

The

Parish

News



*News from the Churches,
Clubs, groups, societies
& residents of
Ninfield & Hooe*

Dec 22 Jan 23 50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



	St Mary's	St Oswald's
4 th December	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
11 th December	<i>No Service</i>	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist
14 th December		7.00p.m. Carol Service
18 th December	9.30 Family Eucharist 3.30 p.m. Carols	11.00 Parish Eucharist
24 th December Christmas Eve		<i>6.00p.m Parish Eucharist</i>
25 th December Christmas Day	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
1 st January	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
8 th January	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist at the Methodist Church	<i>No Service</i>
15 th January	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
22 nd January	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
29 th January	<i>No Service</i>	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist

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

We are entering the season of Advent. A season where we journey to the stable to wait for the arrival of the Christ Child. A season which can be filled with all the emotions that one can experience. As one writer wrote: *'there is an underlying tension'*. The pressure from society to have the most extravagant Christmas ever, the pressure of family get-togethers. The tension of being joyful as it's deemed the happiest of times yet for many it's the complete opposite, the sense of loneliness, financial pressure, sense of loss as we mourn the loss of loved ones.

This year, for me, Advent is once again becoming a journey of reflection. Reflection of the year gone by. It is a journey where I look backwards to enable me to move forward. To accept and take ownership of the good times and the times of struggle. It's that time of the year when I put together a family newsletter to send to friends in our Christmas card. I must admit that each year I struggle to put it together, yet to me it's important to keep in touch with friends and relations. When I see a Christmas card simply signed by someone with nothing else in it, I really would like to know something about how they are doing, if only something simple. This past year has in many ways been difficult, yet there are moments of joy which pushes its way through the darkness; the power of love, the power of forgiveness, the power of nature. Those experiences allow the time, the healing and the courage to continue following God's call wherever that will lead. I am a great believer that the glass is half full, not half empty.

So, as we enter this season of Advent - find a way to create space to spend time with God and prepare to receive the Christ child.

Let me leave you this prayer taken from the Iona community:



Creator of time, we are in a season of preparation, of hope, of expectation. For some of us, it is a time we *see clearly and rejoice in every day. For others, the days are dim, cloudy, mysterious. Remind us that you are in control and, though we may not see you, you see us and hold us in your love. Amen*

Paul

PRAYER

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



St Oswald's Parish Church

Interment of ashes
October 16th for Josephine and Bernard Smith.

*from the
Parish Records*

St Mary's Parish Church

Interment of ashes
October 16th Christine Fletcher

October 30th Valerie Anne Renee Masterman

News from St Oswald's



The Bells A very successful event happened in the church recently, the bells that had been taken away to be cleaned and tuned were returned and re-hung. The maintenance work that was needed for the tower one was completed so a Service of Dedication was held on 6th November. The bells were rung before and after the service which was when you realised how much they had been missed. This was followed by a very tasty buffet lunch.

Carol Singing Two Gentlemen of the older generation, will be touring the Village of Hooe on Tuesday and Wednesday 20th and 21st December 7-9pm with "Mobile Carols".

If you would like a visit and can rouse your neighbours for 10 minutes on one of these dates please book a time and place with by phoning Jack Rist on 892576.

Repairs Report Due to continuing wet weather the stonemason has been as yet unable to complete the work on the exterior of West and South sides of the church.

Building Repair Fund At the Hooe Community Group Coffee morning on 13th November, St. Oswald's was presented with a cheque for £500.00 towards the Building Repair Fund.

This is a most generous donation and St. Oswald's are very very grateful for this Group's continuing generosity.

Decorating the church for Festivals and other occasions

If any reader would like to try their hand at helping, we, at St. Oswald's would welcome you with open arms! Also any donation towards the cost of flowers would be very welcome.

The next decorating event will be for the Hooe Carol Service on Wednesday 14th December. Any helpers please contact one of the churchwardens, Janet Pattison - 01424845087 or Jack Rist - 01424 892576 .

From the visitors book

A.L. Folkestone "So calm and peaceful here in St. Oswald's"

M.H. St. Leonard's " what a joy to find this beauty of a church open"

"Happy Christmas"

St Oswald's Church Hooe
invites you to celebrate Christmas
Carol Service



Wednesday December 14th
at 7 pm

Hooe Village Band & Organ

A bus will run a shuttle service from
The Red Lion to the church
at approximately 6.15, 6.35, and 6.50
If coming by car , please car-share to help
with parking. The lane will be monitored.

Christmas Eve Eucharist 6 pm
Christmas Day Eucharist 11 am
at Hooe



Editors' Note We'd just like to say a big thank you to
Everyone who buys and reads the Parish News, to all those
Who distribute it throughout the year, to all those who contribute
Articles and all those who support us with their adverts, and
We wish everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year. *Nicki and Carol*



December / January Diary

	Venue	Page
November		
30 th	Messy Church	Methodist 33
December		
1 st	Health Walk	Spark 10
2 nd	Book Exchange & Coffee Morning	Methodist 24
2 nd	Ninfield Flower Group Xmas Special Memorial	15
6 th	Wreath Making	Memorial 20
10 th	Hooe Xmas Coffee Morning	St. Oswald's 20
12 th	Ninfield Horticultural Xmas Social	Memorial 12
14 th	Carol Service	St. Oswald's 6
15 th	Health Walk	Spark 10
15 th	Ninfield Parish Council	Methodist 16
17 th	Ninfield Village Market	Memorial 32
18 th	Carols	St. Mary's 2
21 st	Dark Skies	Spark's 10
31 st	New Year's Eve Party	Memorial 22
January		
4 th	Health Walk	Spark 10
6 th	Book Exchange & Coffee Morning	Methodist 24
8 th	Hooe Coffee Morning	St. Oswald's 20
12 th	Ninfield History Group	Methodist 20
13 th	Hooe & Ninfield Open Group	Methodist 12
19 th	Health Walk	Spark 10
19 th	Hooe History Group	St. Oswald's 11
25 th	Messy Church	Methodist 33
26 th	Men's Shed	Spark 10

Closing date for items for the combined **FEBRUARY** issue of the Parish News is **FRIDAY 13th JANUARY** please send to ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

Migrants

Now here is a topic that could be a bit of a hot potato, but for this story it only concerns migrants that fly over here and eat our hawthorn berries!

