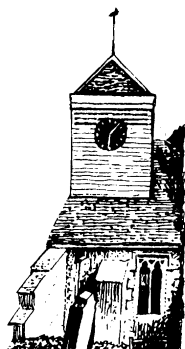


# THE

# PARISH



# NEWS



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

**Aug/Sept 2021 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
1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Parish Eucharist	Family Service
8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<i>No Service</i>	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist
15 <sup>h</sup> Aug	Family Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist	<i>No Service</i>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Parish Eucharist	Family Service
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist	<i>No Service</i>
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Family Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept HARVEST	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](http://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 page 30

**Dear Friends,**

Summer is here, well so they say! And hopefully a return of some sort of normality! We shall see, although caution seems to be important at this stage as we begin to ease lockdown! A time also perhaps for relaxation and reflection? A time perhaps to think about our faith and the direction it is going?

Saint Anselm became Archbishop of Canterbury just 27 years after the Norman conquest and died in 1209, having spent about half his ministry in enforced exile, arguing with both William II and Henry I about control of church income. He was a great, profound and important Christian writer: he had faith and sought always to understand that faith better so that he might live it better—his watchword was having a faith seeking understanding.

For some, faith in Christ is the logical conclusion from serious thought and searching (read, for example, CS Lewis' *Surprised by Joy*). For some, faith is an unlooked-for gift, sometimes prompted by personal events, sometimes not. For some, faith is a series of discoveries, for some security, for some an adventure. For some, all or none of these things. But faith, however it finds its home in us, however brightly or dimly it shines, deserves respect and, if it is to grow and flourish, demands an active approach. Without that active approach it will wither, like an un-watered plant: it might hold its outward form but will have no life within it, dried up and unfruitful.

Faith demands work, like anything worthwhile. It needs time outside of our worship-pattern. It needs openness and an understanding that growth implies change, not just to fit changing fashion but because as we mature as Christians our needs and perceptions change, as does our understanding. We can (and should) outgrow things.

A live and living faith demands study, looking at the gospels and what they say, and also by talking to others about what they have found and discovered, by reflecting on our own experiences. Faith is nurtured too by prayer, by speaking to (and listening to) God. (Words are not always needed). Faith is nurtured too by worship, with others and on our own.

The aim? To have a faith that has a better understanding. To have a faith that speaks to others. To have a faith seen in action. To have a faith that knows how a living God gives life to a believer. To have a faith that calls us further up and further in, so that we discover the wholeness and healing which is God's gift and promise to those who hear his Son's call and follow it. So enjoy your time of rest and reflection so that we come out after the summer not only physically and mentally stronger, but spiritually as well.

Hopefully the sun will shine as well!!!

Every blessing,

Paul

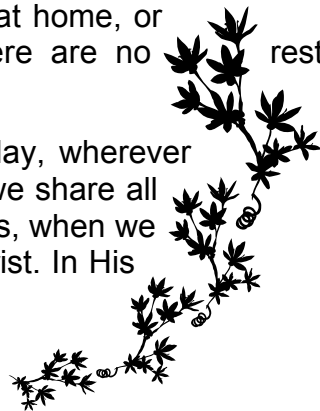
## PRAYER FOR THE NEW DAY

Dear Father,

In this strangest of summers, with its traffic-light travel restrictions and on-going concerns about Covid 19, help us to remember that You never change. Your light is constant. Your love continues. Your presence is assured, whether we stay at home, or travel within the UK, or further afield. There are no restrictions on Your Holy Spirit.

Thank You, Lord, for the gift of each new day, wherever we may be. Thank You that by Your grace, we share all our days with You, secure in all circumstances, when we put our trust in Your precious son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



### Editors' Note .....

What a pleasure to sit in the garden and put this edition together, warm sunshine, fresh air, just lovely, and good to have news of upcoming events and it would be great to get reports after an event,

Kevin has been busy researching a young flying officer and has managed to find his family in Australia with whom he has been in correspondence. The MacKerras family have produced a book and have donated copies to the Parish Council and Ninfield Local History Group. Kevin's research makes interesting reading which you will find at the end of this edition, rather than in the middle. Thank you Kevin, well done.

As the Bexhill Academy print this and will be closed there will not be a September issue as usual, so please remember to keep this one handy for the extra month so you don't miss anything!

*Nicki & Carol*



**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.

## **St Oswald's Prayer Tree**

In St Oswald's Church there is an opportunity to write a request for prayer on a leaf and peg it on the prayer 'tree' (really a painted branch)! These requests have been both personal and global.

Anyone is welcome to come on the last Monday of each month (including Bank Holidays), at 12 noon, when the leaves are removed and the requests read aloud. The prayer leaves can then be pegged back on the tree or placed in a basket to be burnt later.

This quiet time of reading the leaves usually lasts about 20 minutes.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **St Oswald's Harvest Supper**

Due to the uncertainty around use of the Village Hall, this year's harvest supper has become a Harvest Lunch to be held after the Harvest Festival Service on 26th September. We do hope that you will be able to attend and more details will be given nearer the time.

So please put it in you diary!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Visiting St Oswald's Church.**

### **Can you help?**

It is clear from the comments in the visitors' book that keeping St Oswald's open daily during this difficult time has been appreciated by many.

We are grateful to our small band of volunteers who keep it clean and tidy for all to enjoy, but we really need a few more helpers to join us.

If you have a spare couple of hours, once or twice a year and you are prepared to help, it would really be appreciated. We usually have 2 people who share the cleaning each month.

Thank you for your support.

