

THE

PARISH



NEWS

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

February 2022 50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



Date	St. Mary's 9.30 unless stated	St. Oswald's 11.00 unless stated
6 th Feb	Parish Eucharist	Family Service
13 th Feb	<i>No Service</i>	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist
20 th Feb	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
27 th Feb	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

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

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

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

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

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

And after he [Jesus] had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. (Matthew 14:23)

Dear Friends

When I get the opportunity, I like to watch 'Murder Mysteries' on the telly and there seem to be so many of them! And yes, I much prefer the old Poirot to the new one. Do murder mysteries accurately depict reality? Daft question, of course not. The murder rate in Midsomer, a beautiful English country district, is higher than London. And, after watching Morse / Lewis / Endeavor, no sensible person would ever visit Oxford again. See Oxford and die! We have just been watching the new series of Death in Paradise. How can a small island have so many murders!!

What amuses me is the depiction of clergy in all these series even in the Caribbean! Passing over those instances where the vicar is the murderer (a clear indication that the selection process doesn't always work) or one of the horribly murdered victims, he or she can always be found in Church (often polishing the brasses, tidying the hymnbooks or playing the organ) and can remember obscure pieces of information from many years previously at the drop of a hat.

I can't think of any vicar who has the time these days to potter about in Church. We're too busy, spending most of our time visiting, attending meetings or at our desks.

As for Father Brown, where does he get the time to solve murders? One thing these series get nearly right is on those occasions when the detective walks into an open Church to find the vicar, at that precise moment, kneeling at the communion rail in prayer. Well, sometimes I go into church to pray but, mostly, I pray in my study.

Nonetheless, I guess, the writers of these series deserve some credit for acknowledging the importance of prayer in the lives of parish clergy. Admittedly, sometimes it can be a struggle to carve out the time for prayer, but it can be done.

But how about you? Prayer is not for the clergy alone; anyone can do it. Indeed, it is something all Christians should do, and I would strongly urge everyone to set aside a quiet time each day to read the Bible and pray. Jesus is our model in this. Even when busy, he took himself off to somewhere quiet, away from the crowds, to pray.

And, whilst you are at it, don't forget to ask God to bless these two Churches with the funding we need to pay for essential repairs, a new boiler in Ninfield church and looking to build a new toilet in Hooe church and to properly cover the cost of mission and evangelism in our parishes.

Of course, there is much more you could pray for. Our weekly pewsheet suggests some topics and we hope you take them home with you, and you can always pick up a spare copy in church, but this is not a definitive list. Often, the best thing to do is pray as you feel led. Remember though prayer is not a shopping list of wants to God, it is relaxing in his presence and sharing with him your concerns. It is then he speaks to us, shares with us and responds to us.

Paul

PRAYER

God's Valentine

For God so loved the world He sent His Son
There was no other way to let us know,
So Jesus came to us from heaven's realm
To bring God's love to all of us below.

He took on flesh, became like one of us,
Taught and healed and loved wherever He went
Showing the Father's love for all to see
He truly was a gift from heaven sent.

The Bible is God's precious Word of Life
A living breathing word like no other,
It is a heavenly letter of love to us
Sent 'From your God the Everlasting Father'.



St Mary's Parish Church

Interment of ashes

Violet Mary Roe - 2nd January.

*from the
Parish Records*

NEWS FROM ST. OSWALD'S.

CAROL SERVICE This all starts with the traditional gathering of kind volunteer flower arrangers to decorate the church with greenery and candles, this year was no different except we had more and new helpers including 2 year old Kobe and 20 year old Amelia. The latter took the eight foot Christmas Tree in hand and in no time at all it was perfectly decorated and bright with fairy lights leaving time to enchant the former. By tea time the day before the Carol Service the church was dressed in it's Christmas finery, Crib in place and Kings strategically placed far off, we are so grateful for the help and talent of our loyal and new volunteers.

Despite fears on the Covid front we went ahead and held the Service, albeit without the Silver Band who were forced to cancel at the last minute, as three of their players had the virus! However every cloud has a silver lining, the chairs laid out ready in the Chancel and the Bell Tower were left in place we were able to offer plenty of options for social distancing. In the event about 65 people attended a service of Carols, Bible readings and poems enhanced by Stephen Parry, a very kind volunteer organist from Ninfield and Rev. Paul Frostick finding recordings the evening before to replace the Silver Band's much missed accompaniments.