As might be guessed I have seen the first migrants of the year, feasting of the said berries. They looked like Fieldfares, but could be Red Wings. It has been quite a few years since my eyes were accurate enough to make identifying birds at a distance little more than intuition and guess work.

The little Chiffchaff, I am sad to say, comes and goes from this country largely unnoticed by me. Its distinctive call is in a register my hearing does not pick up and its secretive habit makes it little more than a small brown blob, if seen at all. Now I'm not bad enough, yet, that I need a Pink Foot Goose to land in front of me and peck my knee. My memory is still such that it picks up movements, habits and possibilities and then adds two and two. I do realise that sometimes this memory is fallible, as when I claimed a Starling on the bird feeder was a woodpecker, but mostly I seem to come up with Four.

I use to live three miles from the North Sea and miles of coastal nature reserve. This reserve is covered with a bush called the Sea Buckthorn and in October is covered with orange berries. These berries tasted horrid, but were eaten by some folks, and there's nowt as strange as folk! I was once working on this reserve on a foggy October day, the sort of day where the clouds met the ground. It was a pure coincidence that this was the time the Fieldfares chose to make a landing. They just popped out of the cloud all over the place, many no more than feet from me. I even had to take cover in the tractor. I sat there, pondering, whilst hoping none hit the wind screen. 'How did the Fieldfares know there were plenty of berries to eat! Not these birds but the first ones who had the idea, no food here so lets fly over there'.

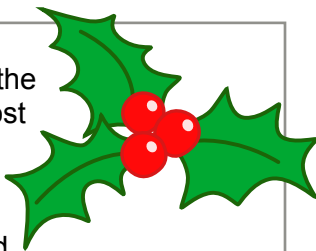
So the birds now re-stocked with energy moved inland eventually ending up at our little church. Its quite a thought that they left Norway, especially as I have managed getting utterly lost going to Hastings!

There is plenty of folk lore and mystery concerning migration of birds especially Barnacle Geese. Some in the middle ages believed that because none had ever seen a Barnacle Goose egg they must just appear from the barnacles attached to floating driftwood. Now some people never left the borders of their village, there's even some in Lincolnshire who still don't. So to gloss over a lack of knowledge made things up. Sound familiar!

Other folk lore is made from reasonable observation. 'It's a hunters moon when the Woodcock fly over here'. I doubt there were many keepers who didn't expect their dogs to put up a Woodcock soon after such a full moon in October. A bomber moon for those in Lincolnshire who still stop everything when they hear a Lancaster fly.

!So as the Blackbirds I see this dead of winter will have moved down from 'up north', so I'm told, are Blackbirds will be in France! Cold and lack of food makes the natural world up sticks and find a place to survive. So a bad winter and possible food shortages could see me in an inflatable paddling like crazy for France!

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY



Our work continues in Church Wood and around the village, but yesterday's visit to Church Wood almost turned into "water management" rather than woodland management following recent rainfall and then the downpour early yesterday morning. Previous footpaths became shallow streams and Church Pond was overflowing into the arranged overflow route, the first time I have seen such an occurrence in nearly ten years. It is apparent the nearby fields are saturated and is probably further evidence that no development should be permitted on the slopes into Church Wood.

However, on a more general note, we had eight volunteers yesterday and were able to split into work teams to attend to lots of tasks. It was also noticeable that our recent efforts to provide a hard surface to the most slippery of paths has been worthwhile and any further contributions of fine hardcore or road planings will be appreciated !

We are delighted at the increase in visitors to the Wood and doubtless regular visitors will have noticed a further picnic area at Robin's Pool, overlooking both our pool and surrounding countryside. Our efforts to reduce the amount of growth surrounding this pool are showing the benefits of daylight on the water and we have continued this work to the banks of Church Pond. If these terms are unfamiliar to you, do please look at the site plan which stands by the entrance to Church Wood and clearly shows these and other features.

Most noticeable of our recent works in the village has been the overhaul of the noticeboard by the entrance to the Recreation Ground. The previous roof had all but rotted away; structural repairs and fresh feather edge boarding should enable it to continue for several years.

Our last task in the village this year will be the installation of the traditional Christmas tree in the Memorial Hall at the end of November. This is co-sponsored by NVS and Catsfield Christmas Tree Farm.

ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS JOIN ME IN WISHING RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF CHURCH WOOD A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Ninfield Health and Well-being Group

Ninfield Village Society

The Health and Well-being group is affiliated to the Ninfield Village Society whose volunteers have been managing and maintaining Church Wood since it was gifted to the village some 27 years ago. Visitors are most welcome to use and enjoy all the well-being benefits that this beautiful small area of ancient wet woodland, now a designated Local Nature Reserve, offers. Contact: Robin Goldsmith on 01424 892778.

Book Exchange and Community Café

The Community Café meets in the Methodist Hall, Church Lane on Friday mornings from 10 am to 11.30. Come and enjoy a chat over tea/coffee and biscuits. On the first Friday of the month there is also an opportunity to exchange books. Contact: David Swales: 892248 or dj_swales@hotmail.com

Women's Crafting and Knitting Circle

In the Memorial Hall Committee Room every Friday from 10.30 to 12.30. £5 per session. Contact Jane: 01424 892428.

