



The Parish News



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

February 2023 50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



	St Mary's	St Oswald's
5 th February	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
12 th February	<i>No Service</i>	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist
19 th February	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
22 nd February	10.00 Ash Wednesday Service	
26 th February	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

St. Mary's - Tuesday and Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm Where Possible

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

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

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

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

Greetings dear Friends,

Unbelievably Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 22nd February!! Where does the time go! That got me thinking about what Lent is for and how we can spend that time renewing and refreshing our faith.

Last Saturday Eileen and I went to Cineworld in Eastbourne to see the Andre Rieu Dublin Concert. It's not the same as actually being at the concert but it's a good 2nd best! During the concert, a wonderful soprano gave a rendition of the song "You raise me up". I believe this song can be appreciated both at a secular level but also at a spiritual level. I am sure many of us go through difficult times and this song speaks volumes to me as to how we can be 'raised up'.

**When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary
When troubles come and my heart burdened be
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence
Until You come and sit awhile with me.**

To my way of thinking, that is what Lent is or rather can be all about. Asking God to come and sit awhile with us in all our worries, troubles, uncertainties and frustrations.

During Christmas we watched the cartoon 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse'. We were so moved by it I bought the book both of the film and the original book as it spoke directly to us in many different ways. There is a quotation to help me live my life in almost every page! Life for all of us can at times be brutal, as well as frustrating and one quotation said "It feels like it's a long way to go" said the boy, "But look how far we have come" said the horse! Lent is a time to stop and indeed look at how far we have come in life! Yes, it can be difficult at times. That's why this next quotation is so helpful "What's the bravest thing you have ever said" asked the boy, "Help" said the horse! "Asking for help isn't giving up" said the horse, "It's refusing to give up"! Which is why we ask God to come and sit awhile with us because we are asking for help!

I recently shared a Winnie the Pooh saying on Facebook that said "Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend". That is what God can be to us, a friend who walks beside us or a friend who will come and sit beside us. As the horse said, "Always remember you matter, you are important and you are loved, and you bring to this world things no-one else can"

May we use this period of Lent to really take in the fact that we are loved and that we matter, and that God will answer if we ask him for help.

Paul

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Here we are in February – month of cold days, winter days, but days that promise hope and signs of Spring. Snowdrops and lengthening light; echoes of the hope and light that Jesus brought to Simeon and Anna all those years ago in the Temple.

Thank you, Lord, that you always bring light, you always bring hope and peace and joy when we put our trust in Jesus, our Saviour. Jesus, Lord of all our days and seasons. In His name we thank you, as we look to His Light.

Amen.

St Oswald's Parish Church

Burial

January 13th 2023 Heather Margaret Pilbeam

St Mary's Parish Church

Baptism

20th November Zinnia Rose Amanda Akehurst

4th December Baptism of Zara Rose Margaret Allen

*from the
Parish Records*

Burial

24th November Funeral and Burial of Alfonso Assorgi.

Editors' Note Happy New Year to you all, and 2023 will, we are sure, be another year of change! Some planned, some predictable and some unexpected! Which ever comes your way, take advantage of the change, even if it's hard to see at first. One change could come by going to the Memorial Hall on 4th March, details on pages 18 & 22 where you can find out about the various groups in the village, see what's planned for the year, perhaps you have an idea for a new group, perhaps volunteer for one of the vacancies that are available - the list of possible changes is endless!

The new season for the Parish News starts in April which means when your March issue is delivered to your door you will need to have £5.00 ready, and if you have a new neighbour ask if they'd like a copy a well! .

Nicki and Carol

News from St Oswald's

Carol Singing

The start of the Christmas celebrations would have been our Carol Service with the Hooe Silver Band. It was unfortunate that the Carol Service had to be cancelled because of the snow and the fact that the car park was a sheet of ice. Parking and getting in and out of cars would have been a nightmare and extremely dangerous.

Sadly, the 'two gentlemen of a certain age' were unable to tour the village with carols due mainly to the weather. Maybe next year!

Christmas

From the Advent Ring to the font and porch; from the chancel to the pulpit and window sills and not forgetting the tree; St Oswald's was beautifully decorated for Christmas!

Our thanks go to all who gave their expertise and time.

To those who undertook the task of removing the greenery and the tree before Twelfth Night, we say another big thank you.

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services were well attended and one person noted that having the Christmas Eve Service at 6.00p.m. was a good choice of time.

Repairs Report

The repairs to the stone work are nearly complete. At a recent meeting the architect who oversees this work commented that the condition of the church building was above average.

He commented: 'It is a well cared for church.'

From the Visitor's Book

Steven - Hailsham 'A beautiful church so lovingly maintained.'

