

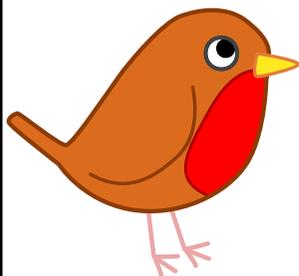
THE

PARISH



NEWS

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



Dec 20/Jan 21 50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



| Date | St. Mary's 9.30 unless stated | St. Oswald's 11.00 unless stated |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 6 th Dec | Parish Eucharist | Family Service |
| 13 th Dec | No Service | 10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist |
| 16 th Dec | | 7.30 Carol Service |
| 20 th Dec | Family Eucharist 3.30 Christingle & Carols | Parish Eucharist |
| 24 th Dec | No Service | 6.00pm Joint Parish Eucharist |
| 25 th Dec | Parish Eucharist | Parish Eucharist |
| 27 th Dec | Parish Eucharist | Parish Eucharist |
| 3 rd Jan | Parish Eucharist | Family Service |
| 10 th Jan | 10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist | No Service |
| 17 th Jan | Family Eucharist | Parish Eucharist |
| 24 th Jan | Parish Eucharist | Parish Eucharist |
| 31 st Jan | No Service | 10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist |

Opening times for Private Prayer

St Mary's - Tuesday and Friday 9,00 am to 3.00 pm Weather permitting

St Oswald's - Open daily from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

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, reading of Banns or any other Church matter should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

Dear Friends

At the time of writing this letter, I am waiting for the Openreach Engineer to arrive on 23rd November and install our Ultrafast Broadband! We shall see if they even turn up!! As I have said before, our broadband is next to useless as it takes 3 days to upload my weekly online service. The Internet has been a lifeline to many during the past 9 months, allowing people to stay in touch even during lockdown. Broadband and the telephone, both landline and mobile have been vitally important in keeping families and friends in touch. It makes one wonder how people managed when there were no phones, broadband or mobiles? How did people communicate quickly, especially in an emergency?

I can remember as a boy using a phone box and having to make the choice of pressing button A or B to make a call. And it was not until my parents got their own phone (after a three month wait) that we had the “luxury” of our own phone. Mind you, we may have had our own phone - but not our own line, as back then you could only have a shared line. And if you needed to make an urgent call you hoped that whoever you shared the line with was not on the phone when you wanted to use it! (Do you remember that?) How times have changed. We have become so used to all the new technology and instant messaging that we become impatient if we have to wait a few seconds for the computer or phone to come on now that we live in an “instant”; world. It’s strange really, times may have changed, and our aspirations may have exceeded all expectations, but the truth is that, as People of a Certain Age - we still long for that time when things seemed so much simpler, so less pressured. A time when everything was somehow happier and calmer than today.

Dare I also ask if you remember letters! Those things written by hand! I say this, because a letter lasts so much longer than a phone call. I still have letters that Eileen and I used to write to each other before we were married. Every so often I re-read them to remind myself of the love we shared and still share today. And in some ways, the Bible is like a love letter from God to us. Inside its pages, we learn of God’s great love for us and everything that he has done. From the Creation stories to the Nativity - we learn who God is and, when

We take the time to read those stories, we catch a glimpse of not only the past, but also the future.

For the truth is, even though we may change, the Bible tells us that God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and His love for us all is constant. And when God sent Jesus, over two thousand years ago, to be born in a manger, into a world of violence and suspicion, He did it with one purpose: To redeem the world and offer us New Life in Him. God does not promise us an easy ride - but he does promise to be with us always, in good times and in bad, even during this pandemic. And if we look hard enough, we may catch a glimpse of God either in the stranger or the manger, depending on where we happen to be.

So hopefully it will not be too long before my internet connection is better and I will be connected to the outside world - a world full of hope, which is longing for a better future, not only for us, but for everyone. Whatever the future holds, life will be different as we come to terms with Covid 19 but God still communicates with us just as he did 2,000 years ago through the Nativity.

Unfortunately, it looks as though we will not be able to have Carol Services this year, unless at the last minute the rules change. If that happens, a quick reminder will be sent by various modern means of communication!! However, I am working on an Online Carol Service and if my internet is up and working better, I should be able to upload it much more quickly. The link will be available nearer the time on the Community Facebook pages, the church website or by a link sent by email. Let me know by email if you want to receive the link. paul.frostick@sky.com

On that note, may I end this letter by wishing you and all those you love a blessed and peaceful Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

Every good wish, Paul



P.S. I have just learnt today that my broadband will not be upgraded on 23rd November but now put off to 12th January!!! They have to dig a trench to the house! What a disappointment!!

CHRISTMAS



Our usual celebrations

St Oswald's Carol Service 16th Dec at 7.30pm
St Mary's Christmas and Carols 20th Dec at 3.30pm

They may still happen if we are released from Lockdown.
Fingers crossed!

However, Paul Frostick is preparing an on-line celebration of
carols and readings, just in case

Christmas to Me A prayer by Colin Hammacott

Christmas to me is nativity
And the sound of carol-singing;
But to others it is revelry
And the sound of shop tills ringing.
Christmas to me is shepherds
On a hillside attending their sheep;
And the sound of angelic voices
Over a town bathed in sleep.
Christmas to me is the Magi
Who put all of their faith in a star,
And in search of the little Christ child
They willingly travelled so far.
Christmas to me is worship
Giving thanks for the Saviour's birth;
But to many of the folk I know
Christmas has no real worth.
So what will YOU see this Christmas?
Will you think of that baby so small?
And recognise that the love of God
Came to earth that first Christmas of all?