The path was lit by solar lights replacing the 'nightlights in jam-jars' of previous years and whilst it was not perhaps quite so magical an effect, those of us who have struggled in wind and rain to keep them upright and alight were very grateful to be spared the bending, swearing and tripping! (Also an unexpected benefit to those of us who lock the church, sometimes after the winter sun has dipped below the horizon, to have a path so lit up and welcoming). The solar lights are now back in their boxes and we hope they will last long enough to light up our path for future evening events.

The other difference this year was the lack of refreshments after the service and whilst that will have been missed by some, for others who have traditionally provided and cleared up afterwards, it made for a more peaceful start to the Christmas celebrations. Thank you to Rev. Paul Frostick for working so hard to bring the message of Christmas to us all.

"The alternative Carol Service" was brought to our doors by Jack Rist, DJ and Dick Carey calling at houses and pubs around Hooe on two nights before Christmas playing carols from the back of Dick's van. I doubt there are many villages that could boast a Mobile Carol Unit! Hugely welcome - thank you.

VISITORS BOOK

Slightly fewer visitors on dark winter days nevertheless a couple of quotes:

“3rd visit here. Timeless. Beautiful.” JK/EH Bexhill and Japan

“Beautiful atmosphere of peace” AB Eastbourne

NB next month a parishioner writes of his daily walks around the churchyard

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH SPRING-CLEAN AND CHURCHYARD TIDYING.

Saturday 19th March 10.00am until 1pm

Please, could you spare an hour or so to help us to do those jobs that need doing, but never quite reach the top of the list. We will be pleased to see you. All ages will be welcome. If possible, please bring dusters and cleaning implements for in the church or secateurs, gardening tools and gloves for working in the churchyard. We will have drinks available. If the weather is good, there is room to picnic outside. If wet, there is enough room inside to keep us all safe. We hope to see, some old and some new friends.

Editors' Note

Welcome to 2022 and our first edition of the year. This week on the days that the sun has been shining it has been really nice to get out for a good walk or do some gardening, both of which make you feel so much better, let's hope sunny days, in all aspects continue.

When your March edition is delivered to your door please have ready your £5.00 annual payment for the Parish News, we are pleased that we are still able to keep the cost to 50p per issue.

There are quite a few new people living in the village and if one of them is next door to you, or you have been chatting to them, please give them your copy of the News so they could perhaps have a copy each month too.

Those of you who pick up your copies at the Church or Stores and would like a delivery, please phone 893326 and leave a message or email ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

Nicki & Carol



ST MARY'S CHURCH BOILER

The oil boiler in St. Mary's was installed over 30 years ago and has served us well over this time. Unfortunately, about a year ago it broke down and owing to the Covid pandemic we were unable to replace it at that time. Luckily our engineer was able to undertake a temporary repair which has held up well and enabled us to continue operating. Without this we would have been unable to hold services etc. during the winter months.

We don't know how long the temporary repair will last so we have decided to install a replacement boiler. The cost of replacing and installing the new boiler is £8,147.00 This is a substantial amount and whilst we just have sufficient reserves to pay for this the pandemic has resulted in a fall in numbers attending services which has meant that income has fallen dramatically and has left the church finances in a parlous state.

Obviously, in order to continue weekly services and any weddings, funerals and baptisms for members of the parish, we must ensure that the church has an efficient heating system. The new boiler is due to be installed on 14th February and will take around 3 days.

During this time the church will not be open for visiting or private prayer.

In view of the above we would be grateful for any donations that parishioners feel able to make to assist with the cost of the new boiler.

These can be sent by cheque payable to Ninfield PCC to me at Fir Tree House, The Green, Ninfield TN33 9JQ or direct into the church bank account which is as follows

Account	Ninfield PCC
Bank.	Santander
Sort code	09 01 55
Account No.	82878608

If anyone would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Phil Ringrose – Churchwarden. Tel no: 892792.