Happy New Year to you all

NINFIELD VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL
SATURDAY 18th February 9.30 - 12.00
VILLAGE MARKET

We are pleased to say the market is still proving to be popular, with many of you coming along on a regular basis

Some come for the fresh foods that now include meat, veg, fruit, bread, eggs along with honey, jams and preserves.

There are some who come along for a bacon buttie, a cup of tea/coffee and a social get together with friends, making a fun shopping experience!!

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Enquiries to ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

February Diary

		Venue	Page
2 nd	Health Walk	Sparke	7
3 rd	Ninfield Book Exchange	Methodist Hall	29
6 th	Ninfield Flower Group	Memorial Hall	
8 th	Christian Women's Fellowship	Methodist Hall	29
8 th	Carnival Meeting	Working Men's	19
9 th	Ninfield History Group	Methodist Hall	23
10 th	Hooe Ninfield Open Group	Methodist Hall	10
11 th	Hooe Coffee Morning	St. Oswald's	15
15 th	Ninfield Bonfire Society	Working Men's	25
16 th	Health Walk	Sparke	7
16 th	Hooe History Society	St. Oswald's	9
16 th	Ninfield Parish Council	Methodist Hall	23
18 th	Village Market	Memorial Hall	5
20 th	Ninfield Horticultural	Memorial Hall	16
22 nd	Messy Church	Methodist Hall	29
23 rd	Men's Shed	Sparke	8
27 th	Hooe Parish Council	Hooe Hall	13
March			
3 rd	Musical Matinee	Memorial Hall	7
4 th	Meet the Groups & Societies	Memorial Hall	18 + 22
Mondays	10.00 Movement to Music	Memorial Hall	
	1.30 Ladies Badminton	Memorial Hall	
Wednesday	9.15 Pilates 10.15 Yoga	Memorial Hall	
	Village Society	Church Wood	
	2.00 Art Group	Memorial Hall	
	6.45 Dancersize	Memorial Hall	
Fridays	Coffee Morning	Methodist Hall	
	9.30 Cardiac workout 10.30 Pilates	Memorial Hall	
	10.30 Craft & knitting	Memorial Hall	
Alternate Fridays	7.15 Ballroom 8.15 Burlesque	Memorial Hall	

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

Womens 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

The aim of this group is to expand on the mapping of dark skies in various locations around the village, increase our knowledge of the stars and understand the impact moon cycles and artificial light can have on wildlife. It is about involving residents in appreciating and understanding the “darkness” in our village. Contact: Kaye Crittall on 01424 892883

Musical Matinee Film

Here are the details of the films for 2023. As you will see there is a mixture of ‘ancient and modern’. We do hope you will come and join us for a relaxed, friendly afternoon.

They are dementia friendly and subtitles are used for those with hearing loss. The screening and refreshments are free. Doors open at 1.30 and films start at 2.00 with time to chat over tea and cake. To ensure there is enough cake, contact Jackie or Rose on 01424 892422 or jackie.langley1@btinternet.com. It is not too early to book.

Friday 3 March: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.

Friday 16 June: Hairspray.

Friday 22 September: Gigi.

Friday 24 November La La Land. 7

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING CLASS SUCCESS

We would like to thank everyone that booked to come to our traditional Christmas wreath making class on December 6th at the Memorial Hall this year. We were delighted to keep to the £25 a head price.

We held two lovely classes using the best of nature to construct traditional wired wreaths with dried orange, pine cones and poppy seed heads. Finished off with a beautiful bow, the wreaths all looked stunning.

We also enjoyed an array of home made cakes, refreshments and a large raffle. In all we raised £697.40 for 1st Ninfield and Crowhurst Scout Group. Thank you to the team of invaluable helpers, Sue Edwards, Karen Duval, Cathy McCann and Anna Cameron. Thank you for all the gorgeous bakes. Also thank you to Liz Walker for a big hay bale and all those that helped gather the foliage and adornments for the wreaths.

Next year we plan an evening class with mulled wine on Monday 4th Dec and a morning class on Tuesday 5th Dec. Bookings are already filling for this. If you would like to reserve a place please message Veronica 07714327117. Once again, thank you for supporting us.

AND Before that of Thursday 23rd March at St. Mary's Church from 10.00 - 12.30 we will be making Spring Wreaths, for £25 you have fun, all your materials supplied, plenty of teas, coffee and cake and at the end you get to take home a beautiful wreath that will grace your front door for Easter and throughout the summer. However, places are limited so booking is essential - phone /text Veronica 07714 327117



HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

The second meeting of Hooe History Society in 2023 will take place on Thursday 16th February at St. Oswald's Church, Hooe starting at 7.30 p.m. Our speaker will be Melinda Stone who is following up on her very well received talk last year on Herstmonceux Castle – which is why we have asked her back! Her talk this time is about the Women of Herstmonceux Castle, which she briefly touched on last year. Refreshments will be available following Melinda's talk, as usual.

