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The Rector writes



Freedom is one of the most precious things that makes life, life. I wonder how you define that word – to be free to do as we wish? Over the past year, we have had many of our freedoms curtailed due to the pandemic. The motivation for this, of course, is keeping each other safe. Nevertheless, it hasn't been easy, has it? So many of the things and people we treasure and enjoy have not been available to us. We are looking forward to the time when we are free to spend time doing the things we enjoy and seeing the people we care about.

Perhaps lockdown has caused you to think about how you will use your freedom when it returns? I've spoken to several people who are planning to slow down, or have discovered a new thing they plan to continue doing. Unsurprisingly, everyone has a deepened appreciation for community. As a church, we are looking forward to resuming our services and groups that provide community for many different people.

The Bible speaks a fair bit about freedom and what it means to be free. It acknowledges that God has given people freedom to make a choice about the way they decide to live, but it locates true freedom in something – or rather, someone – else.

One of my favourite verses in the Bible is John 8:36, which says “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed”. The context is about humanity being unable to live as God intended, unless we come to Jesus, the Son.

To be free, according to Jesus, is to follow him, because he is where true humanity is found; he shows us the way.

I always remember a TV clip involving a gentleman and an iPad he had recently received. A family member is shocked to discover him using it as a chopping board, assuming that is what it was for! He was certainly free to chop his veg, but he wasn't truly free to enjoy the iPad as it was intended, because he hadn't been shown the way, in fact, he was damaging the iPad by putting it in the dishwasher!

As we get to know Jesus, we are discovering true freedom, because we discover what it means to be truly human; those who live in relationship with God according to his ways. My own personal experience of following Jesus is that it's not always easy, but where I have been willing to follow, I have always found his ways good and life-giving.

As our freedoms return, how will you use yours? I'd love to invite you to join us at church sometime, to say hello, to enjoy the company of others, but also hear about Jesus in whom we are made free indeed.

God bless, *Ben*



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Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

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www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk

Our Spring Village Clean-up will be held on FRIDAY 26th to SUNDAY 28th MARCH 2021

Due to restrictions of Covid-19 there will be a similar format for participating in the Clean-up as implemented last Autumn. We will NOT be meeting as a group in the Church Car Park as in previous years.

Litter pickers, high-viz jackets and bags will be delivered to you and an area to collect litter allocated.

Please always wear gloves when collecting litter.

If you would like to help, or are unable to come at this time but willing to assist with keeping our village litter free, please contact:

**Sheila Cumming, MCG
March Clean-up Co-ordinator**

Email: sheila.sunlands@btinternet.com

Tel : 01825 767 484





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Maresfield Conservation Group

SITUATIONS VACANT

I am very sad to report that we haven't exactly been inundated with applications for the posts of Treasurer or Chairman. In fact, to date, it's zilch!

It could be that people are put off because of the amount of work involved. It is certainly true that the Treasurer's job does require a certain amount of bookkeeping experience, but the amount of time needed works out to about 2-4 hours a week. All systems and spreadsheets are already set up; it's just a matter of being methodical and inputting the data on a regular basis.

With regards to the Chairman's position this entails preparing an agenda for meetings (between 6 and 11 per year) as well as the Annual General Meeting, both of which follow a standard formula. Chairing the meetings involves checking that previous action points have been acted upon and ensuring that members keep to the point during the meeting.

The chairman can if course choose to be far more proactive, but delegation is the key!

In all the above you would be supported by the other members of the Committee. Our current committee are not a stuffy lot, just the opposite in fact. We are from diverse backgrounds with differing jobs and interests. There is definitely a lot of banter, fun and laughter.

The MCG has been active in the community for the past 30 years and is a registered charity. It would be such a shame if it did not continue its good work for many years to come. We are always looking for new people, with fresh ideas, to come forward and help make this happen. We are just a bunch of ordinary folks trying to make a difference – why not join us? You might even enjoy it!

WEBSITE & MEMBERSHIP

Many charities, both small and large, are suffering a lack of support and income as a result of the Covid crisis and restrictions, and we are no exception. Collectors have been unable to call on members in order to collect their subscription or to deliver newsletters. This has resulted in a number of members who have not, as yet, paid their subscription for this year. However, as and when the current restrictions are eased our collectors/representatives will be calling on them to see if they would like to retain their current membership. In order to alleviate this situation in the future we would encourage members, who have not already done so, to arrange for their annual subscription payment to be made by standing order. Please note, this method of payment can, of course, be cancelled by the said member at any time.

