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## Message from the Vicars



### **A MAN HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!**

This month millions of Christians will celebrate this fact. At Easter we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, 3 days after being crucified on a cross- and that he is alive today.

### **How about you? Can you believe it?**

Nature is trying to tell us this can be true. Every day seems to die only to come back to life every dawn. Trees seem to shed their leaves and die but come back to life in spring. Bulbs and seeds seem dead - then we bury them in the earth and later they spring into new life. Caterpillars appear to die and yet one day their seemingly lifeless chrysalis splits open and a beautiful butterfly emerges.



We are often like these disbelieving caterpillars, unable to grasp that we can have new life with God for ever. God created this world and its beauty and grandeur tell us how amazing he is; it tells us about him and how much he loves us. He sent his son Jesus to live as one of us and to show us and tell us of God's love for us. In the bible we read:

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John chapter 3 verse 16.***

We were created to live life with God, to walk in his ways and when we turn away from God our lives get messy and broken. God wants to save us from all the consequences of our mistakes and bad choices, to guide us to a better way of living. God is love; how wonderful it is that he loves us all unconditionally.

We don't have to wait to have a new life with God, it can start today if we let him into our hearts.

So, say yes to your Creator, our Heavenly Father and belong to his family; start living with meaning and purpose to your life and enjoy the peace in your heart that he offers.

**Come on and join us any Sunday to hear more about this man that was raised from the dead and about the difference he can make to your life.**



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## East Sussex services and Council tax next year



There are no new cuts to County Council services in the budget for 2024/2025.

Councillors voted for a £538 million spend on services for East Sussex in the year from 1 April. Almost three-quarters of this money goes on care and protection for the most vulnerable among our families, friends and neighbours - people who may be ill, disabled, frail or suffering neglect or abuse. The council must, by law, provide this help to those most in need.

This means there are limited resources to spend on services we all use - including roads - but councillors also agreed today to consider more spending on highways later this year. I am campaigning hard for a £5m windfall to be spent on roads.

The decision not to reduce services was taken despite the rising cost of providing them and funding not keeping pace. Councillors agreed to use a large part of the council's limited financial reserves to meet the shortfall and, reluctantly, to increase council tax for our services by 4.99% - about £1.62 a week for a typical property.

### **Outstanding care for children. Could you join the fostering family?**

The lives of the most vulnerable children in East Sussex are improved by 'consistently strong and effective' support, an Ofsted inspection has found.

The help, protection and care children and young people are receiving from East Sussex County Council earned the authority an overall 'good' rating, while inspectors found the experiences and progress of children in care to be 'outstanding'. Much of this is thanks to the brilliant foster carers in East Sussex who give young people a loving home and the chance of a better future. They get full support from the council's fostering team and social workers to achieve these results with young people in their care.

Any of us could make great foster carers with this local support and training. If you'd like to find out more about the rewards it can bring information is on the East Sussex website.

### **Flexibus—boarding the bus with 10,000 passengers**

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And don't forget that most single bus trips, on any service, cost just £2. So whether you ride a scheduled service or book a trip on FlexiBus, you can expect a convenient and low-cost journey.



*(continued on page 11)*

## District Councillor's Report, January—February 2024



Wealden has been allocated £ ½ million from the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund to support local businesses. Grants of between £2,500 and £50,000 are available but have to be matched by the business (so the more you have, the more you get). The scheme is administered by the County Council, not Wealden – apply here:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/support/grants/ruralbusinessgrants>

Applications can be made to the end of the year if the money lasts, but I suggest you don't wait if you're interested.

At a recent meeting of a group of 24 councils (which Wealden co-ordinates) about problems with Southern Water, OFWAT was pressured into agreeing to take a more forceful approach to regulation; in future it won't wait until services have broken down before it checks whether Southern Water has kept its promises.

I am very pleased to report that the Planning Inspector has rejected the developer's appeal about the Downlands Farm site. Her reasons were comprehensive and will discourage any further attempt to put a mass of housing on the site.

Last, but by no means least, the Council voted on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February to send the new draft Local Plan out to you and your fellow citizens of Wealden for consultation. The consultation period will open in early March and continue for 8 weeks. Details will be available shortly on the website and via the My Alerts email. If you can't find them, please contact me. I'll also give more detail in my next article.

