused by intracranial blood vessels pushing on the fatty sheath that protects and insulates the trigeminal nerve. There are other causes such as stroke, trauma, tumour, and post herpetic neuralgic (Herpes Zoster/ Shingles), 'nerve pain' after the outbreak of facial shingles which is equally awful. Most of the cases are in the over 50's, however it can occur in children. It is rare, affecting only about four people per 100,000.

The normal treatment involves opioids, neurological pain blocking medications and anticonvulsant medications all designed to block the pain. Frequently the side effects of the medication are complained of by patients as being worse than the condition itself, at least in the long term. Surgery has a poor outcome and can lead to paralysis, numbness and a loss of function. Another happy thought is that this is such an awful condition, that it has quite a high associated suicide rate associated with it.

Now at this point, I usually espouse a little homily on how visiting an osteopath can help this condition, but in this situation, there is very little evidence to convince me that any manual treatment will help very much. I have seen patients with TN that have found osteopathy, physiotherapy and acupuncture helpful. All you can really say is 'one can but try'.

Nigel Kettle BSc(Hons) Ost, Registered Osteopath  
The Joint and Back Clinic, Roselands Avenue

tel: 07939129626 for appointments or advice or [www.jointandback.com](http://www.jointandback.com) for more information

**TRAVEL NOTES:** I got back from a working trip to BARBADOS last night and I am still a tiny bit jetlagged. Not too bad, though, as the Caribbean is only a 5 hour time difference away and the flight is just over 7 hours. I spent five days walking around practically every five star hotel and some four star hotels, so I have seen every room type, checked out the restaurants, the spas, the pools, the gyms, the gardens, the kids clubs and the bars!

This was my third time to Barbados over a 30-year period and I was intrigued to know why so many people return there every year. I remember the days when the hotel décor in the Caribbean was all chintz and flowers, but this has all changed and it is now all very sophisticated, fresh and modern. I saw the famous Sandy Lane Hotel and it is all it is cracked up to be, but there are many more hotels I would highly recommend and some I would not. Please ask.

I also did a full island tour and saw a rum factory that produces some of the world's best rum, using old fashioned methods like cutting the sugar cane by hand. I also got to tour the old plantation house, which was fascinating. There are plenty of other things to see and do, such as taking a cruise round the island, swimming with turtles, all manner of water sports, duty free shopping, fabulous restaurants etc. If you like sea food, the prawns are huge and the local fish, like Mahi Mahi and Barracuda are delicious. Try the local dishes, like fried flying fish and don't forget the rum cocktails!

Still, the question of why clients choose the Caribbean over other areas needed to be answered. The Middle East is chic, sophisticated and can be cheaper. The Far East is much cheaper and has a charm of its own. The reason is this: the atmosphere! My jaws ached from returning the smiles offered to me everywhere. This is somewhere you can forget your cares, escape from the troubles of our world, laugh, relax and be pampered. It is fun! The local people are genuinely happy and their happiness is infectious! Local people run the country, the hotels and the restaurants. No imported labour here! Not only this, but I was particularly delighted to see women in all the top jobs, including the General Managers of the best hotels.

The Caribbean islands are all very different and I have visited many. So, if you would like some inside information, please contact me. What I can promise you is that all the islands are very beautiful and very friendly.

Now we are in the middle of summer, it is time to think about October half-term, Christmas and beyond. As always, the best prices are to be had by booking early.

Liz King - Bespoke Travel - 01273 474273  
[liz@lizkingtravel.co.uk](mailto:liz@lizkingtravel.co.uk)

**MAYFIELD VILLAGE SIGN: A Post Script:** "Picking up on your reference to Stanley Bowerman, he was my Grandfather. He "discovered" Mayfield on his seasonal excursions to indulge in game shooting in the wilds of Wadhurst Park and the adjoining land of the Glynde estate. Travelling down from London with his brother Cary they regularly stayed at the Rose & Crown before taking up permanent residence buying Rolfs farm in 1928, changing a career in publishing for a new one in farming along with his family and a team of heavy London dray horses to pull his farm wagons and implements. Cary's daughter Phyllis married Charlie Knight from a long-standing family of Mayfield farmers who lived at Great Baiden."

Richard Bowerman

**A VISIT TO ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE, 2016:** "Down this road the soldiers came, they did not stay long, when they left a thousand-year-old community was dead, this is Oradour-sur-Glane in France, nobody lives here now."

Words all the more hauntingly memorable when narrated by that most iconic of actors, Sir Laurence Olivier in Episode 1 of the "World at War" TV series 1973-4. It is seldom that mention is made of this horror in the British media so I am not surprised that few in this country seem acquainted with the terrible events which occurred here on Saturday 10th June 1944, a few days after the Normandy landings by the Allies. However, when speaking of this atrocity to a French national, young or old, the name Oradour-sur-Glane seems to strike a deep chord. Not surprising as on that sunny afternoon in 1944 no building in this once-idyllic village was left intact and a total of 642 souls were savagely massacred by a Nazi Waffen-SS Company which had unexpectedly marched in.

I visited Oradour-sur-Glane as part of a package tour in Southern France in September 2016. On our return from the Pyrenees we stopped at Limoges which is not far from the martyred village. Situated in peaceful countryside in the Haute-Vienne region, the ruins stand in spectral silence next to the new village built soon after World War 2. Being in the Vichy area, the War had barely touched this largely self-contained agricultural community, popular with Limousines who picnicked on the banks of the Glane or fished and swam in the waters. Reasons for the outrage have never really been made clear as although the Nazis feared wide-

spread French resistance activity after D-Day, no evidence has emerged that Oradour-sur-Glane was involved. However, everyone in the village, which was particularly crowded on that afternoon, was ordered into the Square, the men being separated from the women and children who were ordered into the village church and locked inside. The men were then ordered into the barns where they were machine-gunned, (a tiny few escaped). The church was then fire-bombed, incinerating the 452 women and children inside - except one who jumped from a window. All the buildings were then burnt, as were the victims' bodies wherever possible.

After the War Charles de Gaulle ordered that the ruins were to remain as a reminder of the savagery of War, and although seventy-two years of exposure to the elements have caused much crumbling away among the piles of ruins, considerable evidence can still be seen of a once-thriving community. Every house has its Singer sewing machine, rusted cars are left lying around as well as remnants of farm machinery and tools; a combined hairdressing salon and cafe still retain an elegant steel chair and table, telegraph poles still stand with wires hanging loose and the steel tracks of tramlines remain clearly visible in the dusty track which had been the High Street. Most terrible of all is the battered relic of a child's push-chair. Entrance to the village is free but notices urge one to maintain silence – Oradour-sur-Glane itself is eerily silent.

I entered the church whose stone exterior was resistant to the terrible conflagration all around. The altar was badly damaged but its font and, curiously, its confessional remain largely intact. A damaged Madonna is displayed, her contorted shape a macabre reflection of the horror she somehow survived. Otherwise little else. I then visited the beautifully-maintained cemetery with its tall monument, plaques recording the names of the victims and photographs of some of them on the vaults. I also saw a display of artefacts retrieved from the rubble which included broken spectacles, watches, jewellery items etc. and a letter which had been written by a young schoolboy.

What did I learn from this visit? Here one does not just see where people died, one sees also where and how they lived. There is evidence of a past lifestyle still recognisable today in an age when rural communities are rapidly vanishing. On this beautiful sunny afternoon, I could hear the rustle of leaves in the trees bordering the river. On this site of dreadful destruction and sterility nature still flourishes wherever possible. The occasional tree and bush can still grow and reflect the lush green of the surrounding peaceful fields. Nature I felt can still assert itself on scenes of human barbarity and horror.