Dark Skies

Cast your minds back to the Summer when the Dark Skies group met to watch the sun go down on the Summer Solstice. Well we are now fast approaching the Winter Solstice and have moved our December meeting to Wednesday 21st December. Meeting at Spark Pavilion from 7.30pm, the actual moment of the solstice will occur at 9.48pm but join us to look at the skies and experience a full, cold moon (and maybe partake in a mince pie) Contact: Kaye Crittall on 01424 892883

Men's Shed

In Sparke Pavilion at 10 am on the last Thursday of the month. Men putting the world to rights over coffee! Free. Just come along or contact: Dave on 01424 892883.

Musical Matinee Film

We have now had the final film of the year and the dates for 2023 will be announced in February

Health Walks

Meeting at Sparke Pavilion in Church Lane on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an hour at a gentle pace, avoiding mud and stiles where possible. Dogs on short leads are welcome. The walks are part of the Sussex Health Walks and Ramblers Walking for Health Schemes. Contact: Robin Goldsmith on 01424 892778.

HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

Hooe History Society members will take part in a Christmas Party gathering in December. There will be no speaker for this event.

Our first meeting in 2023 on 19th January will feature a new speaker to us, Jonathon Austin who will give a talk on the Hellingly Hospital Railway. This will take place at Hooe Church at our normal time of 7.30 p.m. As usual, refreshments will be available following Jonathon's talk. We have a full programme of speakers for next year, which I will list in February's issue of Parish News.

DID YOU KNOW... Although the smuggling activities had long since finished in Hooe the Sussex Advertiser reported the following in December 1865:-

On the 22nd inst., before T. Papillon, Esq., Henry Carey was brought up in custody, charged with using an illicit still, for the manufacture of British spirits, at Hooe, on the 21st inst. This case was of a very grave nature, and Mr. Hore the Supervisor of Excise, tendered the following evidence :-

John Alexander Thompson, Deputy Chief Constable, deposed - Yesterday, the 21st inst., in obedience to a search warrant, obtained by Mr. Harwood, the excise officer, I proceeded with Mr. Supervisor Hore, Superintendent Jeffery, Mr. Harwood, and Mr. Bickford, to the house of Henry Carey. He is the sole occupier. I and Mr. Harwood went round to the back of the house, the other officers remaining in front. I preceded Mr. Harwood, and saw the defendant standing at the door of the cellar. I said to him, "I have a warrant to search your house for an illicit still." I opened the door of the cellar, and saw a still apparently at work. Liquid was dripping from the worm end, and a fire was burning, I turned to the defendant and said, "You are my prisoner, for illegally distilling," and Mr. Harwood said the same to him. I saw several barrels there, and one was apparently fermenting. I looked into the flue, and the prisoner said, when I was taking down a board, "You need not pull the house to pieces, I will shew you what you want." He shewed me the flue, which I perceived communicated with the chimney of the ordinary house fire. He said "What I've done I must suffer for; what I've done, I've done alone."

The still appeared to have been recently charged with materials for making spirits. There were also six barrels containing about 300 gallons of wort and wash, some in a state of fermentation, and some not having commenced fermenting. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was fined, £30, or three months' imprisonment with hard labour. He was committed.

There were two Henry Carey's living in the village around that time – one I

believe, may have been at the Tallies and the other listed in the census at Hooe Common, which could refer to any number of properties close to the Red Lion. It was reported that the door of the cellar was 84 inches from the dwelling-house, and the room or cellar where the still was is under the same roof as the dwellinghouse, and the chimney of the furnace which supplied the still with heat communicated with the dwelling-house chimney. I wonder if there is a cellar that still fits this description, in the village today?

Peter Hayward

Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

We met on Friday 11th November in the Methodist Hall in Ninfield and after the usual information and notices we had a talk by Steve Squirrel who is volunteer at Michelham Priory. His main interest is World War 2 and his illustrated talk was about women in the Home Guard, which originally was called Local Defence Volunteers. The Home Guard was formed to protect the country in the event of invasion and by men who were either too young or too old to join the forces. Women were not allowed to join but some did form their own groups and in 1941 Dr Edith Summerskill formed the unofficial Women's Home Defence where basic weapon and military training took place. Women were not allowed uniforms so many made their own. Eventually women were allowed in the Home Guard but only support roles (e.g. clerical, driving) and not in any way seen as combatants. Steve also brought examples of the helmets that were worn (incredibly heavy) a rifle, hand grenade (safe) and another gun that was used for training.



This was followed by our usual tea/coffee and biscuits.

No meeting in December as we are having our Christmas lunch at the Blacksmiths in Ninfield.

The next meeting will be at the Methodist Hall, Ninfield on 13th January 2023.

Ninfield Horticultural Society

Hopefully you would have attended our AGM in November and renewed your membership. If not, please come along to our Christmas meeting on 12th December in the Memorial Hall - doors open at 7.30pm. We have no speaker at our December meeting, but there will be seasonal refreshments, games and a raffle.

You can also pick up your copy of our 2023 schedule.

Our next meeting will then be on 20th February 2023 when Jan Black will entertain us with her talk on All Things Herbal. A date for your new diary.

Ninfield Surgery

Thank you to everyone who came along for their flu vaccination. Limited flu vaccines are still available, please call our Reception to book an appointment if you eligible.

Prescriptions

Please could we ask patients to send in prescriptions for each person separately and not staple all family members together. Also, if emailing the surgery, please could you email each person's request in separately to save any confusion. Thank you for your help with this.

