

NEWSLETTER



Mayfield and Five Ashes



No. 412 May 2012

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES: Some like a genteel sip with dinner, others like a pie and a pint in the pub. Some enjoy the escapist book and lazing on the settee with a chocolate treat, others like to stretch the brain cells and even to discuss the tome with others afterwards. Some like to come together to gain spiritual inspiration and mutual sustenance in a group, others like quiet moments of their own to contemplate their own spiritual being in life. Some enjoy a sedate game of golf with coffee and snack afterwards, others like to break out into a sweat, pounding the streets or treadmills. Some like a semi-strenuous game of bowls or tennis, whilst others thrash up and down the swimming pool (not getting the hair-style spoiled, of course).

Some like the cut and thrust of business decisions or committees and getting things done, others fulfil their competitive streaks with a game of bridge - but don't forget the Earl Grey tea and cake afterwards. Some are plugged into their iPods from dawn to dusk, others savour the delights of real, live music. Some like to enjoy the outside from inside and others can't wait to get their hands dirty outside in the garden.

Some enjoy being creative with their hands: sewing projects, pottery, art and craft; others like to absorb and wonder at the work and creations of others. Some enjoy watching dramas (on and off the stage) and others like to be in the thick of the project as a whole. Some like to delve into history and others are concerned with the future.

We're all multi-faceted, none of us the same - we're eccentric, eclectic, unique. That's why we live in Mayfield and Five Ashes - they are microcosms and have such possibilities. They are brilliant places from which to springboard further afield; and then, when our wanderlusts have been satisfied, to return to find our niche.

Have you recognised yourself in any of the descriptions? If not, there's obviously more to our villages that I have to explore and to find how the other half lives!

Brenda Holding

THANKS TO BRENDA AND JOHN HOLDING: It seems like only yesterday when Brenda and John Holding took over the editorship of Mayfield's special production – our NEWSLETTER. Yet it is five years since this happened. During this time Brenda and John have done a magnificent job, enlarging our village Yellow Pages and increasing its size and the information it produces for us. As a former editor, I know that this is no mean task and I am sure everyone will join me in thanking them.

Welcome to our new joint editors – Jonathan Street and Susan Castillo Street. We hope that your time as editors will be enjoyable for you too...

Anne Culley

A word from the new editors. When we first moved into the village just over one year ago one thing we noticed at once (in the Carpenter's Arms, as it happened) was the Yellow Pages. We could not believe such a substantial and informative local journal could have been produced on time every month for over 30 years. It is a real credit to the village. It is also, as Anne says, a great credit to Brenda and John, who warmly invited us into their home and explained the positive and less positive aspects of editing the Newsletter. They also very kindly agreed to help out if we hit a crisis.

We want to keep the style and flavour of the Yellow Pages the same and we have already told family and friends not to invite us away during those crucial days at the end of every month when we have to put our noses to the grindstone! On that point, our experience on this first edition is that something like 50 per cent of the copy arrives on the deadline date of the 20th of the month. It would be really useful if regular contributors could do their best to observe that deadline so that we can do our work quickly and effectively. We did not realise how many people are involved in the production and distribution of the Yellow Pages, from the advertising team to the print production guys, John Gaunt producing the artwork and the distribution team. All these people generously give many hours of their free time every month, and it would be impossible to produce the Newsletter without their support.

Jonathan and Susan Street (882871)

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council Annual Meeting will be held on 14 May, and at this meeting the Council will elect its Chairman for the year, and members will be elected on to the various Committees of the Parish Council. The current Chairman, Deveda Redman, who has served for two years, has announced that she will not be seeking re-election, so we shall have a new Chairman for what will be a challenging year ahead. It is an important meeting, especially as the forthcoming year, with the Localism Act, and the Jubilee celebrations, and the provision of services to our community, we shall have a very busy time. The public are more than welcome to attend. The Annual Meeting this year will be held in Mayfield Primary School Hall.

At our last Full Council meeting which was held on 16 April, there was a lengthy debate with the Wealden District Council representatives on two key issues which affect our community.

- The problems arising over the cricket pitch at Mayfield Grange which at the time of the agreement to build was supposed to be a Community Asset, but is now all but denied to us by the Mayfield Grange Management Committee.
- The problem over social housing, where the predominant demand in Mayfield and Five Ashes is for one and two bedroom dwellings, and the fact that most of our building is for three bedroom dwellings, with the result that our local residents miss out. We shall try to rectify this over the development at the Wincanton site by asking for the social housing allocation to be made one or two bedroom dwellings.

Another important meeting, which was held on 23 April, was the Parish Meeting held in Five Ashes and presided over by Cllr Robert Fitzsimmons. Many of our village organisations, both from Mayfield and Five Ashes, made reports to the meeting, and a number of interesting presentations were made. The plans for the new play area for the younger children of Five Ashes were discussed as were the problems of speeding on the A267 at Five Ashes.

The Parish Council also published its Annual Report for 2011/2012 at the meeting. Copies of the Annual Report are available to all that want them. They are available on the Website or in hard copy form the Clerk's Office in Mayfield.

In summary, 2011/12 was very successful for the Parish Council, and much was achieved:

- Continued development of Youth Services and the Youth Drop-in Centre.
- Continued provision with partners of a Community Bus Service
- Strengthening of Parish Council financial process systems
- Further substantial improvement of Rights of Way assets and opening of additional footpaths, as well as a licensed footpath
- Progress with the development of the Parish Plan 2006 – 2026 to conform with opportunities afforded by the new Localism Act 2011.
- Court Meadow now in full Council management, as part of the community and a review of management options for the future has been carried out during the year.
- Meeting requirements of Freedom of Information Act
- Further development and maintenance of the Village and Parish Council website
- Provision of hanging baskets in Mayfield High Street.
- Operation of the South Street allotment site, with eight operational plots.
- Completion of the update and cleaning of the Mayfield War Memorial.
- Provision of a new Parish Council office.

- Provision of a street party to celebrate the Royal wedding on 29 April 2011, and work towards a street party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.
- Providing a winter weather grit bin service, with further developments made during the year.
- Publication of a new edition of the Mayfield and Five Ashes walks booklet, and the Mayfield circular walk leaflet.

There was significant capital expenditure during 2011/2, as detailed below:

• Office relocation -	£78,258
• Love Lane car park and adventure site - payable over three years.	£7500
• Jubilee Wood - payable over three years.	£3000
• Grants towards Five Ashes nature garden -	£1000.
• Five Ashes flagpole -	£122.
• Mayfield War Memorial -	£4725.*
• Bridleway 92 Extension Project -	<u>£290</u>
Total	<u>£94,895</u>

- By public subscription.

In addition, extra grit bins and grit laying equipment were purchased in the year.

The total asset value at the year end was estimated at £352,275.

Our youth drop-in centre continues to flourish, and is currently attended by all girls, who take part in a wide range of activities. It is a drop in centre and not a formal youth club. So if you would like to take part, why not drop in? It's held on a Tuesday evening. Boys would be welcome!

On the 18th of last month, a small committee meeting was held to review the arrangements for the Jubilee celebrations, which will consist of and be centred around a street party. The High Street will be closed for the day, and there will be a number of attractions laid on. We are planning to cater for similar numbers as for the Royal Wedding, with people bringing their own picnics, or taking refreshments from a wide range of stalls etc, in the High Street. As last year we shall have the services of Marco the magician and a range of musical events.

The public toilet in South Street will be open for the day, as will London House, the Memorial Hall, and the Scout and Guide hut, and possibly some other locations.

We need helpers for the day on a number of duties, and as we intend the event to be financed entirely from public subscription, and not from Parish Council funds, we would welcome donations to the cause!

We also considered having a beacon, but have decided to rule this out, because it would be on a different day, and to be effective would need to be lit late at night. The cost of a beacon is somewhat prohibitive.

D.E.Thompson, Clerk to Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY

Meeting No.	MEETING	Time	Date
12 S 01	Community Safety and Traffic Advisory Committee, Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield	19:30	Tuesday 8th
12 P 03	Planning Executive Committee, Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield	09:30	Monday 14th
12 C 02	Full Council – Annual Meeting, Mayfield Primary School Hall	19:30	Monday 14th
12 R 01	Rights of Way and Trees Advisory Committee, Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield	13:30	Wednesday 16th
12 D 01	Community Development Advisory, Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield	19:30	Monday 21st
12 F 02	Finance And General Purposes Executive Committee. Old Manor House , High Street, Mayfield	19:30	Monday 28th

REGULAR FEATURES

MONITOR: I have lost track of how many years have passed since a Mayfield friend told me, in the Railway Inn (alas, now defunct), almost jubilantly, that he had solved the problem of retyping a manuscript he had written about a member of his family who had had a particularly adventurous life as a pioneer in the colonies. My friend had been working on the story for a long time, writing it in long hand, and was now facing the difficulty of having it presented to a publisher in a clean and pristine form. One publisher (a particularly august firm) had initially expressed 'very favourable interest' in the book, so for my friend the signs were encouraging. His only doubts lay in the fact that the manuscript might be lost in the post or that it would not be typed in exactly the way that he wanted. He could foresee having to make changes that might destroy the freshness of the story before it was submitted to a publisher. Some of the problems he envisaged could have been solved had he been a touch typist, or at least one who could type at speed. Typing it oneself is a laborious task, not always enjoyable, and sometimes removes that first-time quality an original story can often possess. None the less, a clean manuscript has to be produced to pass the first hurdle of finding an agent, because going straight to a publisher provides little or no hope these days.

During National Service my Regimental Sergeant Major was confident enough to believe that a story presented in *any* form would be acceptable to any publisher providing it was interesting, so he asked a lance corporal who was a journalist in civvy street to transcribe the story of the RSM's experience as a POW captured after the drop on Arnhem in 1944. No soldier, if he has any sense, refuses an RSM's request. This memoir had been hand-written on various scraps of paper, including discarded Tate and Lyle sugar packets, and these were passed on to my lance corporal chum to put into some semblance of order. Sad to say, as far as I know, the RSM's version of the Arnhem landings was never published.

It would be at times like this when efficient typists are worth their weight in gold and when my Mayfield friend needed one it was a fairly expensive luxury for a writer to employ one because the cost was greater than creating the original. Then suddenly, the home computer burst on the market and my friend thought his problem was solved: he would type it himself and if he made a mistake it could be wiped clean without spoiling a whole page.

I bought one of these early computer contraptions myself and after almost losing my senses and tearing my hair out trying to understand the technology I'd just about got the hang of things. I discovered later, however, that my technical skills were lacking when I pressed a wrong key and wiped out eighty-six pages of a novel I was writing. I watched every page roll away and was powerless to stop them being deleted. I had to write the whole lot again. I am not here to advise anyone how to stop such things happening, but now, thirty odd years later, I am still making stupid mistakes with my computer, despite being fortunate enough to know an expert in the field who often

comes to my rescue and prevents me from murdering my cat in frustration. The cat, incidentally, tries to help but the only assistance it provides is to lie in front of the gap at the bottom of my study door to prevent the draught from freezing my typing fingers.