Our complete programme for this year is as follows:-

- 19th Jan – **Hellingly Hospital Railway**, Jonathan Austin;
- 16th Feb – **Women of Herstmonceux Castle**, Melinda Stone;
- 16th March – **The Natural History of Pevensey Levels**, Evan Jones;
- 20th April – **Military Nursing**, Graham Bandy;
- 8th May – **Voyage of the Sunbeam, 1876**, Ken Brooks;
- 15th June – **Marine Conservation**, Steve Hall;
- 20th July – **(Social) Visit to Pevensey Mint House**;
- 17th August – **Bexhill in 1922**, David Hatherell;
- 21st September – **History of Herbalism**, Jan Black;
- 19th October – **Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance**;
- 16th Nov – **History of Smuggling in Sussex and Kent**, Geoffrey Hutchinson;
- 21st December – **Social evening**.

DID YOU KNOW... I thought I would dip into the thoughts of John James Newport for this issue. He did a massive amount of research into the village during his lifetime. The following report was printed in the Bexhill Observer in March 1935, indicating the origins of the village of Hooe.

Following the parish meeting last Friday, Mr. J. J. Newport gave his third lecture on the records of Hooe, dealing especially with the origin of the village and its name, of its "bell house", and parish meetings of past centuries. Mr. Newport illustrated by means of a map the "gates" by which the Saxons entered this part of the country. It was shown how well suited to their requirements was that part of Hooe where they settled and built their manor house (Court Lodge - Ed) church and bell house. The latter was erected near, or on the site of New Lodge Cottages, from which a good look-out

could be kept on shipping along the coast from Barnhorn to Pevensey. The noise of the bell, said Mr. Newport, might have been audible over a large area, sounding an alarm of approaching raiding Danes or Northmen, and calling churls and serfs to a stockade in defence of their homes. The lecturer then went on to give the subsequent history of the bell house and mentioned several people into whose hands it fell.

With reference to the origin of the word "Hooe," Mr. Newport explained that the settlers, observing that their village was elevated land, bounded on two sides by streams which flowed into the haven, called the manor "Huh." In Domesday Book the spelling was "Hou." "Saxton's" gave it as "Howe," "Speed's" as "Hoo," a Communion "cover" of 1640 had "Hoe" (as in Plymouth Hoe), and the spelling in the parish books of the 17th and 18th centuries was "Hoo." Peter Hayward.

Christmas Present Appeal

I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who so kindly and generously donated gifts and party food to the Dom's Food Mission Christmas Present Appeal we had in the Memorial Hall. The donation basket was full, you are all amazing!

I did collect the donations and handed them over to Dom's Food Mission in time for their 'Meet and Greet Santa Claus' event in December.

NINFIELD SURGERY

Thank You

We would like to thank all of our patients for their kind wishes, cards and gifts over the Christmas period. They are all very much appreciated by the team and we would like to thank you all very much.

Telephone Number and Email Address *all on the back page*

We would like to confirm that the current telephone number and email address for Ninfield surgery, will be remaining the same. Only our Collington, Pebsham and Sea Road Surgeries, will all be using the new contact information from 10.1.23.

Ninfield Surgery contact information remains as now:-

Telephone (01424) 892569

General Email: sxib-esx.ninfield@nhs.net

Prescription Email: sxib-esx.ninfieldprescriptions@nhs.net

Please could we ask patients to continue sending separate emails for each patient making a request, as this is proving to be very helpful.

Ninfield Surgery

The new year starts with a big change for us at the surgery, in that Dr Gurcharan Singh (known as Gooch to many) retired from the partnership at the end of 2022. He and Dr David Warden had worked together for 32 years, initially just at Collington Surgery and subsequently taking on Ninfield and Windmill Hill surgeries also. How many thousands of patients and families he must have cared for over those three decades!

I first met Dr Singh back in 2011, having decided to change direction in my career and embark on training to be a GP. He was allocated as my trainer, and I was his first ever trainee. Initially we met once every 6 months to go through paperwork / sign forms whilst I did my hospital training posts, and then in my third and final year of GP training I worked alongside him in Collington and Ninfield surgeries.

