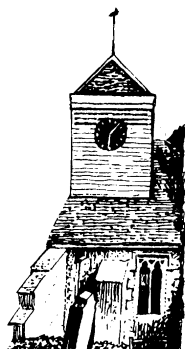


THE

PARISH



NEWS



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

May 2021

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



Date	St. Mary's 9.30 unless stated	St. Oswald's 11.00 unless stated
2 nd May	Parish Eucharist	Family Service
9 th May	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist	No Service
16 th May	Family Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
23 rd May	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
30 th May	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

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

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,

In the days after the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples met behind locked doors “for fear of the Jews” and Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

Today, many of us are living almost “behind locked doors”, not “for fear of the Jews”, but for fear of Covid 19. And that is bringing about a change in our ways of being and living which is almost as dramatic as the changes brought about to the early disciples by the resurrection of Jesus. For the early disciples, the changes in their lives were mainly long term. For us the changes may be temporary as hopefully we now slowly come out of lockdown, but I suspect that for some of us certain aspects of these changes will continue throughout our lives. I, for one, am certainly enjoying living at a more relaxed pace although I still seem to be busy! Perhaps its putting those online services together which was something completely new for me.

Just as Jesus came among those early disciples and said, “Peace be with you”, so Jesus is alongside us saying just the same, “Peace be with you.” It is at times like this, that many of us want to think hard about our faith and about our priorities in life.

As individuals, we can't do many of the things which normally keep us busy. This gives us the opportunity to reassess what is really important in our lives. It is hard not being able to get out to see family and friends or to see the newly born grandchild; it is particularly hard for those living alone but many of us are being much more purposeful in making sure that we do keep in touch with those in our social circle using the phone, or WhatsApp, or Facetime or Zoom or other modern ways of communicating. Perhaps this reminds us that, in normal times, we can let other less important things get in the way of ensuring that we stay in touch with those close to us.

As a congregation, we have quickly had to create a new way of being the Church when we couldn't meet to worship together. Even now some are understandably cautious about returning and some are still self-isolating.

We are learning a lot during this time, about ways of keeping in touch with one another – using some new ways and some old – and I am sure that some of these will continue to be used. The restrictions on the movement of all of us make us particularly conscious of those members of our congregations who are housebound. Do we do enough in normal times to keep in touch, to give them worship opportunities, to make sure that their needs are met?

This is also a time to concentrate on prayer – not only praying for those serving sacrificially in the NHS and care homes, for other key workers, for those who are suffering from Covid 19 and for the bereaved, but also just spending time focussing on the fact that Jesus is alongside us saying “Peace be with you.”

The lives of the early disciples were radically changed as a result of the resurrection of Jesus. The disciples had a new focus – to go and make disciples of all nations.

This pause in our normal way of being and living also gives us the opportunity to consider afresh how God wants us to be and to live both now and when all this is over. Let’s not miss this opportunity!

Peace be with you.

Paul

My Garden?

I thought I owned a garden
A lovely place to be
A bird said, “Beg your pardon,
“This land belongs to me!”

A squirrel dropped a nut on me
Which wasn’t what I’d planned
“Get lost!”, said he, “for can’t you see
“You trespass on my land?”

A pheasant flapped and squawked so loud
I scarce could hear me think!
“Get off my ground, for two’s a crowd!”
He kicked up such a stink!

The wild-life around me
So loudly do protest!
They growl and screech till I can see
That I am just a guest!

By Nigel Beeton



Editors' Note

It's really nice this month to actually have a couple of dates for you to look forward to over the next few months, and other groups are getting ready to plan ahead, slowly, slowly we get back to a sense of normal life and we can put a diary page back in, so remember send us your plans each month by the 13th to go to print.

We'd like to thank all the distributors for collecting the £5.00 from each of you who have your copy delivered to your door. If you'd like a copy delivered just email ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com



Nicki & Carol

SUNDAY 25th APRIL
Ninfield Recreation Ground
Horticultural Society's Annual Plant Sale
10.00am - 12.00 noon
Cash Only

And please remember wear a mask and keep social distance

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

will resume monthly meetings in June. The first one on Thursday 10th June at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall. This will be a talk by John Cheshire entitled Ninfield- The News of the World, a trawl through newspaper articles related to Ninfield from 1760 to 1938. The meeting will be Covid secure (hands, space and face). People will need to book a place as numbers will be limited to 15 so please call John on 892248 to reserve a space.

On July 8th, David Swales will give a talk on the History of the Ninfield Methodist Chapel 1871 to 2021. By this date we expect to have all restrictions lifted so refreshments should be available and we should be able to up the numbers to 30 (no booking required but this may change).

