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**SUNDAY 5 FEB 10.30 am Joint Confirmation service
at Maresfield Church**

THURSDAY 9 FEB 10.00 am Midweek Communion

SUNDAY 12 FEB 11.15 am Morning Worship

SUNDAY 19 FEB 11.15 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 23 FEB 10.00 am Midweek Communion

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PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2023



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Tools with a Mission



Do you have any old tools – for DIY or garden
– or sewing machines languishing in your shed
or garage?

These could have a new life – helping someone in a developing country provide
for themselves and their families.

Tools With A Mission is a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools,



refurbishes them, sorts them into
trade tool kits and sends them to
the developing world for livelihood
creation.

We send around 16 containers filled
with a total of around 225 tonnes of
tools every year. These tools range from
sewing machines and knitting machines
to carpentry tools and mechanics tools.

**Ann and Andrew Hawker in Five Ash Down are volunteers with TWAM and
would be happy to take away your unwanted tools for refurbishment.**

Call 01825 508436 or email andrewh@twam.uk

To find out more about TWAM, visit www.twam.uk

Uckfield Folk Club

Upstairs at The Station Pub, Uckfield

Every third Tuesday of the month, at 8pm

Tuesday 21st February
will be a
SINGAROUND

All singers and musicians welcome – floor spots available, to be arranged on
the night, or just come and listen! Lots of space for social distancing.

Hat collection on guest nights – a contribution of at least £8 is suggested.

Info: uckfieldfolkclub@gmail.com or 07788 994266

**NB: There is a parking charge in the Station Car Park,
but free parking is available within walking distance**


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DADS & TOTS





Join us once a month on a Saturday morning for **Dads and Tots**. This group is for Dads/Grandads and their children/grandchildren aged 0-4 years of age.

Dads and Tots is an opportunity to spend time with your children, get to know other dads and enjoy unlimited coffee/tea and some breakfast. There will be snacks for the children and bacon/sausage sandwiches for dads.

Sessions run from 9-10:30am on a Saturday morning in St Bartholomew's.

Forthcoming dates:

February 25th	May 20th
March 18th	June 17th
April 29th	July 15th

These dates may be subject to change, so it's worth keeping an eye on the website.

We ask for a donation of £2 per adult and 50p per child.
 To find out more, please contact our Vicar, Ben (see page 3 for details).

Maresfield Lunch Club











The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on
Thursday 2nd February

It would be very helpful if anyone interested in joining us would let us know in advance, to give us an idea of how many to cater for.

Ring Pat on 01825 769644 or email plangridge69@gmail.com
 to book your place

We will naturally keep a register of everyone, and of course, anyone developing Covid symptoms shortly beforehand should not attend.

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Maresfield Conservation Group

Happy new year everyone! I can't believe that Christmas is over for another year and here we are in 2023 already.

Our beautiful Christmas tree comes down on twelfth night, having twinkled so magnificently all through the festive period. It was lovely to see so many of you out celebrating in the village on Saturday 3rd December. My thanks once again, on behalf of the MCG Committee, to the big team of volunteers who worked together to make it all happen.

Looking ahead to next month, our quiz night in aid of Uckfield Food Bank is taking place at the Village Hall on Saturday 28th February, 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. If you would like to reserve tickets or book a table of up to eight persons, please contact our ticket master, Ian Shaw: ian@andrewmilton.co.uk or 07956 564795.

Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Winter is certainly here! The first frosts and snow blanket the ground and nature starts to hibernate for the next few weeks. Everything is still, except for the leaves which continue to fall from the trees covering everything, including our footpaths.

As the leaves become wet, they become slippery underfoot and so the Group have, for the past two weeks, continued to clear footpaths including School Hill and at Straight Half Mile. No doubt there are mountains of leaves still to fall which will need clearing away, ensuring it's safe to walk in our village.

The winter months can be a quiet time for the Group but it does give us an opportunity to service our equipment and assess what tools and safety clothing we need for the coming year. It also gives me a chance to assess what other work needs to be done around Maresfield. You are welcome to give me ideas and please let me know if there are any footpaths in your area needing our attention.



Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG

Tel: 07595 914701 or 01825 278332

Email: maresfieldconservation@gmail.com

Website: maresfieldconservationgroup.org



Civic Centre Uckfield

Badness

Saturday 15 April 2023

8pm - £23

Madness Tribute band Badness formed in 1994 and have been a market leader in the tribute and Ska scene, with their energetic show and a frontman that never fails to whip the audience into shape, you know you're in for a good night if Badness are on the bill. Playing classic Madness, Bad Manners and The Specials, to name but a few.



DYING TO MEET YOU

Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday 12 May 2023 - 7pm

The Company
Upfront return to bring us another evening of murder, mystery and mayhem. Enjoy a three course meal while you witness the murder, interrogate the suspects and discover the murderer! Set in the Swinging Sixties it will be a gas! Bottle of Prosecco for the best dressed table.

Tickets £39.50



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The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE

Thursday 9 February at 2pm

When Winters were Wonderful: Life and Leisure in the Canada of Yesteryear

Lecturer: Mark Meredith

For the officers of the British Empire, no quarters in the world were as delightful as Quebec, and it was in winter that the Canadian social season sprang to life. Crisp, moonlit nights provided a perfect backdrop for midnight sleigh rides between country taverns ladling out hot punch; torch-lit walks on snowshoes to picnics under frozen waterfalls; balls and champagne suppers on ice; daring toboggan runs; and faux battles fought with fireworks between ice castles lit up by fire.

Mark is a writer, and lectures regularly at societies, festivals and clubs in both Europe and the United States. After leaving Stowe School, he worked for twenty years as a plumber in London. However, his real passion has always been for history, particularly the history behind houses through the characters that conjoin to create them.

Come along to the Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE for the lecture and refreshments afterwards.

Members of the Society free, visitors £6 per lecture.

www.tasaf.org.uk



Maresfield Historical Society

Tuesday 21 February at 8pm, Maresfield Village Hall

Gilly Halcrow: "Churchill's Secret Army"

We warmly welcome both existing members and all those who have an interest in historical subjects. For non-members it is just £3 a session.

For more information, contact Ceri at bobandceri@gmail.com

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state primary school – or who are being home-schooled – and who will be joining Year 4 in September 2023.

Cumnor's Foundation Scholarship programme is unique, in aiming to cover the entire cost of a child's education at independent school for ten years, from the age 8 to 18, including activities such as sport, music, art and DT, as well as school uniform and school trips.

To be eligible to apply, your child should be performing towards the top of their class, and places will be offered to children from families who could never afford to pay for an independent school education, either through their single or joint incomes or the release of assets.

Successful Foundation Scholars join Cumnor House Sussex from state school at the age of 8 on a 100% scholarship. They remain with us until the age of 13, when we facilitate their move to one of our local



Sussex and national independent Senior School partners, subject to their meeting the entry criteria of each school. They join that senior school's own 100% fee assistance programme, and there they complete their school education to the age of 18.

Applications are now open until **Sunday 19th March 2023.**

We encourage parents of children who will start Year 4 in September 2023 to contact Olivia Henley; email: ohenley@cumnor.co.uk or call: 01825 790347.

To find out more about the opportunity, visit:
cumnor.co.uk/admissions/foundation-scholarships

Parish Council News

A repeated word or two about Planning!

I make no apologies for reverting to planning yet again, as I believe, once Wealden's draft Local Plan is published, this will be a main topic of discussion in Maresfield and it will prove to be very contentious for some Maresfield Village residents.

Parishioners will be aware that Wealden District Council's original draft Local Plan was withdrawn in early 2020 and consequently Wealden's existing planning policies are deemed to be out of date. With less than a five-year housing land supply, no up-to-date Local Plan and Government policy favouring sustainable development, Wealden is finding it difficult to repel some developers' ambitions.

We had hoped Wealden's new draft Local Plan would have been published by now, but it is further delayed as the Government has recently issued a planning consultation document which could influence Wealden's approach. A delay will also be inevitable because of the forthcoming local elections in May.

