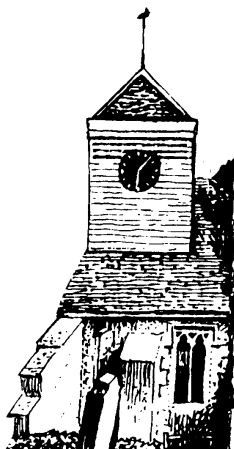


THE

PARISH



NEWS

News from
the Churches
the clubs, groups and
societies
of Ninfield & Hooe

March 2018

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's



NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Date	St. Mary's	St. Oswald's
4 th Mar	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
11 th Mar Mothering Sunday	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
18 th Mar	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
29 th Mar Maundy Thursday	19.00 Parish Eucharist	
30 th March Good Friday	14.00 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Stations of the Cross

Any alterations or additions to these service times will be displayed on the church notice boards, the weekly sheet and can be found on the church website along with other church details ~ www.ninfield.org.uk

APPOINTMENTS All enquiries about Baptism, Marriages or reading of Banns and concerning any other Church matters should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

PARISH NEWS Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the writer and not of the Parish Churches or PCCs unless it so states. This publication is produced and distributed by Members of both Parish Churches.

From
Paul Frostick



I write this article as Lent approaches (14th February). We have just celebrated Christmas and now we are thinking about Easter! Its no wonder the years seem to go faster. I spoke a little last month about Lent, now we are actually in it. The word Lent comes from the Latin root meaning "to lengthen." It reminds us that during the season of spring, the sun takes a little longer each evening to settle beyond the horizon. With this, the weather grows warmer, and life emerges once more. Lent is our connecting point to the season of life.

But this is a messy season as well. As the snow lies on the ground in many parts of our country, things get covered, trampled and windblown. You only have to look at the bog my garden is in at the moment to know that! Winter brings with it chilling winds that push things over, mess things up and even break things.

It's much like our lives. Over time, our hearts and souls, when left unattended, get messy. Lent invites us to deal with the mess. This is not about quickly cleaning things up and pretending they were never there, nor is it about ignoring the mess. Lent invites to roll up our sleeves and sort through the debris of our lives.

We are confronted with our mess, and so on our foreheads we rub a little dirt on Ash Wednesday reminding ourselves that just as Eden has gone to ashes, so, one day, we will too.

Ashes are applied to our heads and words are spoken, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" reminding us of the fact that we need to come to grips with our brokenness, staring at our sin and searching our hearts.

This is what Lent does. It allows us to see the parts of ourselves we'd rather leave covered up. It asks us to drag our full self into the light of day no matter how dark it may be. As we near the end of Lent, we encounter Good Friday on 30th March. For centuries, the people of God mark this day by participating in the Stations of the Cross, remembering the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

One station remembers the words Jesus cried while being crucified, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" That one phrase sums up the darkness of Lent. At the point of Jesus' death, He experienced the abandonment of God. He was naked, beaten, bleeding, dying, nailed to an instrument of torture and death. (The Romans were masters of torture, the nails used were actually blunt)

Lent and Good Friday invite us in a way to brush up against the death of Jesus as we sort through the death in our hearts. Good Friday is the moment when Jesus' death and our sin crash into one another. And in that moment we ache for Easter but more about that next month, in the meantime let's use this Lent to really prepare and recognise who we are and our need for God's love.

Paul Frostick

Prayer of the month

By Nigel Beeton

That daffodil time of year
O how I love, as poets do
That time when skies turn deeper blue,
And all can know the vernal thrills
Of landscapes filled with daffodils.



I love to spend a pleasing hour
Admiring nature's golden flower;
That trumpet shape, enhanced by dew
That vibrant, cheering yellow hue!

No better herald of the spring
No flower can more pleasure bring;
And spirits crushed by winter's ills
Are lifted by the daffodils!

Closing date for items for the next issue of the Parish News

Tuesday 13th March, ninfieldnews@btconnect.com

**HOOE SPRING CLEAN
SATURDAY 3RD MARCH
10.00**

RED LION CAR PARK

All meet back at the Red Lion 12.00 - 12.30

Teams will be allocated areas and equipment will be supplied. However if you have highviz vests and gloves please bring them with you

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH

PLEASE CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR
TO HELP WITH ST OSWALD'S CHURCH
AND GARDEN SPRING CLEAN?

SATURDAY APRIL 14TH
FROM 10AM ONWARDS

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IF POSSIBLE PLEASE BRING TOOLS
AND CLEANING EQUIPMENT,

ST MARY'S CHURCH

is holding a 'Winter Warmer Quiz'
on Saturday 3rd March, 7pm for 7.30pm
in the Reading Room, Church Lane.

Tables of 4 – no entry charge
but donations are invited towards church funds.