In a change to our usual pattern of meetings will be having an extra meeting in August on the 12th when we welcome Mat Homewood to talk about the Sporting History of Sussex.

OUR SCHOOL

On Holiday.

Not much to report this month, the School gates have closed for Easter and the children are away enjoying the early spring sunshine. (He says, while writing this in the middle of a Snowstorm!).

The return to School after the lockdown went well and everyone soon settled back into their individual bubbles. As a primary school the children do not have to wear masks in school and that is a big advantage and helps to make things as normal as possible. But do bear a thought for the staff who have not been able to mix as a team for over a year now. They are limited to their own bubbles and restricted on when and how they can use the staff room. As with many workplaces the social aspect is an important part of work life and a great way of reducing stress, so not to be able to sit and have a cup of tea and a good chat with your colleagues does put a strain on everyone. As do the Guru's in Whitehall who come up with the wonderful theories about extending the school day, summer schools and on line tutoring as a means of catching up. Who'd want to be a Teacher these days!

The class bubbles will continue after Easter, as will the staggered start and end times, until the advice we are given changes. Lets hope it won't be long before we are all able to mix again as a school and I can look forward to a cup of tea and a large slice of cake in the staff room.

Ian Moffat

Book Exchange:

The next Book Exchange will be on Friday 21st May from 10-11.30am in the Methodist Hall. Thereafter we will revert to the first Friday of the month i.e. 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August, etc.

Who knows, we may also be able to offer some refreshments by then!
David Swales



Closing date for items for the **JUNE edition**
of the Parish News is **Thursday 13th May** please send to
ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

VILLAGE SOCIETY

Oh what a treat it was ! Wednesday 31st March and we were able to resume our work in Church Wood after the relaxation of lockdown rules. Wood anenomes and daffodils galore, the streams running and the ponds ready to support moorhen and other wildlife. One pair of moorhen are in residence in Church Pond and hopefully we shall soon see them followed by their fluffy offspring across the ponds.

Saturday 3rd April saw our first village litter pick and it was encouraging to have so many volunteers attend. Some fifteen bags of rubbish were collected by about twenty collectors young and old. It was particularly encouraging that so many were able to attend as a result of our poster campaign. However it was disappointing to note the dog mess particularly where it had been bagged but then left for others to dispose, or worse still thrown into bushes or up a tree.

Our work around the village continues and the list of jobs in Church Wood grows.....if you have an interest in helping please come along one Wednesday morning or call us.



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Ninfield Parish Council

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

Following the sad news of the death of H.R.H, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Parish Council have, on behalf of all residents, sent a letter of condolence to Buckingham Palace.

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual Parish meeting has to be held between 1st March and 1st June which means that this year, sadly, the Parish Council are unable to host it because of the Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings. It's a great pity as its normally a great time to find out what clubs and society's in the village have planned for the forthcoming year.

Boundary Review.

Following the vote before Christmas resulting in 430 of you voting in favour of making a request to the Secretary of State to move the Ninfield Boundary from Wealden District Council to Rother District Council, the Parish Council is now working through the required process to make this request. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Planning Applications.

Planning Applications have been a big part of the last 12 months and we are grateful that residents comment of applications that affect the village to let Wealden District Council know your thoughts. Its always important that as many people as possible to comment whether the are in favour or opposed to an application as a lack of response can be misconstrued. The parish council comment on all applications when they are sent out for consultation and their comments are available for residents to see and can be helpful in helping to identify planning reasons for a representation. Please contact the clerk if you would like anymore information or if you want to reply to a planning consultation and would like any help with any of the details.

Wildflower Verges.

We are waiting to hear about a granted we have applied for to help with our project to create wildflower verges in the village. To reassure you there will be no danger with sightlines at junctions the verges will be managed to ensure that doesn't happen.

Dark Skies.

We have started to feed our readings back to the AONB partnership who will be mapping them. The meter that is used to read how dark the skies are (therefore how visible the stars are) show that we do have very good dark skies for stargazing. We will need to get some more readings including ideally collecting data from the surrounding rural areas and not just the built up areas including the green fields in the village. If anyone is willing to take some readings on land they own please contact the clerk. It's a really easy thing to do and we have the equipment needed.

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, from 7th May 2021 we are no longer permitted to hold virtual meetings as the Govt have decided not to update the required legislation. This means that we may not be able to hold a meeting until after 21st June under the current Govt guidelines. The Councillors and clerk will still be available if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY (May 2021)

We are continuing to observe Covid restrictions and follow government guidelines, although I am sure there are many of our followers looking forward to the day when we can meet again safely.

Unfortunately, there are differing views as to what constitutes “safe” these days, so we will continue to hedge our bets as to when our first meeting will be. Speakers are provisionally arranged for later this year, but subject to confirmation nearer the time.

