



Maresfield Parish Council and Maresfield Coronation Committee

Invite you to

## MARESFIELD CORONATION PICNIC

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 1 – 4pm on the Recreation Ground

Bring a picnic, chairs, rugs plus family and friends

(Sorry - but NO BBQs)

Teas, coffees, soft drinks and cakes to be served from  
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**Maresfield**

PARISH MAGAZINE

**MAY 2023**



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## Inside the **May** issue

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 The Rector writes              | 15 Ashdown Forest Podcast         |
| St Barts Community Cafe          | Parish Council meetings           |
| 7 Isle of Thorns Bowls Club      | 16 Useful features of your mobile |
| Uckfield Folk Club               | 17 Parish Council News            |
| 9 Maresfield Lunch Club          | 19 Organ Recital at Jarvis Brook  |
| Dads & Tots                      | 20 Sussex Wildlife Trust          |
| 11 Maresfield Conservation Group | 23 Services at St Bartholomew's   |
| 13 Arts Society Ashdown Forest   | 24 Coronation Picnic              |

## Church and magazine contacts

Rector	Ben Sear	01825 508352 vicar.maresfieldandnutley@protonmail.com
Churchwarden	Richard Newman	01825 762343 richardnewman21@hotmail.com
Secretary	Angie Welton	07745 479 407 admin@maresfieldandnutleychurches.com
Treasurer	Simon Ashdown	07580 238 365 treasurer.maresfield@hotmail.com
Associate Vicar	Rev Pauline Ingram	07751 729 049 revpingram@gmail.com
Mag Editor	Candy O'Donovan	editor@maresfieldchurch.org
Mag Delivery	Jessica Stopp	07805 978618 jsstopp@yahoo.com

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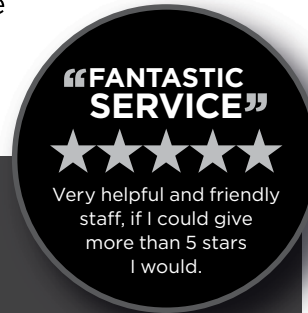
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## The Rector writes

I hope you've all had a good Easter. It was great to see some of you at our Easter services, not least on Easter Sunday when so many of the school came and sang with us. It was lovely to have you join us and you encouraged lots of people with your singing. So, thank you for all the hard work you put into practising.

We've arrived in the month of May, which means it's time for a coronation! As you probably know, there is a picnic planned for the afternoon of Sunday 7th. We'll be there helping to serve hot drinks and I wanted to let you know that church will be meeting slightly earlier that Sunday at 10.30am, so we have time between the service and heading over to the recreation ground. Please note that our service on Sunday 14th May will also begin at 10.30am.

As always, you are very welcome to join us on a Sunday at St Bartholomew's. We (usually) start our services at 11.15am with a variety of styles. You'll find details of the services and our other regular events on the website.

God bless and I hope to see you soon.

*Revd Ben*



## 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!**

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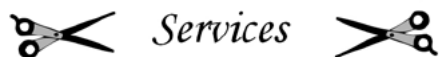
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## Isle of Thorns Bowls Club

Our very friendly Club is located in Chelwood Gate in a pleasant spot on the Ashdown Forest just off the A25 (RH17 7DE). It has four rinks and a fairly new pavilion with an outside decking area, as well as its own adjacent free car park.

We have twice-weekly rollups for members and prospective members on Mondays at 2-4pm and Thursdays 6.30-8.30pm.

**We also have an OPEN DAY on Sunday 14th May 10am-4pm**

Come and have a go! Just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes.

For further details, please ring John on 01342 825382  
or email [iotbowlsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:iotbowlsmembership@gmail.com)

[www.iotbowls.co.uk](http://www.iotbowls.co.uk)

## Uckfield Folk Club

**Upstairs at The Station Pub, Uckfield**  
**Every third Tuesday of the month, at 8pm**

**Tuesday 16th May**

We are very pleased to welcome

**\* TRIAGE \***

Kent-based folk and acoustic trio playing original songs and tunes,  
and folk and acoustic covers from around the UK and the USA:

**Malcolm Peet: Weissenborn, Mandolins and Dobro**

**Dean Tainio: Acoustic Guitar, Recorders, Vocals**

**Kevin Henty: Melodeon, Guitar, Vocals**











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](mailto:plangridge69@gmail.com)**

*NB: There is a parking charge in the Station Car Park,  
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## Maresfield Lunch Club

The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on

**Wednesday 3rd May**

**(Due to polling day on Thursday 4th May)**

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](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.

