

THE

PARISH



NEWS

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

March 2022

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
2 nd March Ash Wednesday	10.00 Holy Communion	No Service
6 th Mar	Parish Eucharist	Family Service
13 th Mar	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist with Methodists	No Service
20 th Mar	Family Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
27 th Mar	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

St. Mary's - Tuesday and Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm Where Possible

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

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

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.

Dear Friends,

2nd March is Ash Wednesday and it marks the beginning of Lent! The writer of the letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament says:

‘To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.’ (chapter 1 verse 11).

This may sound confusing, but Lent is a good time to ponder these words.

During Lent we look inwards at ourselves, we reflect on our character, on the things that make us who we are and often some of what we find is not pretty. We cannot actually see our character, but we can see its effect on those around us. We can see that our anger upsets people, our selfishness excludes even those we love, our jealousy makes us hard to live with and our impatience serves to discourage others. As we travel through Lent and as we address our faults, with God’s help, we hope to change. We hope that when Easter comes, we will be ready to love unselfishly so that others see the love of God demonstrated in the life and death of Jesus. We hope to offer the hand of forgiveness so others can know the forgiveness bought for us by Him on the cross. We hope to share our money, gifts, talents, and compassion with others so that they see something of the unconditional generosity of God when he gave His only Son for us. We also hope to show patience so others will know the encouragement that comes from God who has a plan for all of us.

We need to have faith that through Lent we can make changes and we hope to be better people at the end of it. But the writer of Hebrews meant us to go further than that. We need to have faith in God and hope that He who had the power to raise Jesus from the dead, will make us into the people He longs for us to be. We need to have hope that the eternal life that Jesus now enjoys will be ours when our life on earth comes to an end.

Finally, we need to have faith in what we hope for and even if we cannot see the changes God helps us to make, others will see it and they will see that our faith really makes a difference in our lives.

Have a Happy and Reflective Lent

Paul

The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring
The day is equal to the night;
Summer's song we soon shall sing!
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago
Mornings spiked by bitter frost
But we shall bask in summer glow
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring
And for all the seasons, too,
Of life's rhythms we shall sing
Giving all the praise to You.

By Nigel Beeton



I recently attended a funeral for our dear friend who loved his garden and indeed his wildlife and this beautiful poem was part of the order of service which I must add, I had never heard before, so on that thought I wondered if at any time you may have a spare space for this beautiful Robin poem

Time of Reflection - 'Morning has broken' By Cat Stevens

Poem - Remembrance Robin

I remembered you well within my heart
You were always the best, that will never part
On a winter's morn, looking out in the wood
Recalling your face, your unyielding love
Sat on a bough, in his best dress
Was a little brown bird with a redbreast
I can't deny that you are gone
but within that robin I know you live on.
But every time I hear his tiny wings
I remember you and your quirky things.
Sometimes he lands on my windowsill
And with a wink of his eye
I now you are with me still.

JF

NEWS FROM ST. OSWALD'S.

There are many events and celebrations planned for later in Platinum Jubilee year but it started quietly in Hooe Church on February 6th, the date of the death of her father and the Queen's Accession. The flower arranger filled all the windows of the church with pale yellow and white daffodils in tribute and with the accompaniment of our new organist, Paul Abnett, we finished the service of thanksgiving with God Save the Queen.

With two concerts by renowned trumpeter Crispian Steele Perkins and a wedding planned in St. Oswald's for the Jubilee weekend, the PCC has decided that the Church's celebration will be postponed until July 16th when we will celebrate, with the Parish of Hooe, at The Platinum Jubilee Garden Party (NB please note change of date to avoid clashing with Village Coffee Morning) Before that we would like to remind everyone of our Church and Churchyard Spring Clean on 19th March 10am to 1 pm . Just turn up with any equipment for either gardening or housework and you will be found a job!

BELL TOWER UPDATE

We very much hope that from 14th March our bells(newly tuned) will return from Matthew Higby in Somerset and the process of strengthening the frame, installing a new rope guide and re-hanging the bells will start. It is hoped that all will be completed after two weeks. In the meantime our loyal band of bellringers led by Alan Pink, Bell Tower Captain, have not been wasting time! A whole day has been spent cleaning all three floors of the bell tower and making ready. In addition they have been practising their ringing , first with the hand bells and more recently by invitation in Alan and Louise's garage where they have installed the Mini-Ring previously made and owned by the late Alan Collings.

VISITORS

Often those of us that lock up or pop into the church from time to time, meet a stranger and so it was that Simon waiting for an early delivery met a visitor: "The church is open, I have just unlocked, do go in if you would like to" " I have just left my son in The Conquest and thought I would pause here and watch the sunrise and hear the birds. I would like to go in "

FROM THE VISITORS BOOK

"A peaceful place made more so by its remoteness" SM

" Visiting Dad" C&J

Editors' Note When we started to put this Month's edition together it was sunny and calm, now as we finish, what a change, no electricity for days for some of you, no water or low pressure at best. Trees falling causing extensive damage, but amazingly the sparrows clinging on to madly swinging bird feeders enjoying peanuts and fat balls! What does not surprise us is the number of reports of neighbours and friends helping each other out. One of the great benefits of living in a village, long may it continue.