DID YOU KNOW... the following is a story that was published in the Bexhill Observer in December 1912. It was taken from a book entitled “Recollections of a Sussex Parson”, by the Rev. Edward Boys Ellman, who lived most of his life in the area between Bexhill and Lewes:-

AN OLD STORY FROM HOOE.

The following was told me by the Rev. Richard King-Sampson, who was curate of Hooe. It took place, as far as I can remember, in the thirties. Two sisters were to be married; the old Vicar knew them, but did not know the bridegrooms. When the service began the bridal pairs were wrongly sorted. The men and women standing in two pairs, the old Vicar proceeded to marry them. Each couple repeated after the Vicar in turn the vows, but the men changed names. After the service in the vestry the mistake was found out, one man saying: “Please, sir, you have married us to the wrong girls.”

He did not know what to do; the marriage was completed all except signing the registers. The bridal party requested be left alone a little time to talk the matter over. The Vicar agreed, and shut them in the vestry and himself paced up and down the aisle considering how he could act. He had quickly come to the conclusion that the marriages could not be dissolved, and that appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury could not help matters, when soon the vestry door opened. He was informed that they had talked the matter over, that the marriages did very well, it was all right as it was, for they had all known one another so long that it could not matter, and they were quite satisfied. So the two brides left the church perfectly content.;

I have searched the Parish Records for the early 1800’s and although there is nothing to absolutely substantiate this recollection, there are consecutive marriage entries that are a little intriguing.

In 1847, two sisters, Sarah Edwards Relfe and Mary Edwards Relfe of Hooe, married George Taylor of Hastings and Henry Parker of Bexhill respectively. The first marriage was dated 30th May and the second the 12th June. This fits with the thought that the vicar knew the sisters but not their husbands, but not that they were married on the same day. I believe the vicar who married these couples (J.C.T. Dunn) was aged about 42 at this time, so not “old”, as described. Could the entries have been “manipulated” in light of this revelation? Did these sisters really choose to marry 13 days apart rather than on the same day? We will probably never know, but it is a lovely story nevertheless.

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DES PIPER – a personal tribute.

I recently learned with great sadness, of the death of Des Piper, who has been associated with Hooe all of his life. My first recollection of Des was when I used to watch football as a young boy and he was part of the team which won the Hailsham league division 1 trophy. Des was an all-action midfield player with massive stamina, strength, balance and a sturdy tackle, but he always played the game fairly. I recall one game when an opponent hurtled into him in an attempt to tackle and just bounced off him! Des passed the ball then looked around and went to pick the poor chap up.

One of our players, Chris Clifton, nicknamed Des “The Saint” because he was such a nice guy on the pitch, but make no mistake, he always played to win.

Des’s main accomplishment, however, was having been the front man in the Russells Green tug-o-war team that won twelve national championships in the 1960’s. This team of mainly local farmers took on and beat the established clubs over a period of about five years and Des was an ever present during that time. In 1962, the secretary of the Tug-o-war Association said of the team, “Their discipline and sportsmanship has become well known in the association”, but his grinning face at the front of the rope no doubt intimidated many of his opponents who were facing him on the other end of the rope. It is rumoured that one of the established clubs, Wood Treatment, Bosley, were said to have offered him a job and a house to move away and pull for them – an offer which he turned down in favour of staying in Hooe with his friends and colleagues.

Several years later, when a number of us started a tug-o-war team in an unsuccessful attempt to follow up these achievements, Des agreed to join us. He still had all the attributes of a superb tug-o-war athlete but without the support he had previously enjoyed he was pulled over the line more than at any time in his previous encounters. He never complained or gave up and always continued to encourage us even though it must have been very difficult for him.

Des has been an inspiration to many of us in the village. He was a superb sportsman, but never one to talk up his achievements – he left that to others. He worked hard and played hard, always to the best of his ability, with great honesty and fairness – and a smile on his face. He will be greatly missed by very many in and around the village. Peter Hayward.

"JAMES WILLIAM MURRAY ASHBY (1822-1911)

James William Murray Ashby was born 25 August 1822, the son of Captain William R Ashby, RN and his wife Eleanor. In 1841 William and Eleanor were living at Kewhurst, Bexhill, with their children Francis (20), Julia (8) and Emma (2).