## 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:

**May 20th      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**

## DYING TO MEET YOU

### Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday 12 May 2023 - 7pm

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## The ELO Encounter

Saturday 16 Sept 2023 - 7.30pm

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## Maresfield Conservation Group

As the days are getting warmer and longer, I am sure you are all looking forward to spending more time in the garden – and hopefully finding time to walk around the village, enjoying the lovely surroundings we are so fortunate to be part of.

Spending time out and about also serves to remind us of the special community spirit we enjoy in the village. This will be evidenced in the forthcoming Coronation Picnic on the village recreation ground to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. MCG are delighted to be involved with this event and look forward to seeing you on Sunday 7th May between 1pm and 4pm. We will have a small display stand showing some of our activities, so please come and say hello if you see us.

Our thanks to all those who contributed in some way to our quiz night in February. We were delighted to hand over a cheque for £784.25 to the Uckfield Food Bank in April. This was the final amount raised and the largest, to date, at an MCG quiz night.

Finally, just a reminder of our AGM, which is taking place in the village hall at 7pm on 16th May. I am delighted to say Carol Jeffree from the Maresfield Historical Society will be our guest speaker and will give a talk on the history of Maresfield. This event is open to everyone, including non-members, so please do come and join us.

### Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Has the better weather returned? well yes, and no, in between the heavy rain showers, the gusty high winds and heavy hail stones there has been some nice sunny intervals.

The group have not only been busy avoiding the rain and hail but been busy around the village cleaning the white posts by the church and weeding one or two borders ready for planting. We aim in the next week or so to go round and clean the wooden highway finger-posts and signs which have got very dirty over the winter. And later on? We will soon be going back to clearing footpaths.



**MARESFIELD**  
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**Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG**

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## The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

**Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE**

**Thursday 11 May at 2pm**

***Through a Glass Darkly***

**Lecturer: Jane Gardiner**

This lecture will explore the way in which artists over the centuries have included transparent glass objects in their paintings, taking huge delight in capturing the shadows and reflections seen within the glass as well as displaying their skill in portraying what lies behind and beyond. It will include the remarkable depiction of glass objects in Roman wall-paintings, works by artists such as Titian, Veronese and Caravaggio – where both the Gods of Olympus and the disciples are seen drinking out of fragile Venetian cristallo – and the proliferation of glass drinking vessels in Dutch still-life paintings.



Our lecturer has an MA in History of Art, University of London and trained at the V&A and continues to lecture there. She was Senior Lecturer at Sotheby's Institute of Art for 17 years, becoming a Deputy Director of Sotheby's, UK. Jane has also lectured for the National Trust, the Art Fund, London University, Buckingham University, l'Institut d'Etudes Superieures des Arts in Paris, a private women's college in Saudi Arabia, on cruise ships and at antiques fairs and interior design conferences in America.

**Come along and hear about this fascinating subject.**  
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## New podcast highlights rare gem

Local audio producer Eka Morgan and wildlife guide Tom Forward have teamed up to produce a new podcast to celebrate Ashdown Forest.

Each episode will feature a dawn and dusk walk, as well as wider issues concerning biodiversity and, along the way, some lessons in bird songs and calls. All the interviews will be recorded outdoors, in the woods and on the heath.

The Ashdown Forest in Sussex is ten square miles of open access land and is two thirds heathland. The remaining heathland in the UK is roughly the size of the Isle of Man – this is the equivalent of one-fifth of the world's total.



With the heath come special bird species, such as the Dartford warbler and the nightjar. It is because of these birds that no new residential development is allowed within 400 metres of the Forest.