There will be a ploughman's supper with home made soup
bring your own drinks.

Please book early, as places are limited,
by calling Mrs Owen on 225421 (after 4pm).



Holy Week and Easter Services at St Mary's Ninfield and St Oswald's Hooe

Palm Sunday 25th March

9.30am Procession and Eucharist Ninfield

11am Procession and Eucharist Hooe

Maundy Thursday Eucharist 7pm Ninfield

Good Friday

11am Stations of the Cross Hooe

2pm The Final Hour Ninfield

Easter Day

9.30am Parish Eucharist Ninfield

11am Parish Eucharist Hooe

At St Mary's Church

Burial

9th February Betty Clarke following funeral at Methodist Church

*from the
Parish Records*

At St Oswald's Church

Burial of Ashes

28th January Kathleen Mary Southouse

OBITUARY

The end of a line of an old Ninfield name Keith and Marianne Veness died in early January, within a few days of each other.

Keith's Father and Mother lived in the Toll House where the Catsfield road faces the Kings Arms...

He was a postman, and had been a Butcher's boy for "old" Mr.Pont. He also worked on a local farm.

Keith could talk about his work in the village, and told me of the pigstyes which are in Standard Hill House's field behind Keith's home.

An earlier Veness is to be found in the records as having been prosecuted for poaching. When I told this to Keith he said that he was not in the least surprised..

Keith worked on a farm here till he left for a very different occupation, as a Purser on British Overseas Airways. He met Marianne, and they enjoyed the life, staying in places worldwide between their flights. His experience left him with an interest in preparing and serving food to a very high standard. [He would apply his skills when asked for help by a neighbour!] He had time to plant and grow a vineyard at the bottom of his garden. He had bought a piece from his next door neighbour's garden, to give himself a good sized plot.

He retired very early and found some interesting odd jobs to interest himself : delivering "Yellow Pages" gave him a good knowledge of the neighbourhood.

Marianne had been a Guy's Hospital and Oxford Orthopaedic trained Nurse before becoming an Air Hostess. She did this at a time when they were chosen for their looks as well as their abilities!

After her marriage and on coming to the newly built Chalet bungalow here, she took a post at Bexhill Hospital, enjoying her time as a Staff Nurse in the Outpatients' department, where many older residents will remember her. I believe that she had spent time in the Operating Theatres, too. On her retirement her chief interest was in her Siamese cats, and her garden. She and Keith worked on a major workover of the garden together.

Marianne joined a Bexhill Gardening Club, and enjoyed the social activities, lunching out somewhere with a group from the club, every week... Her strokes caused an increasing disablement, and her last years were spent in a Nursing Home in Bexhill.

THE PARISH NEWS

Does anyone remember that the Parish News was started in 1975 when Malcolm Pickering was Rector? He had an electric Gestetner Machine where you had to type everything on a skin to make a stencil and this was fed into the machine and copies came out. I have to admit to remembering these machines as we had one on my last church but it was not electric, you had to turn a handle and the paper got jammed a lot. In about 1975 it changed and the printing was done by a firm in Bexhill. No collating or stapling, which meant a group of people got together for the task. In 1999 Simon Earl became Rector and after a while he found that Bexhill High School (now Academy) had a printing department and their machine collated and stapled!

One of the people most involved in the development of the Parish News was Jim Hoad, he was there from the beginning and he remembers the group of people all sitting round his dining room table collating and stapling the magazine each month. He is the person behind the scenes, he delivers the Parish News to the 18 distributors and delivers to 15 houses that are not on any distribution list. He deals with the adverts, contacting the people every year and chasing money from those who a bit slow in paying!

When Carol and I took over editing the Parish News we were so grateful to Jim as all we had to do was pick up the magazines from the printers deliver a batch to Hooe and then take the rest to him. He then counted them out ready to go to the distributors. A couple of times when Carol and I were both away, he went to the printers and down to Hooe and then did his counting for the distributors. He really is a star!

As most of you know Jim hasn't been too well recently and has now felt the time has come to reduce his involvement. We all wish him well and please would everyone in Hooe and Ninfield join in our thanks to him for his massive contribution. *Nicki and Carol*



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I'VE BEEN THINKING AGAIN – BY MM

Are there any toxicologists out there? Archery has always interested me. It is a good hobby for the whole family as you can shoot to any level you wish. You don't need to aspire to great things. You shoot against yourself, unless competing of course, but even tournaments are open to all abilities so can be enjoyed by those just wanting a pleasant day out in the fresh air. They are very friendly affairs. You can just attend club practice sessions and local matches or travel the country, it is your choice. Most large towns have archery clubs. It is a good choice for the hobbies section for young people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

I was an archer for about ten years until my spare time was taken up by dog shows. I used to travel only as far as Portsmouth or Canterbury to tournaments as I had to drive myself and work the next day. Matches were usually held on a Sunday. If it was wet most archers sheltered under their huge umbrellas with side curtains. It got really cosy in there! On arriving home after a wet shoot I had to spread out the gear to dry, I couldn't just exhaustedly sink into a chair. Many archers took their dogs with them, as I did. We all took sandwiches, drinks and Bonios! There are also some indoor tournaments. Most clubs have a field for shoots and also hire a hall for indoor practise. I know someone who was Sussex Ladies indoor and Outdoor Champion and she also broke an indoor National Record. So, if you practise anything is possible!