February Diary

3 rd	Health Walk	
4 th	Ninfield Book Exchange Cafe	26
7 th	Ninfield Flower Group	26
10 th	Ninfield History Group	13
11 th	Hooe & Ninfield Open Group	17
12 th	Hooe Coffee morning and Community Library	24
14 th	Hooe Parish Council meeting	23
15 th	Indoor Games	
16 th	Bonfire Meeting	11
17 th	Health Walk	
	Hooe History Society	12
19 th	Ninfield Village Market	
	Film Night James Bond No Time to Die	
21 st	Ninfield Horticultural Society	18
24 th	Men's Shed	
26 th	Vintage Games Night	11

Now that the Memorial Hall is open again it is getting very busy with regular weekly and monthly bookings, one off events, including a lot of children's parties booked, so here is a run down of the regular events, either weekly or monthly, now available

MONDAYS: Movement to Music, 9.45 Ladies Fun Badminton 1.30

TUESDAYS: After School Club 3.30 Cubs 6.00

WEDNESDAYS: Pilates 9.15; Yoga 10.15; Art Group 2.00;

Dancersize 6.45 Rock Choir 7.45

THURSDAYS: Mothers & Toddlers 9.00; Beavers 5.00; Scouts 7.00

FRIDAYS: Cardio Workout 9.30; Crafting Group 10.00; Pilates 10.30;
Burlesque or Ballroom 7.15

Ninfield Flower Group meet on the first Monday of month with the Horticultural Society on the third

On the third Tuesday there is the indoor games afternoon, lots of board games, tea and chats

The Memorial Hall Committee on the third Saturday of the month host the Village Market, also often but not always, on the third Saturday is the Film Night, In February it is on 19th , starting at **7.15 the new James Bond Movie - No Time to Die**

If you are interested in any of the events at the Memorial Hall or anywhere else in Ninfield or Hooe, the organisers' details are listed on page 31, most of the groups have their own websites and or facebook pages and of course posters go up on the various notice boards around the villages., Or you can always email us ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com and we'll do our best to help.

If you have an event you'd like listed don't forget to let us know!

**Some of the events to look forward to over the year
Some of these are still provisional and others still being thought
about!**

4 th March	Musical Matinee then 17 th Jun, 23 rd Sept, 25 th Nov
12 th March	Flower Group Jumble Sale
15 th March	Wreath Workshop
19 th March	Bonfire's St, Patrick's Irish Evening
26 th March	Horticultural Society Spring Show
9 th /10 th Apr	Exhibition and Sale of Art
23 rd Arpil	Horticultural Society Plant Sale
21st May	An evening with Sami
2 nd /5 th June	Jubilee Weekend- 4 days of events throughout the two villages
25 th /26 th June	Hooe Open Gardens
July	Ninfield Open Gardens
7 th Aug	Hooe Motor Show
20 th Aug	Horticultural Society Summer Show
26 th /28 th Aug	Flower Festival
8 th Oct	Flower Group Bonfire
22 nd Oct	Bonfire Night
29 th /30 th Oct	Exhibition an Sale of Art
26 th Nov	Home Made Fayre

OUR SCHOOL

Well, we made it to the end of the term. There were a few scares along the way with cases of Covid increasing as we got closer to the end of term. Unfortunately, this meant that a number of events had to be cancelled or changed at the last moment but everyone worked hard to ensure the children had as normal a run up to Christmas as possible. We even made sure that Father Christmas took a Lateral Flow Test before he met the children!

Talking of Christmas, we would like to thank all of you who donated prizes to the raffle. It was a great success and raised some much needed funds for the school. Fundraising in a pandemic is not easy so this was a welcome boost.

This year is going to be a busy one. Work is about to begin on our de-carbonisation project with the additional insulation being added to the four oldest classrooms, prior to all the work on the new boiler and heating system. This is going to be very disruptive and it will be a challenge to everyone, but the end result will be lower bills and a more comfortable learning environment, so I am sure it will be worth it in the end.

Here is to a safe and prosperous 2022 and to getting back to some sort of normality, whatever that is these days. Ian Moffat

THE NINFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN has reached an important stage in the process and a draft Plan has been agreed by the Steering Group and the Parish Council. I would like to thank everyone on the Steering Group who helped put this all together and thanks also go to everyone in the community who has engaged with the process and shared views and opinions.