One of the best ways to get to know people in the village is to go along to one of the many regular events that take place either on a weekly, monthly or annual basis. You don't need to join committees, sometimes there is a small fee to go along regularly but many allow you to try free of charge. Hopefully we'll see some new faces at some of the events.

A quick reminder, your £5.00 is now due to continue to receive the News for another year delivered to your door!

ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

Nicki & Carol



NINFIELD HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP

Come over to the darkside

We have a new group under the Health & Wellbeing umbrella. The dark night skies project is intended to involve residents in appreciating and understanding 'darkness' in our village.

It would be expanding on some of the mapping we have already completed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, measuring dark skies in various locations over a longer period and also recording wildlife during that same period. The information the group records can form part of the ongoing history of our village. There would be meetings to just look at the stars and hopefully someone in to talk about the stars for people to recognise what's in the sky above them when they sit in the garden at night, speakers to talk about the impact artificial light has on wildlife and our own health.

We will be arranging a meeting to map out ideas probably in early April, so please look out for notices in the Village Voice, village notice boards and Ninfield Community page. All are invited to come along - there's no restriction on age or knowledge.

And don't forget our Health Walks on Thursdays March 3rd and 17th; the Musical Matinee on Friday 4th March, phone 892422 to book; or the Games Afternoon on Tuesday 15th. The Community Cafe is open Fridays from 10.00 with the Book Exchange on Friday 4th, and don't forget Men's Shed on Thursday 31st

March Diary

3 rd	Health Walk	Sparkes	6
4 th	Ninfield Book Exchange Cafe	Methodist Hall	29
	Musical Matinee	Memorial Hall	6
5 th	Film Night - No Time To Die	Memorial Hall	26
7 th	Ninfield Flower Group	Memorial Hall	19
8 th	Village Society AGM	Methodist Hall	22
9 th	Afternoon Tea, news and gossip	Methodist Hall	10
10 th	Ninfield History Group	Methodist Hall	7
11 th	Hooe & Ninfield Open Group	Hooe Hall	17
12 th	Coffee morning and Community Library	Hooe Hall	20
	Flower Group Jumble Sale	Memorial Hall	19
13 th	United Service	St. Mary's	2 & 29
14 th	Hooe Parish Council meeting	Hooe Hall	23
15 th	Wreath Making	St. Mary's	8
	Indoor Games	Memorial Hall	6
16 th	Bonfire AGM	Tin Hut	17
17 th	Health Walk	Sparkes	6
	Hooe History Society	Hooe Hall	11
	Ninfield Parish Council	Methodist Hall	24
19 th	Ninfield Village Market	Memorial Hall	22
	Bonfire's Irish Night	Memorial Hall	17
21 st	Ninfield Horticultural Society	Memorial Hall	26
26 th	Horticultural Spring Show	Memorial Hall	26
27 th	Mothering Sunday		
31 st	Men's Shed	Sparkes	6

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

For our March meeting we will welcome the return of Jan Black who will be talking on the subject of Herbalism Through the Ages. As usual, the meeting on 10th March, takes place in the Methodist Hall at 7.30. We continue to run the meetings with distancing, masks and extra ventilation.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee event in June, the Ninfield Local History Group will be putting on a small exhibition with photos depicting the Queen throughout her life and reign. If you have any special photos related to Her Majesty (or find something nice on line) please send them to ninfield_lhg@btinternet.com so we can share them with everyone. If you don't email just give me a call on 7 892248, thanks John.



Our **Community Speedwatch** group is urgently seeking new volunteers to carry out this important work which aims to reduce speeding through Ninfield and make our village a safer place.

After successfully completing on-line training, you will be inducted into the practicalities by experienced volunteers.

For further information please contact David Swales, Community Speedwatch Coordinator

dj_swales@hotmail.com or 01424 892248.

SPRING/EASTER WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP FOR SCOUT GROUP FUNDS

We invite you to come and make a beautiful weaved willow door ring to be adorned with seasonal foliage and easter decorations of your choice. All tuition will be given and really is open to all. You can even bring back your metal ring from your Christmas wreath and we can recycle it as the frame for this one!

The classes will be held at St Marys Church, Church Lane, Ninfield, either 9.30 or 12.30 on Tuesday 15th March. Perfect for a Mothers Day gift or for Easter.

Places are £25 including all materials refreshments and of course, fantastic cakes! We will have a raffle and some extra goodies available to buy and so look forward to hosting another relaxed, fun social event.