St Oswald's Parish Church

Funeral

Barbara Leslie Wimbush 29th October

Interment of ashes

Arthur Lewis 15th November

*from the
Parish Records*

OUR SCHOOL

We had a Pantomime this term.

Oh no you didn't! Oh yes we did!

We did indeed have a Pantomime in school, a very well thought out, Covid Safe performance, with one socially distanced player in the school hall and the rest of the characters on a large screen. And the children loved it:

"Vote it 1,000 out of 10. It was the best."

"Very funny and good acting."

"I've never seen anything like it, it was creative, funky and weird."

"I loved the songs."

"Exciting and very energetic."

"The Wizard of Oz was a great show."

"I think that it was very, very good. I've never seen anything like that in my life before."

"I thought it was clever."

"I thought it was very funny and the tik-tok dances were the best."

So even in the midst of Lockdown Two our age old traditions can continue.

And talking of traditions, the children in Reception made themselves a wreath for remembrance this week and then off they marched, two by two, across the Rec to leave it next to Tommy down on the corner.

Next for them is a visit to Ninfield's own Magical Forest.

So, if you go down to the woods today.....

Ian Moffat



NEWS FROM St. OSWALD'S

CHURCH BELLS

Following preliminary discussions with the PCC, Mr Alan Collings made a formal offer in March to make a significant donation for work in our Bell Tower. The offer was

To strengthen the Bell frame in the tower, to re-tune existing five bells, overhaul the fittings, fit a new rope guide and to add an additional Bell with required bell frame extension and all new fittings. To install in the bell tower a plaque recording the gift of a sixth bell and its installation in memory of Mary Collings, wife of Alan who is gifting the work and bell

Within the strictures of the first covid lockdown the PCC met on line and voted to accept this most generous offer.

Quotations were acquired from three Bell founder contractors and eventually the Rev. Paul Frostick and two churchwardens submitted an application to the DAC for a Faculty to permit the work.

The DAC pronounced in September "they thought it was a great project and recommended the proposals for approval". However they made a proviso that "a structural engineers report should be submitted to the DAC for approval" before the application could be considered by The Registrar. In the nick of time before the second lockdown kicked in we managed to get bell ringers, the chosen contractor and a structural engineer together to see the movement in the tower and subsequently report on the proposed work.

We were permitted in any case to display the public notices in the church and on the village notice-board and we also provided full details of the Faculty application. These have now been displayed for 28 days and we await the decision of The Registrar.

The PCC is very grateful to Mr Alan Collings and wishes him a swift recovery after his fall.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

It has been the practice at St. Oswald's for a number of years to hold a Remembrance Day Service in the church on Armistice day. This year for Covid reasons we were unable to do this and so, at the

suggestion of the Parish Council, a Service was held outside on the village green with flags of Merchant Navy, RAF and the Union fluttering above “Tommy”.

Paul Frostick led the traditional Service Of prayers, hymns and two minutes silence and Jack Rist, Churchwarden read the names of those killed from the village of Hooe in both world wars*

This service in church is always well attended but the parishioners from all parts of the village who gathered on, around and across from the Green numbered well over forty people (many thanks to Parish Council, Rev Frostick and Historical Society to name a few who publicised the last minute decision to hold the service)

* the proportion of those killed in the two wars matches almost all other memorials in the country being three times as many in WW1 as WW2
The churchwardens

Editors’ Note

Sadly for all of us we are back in lockdown, but knowing Hooe and Ninfield, we are sure everyone is looking out for their neighbours, shopping, collecting prescriptions, just saying “Hello” etc. But if you do need help at all, please contact Hooe or Ninfield Parish Council, they have lists of volunteers they can call on for you.

The lockdown has meant the cancellation of the few things we were able to do, visits to friends and family, attend church, dance and exercise classes, the Village Market and Homemade Fayre, a pint in the pub! so patience is needed, and provided the Government allows, these things will be back from 3rd December. You’ll find details of what is planned for next month further on, always being mindful that we may have to cancel again! And that does mean we have something to look forward to, meanwhile, stay home, keep smiling, keep safe and all of us wish all of you a peaceful Christmas and a Happier, more settled and healthy New Year

Nicki & Carol



PS, did you know The first issue of the Parish magazine appears to be January - December 1905. 115 years ago! Any one got a copy? Be great to print a bit of it!

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Ninfield Parish Council

Clerk Jackie Scarff 07725 843505
e-mail – clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

Despite being in lockdown there is quite a lot going on in the virtual world for Ninfield.

Hopefully you are all aware that we are applying for Church Woods to be given Nature Reserve status. Our application has to go via East Sussex County Council, with the County Ecologist writing a recommendation to give us the powers to apply to Natural England. Assuming this is passed at the required meeting in January we will send the paperwork to Natural England and once agreed will give a high priority to protect the wildlife, habitats and natural features.

Many of you have noticed that the Church Clock is not chiming at the moment. The clock is over 125 years old and although it hasn't needed much work over the years it does now require some TLC. It is serviced every year and some of the original parts have had to be taken away for restoration. We will let you know when it will be chiming again.... Meanwhile for the two volunteers who kindly wind it up every two days enjoy the rest.

The big village project at the moment is the Ninfield Neighbourhood plan. It's a powerful tool to ensure that the community has a say in what happens in the designated area (which for us is the whole Parish of Ninfield) by putting in place a strategy and policies which have come from the wants of the community. Please visit the Neighbourhood Planning pages of the website to keep up to date Ninfieldpc.co.uk. We really need residents to let us know what they think.