Cynthia M. Baker

## **NEWSLETTER 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FEATURE PIECE: REMINISCENCES OF MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES – BY DAVID GRAY: PART 7**

After the war, there were just two pubs in Mayfield High Street: The Middle House and The Royal Oak, next to Bucks. The Royal Oak is where the locals congregated – in the back bar, which was dominated by a snooker table. Bert and Audrey Hutton ran the pub, with Mrs Belling in charge of the cooking. And, at the back of the pub – which is now Mews Cottages etc – was kept garaged our Dennis fire engine, which did not have a self-starter; the engine had to be cranked with a starting handle. Also, there was an iron tower, on top of which was a siren, to call the part-time firemen in from farms, shops, etc. when there was a fire.

There were no more shops down that side of the High Street until the premises of Collins & Gray, Drapers and Outfitters (my family's business) which is where the estate agents Freeman Forman were subsequently until recently. And, just outside, was the telephone box on the pavement. Collins & Gray started in Cross in Hand, and this shop was its first branch. Even when the firm subsequently expanded, the Mayfield shop remained my father's favourite right up until his retirement in the early 1970's.

The shop I remember well, of course. In my early days, there was no indoor sanitation in the whole building. There was a cold water tank in a scullery at the rear. The WC was in a privy at the end of the small back garden and, indeed, that was the case at the nearby tearoom April Cottage and, I suspect, many other village premises.

In these days, when retail shops in Mayfield have a tendency to come and go with irregular speed, there are some which, fortunately, remain in the same place year after year, rather like next door neighbours. Sometimes, I wonder what the village thought when a draper and outfitter called "Collins & Gray of Cross in Hand" chose Mayfield to open their first branch in 1938. Collins & Gray first opened in the 1920s, when Harold Gray left home in Bluebell Hill and rented a large shed in Cross in Hand. He bought a second-hand van and began trading by selling clothing and bedding and some footwear. Much of it was ex-World War I surplus merchandise. Harold sold them from the van to outlying farms and cottages which had no vehicles of their own in those days. By the end of the 1920s, Harold was joined by his younger brother, Bill (who was my father), and a second van was bought. The two brothers then met an accountant by the name of Fred Collins, who admired their enterprise and suggested they open a more substantial shop, and he would provide an interest-free loan as a sleeping partner. By the 1930s, Harold and Bill had opened this new shop in Cross in Hand, on

the site of the current Funeral Directors in the main street, and they called it Collins & Gray. The business had three travelling vans by that time, and a second shop was opened in Mayfield to cover the additional rural areas as far north as the borders of Tunbridge Wells. When war broke out in 1939, the Gray brothers served in the RAF, but the shops continued to trade and, on the brothers' return, another branch of the business opened in Hailsham Road, Heathfield. And then further expansion was made when Forbes footwear shop in Mayfield High Street was acquired and that was on the site which is now occupied by Alan's Hair Studio.

to be continued.

## **HERE IS THE NEXT COMMISSIONED FEATURE PIECE OF OUR 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR TO ENLIGHTEN READERS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF...**

**The Friends of St Dunstan's Parish Church, Mayfield:** The Friends of St Dunstan's is a charitable trust set up in 1994 to raise funds for the preservation and maintenance of the church building for the benefit of future generations. The Friends is deliberately secular in nature and is open to everyone, whether a regular church-goer or simply an admirer of the architecture of this mediaeval building. Today we have almost 100 Friends and more than £150,000.00 has been raised and gone to the following projects. Two marble memorials in the Chancel were close to falling off the wall because the iron mounts had rusted. They were removed, cleaned and restored before being re-fixed with stainless steel mounts. The iron memorial on South Aisle Wall was completely black and illegible. It has been gently cleaned although further cleaning could be undertaken in future. The West End marble memorials were in a very bad state with pieces missing and the lettering illegible. Friends assisted with the re-lettering in black and the cleaning. The leaded light stained glass windows in the Church all need to be systematically re-leaded to prevent water entry. Friends has supported the complete re-leading of two windows so far. The Parvis Tower above the South door has been the subject of a number of projects. Friends have supported the re-leading of the tower roof and also the restoration of the entrance doors. The Church undertook a major project on the bell tower about 10 years ago which involved raking out the old hard cement mortar and re-pointing the stone work. The buttresses were also strengthened as part of this project. Friends were able to provide a generous sum to start the fund-raising for this project. The South Chancel roof has been completely repaired and re-leaded. The electric wiring system in the Church was very old and Friends has supported a project to replace all the old wiring and electrical fittings. Despite being on a hill, the Church has suffered from problems of damp for some time. It was recommended that a French Drain be laid along the outside of the North wall of the Church. Friends contributed a significant sum towards this work. The drain is reported to be working well and the moisture levels in the Church have been significantly reduced. It was also recommended that all the Church's gutters and down pipes be replaced. The new cast iron pipes and gutters are larger than the old ones and have been re-routed in a more appropriate manner. Friends has provided a significant grant to the Church for this work. Friends recently provided a grant of £20,000 towards the refurbishment of the lower chancel floor and the new and very handsome stone floor tiles.

If you admire the church building and wish to contribute towards its upkeep for future generations please join the Friends by picking up and completing a leaflet from the back of the Church.

**And don't forget:** The Friends of St Dunstan's Garden Party and Open Garden will be held on **Sunday, 9th July** at Clayton's Farmhouse, Newick Lane, from 12 noon to 2pm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Richard Nabavi. Clayton's Farmhouse is situated about 1 mile down Newick Lane on the right. Ample parking will be provided.

All are welcome. Tickets are £10 at the gate and include a glass of wine, light refreshments and a walk around the garden. All the proceeds from this event will go to supporting the work of the Friends.

Annette Nabavi (873476)

Chairman, Friends of St Dunstan's Parish Church Mayfield

**MUSIC IN MAYFIELD:** A decade ago, any mention of a choir would probably have brought Sunday morning hymns to mind. But there's been a revolution in attitudes towards joining the local choir. It is estimated that an incredible 2.8m Britons are now members of a choir or singing group. This is good news as research has found that singing improves our sense of happiness and wellbeing. Group singing not only helps forge social bonds it also brings physiological benefits. Music making exercises the brain as well as the body and is being used as a therapy for the relief of mental illness and language impairment and singing is particularly beneficial for improving breathing, posture and muscle tension. Song is a powerful therapy indeed. So whether you're into chamber music, the Beatles or Frozen sing-along's, finding the right choir could prove the perfect way to improve your health, well-being, and social life. With this in mind we thought you would be interested to know about all the singing and music groups we have in Mayfield and Five Ashes from the serious to the purely fun.



**The Mayfield Consort:** is a chamber choir of 16 singers established by Andrew Benians in 2009. It quickly became noted for its polished performances of a diverse and wide ranging repertoire from Weelkes to Whitacre. The singers are from musical backgrounds and a commitment to precision, blend and musical sensitivity is at the forefront of the group's ethos. Membership of the Consort is usually by invitation but Andrew welcomes interest from experienced singers with strong sight-reading skills.

**St. Dunstan's Church Choir:** has a varied and often challenging repertoire which consists of service settings, anthems, psalms and hymns ranging from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to present day. New members in all voice parts are welcome and 2017 also sees the launch of our **Bruxner-Randall Choral Scholarships** for singers aged 16-25. Each Scholarship (worth £500 per annum) will be for one academic year, with the possibility to renew for a further year and will offer young singers a rewarding and challenging role with a strong educational and social dimension. The Choir would like to hear from singers wishing to gain practical experience as part of their musical studies or to improve their skills as choral singers and/or soloists.

Membership of the choir is also open to those outside of the scholarship ages. Sight-reading is not a pre-requisite although it does help as the pace of learning music is quite fast. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings in term time at 6pm at St Dunstan's Church. There is also a thriving junior choir which is open to boys and girls from age 7.

The choir also has an active social scene. Please contact Director of Music Andrew Benians on 866485 or email [andrewbenians@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbenians@gmail.com) for further details.