General practice has changed almost beyond recognition since I qualified almost 9 years ago, so I cannot even begin to imagine how much it has changed in 32 years! I do know that back then there was shorter opening hours, significantly less admin, and as such much gardening was enjoyed and many working lunches were had! That said, Dr Singh has always worked incredibly hard; in the years I have known him he is always the first person in the building in the morning and often the last to leave at night. "Work hard, play hard" is definitely a motto meant for him - he also enjoys good food, good wine (and spirits) and a party! Many people wouldn't realise what a good sense of humour Dr Singh has, he is often found making jokes, and giggling; many times he has made me laugh until I have cried!

On a personal level I learned most of what I know as a GP partner from Dr Singh. I owe him a lot, and I will miss working alongside him. Patients may still see him occasionally as he is going to provide some locum cover for the practice from time to time. Personally, I shall have to take advantage of his generosity as a host, and his wife's lovely cooking, in order to maintain our friendship. He doesn't know I have written this piece, I shall save him my copy of the magazine and no doubt it will embarrass him no end, but I felt it important to mark the retirement of such a cherished colleague.

Any cards/messages for Dr Singh can be left at the surgery and will be passed on.

Dr Debbie Gooderick

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HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

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Email: clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk Website: www.hooe-pc.gov.uk

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year celebrations, looking back 2022 was a busy year: with the help and support of Leigh & Natalie at the Red Lion we had a very successful Jubilee Party, the sun shone and everyone had a good time.

The sports Pavilion has been refurbished and the adjacent storage shed rebuilt. Our Village Hall has also been refurbished internally and looks lovely and clean & bright.

With the death of the Queen many signed the books of condolence at the church and in the village hall and a thank you letter has been received from the Palace.

2022 has been a busy year for outside works, tree works have been completed, hedges cut, allotments tidied, grass cut and new gates fitted. Also new planters in the village were well received and brought colour: red, white & blue of course!

As we look forward to 2023, we hope to continue the ground maintenance and improving the allotments. We are purchasing two new planters and St Oswald's Church has kindly donated a large container we can use.

Our big project will be the Village Hall, we have the plans drawn up in the past for a new hall, but also some ideas on extending the existing hall and providing parking. When plans are ready, we intend to send details & a questionnaire to every home in Hooe to see which options the residents would like. We can then look at fundraising, available grants and hopefully some donations to get the project started.

Personally, I would like to see the work to establish the Jubilee Wood continued: signage from the Millennium footpath and a pedestrian gate, some wildflower planting and more seating. Perhaps an afternoon family picnic or evening music event would encourage residents to make use of this lovely area.

Finally, we have the Coronation this year, how about another party?

Just to remind everyone that the next parish council meeting is to be held on Monday 27th February 2023 at 7pm at the village hall.

Wishing everyone a good New Year
Cllr. Ann Loyd
Chairman Hooe Parish Council



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If you would like to receive news and regular updates about our forthcoming events please email us your contact details



Happy First Birthday!

HVCG will be a year old next month. We have had a successful and very enjoyable year. We will be holding our AGM in February, following which we will be able to give you a detailed report about our activities and those clubs and organisations we have helped during the year. We hope the report will be in the next Parish News

Our thanks

We are hugely grateful for the help, support and generosity of our fellow Hooe residents and friends from further afield and for St Oswald's Church for the continued use of their beautiful building and warm welcome

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11th** in the church. As usual we will be serving delicious homemade cakes and 'proper' coffee (as folk like to call it!). Anne will be there with the Community Library and Jig Saw exchange – so come along and borrow books and puzzles to help while away these dark winter days

Farming Community Network.....

..... is a voluntary organisation and charity which offers practical and pastoral support to the farming community. It helps with their health, with their family, with farming and with business.

As we are living within a rural area and considering the pressures farming is experiencing at present we thought this a worthy cause.

We were delighted to visit Court Lodge Farm, Wartling to present a cheque for £250.00 to David Harding, a representative of Farming Community Network. Their website is www.fcn.org.uk



The audience were none too impressed



Ninfield Horticultural Society

Like everyone else, the Horticultural Society are looking forward to 2023 being a little more settled although all of the rain over the Christmas period and beginning of the year is not a good start! I'm sure I'm not the only enthusiastic gardener (although time-poor) gardener planning their spring around the seeds they saved from last year or bought in the dark months at the end of year. I spent one evening in early January listing out all of the seeds I had for the allotment - perhaps a little overambitious as I would probably need to take on a second allotment if I were to grow them all!

The society are kicking off their 2023 calendar on Monday 20th February with the (twice) delayed talk from Jan Black who will be talking to us on growing herbs for cooking, medicine and household use. Doors open from 7pm and there will be a small raffle and refreshments. Our schedules for 2023 will also be available. Please come along and support us - you do not need to be a member.

