

The

Parish

News



News from the Churches,
Clubs, groups, societies

& residents of

Ninfield & Hove

February 2024 50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



	St. Mary's	St. Oswald's
4 th Feb	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
11 th Feb	No Service	10.30 Joint Family Service
14 th Feb Ash Wednesday	10.00 Parish Eucharist	No Service
18 th Feb	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
25 th Feb	No Service	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.

Dear Friends,

The strange thing about writing this letter each month is that I have to write it early, which means that I am writing this just before New Year! By the time you read this we will be well into the New Year and I suspect all those New Year Resolutions, including mine will be a thing of the past!

I suspect our intentions were true, but it becomes difficult to maintain those intentions when the pressures of life hem us in. In many ways our life is a journey, and this year will be adding to that journey. Who knows where it will lead us. One thing is sure, we can only go forward, we cannot go back! The choices we make today will affect the path that journey takes. Organised religion of all shades of opinion tries to tell us what to do, what to believe! In my experience it doesn't work like that. Our journeys through life will take many twists and turns and religion can guide us, point us in the direction we should go but at the end of the day it's our choice that decides the direction we take. From the point of view of Christianity, our faith is not about a set of rules and regulations telling us what to believe, it is a journey that involves a relationship with God and like all relationships it will develop as time goes by.

This Christmas I gave Eileen a book called *The Cat who taught Zen*. Its very similar to the book I talked about last year, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*. Both involve a journey and, in many ways, both are referring to the journey of life I am talking about. The cat is talking to a Hare about the visits he makes to a Dragon who helps him make decisions. "Well", he said, "I still visit the Dragon every year, and each time he shares something with me that changes the way I think. So, I would have to say the first thing would be to keep learning. New ideas can help us grow and avoid repeating the same mistakes. It's easier to learn when you realise life is always trying to teach you something. Spend time in silence, appreciate nature, be mindful and seek peace." I once heard someone say, it was not the journey or the destination that mattered most but the company. In our journey my belief is that it is God who provides us with the company. It is he who accompanies us on our journey through life and even though we wander from the path many times, he is still there with us, offering support and guidance. It is a strange reality that good things often come out of seemingly bad things. This is not always easy, and some experiences are so overwhelmingly painful that trying to see the good in them is simply not always possible. However, if you start in a small way, and try to develop it as a habit it can start to change the way we see the world and ultimately increase our own happiness. A journey starts with a small step. As we step into 2024 may we experience 'the

peace of God that is beyond understanding' and recognise that however hard the journey of life may seem, we are not on our own.

Paul Frostick

Prayer for February 2024

Father, In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. In his name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitchin

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St Oswald's

December 3rd 2023 Baptism of Bodie Arlo Bear Clift

St Mary's Parish Church

20th December 2023 – funeral of Anthony Gibbons

*from the
Parish Records*

Peter Thripp

Peter and Celia Thripp have lived in Ninfield for 23 years and enjoyed being part of the Community and became involved in some of the clubs and activities on offer in the village.

Sadly, Peter passed away in November 2023 following a cancer diagnosis. Celia and family would like to thank all the friends and neighbours who attended Peter's funeral; for the many cards, donations to charities and the support they have received. It has been very much appreciated.

News from St Oswald's Church

Happy New Year to you all.

We can report that December and Christmas were as busy as usual. The Carol Service having been cancelled in 2022 because of the dangerous ice in the car park, was well attended. The Covid years, have had an effect on the numbers attending, but this year 130 people were there . Attendance at our Christmas-week services was good. Our thanks to all of those cheerful volunteers, who helped us to decorate and then un-decorate the Church for the Christmas period.

We had a baptism service early in December, to welcome Bodie Clift into the church and the village.

The Hooe Village Community Group, held their December Coffee morning in the church. It was good to see so many people from around the village coming together for coffee and conversation. There is a real buzz and we would encourage you all to come along and meet your neighbours.

The Church building and the plans for the toilet extension continue to proceed. We have the backing of the Diocese, although they also raise some more questions about footings and drainage. We had a Geo Thermal inspection of the extension site, to look at the base footings and the routeing of the waste water. In 2024, we hope to have the go ahead from both the Diocese and Wealden DC.

In the Church Yard, there are always small jobs that require attention. Hence, it is our plan, that on the first Saturday morning of each month at 10.30am, we hope to encourage some of you, to help with the general upkeep. We want to encourage the plants and the wildlife to flourish in our church yard. There are a lot of windfall branches and twigs that need collecting; the base of the hedges needs tidying and the ground gutters around the church need to be kept clear. If you can help for the odd hour or two we would be pleased to see you. 3rd February is the next date.

From the visitors Book

04.01.2024. Susie Lewis, Hooe , Christening of Bodie on 3rd-
Thank You for a lovely and memorable Service.

07.01.2024 S D & W Lewes Enjoyed a rest here during a dog
walk

Editors comments

Well, we had the heat last year, then the wind and the rain, and now it's the turn of the cold! Oh to have a steady climate of spring, summer, autumn and winter so we knew where we were!

What we do know is it's 2024 and this being Ninfield and Hooe lots of things are already planned to entertain us, and set out on the next few pages you're bound to find something to get you out and about.

Next month when the March issue is delivered to your door you will be asked for your £5.00 for the next year's subscription, and those of you who advertise will be sent an email asking you if you'd like to re-advertise next year.

We'd like to thank all of you who buy this Parish News, and it really would be nice if you would write in with comments, suggestions, so please pen to paper or email to computer! And of course a big thank you to those of you who go round each month delivering the News.