Please don't comment until the consultation opens and only by using the stated methods; anything sent in by another method (e.g. to a different email address) will not be taken into account. Please send positive as well as negative comments; the more support individual policies receive, the sooner we can start to use them in making planning decisions. All comments – positive or negative – will be considered seriously once the consultation has closed and will help shape the redraft. I assure you that this will be a serious consultation, not a tickbox exercise.

Ian Tysh  
9/2/24

[Cllr.ian.tysh@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ian.tysh@wealden.gov.uk)

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## Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council – March 2024

### A few Points and Reminders.....

**Wealden's Long awaited Draft Local Plan** has now been published. Meetings will be arranged in the near future, for Parishioners to give their views, which the PC will take into account when responding to Wealden in the formal consultation period. The draft plan can be viewed on the Wealden District Council website as follows: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/wealden-draft-local-plan-regulation-18-document/>

**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 so please do not place other items such as Jigsaws, Toys, Games etc in the kiosk.

**We have issues around horse poo** on pavements, so please, horse riders remember that horses by law should not be ridden on the pavement and drivers please, please, drive slowly past horses and give them a wide berth so that horses and riders are not put at risk if they go on the road.

**Adult Gym Equipment at Fords Green, Nutley.** We are considering installing some adult gym equipment behind the children's playground in Nutley. Before taking this any further we need feedback from residents as to whether this would be welcomed and used and if so what type of equipment would be preferable. Please send your thoughts and ideas on this to the Clerk at the Parish Office. [clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk)

**Allotments.** We are expecting to have some land in Maresfield gifted to the Parish Council in the near future that will include an area for allotments. It is anticipated that preference will be given to residents of Maresfield Village when allocating the allotments and then to residents of the wider Maresfield Parish. If you would be interested in being an allotment holder please register your details with the Parish office.

**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 !

### Useful links are:

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

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

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

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

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

Martin Craddock – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council



*(Meeting dates on page 8)*

## Maresfield Parish Council Meetings – March 2024

<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Planning Committee (Fairwarp VH)
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Full Council (Nutley Memorial Hall)
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	NDP Committee (Parish Office) <b>TBC</b>

N.B. Please note that meeting dates are subject to change so please check on the Parish website or call the office beforehand if you are interested in attending.



**Uckfield Model Railway Club** is holding an Open Day on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 at the Luxford Centre, Library Way, Uckfield TN22 1AR from 10am until 4pm. Entry is FREE and club members will have model railway layouts working and be giving demonstrations of modelling techniques. Everyone is welcome.



*Shorinjiryu Renshinkan*  
Karate Do



*Danehill*

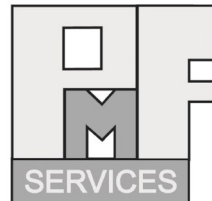
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I am starting my piece this month by thanking Candy, the outgoing editor and welcoming Angie to her new role. The parish magazine is a vital instrument with which not only the Church, but so many other organisations and individuals are able to communicate with the residents of Marshfield Parish, and we are grateful to be able to contribute to its pages.

By now the annual MCG quiz champions will have been crowned and we now turn our attention to the next social event in our calendar. This year we are pleased to be going back to Ann Thompson's garden for a cheese and wine evening at Newnham Cottage. There will be more detail in the coming months, but please save the date of 27th July if you are interested in attending.

A committee of any charitable organisation including ours needs input and participation from the community, or from those it aims to represent. Over the next year or so we will be seeing a turnover of members of the committee and we would welcome additional members joining us. We would especially welcome applicants from Parklands and Wellington Gate who are currently underrepresented. The MCG seeks to represent the whole of the village of Maresfield and preserve our village and its way of life. So please do get in touch if you think it is something you might be interested in.

Some of you may have attended the Maresfield Community Forum held in Fairwarp at the end of January, at which the forthcoming Wealden Local Development Plan was discussed. The consultation document will be posted on the Wealden District Council website imminently. This really is your opportunity to have a say on the future of the parish, and I urge you to have a look at this document and contribute to it. There will be a number of forums residents can attend to discuss the impact of this draft plan. Again I urge you to attend and let your views be taken account of.