For more information, contact Margaret Rist 01424 892576 or  
[jamrist@hgtmail.com](mailto:jamrist@hgtmail.com)

## Diary Page

### July

29 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Shed	P24
29 <sup>th</sup>	Ninfield Parish Council Meeting	P13

### August

5 <sup>th</sup>	Health Walk	P24
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ninfield Book Exchange	P22
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19 <sup>th</sup>	Health Walk	P24
21 <sup>st</sup>	Ninfield Horticultural Summer Show	P 8
26 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Shed	P24

\*\*\*\*\*

### September

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Health Walk	P24
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ninfield Book Exchange	P22
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ninfield Local History Group	P17
16 <sup>th</sup>	Health Walk	P24
16 <sup>th</sup>	Ninfield Parish Council	P13
18 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market	P12
26 <sup>th</sup>	St. Oswald's Harvest Lunch	P 5
30 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Shed	P24

18 <sup>th</sup> October	Horti Celebration Night
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Games Afternoon
23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> October	NADAS Exhibition & Sale of Art
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Gala Night
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Musical Matinee

Closing date for items for the combined  
**OCTOBER edition**

of the Parish News is **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September** please send to  
[ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com](mailto:ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com)

## OUR SCHOOL

“They think it’s all over – it is now!” No, I’m not referring to the latest England penalty shootout, as a Scotsman I would never do that.....

No, I’m referring to the end of a very long, and strange school year. As I write this, there are two weeks to go before we break up for the Summer (That’s what it used to be called before climate change got involved!). It has been a very difficult year for everyone but I am very proud to be able to say that we remained open throughout, as all around us fell victim to the pandemic and all it’s variants. (If I’ve spoken too early and we have been forced to close during the last two weeks of term, then please disregard this paragraph).

My thanks have to go to all the staff, Teaching and non Teaching, who have enabled us to achieve that milestone. They have had to go many, many extra miles during the year to ensure minimum disruption to our children’s education. Teaching in bubbles; implementing remote learning during the lockdown while still teaching the children of key workers in school; regular cleaning of classrooms and worst of all, no staffroom gossip to brighten up the day and relieve all those frustrations. So thank you one and all.

It’s always sad at the end of a school year when you say goodbye to the Year 6 children, but we wish them all well in their new ‘big schools’. Many of them have been with us from Reception so it is quite a big change, but one they are all prepared for and I’m sure will enjoy.

This year is different in that not only are we saying goodbye to our Year 6 children but we are also losing their teacher. Lorna Watson, who has been with us for 8 years, is moving on to pastures new. Lorna has been a great asset to the school and she will be greatly missed. She will be taking on the role of Assistant Headteacher at a larger school which will be a challenge, but Lorna has had to put up with rain leaking into the electrics during SATS tests in our old wooden huts as well as the many other things that were thrown at her, so I’m quite sure she will be able to cope. Good luck Lorna.

As one group of children leave at the top end of the school, so another group arrive at the bottom. Our new Reception children for next year have been having taster days at school, and so the life cycle of a village school continues.

Have a good summer break everyone and don’t fret too much about the football, it’s just a game.....<sup>7</sup> Ian Moffat

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Summer Show will take place on Saturday 21st August on the Ninfield Recreation Ground. It will be staged in blocks of marquees/tents and we hope you will bring us lots of exhibits to fill the tables. Entries can be staged on the Saturday from 7.30 am till 10.30 only. Parking space is limited but entrants can park on the right side of the Rec. only while staging their exhibits and use local streets as necessary. Refreshments will be available in the afternoon and visitors are very welcome from 2.30. Schedules with entry details are available from the Village Stores or from Rose (892422)

It will be a little different this year but with your support, we will put on a wonderful 'Welcome Back' Show to celebrate our 70th Anniversary year.

The new season will start on Monday 18th October with our 70th Anniversary Special Evening. More details about this nearer the time.



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## To Past and Present Members of Hooe Open Group

Following the article about the future of HOGS in the Parish News and the Village Voice in the local newspapers we have had little response.

We need to make a decision about the future either

1. We give the money to charity and close the group  
or
2. We restart the Group on a monthly basis as before (and perhaps have a Special Dinner to celebrate.)

It isn't a decision that Heather and I can make on our own, especially the money as it belongs to all of you. So please contact us to let us know by Phone or email.

Heather 01424 893422 [hsinden@btinternet.com](mailto:hsinden@btinternet.com) or  
Nicki 01424 893867 [nickimurphy3@sky.com](mailto:nickimurphy3@sky.com)

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# HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

I am writing this before the announcement due on July 19<sup>th</sup> so am unable to say for sure whether or not we can meet in August. The indications are, however, promising that the restrictions may at last be removed. The opening of the village hall remains at the discretion of the Parish Council, who act on the advice of Wealden in this matter, but I believe the offer of the church is still open should the hall not be available. In the event that we are able to meet, our due speaker is Peter White and his talk is on Town Criers and Bellmen past and present.

DID YOU KNOW... that in September 1957 the Sussex Express wrote a story about the installation of a village sign and seat at Hooe Common Corner. The story recollected that in days gone by the Pevensey Marshes were notorious for smuggling activities and suggested that the village of Hooe has a sneaking pride in its connections with those smugglers, as displayed on the new sign.

The sign was created by a local painter, Miss Cosgrave, of Cross Farm, Ninfield, and was a gift to the parish from Mr. Ross Topping, of Drayton Lodge, Hooe, and a number of associates. It completes a scheme carried out by members of the old Parish Council at their own cost to renovate the Common Corner, and this now looks most attractive with its tiny flower beds and public seat. In the old days, with the assistance of some villagers, smugglers were said to have landed their contraband at Norman's Bay and carried it on the backs of ponies across the marsh and over Barnhorn Hill to Hooe for disposal. The sign depicts a number of these men taking their loaded ponies over Barnhorn Hill.