Clubs usually lend basic bows to learners, which gives you a great taste of the sport, but if you want to improve you will need your own gear. It does not have to be an expensive hobby and the Club Instructors will advise you on what to buy. Second-hand bows are always available. Other things are needed, such as a quiver to hold arrows, a 'tab' to protect your fingers and give a clean 'loose' to the arrow and a bracer for your arm which keeps you sleeves out of the way which prevents painful bruises to the elbow. If you progress to a more sophisticated bow you will have fun fiddling about with stabilisers, which look like aerials sticking out in all directions. Such a versatile sport.

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OUR SCHOOL

Have you ever held a lollipop in front of your child's face and then, just as they are about to open their mouth, taken it away. A case of child cruelty you might think, one for the Safeguarding board. Well that is exactly what has happened to the children, parents and staff of OUR SCHOOL. East Sussex County Council have decided that negotiations have gone on too long and the project costs have escalated too far and so last Friday, 2nd Feb, we were informed that the funding for our new classrooms has been withdrawn.

I emphasised the OUR SCHOOL because whether you have children or grandchildren at the school or not, the school is part of the village and affects us all in one way or another. There are people who believe that effect is a negative one, and we can't change that. But having a thriving and successful school in the village has a knock on effect on the population and demographics of the village which in turn produces the vibrant and diverse environment which makes Ninfield a great place to live and not just somewhere to retire to.

The loss of two classrooms means that we will be forced to reduce to 4 classes resulting in larger class sizes crammed into the existing building. Fewer classes mean less staff and therefore less opportunity to provide the wide ranging experiences that we do now, or indeed to maintain the level of extra curricula activities that are currently available. That will make the school less attractive to prospective parents and so the downward cycle continues.

Since the announcement became public we have received a great deal of support from our parents and the school community as well as our local MP, Huw Merriman. I hope that by the time you read this

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article everyone involved in this will have seen sense, thought about the effect on the children and given us our lollipop back.

**Please help us by showing your
support for OUR SCHOOL**

Ian Moffat

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

A dreary afternoon in February was cheered up no end by welcoming local/loveable Anne Bourner to our monthly meeting to hear about her life in farming.

Bringing with her a couple of very special milk bottles, a bit of multifunctional bailer twine and a selection of animal passports (some beautifully hand written and nearly 100 years old) she took us through her years of loving the land, the seasons, the animals and her family that were so dear. Anne was born in Horam and her grandparents were tenant farmers on the Ashburnham estate. Her favourites were the chickens and cows and was a dab hand at skinning and paunching a rabbit for the table so there was never a shortage of food even in the war years. Her grandfather died when she was 5 but the tenancy was not allowed to be transferred. She always loved reading and after going to Bexhill Grammar school she joined the Library Service up until the day before her wedding to Peter in 1956, who she had met through Young Farmers. The young couple rented a dairy farm in Heathfield, Monkhurst Farm. At that time the cows all had delightful names. Morning call for milking in their stalls was at 5am ready for the churns to be collected by 8am! Anne doesn't drink milk! By 1979 Anne and Peter had 3 children and a farm in Hooe came up for auction. Even at their best bid the reserve wasn't met and they came away disappointed, only to be called later by the auctioneers to ask them for their best bid again, which was excepted and they became the new owners of New Barn Farm on the 25th January 1980. This move gave Anne and Peter the opportunity to diversify, trying pigs at first, which after a year of recording their costings of feed, care (not including manual time) and cost of slaughter found that they only made 1p per pig! So they entered into the unknown realm of sheep farming. Anne tells us in her Worms Eye View articles of her daily 'looking' and the changing sights she sees from her home with views across the Pevensey Marshes. One year Peter and Anne noticed a strange light a couple of times that their boundary down by the Wallers Haven. The investigation revealed that smugglers were coming in by plane bringing in drugs.

This year lambing will start on 10th March. The sheep have been brought close in because of the very wet weather and have been scanned so they will be ready to expect ones that will have one lamb, twins or triplets which have been able to have extra feed. The farm, which is now run by Anne's son, still has 26 cows, which they find less hectic than the

and a bull ...Norton... but give him a wide berth! Anne's job now is mainly paper work, since she fell and broke her hip in the cow parlour, the beautifully old hand written animal passports having been replaced by a car tax form lookalike. After 60 years Anne still loves her farming life, trying to keep it to six days a week. As her grandfather would expect, Sunday's was time for church, family and a 'little' relaxation. Thank you so much Anne for your delightful talk.