Classes will be limited to 12 and places are booking fast so please book your place in good time. Once again all profits from the event will go to the 1st NINFIELD and CROWHURST SCOUT GROUP.



Please call Veronica on 07714327117 for bookings

OUR SCHOOL

The new year began as the old one ended, with Covid setting the agenda and causing disruption throughout the school day. At one point we had almost 20% of the children off school and this was made worse with a number of members of staff succumbing as well. But as usual everyone rallied round, staff went over and above to make sure things were as normal as possible for the children who did get into school.

We weren't the only school to be affected: On Friday 28th January, a team of 16 Year 5 and 6 children from Wasps and Dragonflies classes took part in an indoor athletics competition at Claverham Community College. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we were the only team that actually participated on the day, as everybody else was forced to withdraw!

Work has begun on our de-carbonisation project with the additional insulation being added to the four oldest classrooms. Having the builders on site during the school day is providing us with plenty of challenges, with classes having to move into the hall while their class is being worked on. It is also having a knock on effect at the start and end of the day with the builders vans reducing the, already limited, parking outside the school. I can only apologise to our neighbours for the additional problems that this is causing them during the school week.

Busy Bees had a trip down to Church Woods for a story and to make disgusting sandwiches. Mr Brown read the children the story and then they all hunted around the woods to find some ingredients for their sandwiches. The sandwiches the children made were truly disgusting!

The environment is a key topic throughout the school, so to have something like Church Woods on your doorstep is a great way to be able to show the children the importance of maintaining our natural surroundings as well as making a lovely outdoor classroom. So a big thank you to the Village Society for keeping it looking great so that we are able to use it.

Continuing with the environmental theme: Dragonflies will be out around the village this month doing a litter pick to see how messy we all are. So if you see us wandering around, litter pickers in hand, give us a wave – but keep your litter to yourself!!

Ian Moffat

Ninfield Village Market

Needs your help! We need new stall holders who can supply fresh fruit and Veg; pies, sweet and savoury; bread or other foods.

We now have farmers bringing meat and cheese and a new cake stall come and see us at the next market, 19th March

Arrange to meet your friends and catch up
with all the news and gossip

Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 9th March

tea served from 2.30pm 4.00pm

Methodist Hall
Ninfield

Hope to see you there!

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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

Is it really two years ago that we first started talking about Covid and how it was going to affect us? Now, two years on and we are at last looking, slowly, to put it all behind us. It is good to see friends again at our meetings in the belief that the worst is now over. Our speaker in March is Malcolm Wells with his talk “So far, so good”, 17th at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

DID YOU KNOW... I came across this typewritten text which I believe may have been a speech given at the opening of Hooe Recreation Ground in July 1939 by Mr. Arthur Hayward who was Chairman of the Central Sports Committee and of the Parish Council.

A history of Hooe “Coronation” playing field.

We are “opening” this “Coronation” Playing Field as a Permanent Memorial of their Majesties, our King George VI and our Queen Elizabeth, who have just returned home from their triumphal tour of Canada and the United States. “God save the King – and the Queen”. “Long may they reign!”

This field is Parish Property – part of the “Common” land of our Saxon forefathers. In 1822 the Vestry (the Local Authority which preceded the Parish Council) spent £600 on an addition to their Elizabethan Cottages and the enclosing of what became the “Parish Farm”.

Hooe Parish Council received the property from the Vestry in 1895, and they hold it as “Customary Freehold”.

In the “good old days” the village corn was ground in the nearby Mill, on the site of which is “The Retreat”. “Colman’s Mill” is mentioned in Domesday Book. This field was part of the Millfield, on which games were played. Our oldest inhabitants recall the playing of Cricket here. Under the Allotments Act of 1887 it became a Market Garden.

In 1900 the Hooe Parish Council had under consideration the provision of a public Recreation Ground. The Children’s Playing Field resulted.

Eleven years ago the need of a permanent playing field for adults became acute and the Council approached the National Playing Fields Association for assistance. For years endeavours were made to secure a suitable site near the Common. At times the Council were hopeful; but their efforts failed.

In September, 1937, with the death of the tenant, the Council were able to act upon a Resolution of July 1928 to dedicate this field as a Permanent Playing Field for the parish. In April last year (1938) the Council applied to the National Playing Fields Association for a grant towards the Lay-out and Equipment of the field. Last January the Association offered a Provisional Grant of £125, which the Council accepted. To obtain the £125, £275 must be spent upon layout and equipment.

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

The Village amenities society had existed for many years, certainly from the early 1960's and was reformed as the Village Society in 1991. We are structured by our Constitution and Rules, having elected officers and committee voted in by members at our annual AGM usually held each March.

Our aims are very simple, being to promote the preservation and provision of amenities within our Village in Co-operation with County, District, and Parish Councils. Membership is open to all and is currently only two pounds per year. We welcome new members and volunteers so if YOU would like to help this could be your way to do it.