Finally just a quick reminder that Saturday 6th April is the first of our twice yearly village clean ups, so if you are able to lend a hand we will be meeting at the Church carpark at 10:00 as usual.

### **Footpaths.** - Bruce Milton

As many of the gardeners amongst you will appreciate these early months of the year can be a quiet time for the garden, and its the same for us on the footpaths group. That being said hopefully you will have noticed the progress being made on the path leading down to Underhill next to the Chequers. We have cleared a huge amount of vegetation which has started to damage the retaining wall. We will continue to do this as well as clearing the site for the installation of the new map board at the top of the path which will hopefully be going up soon. So literally watch this space! We will also continue to clear footpaths and fallen trees when asked to do so.

Jo Lawrance (Chairman)



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*(Continued from page 5)*

**The Wealden Local Plan and the Ashdown Business Park.**

Wealden Council has now produced its Draft Local Plan. In some respects, it's not a bad plan but it does propose 342 new houses in Maresfield, 337 in Buxted with just 36 in Danehill, 33 in Isfield and 29 in Fletching. Overall this is too much and our local infrastructure cannot cope.

The main weakness is the Ashdown Business Park expansion which is still very much a live application. Wealden Council says over the 16 years of the Plan the area requires over 170,000 square metres of employment space. Only 85000 is identified in the Plan.

It is very difficult to see how the Plan can go ahead without the Business Park. Details of consultation arrangements will be announced soon and I urge everyone to be vigilant and register their opposition to the unacceptable parts of the plan.

**Roy Galley      01825 713018**

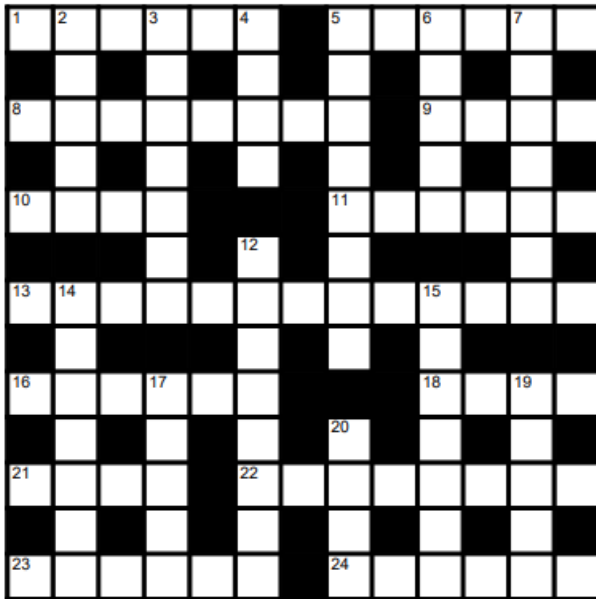
**7th February 2024**

# Whale of a Time

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 DALL'S PORPOISES  
 DORSAL FIN  
 DUSKY DOLPHINS  
 LAYERS of BLUBBER  
 MARINE MAMMALS  
 NARWHALS' TUSKS  
 OCEAN GIANTS  
 ORCA PODS  
 TAIL FLUKES



L	T	Y	M	A	I	S	D	D	N	A	E	C	O	E	N
A	C	A	C	A	E	S	O	U	W	S	T	G	N	O	E
S	R	R	I	K	M	L	E	A	S	Q	L	I	G	P	E
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O	S	L	A	H	W	R	A	N	I	A	Y	A	A	U	A
D	F	F	I	E	L	K	D	L	M	O	T	Y	N	D	B
S	B	N	W	H	A	L	E	S	S	U	P	E	T	M	Z
N	S	B	L	U	B	B	E	R	S	J	N	R	S	Y	I
I	C	W	T	G	O	R	A	K	Q	P	X	S	O	H	S
F	V	U	F	E	L	K	S	D	B	P	O	D	S	P	M

**Across**

1. US Pop Art artist (6)
5. Style of handwriting (6)
8. Outlook, probability (8)
9. Equipment, kit (4)
10. Indigo plant dye (4)
11. Large country landholding (6)
13. Ancient Egyptian writing (13)
16. Disembodied soul (6)
18. Hook for landing large fish (4)
21. Commoner, prole (4)
22. Gambling game (8)
23. Fold of skin under chin (6)
24. Weak (6)