**Mayfield Festival Choir:** welcomes new members to come along to a couple of rehearsals to experience singing with the choir before making a decision. All potential members are asked to take an informal voice assessment before joining the choir. There is an annual subscription of £95 but free for the under 25s. Rehearsals start in early February for the May concert, and in mid September for the November concert and are held on Tuesday evenings from 7.15 to 9.15 pm. There is usually an additional Saturday morning rehearsal mid-way through the rehearsal period and again on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons immediately preceding the concert. There is a social gathering after the rehearsals. For further details contact Jane Bolger on [cjanebolger@gmail.com](mailto:cjanebolger@gmail.com)

**St. Thomas of Canterbury:** has a group which twice a month provides the music for the 10am Mass on a Sunday, which includes hymns and the sung parts of the Mass accompanied on guitars. On alternate weeks the organist and traditional choir under the leadership of Peter Driscoll provide the music. Contact Peter Driscoll for more information on [driscollpci@btinternet.com](mailto:driscollpci@btinternet.com)

**MayZing Community Choir:** sing a wide range of songs from madrigals to current chart hits, gospel and songs from musicals. It is a "community" choir encompassing all ages and abilities, men and women. You don't have to read music or have an audition. It puts on concerts in the summer and sings at various events around Christmas. The overriding purpose of the choir is to have fun! For further details please contact Shirley Holland on [shirley.holland56@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.holland56@gmail.com)

**Sea Shanty Singing Group:** Simon Rudge and others want to start a Sea Shanty singing group! It is very early days but they would be interested to hear from anyone who might want to be involved, and better still, someone who knows what to do! If you are interested please email [rudgescaos@tesco.net](mailto:rudgescaos@tesco.net)

**Rose & Crown:** Open Mic Nights are on the first Thursday of the month. They are informal, fun evenings and everyone is encouraged to sing and/or bring a favourite instrument and have a go. All abilities are welcome.

**Mayfield Band:** Playing with the Band offers a sense of belonging, warmth and well-being and it is so much more than just making music. Although amateur, the highest standards are always aimed for, but at the same time it is here for the village and everyone is welcome. Not only is it very much a big family, but there are also several families within that family which makes for a very special and warm dynamic. Playing with the band is a big commitment; if members don't all turn out for rehearsals and concerts week in, week out, it simply can't function. Sometimes it can seem more like hard work than pleasure but sub-consciously the work, the music, the camaraderie and the ups and the downs all make their mark and enrich the soul. Players of all abilities are welcome, from complete beginners upwards, and from 8 to 80. Adult learners are as important as the junior players, and there are several players who only started in later life.

Rehearsals are on Friday evening, with beginners at 6.45, the youth/training band at 7.15, and senior band from 8-10. If you would like to go along and have a try, contact Simon Rudge on 872007. Instruments are provided so there's nothing to lose.

**St. Dunstan's Bell-Ringers:** If you wish to participate in an exceedingly satisfying pastime then do not hesitate to contact either Graham Holland on 872163 or Sue Ellis on (01892) 784026, who will arrange for attendance at a ringing session.

**St Dunstan's Jubilee Handbell Ringers** is a very friendly group who meet every Thursday in London House between 5.45pm and 7pm. They have 2 octaves of bells and chimes including the sharps and flats so they can play a wide range of music. New ringers are welcome if you would like to give it a try. They have two learners at the moment so you would not be on your own. It is not essential that you read music, but it does help. They are always striving to improve and enjoy playing in public, but not a session goes by without lots of smiles, encouragement and laughter. Why not give it a try? Ring Shirley Holland (872163) for more details.

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## FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

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**MAYFIELD AND THE GREAT WAR - NO. 40 - JULY 2017:** On the Western Front the British Army at Ypres made preparations for a major campaign which would start on the 31st July and become known as the 3rd Battle of Ypres; also known as Passchendaele. Prior to the Army moving forward, a large-scale bombardment of enemy positions was undertaken for 11/12 days. Whilst this made way for the later assaults it had unintended consequences of wide-scale cratering of low ground which had a high water table and destroyed much of the natural drainage of the ground over which attacking troops had to progress. On a more positive note the British air campaign to dominate the sky over Ypres was much more successful.

On the Eastern Front the febrile political atmosphere, following the abdication of the Tsar, had a major effect on the will and performance of the Russian Army. A major offensive, the 'Kerensky Offensive' was launched at the beginning of July and started well but the loyalty of many troops wavered under the barrage of political confusion. By the end of the month the initiative had passed to the Germans who began a damaging counter offensive.

Mata Hari, born Margaretha Geertruida Zelle, left her British husband in the Dutch East Indies to perform her exotic dancing routines to audiences across Europe. Her entanglement with men of a military occupation or background led to her being accused of divulging military secrets to German Intelligence personnel. She was found guilty of spying by a French court-martial and sentenced to death. Her execution by firing squad took place in October 1917.

Locally, a great deal of excitement was caused in Mayfield at noon on the 23 July by the appearance of 13 aeroplanes flying together at great height above the village.

There is one individual recorded on the Mayfield and Five Ashes War memorials for July 1917.

**Private Edgar Eaton** 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), Service No G/37352 was killed on the 31 July 1917 aged 27 and is buried at Hooze Crater Cemetery. Belgium.

His Service Records have not survived. There appears to have been some delay/confusion in informing his family of his circumstances. By the 24 August 1917 his family had only heard that he was once again wounded but his wife had no news of his whereabouts. Having earlier in the year been wounded he had re-joined his Battalion in June. It was not until October that he was officially listed as missing and at some time much later, in the Mayfield ROH of January 1919 he is still listed as missing. Nevertheless, his body must have been recovered by 1920 when he is listed as buried at the Hooze Crater Cemetery.

Edgar was born in Mayfield towards the end of 1889 to parents Charlotte Annie and Jonathan Eaton; his father was a carter corn merchant. By 1911 Edgar was living with his widowed mother in Back Lane, Mayfield and he was a domestic gardener at Cranesden, although at the time of his enlistment at Eastbourne it appears he was a resident of that town. He married Ethel Skinner at St Dunstan's in Mayfield on the 23 December 1914. A son Edgar Eaton was born in the 2nd quarter of 1916.

Brian Oldfield & Carole Stilwell

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## OUR SCHOOLS

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**NEWS FROM FIVE ASHES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL:** The summer term is always such an eventful period in the school calendar as we get to fully utilise our local surroundings. Our termly woodland days are continuing but with more call for sunscreen and hats. Due to a school council initiative we are holding a sports activity day on the village playing fields, when our Year 6 children will be organising the afternoon activities for the whole school. They have put a tremendous amount of effort and thought into this and I am sure it will be a

very successful day.

Nine winning children have helped the Village Hall committee with the planting of their new garden. They spent some time digging and sowing seeds in the new community area; we are all looking forward to seeing the results of their hard work and thinking about how we can best use this produce in a mini enterprise experience in September.

Maple class attended a tri-golf competition at Beacon where they finished second, the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the children and we noticed a few potential professional golfers amongst our talented Year 3/4 class.

Our new Reception children have been into school for their first visit. It was wonderful to meet them all and to see how the other children welcomed them into our school family. They had a superb morning familiarising themselves with our newly renovated early years area and were quickly engrossed in the many learning areas.

The whole school are going to see the stage production of Gangsta Granny at the Assembly Halls in Tunbridge Wells. They are looking forward to seeing this much loved text in a live performance, they will be able to examine what steps have been taken to adapt the book to a stage production whilst revelling in the wonders of a theatre visit.

Our end of year production of Alice in Wonderland is developing well, the children can be heard singing the songs around the school and our Atrium is jam packed with the creations of some amazing props. It will be performed at the Village Hall on 13th July.