The draft Plan has been sent to Wealden District Council for their opinion and we hope to have their views by mid February. Once they have made comments, the Plan will go forward for the Regulation 14 community consultation, a six week period when residents and other stakeholders can comment. As you probably know we are not asking for land for more housing (our village has already taken a huge quantity of new housing) so the next stages will be simpler than many other NDPs. Once we are sure the Plan has met all conditions required, we can move forward to Examination by an Independent Examiner. This then leads to a referendum on the final Plan, which if passed, can then be adopted and will play an important role in planning decisions going forward.

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

Meet regularly on the third Wednesday of the Month at 7.30 at The Working Men's Club, all you need to do is..... just drop in!

On Saturday February 26th there will be a Vintage Games night at The Tin Hut (Working Men's Club if you didn't know!) Table top skittles, bagatelle, shove penny and shove halfpenny, and many more you didn't know existed, No need to book, just come along.

March 19th St Patricks Day Irish Evening at The Memorial Hall
 October 22nd BONFIRE!

More details on Facebook and website

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Ninfield's Art Group started back in January with their regular Wednesday Afternoons at te Memorial Hall and are planning two Exhibitions and Sales of Art in April and October. More information next month.

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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

As we turn the corner into 2022 we remain in the grip of Covid 19 and all the uncertainty associated with this dreadful disease. Hooe History Society will try to maintain our monthly meetings, whilst doing our best to ensure a safe location for attendees. As government guidelines are subject to change at short notice, it is possible that our programme may be similarly affected. However, I will set out our proposed speakers for the year, as follows:-

- Jan 20 – Alexis Markwick, **Bexhill mapping in a digital age**;
- Feb 17 – Melinda Stone, **A history of Herstmonceux Castle**;
- Mar 17 – Malcolm Wells, **So far so good**;
- Apr 21 – Ray Cade, **My experiences as a detective in the Metropolitan Police**;
- May 19 – Ken Brooks, **Fossil Folklore**;
- Jun 16 – Jan Black, **Sussex food (with tasters)**;
- July 21 – David Swale, **Life at Michelham Priory**;
- Aug 18 – **Outing to Herstmonceux Science Centre**;
- Sep 15 – TBA;
- Oct 20 – Ian Everest, **Flanders and the Somme, now and then**;
- Nov 17 – Brian Freeland, **Talk to be advised**;
- Dec 15 – **Social evening**.

DID YOU KNOW ... I came across this delightful letter in the Sussex Agricultural Express, dated November, 1906. It was sent by Charles Pilbeam, aged 9, of Hooe National School. Little did this young lad know that his letter would help throw a light on the bonfire and Hooe Band over 100 years later...

Dear Uncle Tom, - As you asked for an account of the 5th of November celebrations, I thought I would write and tell you about it at Hooe. Well, there was a bonfire society in the village, consisting of about fifty members, who met at the Red Lion about six o'clock, dressed in various costumes, which looked very nice, especially the ladies. A procession was formed, and started about 6.30 paraded the village, headed by the Hooe Fife and Drum Band. They stopped at the principal houses in the village and gave the ribbon dance. After parading round, the "bonfire boys" returned to my father's field, where a large fire was lighted about 9 o'clock; but did not burn much, as it was wet. Everything passed off very well. The "boys" had collections on their round, and, I heard, collected nearly £3, which is to be sent to the East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. - Your affectionate nephew, Charles Pilbeam.

SPRING/EASTER WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP FOR SCOUT GROUP FUNDS

Following a very successful day holding wreath classes at Christmas, We have decided to run seasonal classes where possible. We invite you to come and make a beautiful weaved willow door ring to be adorned with seasonal foliage and easter decorations of your choice. All tuition will be given and really is open to all. You can even bring back your metal ring from your Christmas wreath and we can recycle it as the frame for this one!



The classes will be held at St Marys Church, Church Lane, Ninfield, either 9.30 or 12.30 on Tuesday 15th March. Perfect for a Mothers Day gift or for Easter. Places are £25 including all materials refreshments and of course, fantastic cakes! We will have a raffle and some extra goodies available to buy and so look forward to hosting another relaxed, fun social event.

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

Please call Veronica on 07714327117 for bookings

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

hope to have a February meeting with a talk on the History of Pantomime by Ian Gledhill on 10th Feb.

Also, the History Archive is hoping to be open on Monday 28th Jan.

Watch for details!