So what do we do I hear you ask!. Well almost anything legal and achievable. Suggestions are welcome. Just some of the things we presently do are:-

Provide the flower tubs at bus stops and elsewhere in the Village.

Take part in the Annual Carnival and support other clubs e.g. at the jubilee weekend.

Organise village litter picks if required.

Hold an annual AGM in March usually followed by a local interest talk.

By far the major part of our work is looking after Church Wood since this little gem of ancient wet woodland was gifted to the village by Mr. Michael Roberts back in 1994, after approaches made by farsighted members of our Society, following the break-up of Moorhall Estate. Ownership rests with the parish council, and on their behalf Society volunteers have for the last twenty five years enthusiastically undertaken maintenance and improvement works. A measure of the success of these is the increasing number of visitors year after year .A major undertaking for us was the draining and digging out of silt and accumulated rubbish from two ponds and the complete reinstatement of a third pond which had virtually disappeared. For those who do not know the wood access is from the public footpath running downhill from the rear gate of the Parish Church. We are indeed fortunate to have such a beautiful asset roughly central in our Village.

Our Contacts are :- . Robin Goldsmith Treasurer/Secretary 892778.
Roger Saunders Chairman 236920

Closing date for items for the **APRIL edition**
of the Parish News is **SUNDAY 13th MARCH** please send to
ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

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Sami's News, Reviews and Revues! Some exciting things are now on the GO!

Ninfield's Celebrations and Events for the Platinum Jubilee: The first announcement of the proposed plans for Ninfield Village in June this summer. After a great first meeting, the agenda for the four days of celebration is as follows.

Thursday 2nd June - London has the Trooping of the Colour in the morning- Ninfield will host the Over 60's Afternoon Tea and Cabaret (Deja Revue) at the Memorial Hall from 2.30pm, and then at 7pm The Bonfire Society will lead the evening event, a Festival of Lights procession from the Blacksmiths Inn to the Beacon on the Rec which will be lit at our appointed time - 9.45pm-within the national sequence.

Friday 3rd sees the Queen at a church service in London, and Ninfield will hold an Open Village day, with a Treasure Hunt for Crowns in gardens, with some gardens open to view. The Methodist Hall will be the centre for all refreshments and maybe Cream Teas! Hopefully there will also be some displays of Art and Flowers in the Memorial Hall. In the evening, it is hoped that the Working Men's Club will host a Vintage Night with music of the Fifties, food and pub games.

Saturday 4th is the Village Fete, hosted by the Carnival Committee, on the Recreation Ground and in the same format as the successful event last year; with the evening carrying through to the London Music from the Mall party, streamed on screens in the main marquee, with bar and bbq.

Sunday 5th theme for the Jubilee is The Big Lunch, so Ninfield will take this on and invite everyone to come up to the Rec for a Big Picnic, with music - and hopefully The Rock Choir- and games; the 4 day event will finish on Sunday evening with the Hooe Silver Band playing in the marquee on the Rec. and a service of thanksgiving lead by Paul Frostick -Parish Church, and hopefully Rev Tricia Williams from The Methodist Church.

As you can see this is all very exciting, and quite full on!! It is hoped that ALL village groups and societies will want to get involved with the celebrations, and join in such a unique bank holiday event; this will never happen in our lifetime again! If you have ideas, or would like to help, maybe make some Cakes? Help with putting Marquees up? then please call me on 07970650321, email samanthaguard@btinternet.com or call Carol Holland on 892326. More details as they become available! We hope that there will be something for everyone to enjoy, right on their doorstep- no need to drive far and wide- Stay Local and have a Blast!!

Dancing Classes! At the Memorial Hall - We have started again, with classes from Mondays at 10am, - The Movement 2 Music class for the Older

Active Person - Chair based and Standing exercises -17 lovely ladies stretching, swinging and swaying, and generally getting the blood moving again after all the festivities, and looking forward to a fitter Spring! Everyone has a great time, including our couple of Chaps, but there is still space for a few more - Ladies AND Gents - who'd like to join the happy band of M2M-ers! We do have a giggle, lots of banter, stories, singing and sometimes groaning..! But it does us all good and the more the merrier! The Hall is big enough for good socially distanced spacing, there is excellent but not excessive ventilation and hand sanitizers to use. Please get in touch on the numbers below, or just turn up on a Monday morning - only £5 per class!