I cannot remember how many manuscripts (plays and novels) I have written since I bought that first computer so many years ago but I have not had one play or book published since. The ten books that made it into print (the last one in 1977) were all written on an old manual Adler typewriter and I know many novelists and non fiction writers, some best sellers, who still find a typewriter more inspirational than a computer, but some of them now have secretaries or typists to produce the final drafts for them. But most of those I know are too broke to enjoy such luxuries.

I have still not learned my lesson. I have not used a typewriter for years but continue to use a computer because it's less back-breaking, and when it works it's fine. Yet my endeavours continue to elude my earlier modest achievements. Still, I have to admit there are few greater joys than seeing your own book in print. Just one can make up for all the duds that never were.

Victor Briggs



The sky is buzzing.

Right, it's time for a good news wildlife story; buzzards are back in Sussex and if you spend a

morning or afternoon out and about in the county there is a good chance that you will see one or more. Quite often it is their cat-like 'mewing' that catches your attention, so cast your eyes to the skies and you may see some dark bird-shaped silhouettes circling high above your head and if you do, then they might be buzzards.

On my arrival in Sussex 27 years ago, common buzzards were a rare sight, with just a handful breeding in the country, but since then they have spread and now can be found right across Sussex in numbers that are now close to 300. So what has precipitated this rise in population? For much of the last two centuries buzzards were persecuted by landowners, as were most birds with a hooked beak and talons, and were virtually shot out of existence in much of the UK. They survived in the western and northern areas of Britain where agriculture was less intensive and in the wilder uplands.

Throughout the 20th century game-keeping declined, though it wasn't until the past few decades that buzzard numbers began to recover nationwide. One main reason was that they became a protected species, though sadly some still are killed illegally, but there was also a recovery in the rabbit population, their main source of food, following the devastation caused by myxomatosis in the 1950s.

In spring, the population becomes more mobile as they look to re-establish their breeding territories and last year's youngsters

have to move away and find their own range and mate. They take advantage of the warming up of the air, which creates thermals on which they 'hitch a ride' with their wings outstretched and slightly tilted upwards, sometimes reaching heights that are too high for us to see them. This way they can cover huge distances with very little effort.

Towards the end of March there was almost a competition to see who had the biggest count of these thermals of circling buzzards; we had nine at one time over Woods Mill, but this was eclipsed many times by people seeing numbers in double figures, while on the Downs above Arundel someone reported seeing over 20 altogether. Sometimes they will be joined by other birds of prey that also take advantage of these thermals. Our Woods Mill circle was joined by a peregrine falcon for a while and quite often sparrowhawks will join in the fun.

Increasingly in Sussex you can now see red kites flying with the buzzards, another conservation success story, so it becomes a challenge to identify these dark silhouettes. Kites are generally bigger, with longer wings, and they have a forked tail which quite often, though not always, is the critical identification factor.

Rather depressingly, there is a tiny minority of voices bemoaning the number of buzzards and calling for their removal from the protected list of birds, but the overwhelming view of many, and not just birdwatchers, is delight that we live in a society that celebrates the fact that these magnificent birds are now back in our Sussex skies.

Mike Russell, Sussex Wildlife Trust, www.sussexwt.org.uk

WILDLIFE SPLASH: A blizzard of bluebells: More



British than a cream tea, tennis at Wimbledon or Pimms in the afternoon, is the dazzling display of bluebells in British woodlands in May. This is nature at its best – fleeting and full on - for bluebells must flower quickly and complete their life cycle before the tree canopy once again casts its heavy shade.

Singularly, the bluebell (*hyacinthoides non-scripta*) is simply beautiful, with an elegant raceme of narrow, delicate violet-blue bell-shaped flowers drooping daintily to one side; creamy anthers can just be seen peeping from the bell. En masse they are undoubtedly one of the most evocative and spectacular sights to behold in the British countryside. Stroll through a bluebell wood on a still and sunny spring day and perfume fills the air, for sweet nectar is produced in profusion to attract early pollinating insects such as bumblebees. And what a job they do, for sometimes the carpet of bluebells stretches as far as the eye can see.

There is unfortunately, an imposter at large – *hyacinthoides hispanica*, or the Spanish bluebell. The Spanish bluebell was introduced due to its vigorous growth and success as a garden plant; but as is often the case with such introductions, it is an escape artist and now readily hybridises with our native bluebell, with the progeny spreading steadily from urban areas. Spanish bluebells are more robust, with a stiff flowering spike supporting wide open paler blue flowers with blue stamens. They do not daintily droop to one side but stand to attention, haphazardly circling the stem, and they do not give off such a sweet delicate scent. Hybrids have a range of characters between the two, but even to the untrained eye a quick comparison with our native species will leave no doubt.

Bluebells have an extremely limited global range, occurring only in Western Europe, with an Atlantic distribution from central Spain to the Netherlands. We are fortunate enough to have half of the world's population of *hyacinthoides non-scripta* here in Great Britain; what's more, our local Wealden woodlands are perfect for this species and rival any other with a fleetingly beautiful blizzard of bluebells.

Jacqueline Thompson

TRAVEL NOTES: Since last month I have been off on my travels again, this time to Cape Verde, which had been much promoted in the press recently. Cape Verde is a group of small islands off the west coast of Africa, only a 5 1/2 hour direct flight away. Its mix of Portuguese and African cultures makes it unusual and interesting and it has some fabulous cuisine!

So, what's it like? Well, the weather is good all year round, about 25-30 degrees officially, but the sun is very powerful as you are close to the equator, so you have been warned! Most people at our hotel got burnt the first day as they underestimated the strength of the African sun, but, oh, the sunsets!

They say it rains for one afternoon in August for about an hour and that's their annual rainfall. You only have to look at the landscape on Sal, which is a reddish earth colour with hardly any vegetation at all, to believe this. Other islands such as Santiago are, however, very verdant and jungle-like. Since Cape Verde is new to tourism, there are a small number of hotels and that's it, really. Not much to do except relax by the pool or on the beach at the moment. There is some sightseeing, however, which can be done in a day or so. You can visit the salt mines, local villages, see a crater, learn about the island's history as a holding place for slaves from Africa. For sun worshippers, Cape Verde is a great winter sun destination, perhaps as an alternative to the Canaries or Gambia.

Did I like it? I did, actually. Once you get away from the all-inclusive hotels and explore, it has a raw charm. The town is small, with little restaurants along the beach and you can see the fishermen bring in the day's catch. The food is excellent, especially the fish. Tuna, swordfish and a local fish called Wah-hoo are delicious! It felt very safe walking around. I made a point of speaking to local people who I greatly admired for having a small command of not just English, but also French and German. They are trying really hard to win the tourists over and although the service is not slick or fast, they are very willing to please and learn what the tourists want and expect. Their catchphrase is "no stress". It takes a day or two to relax into it, but by the end of the week I was happily reminding myself not to get stressed and am still desperately trying to hold on to this notion! The crucial question I asked is whether they thought the tourism was a good thing. The overwhelming response was that they absolutely welcome tourism as there was almost 100% unemployment before. They do not like the all-inclusive hotels, though, as they want tourists to support the local cafes and restaurants. Cape Verde has huge plans for the future, many resort hotels, even golf courses. No hosepipe bans there, I hasten to add. They have desalination plants! You can hop over to the other islands by plane and each island is very different. So, if you are looking for a sunshine holiday and want to get in before mass tourism inevitably ruins the islands, now is a good time to go.

A few other snippets: BA has reintroduced its Gatwick/Nice route. Hurrah! Any Formula One fans out there? I've got some nice packages to the Belgian Grand Prix in August. Hurtigtuten is doing some special packages to the Northern Lights using charter flights, so cheaper. Burma is back on the map, but hurry before it is spoiled.

Have you thought any more about that trip to India? How about going with a group of friends?

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MAYFIELD BACK PAIN CLINIC: Spring is in the air...watch the back!

As we emerge from the relative warmth, darkness and safety of our houses, a little anaemic looking and blinking mole-like into the spring sunshine, it is wise to consider the possibility that we might be a little stiff and unused to the vigours found in the garden, patio, allotment, greenhouse or shaggy looking lawn. In an attempt to prevent at least some of you doing yourself serious injury, I wanted to make a few suggestions before you decide to launch an attack on the garden or move the very heavy pot plant that did you an injury last year. The following are just a few simple exercises, ideally done every day for five to ten minutes or so and definitely undertaken as a warm up before you hit the shovel.

Mobility exercises: The following exercises are best done on the floor using a rug or folded duvet to cushion things (or best of all an exercise mat). Beds are normally a little soft but if you have trouble getting up from the floor the bed will be fine. Use a pillow to support your head during the exercises as you want to be able to relax and stretch without straining anything else in the process!

Lower back stretch: Lie on your back. Pull knees up toward the chest until you feel the small of the back push on to the floor. Hold for ten+ seconds, repeat five times. This exercise stretches the muscles around the lumbar vertebrae.

Double arm stretch: Lie on your back and reach up with both arms above your head at the same time as stretching down with the heels in the opposite direction. Hold each stretch for five+ seconds, repeat five times.

Knee rolling: Lie on your back with your knees and hips flexed up half way and soles of your feet flat on the floor. Keep your feet in contact with the floor and knees touching each other throughout this exercise. Reach out to the sides with your arms so as to make a crucifix shape. Slowly let your knees roll to the left until you feel a stretch in your low back and buttock. Hold for 15 seconds then come back to the centre and go the other way. Repeat at least four times on each side.

Lower back flatten: Lie on your back with the knees and hips bent and soles of the feet in contact with the floor. Tighten the stomach muscles to flatten the lower back into the floor. Try not to push the feet down as you do this but instead feel as if you are tucking your tailbone under. If you are not sure if you are doing it right, put your hand under your lower back. It should be squashed when you perform the exercise. Hold for five to ten seconds, repeat ten times. This exercise flexes and stretches out the lumbar vertebrae as well as strengthening the 'pelvic floor'.

Cat stretch: Start the exercise on your hands and knees with your back parallel to the floor. Slowly arch your back upwards like an angry cat at the same time as letting your chin flex toward your chest. Hold for five seconds, and then arch down the other way like a stretching cat, this time look forward to face the wall in front of you. Again hold for five seconds. Repeat this ten times.

Take care: As with all exercises, try to do them once or twice a day for ten minutes or so ideally. If you feel pain during the exercises first of all think about how you are doing them, don't do them as strongly and see if that works any better. If any pain or problems persist stop and seek advice.

If you are concerned or unsure then feel free to give me a call for advice and discuss what can be done to help resolve your discomfort.