That sign has had to be replaced after having been a victim of the elements, but its replacement continues to promote the story of the smugglers... and yes, that sneaking pride in the activities of the Hooe Gang remains an integral part of our village. Pictures of the original (left) and new (right) signs are shown below.



## **NINFIELD SURGERY**

Collington and Ninfield Surgeries have now merged with Pebsham and Sea Road Surgeries and we are now known as Dr Warden & Partners. Ninfield patients will carry on as before and continue to contact us on 01424 892569. Please call at 8am or 2pm to request a call back. Online bookings are now available again.

We are hoping to develop a small Community Garden and have obtained information from the Royal Horticultural Society to do this. If anyone would be interested in helping with this venture, or knows someone who would like to be involved, please contact the surgery.

We know the weather has been a little unpredictable, however, we are now expecting a few warmer weeks and would advise all of our patients to stay hydrated to try to prevent medical issues.

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to ask our patients and visitors to wear a mask and we will be continuing to check temperatures, ask patients to hand sanitise and limit the number of patients in the waiting room. Your support with this would be appreciated. If you are unable to do this for any reason, please speak to the receptionist. If you have any issues, please contact Tracy Skinner the Practice Manager at Ninfield Surgery.

**"Neighbourhood Plan Update.** Most of the evidence on which policies in our parish wide plan will be based has now been gathered. You can view all the documents on the Ninfield Parish Council website, just search Neighbourhood Planning Ninfield.

Please take some time to have a look and give us your feedback. If you have questions or comments either email the clerk at [clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk) or call John Cheshire on 892248."

\*\*\*\*\*

Not much **NADAS** news at the moment...We continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons at the Church but sometimes decamp to our garden, across the road, numbers permitting. Meet at the Church at 2.00pm.

Advance notice for artists and visitors... Our exhibition is booked for 23rd and 24th of October!

# NINFIELD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

## SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

### Fingers Crossed!!

### 9.30 - 12.00

Provided the Hall is finished and Government Guidelines allow, We will be back! There may well still be 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,**

If we have a kitchen there should be teas, coffees, cake and bacon butties

We look forward to seeing you there

Watch [www.ninfieldmemorialhall.co.uk](http://www.ninfieldmemorialhall.co.uk) and facebook

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# Ninfield Parish Council

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

The Parish Council will be back to face to face meetings from Thursday 29th July. It's fair to say that the councillors are looking forward to this after 15 months of using zoom. Full council meeting dates and times are in our website ninfieldpc.co.uk and it would be great to see residents come along and ask questions or give their views on subjects to be discussed.

The council do not meet in August or January for the rest of the year Full council meetings start at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Methodist Hall.

We look forward to seeing you at a meeting.

Next Meetings, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September

He toils away on the village green,  
Until the weeds go unseen.  
Tending the blooms for us to view,  
Until it resembles a mini Kew.  
On his allotment with seeds to sow,  
Always winning at the village show.  
A chat in the lane is always nice,  
He's happy to share his gardening advice.  
Soon he will share the fruits of his labour,  
All are welcome stranger or neighbour.  
Magnificent chrysanthemums and dahlias too,  
Beetroot and beans to name a few.  
When you take your bunch of flowers,  
Spare a thought for the growing hours.  
The cost of his kindness is always zero,  
Yet another Ninfield Hero.  
I'm sure he wouldn't welcome fame,  
With any LUCK you will know his name! HJ



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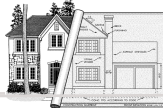
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**Are You Legal in 2020?**

**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.

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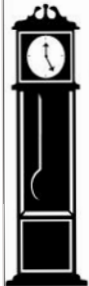


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## **News, Views and Reviews - from Sami !!**

Well...at time of writing, it's the week before the Ninfield Village Fete...and typing isn't easy because fingers are still firmly crossed!!! It's been a rollercoaster over the last few weeks, with every meeting making more positive decisions, but with more caveats just in case, and then this last week, before starting to set Gala tents up, getting stuff from the shed, getting the food/catering/bar orders from the wholesalers..., it's a wonder we all have any fingernails left!

Anyway, let's hope it all happened - but even if it does, unfortunately, it'll be October before the reviews can come out!

So- for August - next is the Ninfield Horticultural Society's 70th Anniversary Summer Show - and again, the plans are that the Carnival's Tents go up on Friday 20th, to be ready for Rose and her team to take in all the exhibits on Saturday 21st morning from 7am...The Ninfield Village Market will be in situ from mid morning onwards again, and hopefully some other stalls and sideshows will be there to add some extra fun into the celebratory day. Any help with putting tents up, and bunting etc, will be most gratefully received! Please give me a call on the numbers below.

It's a general state of HOPE springing eternal at present, and the next Hope is that the Memorial Hall will be finished by the beginning of September- and all Dance Classes will then be back in the bigger space. Huge thanks to David and the lovely Methodist Church team who have been so supportive, and accommodating, during the refurbishment/building period. It has been lovely having the classes in the Methodist Hall, and everyone has enjoyed the adaptations we've made to routines and exercises. If you'd like to know more about the Movement 2 Music, Dancercise, Show Dance/Burlesque, Tap and Ballroom Classes - again - the numbers are below, and a little box advertisement somewhere in this magazine!!

Gala Night-!! Don't forget- if all goes according to plan- this will be a big celebratory Gala Night - it's the Memorial Hall's 100th Birthday!!- and Saturday 13th November will see the Fish & Chip Supper,

Cabaret with Deja Revue, Awards, Party, Fun, Dancing and Bar etc etc- and tickets will be on sale from 1st October - See more details in the next Magazine edition, and on posters, notices around the Village, and in my Village Voice column in the Bexhill & Battle Observer/Sussex Express. Any Covid changes before then will be taken into account, and situations are always subject to change, or even cancellation - you know what I'm going to say - yes, FINGERS CROSSED!!