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News, Reviews and Revues - From Sami Guard

Well- Happy New Year, and I hope you all got pairs of flippers, not slippers, for your Christmas presents; cos that's what's been needed over the last few weeks with all the ghastly rain we've had!

So, we need to look forward to better weather, and better news, and hopefully some much needed fun to cheer us up! It's not easy giving details or promotions, when the meetings that create them haven't yet happened! (deadline for this Magazine is the 13th of January!) But, by the end of January the Carnival Association will have briefly met, and also will have had a get together with some of the Bonfire Society to discuss the first joint event of the year - the hopeful, possible, not yet confirmed but fingers crossed Coronation Soap Box Races, on Bank Holiday Monday May 8th: crikey, covering all bases there! This idea sprang up between us all, and would be a great reinvention of the Pram Races that used to be held in May. Much needs to be done in research yet, so watch this space for confirmation by social media posts, notice board posters and all news advertising.

Also, on Saturday 13th May 7pm, I have the evening pencilled in at the Memorial Hall, for Part 2 of my 'An Evening with..' Show. It's a week earlier than last year, but hopefully people will want to come out again for Supper, the Bar, and of course some more hilarious stories of my life and times in the Entertainment Industry - Part 1 last year was a sell out 100 people, and a brilliant night... so if you are interested in coming along then please call me or email as soon as possible, it would be great to have an early idea of numbers! Having just returned from Panto season, my 40th Panto season actually!- which started with an emergency phone call from the Producer, the Sunday morning after the Xmas lunch at the Hall, saying, "Can you come up tomorrow and learn, standby and go on for Wicked Queen in 36 hours....Gillian Wright (Eastenders' Jean Slater) has broken her wrist and might have to have an operation." - well, having now returned, elated but exhausted, I've realised that I have yet more bits of comedy gossip to add to my ever extending scripts!

Elsewhere in the Magazine, there will be news of the event on Saturday 4th March, at the Memorial Hall, sponsored by the Parish Council, which will involve all Ninfield's groups, societies and clubs; plus fitness reps, church reps, schools etc, etc. and is designed to show off everything that Ninfield Village has to offer, and to see if new folk would like to get involved with anything. So do please come and say hello, and have a chat about the things we do during the year, and give your input and ideas; there will be some lovely entertainment at 1pm ish, to enjoy, free food served all day and

a play area for the kids... see you there!!

The Next Carnival Association meeting will be Wednesday 8th February at Sparke Pavilion, 8pm start .Please call me on 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com for more information on all up coming events.

As you may be aware- at the last Memorial Hall AGM in October, our lovely Chairman, Chrissy McAfee, sadly stepped down, and several other members decided to step back too - it's always sad when this happens, but there normally is someone ready to step in and keep the ball rolling. Unfortunately, this was not the case this time - we did recruit a couple of new committee members, but no-one wanted to take the Chair or Vice Chair! Kaye Crittall added the secretarial position to her long list of village roles, and, to keep the Hall open and running, I agreed to do the Chairman bit - but only as an interim measure (I really do NOT have the time needed!!) with the search for a new, and permanent Chairman to be started at the beginning of this new year. SO! The search is now ON! Are you out there..?! Come on in and show yourself!! If you have an interest in the Hall, how it runs, and also how it is an essential part of the life of the Village, then please call me on 01424 893699 or 07970650321 or Carol Holland on 07858555343 or Kaye Crittall on 01424 892388 -

Your Hall needs You!

Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

Back for the first meeting of 2023. Nothing planned apart from going through the accounts, but we had a really good meeting. The idea was to see what type of speakers' members wanted. Lots of good ideas were forthcoming and members offered to contact various people to see if they would be willing to give us a talk. We were amazed at the variety of ideas.

Our next meeting is on Friday 10th February 2.00p.m. at the Methodist Hall, Ninfield when we will have Ann Wells who makes a variety of costumes from authentic materials (where possible). She is bringing her loom to give us a demonstration and explain how she makes the materials she requires for the costumes.

Heather & Nicki

Closing date for **MARCH issue** of the Parish News is **MONDAY 13th Feb** please send to ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

Worms Eye View

It is nice to be back again I hope that you all enjoyed the festive season and wish you a Happy New Year.