Christmas Opening & Repeat Prescriptions

If you need to order your prescription early over the Christmas period due to going away, we are happy to process these requests slightly earlier. We are still having difficulties fulfilling some requests quickly, so please can we ask you to double check your medication in good time and order allowing up to 7 working days for the request to be fulfilled.

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd December -

Open as usual 8am-1pm and 2pm-6pm

Saturday 24th December – CLOSED

Sunday 25th December – CLOSED

Monday 26th December – CLOSED

Tuesday 27th December – CLOSED

Wednesday 28th December - Open as usual 8am-1pm and 2pm-6pm

Thursday 29th December - Open as usual 8am-1pm and 2pm-6pm

Friday 30th December - Open as usual 8am-1pm and 2pm-6pm

Saturday 31st December – CLOSED

Sunday 1st January 2023 – CLOSED

Monday 2nd January 2023 – CLOSED

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Open as usual 8am-1pm and 2pm-6pm

Please call 111 or 999 in an emergency, if you are needing any assistance while we are closed.



***Merry Christmas from the
Partners and Staff at Ninfield Surgery***

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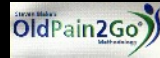
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NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

We were disappointed to hear that our November demonstrator had to withdraw early in the day owing to her husband being taken ill. We wish him well and hope she will be able to join us at some time in the future. We were, however, very fortunate to have 4 members agree to step onto the stage and bring us several delightful and varied arrangements.

Thank you for sharing your talents with us with such a short time for preparation.

We are beginning to feel very Christmassy at NFG. Having enjoyed our November workshop making an arrangement with candles and foliage, several members helped at the Methodist hall with Messy Church making arrangements with a candle for their Advent Adventure.

With the help of the children we also made table arrangements for the Christmas lunch being held at the Memorial Hall.

We still have tickets available for our Christmas Meeting on Friday 2nd December at 7.30pm. Our national demonstrator is Jacqui Arnold, floral designer and Chelsea gold medal winner with "Jingle all the Way". Always an enjoyable and festive occasion, tickets are £12 and include light refreshments. We also have a Christmas raffle as well as raffling the beautiful arrangements created by Jacqui. To book tickets call 0796 6659 552.

We take a break in January and start our new year on February 6th with our AGM.

We have welcomed ten new members in the past year and we would like to welcome even more.

If you love flowers do come along to our first demonstration of 2023, March 6th, and spend an enjoyable and relaxing evening with like-minded people.

All our monthly meetings take place in the Memorial Hall where there is free parking.

Christmas Waste Collections

	Your Usual day		Your revised day will be:
Monday	26 Dec 2022	Tuesday	27 Dec 2022
Tuesday	27 Dec 2022	Wednesday	28 Dec 2022
Wednesday	28 Dec 2022	Thursday	29 Dec 2022
Thursday	29 Dec 2022	Friday	30 Dec 2022
Friday	30 Dec 2022	Saturday	31 Dec 2022

Normal collections resume from ~~Monday~~ ¹⁵ Monday 2 January 2023

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

As you will all be aware the Parish Council launched the first stage of consultation (called regulation 14) documents for the Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011. It is an important and powerful tool that gives communities statutory powers to help shape their local area by setting out policies and proposals for the next 20 or so years. A neighbourhood plan affects how planning decisions are made by the District Authority, the law says that the decision taker (In our case the District Council) must make the decision in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise.

The development plan can consist of a number of different documents or plans, one of these is a Neighbourhood plan where these have been approved at referendum. There are two important consultations before the referendum, the Regulation 14 and then Regulation 18 both of these require residents to read the plan that has been put together and put their views on the documents forward. The referendum is then a yes/no vote as to whether you agree with the plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy - The Community Infrastructure Levy came into force in 2010 and is a planning charge designed to help local authorities deliver infrastructure to support development in their area. The developer pays the levy to the District Council. Where development has taken place 15% of the levy collected by the District Council is passed directly to parish and town councils but is capped to a maximum payment and anything above the cap is kept by the District Council..

However, another benefit of having a neighbourhood plan is - Where there is a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order and these have been made, 25% of the levy revenue from development that takes place in the area is given to the parish or town council. This gives the Parish Council money to spend in the village. The Law controls what it can be spent on but there is a big difference if we get 25% once the neighbourhood plan is in place.

So please help our Neighbourhood Plan become a reality and have a look at the document when the Regulation 18 consultation starts. We will let all households know how to do this at the time.

The next full council meeting is 15th December 2022, 7pm at the Methodist Hall



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What we are all about

HVCG exists to encourage, promote and support village activities and those local organisations that, by their hard work, offer help to those in our community who are in need at this difficult time.

Our thanks

We are hugely grateful for the help, support and generosity of our fellow Hoo residents and friends from further afield.

Warming Up The Homeless



Sally, Gary, Peter and Pam spent an enlightening afternoon having a guided tour of the back operations of Warming Up The Homeless in Bexhill by the Manager, Trudy. They heard about their wide and complex work and the help given to those in need in our local area. We were told of the total of 320 volunteers, generous with their time and life experiences, who keep the charity running. They offer a range of skills from

driving, cooking, shop management, store keeping, accountancy, PR, legal and counselling. One of the important roles is liaising with other charities and agencies designed to help move people on to a more comfortable and stable life.

Support for St Oswald's Church

At our Coffee morning in November, in addition to the usual attractions, Chris and Elaine were thrilled to be able to present cheques to the value of £500.00 and £250.00 to the Church on our behalf, thus adding to our ongoing financial support.

£500.00 was a donation towards their appeal for the provision of a toilet for the disabled at the church. As we are all aware any proposed building work/improvements in the vicinity of a church has to be approved not only by the planning authority but also the Diocese which adds time and extra expense to a project. However expensive, the provision of a toilet will be a great asset to the church and all who use it. (All donations will be gratefully received by the Churchwardens!)