Romance, love, marriage anall that stull - they way children see it! So with Valentine's Day in mind... just for fun, why not ask your children / grandchildren the same questions, and to report back any interesting answers! You'll find the questions scattered around this edition!

Nicki & Carol

Ninfield Horticultural Society

Thank you for all of those that came along to our December meeting and donated seeds for our inaugural Seed Swap. I was planning not come away with any additional seeds - but the temptation was too strong. All I need now is the space to grow them all!!

Our 2024 schedule is now available and copies are in the Village Stores. By popular demand, we have tried to include this year more information on showing dahlias and the different dahlia categories. We also have a dahlia judge booked to speak at one of our evenings.

Our first event of the year is something slightly different and we are holding a Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall on Monday 19th February 11.30am-1pm. It will be quite informal - more free seeds, a chance to speak with members of the committee about what the Horticultural Society offers, meet other like-minded gardeners (new and experienced) and pick up our 2024 schedule. Plus find out details of our Summer visit. You don't have to be a member - just come along on the day.

February Diary

		Venue	Page
February			
2 nd	Book Exchange & Coffee morning	Methodist	10
9 th	Hooe Open Group	Methodist	27
10 th	Coffee Morning	St. Oswald's	22
12 th	Hooe Parish Council	Village Hall	12
12 th	Carnival Meeting	Working Men's	19
14 th	Christian Women's Fellowship	Methodist	33
15 th	Hooe History Group	St. Oswald's	26
17 th	Breakfast Special	Memorial	17
17 th	Village Market	Memorial	17
19 th	Horticultural Society Coffee Morning	Memorial	6
21 st	Ninfield Bonfire Society	Working Men's	31
23 rd	Men's Shed	Sparke	10
24 th	Vintage Games Night	Working Men's	31
26 th	Hooe Parish Council	Village Hall	12

If you are planning an event please remember to let us know and we'll be happy to add it to our busy calendar.

How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. – Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. – Kirsten, age 10

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. – Lori, age 8

How would the world be different if people did not get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? –Kelvin, age 8

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry.– Ricky, 10

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

at The Memorial Hall

Mondays	10.00 Movement to Music *	1.30 Ladies Badminton	
Tuesdays	6.00 Cubs		
Wednesdays	9.15 Pilates*	10.15 Yoga *	2.00 Art Group*
	6.45 Dancersize*		
Thursdays	5.00 Beavers	7.00 Scouts	
Fridays	9.30 Cardiac Exercise*	10.30 Pilates*	
	10.30 Crafting & Knitting*		
Alternate Fridays	6.45 Ballroom & Burlesque *	Explorers	

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

at The Methodist Hall

Mondays	9.30 Art Group*	12.45 Little Stars Dance*	
	5.30 Junior Kick Boxing*	7.00 Mark Time*	
Tuesdays	9.30 Yoga*	11.30 Pilates*	7.30 Singing*
Thursdays	9.30 Silver Swans*		
Fridays	5.00 Junior Kick boxing*		
Saturday	8.45 - 11.45 Little Stars Dance*		

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

at Sparke Pavilion

Thursdays	11.00 A gentle exercise walk around Ninfield
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* These events need to be booked, see contacts on page 35

'Mark Time' on Monday evenings is for anyone who plays a brass instrument, if you are interested, pop along and say 'hello'

NINFIELD SURGERY

Foodbank

Thank you for your continued support with the donations to the Foodbank basket. The donations that were put in the basket for December were amazing and we are very grateful.

Community Garden

We had an official opening of the Community Garden in December and its now ready for everyone to use.

Dr Preye Mangiri

In January we said goodbye to Dr Preye Mangiri who has left our team. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

ANOTHER SUCESSFUL SCOUT WREATH CLASS

We are delighted have once again hosted the Christmas wreath classes in the Memorial Hall. The classes have run for several years now and enjoy a growing number of regular attendees.



As well as the wreath tuition and making, we had a great selection of handmade gifts and crafts available from the scouting family, a raffle and refreshments. For the first year we held an evening class as well as a daytime one. Our amazing local ladies, Good Company, came and sang a lovely selection of Christmas songs while we crafted away. This along with mulled wine, cheeses, and raffle, there



was a lovely atmosphere. The morning session enjoyed the usual fab home made cakes and refreshments also. The group are absolutely delighted to have raised £1330 for the 1st Ninfield Scout group from the classes and craft sales. A huge thank you to all that came, supported and helped make this possible. These funds are vital to help our scout group remain good value and have such a wide range of activities available to the children.

We have already booked next years class for Monday 2nd December 7pm and Tuesday 3rd December 9.15. over half of the spaces are already reserved for this December.

If you would like to reserve a space, please message or call Veronica Sargent on 07714327117. We will then contact you again in the autumn to confirm and secure your space prior to advertising the class.

**Closing date for items for the
MARCH
issue of the Parish News**

**Is Monday 13th February please send to
ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com**

Ninfield Health and Wellbeing Group

aims to promote the health and well-being of people in the local community. Established in 2018, NHWG is an umbrella organisation supporting a range of activities.

Book Exchange & Community Café

Methodist Hall: 10 – 11.30 weekly on Friday.

First Friday monthly: Book Exchange and chat over tea/coffee and biscuits. Donations asked for books and refreshments. A good range of books and good company.

Community Café open on all other Friday mornings – you will be made very welcome.

For further details contact David on 07989729123 or email dj_swales@hotmail.com

Women's Crafting & Knitting Circle

Memorial Hall Committee Room. Weekly 10.30 am – 12.30 am. £5 per session. A well established friendly group.