And now something a little different, whilst pondering on what to write I found this verse which I had composed several years ago and which I will now share with you all:

*At sweet 17 the deed was done,
I lost my heart to a farmer's son.
And although a townie I was classed
It was not long before I passed
Into the life of a farmer's wife.
What did I think my life would be?
A husband, a home and a family.
Right so far but a farmer's wife does more,
And some jobs can become a bit of a chore,
When there is mud all over the kitchen floor.
Milking those days was the daily task.
Did I milk then I hear you ask.
No fear, Mother –in-law warned me against that flat,
And stick to the traditional hen keeping hat.
But it was also clear the calves needed feeding
Who could resist their eyes full of pleading?
They knew I was just the person for that job,
And soon sucked my fingers, with grateful slob.
So no moans when their teeth like needles jabbed
After that there were lots of pigs,
Much too busy now for Saturday gigs.
But life was just as I'd imagined.
Happy helping husband who did his work with pride,
And taking my place my his side
Eventually to be blessed by our lovely tribe
I know I was right all those years ago
To ignore those words from Mum & Dad:
Marry a farmer, you must be mad.
But I know then that no one else could compete
To make my life a great big treat.*

Anne

Obviously life moves on, but it's good to look back with pleasure, and look forward with anticipation. What will be happening this month, I wonder, not too much bad weather I hope.

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NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:
Jackie Scarff 07725 843505 clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

At the December meeting the councillors agreed that they would host an event at the Memorial Hall so that all the clubs and societies in the village could showcase themselves. In recent months residents have highlighted that they don't know what is available in the village and we want to change that.

Come along **Saturday 4th March 2023**, 10am – 4pm. There will be all day refreshments, entertainment, a children's area and the clubs and societies running in the village for residents to join. It will be a great opportunity to meet people involved in the clubs/societies and find out what they do. You might be surprised and find that club/society that you always wanted to join but didn't know existed.

Look out for the postcard through your letterbox in February with more details.

May Elections – District and Parish. Who would you like to represent you or would you like to represent your District or Village.

Thursday 4th May 2023 sees the Parish and District elections. Have you ever thought about being a councillor, now is the time to find out more. If you would like more details please contact the clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk or any of the current councillors. If you are interested in becoming a District Councillor please get in touch with Wealden District Council for more information.

For the first time this May voters will need an accepted form of ID in order to cast their vote. These include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth Passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers licence and some concessionary travel passes such as an older persons bus pass or an Oyster 60 + card (visit the Electoral Commission's website for a full list of accepted ID and more information about this new requirement.. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo. Anybody who doesn't have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free online from Monday 16th January at <https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk> or by completing a paper form. If you need any help please contact Wealden on 01882 602407 or elections@wealden.gov.uk

Pothole Season.

Its pothole season and driving around locally there seem to be a lot this year. Please, if you see a pothole report it you can report it online www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem/roads/pothole-in-road or call 0345 6080193, don't assume someone else has already reported it.

Residents are welcome to attend any of the Parish Council meetings and committee meetings. The next meeting will be the Finance Committee Meeting Thursday 16th February at 7pm in the Methodist Hall.

THE NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

will meet on Thursday 9th February when Dave Hatherell from the Bexhill Museum will be giving a talk entitled; Bexhill 100 years ago. Dave has drawn stories from the local press in the 1920s to give a picture of life in the early 20th century.

The following month on Thursday 9th March we welcome back Ian Everest who will be talking about the Women's Land Army. This talk is drawn from his mother's experiences as a land girl during WW2.

Our meetings are in the Methodist Hall, Church Lane, Ninfield and start at 7.30. Refreshments provided.



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Workhouses (Part 2): After 1834

First, I had positive feedback on the first part of my Workhouses article last month, thanks for that. I'm interested in finding out why Ninfield is part of Wealden District Council – and the answer lies back in 1834 with The Poor Law Unions Act which allowed Parishes to unite together to centralise their indigent poor, where they could be housed, assessed and put to work as needed, or given basic medical and health care, such as maternity. My own father was born in the Liverpool workhouse in 1918. There was no National Health Service until 1947, you either paid for a doctor and midwife, or went to the Workhouse.

That aside, from 1834, Ninfield became part of the Hailsham Poor Law Union, along with Hooe. This broke its traditional link to the Hastings area, where it had been the western boundary for time immemorial, before 1066. Hastings may indeed be a corruption of "haesta inge", the place where hasta (Roman javelins) were made. I don't know the reasoning behind how Workhouses were amalgamated into Unions, but Battle had a large number of rural Parishes and may have had too many. Battle PLU: Ashburnham, Battle, Bexhill, Brightling, Catsfield, Crowhurst, Dallington, Ewhurst, Hollington, Mountfield, Penhurst, Sedlescombe, Westfield and Whatlington. Rural villages often had "seasonal" poor needing relief once farming activities slowed over the winter months.