Finally!! - Some really good news is that there will be more local Football soon on the Recreation Ground! There was a meeting on the 6th July, when The Parish Council -Recreation Ground Committee met with Tony Harris from the Football Club in residence- Pass and Move; and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the newly formed Ninfield Football Club- Jason Taylor and Joe Rogers. The meeting had been postponed once due to emergency commitments, but, all present at the meeting on the 6th thoroughly enjoyed a very productive, good humoured and fruitful discussion. Tony has agreed that the new Ninfield team can use the goals and flags that Pass and Move have purchased for the Village, and Ninfield FC have agreed that Tony will decide whether matches can be played if the weather is bad. Pass and Move are investing several thousands of pounds in Ninfield's pitch, to variegate, re-seed, re-dress and fertilise ( ALL products Animal and Child friendly) -which will happen in September- so no-one will be playing at home during the 6 weeks necessary to undertake the work. Both Football Clubs are very happy to work together, with Tony's expertise in the league system helping the new Team get themselves established in the ES Divisions. Both Clubs will have been at the Recreation Ground on Saturday 24th July, for the Village Fete, where they were hosting games for the youngsters (and older-sters!) like 'Beat the Goalie' - maybe there will be some future England Penalty Takers in the youngsters taking part - good grief we need some!!!

Please call/email for Dance Classes, Carnival & Sports Association Events, Gala Information etc.- Sami Guard - 01424 893699, 07970650321, samanthaguard@btinternet.com Thank You!



## The Memorial Hall

Slowly it progresses, the roof over the old kitchen and committee room have gone and the new walls growing both outside and inside.



By the time we get to the October issue, the main structure should be finished and we will be able to use the main hall again, even if not all the facilities are finished!

Our new website is well underway with the diary and booking system in place, so if you have something planned that you'd like to book for later this year or next year, please take a look and contact us.

**"The Ninfield Local History Group** continue to welcome members and guests to our monthly meetings. We will keep the socially distanced seating arrangements in place and everyone should wear a mask inside the hall.

On August 12th we have Mat Homewood talking to us about the Sporting History of Sussex and the following month on 9th September, Maggie Evans will give us a talk on Ashburnham.

Both meetings are in the Methodist Hall, Church Lane and begin at 7.30. Members £1, non-members £4."

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**Muddy Boots**

Wow! What a year!  
As we prepare for September we are hoping for life to be returning to some sort of normality.



Our preschool setting at Snowdrop Cottage, Memorial Hall has had a busy first year and many of the children are now preparing for their transition to school.

Snowdrop Cottage is currently full for September And very few spaces remain for 0-3 year olds at our Sunshine Room from September (the Reading Room)

We are waiting to hear from the Parish Council about the 'Change of Use' planning application for the Pavilion from which we hope to run our Before and After School Club.



We will be opening a Mother & Baby Group on a Monday at our Sunshine Room from September from 9.30am - 11.30am. The first meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September - please email us if you would like to come along (email address below).



Once we get confirmation of reopening from the Memorial Hall we are hoping to start a Toddler Group on Thursday mornings and we are looking for volunteers to help run this group so please get in touch at the email below if you'd like to help out.

We would also like to widen our Muddy Boots community, so if you have any skills that you would like to share with our local children at Muddy Boots please do get in touch.  
Email: [admin@muddybootsc.com](mailto:admin@muddybootsc.com)  
Phone: 01424 893 610

*“The Wider the Range of Possibilities  
we offer children,  
the more intense will be their motivations  
and the richer their experiences”.*  
*Loris Malaguzzi*



# **HOOE PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Clerk Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

Email hooepc2@btinternet.com

**Hooe Parish Council – Parish News Entry July 2021**

## **Expressions of Interest and Applications are invited for the part time position of Clerk to Hooe Parish Council**

*Training can be arranged*

**Further Details from  
The Chairman Dick Carey 01424 892051**

### **Hooe Open Gardens Weekend 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Many thanks to all involved with the planning and execution of the hugely successful Hooe Open Gardens weekend, the first community event for 15 months. The hours and hours spent making sure the gardens looked as beautiful as possible and the months of careful planning for the event resulted in a much enjoyed and successful weekend. Even the heavy downpours on the Saturday did not dampen enthusiasm; people were heard to comment as they enjoyed afternoon tea sheltering under gazebos, how lovely plants looked covered in rain drops! The warm sunny weather on Sunday made for a perfect day to wonder around the 14 gardens open to the public. This year in addition to the gardens and refreshments we offered a large variety of Hooe Made items for sale, ranging from pottery, jewellery, models, wood work and, of course, plants

### **Telephone Box**

**Whilst travelling in Rutland we came across this  
phone box being used to house the publicly  
accessible defibrillator**

**Our defibrillator is situated on the front wall of the  
Red Lion**

**However we do own a Gilbert Scott telephone box  
(situated on the triangle outside the Forge Garage)**

**Please share your ideas for its future use!**



## **Proposed new Village Hall Consultation weekend**

We were pleased so many people visited the hall during the consultation weekend. A large number of comments and ideas have been received which are now being considered by the Council. Some great suggestions have been made and so the important task facing us now is to give every one of them the time and consideration it deserves. Grateful thanks to all who took the time to send in their views, to those professionals who have offered their assistance and others who have offered to join the fund raising/community team. Please watch for further information

## **Reopening of the Hall**

All being well the hall will reopen around the end of July. Please contact Sally Durman who has volunteered to look after bookings for us. Her phone number is 01424 893007

**We need someone to clean the hall!**

**How about a local part time job in the village?**

**Regular but very few hours – can be arranged to fit in with you!**

**The Parish Council is looking for someone to**

**Clean the Village Hall**

**If you are interested please contact  
Councillor Robert Pilbeam for further details  
01424 844365 or 07703 124727**

***A job share with 2 people could be considered***

**Community events** The community group is busy arranging a programme of events for the autumn. The popular Monthly coffee mornings which have been so missed should resume in September when the library will also be available once more. We cannot wait!