I think it might be the right time for us, Carole and Peter of Little Acre in Ninfield, to mention and thank also all the people we have got to know, that stop and chat or have come to our garden party's and our special neighbours, as we are moving on from our lovely patch of Ninfield. Hopefully not out of the village for long as we would like to return to this great community but until we can find our next home hopefully near here. Thank you all.

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

has made remarkable progress since it began, just over a year ago. It's membership now totals 24 and, with 2 new members joining its ranks in the near future, it has now closed the 'book'! Any potential members will now be required to join a waiting list.

The incredible success of its first exhibition in early November resulted in, a rush of interest in membership to the group, sales and commission work for several artists and calls for a follow up event. The group is, therefore, excited to announce that they plan to be present at The Ninfield Carnival this summer. They are also planning another full exhibition, and sale of work, over the weekend of 29th and 30th of September, in the Ninfield Memorial Hall.

The group's artists are, meanwhile, busy painting a new body of work for you all to enjoy in the future. There are plans to take their skills into the great outdoors, with some trips to paint village scenes and landscapes farther afield. Watch out for us out and about and come over to have a look, and chat!

For further information, contact...

jennieharmer@aol.co.uk or ring 01424 892357

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

Monday 5th March in Ninfield Memorial Hall we shall welcome Joyce Pannell with her demonstration entitled "Here comes Springtime" All floral arrangements demonstrated are raffled at the end of the evening.

NON-MEMBERS are welcome at a small charge of £5.00 this includes refreshments.

Saturday 10th March JUMBLE SALE. Admission 50p. Doors open 2pm. Lots of bargains. If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate, please telephone Jennifer 892878.

Upcoming events, Monday 9th April Sue Thompson with her demonstration "Up the Garden Path"

Wednesday 2nd May we are delighted to welcome back Mr. Jim Buttress, with his talk "The Royal Parks and Gardens". Tickets for this evening to include refreshments will be £5.00 and available shortly.

Should you wish any further information regarding any of our events, please telephone Jennifer on 01424 892878 or email ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We have 2 events in March. On Monday 19th at 7.30 in the Memorial we welcome a new speaker. This is Katherine Lynn who will be helping us 'Tiptoe through the tulips'. A very seasonal topic, we hope! All are welcome and we have a raffle and refreshments too.

On Saturday, 24th March, it is our Spring Show. This is usually a lovely colourful event. Entries of flowers, pots, floral art and handicrafts and children's classes are needed to fill the show benches.

Can you enter this year? Details of classes and how to enter are in the schedules available in the village stores.

Any questions to Rose, please (01424 892422 or email: rose.franks1@btinternet.com)

Do come and see the Show from 2.30 in the Memorial Hall. We can promise lots to see, and tea and homemade cakes too.

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HOOE HISTORY GROUP

Stewart Angell gave us a really interesting talk in January on "The secret Sussex resistance". These were highly secret Auxiliary units formed in World War 2, from the Home Guard, to carry out guerrilla warfare in the case of a possible German invasion. Accompanied by slides showing the remains of the secret hideouts they created, it was a fascinating evening.

Peter Hayward brought his second sporting talk forward to February as John Dowling was unable to attend on the date. Entitled "Motor bikes, marathons and muscle" his talk looked at the exceptional careers of a motor cyclist (Malcolm Ballard) a marathon runner (Cecil Ballard) and the local tug-o-war team (Russells Green) all with roots in Hooe and all of whom performed at the very highest level, at National and International events. These were all dedicated athletes who took on and beat some of the finest names in their sports at the time.

Therefore, at the risk of repeating January's comments, on Thursday 15th March we will welcome John Dowling with his talk entitled "Bodgers and Badgers". John is well known locally, having spent many years working at the Bexhill Observer, reporting on local and village events. His talk tells how a campaign saved a much-loved but threatened local beauty spot for the enjoyment of the entire community, by the Highwoods Preservation Society, from his perspective as an active member.

As always everyone is welcome at Hooe Village Hall from 7.30 and refreshments will be available

NINFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We meet next on Thursday 15th March at 09.30 in the Sparkes Pavilion when a presentation on Scams will be given. This may help you and your friends avoid being victims of scams which can be so expensive. The annual cost to consumers in this country is £5 to £10 billion pounds, and I do not wish to be a contributor to this. You can hear what is going on in this area, have a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits and discuss your concerns. There are no charges.