With so much more to come in this last term such as: the Leavers Service, Year 5 STEM day at Mayfield Girls, Oak class's Globe Shakespeare workshop, Protein Ball sale, Healthy Eating workshops, Sports Day and the Swimming Gala to mention a few, I will leave you with a picture of our children helping to man the school stall at the Mayfield Summer Fayre.



**MAYFIELD SCHOOL SCORES A SIX:** International cricketer, Lydia Greenway, has opened the batting for girls at Mayfield School who have taken up cricket for the first time this summer. Lydia, whose illustrious career has led to her being described as “the best women’s fielder in England Cricket” retired from the game at the end of last season and is now a visiting coach at Mayfield, tasked with introducing the girls to the sport and getting them match-ready for their first competitive season.

Mayfield managed to secure Lydia’s services as part of its successful Sport England Bid and her arrival has been greeted with much excitement all round. Mrs Georgina Fletcher Head of PE said; “The introduction of cricket at Mayfield has been met with great positivity and enthusiasm by our girls and we are all very much looking forward to improving our skills with Lydia, ahead of our own resident cricket coach Emily Starr starting in September.”

The girls have already begun competing against other schools with the U13 A team winning their first match against Roedean 76 runs to 70 so the School is very much looking forward to a successful first season under Lydia’s watchful eye.

Katie Chamberlain

**SKIPPER'S HILL MANOR SCHOOL - JO COX FOUNDATION:** As part of the nationwide ‘Great Get Together’, pupils from **Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School in Five Ashes** joined forces with Mayfield & Five Ashes Community Services (MAYFACS) to host a special picnic for members of the local community, in memory of MP Jo Cox.

Pupils in Years 5 to 8 at the independent day school, helped to organise the picnic in the grounds of Five

Ashes Village Hall, as part of their Challenge Award programme. The children were joined by members of the community to enjoy refreshments, activities and games, with £32.50 raised from the cake stall, for the Jo Cox Foundation.

Headmaster, Mark Hammond, said: "The children did a fantastic job helping to organise the community picnic for The Great Get Together and were all very keen to be a part of this important initiative. The picnic was a great opportunity for our pupils to come together with some of the people whose village we share and we look forward to more events like this one, in the future."

To find out more about Skippers Hill, visit [www.skippershill.com](http://www.skippershill.com)

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## OUR CHURCHES

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**COLKINS MILL CHURCH - LUNCH INVITATION:** – especially for all carers and the people they care for and anyone who would like to have Sunday lunch in a friendly relaxed atmosphere at no charge – **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 12.30 – 3pm** at Colkins Mill Church, Station Road, Mayfield. If you would like to come, please call Terry on 872635 or email [terrysteinegger@me.com](mailto:terrysteinegger@me.com).

We welcome everyone who would like to join us for our family services every Sunday morning at 10.00 am. We have Sunday school for the children and an informal service for everyone else. Tea and coffee and biscuits/cake are served at the end of the service. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 6pm there is our Causeway Service for anyone with special needs and their carers. We have fun and games and craft activities as well as a Bible Story. Please feel free to come and see what happens.

We also have COGS on a Thursday evening from 6.30-8.00 for school years 4-6; fun, games, fruit, crafts and a bible story. COGS on a Friday from 7.00 pm for years 7+. (At the very beginning of July COGS are going away for the weekend: we are praying for a blessed weekend for all of them).

As a church, we are going to join other churches at a Christian camp at Ashburnham Christian Centre near Battle from Saturday 2-9th August. The title of the camp is 'All for One'. If anyone would like to join us camping in the grounds of Ashburnham please let Terry know (872635).

Terry Steinegger

**ST. DUNSTAN'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER:** Our new youth group, *The Forge* (named to connect us to our patron saint and his occupation!) has now officially been launched and what a fantastic start we have had! The group meets from 3.30- 6pm in London house on the second Monday of each month. It is open to all children from ANY primary school living in the parish of Mayfield and Five Ashes aged between 7 and 11. We have a variety of activities including a wii console and a table tennis table. The sessions include the preparation and cooking of dinner that the children are encouraged to join in with; they then enjoy the meal they have made together. The group is currently free and our team would ask that places are booked to ensure there is a space for your child/ren. This can be done via email or in person. Our next session will be September 11th.

Our next messy church will be held at 10am in St Dunstan's church on August 5th. This is a morning of craft, games and fun that link to a theme. These are free mornings, open to everybody ideally aged between 3-9 and their parent or guardian. The sessions end at 12.30 with a shared lunch that we ask everybody to contribute to, if possible. Come along and see what it's all about!

Our monthly Together at 9.15 service will be transformed into a special service in July. On the 16th we will be celebrating our new lighting in church and would love to welcome as many villagers as possible to our family service. You are promised a very warm welcome!

Please remember that we have a fabulous Sunday club that meets in London house from 10.15 for all children ideally from the age of 3. The children join the congregation before communion is given, to allow them to participate in the service. New children are always welcome to join in and make new friends on the second and fourth/fifth Sundays of the month.

If you would like to help us run the Forge or Messy church please contact me.

Mrs Natalie Thomson (07889 780531)

[childrensworker12@gmail.com](mailto:childrensworker12@gmail.com)

**ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SUMMER FAYRE:** A reminder that our Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday, 8th July in the beautiful garden of Mayfield Convent from 10.30am until 2.30pm. Entrance is free and everyone is welcome to come and have an enjoyable time. All our popular stalls will be there selling cakes, toys, fancy goods, nearly-new as well as books, preserves and our well known bottle stall. Teas and

coffees will be available from 10.30 onwards. Lunches will be served from midday; choose from a Ploughman's or the Barbecue. Wine and Pimms will also be available.

Our Grand Summer Draw has a First Prize of £150 cash. The Second Prize is a Luxury Hamper. The Third Prize is a Case of Wine and the Fourth Prize is Three Months' Peak Membership, Isenhurst Health Club, Jarvis Brook. There are also many other wonderful Prizes. We have a custom of sharing the proceeds of our Fayre and, this year, we shall donate one third of the proceeds of the Fayre and Draw to the Friends of Crowborough Hospital.

Kevin Hennessey

**LONDON HOUSE KEYS ON THE MOVE:** All hirers can now pick up London House keys from Burnett's Estate Agents in the High Street. Their opening hours are Mon - Friday 9.00 - 18.00. Saturday 9.00 -16.00. A big thank you to Rosina Fabrics for their many years of service.

Jo Woodliffe  
London House secretary

**FRIENDS OF MAYFIELD CHURCHYARD – CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY:** This will be held on **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> July** from 10am to 12 noon. Everyone is invited to come along and help. Ask your friends to join you. Bring stout boots or shoes, gardening gloves and any tools such as secateurs, forks and hoes. Coffee will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you.

Warwick Child

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## ROUND AND ABOUT

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**WOODHILL PATIENTS GROUP – CLOSING DOWN:** The Woodhill Patients Group (WPG) was established in 2011 at a time when major changes to the way the NHS was organised were looming on the horizon. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were created following the Health and Social Care Act in 2012, and replaced Primary Care Trusts on 1 April 2013. CCGs are clinically-led statutory NHS bodies responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for their local area. This generated a high level of interest amongst our residents and several well attended meetings were held where the implications of this shakeup were explained by guest speakers. We also arranged meetings on other health related topics and organised first aid training with the Red Cross which was attended by several dozens of people. Later when the partnership running the surgery was dissolved and a tendering process was required to select who would be running our surgery there was a particular peak of interest in the community. Neither of the incumbent GPs was successful with their respective tenders and the contract was awarded to the Forest Row practice.

I think it is fair to say that this particular episode raised a number of questions in many of our minds as well as a certain degree of uncertainty as to the future viability of the surgery at Woodhill and what the new practice GPs would be like. Despite this initial apprehension it would appear that this transition has been accomplished with some success and in the absence of any feedback to the WPG to the contrary we must assume that the patients registered with Woodhill are a contented lot.