Continued on page 9






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FOOTPATHS

Sadly with the lockdown still in force the restriction on voluntary footpaths work continues. The almost continual rain and heavy use of the paths over the past months have had the unfortunate result that many paths have become almost unusable due to deep mud, flooding and fallen trees. The group members are all keen to get back to the usual – and perhaps some extra – maintenance. The tools have all been serviced and we are ready to go.

CEMETERY WALL, SCHOOL HILL

It has been brought to our attention that the cemetery wall is showing signs of deterioration and beginning to lean slightly. It appears that the pointing and mortar need attention. However, it is felt that repointing at this stage would not be enough and that much of the wall may need to be dismantled and rebuilt and some of the encroaching root growth removed. The advice of a specialist builder should be taken.

This possible health and safety issue was discussed with other members of the MCG Executive Committee and it was agreed that this matter should be brought to the attention of the church and Maresfield Parish Council as this is a boundary wall between the cemetery and the pavement meaning a number of parties could possibly be involved.

This wall borders the only pedestrian access between the village and the school and is in regular use by parents and schoolchildren walking to and from the school. At busy periods there is already a tendency for groups, particularly when using prams and buggies, to step into the road to pass each other. Our concern is that any future collapse of the masonry could result in serious harm.

An email detailing the above concerns was sent to Maresfield Parish Council on 8th February 2021 and a copy sent to Angie Welton, church administrator. We will keep you in informed of the outcome.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP DAY – Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2021. Please see further details on page 5 of this magazine. Once again, many thanks go to Sheila Cummings for organising this event.

Keep safe and well.



MARESFIELD
CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No: 1104136

Kind regards,

Pat Palmer - Chairman, MCG

Tel: 01825 764804 or 07770 745519

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"We have seven Foundation Scholars already thriving within our school community," comments Fergus Llewellyn, Cumnor's Headmaster. "Our first Foundation Scholar will be joining Hurstpierpoint College in September 2021 – a very exciting moment for us all."

Applications are now open until Friday 16th April 2021. Please contact Cecilia, our Registrar on: 01825 792006 or registrar@cumnor.co.uk.

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The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Thursday 11 March at 2pm - Bernini's stupendous sculpture in the Villa Borghese, Rome

Lecturer: Hilary Williams MA

Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680) is widely credited with the creation of some of the most spectacular combinations of sculpture and architecture in what we now think of as Baroque Rome. His work for St Peter's in Rome, internally and externally, complete with a massive, pilgrim-encompassing Piazza in front of the basilica, defines the drama of the Baroque. He worked for five Popes. His story starts as a sculptor of precocious genius. Coming from Naples to Rome, where the best commissions were to be found, young Bernini swiftly became known for his superb figural sculpture made for Cardinal Scipione Borghese. Justly renowned are Bernini's early sculptures of Aeneas, Anchises & Ascanius (1619); Pluto & Proserpina (1621-22); his exquisite Apollo & Daphne (1622-25) and, to outdo Michelangelo, his David (1623-4), among others. We shall see how these articulate classical myth and style but also express the dynamic spirit of Counter-Reformation Rome.



Hilary Williams was formerly the Print Room Superintendent at the British Museum, but now is the Art History Education Officer. She lectures for the British Museum, London Borough of Bexley and Wallace Collection and is Liaison officer at the British Museum with The Arts Society. She also guides Special Interest Private Tours of the State Apartments at Buckingham Palace.

Lectures are available to Members only at this time, but you are welcome to join us by contacting our Membership Secretary Donald Speedie in advance of the lecture on **01892 663388** or email **ADFASnews@gmail.com**.



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If you would like to receive this email, please contact Ben at **vicar.maresfieldandnutley.protonmail.com**





Rose-tinted spectacles

You might be forgiven for gently side-stepping the never-ending global pandemic, dancing around from the worst hack in US history courtesy of Solarwinds' compromised software, and entirely avoiding the looming discussion about how Apple and Google have joined Facebook to become the pinch-points of global free speech in their roles as custodians of the larger software 'stores'. Perhaps it is time for some rose-tinted spectacles.

Fortunately we have some beautiful spectacles to guide our thoughts along other lines during confinement in our latter-day caves. While you wait for the global storms of unfettered craziness to abate somewhat, virtual tours of the wonderful and inaccessible offer new vistas of solace. Some example links are available at rlcomputersolutions.co.uk/tour

Starting with public webcams: these can be quite fun. While some show the less wonderful side of emerging blocks of flats or the dull belly of a supertanker, others tell stories of far-off places from shorelines to forests, or beautiful squares of historic towns. **Windy.com** offers an interesting if bizarre combination of up-to-the-minute weather and links to a large range of webcams from around the world.