Do come along and put in your thoughts. For more information contact Rod Ffoulkes on 893635 or email ken.fffoulkes@which.net

NINFIELD CARNIVAL ASSOC. UPDATES!

'Over 60's Afternoon Tea and Cabaret' -

All has been confirmed, and this will be held on Saturday 12th May, in the Memorial Hall. Doors will open from 1.30pm and there will be Sherry, Pimms Punch and Prosecco on arrival! Afternoon Tea consisting of Sandwiches, Savouries and Cakes, and of course Tea, Coffee and Juices, will be accompanied by Cabaret- music, songs, comedy sketches, lots of laughter and some audience participation - and performed once again by 'Deja Revue', the Brighton -based, professional theatre company who have adopted Ninfield over the last 20 years! Invites will be in the post, from the beginning of April for all residents over 60. It will be a similar affair to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and 90th Birthday tea and cabaret, which we know many of you enjoyed – and the absolute best part of the whole afternoon, is the sound of people getting together for a natter and a catch up!

The Summer Event - Ninfield Carnival 13th & 14th July

Please put that date in your diary now. The Carnival will have the usual family feel and coming together, with a mix of Traditional events and all the 'up to date' stuff!, but nothing is completely finalised. This is your village and, as we always say, we really would like to hear some of your ideas. As the date coincides with both Wimbledon and the World Cup, and also this year sees the Winter Olympics and Commonwealth Games, there will definitely be a 'Sporting' theme.... So 'World of Sport' it is!

There are still a range of options for the Friday 13th evening, and the headlining act for Saturday will be announced next month. We are currently discussing the exact layout and key events and would welcome people to come and help us shape The Ninfield Carnival, 2018.

Contact Sami Guard 07970650321 or Helen Rawlinson 07736660742 for more info. Email Carnival Secretary, Helen, at heleniumhc@hotmail.com if you have any ideas, questions or comments.

Or see you at the next meeting: Wednesday 14th March 8.30pm at the Tin Hut...it would be fantastic to have your input!



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NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Saturday 3rd March : Ninfield Village Society and our numerous volunteers will be patrolling the streets of Ninfield to join in with this country wide Spring Clean. Full details will be appearing on posters shortly but please keep a couple of hours free to help this worthwhile cause in OUR village !

OUR 2018 AGM

Please pencil 21st March in your diary to join us at the Methodist Hall at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided and you will learn what we have done in the past year and have an opportunity to suggest future projects.

In addition we hope to have a representative of The Small Woods Association to discuss how to future proof Church Wood !

This next paragraph arrived just too late for the Feb issue but too important to miss entirely. Thanks Roger!

Time seems to have flown and here we are looking back on another Christmas. I remember my grandparents complaining the years were passing so quickly, but I guess this means I am getting old too !

Once again the Village Society were grateful to Clive at Catsfield Christmas Tree Farm for his part sponsorship of the tree we erected at The Memorial Hall in time for the village Christmas party. Many favourable comments were received and certainly the lights and decorations made a focal point of the tree at this grand occasion.

Our work in Church Wood has largely been determined by the weather with streams to clear and fallen timber to remove where it crosses the boundary fences around the woods. In turn this has lead to replacement of some timber fence posts which we try to harvest from the fallen timber and strategic thinning of trees, to enable light to get to saplings.

In addition, we cleared round the seat at the end of Church Path and some will have noticed a strange shape emerging at the old bus stop close to the top of Catsfield Road. This is a metal seat frame which dates from the 19th Century and was completely swallowed by brambles etc. We treated it to a rustproofing coat and have been given a large piece of timber to replicate the original bench seat. The later seat provided by the Carnival Association is in for refurbishment and will be relocated within the village as the weather improves. Roll on the Spring !

Ninfield Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Phone

Kaye Crittall – Chair	892883
Sam Guard – Vice Chair/ Chair of Planning Committee	893699
Pam Doodles	892329
Peter Holland	893326
John Cheshire	892248
Jackie Langley	892422
Paul Coleshill	893138

Clerk Jackie Scarff

07725 843505

e-mail – ninfieldpc@btinternet.com

At the February meeting it was lovely to welcome some new faces and hear of subjects that they would like to discuss on the next agenda, for example speeding through the village and parking in Church Lane and ideas for future projects.

The chair warmly welcomed Debbie Peters works for WDC and supports Wealden Dementia Action Alliance which covers the whole district and Caroline A'Hearne who works for Action in Rural Sussex. As Wealden is such a large area, they have started to set up events in the local villages and towns.

The first event in Ninfield being a Dementia friendly film screening in November 17. The screenings are for anyone who would like to attend and are friendly relaxed showings catering for people with dementia, anyone caring for someone with dementia or people who are rurally isolated and are lookingfor social events that they can attend.

They would like to build on this and the screening this month and set up a dementia forum in the area. The aim is to find out what local people want and how to signpost what is available.

