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JUNE 2023



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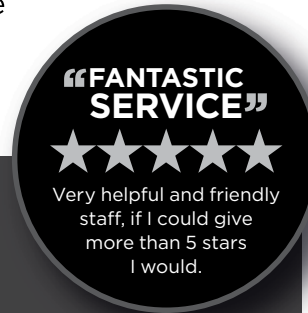
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The Rector writes



I hope you all had a good Coronation weekend.

I was able to watch the Coronation service with my children – and I asked them what their favourite part was. Phoebe told me her favourite part was when the crown was placed on King Charles' head. For me, it was the content of the service.

Yes, it was full of pomp and ceremony, and the importance of Prince Charles and his position came across. However, what struck me again and again, was the calling placed on King Charles, to be a servant towards his people.

This was seen throughout, but particularly in moments such as when the chorister, Samuel Strachan, welcomed King Charles with the words: "Your Majesty, as children of the kingdom of God, we welcome you in the name of the King of kings."

To which the King replied: "In his name and after his example I come not to be served but to serve."

Whatever your opinion on the monarchy, it is good to have leaders, even kings, who use what they have to serve, instead of choosing to lord it over others. It is good to have leaders who want good things for those they have responsibility for.

I enjoyed the events that took place on the coronation weekend. It was good to spend time with members of the community and there was an upbeat spirit to the events. I am particularly grateful to those who made the events possible and modelled service for us. These events are made possible by those who set up and down, provide refreshments and give their time to planning and organising.

Can I encourage you to thank those who serve our community in this way? As is often the case, these events rely on a small group of people giving much of their time and energy.

Coming back to King Charles, he responded to the chorister with "In his name and after his example I come not to be served but to serve." He was talking about Jesus when he said those words.

Christianity is about knowing the king of the world, who will reign forever. This is not just a nice idea, but a reality that is lived by faith, as we pray and seek and serve God.

And what an amazing king Jesus is. He is one who came into this world as our brother, not to be served, but to serve. In the eyes of Jesus, true greatness is seen in serving others and he was willing to set us an example.

The words of King Charles are taken from Mark 10:45, which says:

"For even the Son of Man [Jesus] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Continued on page 5

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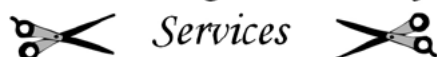
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Continued from page 3

Jesus was willing to serve us by dying for us, so that we might know God's forgiveness, life and love.

In this life, it is a comfort to know that there is a king who never changes and uses what he has for the good of his people. It is a comfort to know that Jesus is a king who serves and can be called upon and relied upon.

As always, I'd like to extend an invitation to join us at church on a Sunday. You will receive a warm welcome and we would love for you to join us, as we seek the servant king.

God bless, Revd Ben

MARESFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7.30pm

All Welcome

Please come and support our fantastic Village Hall

Drinks and nibbles will be served

Uckfield Folk Club

Upstairs at The Station Pub, Uckfield

Every third Tuesday of the month, at 8pm

Tuesday 20th June

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 £10 is suggested.

Info: contact Pat on 07788 994266 or plangridge69@gmail.com

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

Little Deers Playgroup

The playgroup meets in Maresfield Village Hall from **9.15 – 11am** on Thursday mornings (**NOT** the first Thursday in the month due to the village lunch) in term time only. They have places for pre school children.

Just turn up and enjoy meeting other parents while your children make new friends and enjoy playtime together in a safe environment with lots of lovely toys.



St. Barts Community Family Breakfast Club and Café

Our Cafe is open 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!

Maresfield Lunch Club

The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on

Thursday 1st June

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.

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:

June 17th 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).



Civic Centre Uckfield

The ELO Encounter

Saturday 16 Sept 2023 - 7.30pm

The greatest tribute to Jeff Lynne's Electric Light Orchestra is here! In an all live show featuring soaring strings, striking vocal harmonies and playing all the much loved songs from ELO's hit-filled library including Evil Woman, Telephone Line and Don't Bring Me Down. The ELO Encounter tribute band promises a night filled with rock, roll and Blue Skies!



Tickets £22.50

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Friday 6 October 2023 - 7pm

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Maresfield Conservation Group

I hope you all enjoyed the Coronation weekend and, for those of you who attended any of the celebrations taking place, had a good day. I am told that over 200 people attended the picnic on the recreation ground. Hopefully this is a taster of things to come as we head into summer.

Our next scheduled event (hopefully outdoors) is a cheese and wine event in Ann Thompson's garden at Newnham Cottage, next to the Village Hall. We were there a few years ago and had a thoroughly nice time, so it promises to be a very enjoyable evening with fine wines (soft drinks will be available!), lovely cheeses and the chance to chat with acquaintances old and new in a lovely setting. The date is **1st July** between 6:30 and 8pm and tickets are £7 per person, available from Ian Shaw at ian@andrewmilton.co.uk or by ringing him on 07956 564795.