Remembrance day was a bit different this year. Our Tommy figure was brought down to the recreation ground, a lovely spot created by Sami Guard for an outdoor service by Reverend Paul Frostick who had meticulously checked the Covid Requirements in advance. Around 60 residents young and old turned out and fell silent at the eleventh hour. Paul is wondering whether to repeat the event outdoors next year (weather permitting) and welcomes thoughts from residents in the village.

Just a reminder that the clerk has a new email address and is contactable on clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk. The next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday 17th December at 7pm by zoom. Please contact Jackie, the clerk for a link if you would like to come to the meeting.



**NINFIELD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL
VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET
SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER
9.30 - 12.00**



Provided Government guidelines allow us, remember a one way system, entry via the main doors and exit at the side, and face masks to be worn

**cakes, pies, fruit & vegetables,
eggs, honey,
Lots of lovely Christmas gifts and crafts**

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We look forward to seeing you there

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Message from Sami.....

Well, it seems that the best laid plans of mice and men have once again been shifted into the land of uncertainty! We await the result of this latest Lockdown and just hope for the best that by the time you are reading this there are posters up to announce the restart of Dance Classes at the Memorial Hall, that The Homemade Fayre is happening on Saturday 5th December, The Market is all go for the 19th, and a special Village event, for Sunday 20th December, is able to go ahead.

The Carnival Co. were originally planning a Winter Solstice event for this date- with all sorts of lovely things planned on the Recreation Ground : Christmas Trees, Hot Chestnut stand, Stalls and Crafts etc etc- and finishing at 4-5pm with Carol Singing to Hooe Silver Band.

Well, whatever state we're in by the 2nd December, it's unlikely that much of that would be allowed under the general guidelines and restrictions, BUT! there are ideas in the making and creating - that could provide a 'Nativity Trail' for the youngsters and their families, very similar to the successful Halloween Trail, all in small groups, Bubbles etc, and which would culminate in Carol Singing on the Rec, at distance etc. So! Watch this space as they say - keep everything crossed and hopefully Katie Lear and myself, with Paul Frostick's help, will get something together for everyone to enjoy!

Dance Classes will hopefully be continuing as before, from Friday 4th Dec,- Movement 2 Music 10am Monday mornings, Tap 6.45pm Monday evenings, Dancercise 6.30pm Wednesday evenings and Fridays- alternating-at 7pm - Ballroom or Burlesque. Please God we get a couple of weeks in before the Christmas break! They will all restart in 2021 from Monday 11th January - unless another disastrous Covid wave shuts us all down again...!! AAAgh! -and, I'm still planning to do my '60-60' Challenge!! -60 Dance routines in 6 hours at the Hall, with a Bar, raising money towards the refurb... so, as said at the beginning, the only certainty may be uncertainty - but we will be positive, hope for the best, and try and have the best Christmas possible! With much love to all- and with the thought that - this time next year we WILL have a Village Pantomime!!

Let's hear it for the Christmas card!

A folded piece of Christmas cheer
Came through the post today!
I love it when those cards appear
I love the things they say!

And at this busy Christmas time
I'm always glad to see
The Christmas scene or Christmas rhyme
That you have sent to me.

The trouble that good people take
Is really, really kind –
Some people even sit and make
A card for me to find!

And in our virtual world of text
And pictures on a screen
These bits and bytes leave me perplexed
If you know what I mean?

And so I think that it is fine
To see your kind regard
I can admire this Christmas time
Your real Christmas card!

By Nigel Beeton

HOPEFULLY

**SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER
10.00 - 3.00**

**NINFIELD'S HOME MADE FAYRE
THE BEST PLACE FOR UNUSUAL PRESENTS**

Yes, all being well we will be at the Memorial Hall to welcome you to our annual fayre of beautiful items all lovingly made here in Ninfield, please come along and support them, entry is free and will follow all guidelines. Refreshments if allowed. Watch for banners on Facebook and our website **www.ninfieldmemorialhall.co.uk**

Trying to look ahead with optimism!

Until the pandemic stopped everything, an audience numbering between 25 and 50 was enjoying our Ninfield Musical matinee afternoons run by Jackie Langley and Rose Franks. These three monthly film afternoons were held in conjunction with Wealden Dementia Alliance and generously supported by Ninfield Carnival. They were dementia and hearing loss friendly with subtitles. Tables set out cabaret style enabled those attending to have somewhere to put their coffee and cake and to be able to get up and move easily without disturbing others. The afternoons were free, and open to anyone. There was a raffle and donations were gratefully received. Films were not more than two hours in length. As well as Ninfield residents, the films attracted people from neighbouring villages and towns and at our last film, we celebrated the 100th birthday of one of our regular attendees.

We hope that the past tense will once again become the present tense and with that hope in mind, we have some dates booked for Musical Matinees in 2021 for you to put in your diary. We can decide on the films when we can be more confident that they can happen.

Doors open at 1.30 – Films start at 2 pm.

Friday 5 March, Friday 18 June, Friday 24 September
Friday 26 November.

Another activity under the umbrella of the Ninfield Health and Wellbeing Group is the monthly Games afternoon. These afternoons are run by Dave Crittall, Robin Goldsmith, David Swales, Jane Dommerson, and me – in other words, the Health and Well-being committee! We don't just play games together, but we do enjoy meeting with villagers who come along for a relaxed pleasurable afternoon playing such things as Scrabble – the cerebral activity; shove halfpenny, snakes and ladders, bagatelle, skittles and new age curling. Accompanied by the inevitable cuppa, these afternoons are for all of us who enjoy the simple pleasures in life.