Since the takeover of the practice the WPG has continued to organise meetings periodically to cover important topics such as Care for the Carers, first aid, promoting and supporting our High Street pharmacy and living wills to name a few. We have also arranged demonstrations for schools, clubs and the parish council amongst others showing how to use the three defibrillators (AEDs) that we secured from SECamb (South East Coast Ambulance Service) for our communities. These are available 24/7 in three locations, namely in the entrance porch to Woodhill surgery, outside the Mayfield Primary School main entrance and outside the Five Ashes Inn.

Sadly, over the last year or so we have held meetings and invited guest speakers but these have been very poorly attended which was disappointing to say the least, especially when some of our guest speakers had to come from some distance. In fact, when we twice tried to hold our AGM we could not even attract a quorum.

In a recent meeting with the Woodhill Practice Manager we were advised that our GPs were unlikely to be able to support us with attending future meetings. This is a further blow to our attempts to engage patients with their GPs and practice on important health related issues.

In the light of the apparent general contentment with the services provided by the practice, the lack of feedback to the WPG when requested via this Newsletter or direct email, poor attendance at our meetings, the absence of any commitment from the GPs to participate or engage proactively with us, we feel that there is no future role for the WPG and we have therefore decided to dissolve our group. Each GP practice is contractually obliged to have a 'Patients Reference Group' and they will therefore directly recruit a small panel of individuals for periodic meetings with the Practice Manager to satisfy that requirement.

We would, therefore, like to invite any interested patients to our final AGM on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July at 11am. The meeting will be held in the function room of the Rose and Crown in Mayfield. In order to make final arrangements for the venue would anyone interested in joining us please contact me if at all possible to confirm their attendance.

John Gaunt, Chair

Email: [chair@woodhillpatientsgroup.org.uk](mailto:chair@woodhillpatientsgroup.org.uk)

Mobile: 07917 886682

**MAYFIELD FOOTPATHS WALK:** We meet this month on Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>, as usual in South Street car park and setting out at 10am. We will walk for a few hours using some of the many footpaths, bridleways and tracks that criss-cross the Parish. What better way to spend a summer Sunday morning!

Deborah Dixon

[Deborah.dix@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Deborah.dix@hotmail.co.uk)

**ARGOS HILL WINDMILL OPEN DAY: SUNDAY 16th JULY from 2 - 5pm.** Do come and see the windmill on 16<sup>th</sup> July or on other open days August 9<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and October 25<sup>th</sup>. The roundhouse is now set up as a small museum with storyboards and original artefacts on display. Hot and cold drinks plus cake and our new guidebook are available. There has been an encouraging interest in windmill visits from people living locally and also from much further afield, giving very positive feedback. Parking can be found close by - but don't forget the walk to the mill from both Mayfield and Rotherfield is very pleasant and gives the opportunity to enjoy the good views.

Jenny Beaupain

**LAMBERT AND FOSTER:** were delighted to support The Royal British Legion at the May Fair raising £115 from their raffle. The winners were Diane Kirkness who received a hamper and Clementine Westwood who received the hand-tied bouquet. Thank you to all who supported us – it was a great day!

Gill Weavers

[gill.weavers@lambertandfoster.co.uk](mailto:gill.weavers@lambertandfoster.co.uk)

**MAYFIELD NGS GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY:** The weekend of 10/11<sup>th</sup> June was extremely busy with visitors from far and wide coming to view the gardens and spend some time in our lovely village. The weather was dry, warm and breezy, perfect for a leisurely wander and enjoying alfresco tea and cake.

We raised a record amount this year: ticket sales and donations came to the sum of £4,175.60 and the tea money (which goes directly to Macmillan Cancer Support) was £1,571.30, making a grand total of **£5,746.90**. The charities that are supported are listed at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk).

Thank you to all who came to visit the gardens, your contribution to the nursing and caring charities supported by the National Garden Scheme is very much appreciated.

We are always looking for new members to add to the group so if you would like to open your garden for charity and are within reasonable walking distance of the village centre, please get in touch.

Sarah Ratcliffe 873310



**JOB OPPORTUNITY: Have you:**

- Good IT knowledge,
- Familiarity with social media,
- Good admin skills
- An eye for detail

If you are interested in hearing more about a part-time, flexible 5 hours a week job with MAYFACS, please get in touch.

Shirley Holland

[manager@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:manager@mayfacs.org.uk) 07908 516 875



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

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

We hope those who came to the picnic in Five Ashes had an enjoyable time. Thank you Skippers Hill for organising it and for the lovely cakes. Please see their piece for the amount raised for the Jo Cox Foundation.

**Five Ashes Tea & Chat:** The dates for July are 12 & then the 26 July, when Sarah Ratcliffe will be visiting us to demonstrate her new yoga class, "Yoga for the Young at Heart". If attendees would like to continue through August, and meet without me being present, please let me know at one of the July meetings. You are more than welcome to do that.

**Computer Buddies & Mayfield Library:** Don't forget, there are buddies available to help sort out your computer queries. Contact Lucy in the library (873195) or Shirley to book a slot. These may well fluctuate during the school holidays, so please contact one of us to check.

**Monthly Outings:** Our first outing by minibus will be Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July to Hastings. Take a picnic or do your own thing for lunch. Leave Hastings by 4pm. Cost £3 per person. The pick-up points will be: Mayfield High St. 11am, St Thomas 11.05am, Five Ashes Inn 11.10am. Places are limited so please contact Shirley as soon as possible to book a place. Our outings will generally be on the last Monday in the month (except bank holidays) and will vary in price and location. Please give me your ideas.

**Good Neighbouring Scheme:** Please get in touch with me if you or you know of a neighbour, who would like to be part of this initiative.

Shirley Holland

Most Mondays - Old Library – next to the Memorial Hall (look for the sign outside)

Telephone: 07908 516 875

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

Email: [manager@mayfacs.org.uk](mailto:manager@mayfacs.org.uk)

If you prefer to write, please leave a letter at The Shopping Basket

**SLOW SHORT FILM FESTIVAL: Saturday 9th September 11am - 8.30pm.** Mayfield is hosting an international film festival this September. The Slow Short Film Festival has received over 150 submissions from 37 countries around the world. The shortlist includes films made in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Morocco, Colombia, Slovenia, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Greece, the US, and a look in from the UK too. The films will be exhibited in various venues across the village, supplemented by Q&As, talks, and prize giving. Food and drink has not been forgotten.

The festival focuses on films made within the slow cinema tradition. This genre can be broadly characterised by a combination of long takes and long shots, with a focus on non-professional actors and an emphasis on everyday activities, often in rural settings. If contemporary culture is governed by speed and distraction, these films open up time for stillness and contemplation. Mayfield, as opposed to the bustle of city life, is therefore a perfect space for the festival.

The festival promises to be a fascinating and enjoyable day. Tickets will go on sale in July and will be priced at £5. More information can be found on the festival website: [www.slowshortfilmfestival.com](http://www.slowshortfilmfestival.com)

Peter Treherne

**MAYFAIR:** This year's Mayfair raised £1350 for the Children's Air Ambulance and a further £1600 which will be spent on Christmas lights and donations to local charities. Once again, thank you to everyone who helped and those who came and contributed to this fantastic total.