**The Parish Council meets once a month** The dates are posted on the Notice Board and, if you are included on the round robin Parish email list, you will receive notifications in good time. Just contact the Clerk, Jackie, if you would like to receive regular notifications and up to the minute information.

**Dog Fouling** Whilst some thoughtless individuals are still allowing their dogs to foul our footpaths and recreation ground we are pleased the

problem is being managed by our Volunteer Dog Warden Carol, Armed with a spray gun containing eco friendly bright yellow 'paint' Carol sprays the offending mess. This does actually very often deter offenders. Thank you Carol!

..... and finally ..... We hope you are enjoying the newly installed benches in the Millennium Wood. This is a great place to picnic, meet with friends or just sit and enjoy the beautiful Sussex countryside

Pam Doodles  
Vice Chairman Hooe Council

### **Ninfield Open Gardens for St. Michael's Hospice**

After heavy downpours and windy days, four gardens managed to open on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July with blue skies and sunshine, well some of the time, then, of course, short showers had to put in an appearance!, but they didn't spoil the enjoyment, people just popped into green houses, sheds, summer houses or the tea tent!

Visitors from Ninfield and Hooe were there, with many from Pett, Fairlight, Hastings, Bexhill and Battle. Not everyone got to all of the gardens and between them raised a total of £1,774.30.

Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the day and there were many appreciative comments of the different gardens.

The plant stall almost sold out and there were only a few slices of cake left for the volunteers to enjoy.

So many, many thanks to all of you who came along and supported the Hospice

**Book Exchange:** It is good to see regulars and new faces at the Book Exchange held on the first Friday of the month  
10 – 11.30am in the Methodist Hall.

Future sessions will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> August & 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Donations of fiction books are welcome. For more information contact

David on 07989729123 or email [dj\\_swales@hotmail.com](mailto:dj_swales@hotmail.com)



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## **NINFIELD HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP**

The group is pleased to say that its activities are, hopefully, gradually going to return to normal. Some are already happening.

### **Book Exchange Café**

The Book Exchange has been running since April, but it will now, once again be joined by the Café part of the morning. David Swales and colleagues look forward to seeing you for books and a chat over a cup of coffee once more. The next dates for your diary are: 6 August and 3 September, 10 – 11.30 in the Methodist Hall.

### **Health Walks**

The Ninfield Health walks, run as part of the East Sussex Walking for Health Scheme, have also been running since May, and you will be very welcome to join one of our approved walk leaders on the first and third Thursday of each month meeting at Sparke Pavillion at 11 am. No booking is necessary just turn up for these gentle and friendly walks of about an hour. Dogs welcome on short lead. They are a good opportunity to see the beautiful Ninfield countryside while getting some exercise and chatting to fellow walkers. For more information contact Robin Goldsmith 07940324601.

### **Mens Shed**

Join Dave Crittall at Sparke Pavillion at 11 am on the last Thursday of each month for a cuppa and to put the world to rights.

### **Womens 'Knitting Society'**

Jane Dommerson who organises this weekly get together on Friday mornings from 10.30 – 12.30 will hopefully soon be inviting women to join her in the newly refurbished Memorial Hall.

### **Indoor Games Afternoon**

Hopefully all the work will have been completed at the Memorial Hall in time for the restart of the Games afternoons. They will be from 2pm to 4pm on the third Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday 19 October.

### **Musical Matinees**

We have decided to leave the start of the film afternoons until 26 November to ensure that the Hall will be ready for us. Hopefully the addition of disabled toilets will mean that more people will be able to come. The films are open to all, are free and are dementia and hearing loss friendly. Doors open at 1.30 and the film starts at 2 pm, following complimentary refreshments. We will be showing the 1982 version of Annie. The dates and films for 2022 will be announced soon.

For further information contact Jackie Langley on 01424892422 or [jackie.langley1@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.langley1@btinternet.com)





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## ***Worms Eye View***

What a hullabaloo in the fields this morning. The super shearers are here today and although it is raining once again the sheep are dry having being bought in to the barn last night. It is amazing how quickly a sheep is shorn using mechanical means, quite fascinating to watch. However the noise starts when the sheep go out back into the fields, the lambs do not recognise their smart, slender “mums and dash around the ewes constantly bleating loudly until they are reunited and have a nice drink of milk. It all takes a while but then peace reigns again.

Meanwhile back in the shearing shed the shorn wool is all neatly packed into wool sacks, and awaits collection by the wool board. There are several old sayings about sheep, one being that it is an old tradition that on Christmas morning, sheep bow three times to the east.

This is an association with the Christian idea of the “Lamb of God” and accounts for the general good luck accorded to sheep. Sheep are also said to be weather omens, when they lie down on the grass then it will be fine, but if they keep bleating loudly and wander about, then a storm is on its way.