The podcast is available from  
the Ashdown Forest Centre  
website:

**ashdownforest.org/podcast**  
and on podcast platforms.

## Parish Council Meetings: May 2023

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

<b>Monday 15 May</b>	Planning Meeting (Fairwarp Village Hall)
<b>Tuesday 16 May</b>	Annual Full Council Meeting (Nutley Memorial Hall)
<b>Tuesday 23 May</b>	MRGC (Maresfield Pavilion)
<b>Thursday 25 May</b>	NDP Steering Group (Parish Office) - If necessary
<b>Tuesday 30 May</b>	Annual Assembly (Fairwarp Village Hall)



## Useful features of your mobile

Mobiles are strangely slippery things. While they look modest and unassuming, they hide away features that one would never guess.

One of these features allows you to keep your phone locked to a particular app. This can be handy in circumstances such as when you are lending your phone to play a game or to look at photos but would rather that curious eyes did not start reading your messages, for example.

On Android you can do this by 'pinning' the app. Pop into your settings to search for 'pin window' and activate this feature. To choose an app to pin, tap the app switching button (bottom left corner of the screen), tap the icon of the app you want to pin and choose 'pin this app'.

You can return to the normal mode by press-and-holding the back and app-switching buttons together – they are at the bottom of the screen in the left and right corners.

iPhones have a similar feature called Guided Access which has some additional options to allow you to disable certain functions and to set a time limit. Be warned: both the iPhone and Android options require caution. For example, jam-covered nephews browsing through your snapshots could still accidentally delete photographs while looking for Auntie Marge.

Turning to WiFi passcodes – when guests arrive, one of the first questions seems to be 'can I use your WiFi?'. This is often followed by collapsing in laughter at the unpronounceable WiFi code. There is an easier way, one that bypasses the frustration when the passcode is rejected again... and again... Here is what to do.

On your already-connected Android phone, pop into the WiFi settings where you will see your WiFi network name together with a gear icon to its right. Tap the gear icon and choose 'QR Code' or 'Share'. Your guests can use their phone's camera to scan the QR code that appears. You can do the same with an iPhone via the Shortcuts app.

Another distinctly handy feature is automatic text translation. Whether you want to navigate a menu while abroad or know what you are buying from an international supermarket, instant translation is at hand. On your phone, open your browser and pop over to Google. To the right of Google's search bar you will find a camera icon. When you tap that icon, the camera will open in search mode. Simply choose 'Translate' at the bottom of the screen and take a photograph of the text you want to translate. Within a few seconds, all the guesswork is gone.

**Roger Lyon**  
rlcomputer.co.uk

## Parish Council News

### Ashdown Business Park Expansion

We now understand that the current planning application for the expansion of Maresfield Business Park will not be considered by Wealden's Planning Committee North until June at the earliest, and it is possible that it could be amended.

At the end of March I, together with the Chairs of Fletching and Isfield Parish Councils, met with Ann Newton, the Leader of Wealden District Council (and the Planning Portfolio holder), when we impressed upon her the extent and depth of the opposition to the Business Park Expansion Application. A vigorous Action Group (SABRE) has been formed to fight the application and a copy of the Parish Council's Objection submission is available at [maresfieldparish.org.uk](http://maresfieldparish.org.uk).

### Local Elections – Thursday 4th May

Just a reminder that the new regulations require you to produce photographic evidence of your identity when you come to the Polling Station. Our election is to elect a District Councillor to represent Maresfield ward (ie. Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley). Twelve valid nominations were received for the fourteen Parish Councillor vacancies in our Parish so these persons (all existing Parish Councillors) are deemed to have been elected unopposed.

### Uckfield Leisure Centre

This is a popular facility used by many in our Parish.

Wealden District Council has leased the Leisure Centre from East Sussex County Council since 2002. The lease will end in July 2023. The Leisure Centre is currently managed by a leisure services provider, Freedom Leisure Limited. Wealden has decided not to extend further the current arrangements and now the County Council is considering the Leisure Centre's future.

Please give your views on the Leisure Centre's future to the County Council by completing the on-line survey at <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/business-services/consultation-on-future-options-for-uckfield-leisure/consultation/>

### Report a Highways Issue

The state of our local roads including the number of potholes is deplorable and the Parish Council applies pressure wherever it can to get the County Council to make repairs. There is a facility on the County Council web site for reporting highway issues – not just potholes. Please use this as the more residents report the issues the more likely it is that some action will be taken. The link is <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem>

*Continued on page 19*

New  
Number!!



New  
Number!!