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

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SCOUT CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP A HUGE SUCCESS



On behalf of 1st Ninfield and Crowhurst Scout Group, we would like to say a huge thank you to all that attended the event at St Marys Church Ninfield on 7th December. We made over 50 wreaths and had two very busy sessions creating handmade wreaths, hay bound rings and adding beautiful adornments. Visitors were able to select their own foliage from a wide range including lots of lovely tree trimmings with huge thanks to Catsfield Christmas tree Farm.

The church was a wonderful backdrop to the day despite the howling weather. Thank you to St Marys for stepping in when our usual hall venue was unavailable and being enormously helpful and accommodating. Also a huge thanks to Ninfield Methodist church for the loan of extra tables for the class. Much appreciated.

We also had the usual raffle at each class with an exciting menagerie of prizes as well as our signature fantastic cakes and refreshments. Particular thanks to Karen Duval Catherine McCann and Sue Edwards without whom this event would not be possible. They worked tirelessly all day and with planning and preparing, foraging for foliage and making decorations. They were fantastic in helping those that needed it and making the event such a success. We are delighted to announce we made £923 for the local scout group to go toward equipment renewal.



On behalf of the whole scout group Thank you so much,

Veronica Sargent, group fundraiser



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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.

Sussex Water & Drainage

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

David Bowker

07548751024
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HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP

met on Friday 14th January in Hooe Village Hall and were treated to a very interesting and informative talk by Angela Wallis of Woodside Acupuncture & Massage Clinic. Now open in Ninfield! She explained the history of acupuncture and how it is used in modern times, not only for treating pain but can help many other things e.g. poor sleep, anxiety and stress. To qualify Angela took a three year course at university, has a BSc degree and now has over 10 years' experience. Attendance was low which was a shame as those unable to come missed a good afternoon. Next meeting is Friday 11th February at 2.00pm when we will be having an illustrated talk on the making of a walled garden. All are welcome, it is an Open Group, and you don't have to be a member to attend. There is always a cup of tea/coffee/biscuits and a chance for a chat and make new friends.

Heather & Nicki

Ninfield Parish Council

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

Ninfield Parish Council did not meeting December due to the covid restrictions and advice that we were given.

This time of year is time to set the Precept for the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. The Councillors have reduced the precept for the forthcoming year by £2000 to £60,950.

The budget for the year will be on the Parish Council website.

We are hoping to be able to meet as normal in February (17th at the Methodist Hall) but please keep an eye on the website and social media.

NINFIELD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY

9.30 - 12.00

VILLAGE MARKET

**Watch www.ninfieldmemorialhall.co.uk and facebook
New this month local farmer with own produced beef**

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NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Good News! With the hall being opened and looking forward to a more 'normal' 2022, the Horticultural Society have confirmed their speakers for next year. All our events will be held at Ninfield Memorial Hall and start at 7.30pm

February 21st – All Gardens Great and Small – Irene Eltringham Willson is the East and Mid Sussex Organiser for the National Open Garden Scheme

March 21st – Sussex Gardens Trust – Jenny Starr will talk about the Charity and its protection, conservation and evolution of the local garden heritage

April 19th – Rapkyns Nursery – Steven Moore will talk about his nursery. He will bring along a selection of plants which he will talk about and will be available for sale

September 19th – All Things Herbal – Jan Black will be talking to us on growing herbs for cooking, medicine, dying and for households from 4AD to 2022

October 17th – our 70 th (plus one) celebration with Juliet Sargeant

November 21 st – AGM followed by a Local Wildlife photographer sharing his latest works

December 12th – Christmas Evening

We have also been donated the society minute books from the 1950's and my aim is to include with each of our updates some nuggets from those minutes – starting with the formation of the society in 1951

Thursday 27th September – first official meeting held at Sparke Pavilion
Chairman S Gawood

Vice Chairman H Seymour

Treasurer M Pont

Secretary H Morris

Committee Members included: Mr Wright representing Catsfield and Mr Lewes representing Hooe

Original membership was proposed as 3/6 but this was considered by the committee to be too much and they finally agreed an annual membership of 2/6 to include 1 free exhibit and free entry

It was also suggested that a Children's Certificate would be more treasured by the children than money prizes

Finally, it was proposed that monies over and above that required by the society be distributed between the Church and Chapels (Upper and Lower).