Nigel Kettle, Registered Osteopath, Mayfield Back Pain Clinic, Roseland's Avenue, Mayfield, 07939 129626, website: www.jointandback.com.

MAYFIELD MUSINGS: HOW DOCTORS THINK. No 2.

Why Science? Recently a patient asked me about a report in the newspaper he had seen about a new breakthrough treatment for osteoarthritis. I spent some time researching this item. It made me think about the difficulties in explaining why I couldn't just prescribe this drug immediately for this patient. These reasons have to do with the rigour of science and its application to medicine.

So this article is a very brief introduction into why doctors of medicine follow the principles of diagnosis and treatment that we do. Why we accept some ideas that explain disease and its treatment, and not others.

Modern medicine uses what it calls 'evidence-based medicine' or EBM. EBM tries to use the best available **evidence** gained from the **scientific method** to aid **decision-making** for patients. By using the scientific method it can assess the strength of evidence of the risks and benefits of **treatments** (including lack of treatment) and diagnostic tests. This helps doctors to decide whether or not any treatment will do more good than harm.

To explain the difference between scientific method and casual observation, consider the 'flying gallop' as an example of observation bias. Before the modern era, most observers depicting the position of a horse's legs when galloping thought that at the point where none of the four legs touched the ground, 'the flying gallop', the legs were splayed out in front and in back. In fact, it took a technological advance that sharpened our ability to observe: stop motion photography, to demonstrate that at the moment that no hoof touches the ground, a horse's legs are gathered together - not splayed. So until that point in the late 19th century, drawings and paintings show an incorrect flying gallop, with legs splayed.

Another simpler example is the well known brain teaser below. Which line is longer? Answer? They are both the same length! By using the careful measurement of a ruler, your brain will believe what your eyes might not!



This illustrates that we need to be cautious lest we observe what is not so; we often observe what we expect to observe. Until shown otherwise, our beliefs affect our observations (and, therefore, any subsequent actions which depend on those observations, in a **self-fulfilling prophecy**). This is one of the reasons (mistake, confusion, inadequate instruments, etc. are others) why scientific methodology directs that **hypotheses** be tested in **controlled** conditions which can be **reproduced** by others. The **scientific** community's pursuit of experimental control and reproducibility, diminishes the effects of cognitive biases. There are many types of bias that can occur in observation and experimentation and good scientific technique aims to minimise them as far as is possible.

A simplified description of the method of science is as follows:

1. Define a question
2. Gather information and resources (observe)
3. Form an explanatory hypothesis
4. Test the hypothesis by performing an experiment and collecting data in a **reproducible** manner
5. Analyse the data
6. Interpret the data and draw conclusions that serve as a starting point for a new hypothesis
7. Publish results
8. Retest.

The last step is often done by other scientists reproducing the results of earlier work. The more reproducible and reliable the experiment is, the more accepted the hypothesis is and the more established the work becomes as a scientific 'fact'.

The scientific method is not a single recipe: it requires intelligence, imagination and creativity. It is an **ongoing cycle**, constantly developing more useful, accurate and comprehensive models and methods. For example, when Einstein developed the Special and General Theories of Relativity, he did not in any way refute or discount Newton's Principia. On the contrary, if the astronomically large, the vanishingly small, and the extremely fast are removed from Einstein's theories — all phenomena Newton could not have observed — Newton's equations are what remain. Einstein's theories are expansions and refinements of Newton's theories and, thus, increase our confidence in Newton's work.¹

In so-called traditional medicine, we adapt our conception of disease and treatment as new observations, repeatedly demonstrated to be reproducible, are made. We are open to saying what we thought last year, 10 years ago, 20 years ago, has now been demonstrated to be wrong, and we will no longer base our diagnosis and/or treatment on those erroneous understandings. We will now prescribe X instead of Y.

As an example, until late in the 20th century it was thought that peptic ulcer disease was caused by stress. An Australian researcher demonstrated that ulcers are caused by an infection with a bacterium. Now we treat ulcers with antibiotics. This was a revolution in our diagnosis and treatment of this condition, and we changed our management of this condition virtually overnight.

Many of the controversies that we hear about in medicine and health, such as the withdrawal of medications from the market or changes in use of say hormone replacement therapy in post-menopausal women, are because newer scientific work has been done with better and more rigorous observations, applying the above scientific method more exactly.

And this is exactly what we should want: controversy, debate and eventually clarification and better understanding. And this is scientific, evidence-based medicine.

¹ Wikipedia article on scientific method

Dr Robin Warshafsky
Woodhill Surgery, Mayfield

WOODHILL PATIENTS GROUP: Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 16 May at Mayfield Primary School Hall at 8pm. This is an important meeting since we shall be reviewing the Group's progress to date and planning our course for the future. When the Group started last summer, as with any new group,

there was inevitably some uncertainty as to its viability. However, since then the Group has gone from strength to strength. Nonetheless now is a good time to take stock and to consider what we wish to achieve in the future, for the benefit not only of the surgery but also of the community generally, and what things we might do differently or better.

Anyone who is a patient of the surgery and cares about it and health issues generally is encouraged to come and have their say, and will be very welcome indeed. In particular we need the Group to be more representative of the patient population as a whole so we would particularly welcome younger people and people of working age. I plan to send out in advance of the meeting some possible topics and ideas for discussion, and so if anyone is coming to the meeting who is not currently on my mailing list do please register an interest by email (fionalydon@onetel.com) so that I can send this to you.

On a separate note, the defibrillators should be here in a couple of weeks now, so I am advised by SECAMB. The public meeting to explain about them is likely to be in June, so check in next month's newsletter.

Andrew Watson (Chair 872202)

POST OFFICE NEWS: The long awaited announcement of Royal Mail price increases came on 27 March and has attracted a great deal of media coverage since then. Post Offices up and down the country experienced panic buying and there was even talk of rationing postage stamps to ensure enough supplies remained in the network. It is clear that Royal Mail's decision to increase the cost of 1st class stamps from 46p to 60p and 2nd class from 36p to 50p has been unpopular; however, the price rises are necessary to protect the vital six-days-a-week Universal Service, which guarantees collection and delivery to every address in the UK at a uniform price.

As well as providing an essential service for individuals and businesses, the universal service guarantees we have customers using the Post Office six days a week for their mailing needs, and to put that service at risk would have a very damaging effect on the viability of many of our Post Offices, as well as reduce the level of service available to customers. Royal Mail provides one of the highest quality postal services in Europe for amongst the lowest prices for both consumers and business, but with declining volumes of mail, an increase in e-mail communication and ever increasing competition, Royal Mail have no choice but to implement these price increases. The costs of all mailing, both inland and abroad, have increased along with social and business post re-directions and guaranteed mailing services. New pricing brochures and details of all Royal Mail products and services are available in branch and copies of the full Royal Mail press release are also available.

It has also been announced that for households on a low income or receiving pension credit, support allowance and incapacity benefit, Royal Mail will keep stamps for letters for Christmas 2012 at the same price as in 2011. More details on this scheme will be announced later in the year. The shop is gearing up for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and gifts including mugs and coaster sets, pen sets and spoons are starting to appear on the shelves. For those customers that are planning parties or who plan to join in the Mayfield Jubilee Street Party in the High Street on Sunday 3 June, we are stocking Union Jack flags, napkins, plates, a selection of bunting, banners, tissue papers and hats, to ensure a good time is had by all!!!!. It is worth buying these items early to avoid disappointment as stocks will be limited.

Our hardware section is steadily increasing with new product lines for the spring season together with the usual decorating, gardening, DIY Items and an extensive range of light bulbs and batteries. Travel map holders, sewing kits and first aid travel kits are also available. I am receiving a growing number of requests to countersign and certify copies of passport applications and personal documents, which I am very happy to do for regular customers to the Post Office in return for a donation to the charity box on the counter. At peak times it is not always possible to countersign immediately so please be prepared to leave the documentation with me to deal with during the day. And finally a reminder that the Post Office is open from 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, including Wednesday afternoon, and from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, with the Post Office counter closing at 12.30pm.

Paul Money

MAYFAIR 2012: The Mayfair (Saturday 12 May) is now nearly upon us and there is a full programme of events with something for all the family, from traditional maypole and country dancing (featuring four local primary schools) to birds of prey demonstrations, from horticultural stalls to tug-of-war and from BMX to Zumba. You can see the full programme and more details on the website: www.mayfieldmayfair.com.

There are still spaces for a few more stands so if any local societies or traders still want one, please contact Ian Parker (07971 9791370). Also, if anyone can volunteer to help out on the day, please contact Andrew Burnett at Burnetts (874450).

We are looking forward to seeing many of you on the 12th - there will be lots of interesting things to do and see as well as new activities to try out.

Roger Stone (872764) for Mayfield Chamber of Commerce

TRANSITION MAYFIELD: The first annual Green Fair will be held in Mayfield on Saturday, 9 June from 10am to 5pm. There will be stalls, music, speakers, food and drink. Environmentalists from all over the North Weald have chosen Mayfield as the first venue because of our village's beauty, central location and the fact of our being a Transition Town. Please come and support this celebration!

Katie Trehearne

OUR SCHOOLS

MAYFIELD PRE-SCHOOL NEWS: This term at Pre-school the children are learning all about growing plants. The children will be investigating different seeds and plants and finding out what they need to grow. If you have any spare seeds, pulses, herb plants, compost or plant pots, they will be put to good use.

On the fundraising front, the Pre-school had an Easter egg hunt on Easter weekend, which was well attended and even the Easter bunny managed to make an appearance! We also

had a very successful jumble sale which raised around £600. We would like to thank all who donated or bought at the sale, and all the parents who worked hard to make it run like clockwork.

Our next event is on 26 May when we will be holding a quiz night at the Memorial Hall. There will be a bar, food and a raffle, so get your teams together and please look out for the signs around the village on how to book your table.

Jo Grocott, Secretary

OUR CHURCHES

St THOMAS of CANTERBURY: The St Thomas of Canterbury Summer Fayre will be held this year on Saturday 7 July in the lovely garden of St.Leonards - Mayfield Convent from 10.30am until 2.30pm.

Further details will be announced in next month's issue of the Newsletter but, in the meantime, please make a note of the date of this regular and happy event.

Kevin J Hennessey (872245)

COLKINS MILL CHURCH: On 15 May we will welcome back Fiona Castle who has been a regular speaker at the Women Alive! meetings. Fiona's late husband, Roy, will be remembered by many with great affection as a talented musician, and Fiona's active involvement with Christian organisations aimed at helping women and families have earned her widespread respect. She is a most interesting and entertaining speaker so do come along to hear her. 10.30am for coffee at Colkins Mill Church, Station Road. Creche available.

Further information from Liz Keene 873469
or Polly Bradford 873946

ROUND AND ABOUT

MONTHLY FOOTPATH WALK: This month's walk is on Sunday, 27 May, which would have been the bank holiday weekend but isn't this year. As I write the weather is wet and windy and a miserable May is being forecast – the spring flowers that were blooming early have now slowed down so the May Walk could be the one this year where we see the best show of bluebells, etc. But you never can tell – so why not join us and see what's out there? We meet at 10am in South Street car park.