For more information contact Jane on 01424 892428

Health Walks

Every Thursday. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an hour. Meet 11 am at Sparke Pavilion at Ninfield recreation ground near the main entrance off Church Lane. A few more walkers would be welcome!

FREE and friendly. Dogs on short leads welcome.

Part of the East Sussex Health Walks scheme. Please wear suitable footwear.

Contact Robin for more details: 01424 892778. Or

robin@plowmate.plus.com

Men's Shed

Sparke Pavilion. 10am last Friday of the month. Men putting the world to rights over free coffee.

For more information contact Dave: 01424 892883

Dark Skies - although there have been some fantastic skies in January, it's really just been too cold and/or wet to get outside much. As we have said previously, there is no formal monthly meeting as everything is weather dependant. The next main event is a Super Moon on Friday 9th February, but please look out on the Community Page for postings or contact me on k.crittell@btinternet.com and I can add you to the Dark Skies WhatsApp Group

Film Matinees 2024

Memorial Hall: Tuesday afternoons: Doors open 1.30. Films start at 2 pm, FREE entry and refreshments. Dementia friendly and subtitles.

We had a very successful 2023 season and hope you will join us for the 2024 selection below.

5 March: Kind Hearts and Coronets

9 April: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

14 May: The Graduate

25 June: Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again (the sequel to Mamma Mia)

3 September: Blazing Saddles

1 October: Funny Face

5 November: the African Queen

10 December: the Greatest Showman.

For more information or to book a place (to ensure enough cake!), contact Jackie or Rose :01424 892422

jackie.langley1@btinternet.com

Friendly Voices - back after the Christmas break and with a list of new songs to try out! Hopefully, you would have seen our performances at the Home Made Fayre and Christmas Market and saw for yourself how much we enjoy ourselves (maybe you even joined in on the 12 Days of Christmas - Ninfield version?) We meet Tuesday evenings at the Methodist Hall from 7.30pm and Thursday afternoon at Sparke Pavilion from 2pm. At the risk of repeating myself, we are not a choir, but a group of people that come together to sing and have fun. Anyone is welcome to come along to either (or both) sessions and at £1 a session, it's good value for money as well as being good for your health.

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. –
Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. –
Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

– Derrick, age 8

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk / RFO: Jane Warrener 07548 528754

Email: clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.hooe-pc.gov.uk

Hooe Parish Council would like to wish everyone a happy new year.

The Parish Council will be holding an important meeting to discuss the future of the village hall on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm in the village hall and would welcome residents to attend.

The supporting documents for the Village Hall Project Committee meeting are available to read on the Parish Council's website on <https://www.hooe-pc.gov.uk/village-hall-project/>

Should any resident wish to put forward a question to the Village Hall Project Committee, please contact the Clerk by the 5th February 2024 with the details.

The Village Hall Project Committee Chairman has requested that residents are given the opportunity to ask questions prior to the Village Hall project Committee debate, and after the debate, before any decision(s) are made. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

The next Hooe Parish Full Council meeting is to be held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 7pm in the village hall.

An Invitation from Ninfield Village Memorial Hall To All of the Groups, Societies and Clubs in Ninfield

As you know on the third Saturday of most months there is the Village Market from 9.30 - 12.00, The First Floor Room is not used at that time and we'd like you to apply for one of the Saturdays to run a 'surgery or drop in' type session to introduce yourselves residents, put on a demonstration or little training session, ask what residents would like, see what they have to offer in an informal setting?

Perhaps the Horticultural Society could show how to display exhibits for the Spring or Summer Show; could the Art or Flower Group have a hands on session;? Possibilities are endless! And it's free!

Contact us by email or chat to one of the committee at the market on 17th February, ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

Hello Ninfield and a belated Happy New Year to one and all.

NFG meet at the Memorial Hall on the first Monday of most months starting with refreshments at 6.30 followed by a demonstration at 7pm. Demonstrations are given by qualified floral designers from Sussex, Kent and other local counties. However our Christmas meeting is always on the first Friday of December when we have a National Demonstrator to whom we are able to offer a much bigger budget and it is always an especially enjoyable and spectacular evening. So I make no apologies for getting way ahead of myself with a plug for Christmas '24 when we will welcome Ian Lloyd with "A Cheshire Christmas" on Friday December 6th. This is a quote from his website....

Ian Lloyd is no ordinary florist and has been voted one of the country's top 10 florists by The Independent newspaper. His wedding work has been featured in many national magazines and television programmes and he has demonstrated in 15 countries.

Be prepared for a super evening of stunning arrangements, glitz and glamour so make sure you put the date in your diary now. Tickets will be on sale in September.

For our first demonstration of the year on Monday March 4th we welcome for a return visit the delightful Eloise Hasler-Stott with her title "A Spring Walk". Eloise is a Chelsea gold medal winner and was also young florist of the year 2018.

Tickets for visitors are £5, so do come along and join us for a thoroughly relaxed and colourful evening. We have a sales tables selling floral sundries, and there is a raffle for all the arrangements created. You could be a lucky winner!

On Saturday March 9th we hold the first of our twice-a-year Jumble Sales. We welcome any **saleable** items to the hall from 9.30am. We are unable to accept any upholstered items unless they have their original "fire-proof" label, also no children's car seats. We open for selling at 2pm.

Entrance 50p.

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LOCAL HISTORY

One of the biggest changes to affect Ninfield since 1066 was the change in the Parish boundary that occurred in 1886. 26 acres (Weeks Wood) which had been completely detached from Ninfield itself, to the east of Freckley Hollow were added to Catsfield, adding to the Normanhurst Estate. At the same time, all the parts of Ashburnham Parish which were south of the Ash Burn stream were incorporated into Ninfield Parish.