James William Murray Ashby was educated at the Royal Naval School in Camberwell, and entered the navy in 1839, and was based on the North American and Pacific Stations until 1848. He served in the Crimean War on HMS Sphinx and was involved in the taking of Kerch, the fall of Sebastopol and the bombardment and capture of Kinburn. From 1859 he served in China in the second Anglo-Chinese (Opium) war of 1856-1860, and saw the attack of the Peiho Forts, and the subsequent surrender of Tientsin. On returning from China in 1863, he then sailed to the West Indies. In 1873 he married Catherine Blanche M Maxwell at St George's Church, Hanover Square (March quarter, vol 1a p509), and their son James William Frederick Walter Ashby was born later that year. In 1876 he purchased Little Park in Ninfield from RH Burgess, and retired from the navy in 1878, by which time he was serving as Paymaster-in-Chief in the Royal Navy. In 1902 he was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. In 1891 he and his wife Catherine were living at Little Park. Catherine died in 1897, and in 1911 James was living at Little Park with his sister Julie Ellen Ashby (single, aged 77), who had been born at Bexhill. He died 21 October 1911.

Little Park was sold between 1916 and 1922 (ACC 2300/56/2), and sold again in 1927 by the then owner RG Kincaid (ACC 2300/56/3/4)".

Sir James was a true philanthropist of a type that is quite rare these days. He was very involved in the improvements that took place at St Mary's Church in 1885 and provided the carved wooden pews which he found in a derelict church in Leicestershire. He also procured the King James coat of arms and the carved Reredos.

Sir James is mentioned in Ninfield in the Nineties by Alfred Ridel who describes him as follows: "He was retired Paymaster in Chief to the Navy and lived at Little Park, where he had an observatory built in the roof, from which he could view the shipping in the

Channel by means of a powerful telescope. He was a picture, to our minds, of what an Admiral of the fleet should, be - lean, spare, clean shaven, with a high-bridged nose, square chin, as hard as nails - in fact with no visible signs of weakness in appearance or character.

He brought with him to the village his ingrained naval training with regard to orderliness, discipline and punctuality, and in those respects was a martinet, albeit a warm-hearted one". The Ashby family did a great deal for the school children in particular and organized Christmas or New Year Parties for them most years, inviting each child formally with a gilt-edged card requesting their presence for tea and entertainment. These events took place in the school room which he had lavishly decorated for the occasion. He paid for school trips to London and sponsored a Sports Day in his grounds at Little park (the Pavilion there was a disused railway carriage). In the late 1886s he was instrumental in providing the Reading & Relaxation Room in Church Lane of which The Sussex Agricultural Express in 1889 said "The building is well fitted, on one side a room devoted to games of different kinds and on the other is a reading room which has an attractive comfortable look. Daily and weekly papers are supplied and the bookshelves are well stocked with books both amusing and instructive. The young men now have a place to which they can resort of a winters evening and enjoy themselves in a rational manner. The rules are not irksome in any degree, all political topics are excluded, gambling is forbidden and the same with bad language. It speaks well for the members that over the 3 years there have been no complaints and everything is working smoothly and pleasantly".

Sir James Ashby was a key player in Ninfield in days gone by. This info is from the East Sussex Records Office John Cheshire

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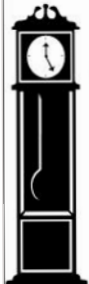


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.The Dukes of Edinburgh: Some strange coincidences:

1726 creation. The title was first created in 1726 by **King George I**, for his **grandson Prince Frederick**, and then Prince of Wales in 1727. Upon Frederick's death, his titles were inherited by his son **Prince George**. When Prince George became **King George III** in 1760, the titles "merged into the Crown", and ceased to exist.

Frederick, Prince of Wales, was the eldest but estranged son of King George II and Caroline of Ansbach, **and the father of King George III**. He predeceased his father, however, and the crown passed to his eldest son, as George III.

Prince Frederick Lewis was born on 1 February 1707 in Hanover, Holy Roman Empire (Germany), as **Duke Friedrich Ludwig of Brunswick-Lüneburg**, to Prince George, son of George, Elector of Hanover. The Elector was the son of Sophia of Hanover, the granddaughter of James I and heir presumptive to Queen Anne the last of the Stuart dynasty. However, Sophia died before Queen Anne and thus Sophia's son became King George I.

With Queen Anne's death and the coronation of George I, Frederick's parents, **George, Prince of Wales (later George II)**, and Caroline of Ansbach, left Hanover for Great Britain when he was only seven, and he did not see his parents again for 14 years!!

- **Legacy: A permanent result of Frederick's patronage of the arts is "Rule, Britannia!"**, one of the best-known British patriotic songs. It was composed by the English composer Thomas Arne and written by the Scottish poet and playwright James Thomson, which was first performed on 1 August 1740 at Cliveden, the country home of the Prince and Princess of Wales.
- **Romance:** Frederick almost married **Lady Diana Spencer**, daughter of Charles Spencer, 3rd Earl of Sunderland and Lady Anne Churchill. Lady Diana was the favourite grandchild of the powerful Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, but the plan was vetoed by Robert Walpole and the king. Lady Diana then married John Russell, 4th Duke of Bedford.