The monthly update on the School extension project explained that members of the parish council's delegated committee had met with ESCC 12th January to talk through amendments that had been requested to the latest version of the lease. The meeting seemed to culminate in broad agreement for the terms of the lease which our solicitor updated and sent on the ESCC.

At the time of the Parish Council meeting we had not received any feedback and had been told that the ESCC solicitor was not back in the office until 7th February.

Developments since the meeting have been extremely disappointing. ESCC have written to the parish council, the school and parents of the children at the school to let them know that they have decided to halt the project. The parish council have responded to this letter and have put together a timeline showing the progression of the project after the Heads of Terms were agreed, copies of these documents are available from the clerk and have been copied to the district and county councillors and the local MP.

Updates will also be posted on our facebook page so if you don't receive these please search for Ninfield parish-council and like the page.

The next full council meeting will be Thursday 1st March 2018 at 7:15pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Due to a slight misunderstanding, Henry VIII was otherwise engaged on matters of state on the 18th January! Instead, we were fortunate to welcome Tony Harris in the guise of a 'survivor' of the Titanic disaster, in full evening dress complete with top hat and buttoned gloves.

Tony gave a talk entitled 'The Titanic Conspiracy Theory', a very entertaining account of the 'alternative facts' about the disaster. Based on research, he suggested that the sinking was always a planned event to facilitate a huge insurance scam.

These days of instant communication it is far more difficult to enact a cover up. Everyone has a mobile phone and can act as an on the spot reporter. In 1912 accurate news was far more difficult to come by and 'fake news' easier to spread.

As usual, Tony gave a very amusing talk, engaging the large audience and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. He has promised to visit the Group again as Henry VIII as soon as we are able to arrange it. So watch this space!!

At our next meeting on 15th March our speaker will be Kevin Gordon on The Cuckmere River and everyone is welcome at the Methodist Hall

HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL HALL - PART ONE

When we moved into Ninfield some 7 years ago, like many newcomers, we took things at face value. The Memorial Hall was just that, a hall used for the Community in remembrance of villagers who died in WW1. As I got to know more people in the village and particularly the NLHG, I found out why we live on Standard Hill and its connection to the events of 1066 and all the history changing events that followed. It really is a historic village that has a wealth of history running through it, if you only look under the surface. So, it was for me with the Memorial Hall. Firstly, I found it was gifted to the village by the Brassey family in 1921, and village lore said it was built from surplus material from Normanhurst Court and secondly that it had been damaged by the weight of snow. But initially it didn't stir my curiosity. I do a lot of historical research, not just about the village, but topics that interest me, so I keep quite busy and help where I can.

It was recently when I was asked to join the Memorial Hall Committee to try and obtain funding grants, that I began to look deeper. The Hall is shown on the first properly scaled map of the village, drawn up by the Royal Engineers in 1873. So far, so good, as all the information on Normanhurst Court states that it wasn't completed until 1870. The first part of village lore seemed to be correct. That led me to check if the weight of snow story was also true. That was the stumbling block; there were no reports of abnormal snow falls until the late 1890's and far too late to fit with the damage caused while being built.

But I don't like leaving things without digging as deep as I can, so checking local records was sketchy, so what else to do but ask the Meteorological Office! Why not? After all, they should know! It turned out that their records showed that during the winter of 1865/'66 there was a tremendous storm on 11 January 1866, with drifts up to 15 ft high. Brilliant! But there was a snag – that seemed to be much earlier than Normanhurst Court having “spare” materials. So, back I went into the local records and unearthed a report that in 1867, the building of Normanhurst Court had been completed. Of course! The structure itself had to be completed and then the internal decoration meant that it took a few more years to complete the decorations and fittings.

(to be continued next month) Kevin Regan



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HOOE OPEN GROUP

met together on a very cold day, which was warmed by a presentation by Bev Ebdy of Wiltshire Farm Foods, covering the wide range of dishes that are provided by his company.

The meeting was complemented by sampling a number of the most popular dishes, which can be ordered and delivered to your door.

Friday was a good example as to the popularity of the Club, to have such a good turnout, on what was on a very cold day.

The next meeting will be on Friday 9th March, when Juliet Hammond will engage the members in gentle exercises to improve general well being and fitness.

The Club welcomes new members, so why not come along to Hooe Village Hall on the second Friday of the month at 2.30. You will enjoy the lively company of a group of outgoing and chatty ladies.

For further details call Edna Wallis on 01424 842591 You will be made very welcome.

S t. Oswald's Pancake Lunch 13th February This annual event held in Hooe Village Hall is one of my favourites. Homemade soup – delicious – homemade bread – great variety – pancakes with a choice of lemon, sugar, golden syrup and I do believe there was maple syrup and honey available. The perfect lunch for what was a wet, cold and windy day. Despite the weather 60 people attended and judging by the chatting that was going on, everybody had a good time. £300 was raised for the church painting fund.