Deborah Dixon (01892 853767)

MAYFIELD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS: The 2012 Festival gets underway on Friday, 4 May with two great events – the opening concert by Southbank Sinfonia (Britain's young professional orchestra) and an Art Exhibition Preview Evening at the Dark Horse Gallery in Mayfield High Street (6-8pm – no ticket needed). The Preview Evening marks the start of an exciting programme of art exhibits, workshops and 'open studios' taking place throughout the Festival – for more details on the events planned please see the Dark Horse Gallery's section below.

Tickets for the Mayfield Festival concerts are available online at www.mayfieldfestival.co.uk or by telephoning 07825 470373 (weekdays between 2.30-4.30pm). The programme of events is as follows:

- May 4 Southbank Sinfonia/Simon Over
Art Exhibition Preview Evening
- May 5 Finzi String Quartet
- May 6 May Carols from the Parvis Tower 8.30am
Mayfield Festival Choir –
Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle
- May 7 Kathleen Ferrier – A Centenary Celebration:
an illustrated lecture by Dr Christopher Fifield

- May 8 Sean Shibe (guitar)
- May 9 The Rose Trio (oboe, clarinet & bassoon)
- May 10 Girls from St Leonards-Mayfield School
Sir Thomas Allen – My Life in Music
- May 11 Jazz Evening: Graham Hughes and
The Sunshine Kings
- May 12 John Wilson & The John Wilson Orchestra –
SOLD OUT
- May 13 Festival Eucharist 10.15am
Tenebrae.

As ever, the Festival provides an opportunity to see in Mayfield the highest calibre of performers, so do be sure not to miss out. In the meantime we look forward to welcoming you at the Festival events from 4 May.

Deirdre Benians - Publicity Manager

MAYFIELD JUBILEE STREET PARTY: Following on from my last article on the Street Party it will be on Sunday, 3 June from 12pm – 5pm in the High Street.

We will be putting out tables and chairs so people can bring a picnic; we have confirmed that there will be the pizza man, hog roast and ice cream vendors there and we also have the Mayfield band and Marco the magician to entertain the children. We are also hoping to have a couple of other bands for your entertainment as well!

Mayfield is a great community to be part of and events like these are always well supported. I wanted to see if anyone has any ideas or suggestions that will help make this event a success or if anyone could spare a couple of hours on the day helping to set up or put away the tables and chairs.

Please contact me to discuss any of the above my office number is 01435 873993 and I'm always available on 07971 979137 or iparker@chelco.co.uk

Ian Parker

MAYFIELD BOOKFAIR: The next Bookfair will be held on Saturday, 5 May in the Memorial Hall. The Fair is open from 9am to 3pm and admission is free. Refreshments will be available. There will be 18 booksellers attending with 1000s of secondhand books for sale on all subjects, both for the collector and the reader.

Chris Maughan (864634) or e-mail: chris.maughan@talktalk.net

DARK HORSE NEWS: May is a busy month in the village and for the Dark Horse Gallery it marks the start of our exhibition season, beginning with our FESTIVAL ART SHOW, which is a celebration of local art and craft. Enjoy contributions from internationally acclaimed artists such as Daphne Todd alongside work from emerging talent like Agnes Treherne.

A diverse range of artworks will be showcased. Gavin Roweth's wonderful organic stone sculptures, hand crafted glass work by Emily Bellhouse, Tim Pryke's beautiful local landscapes and characterful ceramics from Celia Allen will all feature.

Throughout the festival, follow the arts trail down the High Street and enjoy the paintings and sculptures in shop windows and restaurants and the church.

Take part in the art, craft and music workshops on 12 and 19 May. Visit the local Open Studios and meet the artists in their working environments. Further details and a route plan are available from the Dark Horse Gallery.

The exhibition opens at 6pm on Friday 4 May with a dual show of work from Alastair Creamer and Katy Weed. Highlighting the delicate narrative of Alastair's watercolours alongside Katy's vibrant oils, this weekend long partnership then opens out to include contributions from many other artists.

Look out for work from Justine and Barbara Todd, Kate Penoyre, Karl Terry, Alison Trask, Jacqueline Chase, Sarah Rickard, Camilla Le May, Mary Morris, Ann Johnson and others.

Our friendly, relaxed ART CLASSES continue throughout the month. Come along for a taster session and meet the tutors – call into the gallery for more information

Oil Painting Class: Thursdays 9am – 12noon
Drawing Class: Thursdays 1 – 3pm
Tutor – Jacqueline Chase.

These courses are suitable for artists of all levels and will provide an opportunity to learn and develop new skills and techniques. Composition, light, colour, tone and mark making will be explored through a combination of demonstration, one to one, and critiques, as well as by looking at the work of great (and some not so great) artists. For returning students, Jacqueline will continue to teach essential skills and techniques, to build on and consolidate the work you have been doing this term. Hopefully with warm weather around the corner we can try a bit of painting 'en plein air' amongst other things! We shall conclude with an art show - giving you all the chance to show off, and perhaps sell, your work.

Introduction to Art
Wednesday Evenings 7.30 – 9.30pm
Starts May 16.
Tutor – Margaret Keech

This is an introduction to painting and drawing, working from direct observation using different techniques and a variety of materials including pencil, pastels and acrylic paint.

Offering an informal approach to learning different skills each week such as scale, form and linear perspective, tonal work, light and shade, this is a class suitable for all. We shall also look at monoprinting, collage, colour mixing, balance and sketching in the landscape.

Lesley Rogers (873350)

NEWS FROM THE FLOWER HOUSE: More than just flowers: May is to me the month you can start to get on with planting up hanging baskets, window boxes and patio pots. The risk of frost should be over and bedding plants should be a plenty. But obviously this year will be difficult due to the hosepipe ban. To help with this make sure terracotta pots are lined, as they are porous, insert a tube/funnel so when watering it gets right into the compost rather than just on the surface, and use water retention gel. Also how about a herb or veg hanging basket? Many herbs have their origins in the Mediterranean so are drought tolerant, smell and taste good - what could be better? We will certainly be having them. And there's more, succulents are very 'on trend' at the moment and look great in pots, old sinks or any other container you can find.

May is also a month for fairs. Mayfield has its own May Fair on the 12th, this year on Court Meadow with more attractions than usual, see the posters and fliers for full details. We will be at The Decorative Living Fair again this year at Eridge on Thursday 10 May, a great place for beautiful items for the home and garden, and big on vintage.

If you are interesting in learning how to display the flowers from your garden in every day containers we will be running workshops throughout the summer so ask for details.

Our courtyard garden should come into its own this month with sun (hopefully), plants and a great place to have your morning coffee or afternoon tea. Where else in the village can you get that combo!

We hope to see you soon

Kim, Katherine and the Team

Tel: 01435 873984

Email: info@theflowerhouse.biz, Web: www.theflowerhouse.biz



HOSPICE IN THE WEALD - NEWS:

FARMERS MARKET AND PLANT FAIR TO SUPPORT THE HOSPICE - PEMBURY:

On Saturday, 12 May the renowned Farmers Market and Plant Fair at Hospice in the Weald, Pembury, is back for 2012. Hundreds of plants, trees and shrubs at fantastic prices will be available, as well as the Farmers' Market selling a range of delicious produce.

Emma Whittington (01892820508)
emma.whittington@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

MAYFIELD GARDENS OPEN IN JUNE FOR CHARITY - IN AID OF THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

(NGS): On Sunday 17 June (2 to 5pm) we will be treated to seven Mayfield Gardens open to the public to support the NGS charities[#]. Four of them will be new openings for 2012. Combined admission is £5 and children are free.

Gardens in the group will be Laurel Cottage, Warren House, Uppercross House, Hoopers Farm (new), Meadow Cottage (new), Tew Cottage (new) and Yeomans (new). **Refreshments will be available** - home-made teas at Yeomans and Warren House. Plants will be on sale at Uppercross House.

Barrie Martin

[#] For beneficiaries please see the NGS website at: <http://www.ngs.org.uk/about-us/beneficiaries.aspx>



FIVE ASHES WI: Our President welcomed members to our April meeting. We were informed about several items of interest including, among other things, a 'Guided Tour of Legal London', a golfing tournament in Brighton and of course, the NFWI Annual General Meeting in the Albert Hall, London. Any members interested should consult the notice board for dates, venues, etc. Next month will be our Resolution Meeting and, as usual, we will be having a fish and chip lunch prior to the meeting.

Joy Read, our Vice-President and delegate, gave a lively and interesting account of the recent ESFWI AGM held at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne. The main guest speaker was Katie Dereham (broadcaster, Classic FM) talking about 'Musical Mishaps'. Some very favourable comments were made by the judges at HQ in Hailsham regarding our Five Ashes pennant, ably made by Joy, and a certificate had been received.

Our speaker Gillian Halcrow then gave us a very detailed historical account (with slides) of 'The History of Shopping in England', starting with the Tudor period where the only shops in the village were the proverbial 'butcher, baker and candlestick maker'. Anything else required, for example, pots and pans, people would have to travel to nearby towns for monthly or annual fairs. Cities and large towns fared better with food and cattle markets and other sellers opening up new shops. Gradually, names now very familiar began to appear on the streets of London, including Fortnum and Mason (1750s), Selfridges, founded by an American who coined the phrase 'the customer is always right', Marks and Spencer (founded by a poor Polish immigrant Michael Marks and his employer's clerk, Tom Spencer) and Peter Jones (shoemaker), the first shop to have electric light.

Fast forward and now we can do all our shopping without stepping outside our front door. Amazon, Google and all the various supermarkets can supply all our needs.

As the meeting was so close to Easter, our President brought some of her home-made hot cross buns for tea, which were delicious! We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in Five Ashes Village Hall at 2pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome to join our small but friendly group. tel 01825 830499.

Caroline Baird

MAYFIELD EVENING WI: April report: The Mayfield Evening WI met on 10 April at the Memorial Hall. Much is afoot! Part of the meeting was dedicated to firming up arrangements for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration on 21 April. Also discussed was our stall for Mayfair on Saturday 12 May; members were asked to provide cakes, savouries and preserves. Other future initiatives include a coffee morning for new members hosted by our President Berenice Blurton at her home on 15 May at 10:30 am.

A lively and entertaining talk on 'Scarf Tying Magic' was provided by Michaele Wynn-Jones. Following her lead, members discovered exciting new ways of wearing scarves. Some of us (including this correspondent) managed to tie ourselves in knots, but most were soon creating elegant new looks in swathes of silk. Our speaker drew on her experience in the prison service to provide an interesting insight: muggers had confided to her that the most promising targets were women of a certain age wearing beige macs, which allegedly rendered them invisible. Mayfield residents should thus not be surprised to see throngs of ladies of all ages on our streets dressed in vividly coloured macs, accessorised with stylishly tied scarves. A very good time was had by all.