Hailsham Poor Law Union and Hailsham Public Assistance Institution. Date:1836-1932. ESRO reference: G/5. Composed of the parishes of Arlington, Chalvington (added from West Firle Union, in 1898), Chiddingly, Hailsham, Heathfield, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Hooe, Laughton, **Ninfield**, Ripe (added from West Firle Union in 1898), Warbleton and Wartling. Creator(s) Hailsham Poor Law Union

History: Parish workhouses at Herstmonceux, Hailsham and Warbleton continued to be used until the Union workhouse at Hellingly was built in 1854. From 1930 when it became a Public Assistance Institution, it was supervised by the Hailsham sub-committee of the South Area Guardians Committee of the County Councils Public Assistance Committee. It was closed in 1932.

The Hailsham Union had 16 governors, each from the 11 Parishes, with Hailsham; Heathfield; Hellingly; Herstmonceux and Warbleton providing an extra one each, no doubt reflecting the larger number of cases they cared for. Initially existing Workhouses were used, but men were split from their families and went to Hellingly; boys to Warbleton; women and dependent children to Arlington; girls to Herstmonceux and the aged or infirm to Hailsham (and likely "end of life"). This is the end of this chapter.

Next month tells the story of Richard John Sampson as Guardian Governor.

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

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

NBS will hold a stall at the **Ninfield Village Market** on Saturday 18th February. Come and see us and have a chat about what we do and if you like, join as a member! We run tombola and if you need some NBS clothing, we sell a range of merchandise.

To keep this Sussex Tradition alive we need to continue raising funds to put on this Community event in October and we have the following fundraising events for the first half of this year:

Vintage Games Night in February

Irish Party Night on the 11th March

King's Coronation - 'Coronation Soapbox Race' joint event with Carnival in May

Ninfield Carnival Weekend - Friday night band night in July

The Bonfire night, Torch lead procession, Effigy and Fireworks display that we put on for our Community, costs in the region of £10,000.

It is a free event for the local Community. So if you enjoyed Bonfire night last year, then why not support Ninfield Bonfire by joining as a member? You can join any time year, then you need only put in as much time as you can spare, any help is much appreciated. Helping at one of our fundraising events, making torches or brushwood faggots for the Bonfire or just walking with a collection bucket. You also get to join our own procession as well as others around Sussex that we attend as a Society. Join online, at one of our meetings or visit us at one of the monthly Ninfield Village Markets to pay your membership.

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

NBS Bonfire, Parade and Fireworks 21st October 2023

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Well that year was interesting

It's the new year, and I hope you all have a happy one. Time then to look forward to this new year, no - crotchety old country person that I am means looking back with a modicum of tutting.

We have had some windy days this year for my daily walk around the Church yard, perhaps the worst one drove my dog mad. Branches were dropping all over the place, I couldn't even keep my hat on! That's no protection for my old cranium and my remaining hair suffered a wind blown pruning. The dog, with her acute sense of self preservation legged it back to the car. It took ages to convince her I wasn't trying to put her down. She maybe the gentlest dog I've ever known, but she is not the bravest.

That could be classed as extreme, great chunks of the Church roof being blown off. It's not the worse wind ever experienced by me. That will have to be the hurricane that wasn't.

The trees that were a slight danger in the wind became a joy of shade during the summer. I coped, skimpy shorts, tea shirt and a large floppy hat were the order of the day. Needless to say my dog that resembles a furball with legs, suffered. She suffers as well as Winnie the Pooh's donkey friend. It was hot and dry but I seem to remember it was worse in seventy six.

Well we then got cold. The dog loved that. She bounded around completely at one with the elements. Minus four and half an inch of snow froze me up like a frozen pipe. Its not the worst I've ever known. Minus fifteen and the sea freezing in the creeks, not to mention feet of snow. I was younger then and took it on as a challenge. If we got that now I think I would fall of my perch like a frost bitten chicken.

The next of the natural elements which made my life more than tricky was the rain. All of the previous natural weather blips, though hard to deal with were not the worse known to me. The rain this back end and Winter was by far the worst I have ever known. I came from a county which sits in a rain shadow, it was colder and drier than this part of the country. We had bad storms, even some flooding but never one after the other for months on end. The land is sodden, my allotment is a swamp. I shudder to think how the ground dwelling creatures have coped with it all. I have heard tell of moles drowning in the severe wet conditions.

I don't think it will be hard to imagine what my dog thought of this. She holds water better than a spaniel. It takes hours for her to dry out in a warm house. Snag here, my home, these days, is only warm in the evening. I put on layers to keep warm, the old girl drips water. I try to rub her down with a towel but it does not do much good.