Massive thanks go the 'team' behind the scenes. They always make you feel welcome, everything was lovely even down to little posies on the tables. Well done to all of you. Nicki



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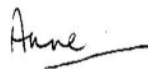
Worms Eye View

March is here and if it is windy, that foretells a fine may. march really is a month of many weathers and is notorious for blustery and boisterous winds and so it is no surprise that it is named after mars, the god of war. The anglo saxons called it hyldmonath which again means windy or stormy month. but on the upside we will see lots of daffodils, they are said to start blooming on st david's day, march 1st. actually i have already seen quite a few and i am writing this on february 1st plus there are masses of snowdrops, crocus and some primroses, it is so good to see them.

Of course with march arriving that means for us lambing will soon start, theoretically on march 10th, but i don't think the ewes always look at the calendar. They were all scanned at the beginning of January with some good results, hoping they prove correct. We can expect lots of twins, only ten sets of triplets and not too many singles, although they can be handy to take on a triplet if the timing is right. The scan also showed four ewes were not in lamb but we did leave them with the ram a bit longer, so who knows.

The cattle are all happy in their barn, well out of the cold and wet weather. The bull is having a rest on his own in the bull pen he fretted a bit when he was moved away from the cows but soon settled and enjoyed his food like all males. Now I have read recently that lightening will never strike a bull and in a thunderstorm, some farmers join the bull in his stall for shelter. Although our bull is very quiet, and usually well mannered, I would not go into his pen with him. Never trust a bull, I was told when very young and I still respect that advice.

Now don't forget "March winds and April showers, bring forth May flowers".



Ninfield Parish Council

The Parish Meeting will be on

Thursday 1st March

The Methodist Hall,

Ninfield residents are invited to attend

Hooe Parish Council

The next parish meeting will be on

Monday 19th March

Hooe Village Hall

Hooe residents are invited to attend.

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Dick Carey	Chairman	01424 892051
Revd Peter Doodes	Vice Chairman	01424 892329
Pam Doodes	892329	Robert Pilbeam 844365
Peter Hayward	Chris Bloor	843661
Gary Durman	893007	

Parish Clerk Sally Durman 893007

Hooe Parish is delighted to welcome two residents who have been co-opted onto the Parish Council which is now running at full strength once again.

Chris Bloor is already a member of the Hooe Village Hall sub committee and, as a parish Councillor, will be getting even more involved with this exciting project. He was part of the team who organised the successful Christmas Market held in December and is now investigating grant funding opportunities and helping to organise fund raising events. The new hall is on its way!

Gary Durman will keep his role as Parish Footpath Officer as he comes on to the Council. Whilst he, too, is interested in the Hall Project he will also continue to keep the footpaths clear and will be organising parish walks in due course. He, with the rest of the Council, will be working hard to try to find a solution to the problem of speeding traffic through the village.

Chris and Gary have large shoes to fill. Councillor and much loved resident Barbara Strevett who died in November last year is sorely missed, she served on the Council for many years. The village also misses Peter Watson who had to resign when he moved house in December.

The Chairman, Dick Carey, welcomed Chris and Gary to the team, and at once the Council got to work!



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Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)
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email: revpwmwilliams@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday Services for March 2018:

4th 10.30 am Family Café Worship, with breakfast.

11th 10.30 am MOTHERING SUNDAY with Drina Hampson

18th 10.30 am Worship & Communion with Rev. Tricia Williams

25th 10.30 am PALM SUNDAY Worship with Margaret Bickerdike

1st Apr 10.30 am EASTER SUNDAY Worship & Communion, with
Easter Breakfast from 9.30 am.

Events for March 2018:

14th 2.30pm Christian Womens Fellowship

14th 5.00 – 7.00pm Messy Active Teens

23rd 9.00 - 10.30am 'Pop-up' Cafe

28th 3.30 – 5.30pm Messy Church – 'Second Chances...'

30th 2.00 – 3.00pm GOOD FRIDAY Service at St. Mary's.

Throughout March our services, & Messy Church, will focus around the Easter Theme of Good News, New Beginnings & New Life. We invite you to come and celebrate this special Christian season with us & reflect on the joy & hope that this message about Jesus brings to us all.

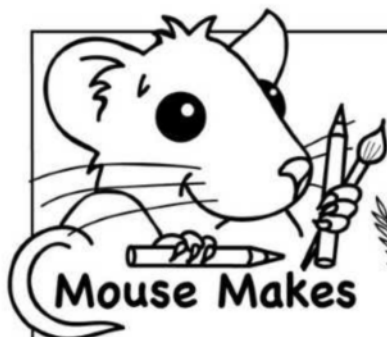
'Easter Praise' on Easter Sunday will be preceded by a Family Easter Breakfast for all ages, in our Hall, & I feel sure some Easter eggs will also feature!