Hooe Village Community Group also decided to help fund the 5 new tables purchased by the Church. In addition to the use by the Church they will be available to all who meet at the church socially. We were pleased to donate £250.00 towards the cost of the tables and even more pleased to be able to use them at our coffee morning!



Coffee Mornings

10th December: Our December Coffee Morning will, as you might expect, have a Christmas Theme. We will offer the usual attractions – delicious homemade cakes and ground coffee, with the added attraction of a seasonal touch. This will be a good time to stock up on your holiday reading and jigsaws – Anne will be pleased to see you! 19

Looking forward to 2023

8th January 2023: It will be so good to meet up in the New Year at our January Coffee morning and book exchange

Our coffee mornings are held regularly on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Please make a note in your 2023 diary!

We continue to be grateful to St Oswald's Church for permitting us to use their beautiful building and, of course, the very useful car park, for our events.

We will soon be able to share details of our 2023 events. Our list of residents who have asked for information to be sent by email is growing. Just send us your email address, we will be delighted to add you to the list.

Hooe Village Community Group working together for the good of everyone

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING CLASS

In aid of Ninfield and Crowhurst Scout Group.
£25 per person including cake and refreshments

Tuesday 6th December

Ninfield Village Memorial Hall

Classes at 9.15 and 12.15

We are delighted to be hosting this event again this year and hope you can join us. We supply everything to make a beautiful traditional wreath.

All you need bring is secateurs. We also have a raffle and lots of Christmas spirit. Come and join us!

Places limited , so please book in advance through
Veronica Sargent 07714327117

THE NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

do not meet in December but we kick off the new year on 12th January with a talk on Smuggling in the Local Area by David Swales. Looking ahead to the following months, on February 9th we have a talk on Bexhill - 100 Years Ago by Dave Hatherell and on 9th March we will have a talk on the Women's Land Army by Ian Everest.

We meet at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall, Church Lane, refreshments provided.

Our archives are open to the public on the last Monday of each month from 10 to 12, come along to find out more about our work or to browse through our many photos, maps and documents."

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News, Reviews and Revues - From Sami Guard

Gala Night: CANCELLED- I can't tell you how upset I was to have to pull this wonderful evening: - after asking for any last minute bookings, only another 2 came in, and unfortunately, the numbers just weren't enough to cover costs, it was just half an audience,.....so I've lost money on printing, the Bar License, the Bar stock etc..and the rest of the costs wouldn't have been covered, so that's just madness. This is SO unusual - I've never had to cancel before, in 15yrs- normally we have 120 people, the maximum allowed, in the Memorial Hall, all having a whale of a time: but this year, well- it wasn't the price - only £20 for supper, entertainments, dancing, Awards, etc etc etc...but the general feeling of doom and drear; the interest rate rise didn't help, the weather hasn't helped, some people did a last minute get away to friends and family around the country before the misery of an electricity struck winter sets in..whatever the reason, I was absolutely gutted - not only for me and the Rock Choir, but for the fabulous Fish&Chip shop in Bexhill who didn't get that extra business, and also for the chosen Charity, Lost Chord, to whom I was going to give profits after costs. I have asked those who HAD booked for the Show etc. to have a look and find their website and donate a little if they can; lost-chord.org.uk - their work is invaluable - providing music via therapy and performance to those living with Dementia in Care Homes all around the Country. So, there you are- there was nothing I could do, but I did shed a few tears that Saturday evening, really quite sad....

The Village Awards - the box was opened by Parish Council Chairman Kamala Williamson, with Kaye Crittall and myself, and the winners are as follows -

The Unsung Hero Award - Keith Morgan - for all his work, experience and dedication behind the scenes, supporting Cllr John Cheshire and the team, who have all put together the draft of the Ninfield Neighbourhood Plan..

The Roger Kent Award - The Village Sociey - for their work within the Village and fantastic achievement in getting Church Woods the status of designated Local Nature Reserve.

Ninfield Village Community Shield:- Marjorie Sharp and Maureen Burgess - 'The Two Ladies' who walk round the Village, litter picking and tidying the notice boards, and dusting them as required!

The recipients will get their Awards at different events, depending on their availability, and if you happen to be present, please give them a cheer- I hope everyone reading this will send a round of virtual applause to them all

- I feel so gutted that they have missed their Gala Night opportunity to have the spotlight they deserve.

Ninfield Village Remembrance Service: How lovely to see around 150 residents, friends, Scouts and parents all gathering to process from St Mary's, or congregating at Queen Elizabeth Garden on the Recreation Ground. In beautiful sunshine, Rev Paul Frostick lead the Service, with Revd Crawford Logan leading the prayers, plus Scouts, Cubs and Beavers holding, and dipping, their standards and flags. Wreaths were laid at Tommie's feet, the Ninfield rolls of honour from both World Wars were read out, and the Last Post & Reveille were perfectly played, live, by young Sebastian Starr- not a note out of place, just Excellent! There was a football match booked on the Rec, but they changed their kick off time so half time would coincide with the 2 mins Silence and Act of Remembrance.: the players stood in a circle mid pitch, heads bowed, as a mark of respect. The sunshine was warm, as was the atmosphere, all in all a wonderful morning of Remembrance.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: In light of the Gala Night being cancelled, for all the reasons stated, the question now has to be seriously asked-

New Year's Eve - Would you be interested in.- A Village Party at the Memorial Hall ??? - Food, Disco. Light Show ALL ages welcome. If you ARE interested in helping put this Village event together it would be great to hear from you...we would like to have an idea of numbers before we commit to costs!!!! - There are already 2 'Do's' in the pipeline - at the Blacksmiths Inn, and at the Working Men's Club - so, can the Village support another Party? We will have discussed this on the 16th November at our meeting at the Working Men's Club- and a decision will probably have been made as to how to proceed - BUT! -LET ME KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS! Unless there are a lot of people keen, and committed to going to a New Year Party- it certainly won't happen!