**Down**

2. Freemason's symbolic piece of cloth (5)
3. Forceful salesman, dealer (7)
4. Onion-like vegetable (4)
5. Famous auction house (8)
6. Legal entitlement (5)
7. Synthetic material (7)
12. Political propaganda in art, etc (8)
14. Sudden desire or whim (7)
15. Sanitary practice (7)
17. Insurgent (5)
19. Lethal, terminal (5)
20. Enthusiast, expert (4)

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## ***Chequers in Maresfield*** **Upcoming Events**

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- ◆ **Bingo Charity Event on 5th March from 7pm**
- ◆ **Craft Fair on 16th March from 12noon - 4pm**
- ◆ **Macmillan Coffee Morning on 22nd March from 10.30am**
- ◆ **Charity Quiz on 26th March from 7pm**
- ◆ **Mothers day set menu £25 per person on 9th and 10th March**

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## *Dads & Tots at Maresfield Church*

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

Dads and Tots will run from 9-10:30am on a Saturday morning in church. The next two meetings are on: **23 March and 27th April.**

## *Toddler Praise*

Tuesdays, 9.15-10.30, Maresfield Church (term time)



0-4 year olds and parents and carers are welcome at our informal group on Tuesday mornings in Maresfield Church for music and songs, a thought from the Bible, craft, toys and hot refreshments and chat afterwards. There is no charge for the group, but donations to running costs are welcome. No need to book, we look forward to seeing you soon!

## *Little Deers Playgroup*

The playgroup meets in Maresfield Village Hall from 9.15—11am on Thursday mornings (except the first Thursday in the month). We 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.







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## Sussex Wildlife Trust



### **The Wheatear** by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

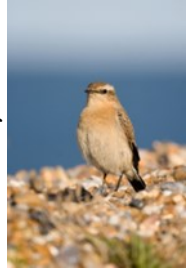
It's been a long winter, but rest assured that our summer migrant birds will soon be with us. As you read this, beating hearts and beating wings are powering tiny bodies through north African skies.

Wheatears are our earliest returning African migrants. It's a fast 3,000-mile flight from sub-Saharan Sierra Leone to Sussex for a 1-ounce Wheatear, and they've been recorded migrating at 500 miles a day. The dashing males arrive first, their soft, sun-bleached shades of pink and buff topped with a dapper black bandit's mask. At Sussex Wildlife Trust's Southerham nature reserve near Lewes, you'll see them scurrying over the grazed downland turf or perched along the valley's fence lines. When they fly, Wheatears flash the white rump which gives them their name. Because Wheatears have nothing to do with wheat or ears. Their original name...well, courtesy prevents me from writing their old English name in such an upstanding publication – but let's just say they were named after their white behinds. Victorians and vicars bird watching in mixed company blushed when they were called upon to identify one, so their name was subtly censored.

Wheatear is a more palatable name for a tragically palatable bird. In Sussex, Wheatears were considered a local delicacy and were served at the finest banquets in Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne. Sussex shepherds would trap them to increase their income; in the late 19th Century the birds fetched 3/6d a dozen (£17.50 today). Shepherds could earn £14 per season (£1,260 today) trapping Wheatears - half their annual wage. Around the town, shepherds were eventually banned from trapping Wheatears as it distracted them from their sheep.

Gluttonous gourmets were so desperate for fresh Wheatear that they would prowl the downs and take birds straight from unmanned traps, leaving a pile of coins for the shepherds. In 1900, outspoken and outraged Sussex conservationist W.H Hudson wrote, "It is not fair that Wheatears should be killed merely to enable London stockbrokers, sporting men, and other gorgeous persons who visit the coast, accompanied by ladies with yellow hair, to feed on them at the big Brighton hotels."

But the damage was done. Trapping and the gradual loss of their sheep-grazed downland habitat caused the birds to disappear from the Sussex downs. The Wheatears we now see around Lewes unsurprisingly don't hang around. Each spring they briefly return to their old downland haunts, flash their behinds at the people of Sussex and keep on moving. From Lewes, they'll head onwards to breeding sites in northern England and northern Europe. But for some of these birds, their amazing migration continues for a further 2,000 miles across cold oceans to Greenland and Arctic Canada.



***Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in 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. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)***

### **Maresfield Historical Society**

The Historical Society meeting in March will be held on Tuesday 19th. The speaker will be Ian Everest and the subject of his talk is War Graves.. The meeting will begin at 8pm in the Village Hall. Entry is free for members and £3 for guests. Everyone is very welcome.





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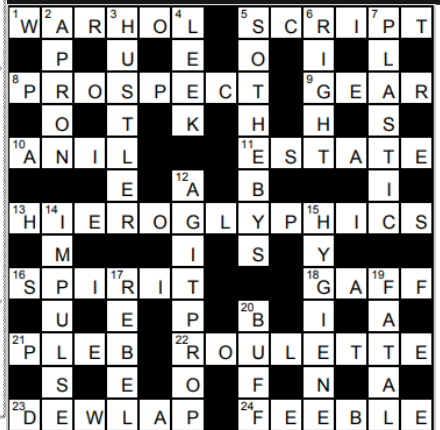
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## Maresfield Lunch Club

The next  
**Village Lunch**  
will be on

**Thursday 7th March, 12.30pm**  
in the Village Hall

**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.**

**Please note: Due to increased overheads, we now have to charge £8 for the meal (this includes Raffle tickets!)**

**Please ring Pat on 01825 769644 / 07788994266 or email [plangridge69@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## *St.Barts Community Café*

*Open every Wednesday in Maresfield Church 9am—12 Noon*

### **Easter Crafts Morning –3rd April**

*(accompanied children very welcome)*



We have a well stocked kitchen for children and adults with fruit, cakes, biscuits, savouries etc. We have a very friendly team of volunteers who help each week and a carpeted kids' zone with plenty of toys for the children to play safely.

St.Bartholomew's church is an agency for Uckfield Foodbank and we can issue vouchers during café hours. Please ask Angie if you need a voucher.

We always welcome new ideas for special sessions, i.e., Bitesize computer/phone sessions, painting, crafts, puzzles etc.

***Come and join us—everyone very welcome***





[www.crowborough-arts.org.uk](http://www.crowborough-arts.org.uk)

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**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 31st MARCH**

**Church and magazine contacts**

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**Church services and regular events**

<b>1st March</b>	<b>2pm World Day of Prayer at Nutley Church</b>	
<b>3rd March</b>	<b>11.15am All Age Service</b>	
<b>10th March</b>	<b>11.15am Morning Worship &amp; Mothering Sunday</b>	
<b>14th March</b>	<b>10am BCP</b>	
<b>17th March</b>	<b>11.15am Holy Communion Service</b>	
<b>21st March</b>	<b>10am Flower Class</b>	
<b>23rd March</b>	<b>9 - 10.30am Dads &amp; Tots</b>	
<b>24th March</b>	<b>11.15am Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service</b>	
<b>28th March</b>	<b>10am BCP</b>	
<b>28th March</b>	<b>7pm Maundy Thursday sup</b>	
 <b>29th March</b>	<b>2pm An Hour at the Cross (Nutley Church)</b>	
<b>31st March</b>	<b>10.45am Easter Day Family Holy Communion Service</b>	

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**Civic Centre Uckfield**

## Easter Afternoon Tea

This Easter weekend, why not treat yourself to a sweet treat? Join us for an afternoon full of decadent food and drink amongst friends!



**Sat 30 March - Tickets £18.50**

## Murder on the Jubilee Queen

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**Sat 11 May - Tickets £39.50**

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[www.civiccentreuckfield.com](http://www.civiccentreuckfield.com)

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**Talented local Artist, Juliet Murray**

(Note from the editor: Artwork used to illustrate "The Arts Society Ashdown Forest" article in February is by Juliet Murray and not Jo Walton)



Juliet has lived in Nutley for many years and says "Ashdown Forest has always been special to me and I strongly suspect I would not have been an artist at all if it wasn't for the inspiring subject matter right on my doorstep. Even on the gloomiest of days there is artistic treasure out there waiting to be discovered".

Contact & Visiting Info:

Juliet's Studio/Gallery in Clockhouse Lane, Nutley is open by appointment. Contact

Juliet on 01825 712565/email [juliet@cogcraft.co.uk](mailto:juliet@cogcraft.co.uk).

Further details and online gallery: <https://cogcraft.co.uk>

Maresfield and Nutley Families



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