A change of note to end on. Today is the 9th of January and this morning I felt spring in the air. Birds are paring, rabbits getting frisky and there was a lot more bird song. One year one of my beaters found a blackbirds nest with eggs

on the last shoot of the year, 29th January. It got much colder then as I expect it will this year. Something for the dog to look forward to. AT

NINFIELD WRITERS!

This time of year sees the transition from winter into spring, and although the days are, imperceptibly, getting longer and lighter, warmer times can still seem a long way off. It is important, therefore, that we look after our wellbeing, and one of the ways we can do that is by being creative. As a freelance writer, I get pleasure in doing writing that is for me, whether that is creative writing or writing that is specifically intended to improve my wellbeing through journaling techniques.

We moved to Ninfield last April, and I have continued to work as a self-employed writer, speaker, creative writing teacher and writing for wellbeing practitioner, in my new location. I have written four books and write features for a range of magazines as well as a regular column for Sussex Living, from my dog's point of view, which is great fun. Teddy's writing voice is very similar to my own! I run a range of creative writing courses, from workshops for the National Trust, Zoom courses on various aspects of writing, plus individual mentoring for writers working on longer projects. I also facilitate writing for wellbeing courses for a local hospice, a carers charity and a virtual monthly group for anyone who wants to come along.

I wondered, therefore, if there might be any interest in holding a face-to-face writing course in Ninfield. The upstairs room at the Memorial Hall looks like the perfect spot. We could do any aspect of creative writing, perhaps a beginners' course, or a writing for wellbeing course, whatever people are interested in. I do charge, as this is my business, but my fees are reasonable. We really need at least six people to get a group going, so if you are interested, please get in touch. My mobile is 07784538965 and my email is helen@writethistime.com. If you want to know a bit more about me, my website is www.writethistime.com. 'Ninfield Writers' has a certain ring to it and I bet there is some talent out there, just waiting to be expressed!

Helen Stockton

VACANCY

If you live or walk around Coombe Lane/Standard Hill Close would you consider, please, delivering the News to 14 houses. One of the residents has done it for many years, for which we thank her, but now considers it time to rest her walking boots. The News would be delivered to you to then pop through letter boxes when you next walk. Please phone 01424 893867

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

Sunday Services for February 2023:

5 th	10.30 am	Café Worship with Revd. Cynthia Park
12 th	10.30 am	Worship & Communion with Jill Sayers
19 th	10.30 am	Worship & Praise service with Drina Hampson
26 th	10.30 am	Reflection with Deacon Jean

Events for February 2023:

Fridays	10.00 -11.30am	Community Café including
3 rd	10.00 -11.30am	Book exchange in Hall
8 th	2.30 – 4.00pm	Christian Women's Fellowship
22 nd	3.30 – 5.30pm	Messy Church
27 th	2.00 – 4.00pm	Church Council meeting.

On New Year's Day we joined with Little Common Methodist Church for a lovely worship service .

Then on January 8th we had 30 people in our Church for a united Covenant Service, with St. Mary's & St. Oswald's, led by Reverend Crawford Logan & Reverend Paul Frostick. A very special event which was filled with praise, happiness & thankfulness. We pray that this service 'sets our scene' for our continued mission & outreach in the year ahead.

We are pleased that our new minister, Reverend Crawford, is settling in to this area following his move from Essex. He has now been to Ninfield on a number of occasions which has been great. His contact details are shown above.

The Community café & book exchange is becoming increasingly popular – so do come along if you haven't yet visited us.

We look forward to all of the above events in February including Café Worship & a Messy Church. All great fun – we had 36 present at our last Messy Church in November so that was a great success.

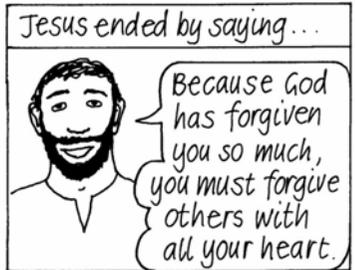
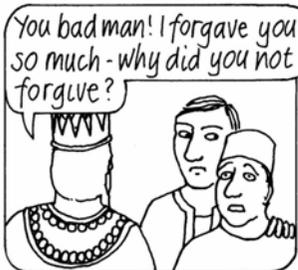
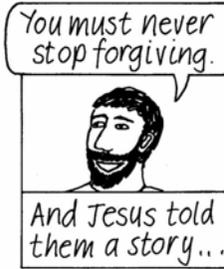
A Very Happy New Year to you all we look forward to the sunshine!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus...



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
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Natalie Osbourne 07920 558503
NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792
NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778
1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP
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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,
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Mrs Catriona Mary Owen ☎ 225421

Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose

Treasurer: Mr Phil Ringrose

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Mrs Janet Pattisson ☎845087

Secretary: Mr John Fairclough

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