When we start again we hope that more of you, young and old, will come and join us. In anticipation we have booked dates for 2021 starting in April. These are from 2 pm to 4 pm on the third Tuesdays of the month as follows: 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 21 September, 19 October and 16 November.

We hope you manage to have a very Happy Christmas and a much better New Year.

The Award for:
Connecting People & the Countryside 2020

Lockdown Hero Award

Is Awarded to:
Ninfield Village Stores & Post Office

Caroline Egremont

Lady Egremont, on behalf of the panel of judges, 14 October 2020

The two certificates awarded
to Chris and his team
at the Village Stores

The Award for:
Connecting People & the Countryside 2020

GOLD

Is Awarded to:
Ninfield Village Stores & Post Office

Caroline Egremont

Lady Egremont, on behalf of the panel of judges, 14 October 2020

PARISH NEWS ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Usually in January, when the February edition is delivered, you are asked for your £5.00 for the year's subscription, however this year so that our delivery people are kept safe and because you all missed a couple of printed copies it has been decided not to collect until March ready for the April edition.

We will then make the annual collection each March, when hopefully the weather is better for our volunteers who deliver and collect.

Crouch (20 Acre) Field

I have written before about the Worrall Charity, from a bequest left to St Giles Without, Cripplegate, London and that it was used to purchase land around Moor Hall Drive, including the manor of Moor Hall, and land along what is now Manchester Road. It's the reason that Church Farm is so named, being the farm St Giles trustees purchased and then built tenements (the last survivor is High Knowle) to provide rental income for the 20 poor schoolboys and the school off Golden Lane. William Worrall died in December 1689, shortly after the Glorious Revolution saw James II deposed and replaced by his sister Mary (last of the Stuarts) who had married William of Orange. William Worrall's insistence on clothing the schoolboys from head to foot in orange must have made them stand out as if in dayglo could have been influenced by the new regime of William of Orange (or at least an acknowledgement to his namesake)

Cripplegate was the northern entrance to Londinium's fort, erected around AD120. The gate was located at what is now the corner of Wood Street and St Alphage Gardens and its name probably derives from the Old English crypel-geat; a cripple was 'one who can only creep' – which was the necessary way to duck under the original low arch. An alternative possibility is that it was a corruption of crepel, a burrow. When built it stood without (that is, outside) the Roman city wall, near the Cripplegate. The church is dedicated to St Giles, patron saint of lepers, beggars and the handicapped. There had been a Saxon church on the site in the 11th century but by 1090 it had been replaced by a Norman one. In 1394 it was rebuilt in the perpendicular gothic style and rebuilt again in 1545 after a fire. There is evidence that William Shakespeare was a parish resident in the late 1590s. Oliver Cromwell was married in St Giles' Church and the poet John Milton is buried here. The writer Daniel Defoe was born in Cripplegate ward in 1660. It is one of the few medieval churches left in the City of London, having survived the Great Fire of 1666.

Returning to William, it now appears clear that he had substantial links to Ninfield and Hooe, many years before. I had believed that it was simply that the land in Ninfield came available when the Trustees of his bequest had the money to buy Moor Hall and the manor lands that came with it. But recent research shows that from about 1627 he

and John Luxford owned properties of Charnefold in Hooe and the Moor Hall manor (with deeds dating back to at least 1371) in Ninfield. At this time I am unsure if this Richard King is related to the King-Sampson family that also held Moor Hall and other estates in Ninfield.

1 the manor and estate (240 acres) of Moor Hall in Ninfield, occupied by John Plummer, purchased by John Luxford of Ninfield from John Wenham of Hailsham, clerk in Holy Orders, formerly occupied by JL, Thomas Raye of Lincol's Inn, gent and his wife Ann

2 three messuages in Ninfield occupied by John Plummer, previously occupied by John Easton, John Steevens and Richard Barton, part of the demesne of the manor, purchased by John Luxford from Henry Mountague of Laughton, clerk in Holy Orders;

3 messuage, barn, malthouse and 70 acres in Ninfield, previously occupied by Robert Blackman, purchased by John Luxford from Matthias Caldecott of Selmeston, gent

4 marshland (15 acres) called Charnefield in Hooe (to the North is: Sewers Bridge and the land of Thomas Lord Dacre; to the East is land held by the late John Threele; to the South is: Thomas Lord Dacre and Backs Marsh; to the West is the sewer or common watercourse), occupied by John Plummer, before by John Luxford, purchased by John Luxford from John Wenham, father of JW in 1 above

5 annual rent of £2 12s 0d recites: settlement by John Luxford on his wife Ann, later AR, by fine in Michaelmas term 1673; her subsequent marriage with Thomas Raye Witnesses: John Plummer, Thomas Smith, Robert Startupp, R Freebody endorsed: receipt by TD and JF for £600, and for £1100 paid to Lord Berkeley for taking in a mortgage of the property; witnesses Tobijah Winne, John Cawkitt, James Read, John Martin.

Records also show that there were mortgages of £1,900 and £3,300 raised against these lands, giving the Church School a very substantial income.

You'll notice that John Luxford and Thomas Dyke are mentioned, both having connections to substantial properties (Luxford House and Standard Hill House) in Ninfield.