In May, we carried out our Spring Clean Up – thank you to those of you who attended. We collected 16 bags of rubbish. It is sad that people still discard litter, but this bi-annual event ensures that we do what we can to maintain the village.

As always, if you can think of a project or task that you think the MCG can become involved with or take on please get in touch. You don't have to be a member of the MCG for us to take something on. So have a look around the village the next time you are out and about and let me know. Even if we can't undertake the work ourselves, we have funding for appropriate projects that would benefit the village.

I know the states of the roads are a constant issue for all of us. (No we won't be taking on filling in the potholes!) But I understand that a new contractor took over at the beginning of May, so hopefully we will see some repairs being undertaken, particularly down School Hill and elsewhere.

Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Not a lot to report this month, as there has not been too much to clear up, that and the fact I have had a well-earned (I think) early holiday. However, we have given the Church carpark a thorough tidy, and somehow it now looks much bigger.

I have started to walk around some paths on the forest to gauge what work needs to be done and have found them to be clear – at the moment. I've spent some time gazing at the magnificent bluebells which carpet the ground – a lovely sight.

If there is anything you think the Group can undertake (within reason) please let me know.



Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG

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Email: maresfieldconservation@gmail.com

Website: maresfieldconservationgroup.org

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The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE

Thursday 8 June at 2pm

Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899):

A Bicentenary Celebration

Lecturer: Dr Lois Oliver

One of the most celebrated artists of her time, French painter Rosa Bonheur had an extraordinary gift for painting animals that brought her international fame and recognition. Her works fetched exceptionally high prices on both sides of the Atlantic, and in 1865 she became the first woman to be awarded the Légion d'honneur, France's highest of merit.

Defying convention, Bonheur obtained official police permission to wear men's clothing, so that she could study animal anatomy in the male-only spaces of livestock sales. Her most famous work 'The Horse Fair' displays such dynamism that when it was exhibited at the 1853 Paris Salon, one critic wrote that he had to suppress the urge to jump out of the way of the galloping horses. Such was its fame, Queen Victoria requested a private viewing at Buckingham Palace.

Dr Oliver studied English Literature at Cambridge University, and History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, completing an MA in Venetian Renaissance Art and a PhD on The Image of the Artist, Paris 1815-1855. She worked at the Harvard Art Museums before joining the curatorial team at the V&A and the National Gallery.

Currently Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Royal Academy, Associate Professor in History of Art at the University of Notre Dame in London, and a Visiting Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute, Lois also writes audio and multimedia tours for clients including the National Gallery, Royal Academy, Royal Collection, and Tate, and has appeared on BBC Radio and TV. A keen violinist, Lois plays regularly with Kensington Chamber Orchestra and the Endellion Festival Orchestra.

Come along and hear about this fascinating painter of horses.

Members of the Society free, visitors £6 per lecture.
More information from www.tasaf.org.uk



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Local Government News

District Council Elections

Congratulations to the Green Party candidates who won the District Council elections in Maresfield, Buxted and Danehill/Fletching; Councillors Tysh, Shaw and Coleman. The Conservative Party was well and truly trounced and will now need to learn a few lessons again.

I remain as the County Councillor for all three areas, I am also Vice-Chairman of the County Council and a member of the East Sussex Fire Authority. So I will still be around attending Parish Councils and community events, holding village meetings and ready to help on any issues covered by the County Council, of which the most common are road maintenance and road safety.

The dire state of our roads was a big factor in these elections so I am expecting a major programme of improvements. We have a new contractor who is looking at increased efficiency and innovation. They will be examining how work is carried out, which is currently not very effective, and how the quality of it is monitored.

During the election campaign, I found that quite a few people did not know what the County Council does and what the District Council does – so, in a nutshell:

County is responsible for:

- Roads – maintenance, improvement and safety.
- Adult Social Care – which covers disabled young people as well as the elderly.
- Supervision of schools, special needs provision and school transport. County does not manage schools or employ teachers.
- Children's Services
- County-wide economic initiatives and climate change strategies.
- Waste disposal
- Trading Standards
- Libraries

District is responsible for:

- Planning
- Environmental Health including Food safety
- Council housing and oversight of private rented accommodation
- Waste collection
- Supporting local business
- Leisure facilities
- Licensing

Roy Galley

Your local Councillors:

Roy Galley	cllr.roy.galley@eastsussex.gov.uk	01825 713018
Ian Tysh	cllr.ian.tysh@wealden.gov.uk	01825 714639

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Parish Council News

The May 4th Local Elections

Twelve retiring Parish Councillors were re-elected unopposed at the recent election which leaves two vacancies on the Council. Should you wish to seek co-option to fill one of these vacancies please contact the Parish Clerk on 714555. Ian Tysh was re-elected as the Wealden District Councillor for Maresfield and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

Annual Report

As last year, the Parish Annual Report has not been sent to all households but is available online at www.maresfieldparish.org.uk. A printed copy is also available on application to the Parish Office.