Then we move on to proper tours. Tours of the outdoors range from flat collections of photographs through to remarkable virtual tours of places such as the Yosemite National Park. The Yosemite tour is worth a few words: this is truly something of a *tour de force* in the virtual tour

world and very much worth visiting to enjoy its combination of ease of access, amazing views and skilful use of local audio to bring the park to life – highly recommended. Google Earth, including its web version, lets one quite literally fly from landmark to landmark or enjoy the miraculous flowing sands of the desert from 10,000 feet. <https://www.virtualyosemite.org/>

Even as the natural world is increasingly monumentalised, the man-made world is brilliantly available through impressive tours. Where these tours score well is the breadth of imagination that they suggest. Take your pick drawn from such famous locations as the Sistine Chapel or the Salone Sistino, whose amazing walls and ceilings are alive with profusions of colour and form; the glorious pictures of the National Portrait Gallery; or any one of thousands of museums collaborating with Google to document their exhibitions. If there is a message running through these many different offerings, it is this: not to rest content with the ragged narrow limits of our everyday vision, our mundane and well-trodden experience.





To this point the tours have been self-guided. However, there are tours from professionals ready to share their insights and take questions. These include locals speaking about their spectacular cities and architects guiding one through the fascinations of modern architecture. These tours generally cost around £20-£40, although some are rather higher.



To give your experience an added twist, you may choose to splash-out on one of the virtual reality (VR) headsets available. For services that take advantage of this gear, the impact is suitably impressive (not to mention 'wow') due to the more immediate and immersive experience. Google Earth also offers a virtual reality version allowing you to wander through cities and across savannah like some benign Godzilla. Naturally, you would need a set of virtual reality equipment such as Oculus Rift - which currently costs around £300...

Roger Lyon


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Local Government News

COVID-19

Cases of Covid 19 continue to fall quite steeply across East Sussex and Wealden. Over 90% of care home residents and staff have been vaccinated. All over-70s will be offered a vaccination by mid February and over-65s by the end of the month.

The Community Hub continues to operate for those with food or medicine delivery problems.

A series of Government grants are still available for local businesses and over £45million has been passed on to businesses since the pandemic began. Full details of what is on offer are on the Wealden website.

Council Tax

East Sussex County Council has now decided to increase Council Tax by 3.5%. This is made up of 2% on basic Council Tax and 1.5% for the Adult Social Care precept. The government has allowed care authorities to levy 3% extra over two years. It could all be levied in one year or spread over two years. East Sussex has decided on the latter course. About 70% of Council Tax goes to fund County services.

The Fire Authority had agreed to a 1.99% increase for the Fire and Rescue Service while Wealden will be freezing tax for 2021/22. We are expecting a hefty increase from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Policing

The increase in the Police precept will, however, be put to good use.

Already 100 more PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) have been recruited across Sussex with 17 new neighbourhood policing sergeants heading up local policing activity.

I have observed more police presence in recent weeks, including more speed check activity, and hope you have too whilst out and about.

In parts of Wealden, Anti Social Behaviour patrols have been having noticeable impact and there has been a successful drug-busting operation.

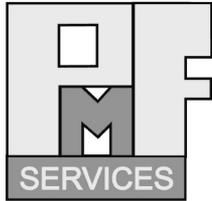
As ever, overall crime levels are comparatively quite low.

Roy Galley

Your Local Councillors are:-

Roy Galley	cllr.roy.galley@eastsussex.gov.uk	
	cllr.roy.galley@wealden.gov.uk	01825 713018
Peter Roundell	cllr.peter.roundell@wealden.gov.uk	01825 722030
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Climate Change Interest Group

Sponsored by Maresfield Parish Council

Local Climate Change Challenge

The Climate Change Interest Group was formed recently by local people and our aim is to challenge Maresfield Parish residents to make changes in a variety of areas for the good of the environment. Each month we will make suggestions of behavioural changes or actions that can be taken that will make a real difference. We hope you feel inspired to join in with some of our suggestions and would welcome your feedback.

March 2021 - Water Saving

The main issue with the overuse of water is the fact that every drop that comes out of our taps is filtered, treated and chlorinated, all of which require a huge amount of environmentally damaging energy to achieve. 100,000 litres of water equates to around 17.5kg of CO2 emissions. One third of this drinkable water ends up in sewers.

So what can we do to reduce this?