Please - call 07970650321, or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com for any information on events, and all Dance Classes held in the Memorial Hall, and Methodist Hall - Thank You!

Worms Eye View

Life can be full of surprises and this is one I would like to share with you. A few weeks ago, I answered a ring on my door bell to find a policeman standing there who kindly enquired if I was well a he was worried. I reassured him that I was fine and then he explained.

Apparently he had driven by the house a short while before and had seen me bent over double whilst sitting on a chair in the garden: this bothered him and he decided to return and check on me. Now I felt this was extremely kind and I explained what I had been doing, and having just walked down the garden path he quickly understood. You see I have a fish pond in the middle of the lawn and when I feed my three fish each day, I like to sit and watch them rise to the surface and chase after the food. This episode made me feel happy and grateful for the time and bother to return that the lovely policeman had taken to check up on me and it reminded me of all the goodness there is in the world.

I have recently learned a few more facts about St. Oswald's Church, Hooe, one being that the name Hooe comes from the Saxon era and means the ridge. The present church dates back to the 13th Century but does have, in fact, Saxon foundations. The church was rebuilt in the 15th Century and again in 1890, when it was said that the Church was damp and had an unsafe rood. However, please do not be put off coming to visit the church, because today it is quite safe and warm and everyone is welcome, either to explore or to join in with the weekly services, which are followed by a nice cup of coffee and a chat. The church has a lovely welcoming feeling

and is quite restful. There are several special services as Christmas approaches which I am sure we all enjoy. And so, a Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Anne

Book/Community Cafe

The Book Exchange Café will be open on Friday 2nd December from 10-11.30. Community Café sessions will run on all other Fridays in December except 30th December when we are closed. Please note that on 9th December the Café will be held in the church not the hall.

In the lead up to Christmas we have planned a couple of special events. On 16th December we will have a Beetle Drive and on 23rd December some Christmas fayre, songs & carols. Everyone is welcome at these friendly sessions.

In the New Year our first Book Exchange Café will be on Friday 6th January. For further information please contact David dj_swales@hotmail.com or **892248**.

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NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

We meet regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Working Men's club. New and Old members are very welcome to pop in and hello.

NBS will hold a stall at the Ninfield Village Market on Saturday 17th December. Having seen our Spectacular Fireworks why don't you get involved in next year's Display and come and join as a member? We run a tombola and if you need some NBS clothing then we sell a range of merchandise.

Bonfire History

The Sussex Bonfire season draws to a close and we would like to thank all our members, sponsors, supporters, and everyone else who helped make our return the great success that it was. We will have a few weeks off over Christmas and then we will be straight back into planning our 2023 fundraising events!

This seems a good time to reflect on what Bonfire is all about... We all know that the basis of our celebration is the capture of Guy Fawkes and the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot on 5th November 1605, but why was Guy planning to blow up the King and parliament? One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, as the saying goes, and the plotters lead by Robert Catesby were trying to end the persecution of Catholics by the government. At the time practicing the Catholic faith was illegal and could land you in the Tower of London!

Bonfire night could have been much earlier in the year but outbreaks of plague postponed meetings of parliament. Once a date was set the plotters rented a vault under parliament and moved 36 barrels of gunpowder there. Some historians suggest that the powder may have been too damp to explode, but if it had the blast radius could have been half a kilometre taking in many busy London streets and killing hundreds of ordinary people. Lord Monteagle, the brother-in-law of one of the plotters was sent a letter warning him not to go to parliament on 5th November which led to Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder being discovered around midnight on 4th November. In 1606 5th November was made a day of thanksgiving to be celebrated throughout the land with bonfires burning effigies of Guy Fawkes. Even now, there is a ceremonial search before every state opening of parliament... just in case.

The Sussex obsession with bonfires and fireworks may be in part due to the extensive production of gunpowder in the county, and it is often stated that Battle produced the best powder and that some of this may have made its way into the vaults beneath parliament. Battel is the oldest recorded bonfire society, followed closely by the Lewes societies who commemorate 17 protestant martyrs burnt at the stake between 1555 and 1557 and burn an effigy of Pope Paul V. Despite these dark beginnings bonfires are now friendly and inclusive events for people of any religion or none at all!

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. Find us on Facebook/ Instagram or <http://www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk/>

Christmas Present Appeal

Dom's FOOD Mission based in Hastings was a charity set up in 2015 to help less fortunate families, last year alone they saved 122 tonnes of food going to landfill.



This year they are again running their Santa Grotto for all families and are seeking donations of new presents for children ideally under nine that Santa can give them on Tuesday 20th December between 5pm and 8pm.

The committee of Ninfield Memorial Hall have kindly agreed that a collection box can be placed in the hall for any donated gifts to be left when the hall is open.

We appreciate times are getting more and more difficult for many but if you feel you can donate a gift that would be brilliant or alternatively just spread the word about Dom's FOOD Mission.

The gifts need to be new and not wrapped as the team of volunteers at Dom's FOOD Mission will sort and wrap for Santa in advance of the special day.

Alternatively you can call Donna (07812 670435) and I can either collect direct from you or arrange for you to drop a gift into me.

Many thanks and merry Christmas

Donna Powell



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Martin Wood

12th March 1945 - 13th October 2022

Although born in Northampton Martin and the family soon moved to Abbey Wood, where with his 3 older sisters, Martin enjoyed a very happy childhood. Early school days were spent at Bedonwell Primary School, passing the 11+ he moved to Erith Grammar School. One of the highlights of his time was a trip to the 1960 Rome Olympics. Martin had such affection for the school he kept his cap and tie.