Maresfield Recreation Ground Pavilion

Just a reminder that the refurbished pavilion is available for hire for meetings and appropriate events. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 714555.

Parish Council and Committee Meetings

These meetings are open to the public. Dates and times are in the parish magazines and the Agendas are displayed on the notice boards in each of our three villages as well as being posted on the website. If you wish to address the Council/Committee or ask questions or are just curious do come along.

Planning Matters

The Parish Council Planning Committee meets every third Monday (next meeting 5th June) and discusses all applications relating to the Parish and makes recommendations in its role as a statutory consultee to Wealden District Council, the planning authority. We continue to be vigilant regarding the current application for the expansion of Maresfield Business Park but do not know whether or when it will go to the Wealden Planning Committee (North) in its present form or amended to reflect the considerable opposition it generated. Parishioners will be interested to know that the planning application for 420 houses at Downlands Farm (North Uckfield and adjacent to our south western boundary) was recently refused by Wealden District Council.

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

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Parish Council Meetings: June 2023

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

Monday 6 June	Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)
Tuesday 7 June	Finance & Administration (Parish Office)
Tuesday 21 June	Full Council (Maresfield Village Hall)
Monday 27 June	Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)
Tuesday 28 June	Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee (MRG Pavilion)



Uckfield Green
Partnership

Uckfield Green Partnership

I am sure many of us watched the King's Coronation last month, what a fabulous day! The Monday after was the day of the 'Big Help Out', where volunteers across the country did their bit for their local areas. In Uckfield, this involved a group of around 25 people, made up of the Churchcombe Community Association, Uckfield Town Council, Brighter Uckfield, the 4th Uckfield Cubs & Scouts and members of UGP, clearing litter from a section of woodland within Downland Copse, between Churchcombe Estate and Snatts Road, Uckfield. In all, over 50 bags of litter were collected, including three tyres, car parts, shopping trolleys and even an old trampoline! Well done to everyone who helped.

We are also continuing our monthly Photo Competition. It's free to enter and hopefully inspires you to get out and about! Please look on our website for all the details, and our 2023 winners' gallery so far.

Please also read our monthly newsletter and find out what's happening on the 'green scene' locally, including the latest opening times for Uckfield Fridge, the Repair Café, Warm Spaces, Brighter Uckfield town clean-up times, and other local events.

Uckfield Green Partnership is a local group incorporating three focus areas: Energy & Transport, Natural Environment and Sustainable Living. If you would like to find out more or want to get connected to several local groups working towards making Uckfield a better and greener place to live, please see our website www.uckfieldgreenpartnership.org You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Stag beetle

I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6ft 6 and weighing in at 365lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequinned spandex.

In June, stag beetles – the big daddies of the beetle world – are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble. There's around 3,000 different species of beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5 inch long stag beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male stag beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny titans step into the ring they have to put in some long hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a deadwood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground.

As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they whirr through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to it, that's when things get nasty.

In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers.



Image: Neil Fletcher



Image: Derek Middleton

With incredible strength, a stag beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before spectacularly body-slaming them down onto the stump.

We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our stag beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had a dramatic impact on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a stag beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex, or around Ringmer in East Sussex.

Michael Blencowe
Learning & Engagement Officer,
Sussex Wildlife Trust
www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

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MARESFIELD CORONATION PICNIC 7TH MAY

Villagers arrived early for the picnic to establish a good location. It was very well attended and the sun shone for us most of the afternoon.

Laura Stevens-Smith and Revd. Ben Sear led the children in games and dancing in the arena, hay bales supplied by Lorne, with laughter all the way as the children enjoyed themselves (so did Ben and Laura).

Wonderful cakes and refreshments were supplied by the Church team and a very well supported raffle was run by Elaine and Simone.

Alex and Colleen Butcher provided a sweet trolley, first aid and announcements throughout the afternoon and Fay was a busy lady with a long queue for her artistic facepainting.

The picnic was a collaboration of groups including Maresfield Church, the Parish Council, Conservation Group, Village Hall and The Chequers. Thank you to all who helped make this a successful event.

We raised more than £500 for St.Peter & St.James Hospice.



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