The new boundary was therefore from Marl pits to Coombe Lane to the twithen that runs past the covered reservoirs, across Standard Hill to the east of Moor Hall Drive and up to the rear gardens of those properties on the south side of Standard Hill, the "Ashburnham" Mill and Field, and up to the twithen into Manchester Road, close to what is now the doctors surgery (at that time the village Post Office). That brought the rest of the Back Lane (now Manchester Road) into Ninfield, together with Marl pits, all along to the Freckley Lane and Skinners Lane junction, where there were the Ninfield brickyards.

In Marl pits, there was one property that remained in Ashburnham, where the churchwarden lived and he absolutely refused to have his house in Ninfield! That's the one on the left just before the Moons Hill junction, opposite the large pond.

Often there were footpaths along parish boundaries, to allow for the practice of "beating the bounds" and the back garden fences of those from Moor Hall Drive to opposite the surgery may also have been such a footpath. There is apparently one "lost footpath in Ninfield, and that may be it. That followed another major change in rural life in Ninfield, the Poor Law Unions. You can look at an old map of Ninfield at <https://maps.nls.uk/view/102347710> Hailsham Poor Law Union was formed on 10th April 1835. It's operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 16 in number and representing 11 parishes which each appointed one Guardian. Arlington; Chiddingly; Hailsham (2); Heathfield (2); Hellingly (2); Herstmonceux (2); Hooe, Laughton, Ninfield, Warbleton (2) and Wartling. Up until then, most towns and parishes had been responsible for those born or residing there, and when falling on hard times would be housed in the Workhouse.

In 1835, the bringing together all those from different parishes split the tradition of each community looking after their own, knowing who was a malingerer and who was genuinely in need. This lack of compassion allowed for some pretty harsh treatments of inmates. The intent was to get those that could, back to productive employment, but often meant that elderly, physically or mentally ill or handicapped were forced to live in meagre circumstances and treated as "workshy" when often they simply couldn't

work any more. The Workhouse in Ninfield was turned into a farmhouse and sanitised as White House farm. Until 1835, Ninfield had always been part of the Hastings Rape, forming the western boundary. After 1835, Ninfield was seen as part of Hailsham, first as the Town then as a District Council, becoming part of Wealden in due course.

It was also the only place that pregnant women could get even basic medical attention and even then soon after birth their babies were taken away to “encourage” them out of the workhouse to prevent them being a burden on the parish. My father was born in the Liverpool Workhouse, as the maternity care (if it could be called such) wasn’t taken on by the State until the National Health Service was formed on 5th July 1948. Fortunately, I came along 9 months after that!

KR

A poster for a 'Spring Flower Basket Class'. The background is a soft-focus image of yellow flowers with a bee on one of them. The text is in bold black font. The title 'SPRING FLOWER BASKET CLASS' is at the top. Below it, the price '£25 per person', date 'Tuesday 19th March', time '9.30am-12.00', and location 'Ninfield Memorial Hall' are listed.

**SPRING FLOWER
BASKET CLASS**

£25 per person
Tuesday 19th March
9.30am-12.00
Ninfield Memorial Hall

Come and join us for a fun morning to create a beautiful fresh flower basket arrangement using a wide range of seasonal foliage. These classes are open to all abilities and have a lovely, relaxed atmosphere.

Proceeds of the class will go to 1st Ninfield and Crowhurst Scout Group
All materials supplied as well as great cakes and refreshments to enjoy.
Just bring secateurs.

We will have a raffle on the day and a selection of the scout family home made crafts to purchase in addition

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Please call or text Veronica Sargent 07714 327117



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before the market starts, booking recommended.**

**Email ninfieldmemorialhall.co.uk
with name and how many!**

SAMI'S NEWS & REVUES

Congratulations to all those who joined the Group Outing, from Ninfield up to the Pantomime in Potters Bar! It was a blast, except for the horrifically appalling traffic which caused a few later starters to have to turn back. However the dozen or so who made it it good time really enjoyed the show, and had a tour round backstage afterwards; little Arthur was gobsmacked throughout! Thank you so much for making the trip, it really was fab to have friends in, on the middle show of a 3 show day!! The whole run was just wonderful, great feedback and sold out - and, even though the schedule is full on, it's a joy to do: fingers crossed for somewhere more local next year!!

As always at the start of the year, there's an awful lot of articles, promotions and discussions on Health and Fitness, and our 'resolutions' to 'be better', 'get fitter' and diet, diet, diet...!! Well, as lovely Dr Xand said on Morning Live recently, there are so many things we can all gently do, without breaking our bodies or our bank accounts, to help us make the most of ourselves and feel fit, healthy and happy. Within this magazine is a list of all my classes , and I would love people to come and try any one, or all, of them; there's so much fun and laughter to be had while the body and brain get a bit of a workout. I can't stress enough how good dancing is for us, in whatever format- it's a life changer, and life lengthener!!

For the older, but still active person, it's so important to 'keep pushing along'(to quote esteemed Mama)to 'do just a bit', 'to move it or lose it', and I have now extended my Monday morning class to include a gentle warm down stretch after the main exercises, followed by half an hour of natter over coffee (and biscuits!) So, I would love to welcome new people to our fabulous group... please see contact details below, and you can always call for a chat before committing; I can only say, and it's not just bias, that the M2M hour and a half is SO beneficial, sets you up for your day, helps lift the spirits and 'gets it all going' for the week ahead!

Ninfield Carnival Association

We agreed to Sponsor the purchase of the Village Christmas Tree and Lights this year, as part of the donations from our events. And, thanks to weekly changing of the battery operated lights, (Thankyou to Robin Fookes!) the tree twinkled throughout the festive season and was the focus of a few events!