Roger Stone 872764 / 07776 144056

**NEW MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES WEBSITE:** The work of updating the villages' website is continuing in the background. At present the only visible signs are the updated home page and a new page explaining about the update itself. We are also currently updating the business directory to make sure we have a comprehensive and up-to-date list of all businesses based in Mayfield and Five Ashes: High Street and other shops, services and trades, accommodation and anything else. The new directory will be easy to search, so that residents and visitors can easily find what they want and support our local businesses. Emails have been sent to everyone we know who runs a business based in Mayfield and Five Ashes to check for the right de-

tails. If you run a business and have not seen an email, please check your spam box for mails from admin17@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk. Or else, fill out the contact form by clicking on the "More Information" button on the front page of the website. Please make sure the description of your business includes any keywords or phrases for which you want your business to be found. You can also use the contact form on the website if you have details to update for any local societies. We need your details as soon as possible since we are aiming to launch the first set of new webpages towards the end of the month.

Roger Stone 872764 / 07776 144056

admin17@mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk



**HOSPICE IN THE WEALD TEA AT THREE:** It is at this time of the year that we plan our annual TEA AT THREE event. This will be held on **Wednesday, 19th July from 3pm until 5pm** in the Mayfield Memorial Hall.

We are very pleased to hear that Ken Mellor's Group "The Remnant" are able to entertain us on the day. The three singers and musicians have been entertaining audiences for some years in Kent and Sussex with their repertoire of music from the 60s and beyond, expressed in close harmony singing, interspersed with duets and solos. They have performed for many charity events and are pleased to be taking part for the Hospice. With a splendid tea and raffle, this event is not to be missed! Tickets are available from Rosina Fabrics and Burnett's Estate Agents, both situated in the High Street at £10 and £5 for children under 12 years.

Jean Olney

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:** A big thank you to all of you who came to our coffee morning in London House on 3rd June. It was a great success and with your support we raised almost £400.

We completed our marathon walk along the South Downs the following weekend in 10 hours and are happy to say our legs were still functioning the following day! All our fundraising efforts have raised £2,500 for Macmillan which far exceeded our expectations.

Janet Crossley & Catherine Hawley

**FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL:** Following the award of a grant from the Sussex LUND at the end of 2016, a sensory garden has been created on a poorly maintained area of land owned by the trustees of the village hall and playing field, adjacent to the Children's Play area. This will provide an opportunity to engage young people from the village schools in environmental studies, as well as providing an area for others to enjoy and relax.

The children of Five Ashes Primary School assisted in the planting within the garden, along with members of the committee and the Five Ashes Horticultural Society.

The Sensory Garden will be officially opened during the Five Ashes Horticultural Society Summer Show and Village Fair on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The hall committee are very pleased to announce that the eminent horticulturalist, Fergus Garrett will conduct the opening. Mr Garrett is the head gardener at Great Dixter in Northiam and worked very closely with gardener and author, Christopher Lloyd.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 the hall and playing field played host to the Jo Fox Foundation Get Together. This was a fabulous afternoon with children from Skippers Hill and Five Ashes Primary enjoying the festivities. Thank you to MAYFACs for organising.

The hall and playing field are available to hire and residents of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish are entitled to a 30% discount on hire fees. Email 5asheshallbooking@gmail.com or call Kas Shepperson on 01825 831945.

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## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

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**MAYFIELD BAND - Mayfield Band - improving life with maths, philosophy, music, cake, and walking:**

Of the many problems in your life at the moment, I expect your diet will be one of them. There is also a fair chance that the doctor is telling you to get your blood pressure down, or take some of the stress out of your life, or both. Add to all that the worry about the size of your mortgage, and the cost of your gym membership (and the fact that you never have time to use it), and you start to find that lesser annoyances in life like never being able to park in the High Street, as reported in last month's Newsletter, become big annoyances. But a solution to all these problems is at hand, so take a deep breath and relax.

When you next need to pop into the village, and assuming that you are reasonably fit and able, park your car behind the Memorial hall and walk to the shops. It is 260 steps from the Mayfield Band bandroom to Mace, so that's a return trip of 520, and it takes just two minutes. If you did that just twice a week, it would add 52000 steps to your year, which would burn off 2000 calories, reduce your blood pressure, relieve stress, give you the



time to appreciate our lovely village, which will make you feel better about the fat mortgage you had to take out to live here in the first place, expose you to the sun to improve your skin colour, make you healthier and fitter so that you can cancel your gym membership, and end your worrying about the parking as you will be wearing a smug grin when you consider that those people parking on the High Street still have all the problems that you have now shed as a result of not parking there. Better still, wander down to the Pink Cabbage, adding 340 return steps, taking your total up to 86000 a year, burning 3600 calories, and before you know it you will be as lean, fit, tanned and healthy as can be. Of course not all walking is good, as demonstrated by Theresa and Phil in Snowdonia, but you can be assured that your walk to the shops is far less likely to throw the country into turmoil.

And it gets better. If you take your walk at around 7/8pm on a Friday night, but pop in to the bandroom first and take up an instrument, not only will you further decrease your stress levels, but you will save even more money because the shops will be closed by the time you get to them! Isn't it extraordinary how many problems can be solved by playing in the band. Who'd have thought it?

Well that's your problems, and the village problems, all sorted out, but as with all good advice, it doesn't come free, and we need something in return. The band also has its problems, and a shortage of players is top of the list. We very much regret to inform you that as a result, we are going to have to cancel this year's Proms concert, as we just haven't had enough players to prepare a concert of the standard you would expect from us. So don't be deceived by the levity of the above message; **we need you, your children, your partners, and your parents, and we need you all now.** Mayfield Band is at the heart of this village in so many ways, not least in its ability to improve the lives of our children. Help us to preserve this great tradition, which has provided the soundtrack to village life since the 19th century, and make life better for us all. As Plato said, "The beginning is the most important part of any work". So we'll see you on Friday?

Simon Rudge 872007

simon@mayfieldband.co.uk

**MAYFIELD EVENING WI:** The meeting on Tuesday 13th June was entitled "Let's Talk" and we all did just that. We heard from our delegate to the Annual Meeting in June that both resolutions put forward were carried and will now go forward to be discussed further. We then moved three to a table and were given numbers and a list of subjects. We had a few minutes to talk to each other using the list of subjects to get started. When the bell was rung No. 2 moved to the left and No. 3 moved to the right and No 1 stayed where they were. I am afraid I didn't use the list of subjects very much as we just started talking about anything at all. It is a great way to meet new members and we have had a good few lately. We were still talking when cake and tea were served to us.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th July at 7.15 for 7.30 start. We will be entertained by Ben Cross from "The British Alstroemeria & The UK Cut Flower Industry". Even if you are not interested in flowers or indeed have not got a garden I am assured this will be a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

If you have been thinking of coming to the WI why not make this your first evening and if you enjoy yourself you can join us. If you would like more information phone Berenice Blurton on 872039.

Margaret Rae

**MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: Mayfair: Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>:** The society displayed a number of documents relating to the Old Palace, the Girls School and medieval Mayfield in the small courtyard of Stone House. Also shown were some of the society's collection of postcards. Two of these were of interest to two visitors. If they contact me (brianoconoor226@gmail.com) I can email them copies. Several visitors have taken flyers to join the society so we hope to see them next session.

Members had a very enjoyable outing to Petworth House with its remarkable collection of paintings, the best owned by the National Trust. The tour booked by Rob Foster proved very valuable in highlighting features of particular interest. Thanks to Rob and John Buddle for their efforts in organising the day.

**Next Season's Meetings begin on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Scout Hall 7:15 for 8.00 p.m.** Until then have an enjoyable and fruitful holiday season. To save time on October 27<sup>th</sup>, it would be very helpful if members could fill in the membership application form on our website. This will be especially helpful if changes have been made to email or snail mail addresses.

**Friday, November 24, 2017: REMINDER - DUTCH SUPPER EVENING:** This year we shall be back to our past pattern with a talk by Geoff Hutchinson on Christmases past. Geoff is an accomplished and amusing speaker, so a good evening is to be expected.