There has been a fight in my garden recently. “Did you try to stop it?” I hear you say. No I just watched and waited to see who would be the victor. I must explain, I have a very nice bird table in the garden, placed quite near to a hedge. I always have plenty of birds feeding there, but at the moment the small birds are being moved away by several magpies, there does seem to be an extra lot of magpies this year, and although I flap at them through the kitchen window, they continue to come, but now two squirrels have started coming and this is when the fun starts. Squirrels are busy eating when the magpies arrive and try to squeeze past the squirrels, but hurrah, the squirrels are having none of it, as they try to stand up to the magpies, and deliberately smack them around the head . This goes on for several minutes, and eventually the magpies give up and fly off. What fun and enjoyment I get from the visitors to my bird table.

Thinking of magpies there is a superstition. “If a magpie perches on your roof it is a sign that your building will never fall down”. I’m watching!

*Anne*

# 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 August / September 2021:

1st	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise with Rev. Neville Barnett
8th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise
15th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise with Margaret Bickerdike
22nd	10.30am	Service of Worship & Communion with Rev. Patricia Williams
29th	10.30am	Service of Worship, Praise & Celebration

## **September:**

5th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise
12th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise
19th	10.30am	Service of Worship & Praise
26th	10.30am	Service of Worship & Praise

## Other Activities:

6th Aug	10.00-11.30am	Book exchange in Hall
3rd Sep	10.00-11.30am	Book exchange in Hall

We are pleased to share with you our Service details. We hope you all enjoy the summer months.

We thank everyone who helped to make our 150th Anniversary celebrations so special. Sunday July 4th was an amazing day to be remembered in our Church's history. We gave thanks & worshipped God remembering some of the stories that make up the life of our Church. It was all lovely. We enjoyed two celebration services, one in our church & the other outside on the recreation ground. An exhibition of photos and Church documents was set-up in our Hall. The day was shared with village folk, friends from our Circuit churches together with the Reverends Philip Wagstaff, Tricia Williams & Paul Frostick. The local Salvation Army Band joined in the celebrations, together with the music group Christian Voices & Monique, Keith Miller on keyboard & our own Violet Simmons & David Swales. We also remembered all the hard-work & dedication of key-workers throughout the last 18 months. Thanks be to God.

Our 'Telling our Story' booklet is still available (Price £5) & includes lots of photos of village people, events & history from 1871 to date. Copies from Paul or David.

An amazing day of celebration, remembering, giving, & sharing God's Love & Peace.

What a story!!!

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
2 Sam 15, 16:15-19, 17:4-22, 18:1-12, 33, 19:1-8

King David had many wives and children. He loved his sons so much that he never punished them or told them off if they did wrong.

Also David had not said who would be king after him.



His son Absalom was very handsome, and he made friends with everyone.



People began to prefer him to David.



Absalom gathered an army of supporters and they headed for Jerusalem.



David and his supporters had to flee.



A few stayed behind to be spies and to give bad advice.



David was able to get away.

The two armies fought in a rocky wooded place.



Absalom was riding through it when his hair got caught in a tree.



Joab and his men killed him.

When David heard Absalom was dead, he was so upset...



..his soldiers were ashamed they had won.



Joab came back from the battle and found David crying.



You should be ashamed! You care more for your disloyal son than for those who risked their lives for you!



# 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: Glen Harrison gharrisonninfieldscoutsgsl@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 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**

**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 Pattison ☎845087

*Secretary:* Mr John Fairclough

*Treasurer:* Mrs Cynthia Fairclough

# USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

**THE PARISH NEWS** Email [ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com](mailto:ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com) ( 893326

## NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Jackie Scarff ( 07725 843505 [clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk)

## HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Jackie Scarff ( 07548 528754 [hooepc2@btinternet.com](mailto:hooepc2@btinternet.com)

## READING ROOM

Booking Enquiries: Anne Ringrose ( 892792 email [ringrosep@aol.com](mailto:ringrosep@aol.com)

## MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: [ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto: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

## FLYING RECORD OF FLIGHT SERGEANT DONALD JOHN MACKERRAS

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 1944. In the sky over Eastbourne at about 1 36 pm, a Tempest Mk V fighter, JN759, one of the fastest and newest in the RAF, swept down to attack a V1 flying bomb. These travelled at about 400 mph and at a height usually between 1,000 and 3,000 feet. The pilot, Flight Sergeant Donald John Mackerras, an Australian from a suburb in Sydney, N.S.W. may have been attempting to tip the V1 wing and destabilise the gyroscope controlling the flying bomb. It was hazardous, but probably less than trying to shoot it down. Aircraft with 0.303 machine guns found that most of the small calibre bullets simply bounced off, so only the 20 mm cannons of the Tempest packed sufficient punch to destroy the doodlebugs. However, they still needed to get within 250 yards in order to explode the 1,000 kg (approximately a ton) high explosive warhead. At 360 mph, that is 6 miles a minute, so just a furlong away means the aircraft immediately flies into the debris cloud of the explosion, no time really to change course.

Donald Mackerras had already destroyed 11 V-1's and shared in 3 more, but that Sunday afternoon he lost control of the Tempest and crashed 10 miles north east of Eastbourne. The map reference was given as WR1532 and the place was misrecorded as **Minfield**.

The map reference initially given to me was incorrect, as that placed it near Marl pits Lane, that's why this has just come to light, as it is of course, **NINFIELD**.

In late July 1944, young Hugh Gordon Tate had been electrocuted when a barrage balloon that had its moorings severed by another V1 cutting its cables, had drifted over the Ninfield Rec. Several boys had tried to capture it, but the wind blew it towards the road shedding boys as it went. Eventually just Hugh was left clinging to the ropes when the balloon contacted nearby HT power lines. On the day of his funeral, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, the day after the inquest had concluded, a V1 exploded in Church Wood.