- **Sport:** When Frederick arrived in Great Britain, cricket had developed into the country's most popular team sport and Frederick soon became a genuine enthusiast. By the 1733 season, Frederick was in effect a county cricketer for Surrey.

1866 creation. Queen Victoria re-created the title, in 1866 for her **second son Prince Alfred**. When he became the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in 1893, he retained his British titles. His only son, **also Alfred**, the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, died in 1899, and the Dukedom of Edinburgh and subsidiary titles became extinct on the elder Alfred's death in 1900.

But there's more coincidences between these two Dukes of Edinburgh!

- In 1856, at the age of 12, it was decided that Prince Alfred should enter the **Royal Navy**. He was appointed as midshipman in HMS Euryalus at the age of 14. and....
- On the abdication of **King Otto of Greece**, in 1862, Prince Alfred was chosen to succeed him, (but the British government blocked the plan, as Queen Victoria wanted him to succeed to the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg as had her beloved Albert, her Consort). So, Prince Alfred remained in the navy, and was described as having "a great natural ability for handling a fleet" and that **he "would have made a first-class fighting admiral."**

1947 creation. The title was created for a third time on 19 November 1947 by King George VI, for **Philip Mountbatten**, when he married Princess Elizabeth. **Philip had renounced his Greek and Danish royal titles along with his rights to the Greek throne.**

As the son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg, Philip was born sixth in line to the Greek throne and the **great-great grandson of Queen Victoria**. In 1957, Philip became a Prince of the United Kingdom. Upon Philip's death on 9 April 2021, his eldest son Charles, Prince of Wales, succeeded to all of his hereditary titles. The current heir apparent to the dukedom is Charles' eldest son Prince William, Duke of Cambridge.

Queen Elizabeth II is the paternal **great-great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria**. The situations which culminated in both Victoria and Elizabeth being crowned were complicated. Queen Elizabeth II was not expected to be the monarch when she was born in 1926.

Princess Elizabeth was born to the Duke and Duchess of York, and her father was the **second son** of King George V. Princess Elizabeth's uncle ascended the throne as planned as King Edward VIII in 1936, following the death of King George V. However Edward abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson, and the Duke of York therefore became King George VI, and his eldest daughter Princess Elizabeth became heiress presumptive.

Other similarities: Like Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Victoria's claim to the throne would have been considered distant in different circumstances. The future Queen Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn and Princess Victoria. Prince Edward was the fourth son of King George III, and Victoria only became Queen as none of Edward's elder brothers had a legitimate heir. **Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901, for a total of 63 years, seven months and two days. On September 9, 2015, Queen Elizabeth II surpassed this record, and next year the nation will mark the Queen's 70th year on the throne.**

Kevin Regan

NADAS

As we are not able to meet at the moment, I hope all NADAS members are keeping up with their skills by practising. It doesn't matter if you don't complete a painting, just practise some basic skills like drawing, sketching and colour mixing, so that when you feel the urge, you'll be ready! We are hoping to organise some painting sessions 'en plein air' once the weather warms up. Watch out for information via Facebook and our WhatsApp page! Our Exhibition is booked for the 23rd and 24th of October, let's keep our fingers crossed and get your jabs! In the meantime, don't drink the paintbrush rinsing water !

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Message from Sami.

It's amazing how quickly the weeks go, considering things still aren't yet at their normal pace! Here we are again, trying to do doing the news predictions for the next month ..in hope that it's all correct and viable, and not about to be cancelled!

Anyway..the GOOD news, from the Carnival Committee's point of view, is we were granted permission for the two events we had crossed our fingers for: 1) the Village Fete - Saturday 24th July on the Recreation Ground. And 2) to facilitate the Ninfield Horticultural Society's 70th Summer Show .

So, the basic details to date are... on 24th July, with all Covid guidelines in place, there will hopefully be a Ninfield Village Fete, to include the TeaTent, Bar, BBQ, Craft stalls, Children's Activities and A fabulous Band in the evening- timings and full details TBC, but to close at 10.pm. I have contacted the Ninfield Village Marketeers, to see if they would interested in doing a Market with us on the day, and there has been a really positive response!

The idea, for this event, is for local residents to feel comfortable coming up to a safe, Covid secure space, enjoy some relaxing time with friends, let the children have fun, and for all to breathe a sigh of relief that we're 'getting there.. '!! It's NOT going to be a big Carnival, there's no way yet that that could be managed!!