So we now look to 2024!!!

Dates for your Diary...

Pram Race - Bank Holiday Monday May 6th - we're awaiting permission for the use of the car park at the Blacksmiths Inn again- so watch this space - but hopefully there will be the same format as last year's Coronation races, with even more entries, so please think about making your Karts and Prams, and Hobby Horses!

Ninfield Village Carnival Fête -

Saturday 22nd JUNE! -yes, Solstice Saturday, and LOTS of ideas are already being discussed! Of course things are subject to change, but this is the blueprint for now - The Theme will be Paris - to include the Olympics! There will be music during the day, and early evening, The BBQ running throughout, plus the Tea Tent, Ninfield Bake Off, Bottle Tombola, Raffle, Crafts Stalls, Games, Coconut Shy, China Smash, Welly Wanging, and in the evening the Parisian theme will continue, Cafe style, with live music, cheese platters, Boules matches, and small sports games. When the sun starts to set, there will be Solstice stargazing to end the event.

On the Friday evening beforehand, 21st June, there will hopefully be another Battle of the Bands type of Music event, run by the Bonfire society.

Michaelmas Fayre - again- a long way off yet, but proposed to be on Saturday 21st September, at St Mary's Church, and in Church Lane- in the same sort of format as last year!

So there's a lot already to get going, and organise, and we would WELCOME any NEW members - even if you don't want to come to meetings, please let us know if you can help at the events i.e Marshalling, making cakes, helping at the Tea Tent, setting up Gazebos, collecting Bottles for the Tombola - all bits of help are so much appreciated!

We will next meet on MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2024 (no one wanted to meet on Valentine's day!) at 7.45pm at Ninfield's Working Men's Club, and would love to see you then, why not join us for a drink by the roaring fire! Please keep in contact, I will keep updating over the next couple of months. Why not send us a message!!!!

For all Events, Dance Classes, Show/Theatre tickets - Call Sami on 07970650321 - email samanthaguard@btinternet.com - Facebook -Ninfield Carnival Events

The cold dark of winter

I've been cold, soaked and my cars on the blink and now I'm faced with writing something. Still it could be worse.

There was a time when winter was waited for with great expectation. It was a time when my work as a game keeper was put to the test. Have I succeed in rearing enough birds, and have I kept them on the shoot! There are pike to catch, finding areas of marshland dikes that have not frozen and waiting in the cold for a run. That's not a physical run, that hasn't happened for a long, long time. A run is when the pike picks up the bait and swims off with it. Winter was a time for nets and ferrites, along with very excited dogs. Odd as it may sound there is not much more pleasant than a thermos of coffee, a smoke and a half frozen cheese sandwich. All this sheltering behind a hedge. But perhaps the biggest joy was getting home and a nice warm fire, forgetting the hardships, they were only there to prove you are still alive.

So back to putting the Church to the centre of things, as it should be! As has been the case the first challenge is getting across the flood before the car park. It has been so bad I have had to reverse back up the whole lane as the water level was over my size 10 wellingtons. Life must be grim for the subterranean dwellers.

There is always the robin that is so often by the gate, the wren that delights in shouting at me and the blue tits desperately searching for something to eat. Small animals need to eat and often else they freeze. Maybe we need to think about a feeding station at the Church. There are always the crows and magpies, ever on the lookout for food themselves. A frozen blue tit would be as good to them as my frozen cheese sandwich was to me.

There is the on going Church yard maintenance, most of which is coming to its Christmas break. Please spare a thought for our Church wardens who spend so much time and effort in keeping the ground and building in such a good state.

Just when you think there is not much happening note worthy in the natural world, up pops a plant. The area of mown grass in front of the Church now has a board bean, proudly putting on leaves despite the cold. I have a feeling that it is a remnant from the field beans grown close to the Church.

It would be nice to think this maybe a practical joke, some one planting it there. But more likely it was a squirrel or jay putting something aside for winter and then forgetting all about it. I can relate to both options!

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Hooe Village Community Group

Contact us:

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hooevillagecommunitygroup.co.uk

Facebook: Hooe Village Community Group

Email: hooevcg@gmail.com

Chairman: Chris Bloor

Treasurer: Peter Cosham

Secretary: Elaine Bloor

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

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Village activities and charitable works



Our next event

February 10th – Coffee Morning

In addition to all the usual attractions, this month we are delighted to welcome the Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance. Their talk given at a recent Hooe History Society meeting was interesting, informative, and thought provoking. If you missed that then take this opportunity come and have a chat to Colin, one of their volunteers! As you will be aware KSS has attended 2 or 3 incidents in and around the village during the last few months and so, in recognition of their invaluable work, the proceeds of this coffee morning raffle will be donated to them. If you find you are unable to join us on 10th February but would like to contribute, please email us – we will be pleased to arrange to convert your donation into raffle tickets!

Our regular coffee mornings will continue during 2024, **March 9th** is the next date to pop into your diary!

Annual Community Litter Pick – Saturday 6th April

A group of between 25 – 30 community minded residents meet up every year to embark on our Annual Community Litter Pick – also known as The Hooe Village Spring Clean! We distribute litter picks, high viz jackets and bags at our meeting place at The Red Lion Car Park then disperse across the parish, returning two hours later to share experiences and boast

about the amount of litter and the unusual items we have collected. It gets very competitive and is, surprisingly, a lot of fun! Leigh allows us to meet at the Red Lion (thank you Leigh!) which provides a convenient watering hole following our energetic morning activities. Come and join us!