Next month's meeting on 8 May will feature a discussion of WI resolutions as well as a beetle drive and trading stall.

The **Mayfield Evening WI's Diamond Jubilee Celebration Dinner**, which took place on 21 April, was a resounding success. Entertainment for the evening was organised around the theme 'Destiny, Duty and Diamonds'. The first part consisted of a narrative by Rosemary Gillett contextualising the upbringing, courtship, coronation and reign of Queen Elizabeth II, interwoven with musical numbers associated with her period. Sally Moss Tallon offered songs associated with key moments in Her Majesty's life including 'When I'm Cleaning Windows', 'People Will Say We're in Love' and 'Oh Peaceful England'; and the Monday Singers presented a medley of Beatles songs. A delicious supper, brilliantly arranged and organised by Chrissie Robinson and her team of helpers, was then served, after which raffle tickets were drawn and prizes awarded; more than £400 was raised in aid of the new Memorial Hall. After this, a series of tableaux devised and directed by Deb Findlater followed, with commentary researched and composed by Rosemary Gillett (Part 1) and Barbara Laird (Part 2).

These covered important events in each of the six decades of the reign of Elizabeth II, with the period from 1952-1962 dedicated to the Coronation; 1962-1972 to the moon landing; 1972-1982 to the economic crisis (with a Morecambe and Wise parody and 'Let's Face the Music and Dance' in the background); 1982-1992 with a Live Aid sketch; 1992-2002 to the Windsor Castle fire; and finally 2002 to 2012 to the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The evening concluded with a Proms style finale as those attending sang 'Jerusalem', 'Land of Hope and Glory' and the National Anthem. All present agreed that the prevailing mood was one of genuine sentiment, warmth and patriotic solidarity. A night to remember.

Susan Castillo Street (882871)

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: Major Stephen Davies, RAMC



TA, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, will be speaking on the role and work of the Emergency Response Team based at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan at the Memorial Hall commencing 7.30 pm, Saturday, 19 May. Apart from providing an insight into what happens at the sharp end of operations in Afghanistan, the talk will raise

money for two of Major Davies's favourite charities: The Royal British Legion and the British Limbless Ex Servicemen's Association. Tickets for the event, available from Rosina's in the High Street, and Shopping Basket in Station Road, cost £12. Light refreshments will be served and a bar and raffle will be in operation. The doors open at 7pm and the talk will commence at 7.30 sharp and attendees are asked to respect these timings.

Falkland Islands. The 30th Anniversary of this conflict has provoked more violent rhetoric from the Argentine hierarchy in contrast to the more considered appraisal in Britain. Also highlighted is the problem associated with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with many combatants still affected long after the event which caused the stress. Detecting the signs and understanding the true nature of this debilitating condition is not easy even for the afflicted person but fortunately these difficulties have now been recognised. Combat Stress, funded partly by the British Legion, has developed expertise over the years in dealing with the condition.

Iraq / Afghanistan. A recent Channel 4 documentary about the work of Iraqi EOD teams illustrated graphically a country still in the grip of a political and religious ideological divide. Its cities also appear to be divided along Sunni/Shia lines and it is difficult to see how matters can be resolved. A cogent point made in the film was the use of mobile phones as detonating

devices. This very effective and reliable trigger is all too readily obtained.

Recent events in Afghanistan show only too clearly that the security situation in the country is far from stable. The good news is that the terrorist attacks mounted in Kabul were dealt with successfully by the Afghan army and police although their happening also demonstrated lack of intelligence capability. If, as claimed, it is the start of a spring offensive one must expect more work for the MERT teams.

MEMBERSHIP, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: This column has previously pointed out that the RBL is a membership organisation and that it relies absolutely on the loyalty and support of its members. Without their input, other donations and the Poppy Appeal, the charity would not be able to fulfil its aims and objectives, which are the welfare and support of our Armed Services personnel and their dependents. We elect the Government which sends our troops into conflict and as an electorate should regard ourselves as being part of the Military Covenant. Membership of the RBL would meet that obligation and assist in the upbringing (for example) of the 287 children who have lost a parent in Iraq and Afghanistan. We shall be seeking to increase Mayfield membership in the coming weeks.

RBL Annual Conference takes place in Scarborough, 19 and 20 May. The agenda is interesting and decisions will be reported later.

John Macdonald (873138)

MAYFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: It's time to dig. Yes, dig out your diaries, please, as we've two big dates in the weeks ahead, and we don't want you missing out. Firstly, the most important date: our summer outing on 20 June. This year, it's a bit extra special, as we're off to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. At the hallowed gardens you'll be free to visit whatever you like – and there's certainly a lot to choose from. There's a host of glasshouses, varied landscapes, and even a treetop climb.

You may also have heard of Kew's display to celebrate the Olympics, with flowerbeds created in the shape of the Games' iconic rings – something to remember. Finally, there's a host of tearooms and café options for whenever you fancy a breather from the flora! The whole-day trip costs £25, with the coach departing from the Middle House at 9am (other pick-up points to be determined), returning by 6pm. To secure your place, contact our chairman, Eddie Du-Cann (01435 872705; eddieeducann@gmail.com).

Before then, we have our annual plant sale in the High Street, taking place this year on Saturday 5 May. We'll start selling from our tables next to the cannon (outside St Leonards-Mayfield School) at 9am, and as ever will be offering prize specimens at prices you'll not enjoy elsewhere. If you'd like to give plants to the sale, then donations of annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetables, herbs (from seedlings upwards) would be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the stand from 7.30am onwards on the day of the sale.

Alternatively you can deposit plants with our chairman, Eddie Du-Cann, who lives in the High Street, or collections can also be arranged (again, please call 01435 872705). We may be knee-deep into 2012 (and with April's rain, knee-deep virtually everywhere in our gardens), but the MHS's horticultural year has only just begun. Memberships commence at our AGM each March, meaning there's over 10 months left on a 2012/13 membership. So if you've not yet subscribed for the year, please pop into Jason's and join there. For a mere £5, Jason's will supply you with a membership card which will give you 10% off purchases at Millbrook Garden Centre of Jarvis Brook, Shanks Nursery in Heathfield Road, Burwash Common, and Heathfield Ironmongers. Additionally, you can attend our autumn/winter series of talks for free – and as we normally hold

at least three talks, charged to non-members at £2 a talk, you can recoup the value of your membership from these alone. It only remains to say that I hope to see lots of you at the bus stop on 20 June, in readiness for our summer outing. Please form an orderly Kew.

Henry Hemming, Mayfield Horticultural Society

MAYFIELD MEMORIAL HALL: AGM: The Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Hall will take place on Tuesday 22 May at 8pm. It will (naturally) be held in the Memorial Hall.

The agenda for this meeting will include the usual annual reports by the Chairman, Treasurer and Booking Secretary. It will also include a progress report on the proposals for the Mayfield Village Centre project. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

The Memorial Hall Management Committee is made up of representatives from a number of village organisations. Every organisation in the village is entitled to have a representative on this Committee.

The Committee meets every other month in January, March, May, July, September and November, normally on the first Wednesday evening of the month.

If any organisation that at present has no representation on the Management Committee would like to have a say in the running of the Hall, then please will they contact me to arrange for one of their members to join us.

John Neal (872113) Minutes Secretary
Memorial Hall Management Committee
E-mail: rjneal@btinternet.com

MAYFIELD BAND: Silver or Brass? Our erstwhile editors recently asked why we were no longer the Mayfield Silver Band, and why were we silver anyway, and not brass, when we are a brass band? So following a fun time wading through 'Brass bands in the 20th century' by Violet and Geoffrey Brand, and asking around current players, some of whom joined the band just after the Napoleonic wars (good job they never read this), I have a sort of answer which, together with a bit of context, well quite a lot actually, is as follows.

Previously, I have chronicled the evolution of village bands in the c19th, which in some cases then metamorphosed into the brass bands of today. But the key date in the development of the standardised brass only band was 1851, when working men from the factories and mines of the industrial towns and cities were offered special train excursions to the Great Industrial Exhibition at Crystal Palace.

Here, amongst a huge range of manufactured goods, they saw, and heard, the trade stand of Adolphe Sax, and the Sax range of valved brass instruments. Many of these men were already in wind bands, made up of a motley assortment of instruments such as bugles, cornopeans (google it), ophicleides (yep, you've got the idea), helicons, clarinets, French horns, flutes, trombones and so on. So, there was clearly a need for uniformity, and the Sax family of instruments seemed to satisfy that need.

Thus the 1860s and 1870s saw a huge growth in brass only bands, and by 1895 it was estimated that there were 40,000 brass bands in the country. The instruments were not cheap though, and whilst mill and colliery owners took pride in financing their own bands, albeit partly to keep their workers away from practising disruptive politics, it was more of a struggle for other working class groups. Thankfully, whilst their social superiors rarely joined them in their musical activity, they did often contribute towards the cost of the instruments.

Inevitably, a cloth cap image had evolved around the bands, and this social division also led to musical separation from more highbrow music, leading in turn to the establishment of brass

band contests to help raise the standard of playing. And from these meetings at contests grew the contacts and friendships that are so much part of the brass band movement today.

The contests also served to further standardise brass band affairs, and in particular, instruments. But there was one more noticeable and important change during the twentieth century relating to the appearance of instruments. Whereas the majority of brass band instruments up to the 1920s were not lacquered or plated, and were just brass, the trend started to change as silver plated or lacquered instruments started to become more widely available. They were easier to clean, more hygienic, and in the eyes of some, better looking.

There was also more money available to bands to pay for plating, or to buy ready plated instruments. And so bands, and particularly new bands, started to call themselves "Silver" bands.

There is absolutely no difference in sound between Brass and Silver bands, and no clear delineation between the two, geographically, socially, or otherwise. Some say that there is a vague north (brass) south (silver) split, but I'm not sure there's anything other than anecdotal evidence to support that view, although there would be some logic in thinking that there is perhaps a tendency for older established bands from the industrial areas in the north to have held on to the "brass" nomenclature. That study will have to wait for another day, but essentially, Brass and Silver bands are identical, except in name and colour.

So where does Mayfield fit into all of this? Well. It is believed that our origins go back to the mid c19th, and we were originally the St Dunstan's Band, using a mixture of wind and brass instruments. In the late 1920s we became the Mayfield Silver band, presumably following the trends of the time, when we equipped ourselves with plated instruments. We then became the Mayfield and District Silver Band, and then back to Mayfield Silver Band. Many bands have now dropped being either "Silver" or "Brass", perhaps in response to the decline of the old social divisions, and again we too have followed suit and just let the epithet fade away in recent years, so that we are now more commonly known as "The Mayfield Band". And there you have it. I bet you wish you hadn't asked!