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Continued from page 17

### Annual Parish Assembly

Our Annual Assembly will be held on the evening of Tuesday May 30th at 7 for 7.30pm in Fairwarp Village Hall. Ruby Brittle and her colleague Dale Poore of East Sussex Highways have kindly agreed to be our speakers and I am sure they will also be happy to hear Parishioners' views and answer your questions on any highways matter. Please come along to meet them that evening.

### 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

## CELEBRATORY ORGAN RECITAL

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, JARVIS BROOK

Saturday 13th May at 3pm

Three accomplished organists, all of whom have strong local connections, will share the recital platform, and present a wonderful programme of tuneful and uplifting music:

**TIMOTHY GUNTRIP**

**ALISTAIR CURTIS**

**ADRIAN GUNNING**

The recital will last about an hour and will be followed by tea and cake in the church hall. It celebrates the recent overhaul and refurbishment of the church's fine two-manual Hopkins of York pipe organ, dating from 1905.

Free admission, with a retiring collection in aid of church funds.

**ALL WELCOME**

**Nearest Car Park: Jarvis Brook (TN6 2EG)**

**Further details: 01825 763920**

# Nightingale

My bottom desk drawer is a graveyard, the final resting place for the obsolete. A broken calculator, foreign coins, buttons and a Maxell C90 cassette given to me a few years ago. I had no means of playing it until I recently discovered my clunky cassette deck hiding in the garage.

An accompanying note says the tape contains "the song of a nightingale in the churchyard of St John sub Castro, Lewes, spring 1985". It was recorded by a lady called Barbara from an upstairs window in neighbouring Lancaster Street. After some dusting, re-wiring, buzzing and hissing, the sweet sound that swirled from my speakers transported me back over three decades to a time when Reagan negotiated with Thatcher, Paul Hardcastle's *N-n-n-Nineteen* topped the charts and a nightingale sang in St John sub Castro.

To be frank, nightingales aren't much to look at. Small brown birds; a robin without the redbreast. But when they open their beaks, there's a Susan Boyle-like transformation. These drab birds become the world's most celebrated vocalists. For centuries, poets have praised their performance. Homer, Shakespeare, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Clare, Keats, Dylan and Cohen. Shelley claimed, "A poet is a nightingale who sits in darkness, and sings to cheer its own solitude with sweet sounds". Trust young Percy Bysshe to believe the bird was wallowing in its own self-pity. The nightingale's song is actually both an aggressive war-cry and a sweet, structured sonnet. A hymn to the silence in the hope of enticing a passing female.

The nightingale's optimistic warbles have inspired everyone from the late Vera Lynn to Roxy Music. A BBC recording of a bird singing in Oxted in 1942 inadvertently captured the roar of Lancasters, Wellingtons, Stirlings and Halifaxes passing overhead laden with bombs destined for Germany. The contrast between innocence and beauty, terror and destruction make it the most powerful sound I have ever heard.

Nightingales will sing by day but are most famous for never letting up when the sun sets, their beautiful phrasing carrying loud and clear over the muffled grunts



Image: Derek Middleton



Image: Roger Wilmshurst

and hoots of other nocturnal animals. Once the nightingale has hooked a partner his nocturnal performances will stop, so there's a narrow window to hear them. Our nightingales spend the winter south of the Sahara in a wide belt between Senegal and Kenya, usually returning in late April.

Due to habitat destruction the UK population of this amazing bird – so entwined in our cultural heritage – is in a steep decline. The sound of a nightingale singing in the centre of Lewes may have been relegated to the bottom drawer of history but we are blessed to still have this bird performing in our Sussex woodlands. We must never let their song of hope be silenced forever.

**Michael Blencowe**

**Learning & Engagement Officer,  
Sussex Wildlife Trust**

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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## SERVICES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S MARESFIELD

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every Monday at 9am (excluding bank holidays)

**SUNDAY 7 MAY 10.30 am All-Age Coronation Service**

**THURSDAY 11 MAY 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 14 MAY 10.30 am Morning Service  
followed by APCM**

**SUNDAY 21 MAY 11.15 am Holy Communion**

**THURSDAY 25 MAY 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 28 MAY 11.00 am Café Church**

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**SUNDAY 4 JUNE 11.15 am All-Age Worship**

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