Showering equates to around 12 percent of Briton's daily water use. A bath uses around 80 litres of water while an electric shower will use around 62 litres for an average 8-minute wash. A power shower will use almost double this.

Washing machines account for around 15 percent of daily water use, with an average wash using 50 litres of water. A lot of people half-load their machines, but often 'half wash' settings will use just as much water.

Washing dishes makes up around 8 percent of water usage. A fully loaded modern dishwasher uses less energy and water than washing up by hand. If no dishwasher is available, two bowls for wash and rinse is best.

Leaving the tap on whilst brushing teeth can waste over 20 litres of water per brush.

How much can we help?

On average:

- A 5-minute shower instead of 8 minutes will save 24 litres of water per person per shower (168 litres per week) – this saves you 77p
- Putting the washing machine on twice a week instead of 5 times a week will save 150 litres of water –this saves you 48p
- Turning the tap off when brushing teeth will save 280 litres of water per week – this saves you 24p
- Five fully loaded dishwasher cycles rather than seven half-full per week (24 litres per week) – this saves you 41p

Continued on page 21



MARK WATTS DRAINAGE

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Continued from page 19

In one year, these things could save 32,344 litres of water and over £100 per household.

In Maresfield parish there are 1,650 households; if everyone took these measures, our small parish could save over 53,367,600 litres of water per year and over 9300 kg of CO2.

Our group meets, currently via Zoom, once per month and you are welcome to join our meetings.

Please contact Nancy for details or with any feedback or suggestions you may have. Email: assistantclerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings: March 2021

All meetings commence 7.30 pm and will be held remotely via Zoom.

Monday 8 March	Planning Committee
Tuesday 16 March	Full Council
Thursday 25 March	NDP Steering Group
Monday 29 March	Planning Committee





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Parish Council News

A few Points and Reminders...

- The grit in the street Grit Bins provided by the Parish Council is for use on the highway and pavements and is not for use on private paths or driveways.
- The red telephone kiosk in Nutley is a book exchange/lending facility; please do not leave other items such as CDs, toys, games etc in here.
- We still have issues around dog waste in our villages so please, dog walkers, pick it up and properly dispose of it.
- Please remember that cycling on the Ashdown Forest is strictly prohibited.
- If you spot anything around our Parish which needs attention do report it to the Parish Office (714555) – we may be able to fix it!
- If you register your email address with the Parish Office (via our website), you can receive occasional important parish communications including Parish Surveys and Questionnaires.

Parish Surveys

We will soon be asking every household in the Parish to complete two surveys. These are to update the evidence base for the latest draft of our Neighbourhood Development Plan, and also to inform our ongoing discussions with Wealden District Council as they consult the Parishes during the preparation of their new Local Plan. Due to increasing government pressure, Wealden is going to have to plan for unprecedented numbers of new homes in the District. This will affect our Parish and especially Maresfield Village. The Parish Council needs to understand the views of parishioners so we can fully represent them to Wealden and reflect them in our NDP.

We expect the surveys to be available for completion by the end of March so please watch this space and regularly access the Parish Council website.

Covid-19 Pandemic

Various restrictions are still in force, so if you are quarantining, self-isolating or otherwise vulnerable do remember that for assistance of a non-medical nature you can phone the Parish Office on 714555 or contact the Wealden District Council Community Hub on 01342 443322.

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





Brimstone butterfly



Image: Bob Eade

This lockdown has certainly felt harder because of the winter. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed the bleak beauty of the season: bare trees, frosted landscapes. But now I need something to get my heart racing. I need a sign – some hope in these challenging times, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour. In March my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly.

On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the brimstone butterfly makes his

elegant entrance into the New Year on those bright March days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' was the inspiration for the word butterfly.

This claim may be a myth and it's also untrue that these March brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. By the time brimstones appear in March they are already on their last (six) legs. Fresh brimstone butterflies emerged from their chrysalises in late summer, so by now they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly, almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under holly and ivy.

Yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon. When they awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, they mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.



Image: Bob Eade





The brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which, like the butterfly, are widespread across Sussex. When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days before I evicted the gnomes and planted an alder buckthorn.



The following spring, I was excited to watch a brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree, content in the knowledge that I was doing my bit to raise the following year's brimstone brigade.

My first brimstone sighting each year doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. And, after the tough winter that we've all just suffered, that's good enough for me. Either way, this beautiful yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. Let's hope that with the spring comes hope for a brighter year for us all.

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

DON'T FORGET...

You can join us at online church services (and view recent services) at
www.maresfieldandnutleychurches.com/live-stream.html





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