Forthcoming engagements:

Sat 12 May - Mayfield May Fair
Sat 26 May - Rotherfield School street party 12 – 2pm
Sun 27 May - Songs of Praise, St Dunstan's 6.30pm
Sun 3 June - Jubilee Mayfield – timing to be confirmed.

Simon Rudge (872007)
simon@mayfieldband.co.uk, www.mayfieldband.com

MAYFIELD CRICKET CLUB: The 2012 fixture books will be available in the pavilion very soon. The new season is here. We have started with successful friendlies, but have already had our first wet weather cancellations (during the hosepipe ban!). League starts on Saturday 5 May. With home matches most Sundays too,

we'll have a very busy season. Meanwhile training night is Thursdays from 6-8pm, before we retire to the bar.

Food will now be available at the club house: breakfast, lunch and evening meals served on all match days. On Friday (Club Night and colts training), we're open from 5pm. Club Night dinner will be available at very competitive prices and we hope members, family and friends will support us in this new endeavour so that MCC can continue its progress as a flourishing cricket club for the whole village to enjoy.

We would welcome volunteers who could help share the workload involved in running the club. Please contact any of the captains or committee if you can contribute time or effort in any way to Mayfield Cricket Club.

Official Opening of the New Pavilion is on President's Day, Monday 7 May, festivities commencing 12 noon followed by Robin Holliday's annual President's Match at 2pm. We would like to show our appreciation to all who donated to our Pavilion Fund, and hope they, and members, families, and friends of the club will come and help us celebrate the occasion, and make the most of our excellent catering facilities. 2011 League Winners' medals for all three teams will also be presented.

"Canada" Cricket Week: During the week beginning 13 May we will be delighted to host the Canadian national side at Wellbrook. They play a Mayfield XI on Sunday 13, followed by games here on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - details to be announced but including well known professional and local cricketers. All visitors, friends and spectators will be most welcome. Bar and catering will be open - and the evenings could be quite interesting too. They have a rest on Thursday, before they take on Guernsey at the County Ground, Hove on Friday 18 May.

Mayfield Cricket Week will again take place during the last week of July, kicked off by a Chairman's Match on Sunday 22 July.

More dates for the diary: Wednesday 13 June we play Civil Service XI at Mayfield at 2pm. Then Tuesday 19 June, Sussex Over-60s use our Wellbrook facilities to take on Surrey Over-60s at 1-30pm in a Seniors' County Championship match. Well worth watching. You may be surprised at the high standard of cricket.

Colts: We are offering first rate coaching for all abilities in a safe and fun environment, Friday evenings, rain or shine, using our pavilion, having secured the services of a Sussex County Junior Squad coach to lead the sessions. Colts teams are in three leagues, matches played primarily on Sunday mornings. We welcome any new players, Year 3 upwards. Ratios of Colts to coaches will remain low by the use of additional qualified coaches. The bar and catering facilities will be open - soft drinks for Colts. We continue to introduce Colts to adult cricket via the Sunday or 3rd XIs. Many former Colts now play in our senior teams. For more details, contact Colts Manager Andrew Watson: colts@mayfieldcricketclub.co.uk (Tel: 01435 873896).

Pavilion bookings: party, event or business bookings can be arranged by e-mail or telephone with Bookings Manager Andrew Watson: 07516 100284, or e-mail: bookings@mayfieldcricketclub.co.uk.

200 Club: The monthly draw was made 10th April - prizes won by Mrs.A Pollington, R Holliday and Miss S Denness. The more members, the bigger the monthly prizes can be. You can join for just £24 (£2 per month). Manager Brian Stilwell would be pleased to "sign you up": e-mail: brian.stilwell@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 01435 873407. Social memberships at £36 a year, (£50 families) are proving a popular passport to our excellent pavilion facilities. Applications to Jim Wellman, Hon Memberships Sec, 01892 655749, mobile 0774 882 6469 or jwellman@googlemail.com.

Monthly quiz nights will continue throughout the summer, with teams of six at £5 a head with a very good Middle House supper provided. To enter yourself or a team, contact Andrew Watson, as above.

As ever, lots going on.

Peter Church (Hon Sec) secretary@live.co.uk

FIVE ASHES STOOLBALL CLUB: The Club has now started the season and would welcome new players of both sexes. We play on a Thursday night either at Five Ashes or the away games are played in the Hailsham/Eastbourne area. Please note in your diaries that we are having a Quiz Night on Saturday 23 June at 7.30pm in the Five Ashes Village Hall. The tickets are £5, there will be nibbles provided but please bring your own drink and any food. Tables of up to six will be available, so please book your table with Sue Wren on 01825 830520. Look forward to seeing you there to help a small organisation with fund raising.

Sue Wren

MAYFIELD SCOUTS AND GUIDES: THE GROUP: As is



usual we have continued to be very busy. The Beavers have now enrolled three more members, giving a round dozen in the colony, with plenty of space for more. In this Olympic year the Beavers decided to try a new sport and had a taster session of rugby, thoroughly enjoyed by all. We had a fantastic Easter egg hunt and card making. The Cubs had a great trip to Broadstone Warren with archery and the low ropes challenge. In what seems to have become an annual event the Cubs spent a complete evening collecting litter on the Memorial Playing fields. They collected well over twelve bags of rubbish! The Scouts had a wonderful trip, again to Broadstone Warren, learning how to light fires without matches; they were shown at least six ways followed by learning how to skin a rabbit. Not for the faint hearted, all found it very interesting. St George's Day parade and service was thoroughly enjoyed by all in the group with a fine turn out. We are now preparing for our part in the May Fair which promises to be lots of fun.

Dates for the diary:

12 May – The Group will be taking part in the Village May Fair

14/20 May – Scout Community Week

25/27 May – Ashdown District Jubilee Camp

22/24 June – Broadstone Warren 75th Anniversary Camp

4/13 August – Mayfield Scout Camp – Llangollen Canal.

Hot Spot - Dennis Blurton – President of Mayfield Scout Group: I promised last month to follow up with a little more of Dennis's very interesting life and career.

Dennis was born in Beckenham, Kent to George and Sybil Blurton and four years later the family moved to Lower Kingswood in Surrey where Dennis grew up. He attended the local primary school and Reigate Grammar School until 1940 when, at the age of 14, he was evacuated to Canada where he lived with an uncle and his family on their fruit and dairy farm. He attended Penticton High School, British Columbia for four years, returning to England in 1944 at the age of 18.

During his school days in both England and Canada, Dennis derived great enjoyment out of the Scouting movement and in Canada the School Army Cadet Corps as well. On his return to England he was called up and ended up serving in the Indian Army, leaving India just before partition. He also served with the British Army in Greece for a while to end his service. In 1952 he joined the P&O Steam Navigation Company in the Purser's department and there followed 22 happy years sailing round the globe. It was on one of these voyages in 1960 that he met his future wife, Berenice, when she was setting out on a working holiday in Britain and Europe. They married in Australia in January 1963, bought their house in Mayfield as it was being built and moved in February 1964, and there they have lived ever since, bringing up three sons during that time.

Dennis began commuting to London in 1974 to work for ITN as their House Services Manager. Now stationed in this country, he soon became involved in village activities.

The children by now attended Mayfield Primary School so Dennis joined the school's PTA committee and served as treasurer for several years.

The two elder sons joined the Cubs and later one went on to Scouts so Dennis joined the Mayfield Scouts and Guides Supporters Committee. He was a member of the committee for a short time and then was elected chairman, a position he held for 32 years, deciding three years ago, at the age of 82, that it was time to retire; fortunately at that time his vice chairman was prepared to take over. When he retired as chairman he was made the president so he is still involved. During his time as chairman he led the fund-raising to build a new Scout and Guide Headquarters. After writing many letters to many charities and individuals and being involved in many fun fund-raising events, £90,000 was raised and the new hall built, which has been of great benefit to the village and is in constant use by many village organisations.

The Mayfield Newsletter went into publication 34 years ago and Dennis joined the committee from the start and ended up being its chairman for 22 years.

Other involvements have been the St Dunstan's Church PCC for quite a few years. He is still very involved with the church as a sidesman, a reader, a 'meeter and greeter' at the church door, and he helps serve communion. He's also been on The Friends of St Dunstan's committee since it came into being.

Dennis organised the stewarding for the concerts held in the church for the Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts for many years; he drives people to church when they need it, drives for the Tuesday Club and does the Poppy Appeal collection for the British Legion.

Dennis has been a great support to his wife with her involvement in the WI at local and county level. He is seen as a car park attendant at many big WI county events and local WI events, appearing in some of the pantomimes staged by The Mayfield Evening WI over a period of 32 years and, if not on stage, was the front of house manager for the shows. He has always been very helpful at putting out chairs and tables for meetings as well.

It has been said that Dennis "moves about Mayfield in an unassuming way, dispensing kindness and helpfulness in so many ways that it is humbling to realise how much he fits in".

Recently he received the Chairman of Wealden District Council's Civic Award for 2011. The certificate reads: "With thanks and congratulations of Wealden District Council in recognition of your contribution to making Wealden a special place to live."

So you see it is not only Scouting that gives a big thank you to Dennis. If we all contributed as much as Dennis has to our community what a fantastic place Mayfield would be.

To join our group now: Beavers (aged 6 to 8½) meet on Friday 5-6pm; Cubs 8½ to 10½ meet on Tuesday 6-7:30pm and Scouts meet on Thursday 7-9pm. Contact me if you would like your child to take part; it is for girls and boys, or if you are interested in helping or being a leader.

Do email or call with any comments or for any enquiries

Gavin Ross Group Scout Leader
gavin@rossma.co.uk mob -07771 965517

HELP! I am not depressed or pessimistic following my plea in the newsletter last month for interested and enthusiastic folk to provide a leadership team to restart the Girl Guide Section, although so far no response. It takes a while for such messages to get through so I am happy to repeat it again.

Currently local girls are excluded from the burgeoning national membership but it only needs some local interest to enable the formation of a leadership team.

There is also a need for a few more members of the Supporters Committee, which meets four times a year.

Just let me know on both counts of any interest and I will provide information.

Dennis Blurton (872039)

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES SOCIETY: We must apologise that our talk, which was to take place on 20 April, was cancelled. I hope you did not come up to the Scout and Guide Headquarters, hopeful for the talk.

Unfortunately Mr Rumley-Dawson preferred to be on a cruise, rather than talking to us about birds. He said his agent booked him for lectures on this boat at short notice. He rang me just under two weeks before our meeting, too late to have anything put in the Newsletter and our posters were already out, so we are very sorry to have inconvenienced you. It was not the first time he let us down. He was to have given his talk at our AGM last autumn but he got the dates wrong, and we were actually at the meeting before we phoned him to query where he was. So he is off our lists for any future meetings.