The next event, Saturday 21st August, Rose Franks- Horticultural Show Organiser, will be hopefully getting the 70th Anniversary Summer Show into the Carnival's Gala tents and small marquee, on the Recreation Ground, because the Memorial Hall will be closed for refurbishment. Again, there will be refreshments served from Sparke Pavilion when the Show opens at 2pm; and during the judging in the morning, the Market again will hopefully be in situ on the Rec, and open with local produce and crafts.

There are lots of 'hopefulls', 'ifs' and 'ideas' .. and fingers are constantly crossed...but, the feeling from the fabulous Carnival Committee , in emails and via Zoom , is so cheerful positive, everyone is really determined to make something happen!!!

More details next month, and through the weekly Bexhill Observer Village Voice...or call/text me on 07980 650321, email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

Just a footnote- as Carol will have informed you , The Memorial Hall is launching a crowd funding page, and we are seeking help, funding and support for the internal second fix of the building works. The Parish Council are granting funds towards the disabled person toilet, and the plea is now for money to finish the rest of the toilets and kitchen, by September this year, so we can open again with all guns blazing, and a spectacular Village Party, to celebrate the 100th Birthday of the Hall, A Gala Night on Saturday 13th November , Deja Revue Cabaret, Fish and Chips Supper etc...all guidelines permitting!

So- PLEASE!!- if you can help get our Hall finished, and back to tip-top condition, call, text or email...drop pennies through our doors...but most importantly, get ready to book tickets for THE BEST Night Out in 2021!!

Keep In touch! THANK YOU!!

If you'd like to get involved with any of these Village events, please.. Call 893698, 07980650321, email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

NAG NEWS

This is a plea for a new chair of NAG.

As regular readers will know, NAG has been campaigning for developments in the village to be proportionate, sustainable and appropriate in design and location. Those same readers will also recognise we have often been disappointed in the elected and appointed planners response to local objections to disproportionate, unsustainable, poorly designed and ludicrously sited proposals.

Nag has had several "Chairs" over its almost decade long existence. I have been chair for several years and think it is time for a change of chair, preferably to someone less jaded than me, and someone who is not on the Parish council - which as a consultative body has (in law) to maintain planning objectivity.

A number of large proposals have been thrust forward recently (e.g. behind the Garage exiting to the B2204 to Catsfield, the 20 acre field by the Bexhill Road, and of course the rejected but simmering Church path development).

Anyone interested in taking on this role – please get in touch

Paul Coleshill 893138

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

Email hooepc2@btinternet.com

Hooe Parish Council Parish News April 2021

Hooe Village Hall – Polling Station 6th May

As the Hooe Village Hall has been closed for the last year we have arranged for it to be deep cleaned in readiness for May 6th. So we can guarantee that it will conform to Covid regulations, keeping resident as safe as possible.

Village Hall Opening soon!

However, the hall is open for that one day *only*. If guidelines do not change the Parish Council plan to open up the hall from around 21st June, a definite date will be announced nearer that time. We are all looking forward to getting involved socially again.

Parish Council meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council, the AGM, will be by Zoom on Tuesday 4th May at the earlier time of 6.00pm. This will be a short meeting as the only agenda items are related to the AGM. In normal times the Annual Parish Meeting is held on the same evening but, in line with other Parish Councils, Hooe has decided to cancel it this year. The APM, which is designed to bring all village clubs, societies and residents together is normally a very social meeting followed by refreshments. The Parish Council will ensure there is opportunity for us all to get together later in the year, so please watch this space for details of what is being planned!

Traffic

Whenever there are road works or an accident occurs on the A259 traffic is diverted though the village – and these diversions seem to be happening more and more often. This means that motorists often annoyed at having their journey disrupted and unfamiliar with the country roads either travel too fast or hog the centre of the road making it difficult for two vehicles to pass. It has been reported to us recently that a number of people have lost wing mirrors as a result if this behaviour.

So – please be aware of this extra hazard and drive carefully and slowly along our parish roads.

Litter picking

..... Many thanks to those residents who answered our request last month to collect bags and litter pickers and do their bit litter picking around the village. If you are still in need of bags or litter pickers please contact the Doodles at 892329.

Great British Clean Up

The Great British Clean up this year is between the dates 28th May – 13th June.

As usual we will be organising a Hooe Parish Community Clean up morning, the date to be advised. In past years 25 plus people have met together at the Red Lion Car Park before separating to 'blitz' the village. It has not been unusual for our community minded volunteers to collect over 25 bags of rubbish and other detritus thrown from passing cars by thoughtless drivers. Our concern is the number of empty alcohol bottles discarded which could indicate motorists visiting the countryside, drinking and then driving off over the limit. Problem spots are duly reported to the Authorities.