Some of you will also recall that William was a member of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers. Plasterers used Plaster of Paris which we know as Gypsum, and locally in the 1880's substantial deposits were begun to be mined at Robertsbridge. It clarifies that William didn't just make his fortune from plastering, he must have had considerable financial wealth in his family many years before.

Since being established back in 1689, William's bequest has been added to that of John Fuller and now rejoices in the name of Archive of the Trustees of the Worrall & Fuller Exhibition Fund and contains Deeds (1463-1693) and manorial records (1627-1936) of the manor of Moor Hall in Ninfield, and one deed of a tenement in Pevensey (1371), and deeds referring to various London properties (1614-1698), all forming part of the endowment of the Charity. It has since sold much of the Moor Hall Estate and currently the only land is still has in Ninfield, is the 20 Acre Field opposite the Memorial Hall.

Once again, plucking at a loose thread unravels a little more of Ninfield history.

Kevin Regan

NINFIELD ACTION GROUP

from the chair Paul Coleshill

Its been over a year and a half since I wrote a NAG column but my despair with Wealden, hasn't changed. It is one of the main duties of the district council to produce a plan for the area that fits National Planning Guidelines but reflects a local democratic input.

At the time of writing there is still no Wealden plan, I remember writing that in June 2018, and it's still true. At that time they were "working" on the third would-be plan, now that iteration is an "officially" failed plan, turned down by the Government inspector. STILL no actual plan, and on they go, spending a couple of million so far, to the fourth pathetic attempt!

In the meantime the Manchester Road development was allowed by moving the village development boundary in the - now non-existent - plan to exactly allow the back plot the owner sought to be developed. In the village, developer after developer continue to "tweak" existing planning proposals at Ingrams and off Manchester road, each time chipping away at conditions placed when permission was originally granted. Wealden has to allow this but seems to have eagerly facilitated the creep by stealth.

We had a proposal to build 75 houses parallel to church path in a totally inappropriate place, but surprisingly (given past performance) the proposal was turned down by Wealden. However, a tweaked proposal could still come back.

The Westminster government has proposed all development should be presumed a good thing by "local" planners, excluding only the narrowly defined "Green Belt" from presumptive development, its open house (forgive the pun). We don't have any official Green Belt in Wealden.

The village is trying to construct a village plan. This has to fit into the Wealden plan, whatever and whenever that emerges. A village plan can shape the village but not reject Wealden housing numbers. With the 4th attempt to get plan, Wealden has asked for all of us to think of yet more locations to build in and around our village, can I humbly suggest that we do not!

The big developments haven't even delivered one house so far, whilst small developments have actually delivered, with 3 houses opposite the petrol station, and 3 on Moons Hill and 6 houses are being constructed out of the old Birchholt home.

Interestingly there's planning permission for 2,000 homes at Combe Valley where Trinity College Cambridge, Sea Change and Bovis would love more development. Wealden failed to take their Duty to Co-Operate seriously and so were forced by the inspector to withdraw their Local Plan. We in Ninfield are surrounded by Rother and homes built there should be taken into account when considering our need for development.

BOOK EXCHANGE If lockdown restrictions are lifted on 2nd December we will go ahead with a Book Exchange session on Friday 4th December in the Methodist Hall from 10 – 11.30am.

The usual safeguards will be in place. Please remember to bring a mask to wear in the hall.

We have a received a very good selection of new donations both paperback and hardback books so do come for a browse! To help you stock up on Christmas reading we will hold a further session on Friday 18th December and then in the New Year on Friday 8th January.

If you have any queries please contact David on dj_swales@hotmail.com or 07989729123.

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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY Hooe History Society continues to follow national guidance by not holding monthly meetings. The village hall remains closed. We will continue to monitor the situation, but we are not yet in a position to resume our meetings.

We have cancelled up to and including February next year. Fingers crossed, the vaccine which has been identified will live up to all the hype that surrounds it....

DID YOU KNOW... is continued from last month when we looked at some of the reasons for absence from school, taken from the Hooe School log books. Absence was widespread in Victorian England and Hooe school pupils were no exception...

...**Hooe Fair** was another annual family day out when livestock and farm implements were sold at auction in the field behind the Red Lion. It was another of those days when presumably people came together from Hooe and the surrounding villages to buy, sell and exchange a few stories. There were stalls and sideshows to occupy the children... and it was another holiday.

Hooe Club Day was also an annual event when people gathered and the school closed. It was a well-supported village organisation which merits its own write up at a later date.

Of course, historical events such as Royal marriages, birthdays and anniversaries were all granted holidays, probably more so than they are now – the half day that was given to celebrate the relief of Ladysmith during the Boer War in March 1900 is just another example of how national events were widely celebrated. Sometimes, however, the children took it on themselves to skip off school for a few hours – the logs note that numbers have been reduced at various times due to fox hunts, hare hunts, a "visit by the Imperial Yeomanry" (1900) "Sangers circus" (1904) and an entry in 1918 stated, "A tank yesterday and a circus today reduced attendance".

Probably the most serious cause of absence during the school's existence, however, was infectious disease. Between 1892 and 1940 the school was closed on at least 23 occasions on the direction of the Education Authority, usually for a period of two weeks, for such things as diphtheria, whooping cough, mumps, measles, scarlet fever, influenza, chicken pox and German measles. These are all highly infectious diseases and would have spread through the school quickly,

leading to the building being fumigated or deep cleaned before the children returned. There were also many other instances of illness among the children without the school having been closed. Some of the early entries mention brow-ague, glass pox, ringworm, the Russian epidemic, bronchitis and “a strange eruption of the skin” having affected the children. Happily, most of these are now largely under control.