Next instalment – controversy of the definition of an 'Amateur Gardener'
(Da Da Daaaaaaa)

In the dark days of winter, there is always something to look forward to. December 21st, saw the turning of the year, after which evenings get longer, heralding the Spring. Then there was Christ's Mass and for some, long awaited reunions with family, friends and neighbours after two years living in the shadow of Covid. Now there is one other celebration the whole Country can look forward to.

The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II will be marked **on 6 February 2022** in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, being the 70th anniversary of her accession on that day in 1952.

In the UK, an extra Bank Holiday will be created and the Spring Bank Holiday will be moved from the end of May to the start of June, to create a special 4 day Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2 June 2022 to Sunday 5 June 2022.

It has to be borne in mind that recently Her Majesty has been required to reduce her commitments to preserve her health and strength. However, the grim shadow lurks that we may be commemorating a life of service to our Nation and be prepared to temper joy if that were to occur. If Queen Elizabeth remains on the throne on **6 February 2022**, this will be the first time any British monarch has celebrated a platinum jubilee.

A campaign, known as 'The Queen's Green Canopy', was launched in May 2021, ahead of the Jubilee in 2022. People across the United Kingdom are expected to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' to mark the milestone. To help the environment and make local areas greener, people will be urged to create this 'special gift' for the Queen, in her Platinum Jubilee year. As we prepare to celebrate Her Majesty's incredible 70 years of service, let everyone get behind the 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' campaign.

Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926) is Queen of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth realms. She was born in Mayfair, London, as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). Her father ascended the throne 10 years later in 1936 upon the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, making Elizabeth the heir presumptive. She was educated privately at home and began to undertake public duties during the Second World War and serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

In November 1947, she married Philip Mountbatten, a former Prince of Greece and Denmark, with whom she had four children: Charles, Prince of Wales; Anne, Princess Royal; Andrew, Duke of York; Edward, Earl of Wessex.

Elizabeth is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch, the

longest-serving female head of state in history, the oldest living and longest-reigning current monarch, and the oldest and longest-serving incumbent head of state. Despite issues with family members, support for the monarchy in the United Kingdom has been and remains consistently high, as does her personal popularity.

When her father died in February 1952, Elizabeth—then 25 years old—became queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries, as well as Head of the Commonwealth. Significant events have included her coronation in 1953 and the celebrations of her Silver, Golden, and Diamond Jubilees in 1977, 2002, and 2012 respectively. In 2017, she became the first British monarch to reach a Sapphire (65th) Jubilee. On 9 April 2021, after over 73 years of marriage, her husband, Prince Philip, died at the age of 99. It is one wonderful way to look to the New Year, with the hope that Her Majesty will still be there at the Head of her Nation and Commonwealth and we wish her Many Happy Returns for her 96th Birthday.

Kevin Regan

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous.
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise.
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

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Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?" "I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?" The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

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Parish Council meetings

The proposed December meeting of the Council was cancelled however we were pleased to be able to meet in January. As always we were delighted to welcome members of the public, there were 14 in attendance. We followed Covid rules and regulations carefully, we observed social distance, the windows were kept open and luckily we were able to have the heating on to try to keep everyone from freezing!

This was an important meeting. Our first task was to co-opt a new member. Following a short presentation, a question and answer session and a secret ballot we were delighted to welcome Chris Bloor on to the council. For the first time for well over a year we are now back up to full strength of 7 which means our work can be spread, lessening the load on each of us.

At this meeting we set our budget for the coming financial year and agreed our precept. There is much to be done to catch up as during lockdown some things had to be held in abeyance. The budget for the year has increased but there is just a very small increase in the precept as we will be using some reserves, not having spent as much as we expected during this financial year.

Our next meeting is scheduled to be held on 14th February starting at 7.00pm. We hope to welcome you.

A reminder that the Council holds a list of contact details of those residents who have indicated their wish to be kept informed of our activities. If you are not on that list but would like to be please let Jane our Clerk know. Email addresses are kept confidential, only the Clerk has access to them.

Village paths

Some residents have complained to us that our village paths seem much narrower than before! So we would be grateful if you could look at the width of your hedges which border paths and if they have grown wide perhaps cut them back please? Now is the time of year this can be done without harming nesting birds.

Did you know?