Brian O'Connor, MLHS Chairman – 873477

Rob Foster, MLHS Secretary – 873215

John Buddle, MLHS Treasurer – 872229

**FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW:** Our 99<sup>th</sup> Summer Show will be held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July at Five Ashes Village Hall, starting at 2.00pm. The Show exhibits will be displayed in Ash & Rowan Halls and on the Recreation Ground there will be a larger than normal selection of side-shows and stalls to keep everybody entertained and involved for the afternoon as well as a **Dog Show**. We are increasing the number of attractions in a build-up to our 100<sup>th</sup> Show next year. Sports for children and adults will be played on the Recreation Ground. Music throughout the afternoon will be provided by Wealden Brass. There will be a collection of classic vehicles to bring back memories of “how things used to be” when our roads were not so busy.

Food, cakes, BBQ and drinks, tea and coffee will be available all afternoon. At 2.45pm the new Sensory Garden will be officially opened by Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener at Great Dixter and we hope he will view and comment on the exhibits in the Show. Entry forms and schedules are available from Heal's Shop & Café, Pink Cabbage, Five Ashes Village Hall and Five Ashes Inn or direct from myself. I look forward to seeing you on the 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Graham Playfoot, 01825 830511

**MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017 FROM 2.30pm SUMMER SHOW. CLASSES OPEN TO EVERYONE.** Our Show Secretary, Diane Kirkness, warmly welcomes everyone to enter, you do not have to be a member. **Free Schedules** are now available from Lambert and Foster, Mayfield Chiropody and Podiatry Clinic (Mayfield High Street), Mayfield Library (Fletching Street) and [www.mhs.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk](http://www.mhs.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk) There are a huge variety of classes to enter, something to capture your imagination, whatever your interests. Please take a look at the Schedule and decide that this is going to be the year to support this colourful and friendly event! The categories are Craft (including a 50 word mini saga 'The (K)night Raid'), Domestic (everything from decorated cup-cakes to hen's eggs), Floral Art, Photography, Flowers, Vegetables and Fruit. Amongst the many classes for children, Diane would particularly like to encourage entries to the photographic classes as, for the first time, pictures can be sent directly from a mobile phone or iPad to the judge, Simon Heaton. Enter, view the exhibits, purchase something from the **Produce Stall** (donations of plants, produce or preserves gratefully received throughout the day)) or just come to have a cup of tea and a lovely piece of cake, we hope to see you there! **Please remember to check the Schedule for all entry deadlines**, the correct number of vegetables/fruit/flowers in each class and remember to see the 'Judges Hints for Exhibitors'. Any queries can be answered by emailing Diane via [mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com) or phoning her on 872705.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September- minibus visit to Marchants Hardy Plants Garden and Nursery followed by afternoon tea at the Roebuck Inn, Laughton. Everyone is welcome to our Society events.** The garden should be at its very best and there are always unusual and choice plants on offer! The price is £17 per person which also includes a talk from nursery owner Graham Gough. The bus will leave Mayfield High Street at 1.30 pm and return at approx. 5.30-6.00pm. Anyone wishing to come should contact Tessa Crowe by email [tessa@the-oast.com](mailto:tessa@the-oast.com) or phone 872726. Cheques payable to Mayfield Horticultural Society by 15th August.

Rosemary Bayliss

[mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

**GARDENING TIPS:** On the 8<sup>th</sup> May we visited Sheffield Park hoping to catch the azaleas and rhododendrons at their best but we were a bit disappointed as some were passed their best and others were still to come out but this was after a long dry spell followed by some heavy frosts. These had left their mark on the gunnera manicata (giant rhubarb) most of which had been completely blackened except for the plants within a yard or so of the edge of the lake which were still green and flourishing showing that micro climate can be very micro indeed. On 15<sup>th</sup> May we visited Bodnant, another NT showpiece in North Wales. It was spectacular – to use that old cliché a riot of colour but it does have the advantage of several micro climates due to the hillside layout and a macro climate which gives it plenty of rain.

There seems to have been a very good set of soft and stone fruit this year; pears also seem very prolific, apples about normal. It is not practical to thin soft fruit except, possibly, gooseberries but it is too late anyway. I have thinned my wall grown peaches and nectarines to about 6” apart. It seems like vandalism but it does produce much better fruits. Apples normally have a June drop which may do the job for us. However we should not count our fruit before it is picked because judging by the number of queen wasps about, it may be a battle to see who gets any fruit at all. I would like to do a deal with the wasps that we each have half of the crop provided they don't drill holes in the other half so that it goes rotten. There have also been good numbers of bumble bees and solitary nesting bees of many kinds in my garden and I have had similar comments from a

gardener in south London. They, of course, live on pollen and nectar and are highly beneficial in a moderate wasp year. I just live with them but in a bad year I do hang some flask shaped traps in the trees using some diluted jam or honey as bait. This usually ferments so that they die drunk and happy. It does not affect any bees.

Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the growing of early season biennials such as Wallflowers and Sweet William fell out of favour but may now be making a comeback. One of the problems is the length of time they occupy the ground. By cutting back to about 6" you can get a second season particularly from the wallflowers, some of which can be treated as short lived perennials. Otherwise you have to harden your heart and pull them out as soon as you need to plant the next crop. Wallflowers are usually fairly easy to find as plants in the autumn but there is just time to grow some from seed if you do it right away. I find the best way is to sow in a seed bed and, as soon as the plants can be handled, plant out at about 6" apart. As soon as they are growing well, pinch out the tops. Plant out to where they will flower in late September or as soon as the ground is available. This double transplanting does seem to lead to a much sturdier plant. Much the same remarks apply to sweet William (*dianthus barbatus*). Do keep the plants well-watered in a dry autumn.

John Logan

**MAYZING COMMUNITY CHOIR:** Thank you everyone who supported our summer concert in St Dunstan's Church. We hope you enjoyed the mix of music and singing. As a choir we are indebted to Noel Bannister for his dedication to MayZing; for his expert guidance, encouragement and patience. We are also immensely grateful to Louise Coker, who is not only a fine singer & musician, but has stepped up to be our conductor and has grown immensely in that role - thank you to them both. All profits from the concert will go to the Sussex, Kent and Surrey Air Ambulance.

MayZing will take a break over the summer so we wish you a summery few weeks and we'll be refreshed and raring to sing again in September.

Shirley Holland

**MAYFIELD & DISTRICT U3A:** is continuing under its new Chairman, Polly Bradford, who has taken over the role following the sad and unexpected death of Janet Goldsmith. Polly has acted as Secretary since the launch of the U3A in Mayfield and has handed over those duties to Ann Scott, the first Chairman who has re-joined the committee.

The speaker at the June General Meeting was Bob Trott, a retired air traffic controller who gave a fascinating talk which provoked many questions. It was both daunting to realise the enormous complexity of the operation which navigates planes through a more and more crowded airspace and also very reassuring to learn of the safeguards and of the intensive training which applicants have to go through.

The July meeting will open with the AGM and business will be followed by something completely different - entertainment provided by magician Bertie Pearce, a very amusing and original practitioner of his art. He is a member of the Inner Magic Circle and the recipient of several prestigious awards. We are all looking forward to an intriguing and entertaining end to our year.

There is no general meeting in August and we resume in September (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>) with a talk by Chris Yarrow entitled "Attempting the Good Life in a Sussex Wood".

Visitors are always welcome to the general meetings which take place on the third Thursday of the month (not August or December) in Mayfield Memorial Hall at 2pm.

There are currently 32 groups of very diverse interests, all flourishing and new members are always welcome. For more information please contact Groups Co-ordinator Susana Price-Cabrera 873520 or Membership Secretary Sue Petrie 01892 542894.