Please remember that on Good Friday we will unite at St. Mary's Parish Church, in the afternoon, for their service of reflection.

A Very Happy Easter to you all.

Please note that the Methodist Circuit publishes a local magazine 'Spotlight' with news from all the churches. /www.hbrmethodists.org.uk/ The Christchurch / Bexhill, & Ninfield Churches issue a monthly Newsletter (available on request). /www.christchurchmethodist.org.uk/

Church Hall Bookings: David Swales 892248



Mouse Makes

Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers



READ Matthew 21:1-11

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



MARCH DATES FOR OUR TWO VILLAGES

March

1 st Ninfield Parish Council	P20
3 rd Spring Clean Hooe & Ninfield P5 & P19	
3 rd Winter Warmer Quiz	P 5
5 th Flower Group	P14
9 th HOGS	P24
10 th Jumble Sale	P14
13 th Closing Date for April News	
14 th Christian Women's Fellowship	P12
14 th Carnival Meeting	P17
15 th Neighbourhood Watch	P16
15 th Hooe History Group	P16
15 th Ninfield Local History Group	P21
17 th Village Market	P10
19 th Hooe Parish Council	P27
19 th Ninfield Horticultural Society	P14
21 st Village Society AGM	P19
24 th Horticultural Spring Show	P14

April

14 th St. Oswald's Spring Clean	P 5
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Anyone have any more dates for this page?

- 12th May Over 60's Afternoon Tea
- 30th June St Oswald's Garden Party
- 13th/14th July Ninfield Carnival
- 27th/28th July Ninfield Proms & Gig
- 29th/30th Sept Art Exhibition
- 20th October Bonfire Night
- 25th Novem Home Made Fayre

Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD ACTION GROUP Paul Coleshill 893138

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Secretary Carol Holland 893326

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB:

Hon Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, 300 Turkey Road, Bexhill 843436

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY:

Secretary Jennie Harmer 892357 jennieharmer@aol.co.uk

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Show Organiser: Rose Franks, Little Gates, Potmans Lane, 892422

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

Preschool: Liz Walker, 7 Thorne Crescent, Bexhill, TN39 5JH

Toddlers: Stacey Boarer, 07967436479

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Hon. Sec. Lynn Denton 892347

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Martin Gausden martin.gausdengslninfield@hotmail.co.uk

Explorer Scout Leader: John Hornby 07783471115

Scout Leader: Glen Harrison 07936552785 ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison 07970 359724 ninfieldcubs@gmail.com

Beaver Scout Leader Sandra Creasey 07908 558721 ninfieldkaa@googlemail.com

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Julia Hurrell 07508 080608

DANCE & DRAMA CLUB: Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Simon Pattisson 845087

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE LINE DANCE GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE OPEN GROUP: Edna Wallis 842591

HOOE SPORTS CLUB Chairman: Tim Bryant, 2 Saddlers Cottage, Hooe

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Pam Doodes, Catslide, Hooe 892329

SENLAC BELLS Conductor Alan Collings 893313

STOOLBALL: Fixture Sec. Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

PARISH WHO'S WHO

PRIEST IN CHARGE OF NINFIELD AND HOOE Rev Paul Frostick,
18 The Ridings, Bexhill on Sea. East Sussex. TN39 5HU. 01424 218126.

PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

Churchwardens: Mr Phil Ringrose ☎ 892792
Mrs Catriona Mary Owen ☎ 225421
Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose
Treasurer: Mr Phil Ringrose

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD, HOOE

Churchwardens: Mr Jack Rist ☎ 892576
Mr Simon Pattisson ☎ 845087
Secretary: Mr John Fairclough
Treasurer: Mrs Cynthia Fairclough

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

THE PARISH NEWS

Email ninfieldnews@btconnect.com ☎ 893326

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Jackie Scarff ☎ 07725843505 email ninfieldpc@btinternet.com

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Sally Durman ☎ 893007 email hooepc2@btinternet.com

READING ROOM

Booking Enquiries: Ann Martyr ☎ 892593 email harebeating3@gmail.com

MEMORIAL HALL

To book phone Jane Dommersen ☎ 07393 494502 ja.dommersen@outlook.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Booking Secretary: Mrs Sally Durman, 1 Elizabethan Cottages, Hooe ☎ 893007

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Booking Secretary: Mr David Swales ☎ 892248

C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mr. Chris Brown, Church Lane, Ninfield ☎ 892486

DOCTORS The Surgery, High Street, Ninfield ☎ 892569

NINFIELD STORES, Lower Street, Ninfield ☎ 892281