Tree Planting

Guidance and information is being gathered from the Woodland Trust to support the Tree Planting Promotion in the village. This scheme was suggested by a resident and supported by the Parish Council. We will be applying for saplings which can be planted in the autumn.

Our Chairman, Dick Carey, and Tree Warden, David Formby will be planning additions for millennium wood, the recreation ground and other parish land. This is an exciting community project and we hope other residents will get actively involved. We would love to hear from landowners, specialists, keen gardeners and amateurs alike so that information, knowledge and experience can be shared for the benefit of the whole village. Everyone is welcome!

Open Gardens – Save the Date 10th and 11th July - 11.00 am – 5.00pm

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that this year the Hooe Open Gardens Group will be holding the Open Gardens weekend over 10th and 11th July, opening even more gardens than before and offering delicious refreshments for sale from opening time until closing time. Come along to enjoy the gardens, share gardening tips, meet friends over refreshments and perhaps you might even be tempted by the plants offered for sale. This will be a great day out right on your doorstep!

Gary Durman, chairman of the Open Gardens Group, would love to hear from you if you would like to open up **YOUR** garden or if you would like to get involved with the organisation. His 'phone number is 893007. Our meetings are more like social occasions, it always surprises us that the work actually gets done – but it does!

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NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

. but that's for another day.....

That's how I finished last month, so what is planned? As the Hall is closed because of Covid it will remain closed until September. Although restrictions have been lifted we still cannot use the Hall for any of our regular users, some could have started later in May, others not until June, if all goes to Boris' plan. Several groups have already told us that they would not be back till September anyway, so really now is the ideal time to do the work, plus our builder is available.

At the moment the cupboards and everything stored there is being packed up and moved to the stage end, and the two sheds emptied and moved temporarily to the car park ready for building work to start at the end of May.

So take a tour.....the front door wall will be brought forward and the kitchen wall taken outwards, then as you enter the new front door you will walk into a larger lobby area, off to the left there will be a toilet for the disabled with baby change facilities, ladies and gents, a door into the kitchen and a staircase to the first floor. The Committee Room will remain the same as will the main hall, other than that the door to the gents will lead to a storage area for tables and chairs, the door to the ladies will be blocked off and there will be access to the kitchen with a door and a servery.

We have the money to do the main build, the structural work, plastering, the electrics, plumbing and drainage, BUT NOT all of the £50,000 needed for decorating, the floor coverings or wall tiles, toilets, kitchen units or equipment nor fitting out the first floor.

We have applied for various grants and we have been promised small donations but we need your help please. If we can raise the extra money now the work will all be done together, rather than piecemeal which costs more as well as taking a lot longer.

So please if you are able to make a donation to this project that would be lovely, there will be a thermometer showing how we are doing at the Hall for you all to see and we'll tell you each month here in the News how we are doing.

So how can you help?

Do you any ideas to fundraising when the Hall is closed?

We are running a Crowdfunding campaign in May, targeting fitting out the kitchen, full details on facebook/ninfieldmemorialhall if you like to donate that way.

If you are able to make a donation, this can be by cheque payable to Ninfield Memorial Hall or by bank.

Do you have a business and feel that you have some way of helping?

Would you have a coffee morning or afternoon tea (once restrictions allow) in your garden to raise some money for us?

Ninfield Memorial Hall has been there for all of us for 100 years, almost everyone in the village has been there at some time, so many people say “I remember going there for Scouts, school, a party...” so let’s make it a place to remember for the future generations too.

However you want to be involved, to help make the Hall fit for the 21st century with proper facilities and a proper kitchen allowing us to party in style, please contact Carol Holland, Memorial Hall Treasurer, that would be wonderful, please email ninfieldmemorialhall.co.uk call 893326 (there’s an answer phone) or speak to any of our committee members,..

Ninfield Surgery

We now have a nice new floor in our reception, toilet access has been made easier and we have painted through.

Thank you to those of you who completed and returned the questionnaire regarding the proposed merger. As soon as we have further news, we will let you know.

We would still welcome any of our patients who would like to join our PPG (Patient Participation Group) to contact us.

Covid-19 Vaccinations are still continuing. We are mainly booking 2nd vaccinations currently and you should be hearing from us in due course to book these.

We would remind our patients to continue to follow the ‘Hands – Face – Space’ guidelines during the easing of lockdown. We will continue to only allow up to 4 people in the waiting room at one time, to ensure these guidelines can be adhered to. Please can we ask patients to continue to arrive just before their designated time, to ensure minimum waiting time in the surgery.

We thank our patients for their continued support during this time.