The other notable cause of absence was the weather. There are many references to low attendance due to prevailing weather conditions – heavy rain which fell for several days, high winds, thunderstorms and heavy snowfall which blocked the roads. Mrs Pedrick wrote in January 1940, “The school was closed again today for a week owing to severe frost and heavy snowfall”. This was the second such closure for snow in that month. An indication to us today, perhaps, that global warming is not just a myth?

The weather conditions that were described in the log books appear to be much harsher than those we see today (perhaps an indication of global warming?). The clothing that the children wore then was much heavier than today’s fabrics and far less weatherproof, so it would quickly become saturated on the journey to school and remain so until they went home. The children walked to school, some over long distances and many went home for dinner at midday, so inclement or extreme weather had a significant impact on their attendance.

All in all, absence for whatever reason, had a significant detrimental effect on the children who went to Hooe school up until about the 1940’s. Their education was often severely held back by non-attendance, especially if they were expected to help with jobs at home or on the farm. But as medicine improved, children’s’ health was more closely monitored, agriculture became more mechanised, the village clubs and societies became obsolete and the value of education grew in importance the fortunes of the Hooe school children at last began to improve.

Closing date for items for the **FEBRUARY** edition
of the Parish News is **WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY** please send
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Arthur Lewis

I was saddened to hear of the death of Arthur Lewis in October. Arthur was born in Sawpits, Hooe in the late 1940's and was very active in many village activities. He was a keen sportsman and played on the right wing when Hooe won the Hailsham League title in the 1960's. I remember that he tended to stretch the rules in his playing days, which were shortened when he took his refereeing exam in 1970. He quickly started to climb the ladder, gaining a reputation as one of the best referees in the county, mainly because he had played and knew all the tricks that players used. He had used them himself in his playing days!

Unfortunately, work prevailed over his ambition to referee at the highest level. He was unable to commit the time and energy that was required for full time refereeing and a potentially successful career was cut short. In his short refereeing career, however, Arthur was the youngest to referee the Sussex Senior Cup final, at the Goldstone ground, Brighton – and I believe this record still stands.

He also played in the (Hooe) cricket and (Red Lion) darts teams. He was wicket keeper and batsman in the cricket and captained the darts team for a number of years. Whilst always maintaining a winning mentality he always had a friendly personality towards his opponents and as a result, made very many friends wherever he went.

Arthur has also been an active member of both the Hooe Bonfire Society and the Michaelmas Fair.

Like his father and grandfather before him, he took great pride in building the Guy for each bonfire, steadfastly safeguarding its head each year before the body was thrown into the flames. He also ran the coconut shy at the Michaelmas fair and was a regular visitor to many local village events. It is no exaggeration to say that he was a popular figure wherever he went, greeting people with a smile of genuine warmth and plenty of banter!

Although he had made his home in Sidley, his heart was always in Hooe and he stayed in touch with many of the friends with whom he grew up. He was also an avid supporter of Blackpool Football Club all his life. Arthur was a true character and will be sadly missed by his friends in Hooe, Ninfield and many other towns and villages in the area.

Peter Hayward

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The Fairy

"Oooh! That light! It really hurts my eyes!
I never will get used to this once-a-year surprise.
Here I've lain for 50 weeks, all snug and warm and dark.



Then they come and lift the lid,
and it's suddenly "up with the lark!"



Hang on! Who's doing it this year?
Don't tell me it's little Joe,
he's all fingers and thumbs... oh, no, good, here comes Mum.
Right! I think this is it...Up we Go!

The flight, by hand, from box to tree, is careful, smooth and calm.
I greet my friends along the way, with a wave of one graceful arm.
There's Soldier Sam, and Henry-the Horse,
And baubles and tinsel galore,
Drummer Boy Tom gives a wink as I rise to the top of the tree, from the
floor.

OUCH!! WHY do they never remember?!
Don't they know that pine needles are sharp?
That's right, laugh...it's no fun, one's gone right up my bum,
and another spiked Gabriel's harp!

Ok, now I've got myself settled, I can survey the scene down below.
There's a whole load of presents that Mum has just wrapped,
and the pile seems to just.. grow and grow!!
The Nativity's over the mantle, and Snowmen on each window sill,
Oh, they've bought a new bulb for the Angel...but the Christmas Tree
lights flicker still...



For many a year now I've taken this place,
watching hundreds of kids, growing swiftly.
I may not be trendy, my wings are all bendy...
But they still love their Fairy.. who's fifty!

By Sami Hughes-Guard

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.

The Gnome

Did they say it was going to snow this year....?
Did they forecast the frost and the ice?
I don't seem to recall any mention at all,
And it really is not very nice!

Do you know how it feels to be sitting in slush?
Do you realise how cold, and how damp?
Though my coat is quite warm,
Both my feet have lost form,
And my toes have all seized up with cramp.

I possibly wouldn't be feeling so bad
If I hadn't been facing the windows.
Cos all I can see, is the warmth and the glee
At the party to celebrate Christmas.

It was only last year that I came to this house,
Such a special, fantastic surprise....
I was 'oooh'ed over daily, and laughed at so gaily;
But this twelve months have seen a demise.

Not a thought to they give to their friend in the dark,
Not a care for those outside the home.

Not a muffler or sock...

Oh, I do HATE this rock...!

Please, change places with this Garden Gnome!!