The police report strongly suggests that Mackerras was hit by our own anti aircraft shells, a frequent risk, as with so many V1's crossing the Channel in June and July, it was a dangerous "free for all" with often 2 or more aircraft attacking the same V1. The Defence of Great Britain air force and military commanders therefore agreed on a specific zoning whereby aircraft would be restricted. Over the Channel and French coast, slower fighters such as Spitfires, Mustangs and Typhoons or Mosquitoes would roam, trying to catch the V1's as they built up air speed. AA guns along the coast now armed with proximity fuses, would take over any V1's that reached the coast, with the

Tempests and other high speed aircraft such as Mustangs and Spitfire Mk XIV's patrolling behind.

Personally, the circumstances seem to indicate that Don and another Tempest took off at 1.30 pm from RAF Newchurch, just the other side of Rye so they only had a few minutes to raise undercarriage, check radios and climb for height, a procedure that may have taken them closer to the coast. This far removed in time, it's difficult to say the precise events, but it seems that Don dived on to a V1 and reports said he "spun in" losing control possibly by hitting the turbulence from the V1's slipstream. Other eyewitness reports said the aircraft was on fire, presumably before hitting the ground, in which case a proximity fuse AA shell burst may have hit him, rather than the V1. Don may have tried to regain control as the aircraft came down in a crash landing state, with undercarriage still raised and under power. A pilot in control of a crashing aircraft would look for a flat field to try and land with the undercarriage down and with the engine off to avoid the aircraft catching fire. Although it belly landed, Don did not get out, presumably either incapacitated in some way if hit by an AA explosion, or from the force of impact when crash landing.

**Summary:** Tempest JN759 flown by Flt Sgt Mackerras took off from RAF Folkestone, Kent, on a daytime operational Anti-Diver patrol and crashed at 1336 hours on 6 August 1944 near Ninfield, Sussex, about 10 miles north east of Eastbourne, UK. Dick at Stock Meadow believes the plane crashed close to Len Keeley's storage yard on Standard Hill, nearly opposite Lower Standard Hill Farm.

The wreckage was later removed and the field has been ploughland for 77 years now, so nothing remains to mark where a brave pilot lost his life defending us from the Nazi terror weapon. I can't prove it, but that V1 could have landed in the middle of Ninfield had it not been intercepted. JN759 was the 30th Tempest produced (production starting at JN729).



**MACKERRAS, DONALD JOHN.** Flight Sergeant. Service No. 422599. Died 6/08/1944 Aged 23. Royal Australian Air Force (attached to No 3 Squadron RAF) Son of John William and Ermonce Irene Mackerras, of Pymble, New South Wales, Australia. Buried at Brookwood Military Cemetery Plot 4. Row O. Grave 9. Epitaph: A gallant airman, he died that others may live.



D J “Mac” Mackerras (RAAF no. 422599) was born in Camperdown, Victoria, Australia, on 7 November 1920. Mackerras worked as an engineering draftsman in Pymble, New South Wales before joining the RAAF. He flew with No. 3 Squadron on Tempest during 1944, but was killed on 6 August when JN759 spun into the ground at Ninfield during a V-1 patrol. The police air crash record states that it is believed he was hit by our own AA defences (using proximity fuses?) and lost control. Aircraft burnt out on impact and cannon shells exploding sprayed across a nearby road.

#### Mackerras' victories in Tempest

Date of Claim	Type Claimed	Aircraft Serial No.	Location	Unit	Note
31 May 1944	2 x 1/5 Ju188s			3 Sqn	ground
31 May 1944	2 x 1/5 Ju188s			3 Sqn	ground
16 June 1944	1/2 V-1	(JN793)	S.Chatham	3 Sqn	
18 June 1944	V-1	(JN752)	nr Biggin Hill	3 Sqn	
18 June 1944	V-1	(JN745)	nr Gatwick	3 Sqn	
23 June 1944	V-1			3 Sqn	
25 June 1944	V-1	(JN745)	N Beachy Head	3 Sqn	
27 June 1944	V-1			3 Sqn	
3 July 1944	V-1	(JN968)	off Dungeness	3 Sqn	
11 July 1944	V-1			3 Sqn	
12 July 1944	1/2 V-1			3 Sqn	
14 July 1944	V-1			3 Sqn	
20 July 1944	V-1		nr Battle	3 Sqn	
26 July 1944	V-1	(JN768)	E Tonbridge	3 Sqn	
26 July 1944	V-1	(JN768)	S Ashford	3 Sqn	
28 July 1944	1/3 V-1			3 Sqn	

Sources: Aces High Vol 2 by Christopher Shores

The V-1 Flying Bombs: the Vergeltungswaffe 1 FZG-76, known as the Flying Bomb, Buzz Bomb or Doodlebug, was designed by Robert Liisser of the Fieseler company as the Fieseler Fi 103. It was powered by an Argus pulse jet engine providing 660 lb of thrust for a top speed of 390 mph and a range of around 150 miles (later the range was extended to 250 miles). It was 22 feet long, around 17 ft in span, it weighed 4,800lb and carried a 1,870lb warhead. The first test flight of a V1 was in late 1941 or early 1942 at Peenemünde.

Intelligence had prepared the British authorities for an attack on Southern England by robot weapons. Bombing attacks were made on the German research establishment at Peenemünde and factories believed to be involved

in the production. These attacks delayed the introduction of the new weapon and prior to the Normandy Invasion of 6 June 1944 much effort had been expended in attacking launching sites in the Pas de Calais area between Dieppe and Calais (France).