Wednesdays, 6.30pm DANCERCISE - fitness, fun and the chance to learn new styles of Dancing - Newcomers welcome - £5 per class,

Friday evenings 7pm - Ballroom - your very own Private Strictly Come Dancing lessons! Join the select few couples who are learning the Waltz, Cha Cha Cha and the Jive - again, it's great fun, and a fantastic way to keep fit in both body and brain! Class £5 per person, £10 per couple

Friday Alternate evenings- 7pm - Burlesque/Show Dance - Think West End Shows like Moulin Rouge, Cabaret, Chicago - see what amazing routines you can learn to fabulous music, with great characterisations ! This is a Ladies Club, a real escapist evening after a long week. HUGE fun, great exercise, a chance to let yourself go and come alive! £5 per class

METHODIST HALL - Thursdays 9.30am - Silver Swans, Over 50's Ballet Class - If you'd like to learn some Ballet, or relearn from when you were younger, this lovely class brings a smile to your face, and put a spring in your step - and, bring a sense of serenity and peace into your busy lives..! Honestly - we find it the most uplifting session of the week..! £5 per class

Dance will keep your mind, body and spirit alive...It's true!! If you are interested in joining, please Call me on the numbers below for more information on Movement 2 Music, Dancercise, Ballroom and Burlesque/Show Dance at the Memorial Hall, as well as a very lovely Adult (over 50's) Ballet Class - which will stay at the Methodist Hall for the time being!. - for more info on all classes it's the same number, call 07970650321

And!! HUSSAH! I've been waiting for over 2 years to do my 'An Evening with..' Show; Gossip & Giggles from 45 yrs in the Biz, and now I can actually say that it is BOOKED for Saturday 21st May at the Memorial Hall. Doors and Bar open at 7pm, with Supper at 7.45pm. The Show will start at 8.30pm and the evening will finish by 10.30pm. Tickets will be £10 per head, to include Supper, and I will put the profits, after all costs, towards funding the Over 60s Afternoon Tea and Cabaret for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. So, look out for posters and flyers, and messages on the Facebook Community Page, and - as they say, Boook Early!!



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Are You Legal in 2020?

Did You Know? As of January 2020 the regulations surrounding the disposal of rural sewage change. You are now NOT allowed to discharge your septic tank directly into the environment.

For further information and advice contact the experts:
 Email: info@sussexwaterdrainage.com Tel: 01435 830220

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HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP

We met on Friday 11th February and were treated to a very interesting and informative talk by David Walker called 'Musings of a Sussex Lad from Convent School to Rejuvenated Walled Garden'. David talked about his early life in Seaford, his college life, his various jobs and his farming life in other counties and then how he returned to Sussex and started to help turn a very neglected walled garden into a very pleasant walled garden. The talk was based round photographs of the locations where he had lived and worked, then the photographs of the start and the progress to date on the garden. As it is an ongoing project, we are hoping David will visit us again and show the further progress of the garden. The afternoon concluded as usual with tea/coffee and biscuits.

Next meeting is 11th March 2pm. in Hooe Village Hall. No speaker just friendly chat and everyone has been asked to bring their favourite recipe. Perhaps an idea for a Platinum Jubilee Pudding Competition, but not to worry if you are not a cook. Everyone likes food. You don't have to be a member to attend, all are welcome.

Heather & Nicki

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

meets regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Working Men's club. If you would like to join or find out more about the Society then please feel free to drop in and meet some of us...

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 16th March. This will start at 7.30pm and will be followed by a members meeting.

NBS is hosting an 'Irish Party Night' on the 19th March at the Ninfield Memorial Hall to raise much needed funds for our Bonfire, Parade and Fireworks night this year. Tickets (to include a buffet) are £12 or £15 on the door and you can buy them from Ticket Source or from the NBS stall at the Ninfield Village Markets . Brighton based 'Shenanigan' - Celtic Party Band will be playing energetic, traditional Irish songs to get your Toes tapping! Come and join us for a fun night out.

If you are a local business and would like to become a Sponsor of the Ninfield Bonfire Society then please contact us at ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com or Sarah on 07809684488.

NBS Bonfire, Parade and Fireworks Display Saturday, 22nd October.

Find us on Facebook - Instagram - www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk

Remember, Remember the 5th of November

More details on Facebook and website

***The beauty and the power,
The shape of things,
Their colours, lights and shades,
These I saw.
Look ye also while life lasts.***

These words were written at the beginning of each book by the author, 'BB'.

Depending on your point of view, the best advocate for the British countryside there has ever been! It was his observational skills, that were so honed very little escaped him. In my life, as a man who worked in the countryside and ended up a retired gamekeeper, I tried to emulate this skill. That working life was in Lincolnshire, now I have some very different land to learn about!

It was last summer that I came across the rarest birds I have ever seen. Each day I walk my old dog around Hooe Church; I do like to go to one spot every day to watch the changes that our countryside makes. The church yard has so much life in it you could never be bored. 'BB' could spend hours just studying the plant life around a feature such as a mile stone! That morning, as I got the dog out of the car, I saw this bird tucked behind some long grass - beside the mown track. Good as gold it wandered onto the path and went into display mode. A childhood looking at birdbooks prepared me for this very moment. There was a Hoopoe, a visitor from Spain, a bird that may have as little as fifty other Hoopoe's in the whole country to display to. The Hoopoe seems to be ground dwelling, about the size of a partridge but with longer legs and beak. That's where the similarity ends. The gentle shades of the English Partridge blend it into the landscape, not so the Hoopoe. Flash and attention seeking, the bird would fit in well with a fair ground. For half an hour it flashed its orange and black tipped crest at me. Orange was its predominant colour but had a striking black and white colour to its wings. Black and white are the colours that stick out the most in our countryside. This bird must be a twitchers dream, very rare and a show off. I must admit to leaving it there and carrying on with my walk.