The READING ROOM'S 110th ANNIVERSARY

The Reading Room was opened by the wife of Thomas Allnutt Brassey, the Lady Idina Mary Brassey (nee Neville, 8th child of William Neville, Earl of Lewes and Marquess of Abergavenny) in November 1910.

In 1948 the reading room was conveyed by the owners of the Mountfield Court Estate to the Chichester Diocesan Fund and trusts for its management declared. In 1966 most of the land granted in 1948 was sold to the incumbent for a new rectory. The building was badly damaged by the storm of 1987 but repaired.

The reference to the Mountfield Court Estate refers to the family trust that succeeded the Brassey and Normanhurst Estate holdings, following the death of the 2nd Earl Brassey, Thomas Allnutt Brassey in 1919, dying childless.



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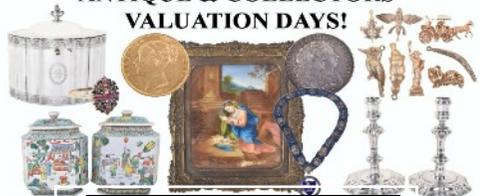
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Worms Eye View

*Christmas is coming the goose is getting Fat,
Please put a penny in the Old Mans Hat"*



One of the things we think of as Christmas gets near, is what will we have for dinner on that special day. When I was little, a long, long time ago, it didn't bother me, I just hoped we would have a nice roast dinner. Then the Second World War came and I became aware that one of the hens at the bottom of the garden would be chosen to be our treat.

This was when I learnt how to pluck a chicken, after Gran had killed it, and then paunched it, that is to remove all the innards. Little did I realise how useful it was to know all this when I became a farmers wife. Going back to the rhyme, I am not sure when this came into use, but it showed that for many people, they could not afford luxuries such as goose, at any time but as Christmas approached a strong tradition of charity was evident, therefore it became quite usual to beg so this rhyme could be heard a lot. Goose was the traditional bird cooked for a Christmas dinner and although turkey was introduced into Britain in the early 1700's from the Americas, Goose remained the favourite until the 20 th Century.

Another tradition at Christmas is to gather Holly and make a wreath of it and place it outside in your front door, and also have displays of it indoors. It was thought to be an ideal deterrent against all evil spirits. The prickly Holly leaves are said to be male and so are lucky for men. The smooth variety of leaves brings fortune to the ladies. Aside from the good luck that holly trees brings it is also a weather omen, for when the branches are heavily laden with berries, this is a sign of a hard snowy winter ahead. It is also an amusing cure for chilblains; the feet have to be beaten with a holly branch to "let the chilled blood out". Ouch! My holly tree in the garden has masses of berries, so I expect bad weather to come. One more thing about the holly tree is that it should never be cut down.

So enjoy the beautiful holly and have a lovely Christmas, despite these difficult times. I raise a glass of my homemade wine, and maybe a glass of my Sloe Gin, and wish you all a happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Anne

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

Email hooepc2@btinternet.com

Hooe Village Hall

Hooe Parish Council held a very productive meeting on Monday 9 th November. After many years of discussion, consultation, listening to residents and our regular Hall users, changing and amending ideas to suit, the Council has finally agreed the preferred size of the footprint of the proposed new Village Hall.

The hall will sit on the existing site taking in a part of the adjoining garden plot which was so generously donated to the village by the late Mrs Marjorie Avery for that purpose.

Site plans and a resume of the Project have now been sent to Wealden District Council for pre- planning application advice. The Parish Council is looking forward to meeting with the planners shortly to hear how both parties can come to an agreement. By obtaining advice at this stage a full planning application is more likely to succeed when submitted. This is all positive!

I would like to emphasise that this first discussion with the planners is simply to obtain their view as to the size of the proposed building and if they think it will sit comfortably within the boundaries of the site and street scene. The internal layout of the building and facilities to be provided has yet to be agreed. As you would expect another full parish consultation will be held before the internal arrangements are agreed and finalised. We look forward to updating you as the project progresses

Wednesday November 11 th – Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Sunday, 8 th November, as is the custom in Hooe, our village wreaths were laid at the Memorial in the St Oswald's church during the morning service This year the village also joined together on Remembrance Day at the Flag Green. Rev Paul Frostick had arranged a short service starting at 10.50 am which was advertised via the church, social media, the Parish Council email list, Hooe History Society and word of mouth. The morning was overcast but dry. Over 50 residents attended, social distancing was observed, and Paul had properly studied COVID 19 regulations before so all necessary safety precautions were taken. This was a very moving occasion which I was delighted to have been able to attend

The village Remembrance Display on the Flag Green has been much admired by many in the village and beyond. This is really making a



genuinely unique and impressive statement in the centre of our village for all who either live here or drive by and is thought provoking. Huge thanks to Jenny Cosham and Dick Carey, the artistic brains and inspiration who, together,

created this for our community.

As it was not possible to hold the normal village house to house Poppy Collection this year and both The Red Lion and Hope Cottage, the two venues who display collecting boxes were closed because of Lockdown this occasion gave us the opportunity to collect for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

A sincere Thank you and Au Revoir

For the last 10 years or so Liz Seal has taken on the organisation of the Hooe Poppy Appeal. However a couple of months ago she moved from the village to Eastbourne and so this will be her last year. We are all very grateful to her for all her hard work over the years and hope that she is a frequent visitor to the village.

So – we are looking for another resident to take on this worthwhile task! Are there any volunteers? Please contact our Clerk, Jackie.