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Worms Eye View

It is so lovely to see so much blackthorn blossom in the hedges and on the trees. I know it is said that when the blackthorn blooms we will have a hard, cold spell of weather and as I write this in early April, there is a nasty North East wind blowing with odd showers of rain and a just small fluttering of snow, thank goodness. But looking on the bright side, just think of all the sloes that will be ready to pick in the autumn and make into Sloe Gin! This reminds me, I have just learnt that when enjoying a drink alcoholic or not, remember the old superstition that it should never be stirred with a knife, if you do, you will get a bad stomach ache. You have been warned.

As well as the white blossom around the fields we also have a lovely lot of lambs who seem to either to be chasing one another between having a drink from their mums, or relaxing on the large manure lump which having rotted down gives off a nice warmth which they all enjoy. There seems to be so many more rooks these days and whilst they are good-looking birds, they can be a pest. Some of them think to sit on my chimney stack is great fun for them, they, make a lot of noise and whilst nesting up there lots of sticks etc come down the chimney making a mess. They find it amusing I'm sure as they jump on and off the chimney and endlessly chatter loudly to one another. However I now see, for the first time they are making nests in the trees at the bottom of the fields. A colony of rooks is known as a Rookery. A rookery can also be of sea birds, especially penguins. An old saying is 'one for the rook, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow'. This has been recited by smallholders since the late eighteenth century as they sowed their seeds. The broadcast seeds scattering them wildly on the surface of the soil and that was a lot of seed that would not grow.

The month of May was always thought to be unlucky, It was a busy time for planting crops and all hands were needed with little machinery available and so no time for anything else and certainly not mating "Marry in May and you will rue the Day". Life has certainly changed and I hope you will enjoy some lovely weather and the lifting of more restrictions as the pandemic is more under control.

Now its out into the garden, the sun is shining and there is a lot to do. May the fourth be with you.

Anne

Ninfield Methodist Church

Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)
15 Holmesdale Road, Bexhill TN39 3QE.. Tel: 01424 733137;
email: revpmwilliams@yahoo.co.uk
website: ninfield.hbrmethodistcircuit.online

Sunday Services for May 2021:

2nd 10.30 am Service of Worship & Praise with Margaret Bickerdike
9th 10.30 am Service of Worship & Communion with Revd. Tricia Williams
16th 10.30 am Service of Worship & Praise with Barry Turnwell
23rd 10.30 am Pentecost Worship & Praise with Rev. Philip Wagstaff
30th 10.30am Trinity Sunday Worship & Praise

Other Activities:

6th 07.00-22.00 Polling Station in Hall
21st 10.00-11.30am Book exchange in Hall (see separate notice)

Really pleased to share with you our Service details for May & some other events in our Hall. If you come along to Church, or Hall, please wear a mask in the building. Thanks.

Our Easter services were well attended subject to all the required Distancing rules & it was amazing to be back in Church again at this special time of year.

On April 17th Anne & Graeme were married in our Church, which was a lovely occasion. Anne's parents regularly worship with us & it was good for them all to be together, with their families, to celebrate the wedding. Very best wishes & love to them all.

We are now getting together for services every Sunday. In May we celebrate Pentecost (Whit Sunday) & Trinity Sunday.

We are also planning an outdoor Messy Church, all being well, for Wednesday June 2nd. Again it will be marvellous to welcome back all our younger families.

On Sunday July 4th we look forward to 'giving thanks' for the 150th Anniversary of the building of our Church from 1871. We are planning two events on the day & one celebration will be outdoors. We will let you have more information in the next magazine.

Please put the date in your diary. 29

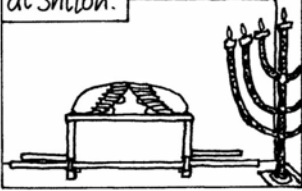
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so he let the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



Then the people became covered in sores.



They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.



People began to have sores there too.

They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



God led the cows pulling the cart.

At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.



They celebrated its return.

But some treated it without respect and died.



So it was moved to Keriath Jearim for safe-keeping.

Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD ACTION GROUP Paul Coleshill 893138

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Secretary Carol Holland 893326

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB: Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, Bexhill 843436

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING: Jane Dommersen 862428

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY:

Secretary Jennie Harmer 892357 jennieharmer@aol.co.uk

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Show Organiser: Rose Franks, Little Gates, Potmans Lane, 892422

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

Preschool:

Toddlers:

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 892778

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Glen Harrison gharrisonninfieldscoutsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader: Ashly Simmon explorersemail8@gmail.com

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

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

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

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Julia Hurrell 07508 080608

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

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Simon Pattisson 845087

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE LINE DANCE GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

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

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Gary Durman, 893007

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

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MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Booking Secretary: Mrs Sally Durman, 1 Elizabethan Cottages, Hooe (893007

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

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