There is another bird that shares my morning walk, and another one I had never seen in the wild. If the Hoopoe is a bird of the softer warm climate then the Raven, which regularly flies over the Church, is not. The image I seem to have of this bird is lofty high places. I never heard one in Lincolnshire and you do need to hear one to separate them from the numerous crows, simply put the crows caw and the raven croaks. I use to hear the Curlew over the marshes and loved its wild call. Now I can listen to the sound of tall trees and wooded valleys.

Not really wanting to end up writing a list perhaps I can finish with a tale of two birds. I have seen one Greenfinch, which may not seem noteworthy, but their population has plummeted country wide. We can only hope that this finch was the beginning of recovery from the disease that laid them so low.

The last I notice because of its absence. I felt sure the patchwork of small green fields would be filled with the sound of Sky Larks, but no. There were still Sky Larks in the farmland of Lincolnshire, diminished but still there. I really don't know why they have gone from this area, and yet stayed in the intensive agriculture of Lincolnshire. So on a hot, dusty summers day; with a blue sky and cotton clouds I shall have to make do with Ralph Vaughan Williams and his Lark Ascending. *Allan Tipping*

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

Members of Ninfield Flower Group were out in force at their AGM in February and very interested to hear about forthcoming events. NFG celebrates its 45th anniversary this year and we will be celebrating with a flower festival in August and a full programme of talented designers throughout the year.

We welcome our first demonstrator of 2022 on March 7th. Eleanor Bracken is from the London and Overseas Area and will bring her special touch of the exotic with her title "The Magic of Spring". Refreshments will be served from 7pm with the demonstration starting at 7.30pm. All the designs created by our demonstrators are raffled at the end of the evening. It is always a great thrill to be taking home such beautiful flowers and it's usually only at Christmas that you might wish your car had a bigger boot!

On Saturday March 12th we hold a Jumble Sale. Good quality jumble may be dropped at the Memorial Hall from 9.45am. Doors open for selling at 2pm and entrance is 50p.

A date for your diaries. Monday May 9th we are delighted to have a return visit from Jim Buttress who will be talking about his involvement in the creation of the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

So if you love flowers and enjoy a friendly evening out (with easy parking) do pay us a visit. We look forward to welcoming you. There is a charge of £5 for visitors.

Hooe Village Community Group

We are delighted to announce the formation of

Hooe Village Community Group

Encouraging, Promoting
and Supporting
Village Activities



Our group, all Hooe residents, will be working together enthusiastically and energetically and look forward to meeting you all at future events

Visit us at: hooevillagecommunitygroup.co.uk

Contact us: hooevillagecommunitygroup@yahoo.com

This is just a flavour of the events that are being arranged. More will be announced in the weeks to come:

Coffee Mornings:

A monthly Coffee Morning and Community Library is held on the second Saturday of the month at 10.30am in Hooe Village Hall. Next one 12th March.

Community Litter Pick April 2nd:

Meeting at 10.00am at the Red Lion Car Park for the Annual Litter Pick. Some equipment will be supplied but if you have gloves, litter picks and/or High Viz jackets please bring them along. There will be plenty of bags to fill!

Concerts at St Oswalds Church June 5th:

These are not to be missed – reserve the date in your diary! There will be two concerts, at 3.00pm and 6.00pm. We will be welcoming Crispian Steele-Perkins, a world renowned, and internationally acclaimed trumpeter. There is bound to be a great demand for tickets so keep your eye out for further details in the Parish News and on our website

Open Gardens the weekend of June 25th – 26th:

This has proved to be a very popular event – let's hope for good weather. If you would like to open *YOUR* garden, help on the day or, if you are a local company, sponsor the event please let us know

So much to look forward to! Where ever you see our banner we will be there – enjoying community spirit

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NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY OPEN MEETING AND AGM

Tuesday 8th. March at 7.00 pm. In the Methodist Church Hall, Church Lane

All are welcome to join us for the 2022 Annual General Meeting of The Society which will include a report on the work undertaken by the Society during the past two years and a look forward to future.

After the AGM we shall have a short break for refreshments and questions then there will be an illustrated talk from Robin Goldsmith, with help from the committee members, entitled "Past achievements of the society both in the village and church wood." Entrance is free and we cordially invite you to join us, particularly if you have an interest in maintaining the standards of our village and ensuring that the society continues well into the future. Sadly we have recently lost two of our regular volunteers and there is now an even more urgent need for more members and/or helpers.