The pickings from our first annual event filled over 30 bags in addition to piles of oil drums, tyres, parts of cars a fridge and a mattress. Last year we collected 25 bags.

Why the reduction? Are people more considerate? Sadly NO. It is because of the regular litter picks undertaken by several residents who keep our village clean and to whom we are all extremely grateful.

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

The Smith Family – *all 3 generations!*

Geraldine

Kevan and Gillian

Peter W

Sonia and Andrew

There may be others – do tell us – we need to celebrate them!

Hooe Open Gardens - June 15th/June 16th

The date is set, the gardeners are itching to get going once the weather improves and plans are being formulated. Gary Durman (01424 893007) is the person to speak to if you would like more information, are interested in opening your garden or would like to help with the event.

If the experience of past years is repeated the village this weekend will be swarming with folk out for the day set on enjoying themselves in our rural village. So perhaps we can all consider treating them to the spectacle of beautiful front gardens as they pass? Let's give the gardens a little extra attention to get into the spirit of the weekend. A local celebrity will judge in secret, the winning garden will be well advertised! Perhaps it will be yours!?

Charitable Donations

Herstmonceux Science Centre

Georgia and Finlay were asked by Herstmonceux Science Centre to donate a family entry ticket to their selected local group or charity. HVCG was delighted to have been chosen and pleased to add the ticket to Raffle. A fantastic prize to add to the amazing variety of prizes always on offer!



In recognition of the work of the Centre, which is a registered charity, HVCG decided to give a token donation to them of £50.00. Long may they provide interest and education right on our doorstep.

Wealden Talking News

It can be extremely isolating and often lonely for those who are blind or have limited vision as anyone with relatives or friends in that position know only too well. We take seeing and reading for granted, we absorb so much through facial expression and the written word.

HVCG is delighted to have donated £250.00 to **Wealden Talking News**.

This charity, which was awarded the Queen's Award for Charitable Service in her very last round of Awards, is run totally by volunteers who give of their time, including professional expertise, completely free of charge. Every single penny raised is ploughed back into the service – providing free weekly talking news to over 250 grateful recipients.



A delighted Di Steele, Studio and Production Manager, thanked HVCG profusely for the donation which she said will contribute greatly to the continued success to the charity. She is pictured here in their small but perfectly formed recording

studio built entirely by volunteers. Volunteers were assembling ready to record the next edition of the newspaper.

Hooe Village Community Group, enjoying working together for the good of everyone.

Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. – Theodore, age 8

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. – Anita, age 9

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. – Craig, age 9

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Hooe History Society

Our speaker on Thursday 15th February will be Geoffrey Mead who will give a talk entitled “Scattered squalor and Downland homes”, which looks at the dramatic contrast in housing that developed between the wars; classic half-timbered semis with Sunburst gates and doors at one end of the housing spectrum, and old railway carriages, ex-army huts and shacks at the other. What brought about these contrasts? We look at a variety of aspects of this interesting contrast. We meet at 7.30 p.m. in St. Oswald’s Church as normal. DID YOU KNOW... Some time ago Carol Ballard sent me a number of articles that Kathleen Daniel had written for the Parish News between 2003 and 2007. Kathleen was a keen member of the bellringers and supporter of St. Oswald’s until she died and had published these articles as “Stories from the Belltower of St. Oswald’s”. They are so well researched and interesting I thought I would occasionally reprint one as they are still relevant today.

Hidden in Sussex countryside’s green folds
This little church unseen by rushing eyes
Has stood for peace; foundations centuries old
Its tower must have seen Armada’s pennants fly.

Now green fields surround it, birds and scuttling mice
Live out their lives about its sturdy walls;
An owl sits sentinel in window arch
And bats flit fast, with unheard, inhuman calls.

But this is not a ruin; every week
Its ancient bells ring out their glorious sound –
Telling of joy and love and hope and peace
And everlasting truth that here is found.

Now, I thought you might like to know a bit about your bells, and ringing in general. We have five bells, the heaviest being 11cwt – that’s over half a ton, 526kgs (for you youngsters)!

We know that in 1724 there were four bells, the fifth being added in 1787; but before that we have no records. Our searchings did find out some telling facts, however – in the Churchwarden’s accounts entitled “Coronation Celebrations”, expenses were paid to the bellringers at the Coronation of Queen Anne (1702), George 1 (1715) and George II (1729), “and subsequent anniversaries thereof”, these expenses being for beer and brandy! When this custom stopped, I do not know, but having myself rung for Queen Elizabeth II, I can assure you that I wasn’t paid and had neither beer nor brandy!

There probably were bells here in the 1600's, as Sedlescombe bells date from 1606 and some of the timbers in their bell-frames are said to be from ships that sailed in the Spanish Armada in 1588. Bells themselves are very old, having been around from mankind first discovered how to work metal; they are mentioned in the Bible as being used for decoration; the boy David would have listened to them as he herded his father's sheep on the hillside, and poor lepers had to ring them as a warning. The Romans had bells, the Saxons had bells – they were universal. Nearer home, there is a reference to a Scottish Monk called Ducul, who came south, possibly in the train of St Wilfred; Wilfred went to Bexhill, Ducul set up a missionary settlement at Bosham, "with a bell". Presumably this was to summon the people to prayer. At the end of the seventh century, the Venerable Bede recorded that the bell of Whitby was heard 13 miles away at Hackness, when it was rung for the death of Abbess Hilda in 680, and about 100 years later Saint Egbert, Archbishop of York, decreed that all priests having a bell in their chapel should ring it to tell the people of the hours of prayer. (Thus came the Sanctus bell, the Angelus, and the Curfew). So now bells were being used to tell of the hours of worship, and thus to tell the time of day; but who actually made them? And how? Ah, that's another story!