**MAYFIELD BUSINESS FORUM:** It is predicted that young people starting work for the first time this year will have on average five different careers before they retire. Even for those settled in a particular job, rapid changes in technology mean that ways of working are continually evolving and new tools quickly replace existing ones. So how can we keep our skills up to date or learn new ones? How can CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and our own attempts at learning keep pace? Do new learning technologies (webinars, videos, micro learning etc.) and the latest scientific understanding of how we learn provide the answers? Join us on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 6:30 for to find out more about "How we keep up to date" and to discuss what works for each of us and the challenges we face. As always, everyone interested is welcome to attend.

Roger Stone (872764) / 07776 144056

**Rusdens Home Interiors** are celebrating their 1<sup>st</sup> year in Mayfield on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00am – 7.00pm. Enjoy a glass of Prosecco and **10% discount** on all items.

**NEW SHOP OPENED: Smith&Crumble Clothing, The Old Armoury, Mayfield High Street**

**NOTE FROM THE EDITORS:** If you are a shop or business in the High Street OR a business in the villages and have something special to announce or have been nominated for an award send us a few lines to the usual Newsletter email address. Normal advertising should be sent to Paul Woodley [paulwoodley.zagon@gmail.com](mailto:paulwoodley.zagon@gmail.com)

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**OPEN FORUM/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Thank You:** My late dog Polly, a diminutive cocker spaniel of 14 years, had to be put down recently and many people have contacted me to say what a great little friendly dog she was to all. I would like to thank everyone for their kind words which are much appreciated.

Nigel Stockley

**Thank You Lisbert Rausing:** for opening your garden at Rolf's Farm to the public this year. It was a wonderful experience to wander through wild flower meadows, especially where there was once a tennis court. Everything has been done to attract wildlife, except the vegetable garden, where there is a low wall to deter deer and rabbits. It was all so perfect.

Joan Redford

**Food Bank:** Mayfield remains a collection point for the Tunbridge Wells Nourish food bank charity which helps to provide emergency food to local people in crisis. Donations can be dropped off at St. Dunstan's, St. Thomas's and Colkins Mill Churches now that Open Door has closed. A meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June to discuss whether there is a need for a dedicated Mayfield food bank with no firm conclusion arrived at. The Courier saw the flyers advertising the meeting and turned this into a "Fake News" story.

Natalie Thomson

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - AUGUST 2017 ONWARDS**  
**(FOR JULY 2017 - SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER)**

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**August 2017**

Tues.	1	Mayfield Business Forum Informal Networking	Rose and Crown	6.30pm-8.00pm
Wed.	9	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day	Argos Hill	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Fri.	18	Bingo Night – fundraiser for Mayfield Bonfire Society	Scout & Guide Hall	7.30pm start

**September 2017**

Sat.	9	Slow Short Film Festival		11.00am-8.30pm
Sat. - Sun.	9 - 10	Argos Hill Windmill – Heritage Open Day	Argos Hill	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Sat.	16	Mayfield Carnival courtesy of Mayfield Bonfire Boyes and Belles		TBA
Thur.	21	Horticultural Society – Visit to Garden and Nursery of Marchants Hardy Plants	Pick Up High Street	1.30pm – 6.00pm
Thur.	21	U3A – monthly meeting	Memorial Hall	2pm
Sat.	24	Mayfield Primary School Boot Fair	Memorial Hall car park	TBA

**December 2017**

Fri.	1	Christmas Late Night Shopping	High Street	5pm-8pm
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### **REMINDER: MAIN NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION POINTS**

Five Ashes Inn, Five Ashes Village Hall, Heal's Farm Shop, The Shopping Basket, Pink Cabbage, Leppard's Butchers, St. Dunstan's Pharmacy, Middle House, Mace Stores, Public Library, Rose and Crown, plus several other premises around Mayfield where copies are available to browse.

### **COPY FOR NEWSLETTER / FEEDBACK TO CORRESPONDENTS**

Copy should be submitted **at the latest** by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. **Early submissions are encouraged.** Please send an e-mail to **mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com** with the name of your organisation or the topic of your copy in the Subject line; or deliver hand-written copy to The Shopping Basket (3, Station Road, Mayfield). Whenever possible please try to submit electronic copy - you can type the message in the body of the e-mail or make an attachment. Please show on all submissions the subject, name of author and a contact number in case of queries. Ideally type in Arial (not Arial Black) 11pt.

For advertising copy (money with copy please) contact Paul Woodley (873258) or e-mail to paulwoodley.zagon@gmail.com or deliver to The Shopping Basket also by 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Unless otherwise stated the views expressed in MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES NEWSLETTER are those of the contributors, and not of the Editors and Committee. The Editors reserve the right to omit, cut, or amend any contribution offered for publication.

To Correspondents with diary dates: feel free to provide advance notice of future events for inclusion in the Dates for your Diary section.

***Finally, unless otherwise stated, telephone numbers given are those for the Mayfield village area and therefore, from outside, should be prefixed with 01435.***

### **NATWEST MOBILE BANKING SERVICE**

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

### **MAYFIELD LIBRARY OPENING TIMES AS OF JANUARY 2017**

**OPEN: Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.00pm, Thursday 2.00pm – 6.00pm, Saturday 10.00am – 2.00pm.**

**CLOSED: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Bank Holidays.**

### **JULY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **July 2017**

Sat.	1	St. Dunstan's Churchyard Working Party	St. Dunstan's	10am – 12 noon
Sat.	1	Mayfield Scouts and Guides Coffee and Cake Sale	London House	10am – 12 noon
Tue.	4	Bowl Water boat trip day with fish and chip lunch. Organised by MAYFACs and incorporating the Tuesday Afternoon Club outing	Pick-up TBA	11am – 3.45pm
Tues.	4	Mayfield Business Forum Discussion topic: "How we keep up to date"	Rose & Crown	6.30pm – 8.00pm
Wed.	5	Art Class (weekly) <b>Please Note:- telephone number in June issue was incorrect</b>	Scout and Guide Hall 1.00 – 4.00pm (Tania Eccleshall – 872453)	
Fri.	7	Mayfield Pre-School Quiz Night	Memorial Hall	TBA
Sat.	8	Mayfield Primary School Mum2Mum Market	Memorial Hall	10am
Sat.	8	St. Thomas of Canterbury Summer Fayre	Mayfield Convent Garden	10.30 – 2.30pm
Sat.	8	Last Night of the Proms Concert	Memorial Hall	7.30pm

Sun.	9	The Friends of St Dunstan's Church: Garden Party and Open Garden	Clayton's Farmhouse, 12 Newick Lane	noon – 2.00pm
Wed.	12	Five Ash Tea/Coffee & Chat - all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30-4.00pm
Sat.	15	Mayfield Horticultural Society Summer Show	Memorial Hall and Scout and Guide Hall	8.30am – 10.30am entries. 2.30pm open to public
Sat.	15	Bingo Night – fundraiser for Boyes & Belles – Mayfield Bonfire Society	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm start
Sun.	16	Argos Hill Windmill Open Day	Argos Hill	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Tues.	18	Age Concern Lunch - contact Ruth Daniells 865711	Middle House	12.30 for 1.00pm
Wed.	19	Hospice In The Weald Tea At Three	Memorial Hall	3pm-5pm
Sat.	22	Midsummer Bands and Bonfire Festival	Memorial Hall/Court Meadow	5pm onwards
Sun.	23	Lunch for carers and families	Colkins Mill Church, Station Road	<b>12.30 – 3pm</b>
Wed.	26	Tea/Coffee & Chat – all local residents are welcome. Sponsored by MAYFACS. Shirley Holland (Manager) on hand for advice	Five Ashes Village Hall	2.30-4.00pm
Sat.	29	Five Ashes Horticultural Society Summer Show and Village Fair	Five Ashes Village Hall	2pm
Sat.	29	Musical Evening	All Saints Church Waldron	6pm
Sun.	30	Mayfield Footpaths Walk	South Street car park	10am
Mon.	31	MAYFACS trip to Hastings – contact Shirley Holland	Various pick-up points – see article	11am -