We also must apologise if you expected our AGM also at this meeting. That was an error on our part. We only had last year's in November, so this year's will also be in the autumn. So sorry, and we hope we get everything right from now on!

Brian Pike (873356)

MAYFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: DIARY DATES:

Summer outing to Hampton Court – Tuesday, 10 July: We are now planning this visit to Hampton Court Palace. The departure time from Mayfield High Street is 9am and we will be leaving Hampton Court at around 4pm. The cost will be £30 per head to cover entry, coach and driver's gratuity. Please contact Rob Foster or Warwick Child to book your seats (phone numbers below).

Note: We also welcome non-members on this trip!

April meeting: Friday, 27 April: This the last meeting of this season featured Dr David Rudling's illustrated lecture on Country Life in Roman Sussex. Dr Rudling is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the Centre for Community Engagement at the University of Sussex. His current main research interests include: Romanisation in Sussex during the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, Roman rural settlements and land-use, religion and ritual in Roman Britain, as well as multiperiod landscape archaeology and ancient and medieval numismatics. David showed just how rich Sussex is in the remains of the Roman period at a large number of sites, many well-known. He explored the cultural heritage, from before AD 43 to the 5th Century. Members may also like to note that he has published research undertaken with David Martin on mediaeval Winchelsea. David Martin will be talking to us next year.

REMINDER - Ideas are welcome for a possible display by the Society on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - weekend of 2 & 3 June; what would members like to see - or hear?

Finally, members will be very pleased to hear that the society has been successful in its application to Wealden District Council for a grant to further the organisation of its research into Mayfield's local history, especially the memories of its inhabitants. We now have sufficient funds from both this source and the Parish Council to build up and modernise our collection of oral history.

Brian O'Connor, MLHS Chairman (873477)
Rob Foster Secretary (873215)
Warwick Child, Treasurer (873252)

MAYFIELD & DISTRICT U3A (University of the 3rd Age) On Thursday, 17 May, Professor Lawrence Lerner will base his talk entitled 'Are we murdering the English language' on his book 'You Can't Say That'. He will describe the way in which languages change and in particular how English has changed. For those of us who are convinced our language is going to the dogs, he asks: 'when was it better? Was it when we were young or when our grandparents were young or a thousand years ago?' This meeting will take place in Mayfield Memorial Hall starting at 2 pm and visitors will be most welcome.

The second Mayfield & District Music Appreciation Group is starting in Wadhurst soon. If anyone is interested please would you contact Janet McFarlan by e-mail on janet.mcfarlan@hotmail.co.uk

For further information please contact Ann Scott on 01435 872121.

MAYFIELD BUSINESS FORUM: The programme of events for the rest of the year has now been published on the MBF website (www.mayfieldbusinessforum.com). The discussion topics chosen are those that received most votes in the survey that members filled in. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

May's meeting, on Tuesday, 1st, will discuss 'Social media for those with limited time and money'. There is a great deal spoken and written about how social media can help business people, but there are so many different ways to go about it that it raises many questions.. How should we decide if it is right for us and what particular products to use? If we are not experts, do we need to spend money for someone to help us? With limited time and money, is there some other activity that we can drop to make way for social media?

Different members of MBF have tried and been successful with various products such as Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter so there will be many good experiences to share, as well as some not so good ones to learn from. It promises to be an interesting discussion for novices as well as those with more experience..

Finally I would just like to remind everyone that MBF is open to anyone interested in discussing business topics. It offers a great chance to share ideas and learn from each other, especially for those who work mainly on their own or in small groups. If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact me beforehand or just turn up and introduce yourself at a meeting.

Roger Stone (872764)
roger@rogerstoneconsultancy.com

FIVE ASHES HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Spring

Show Report. The most successful Spring Show was held on Saturday, 31 March at Five Ashes Village Hall, with a record number of entries. A dazzling display of daffodils, narcissi, tulips and polyanthus took the eye, whilst the floral art exhibits showed the vision and imagination necessary to create these works of art. The domestic classes were a challenge for our judges, with 19 sets of Easter biscuits, 13 apple pies and 13 cheese scones. In addition there were 14 pots of marmalade. The children's divisions were very well supported with the design for a stained glass window class showing up beautifully with the light behind them.

Thank you to everybody who supported us with entries and/or a visit to the show.

Graham Playfoot, Secretary (01825 830511)

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES BRANCH RNLI:

We would like to thank everyone who supported our supper on 17 March, which made a net profit of £1046. This was an excellent result and demonstrates, once again, the generosity of the people of Mayfield and Five Ashes at a time when we are all under pressure. Congratulations to all who contributed to the wonderful display of puddings and thanks to Mary and her team for not only producing and clearing up the first course but also, unasked, washing up the pudding plates.

The RNLI still needs every penny it can get as its income and reserves fall, while the cost of keeping our volunteer crews supplied with the very best equipment continues to rise.

We will hold our usual Lifeboat Week collection in June.

John Logan (883371)



Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution

MAYFIELD FILM SOCIETY: Film on Friday will be screening in its 'new feature' slot on 18 May the Iranian film 'A Separation' (2011 PG) directed by Asghar Farhadi. The film recently won the Oscar for the best foreign language film. As the Guardian wrote: "The choice was right because the movie is a beautifully judged depiction of the way marital breakdown in any culture can suck children, parents, friends and strangers into a bleak vortex. But the award makes history because 'A Separation' is the first Iranian movie to win an Oscar..... Mr Farhadi is a master film-maker. He has also provided a glimpse of Iran that reveals an intimate and poignantly familiar human

fallibility that transcends all political posturing and vaults all the world's religious and cultural barriers."

Doors and bar in the Memorial Hall open at 8pm for an 8.30pm start. Full details on www.filmmonfriday.org

Guests should ring 872165 beforehand.

This is the last film of the season. The 2012/13 programme will begin on Friday 7 September.

Tim Cornish

MEMORIES OF MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES

When John and Myra Siggs started their dairy farm in Mayfield in 1966 there were 29 dairy farmers in the parish. Now there is just one.

That is John Siggs' principal recollection of nearly 50 years in the village. "The village hop was on occasions very farmer-oriented", he says. They were family farms. Gill Hope, his first farm in the village, had just 30 milk cows and some beef on its 130 acres. Its land was later combined with Bivelham Forge Farm, at the edge of the village, now run by his son Tim.

The break-up of the Milk Marketing Board, which was followed by three cooperatives buying milk from farmers, was the beginning of the end for many local dairy herds. "The supermarkets took over and we were forced out of milk," John says. He remembers regular meetings with the buyers. "We were told we were producing too much milk. At one meeting the chap said: "if you cut production by 20 percent things will level up. Who is interested? Not a hand went up."

Tim takes over the story. "You could not sell the dairy herd one day and start on beef the next," he says. "We built up our beef herd from our own stock so the change was not too dreadful." Tim now has a 250 head herd of beef on his two farms, covering some 230 acres. And he grows wheat and other crops.

His father John farmed at Barcombe Mill near Glynde before coming to the village. They used to put the Glyndebourne performers up in the farmhouse during the opera season, which meant quite a few free concerts on the premises as the musicians entertained themselves and the Siggs family on evenings off. The farm was originally Government land given to his father to run after he returned from the First World War. John was not keen to be a farmer, but experience on a Land Army training farm changed his mind. "I spent the weekends milking to give the milkmaids a day off," he says.

All animals had to be registered with the Ministry, and John was perplexed when he sent in an application to register a dairy bull to get a letter back saying, 'Is this male or female?'

Both farmers admire the great beauty of the village and its environs, recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty,

but live with the restrictions on those who farm the fields, as you can't rip up the hedges or fill in the ditches. At the same time the soil is just Grade 4 or 3 at the best, suitable for forestry rather than crops, and making competition a problem with farms on higher-grade lands. Hedge maintenance alone is a costly matter for farmers of modest-sized enterprises.

The other major change both men have noticed is in the water table. "There were places on both farms," says John, "where a wagon and horses went into a ditch and were never seen again. There were places that were always wet where you never went with a machine." At Bivelham Forge a spring supplied the farm and two cottages. "It never failed. Watercress grew prolifically. But that was before global warming. The water table has dropped dramatically and whether or not it's caused by global warming it is happening. The oak trees are beginning to suffer."

The smaller farms employed many more workers, both from within the farmers' families and outside. "When we used to do the haymaking at Gill Hope," says Tim, "we had gangs of people helping us stack the bales. Now it's all round bales and tractors do the lot. We used to have people in part time to help with the milking and kids would pick spuds in the holidays. Now my two sons and I do the majority of the work on our farm. The farm colleges are changing, with courses on fish, forestry and horses, but not much on agriculture."

But modern technology and pharmaceuticals have revolutionised the industry and both men feel England still produces cheap homegrown food. Crops that used to yield 20/25 hundredweight an acre now bring in 60/70. And wheat, which fetched £40 a ton in the 1950s, went as low as £55 in the last five years. The comparison might be with a local house – say a 1970 bungalow – which cost £5000 then and is fetching £250,000 today. And farming is now connected to the stars, with GPS technology telling the tractor how to plough in straight lines and adjusting the fertiliser levels as it goes, according to the soil type.

Jonathan Street

OPEN FORUM

ST DUNSTAN AND MAYFIELD: A recent translation of the story about St Dunstan building a church in Mayfield has encouraged a review of its likely truth.

This goes: *This same father, (Dunstan) when setting up his hospices (hospitia) at suitable intervals in his villages which were far afield from Canterbury, built a wooden church at Mayfield, (Magaveldam or Magdavidam) just as he had in the locations of his other hospices. And while he was dedicating it and walking round it according to ritual, he noticed it was not aligned with the rising of the sun at the equinox; it is related that while passing near it he pushed it slightly with his shoulder and immediately changed it from its former orientation into direct alignment with the East where he wanted it. No one doubts that he could do this easily, unless there exists someone who doubts the words of Christ our Lord in which he promises to*

those who have faith like a mustard seed that they can move even a mountain with their words.

This version offers its own challenge to the doubters: faith, we are told, is necessary for credibility. And there have been sceptics. Eadmer, the Canterbury monk who wrote the story, worked from a number of identifiable sources, including two previous lives of Dunstan, which he acknowledges. This Mayfield story does not appear in them. He had also sent out a request to churches in England for further information about Dunstan so it seems that the Mayfield story came from this trawl. Some modern authors are clear that Eadmer was happy to invent details if they suited his purpose, in this case, hagiography.

Eadmer's Life of Dunstan was probably written between 1105 and 1109. The story about Dunstan, the devil and the tongs comes from Glastonbury where Dunstan had been Abbot and was only attributed to Mayfield much later .

Eadmer's account says a 'hospitium' or hospice was built in Mayfield by Dunstan. Such a structure implies travel, a hostel, somewhere for guests to lodge. And the questions are who would these travellers be and where would they be going? The village did not develop until much later in the 14th century. Domesday studies suggest that in 1086 this area had a population of about one person per square mile. What little evidence there is suggests that east/west travellers used the chalk ridge of the North Downs rather than the Weald, or went from Canterbury via Battle to Lewes on a southerly route.