Peter Hayward

Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

Our first meeting of the year following our very enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the Blacksmiths, was Friday 12th January 2024 at the Methodist Hall in Ninfield. We were low on numbers, perhaps because we didn't have a speaker or the weather doesn't encourage one to go out. However, we had a good time catching up with friends we probably hadn't seen since before Christmas. Heather did a quiz, a few groans but I think everyone enjoyed it, needed to remember nursery rhymes which for some of us was quite a long time ago unless you were lucky enough have young grand children. We meet the second Friday of the month always at 2p.m. so why not come along and join us, we have a variety of speakers or activities. We are a friendly lot and tea/coffee and biscuits (sometimes cake!) always rounds the afternoon off.

Next meeting is 9th February – see you there. Heather & Nicki

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

2023 ended with considerable work in Church Wood to cope with the extraordinary rainfall and storm force winds which took down a number of trees in the run up to Christmas. We endeavour to recycle the timber generated from these trees to rebuild bridges, create safe pathways and repair fences but the rainfall, which has continued into the New Year, has done extensive damage to the paths and caused overflowing of the ponds. The Wood is still open to visitors and dog walkers but we urge everyone to take great care on the muddy slopes and on the pathway into the Wood from Church Path.

On a brighter note, we were pleased to complete the handover of the Community Garden next to the Doctors' Surgery in mid December. This was a collaborative effort with the Health and Wellbeing Group and hopefully will be a place for quiet reflection for years to come. In addition we provided and erected the customary Christmas Tree in the Memorial Hall, co-sponsored by Catsfield Christmas Tree Farm.

Our first visit to Church Wood this year gave us more work deflecting torrents of water away from paths and yet another tree had to be removed having succumbed to the strong winds. We all enjoy the voluntary work we do but we are only too well aware that our average age is well in excess of 70 years, although we like to believe we do not look it [!] Accordingly we should like to enquire whether there are any local residents who might like to join us in our work here and around Ninfield ? We appreciate some may be interested but that our usual Wednesday a.m. work practice might not fit with their other commitments. We should be interested to hear from any possible volunteers if an occasional Saturday morning could work for them and would invite you to telephone Roger Saunders, Chairman, in the first instance on 236920, or come along to our AGM on Wednesday 13th March from 7pm. at the Methodist Hall. No obligation but an opportunity to meet and chat with ladies and gents who enjoy our work.

And finally, THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN is almost upon us and NVS are arranging their annual litter pick for Saturday 30th March starting 10am at The Pavilion on the Recreation ground. We have litterpickers, black sacks, reflective waistcoats and gloves for those who need them so please come along for an hour or two and enjoy a local walk collecting a bag of rubbish.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Worms Eye View

The wind is blowing and it is raining hard, not a very good start to the year. However I have just heard a weather forecaster predict that we are going to have a bad winter similar to 1963. So what was it like then?

I thought our diary for 1953 might bring back some memories which it certainly has done. Life was certainly different for us back then. We were living in Heathfield and had a herd of thirty five milking cows, ten sows mostly with piglets and about one hundred and fifty hens housed in sheds each with good sized runs in some of the fields near the farm house, not forgetting of course one small daughter just one year old!

Diary note for January 1st: Weather still very bad and hard work coping with routine work of milking cows in the early morning ready for milk lorry to collect the churns, about fifteen by 7.45 am. Then came feeding of all the livestock, cattle pigs and hens. Baby Sarah was safely in a pram in the cow stall watching the milking and chattering away.

January 3rd Disaster! The road was so icy that the milk lorry could not risk driving down from the main road, so we had to get the tractor out and cart the milk to the top of the hill for collection. It took six trips, not fun. This continued for three days until the council cleared the road of snow and ice. It was still very cold with quite a lot of snow.

We got used to the weather and managed all the necessary work, then January 19th, a very bad blizzard struck which made everything more difficult, but a friend who could not go to his work walked down to us and helped tremendously and still the cold weather was with us. One bright spot was a favourite cow called Lovely gave 83lbs of milk (her record). By the way all of our cows had names such as Lucy, Lily, Maggie, Kitty etc.

It started to thaw on January 26th, which was very welcome as we were calving by then which meant that to go & check the cows several times at night. It continued to thaw and then became very cold again on February 1st.

I wonder what will happen in 2024. I will be keeping a record in my new diary.

Anne

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. – Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. – Martin, age 10



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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 17th February. Come and see us and have a chat about what we do and if you like, join as a member! We run a tombola and if you need some NBS clothing, we sell a range of merchandise.

We have our first fundraiser of the year coming up:

Vintage Games Night on Saturday, 24th February – 7.00pm at the **Working Men's club**. Pay £5 to enter a Round Robin competition. There's a prize for the highest score. Come and have fun and have a go at Shove Ha'penny; Ringing the Bull; Shut the box; Toad in the Hole and many more games. Food will be available on the night.

Brushwood faggots and torch bats:

Ninfield Bonfire Society use traditional brushwood faggots for our bonfire and torch bats for our torch-lit procession. A torch is a rod-like piece of wood with the rag wrapped around one end, dipped in some flammable fluid and lit. If the fluid is a mixture of sulphur and lime that torch will not extinguish if put into water.