For information, please contact either, Roger Saunders, Chairman 01424 236920 or Robin Goldsmith, Treasurer/Secretary 01424 892778

NINFIELD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 19th MARCH

9.30 - 12.00

VILLAGE MARKET

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HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Email: hooepc2@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meetings

We warmly welcome you to the next Council meeting being held at Hooe Village Hall on the 28th February 2022 starting at 7pm. This will be followed by the next Council meeting on the 14th March 2022 at the same time and place. We look forward to seeing you there.

New Parish Councillors

Hooe Parish Council is looking to attract four new councillors to bring us up to our required strength of seven councillors. The parish council is searching for local people who would like to contribute in making a real difference to the running of our village and are prepared to listen to what the local community has to say. If you are interested in making a positive impact in the local community and becoming a parish councillor, then please contact the Clerk at the above email address for more details.

Connecting with the Community

Over the coming year the parish council will be looking to improve its communication with the local community by setting up a website and all information relating to the running of the parish council will be published and be accessible to all residents.

Financial Commitments for 2022/23

The Precept was agreed by the parish council in January 2022 for the new financial year starting the 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. As a result the average council tax band D will rise by twenty pence per week, with the total cost of a band D rate per annum of £154.66. Over the coming months, the parish council intends to undertake service improvements to the allotments, the recreation grounds, the village hall and the sports pavilion.

Have Your Say

Hooe parish council is keen to hear the views of the local community, so if you have any issue to raise, or have any ideas on how to improve your local community, please let us know.

Ninfield Parish Council

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

This month the Parish Councillors have met with Huw Merrimen MP to discuss issues with Highways including work that has been done in Manchester Road. We took him to see the site, the high curbs, potential issues with water run off into residents gardens etc. We also discussed the issues around the responsibility for enforcement, particularly in regard to development sites.

Next steps are to have a meeting with Highways and Wealden.

You have probably noticed all the graffiti around the village. It has been reported to the police and the PCSO's do take pictures with them to local schools and colleges to see if teachers recognise the tags. Hopefully most of it will be cleaned off in the next couple of weeks.

Pass and Move football club, who run the children's football on the recreation ground at the weekend, have donated a defibrillator to the parish council to put up at Spakes Pavilion. The Parish Council would like to thank Pass and Move. The defibrillator will be for use by anyone who needs it and is the second one in the village. The other being on the wall outside the main entrance to the Kings Arms.

The Parish Council received news this week that the planning inspector has dismissed the appeal for Land South of Catsfield Road, Hurst Wood Green, Ninfield TN33 9JA. The appeal followed the Council's failure to issue a decision within the relevant timescale. Wealden District Council confirmed that it would have refused planning permission and provided the inspector with what would have been its reasons for refusal.

The Inspector considered all representations that were put forward on the application including those raised by the parish council. The inspector sited the main issues as: (i) the principle of the proposed development with specific regard to its location; and (ii) the effect of the proposed development on the character and appearance of the area.

The appeal was dismissed and the outline permission refused. A link to the full report is on the Parish Council website and facebook page if anyone is interested in reading the full report.

The next meeting will take place Thursday 17th March, 7pm at the Methodist Hall and residents are welcome to attend

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NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By the time you read this, I hope you would have attended our first meeting of the season. Although I am writing this after getting back power in Lower Street following Storm Eunice but February always manages to throw 'unusual' weather at us as we prepare for the Spring Show!

Dates for your diary

Monday March 21st at 7.30pm – Sussex Garden Trust – Jenny Starr will talk about the charity and its protection, conservation and evolution of the local garden heritage.

Saturday 26th March – Spring Show. Schedules have been flying out of the shop, but we are restocking so hopefully we will have a few entries. It really is fun and your first opportunity to enter a vintage class from our 1952 schedule. Even if you are not sure about entering, just come along for the afternoon for tea and cake and to see the wonderful and varied entries.

DATE CHANGE – we have had to change the date for our April meeting to Monday April 25th – there will be more reminders, but please update your diaries.

And now for the next instalment from our archives. You may remember that I left you with a cliff-hanger and the controversy over the definition of an 'amateur gardener'. Following lengthy discussion on the definition of 'Amateur', the committee agreed that 'the amateur would be classed as any person NOT employing paid assistance in his or her garden'. A special meeting was then called 10 days later following receipt of a letter from the RHS – when it was then proposed that the same wording as Bexhill Show Schedule was adopted. Unfortunately I haven't yet been able to find that wording and how it differs. More research needed on this I think

Finally - how things change. At the beginning of 1952 whist drives were 'the thing' with the secretary of the society instructed to order a coach to take members to whist drives held in Boreham Street and the whist drive at the Memorial Hall making a profit of £5/13/9d (old money)

LATE NEWS

Ninfield Memorial Hall

NO TIME TO DIE

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 6.30 for 7.15

Following the cancellation of the film because of storm damage, we have managed to re-schedule so no one misses out, so see you there!