But ultimately, the evidence from the first two Norman archbishops of Canterbury suggests that Eadmer's account is probably accurate. Both pieces of evidence come from none other than Eadmer himself. He quotes in full a letter from Lanfranc, Abbot of Bec and William the Conqueror's spiritual adviser, who was enthroned archbishop in 1071. He writes to Stigand the first Bishop of Chichester (who had just moved his diocese from Selsey) to complain about his actions in disciplining the priests on the archbishop's huge estates in Sussex, which were South Malling, Pagham and Tarring. *We have now issued instructions to those of our priests who are settled outside Kent not any longer to attend your Synod or that of any other bishop and to refuse to make answer for any fault either to you or to any ministers of yours. It is our duty, when we visit our manors, in exercise of our pastoral authority to examine and see what manner of men they are whether in conduct or in the knowledge proper to their Order.* Lanfranc talks of visiting his Sussex manors to inspect his clergy and is here laying the foundations for the establishment of these estates as 'Archbishop's Peculiars' which is how they were treated for hundreds of years until the Reformation. Mayfield was no longer responsible to the Diocese of Chichester.

The second piece of evidence for archiepiscopal travel in Sussex comes from Eadmer's Life of St Anselm. Eadmer was Anselm's close companion and amanuensis from the time of the latter's enthronement in 1093. Eadmer wrote this work whilst in exile in Rome with Anselm and paints a detailed personal picture of a dedicated monk who found his role of dealing with his irreligious king, William Rufus, almost unbearable. When

asked why Anselm did not spend his time in the "great consolation" of monastic seclusion in Canterbury, Eadmer offers the following explanation: *He was deprived of this consolation partly by the remoteness of his manors, partly by the traditional usage of his predecessors, and partly by the large retinue which his episcopal dignity and the custom of the country did not allow him to be without: all this obliged him to keep on the move and to live on his manors. Besides, if he had stayed at Canterbury all the time, his men would have had the burden of bringing food to the town.* Eadmer seems to be saying that visiting remote manors was a long archiepiscopal tradition. And Mayfield was certainly remote: visitors needed somewhere to stay. Eadmer's detailed account of Anselm's travel habits in the area are based on close personal experience and should be trusted.

On balance, the evidence suggests that there was indeed a wooden church in Mayfield and a hospice for travellers in the time of Dunstan who died in 988 AD. The archbishops' staff would have travelled through the wood from Canterbury, through Mayfield and on to South Malling at Lewes, to Tarring (Worthing) and Pagham (nr Chichester).

Mayfield's name probably came into use when Dunstan built his wooden church and hospice, and when the parish boundaries were drawn. There is an Anglo-Saxon story of an early chapel in the north of England where a youth climbed onto the roof to rob a crow's nest. He kicked footholds in the walls then fell through the rotten roof of rough branches thatched with osiers and hay. Mayfield's early church may have been similarly crude.

Such a church and parish would have had little local control, being dependent on the headquarters of the Deanery and Lordship in South Malling 23 miles away. A charter from archbishop Stephen Langton dated before 1214 shows all the income from Mayfield church being used to fund a prebend post in Lewes. By this time the church had been dedicated to St Dunstan. This would not have happened before Dunstan's canonization in about 1020. Lanfranc was suspicious of Anglo-Saxon saints and had dropped Dunstan's name from the Canterbury calendar. So perhaps it was Eadmer who persuaded his friend Anselm to commemorate his hero. It was not until the 1250s that a stone church was built and Mayfield's real development was begun by Archbishop Boniface of Savoy.

Tim Cornish

REGULAR EVENTS

The Regular Events section is only updated on an approx. 6 monthly basis - in the interests of saving space (and cost) and recognising that very little information changes from month to month. Open Door at London House can always give you current details for any event if you need it, or you can refer to the village website: www.mayfieldfiveashes.org.uk/Village/v_diary.html Editors

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - JUNE 2012 ONWARDS (FOR MAY 2012 - SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER)

Jun. 2012	Event	Location	Time
Sat-Tue. 2 - 5	For. Ref: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations (Weekend + two day Bank Holiday)	—	—
Sun. 3	Mayfield Jubilee Street Party	High Street	TBA
Sat. 9	Transition Mayfield Green Fair		10am – 5pm
Sat. 16	Band and 80s Disco - fundraiser for Mayfield Bonfire Society	Memorial Hall (TBC)	7.30pm (TBC)
Sat.	The Mayfield Consort present "I Was Glad" - A Diamond Jubilee Musical Celebration	St. Leonards-Mayfield Convent Chapel	7.30pm
	Mayfield Bonfire Society Sponsored Walk	Carpenters Arms	10am
	Mayfield Bonfire Society 70s/80s Disco	Memorial Hall	7.30-11.30pm
Sat. 16	St. Dunstan's Church Fete	Court Meadow, Memorial Hall & Scout and Guide Hall	12noon – 4pm
Sun. 17	NGS Mayfield Open Gardens (seven gardens on display). Refreshments and plant sales available in some gardens	Various Mayfield locations	2 - 5pm
Wed. 20	Mayfield Horticultural Society coach trip to Kew Gardens	Pick-up at Middle House	9am
Sat. 23	Mayfield CE Primary School Summer Fayre	Court Meadow	11.30am - 2.30pm
	Five Ashes Stoolball Club Quiz Night	Five Ashes Village Hall	7.30pm
Sun. 24	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Sat. 30	Quiz Night - fundraiser for Mayfield Bonfire Society	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Jul. 2012			
Sat. 7	St. Thomas of Canterbury Summer Fayre	St. Leonards-Mayfield Convent Garden	10.30am - 2.30pm
Tue. 10	Mayfield Local History Society visit to Hampton Court	Pick up Mayfield High Street	ca. 9.15am
Sat. 14	Mayfield Horticultural Society Summer Show	Memorial Hall	2.30pm
27 Jul. - 12 Aug.	For Ref: London Olympic Games	—	—
Sat. 28	Five Ashes Horticultural Society Centenary Summer Show	Five Ashes Village Hall and Recreation Ground	1.30pm
Sun. 29	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Aug. 2012			
Sun. 26	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Sep. 2012			
Sun. 2	Friends of St Dunstan's Annual Garden Party	Clayton's Farmhouse	12noon
Fri. 14	Mayfield Bowls Club Bingo Evening	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm
Sat. 15	Mayfield Bonfire Society's annual Carnival	High Street	Afternoon and evening
Sat. 22	Mayfield Horticultural Society Autumn Show	Memorial Hall	2.15pm
Sun. 30	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Oct. 2012			
Sat. 6	Mayfield Bookfair; 1000's of secondhand books. Free entrance	Memorial Hall	9.am - 3pm
Fri. 12	Mayfield Bowls Club Bingo Evening	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm
Fri. 19	Talk by Stephen Moore on 'Extending the season'	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8pm
Sat. 20	Quiz Night - fundraiser for Mayfield Bonfire Society	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Sun. 28	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Nov. 2012			
Fri. 9	Mayfield Bowls Club Bingo Evening	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm
Fri. 16	Talk by Lesley Chamberlain - 'Secret Sussex Gardens'	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8pm
Wed.-Sat. 21-24	Phoenix Theatre Company presents "The Calendar Girls"	TBA	TBA
Sun. 25	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Dec. 2012			
Mon. 8	Senior Citizens' Party - courtesy of Mayfield Bonfire Society	TBA	TBA
Fri. 12	Mayfield Bowls Club Bingo Evening	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm
Sun. 30	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am
Jan. 2013			
Tue. 1	Monthly Footpath Walk (Mayfield Circular Walk)	South Street carpark	10.30am
Fri. 18	Talk by Mark Saunders - 'Fittleworth House, portrait of a garden'	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30 for 8pm

MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 2012	Event	Location	Time
Tue. 1	Mayfield Business Forum - discussion meeting	Rose and Crown	6 - 7.30pm
Fri. 4	Mayfield Bonfire Society AGM	Old Library, Memorial Hall	8pm
Sat. 5	Mayfield Horticultural Society plant sale	High Street	From 9.30am
Sat. 5	Mayfield Bookfair: 1000s of secondhand books. Free entrance	Memorial Hall	9am - 3pm
Fri.-Sun. 4-13	Mayfield Festival of Music and the Arts	Mainly in our churches and the Convent, but other venues also	Concerts are usually held at 7.30pm
Sat. 5	Mayfield Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale	High Street	9am
Mon. 7	Mayfield Cricket Society. Official Opening of new Pavilion	Pavilion	12noon
Fri. 11	Mayfield Bowls Club Bingo Evening	Scout and Guide Hall	7.30pm
	Mayfield Bonfire Society Information Night	Carpenters Arms	7.30pm
Sat. 12	Mayfield Mayfair with special activities to celebrate 2012 Farmers Market	Court Meadow Hospice in the Weald, Pembury	11am - 4pm
Tue. 15	Fiona Castle – Women Alive!	Colkins Mill Church	10.30am
Wed. 16	Woodhill Patients Group public meeting	Mayfield Primary School	8pm
Thur. 17	Mayfield & District U3A. Prof Lawrence Lerner: "Are we murdering the English language?"	Memorial Hall	2pm
Fri. 18	Film on Friday presents "A Separation" (2011 - Iranian)	Memorial Hall	8 for 8.30pm
Sat. 19	Talk by Major Stephen Davies RAMC TA, on saving lives in Afghanistan	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Mon. 21	Open Door AGM	London House	7.30pm
Tue. 22	Mayfield Horticultural Society AGM - everyone is welcome to attend	Memorial Hall	8pm
Sat. 26	Pre-School Quiz Night	Memorial Hall	
Sun. 27	Monthly Footpath Walk	South Street car park	10am

REMINDER: NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION POINTS

Carpenter's Arms, Five Ashes Inn, Good Shepherd Church, Jason's Greengrocers, Post Office, Public Library, The Shopping Basket, Leppard's Butchers, Avars Village Bakery, St. Dunstan's Pharmacy, Budgen's Grocery.

COPY FOR NEWSLETTER / FEEDBACK TO CORRESPONDENTS

Copy should be submitted by noon on the 20th of the prior month. Please send an e-mail to mayfieldnewsletter2012@gmail.com with subject MAYFIELD NEWSLETTER or deliver to Mayfield Post Office if handwritten, typed or on disk or flash drive. 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) 9pt. Phone Jonathan or Susan Street on 882871 for advice on editorial content.

For advertising copy (money with copy please) contact Paul Woodley (873258) or e-mail to paulwoodley.zagon@googlemail.com or deliver to Mayfield Post Office also by 20th of the prior month.

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To Correspondents with diary dates: feel free to provide advance notice of future events, up to a year hence if available, 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.