When the draft Plan is published and open for consultation, the Parish Council will organise local events to inform residents about the Plan and to hear residents' views, which will be taken into account in formulating the Parish Council's formal response as well providing additional information for our Neighbourhood Development Plan team.

The Parish Precept

At the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 20th December the Parish Council resolved to approve the draft budget for 2023/24 in the amount of £102,922. This is an increase of 10.1% over the current year's budget but of only 4.2% over the estimated expenditure for 2022/23.

After making adjustments to reserves the Parish Council resolved to set the Precept for 2023/24 at £99,892. Whilst this is an increase of 5.1% over the current year's precept, due to an increase in the Council Tax base for Maresfield Parish, the increase per average Band D household is estimated to be just 2.7%.

Hedge cutting

Where you have hedges bordering on footpaths or the highway it is your responsibility to ensure that they do not encroach. Please inspect your hedges and cut them back now, well before the nesting season.

The Marjory Pegg Award

It has been decided that no awards will be considered for this year and the Parish Council will decide at a future meeting how the Award scheme should function and its frequency.

Useful links

<https://my.wealden.gov.uk/>

<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/>

<http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

<https://www.ashdownforest.org/>

And you can also follow the Parish Council on Twitter and Facebook.

Martin Craddock

Chairman, Maresfield Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings: February 2023

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

Monday 20 February Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)

Tuesday 28 February MRGC (Maresfield Pavilion)



St. Barts Community Family Breakfast Club and Café

Our Community Cafe is open from 9am to 12noon on Wednesdays.

We have a Kids Zone with plenty of toys and arts & crafts. Our kitchen is well stocked with fruit, croissants, bread, cereals, yogurts, juices, preserves and cakes and manned by our very friendly and helpful volunteers.

St.Bartholomew's is also an agency for Uckfield Foodbank and we are able to issue vouchers every Wednesday morning. Please ask Angie or one of the agency helpers on duty if you need a voucher.



Café open 9am - 12noon every Wednesday
Come and join us!

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Local Government News

The Local Plan: The Government are now consulting on changes to planning requirements. The main proposed changes are:

- Centrally produced housing numbers will no longer be mandatory.
- With over 60% of Wealden being protected land, including the AONB, we can reduce the housing numbers required.
- Brownfield sites will be a priority.
- Planning Inspectors will no longer be able to override sensible local decisions.
- More homes in the North and Midlands to ease pressure on the South-East.
- Local Neighbourhood Plans are to be strengthened.
- Developers will pay higher fees so that Council planning departments are not subsidised by Council Tax payers.

The Consultation will continue until the spring. Wealden will not be producing a formal Local Plan until after this process is completed. Almost 8,000 homes already have planning permission so any extra needs are expected to be small-scale.

Roads: Our roads are in a sorry state. This results from the wettest November ever, snow and ice for 10 days and then torrential rain. We should also invest more in our roads, but the exceptional weather has been a big factor.

Potholes: There are some 2,400 defects reported in the system for attention. Approximately 1,800 are potholes, which is about 1,000 above normal operating levels. Resources have increased to 150% as well as working extended hours and weekends, and these resources will be kept at this level over the coming weeks.

Drainage/Flooding: The second highest category of reports/defects is for drainage and flooding problems. Again there are additional resources covering 24 hours a day.

Gritting: 1,500 tonnes of salt are on order and awaiting delivery. County staff are continuing to refill grit bins.

Customer Contact: Highways have had almost twice the number of customer contacts during December (around 8,000) compared to previous years (4,500) but they have a full complement of customer service agents who are working overtime and weekends to process these. The Highway Stewards are also working overtime to help inspect and process cases as quickly as possible, as well as undertake their statutory inspections.

Roy Galley

Your local Councillors:

Roy Galley cllr.roy.galley@wealden.gov.uk 01825 713018

Ian Tysh cllr.ian.tysh@wealden.gov.uk 01825 714639

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