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Worms Eye View

Oh my goodness March is here and lambing is about to start. Now despite the phrase that any unruly member of a family is the 'black sheep', many parts of Europe still regard the birth of a black sheep as a good luck omen. However in some parts of England, twin black lambs' forecasts disaster for animals and humans alike. On the other hand if the first ewe to lamb produces twin white lambs the flock will enjoy a prosperous year, fingers crossed. Now if you see, whilst out walking, a new tiny lamb and it is facing away from you, then your year will be hard, but if the lamb is looking in your direction expect twelve months of plenty. Whatever will be, will be, we just hope for some kind weather; actually we are due to start calving as well in March so it will be a very busy month.

Here is an updated version on the well known nursery rhyme:

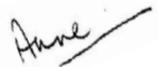
Mary had a little lamb,
It really was a glutton.
It quickly grew into a sheep,
And ended up as mutton.

Lambing aside there seems to be lots of jobs waiting to be done. It is lovely to see shrubs showing green and the snow drops are lovely, but of course lots of weeds looking for attention.

Indoors the welcome sunshine shows up loads of spring cleaning needing to be done. Oh dear, not my favourite job, but I cannot ignore it all, and March 27th is the start of British Summer time, spring cleaning should be finished by then.

March is a month of many weather sayings such as a windy March foretells a fine May. Also March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers, but the wind predominates and it is not surprising it's named after Mars, the God of War.

Whatever, remember to look out for the new lambs; they are a happy sight



NINFIELD SURGERY

Community Garden - With Spring just around the corner, we would like to try to start planning our Community Garden. If anyone would be interested in helping us in any way, please contact the surgery.

NHS App - Is available to download online. This gives lots of useful information and also, vaccination and medication records etc. You are also able to book certain online appointments using this.

Ninfield Methodist Church

Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)
15 Holmesdale Road, Bexhill TN39 3QE.. Tel: 01424 733137;
email: revpmwilliams@yahoo.co.uk
website: ninfield.hbrmethodistcircuit.online

Sunday Services for March 2022:

6th 10.30am Café Worship with Drina Hampson
13th 10.30am United Service at St. Mary's Parish Church
20th 10.30am Service of Worship and Praise with Deacon Jean
27th 10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Worship

Events for March 2022:

Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café including
March 4th Book exchange in Hall.
Wednesday 9th 2.30-4.00pm Tea and Chat

We were pleased to re-start our Café Church in February after a break of around 2 years and now plan to have this style of service on the first Sunday of every month. The service is very suitable for families and children, it gives us all an opportunity to meet and worship God in a relaxed and informal way.

We also enjoy a light breakfast of scones, croissants, cheese and drinks (the menu can change) during our time together. Do come along and experience this special worship style – you are very welcome.

In March we also look forward to uniting with St. Mary's at the Parish Church on March 13th, Mothering Sunday is always a special occasion and David, Paul, Maureen and others will lead our Family worship with Messy Church songs and Songs of praise. We will also serve refreshments so everyone is welcome to celebrate with us and give thanks'.

The Book Exchange Café will be open from 10-11.30am on the first Friday of the month as usual i.e., 4th March and 1st April (no April Fools please!). We will, however, be keeping to Covid 'Plan B' requirements so masks must be worn and table service will be provided for refreshments until further notice. Book donations are welcome.



The Community Café will be open 10-11.30am on all other Fridays. Do call in for refreshments, chat and some puzzle/ table game fun!

For further information please contact David Swales dj_swales@hotmail.com or 01424 893328.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son...



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him.

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.

Directory of Groups & Clubs

- NINFIELD ACTION GROUP** Paul Coleshill 893138
NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Sarah Seymour 07809684488
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: Kaye Crittall, Stepping Stones, Lower Street, 892883
NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com
NINFIELD MUDDY BOOT & TODDLERS GROUP
Natalie Osbourne 07920 558503
NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792
NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778
1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP
Group Scout Leader: Glen Harrison gharrissonninfIELDScountsgsl@gmail.com
Explorer Scout Leader: Ashly Simmon explorersemail8@gmail.com
Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden 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 & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422
HOOE SPORTS CLUB Chairman: Tim Bryant, 2 Saddlers Cottage, Hooe
HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Jane Warrener: 07548 528754
CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Pam Doodles, Catslide, Hooe 892329
SENLAC BELLS
STOOLBALL: Fixture Sec. Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

PARISH WHO'S WHO

PRIEST IN CHARGE OF NINFIELD AND HOOE Rev Paul Frostick,
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PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

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

Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose

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Churchwardens: Mr Jack Rist ☎892576
Mrs Janet Pattison ☎845087

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USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

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NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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