Tempest Mk V of the initial production batch, 100 aircraft starting at JN729

The RAF's initial response was to extend the attacks on the launching sites, whilst fighters formed the first defence over the Channel and the South Coast. 192 heavy AA guns and equal number of light weapons provided the next line of defence. On the eastern outskirts of London 480 balloons provided the final element. Initial patrols were made by 11 squadrons, two Mosquito-equipped for night operations. The first offensive launches were made on 12 June. Only ten V1's were launched that night, of which seven crashed or blew up at once! The first to reach England fell on Swanscombe at 04:18 hours on 13 June. Thereafter the launch rates increased rapidly, in 24 hours 151 V1s were reported by the defences. During the night 14/15 June the first interception of a V1 was made over the English Channel, and shot down.

These arrangements were inadequate and the guns were increased to 376 heavy and 540 light weapons and the balloons were strengthened to around 1,000. Fighter units included the new 150 Wing at Newchurch with three squadrons of Tempests, Spitfire Mk XIVs of 41, 91 and 322 Squadrons and Mustangs of 129, 306 and 315 Squadrons. A special flight of Tempests was also formed at Wittering with pilots of the Fighter Interception Unit. This moved to Newchurch to join the other Tempest squadrons. Over the weeks which followed further units became involved including Polish Mustang, radar-equipped Mosquito and Typhoon squadrons.

By 15 July 2,578 V1s had reached England. 1,241 were destroyed by the defences, with 1,280 falling in the London area. Between 9-15 July the percentage destroyed reached 50%, mainly by the fighters. The damage caused was still too high so even more guns were moved to the coastal area.

By 19 July 412 heavy and 600 light weapons were in place together with 168 Bofors and some rocket batteries. Now the fighters patrolled over the Channel and over central Kent, between the guns and the balloons. The guns were now receiving stocks of proximity-fused shells, which increased their results. Between 16 August and 5 September only 17% of the 1,124 launched V1s reached their target area. On the night of 27/28 August 87 of the 97 V1s launched were shot down!

Now here a little of the personal background of Don becomes involved. Although born in Australia, he still had relatives in the UK, primarily his aunt and uncle in Croydon. The BBC reported that V1's were overshooting London, so the Germans put less fuel in, causing them to fall short of Central London, but more on the suburbs, such as Croydon.

By 5 September the Allies armies had overrun the launching sites in France and the attacks ceased. By this time two more Tempest squadrons had joined the defences, 274 and 501 Squadrons. On 16 September the assault was resumed. Seven V1s were air-launched by Heinkel He111 bombers operating from airfields in Holland. 80 V1s were launched in this manner in late September, of which 23 were destroyed. In March 1945 a further 104 were launched from ramps in Holland. The last fell on England on 28 March 1945, and the last to be launched was shot down the next day. Between June 1944 and March 1945 of the approximately 10,000 launched, 3,957 V1s were claimed to have been destroyed. 1,979 by fighters, 1,866 by guns, 232 by balloons and 12 by Naval guns.

The British government was concerned that there appeared to be little to stop them being launched and instead instructed the BBC to report that most of the missiles were overflying London and exploding harmlessly in open countryside north of the capital. This worked and the Germans began reducing the fuel load, so that more fell short of London. What was more surprising is that the Germans were able to track the V1's so they knew they were hitting London, but chose to believe the BBC! The V1 was the first "cruise" missile, whilst the V2 (against which there was no possible defence) was the first ballistic missile.

That single raid on Peenemunde probably allowed the Allies to gain the upper hand and delayed the introduction of both the V1 and more importantly the V2. Bomber Command still suffered horrendous losses when switched to daylight bombing of the initial "ski jump" launch ramps, which were extremely difficult to hit and needed precision attacks, and for which the Germans could employ extremely heavy AA defences.

Imagine fleets of V1's crossing the Channel before D Day and landing amongst the packed troops and equipment. It might have changed the course of the War.

What everyone thought was that the V1 crashed to earth when its fuel ran out. That wasn't the case. There was a small vane on the nose which was prewound a certain number of revolutions calculated to reach central London from whichever launch site it came from. That rotor unwound until when it reached zero, it would trigger a guillotine blade which cut the wires controlling the rear stabilisers, and thus caused it to pitch down. The ram jet motor, firing at 50 times a second, made that well known buzzing sound which gave it the nick name of buzz bomb, as it dived at full power into the ground. The V1 exploded at ground level, so the blast effect was much more severe, as first there would be the outward pressure wave, creating a vacuum at the explosion site, then, as the air rushed back to fill the void, that created a push pull effect on walls and houses.

Almost 30,000 V-1s were made; by March 1944, they were each produced in 350 hours (including 120 for the autopilot alone), at a cost of just 4 per cent of a V-2, which delivered a comparable payload.

Approximately 10,000 were fired at England; 2,419 reached London, killing about 6,184 people and injuring 17,981. The greatest density of hits were received by Croydon, on the south-east fringe of London. Antwerp, Belgium was hit by 2,448 V-1s from October 1944 to March 1945.

Flight Sergeant D J MacKerras. Nationality: Australia. Unit: 3 Squadron, RAF Tempest victories: 11 and 3 shared V-1 Flying Bombs.

Service Record: Name MacKerras, Donald John

Service Royal Australian Air Force. Service Number 422599

Date of Birth 7 Nov 1920. Place of Birth Camperdown, Victoria

Date of Enlistment 22 May 1942. Place of Enlistment Sydney, NSW

Next of Kin: MacKerras, John William, "Naina," 8, Orana Avenue, Pymble, Sydney NSW. (His father had been wounded at Gallipoli and also served in France in WW1)

Date of Death 6 Aug 1944. Rank Flight Sergeant. Posting on Death 3 Squadron

Roll of Honour Ku Ring Gai Memorial, Pymble, near Sydney, NSW.

Kevin Regan