And Finally

During this difficult time we never cease to be amazed at how the village has pulled together. Community Spirit is stronger than it has ever been. Thank you Paul for everything you have done and are still doing for the community, for the many friends and neighbours who are looking out for each other, for residents who welcome and join in socially distanced events. A great place to live.

Pam Dodes Vice Chairman, Hooe Parish Council

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

Well what a year ! Our work in Church Wood and around the village was obviously interrupted by the first lockdown, then a glorious summer and now another lockdown. Our members are frequent visitors to the wood and will endeavour to attend to minor items as they arise, but sadly we are unable to meet for this purpose at present.

However much we bemoan the lockdown, the sad news is that vast numbers of people will not be able to celebrate Christmas this year and it set me thinking that this area of ancient woodland has stood through world wars and numerous crises, the great storm of 1987 which caused so much damage in the south east and yet is still there representing nature at its finest.

We look forward to returning and in the meantime would wish all readers and particularly visitors to Church Wood a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

SIR GILES GILBERT SCOTT

– born 140 years ago on 9th November 1880. The eldest son of the renowned Victorian architect Sir George Gilbert Scott married Ellen King Sampson, whose family had originated from Pevensy and spread to Wartling, Hooe and Ninfield.

Richard King Sampson held the manor of Moor Hall, his brother William was the rector of Pevensy. Ellen King Scott (nee Sampson) 1854-1953, President of Ninfield Women's Institute and a driving force behind obtaining the Brassey's Drill Shed as the Memorial Hall (although not acknowledged.) Through his wife's family, the Gilbert Scott inherited Hollis Street Farmhouse and the front brick wall (sadly badly damaged by a skidding car a few years ago) was reputed to have been built by him. With the close connection, it is surprising that the rebuilding of St Mary's appears not to be his work. In 1874 George Gilbert Scott junior, costed plans, which went to tender two years later. Nothing happened but in 1923 Adrian Gilbert Scott designed a new front with wavy balusters for the apparently C17 musician's gallery beneath the belfry. Its unusual position may be because it was part of the ringing-chamber.

Yet Scott's most famous creation may be his smallest – the red telephone box he designed in 1924 and simplified in 1935. The updated version was so popular that 60,000 units were installed across the United Kingdom. Today, many of the beloved booths have been reoutfitted to serve new purposes, from defibrillator stations to miniature libraries.

Ninfield Methodist Church

Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)
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Subject to the lifting of our temporary lockdown on December 3 rd we plan to have the following services for Advent / Christmas and January:

Services for December 2020:

6th 10.30 am ADVENT Praise with Dawn Novis

13th 10.30 am ADVENT Communion with Rev. Philip Wagstaff

20th 10.30 am FAMILY CAROL SERVICE with Rev. Clive Redknap

24th CHRISTMAS EVE - to be announced (see below)

27th No service at our Church but service at St. Mary's.

January 2021:

3rd 10.30 am New Year Worship, with Alan Hurrell

10th 10.30 am United Covenant Service at St. Mary's Parish Church

17th 10.30 am Service of Worship & Praise with Barry Turnwell

24th and 31st No service at our Church but service at St. Mary's @ 9.30 am
St. Michael's Hospice has understandably cancelled all their 'Lights of Love' local services this year but we will still be having a lit Christmas Tree outside our Church. We are very happy if you would like to tie a Remembrance star on this tree. We may be able to organise a Christmas Eve celebration around the tree & will publish more news later.

The Book Exchange hopes to meet on December 4th / 18th and Jan. 8th – see separate notice.

Recently Simon from Computers for Charities, in Hailsham, spoke at our Sunday worship and outlined the arrangements for the 'Love in a Box' shoebox / gift delivery at Christmas. He is driving his delivery van to Eastern Europe, in December, and our Church will be a collection point for local gifts which will involve Messy Church families, the school, and anyone interested. Please pack a box and ring Paul (892192) to make any arrangements.

In January we will unite at St. Mary's Church for our annual Covenant service when we join together for this 'Act of Commitment for 2021'. Reverends Paul Frostick and Tricia Williams will lead the service.

We wish you all a 'Very Happy Christmas & God's blessing and peace for the New year' and look forward to seeing you at some of our events detailed above.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were
bad, He would send a Leader to save them. He
told Simeon it would happen in his life time.

God told Simeon to go to
the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to
give their offerings for their
first-born, Jesus, and for
child birth.



Simeon held Jesus
and praised God.



I can now die in peace
because You have kept
Your promise.



I have seen the
one You have sent to save
Your people and all the world!



Mary and Joseph were
amazed! Simeon blessed
them, but said..



This child will show what
people are really like inside
and this will mean pain for
you as well.



Anna the prophet was
also in the Temple.



Her family was from
the north of Israel
and she was very old.

When she saw Jesus
she praised God.



She spent every day
praying in the Temple.



Anna spoke about Jesus
to everyone who was
waiting for God's Saviour.

Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD ACTION GROUP Paul Coleshill 893138

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Secretary Carol Holland 893326

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB: Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, Bexhill 843436

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING: Jane Dommersen 862428

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:

Toddlers:

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Martin Gausden martin.gausdengsninfield@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: Heather Sinden 893422

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

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Gary Durman, 893007

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
Mrs Janet Pattisson ☎845087

Secretary: Mr John Fairclough

Treasurer: Mrs Cynthia Fairclough

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

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NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Jackie Scarff (07775 25843505 hooepc2@btinternet.com

READING ROOM

Booking Enquiries: Anne Ringrose (892792 email ringrosep@aol.com

MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary:
ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.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