After A Levels Martin went on to study Physics at Woolwich Polytechnic and attained his BSc Honours. He loved his time at university but chose work rather than further study once he completed his degree.

Having chosen manufacturing Martin spent 20 years or so with STC which became ITT where they manufactured undersea telephone cables. In 1986 he was invited to join a microelectronics start up in Hampshire before completing his career at Standex in Tonbridge. His working years started in the days of transistors and spanned the introduction of microchips. Although his work included the design and manufacture of memory chips Martin avoided using a computer or any technology once he retired .

Over the years work took him to several countries around the world, six months in the Philippines, shorter trips to Europe, the USA and, later, China. He said recently he felt so lucky to have thoroughly enjoyed his working life.

Martin's hobbies and interests were varied. He'd enjoyed playing rugby at school keeping that interest as a spectator throughout his life enjoying several visits to Twickenham including regular trips to see the Middlesex Sevens but his main sporting love was cricket and continued to play into his 50s. His strengths were as a bowler and freely admitted he was not much of a batsman.

Another great love was theatre. In the early 60s he followed his sister Barbara in joining Erith Playhouse in Kent where he met Janice. Over the years he built sets, stage managed, directed and appeared in several productions. He once played Mr Spock in pantomime with pointed ears made from modelling clay, baked in the oven then stuck on with glue. Martin and Jan had some very happy times and made some treasured lifelong friends at the Playhouse.

Having moved to Hampshire Martin needed to find new hobbies to add to cricket so became a non-uniformed helper at Scouts. He helped organise night hikes, took part in 'marching marathons' at the army base and worked with Jan to produce 2 gang shows for Winchester District. The productions led to him being invited to join Theatre Royal as a volunteer crew member which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Martin loved animals, particularly big cats, and spent a couple of years as an education volunteer at Marwell Zoo. ²⁸One perk was to get a little closer

to the animals than the general public. His highlight, an encounter with the Siberian tigers – behind bars but still awesome.

Having become used to a more rural life in Hampshire they were determined to find another village to call home and in 1998 felt very lucky to have chosen Ninfield they found it easy to settle into the friendly village. Retirement 12 years ago allowed Martin to take up new hobbies.

He played Bridge, was a member of Probus, wound the village clock, was treasurer of Ninfield Local History Group, Arthritis Research Campaign and Neighbourhood Watch. He was chairman of Ninfield Village Society for some years and the highpoint of his week was Wednesday mornings working in Church Wood and he enjoyed taking part in carnival with them. Martin missed this terribly when his health began to let him down but he busied himself in his vegetable garden as much as possible always saying 'I don't do flowers – you can't eat those'.

Martin's last commitment in the village was as Chairman of the Memorial Hall and he was delighted to see the building updated.

Martin's priority was always his family. He missed them terribly when in the Philippines and asked Chris and Dom (then 6 and 10) what would he should bring home for them. A coconut! He managed to bring it home across thousands of mile only for them to decide they didn't like the taste!

Christmas mornings always seemed to find him on the floor constructing whichever new Lego set they had received.

He was very proud of his sons and always supportive of whatever activities they were involved in. He was delighted when Andria joined the family and didn't hesitate to throw himself into the father's dance at the wedding!

The arrival of his 2 grandsons Alexander and Matthew thrilled him and gave him the opportunity to buy more Lego! He loved having them to stay during school holidays and enjoyed nothing more than to spend a few hours on the beach at Bexhill throwing stones into the sea, just being a grandad.

Martin said that he was lucky to have enjoyed excellent health until his early seventies and found it difficult to come to terms with the problems of the past few years. He was frustrated that he could no longer do some of the things he loved but he was a fighter and tried his best to stay positive.

He will leave a huge hole in our hearts and lives but we know he would want us to carry on and stay close to each other.

The family thank everyone who attended the funeral and for your many cards, phone calls and messages of condolence. It really has helped.



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Workhouses.

Work houses grew out of the mediaeval practice of almshouses, which provided refuge for travellers, pilgrims or those too infirm or unable to fend for themselves for a variety of causes. But whilst travellers and pilgrims moved on after some rest, others stayed to become almost permanent fixtures. The Church provided for them as charity cases, which worked well until Henry VIII and the break with Rome. Religion became a hot topic, and led to the Reformation when Henry decided to confiscate all religious property. Immediately, monasteries, abbeys and convents and the monks, friars, sisters and nuns were unceremoniously cast out, as Henry then sold these valuable estates to those wealthy enough to afford it. Much like the selling off of council houses, except the tenants didn't benefit!

But the charity cases still existed. Far from indulging them, as the Church had done for spiritual good, the new landowners were only interested in recouping what they had paid, and if you couldn't provide them with an income, out you went. Where?

The first Poor Laws were passed during the reign of Elizabeth the First, and were generally regarded as Alms Houses, as in Hooe.

The principle behind "workhouses" was obviously to get those people too poor to pay their tithes to the Church some way of still contributing to the good of the Parish. Often, farm workers either became simply too old or worn out by hard toil to be able to complete the arduous work on a farm, but still had skills that could be useful. Others were injured operating farm machinery, or by accident, or birth defects. Some, however were simply too idle to want to contribute, and that unfortunately became the prevailing view, that those in the workhouse were only there because they would not do anything to help themselves.

The Parishes then set up these workhouses to provide for their own residents and were less than welcoming to those suddenly arriving from elsewhere without good reason.