Ancient Romans invented and used this kind of torch. Torches were often put into sconces to serve as fixed lighting in crypts and castles. Except for lighting indoors, they were also used in processions and parades. A torch was used as a symbol of hope, life and enlightenment and, if turned upside down, of death and mourning. Each year we cut about 300 torches; these are cut to approximately three feet in length and then stored for a few months. We use hessian strips which are wound round the heads of the bats and fixed into place with nails. These are then later dipped in an oil mixture and drained, a process that takes about three weeks, ready to be lit on bonfire night. Also, in April we prepare the brush faggots. In Bonfire terms a brush faggot is "A bundle of sticks, twigs or small branches of trees bound

together". These are used to form our bonfire each year. The brush is cut into approximately four foot lengths and tied together and left to dry out over the summer. The reason for this is that the faggots allow for a quick lighting fire, with lots of light that burns through quickly, so we can then have the fireworks, and they do not leave too much ash. If you would like to join us making either of these then please keep an eye on our FB page for updates.

So if you've enjoyed Bonfire night last year in the village, then why not support Ninfield Bonfire by joining as a member and help keep this Sussex Tradition alive? Join online, at one of our meetings or visit us at one of the monthly Ninfield Village markets.

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 Torch-lit Procession, Bonfire, Effigy and Fireworks

Display will be held on Saturday, 19th October 2024

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

Remember, Remember the 5th of November

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Sunday Services for February 2024:

4th	10.30 am	Café Worship with Revd. Cynthia Park
11th	10.30 am	Worship & Praise service with Drina Hampson
18th	10.30 am	Worship & Communion with Revd. Crawford Logan
25th	0.30 am	Worship & Praise service with Barry Chasely

Events for February 2024:

Fridays	10.00-11.30am	Community Café including
2nd	10.00-11.30am	Book exchange in Hall
14th	2.30 – 4.00pm	Christian Women’s Fellowship
27th	2.00 – 4.00pm	Church Council meeting.

We were thrilled that Eva Milli Malet and Olivia Grace Malet were christened at our Church on Christmas Eve. It was such a lovely occasion with their parents Leanne & Ryan & all of their family. Around 40 people packed our Church. Then in the afternoon we enjoyed a Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Many thanks to our minister Reverend Crawford for leading both of these services. ‘A special day’.

On January 14th we enjoyed our New Year’s Covenant service led by Reverend’s Paul Frostick & Jonathan Todd. We were joined by the congregations of St. Mary’s & St. Oswald’s which was special & were able to unite in Worship & Praise. Such a great way to start 2024.

Messy Church on January 31st looks at the theme ‘Listening for God’. It’s so important & simple that we try & do this as much as we can as there is so much to experience & discover.

We hope you will join us for some of our services or events in February as shown above.

We also enjoy serving coffee & cake after our morning services & of course at the weekly Community café & at Café worshipnot to be missed!

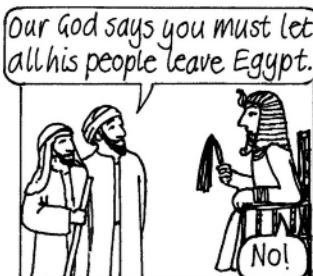
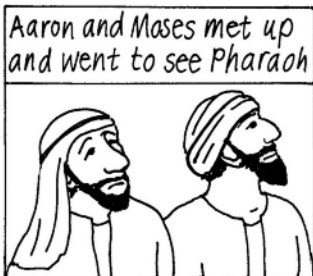
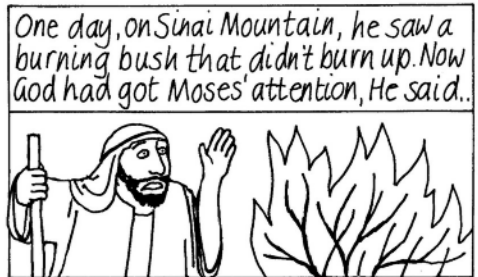
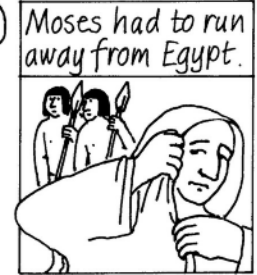
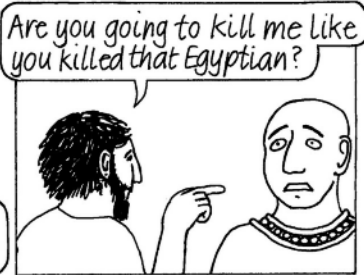
Very best wishes for 2024.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.



Directory of Groups & Clubs

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: Fiona Stedman 01424 892418

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Show Organiser: Kaye Crittell, Stepping Stones, Lower Street, 892883

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. •Corinne Gibbons •892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD MUDDY BOOTS Early Childhood Centre

Sunshine Room 01424 892 037. Snowdrop Cottage 01424 892 600.

NINFIELD STOOLBALL Emma Kehoe 07565 010647

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Sue Thompson 892294

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader Glen Harrison gharrisonninfIELDScountsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader: Josh.explorers@gmail.com

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison tracey.harrison67@gmail.com

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

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Robert Slater 07740 828715

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

DARK SKIES GROUP Kaye Crittell 892883

THE FRIENDLY VOICES Kaye Crittell 892883

PILATES & YOGA Susan Trimmer 07977 872284

LITTLE STARS DANCE Kirsty Mills 07875 235398

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Simon Pattisson 845087

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE SPORTS CLUB 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 (Hand Belleplates) Carole Ballard 01424 210980

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

PARISH WHO'S WHO

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

PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

Churchwardens: Mrs Catriona Mary Owen
After 4.00pm 225421

Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose

Treasurer:

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD, HOOE

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

Secretary: Mr John Fairclough

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Clerk to the Council:

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

MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: EMAIL ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

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

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Booking Secretary: Mr David Swales 892248

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