Neil Smith and three generations of the Smith family go out together every week to pick the litter that thoughtless motorists throw from their cars. Each time they collect nearly two sacks of litter – an unbelievable amount. Without their hard work and dedication the road would be in a sorry state, and as we all know ‘litter attracts litter’.

Geraldine has regularly picked litter at the Hooe Common end of the village for as long as I can remember. Her dedication keeps another part of the village clear too.

We are so grateful to these thoughtful folk and thank them. If you know of any others do please let us know who they are.

Great British Spring Clean

Hooe will be taking part again this year. Our event will take place on either Saturday morning 26th March or Saturday morning 2nd April.

Social and community activities

Many social activities have been planned to take place during the next months and more are in the process of being finalised. This is an important year as not only will we be celebrating the Queen's jubilee we will also be catching up with friends and neighbours following the lengthy lockdown period. I have submitted a list of dates for entry into the Parish news but would like to highlight 3 important dates.

- **On 5th June** we will be welcoming the world renowned trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins who will give two shows for us, one matinee and one evening performance. His music will be intercepted with anecdotes and stories about his career. These will be held in St Oswald's Church. We are lucky to have secured him and have Jeannette to thank for making the arrangements.
- We are repeating our successful and hugely enjoyed Open Gardens week end, this year it will be held over **25th and 26th June**. We pray for good weather.

And we mustn't forget the Jubilee long weekend **2nd – 6th June** when the whole country will be celebrating. In addition to our planned concerts on 5th June we will be joining with the rest of the country on **2nd June** to light our beacon, situated on the flag green. We will be informed of the exact time as the national plan is to light beacons around the British coast in strict rotation

Those of us who enjoyed the last village Jubilee celebrations will remember how much fun we had joining in a variety of activities from a Scarecrow competition to rounders matches to a Royal Quiz. Whilst we will not necessarily be repeating the activities we do hope for a splendid weekend.

Last time we were encouraged to plant bedding plants in red, white and blue so as to turn the village patriotic. Now it's time to plan should you feel you would like to turn your front garden into a sea of red, white and blue!

We look forward to seeing you at our Coffee Morning and Community Library on Saturday 12th February 2022 Pam Doodles Chairman, Hooe Parish Council

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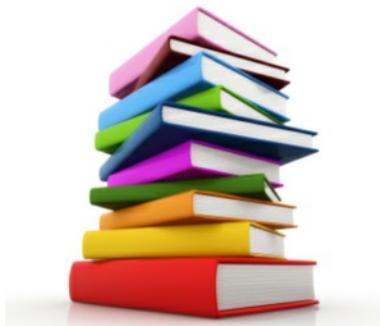
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Parish News February 2022

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



The Community Café will be open 10-11.30am on all other Fridays. Do call in for refreshments, chat and some puzzle/ table game fun! For further information please contact David Swales dj_swales@hotmail.com or 01424 893328.

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

Ninfield Flower Group members are looking forward to returning to the wonderfully redesigned Ninfield Memorial Hall and enjoying an uninterrupted year of floral demonstrations and workshops.

Our AGM takes place on Monday 7th February at 7.30pm and members (and visitors) are invited to contribute a small arrangement to the competition with the title "Bursting into Spring".

On March 7th Eleanor Bracken brings us "The Magic of Spring". The evening starts at 7pm with refreshments and the demonstration commencing at 7.30pm.

Ellouise Hasler-Stott was the RHS Young Chelsea florist of the year in 2018 winning both gold and best in show. She visits us on April 4th with "A Garden Party".

We are delighted to welcome Jim Buttress, "The People's Gardener", again to Ninfield on May 9th. He will give an illustrated talk about his involvement in the creation of "The World Garden" at Lullingstone Castle. This will be a ticketed event.

We are always pleased to see new faces. There is a charge of £5 for visitors

For further information regarding our events, do please contact Jennifer on 01424 892878 or email ninfieldflowers@gmail.com



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Worms Eye View

I sincerely hope that the New Year will be a happy one for us all. First let us hope the covid will decrease in numbers and that no more strains raise their heads.