There were workhouses in Ninfield, (now sanitised as White House Farm) which housed some 15 cases; Hooe (30), Wartling (40); Herstmonceux (45 inmates); and all neighbouring Parishes. So, Ninfield was a much smaller village than Hooe and Wartling. But with the advent of better means of transport, people moved from place to place as work demands allowed. This in turn led inevitably to some Parishes having charity cases that were only there because that's where they were at the time, but may have been living elsewhere for some longer time. So who would pay for these? Often they

were sent back to their "home" parish, even though they may have only been born there and travelled around the country for the rest of their lives.

Eventually the problem was large enough to need resolution by Parliament and so revised Poor Laws were enacted in 1835. This provided for a proper system of Poor Relief, with dedicated facilities. But they had to be paid for, out of the General Rate and were therefore often resented, leading to the stigma associated with being in the workhouse. But often these were where farm workers, turfed out of farms when the harvest was done, simply went back into work, when demand for help for ploughing etc were required. A hard cycle to break when you haven't the means to save. Kevin Regan



NINFIELD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL
SATURDAY 17th December
9.30 - 12.00

VILLAGE MARKET

The November Christmas Market was busy, and we were all so pleased to see the new to us Fruit an Veg stall, she was busy, and next to her was another new stall selling lamb, hogget, sausages, pork and venison.

I had some hogget chump chops and they were soo good! Hogget? Two year old 'lamb', tenderness of lamb with more flavour!

There was also some lovely bread, Maggi had been busy making her fantastic cakes; eggs; jams; chutneys; honey as well as the lovely craft stalls!

So see you all on 17th December, but remember there is no January market!

Enquiries to ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (BCE) is redrawing constituency boundaries in order to re balance the number of electors represented by each MP, and a final consultation on proposed new constituencies is now open.

A new revised map of constituency proposals, which takes into account feedback sent in by the public on the initial proposals, has been published on the consultation website bcereviews.org.uk.

Send in your views before the closing date of 5 December to have your say on new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Carolyn Sherlock Senior Electoral Services Officer



NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Crawford J. Logan
18 Woodlands, Bexhill TN39 4RJ. Tel: 01424 845109
email: revcjlogan@hotmail.co.uk
website: hbrmethodists.org.uk

December 2022:

- 4th 10.30 am Advent Café Worship with Dawn Novis
11th 10.30 am Advent Worship & Communion with
Revd. Crawford Logan
18th 10.30 am Advent Worship & Praise with Mrs. Charmaine Hill
24th 4.00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY Candlelight Carols with
Revd. Crawford Logan
25th 10.30 am CHRISTMAS DAY PRAISE @ Christchurch Methodist
Church, Bexhill

January 2023:

- 1st 10.30 am NEW YEAR'S UNITED SERVICE @ Little Common
Methodist Church
8th 10.30 am United Covenant Service with St. Mary's Parish Church
15th 10.30 am Service of Worship & Praise with Margaret Bickerdike
22nd 10.30 am Service of Worship & Praise with Alan Hurrell
29th 10.30 am Service of Worship & Praise with Revd. Crawford Logan

Other Events:

2/9/16/23 Dec & Jan. Fridays 10.00-11.30 Community Café including
2 Dec / Jan 6 10.00-11.30 Book exchange in Hall.
see separate notices Christian Women's Fellowship.

25 Jan 3.30-5.30pm Messy Church

We are pleased to share our programme of services & activities for Christmas-time & January. Do come along whenever you can.

It was 'special' to unite for a lovely Service of Remembrance in November which took place on the village green with about 150 people. Lots of folk including the scouts then came back to our Hall for refreshments.

We look forward to our Christmas Eve Candlelight service when we will have lots of Christmas songs & praise with Reverend Crawford.

From early December our Christmas Tree will be decorated outside of our Hall. We invite you to tie any Remembrance 'Lights of love' stars onto the Tree.

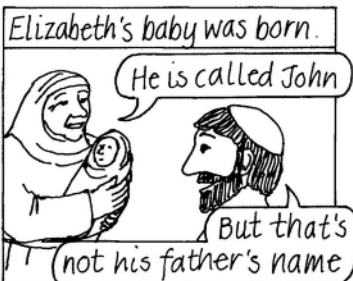
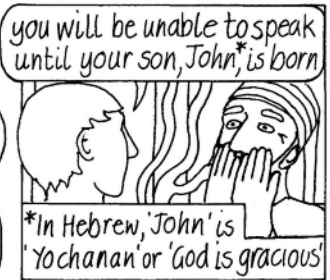
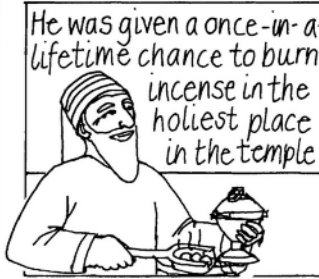
We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas & New Year.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke ch.1 verses 1-25 & 57-80

The Romans had invaded Israel and still ruled it. Zechariah and Elizabeth were an old childless couple living in the hill country.



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 BOOTS & 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 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 & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422
HOOE SPORTS CLUB Mr Jay Skinner-Swain jay19942009@hotmail.co.uk or 07713 950161
HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: *Jane Warrener: 07548 528754*
CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Pam Doodles, Catslide, Hooe 892329
1066 RINGERS Carole Ballard 01424 210980
STOOLBALL: Fixture Sec. Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

PARISH WHO'S WHO

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

PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

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

Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose

Treasurer: Mr Phil Ringrose

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD, HOOE

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

Secretary: Mr John Fairclough

Treasurer: Mrs Cynthia Fairclough

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

THE PARISH NEWS Email ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com 893326

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Jackie Scarff 07725 843505 clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Jane Warrener: 07548 528754 clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: EMAIL ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Jane Warrener: 07548 528754 clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Booking Secretary: Mr David Swales 892248

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