Next I hope that the weather behaves normally for the time of the year the higher temperature was nice in one way but puts one a little bewildered. The cattle like it and have enjoyed the unusual treat to go outside in mid winter: they have the choice to go inside if it rains or roam over the fields if it's fine. The sheep are outside all the time unless we need to check them or get them scanned to give us an idea as to how many lambs they are carrying. I hope that the numbers will be good, and I will give you an update next month.

This month of January also holds another agricultural tradition that we celebrate, Plough Sunday, twelve days after Christmas, when we ask the Lord to bless the labours of those who tend the land. Quite often at this service a plough will be taken into the church and blessed, obviously this was the old-fashioned plough that was steered by hand and pulled by Oxen or Horse, not the large ploughs of today which would never make it through the church door.

Plough Monday also followed Plough Sunday as it was the start of the farming year. It was customary for the farm labourers to draw a plough from door to door to solicit "plough money" to spend on a frolic. I must add that I, unfortunately, have never experienced Plough Monday, but have helped with Plough Sunday.

There are several sayings which include the plough, one is "to put ones hand to the plough" meaning to undertake a task or to work in earnest. Another is "God speed the plough" which is a wish for success and prosperity in some undertaking.

Just a reminder that February 24th is St Mathias' at and it is said "if it freezes on St Mathias' Day it will freeze for a month altogether" Brr!

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

A Very Happy New Year; we are pleased to share with you our Service details, & other events.

Sunday Services for February 2022:

6th	10.30 am	Café Worship with Rev. Cynthia Park
13th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise with Barry Turnwell
20th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Praise
27th	10.30 am	Service of Worship & Communion with Rev. Tricia Williams

Events for February 2022:

Fridays	10.00-11.30am	Community Café including
4th	10.00-11.30am	Book exchange in Hall.
9th	2.30-4.00pm	Christian Womens Fellowship

'All the Fours'

Looking back over the last 12 months, we have been helped by many people ... here are 4 groups: NHS staff, Care workers, Food supply staff, Family friends & neighbours. Our lists will be endless but well worth our reflections.

Our Church has participated in 4 'firsts'. They were all successful outdoor celebrations:

In July we had

our 150th Anniversary celebrations outdoors (80 people came along)

our Harvest was celebrated outside of our Hall & included the local Scout group & giving of Harvest produce to the Bexhill Foodbank (35 people came)

The village & scouts came together for a Remembrance Sunday United service on the village green led by the Reverend Paul Frostick from the Parish Church. (This time 140 people participated!).

We served refreshments outside our Hall!!!!

We celebrated Christmas Eve with a Christingle service, outdoors around our Christmas Tree, using the customary Christingle oranges, & 'sparklers'. Earlier in December 40 shoeboxes were also prepared by local folk for delivery to Eastern Europe.

Then, In January '22, we were pleased to unite with St. Mary's & St. Oswalds's at our Church for our annual Covenant service .

So we thank everyone who helped to make all this possible. Please also remember all the people who help us daily. We encourage you to see how many 'lists' you too can make up!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

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

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

He is friendly with bad people, and even eats with them..



So Jesus told these stories:

If a man owns 100 sheep..



Imagine having that many sheep!

and he loses 1 of them...



How would you notice with that many sheep?

won't he leave the 99 in the field and look for the lost one?



When he finds it, he tells his friends to celebrate because he has found his lost sheep!



In the same way there is more celebration in heaven when one bad person repents..



than the 99 who don't need to repent.



Or what if a woman who has 10 small coins loses 1?



What's special about a small coin?

Won't she light a lamp, sweep her house, and search until she finds it?



That's what I'd do.

When she finds it she tells her friends to celebrate because she found the coin she had lost.



It was special to her.

In the same way, God's angels rejoice when a bad person repents.



Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD ACTION GROUP Paul Coleshill 893138

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY 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: Kaye Crittall, Stepping Stones, Lower Street, 892883

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD MUDDY BOOT & TODDLERS GROUP

Natalie Osbourne 07920 558503

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Glen Harrison gharrissoninfieldscountsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader: Ashly Simmon explorersemail8@gmail.com

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

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

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

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Julia Hurrell 07508 080608

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

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Simon Pattisson 845087

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE LINE DANCE GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

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

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Gary Durman, 893007

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

SENLAC BELLS

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

PARISH WHO'S WHO

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18 The Ridings, Bexhill on Sea. East Sussex. TN39 5HU. 01424 218126.

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