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## The Rector writes



November is a time for remembering. Particularly, we take time to remember those who have put their lives on the line – and for those who continue to do so – to save the lives of others.

Jesus famously said that “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)

On Remembrance Sunday, 13th November, we will be holding our Remembrance Service, starting at 10:30am at Maresfield Church. Do join us as we reflect on the hope of God and remember those in the armed forces and their willingness to lay down their lives. We’re pleased that the Royal Corps of Signals will be joining us once again.

All of us benefit in some way from the sacrifice and giving of others. Not just those in the armed forces, but our families and friends too. They are the ones who shape us and on whom we so often rely. On November 27th at 3pm, we will be having our Lights of Love service, which this year will be held at Nutley Church. This is an opportunity to remember those we love but have lost. It will be a service in which we give thanks for their life, sing, pray, hear words of comfort, and have an opportunity to light a candle in their memory. All are welcome – if you would like a loved one’s name read out during the service, please do get in touch with me.

Life is not always easy and, at the moment, perhaps it feels particularly uncertain. A truth we remember often at church are the words of Jesus to his disciples, where he says:

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Jesus can claim to have overcome the world, because he was about to go on to secure eternal life for his people. They would be able to live in the assurance that death was not the end and that the days of suffering and evil are numbered. Jesus gives us hope “out of this world”.

As always, I’d like to extend a warm invitation to our services this month, not least our Remembrance and Lights of Love services. If you ever have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

*God bless, Ben*

If you feel in need of prayer, do visit the church website where you can make prayer requests and let us know how you are. You are welcome to leave your name and contact details or submit something anonymously.  
[www.maresfieldandnutleychurches.com/prayer.html](http://www.maresfieldandnutleychurches.com/prayer.html)



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- SUNDAY 6 NOV 11.15am All-Age Service**  
**THURSDAY 10 NOV 10.00am Midweek Holy Communion**  
**SUNDAY 13 OCT Remembrance Sunday**  
**10.30am Morning Worship**  
**SUNDAY 20 NOV 11.15am Holy Communion**  
**THURSDAY 24 NOV 10.00am Midweek Holy Communion**  
**SUNDAY 27 NOV 11.00am Cafe Church**  
**3.00pm Lights of Love Service  
in Nutley**

\*\*\*

- SUNDAY 4 DEC Advent Sunday**  
**11.15am All-Age Service**



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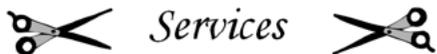
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## LIGHTS OF LOVE

**ST JAMES THE LESS, NUTLEY**  
**SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT 3PM**



Please join us for our Lights of love service. This is an opportunity  
to give thanks for the lives of those we love but have lost.

We'll sing, pray and hear words of encouragement. There will  
also be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of your loved  
one. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards.

If you would like to find out more, or have a loved one's name  
read out during the service, please contact the Vicar, Ben on  
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## REMEMBRANCE IN MARESFIELD 2022



**SATURDAY EVENING, 12th NOVEMBER, 7.30PM**  
Officers from 5 (Maresfield) Squadron 11 (Royal School Signals) Signals Regiment will deliver a presentation in St.Bartholomew's Church at 7.30pm. Signals Past, Present and Future including their time spent in Maresfield.

For more details contact: Angie on 07745479407 or [admin@maresfieldandnutleychurches.com](mailto:admin@maresfieldandnutleychurches.com)

**FREE ENTRY – PAY BAR**

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE, SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER**  
*(We will do our best to keep to the timing)*



**9.30am** The officers will assemble at the Manor House in Maresfield Park for a formal photo.  
**Public, please stand by the "no entry" sign.**

**10.10am.** Officers march from the Manor House to St.Bartholomew's. Arriving at approximately **10.20am** where they will come to attention outside The Lodge before entering St.Bartholomew's.



The Remembrance service, led by Rev.Ben Sear, will start promptly at **10.30am**. Please be seated by **10.25am**, thank you. The Last Post will be played by Simon Khan at the War Memorial and wreaths will be laid in memory of the fallen in Maresfield, followed by children from the village who will lay crosses as the Roll Call is read. The church bells will herald the arrival of the Officers and start of the service.

For more details contact: Angie on 07745479407 or [admin@maresfieldandnutleychurches.com](mailto:admin@maresfieldandnutleychurches.com)



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Two courses £21 - Three courses £25

### The Sleeping Beauty Pantomime

Friday 16 Dec 6pm  
Saturday 17 Dec 1pm & 5pm

The Civic Centre Uckfield and the Uckfield Theatre Guild are excited to bring you a fresh new pantomime.



Come and join us for a family favourite fairytale, The Sleeping Beauty. Get ready to sing, dance or clap along, boo the baddies and cheer the goodies, as we once again go to a magical pantoland in Uckfield.

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## Maresfield Conservation Group

At our AGM this year, I confirmed that MCG would be taking an active interest in all future planning and development issues that might adversely impact our village. The Group is keeping to that commitment and has set up a Planning Sub-Committee, led by committee member and village resident Rob Penfold. Rob has written an excellent blog which you will find here on our website: Planning and Development | [maresfieldcons-group](http://maresfieldcons-group.org) ([maresfieldconservationgroup.org](http://maresfieldconservationgroup.org)). I encourage you to read it and please keep an eye on our website for future updates.

Christmas is coming and so is the village Christmas tree and lights! We'll be putting up the tree on Saturday 3 December, with the official lighting-up ceremony taking place later that afternoon. There's an amazing programme of events that day and I look forward to seeing you all there.

We are looking for a new Treasurer. Would you, or someone you know, have a few hours per month to spare to join our committee? Our current Treasurer has moved house and will sadly be leaving us at the end of December. She's done a fabulous job and we're going to miss her. If you would like to join us or know someone who might, please contact me on the details below.

### News from the Footpaths Group - by Bruce Milton

The mornings are cooler, the leaves are falling from the trees and the bracken is turning brown - it must be autumn. However, the footpaths around our village still need to be kept clear. This we have continued to do until winter comes along and all vegetation stops for a few weeks.

We are a small band of volunteers working hard to ensure everyone can walk safely and enjoy our beautiful countryside. We are always looking for extra help so please contact me if you would like to join us for a couple of hours a week.

When you're out walking, if you come across any path which is becoming blocked, please let me know and the Footpaths Group will follow up as soon as we can. ([Milton.family@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Milton.family@tiscali.co.uk))

Finally, a gentle reminder to all dog owners - please pick up and bin the poo!



MARESFIELD  
CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No: 1104136

**Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG**

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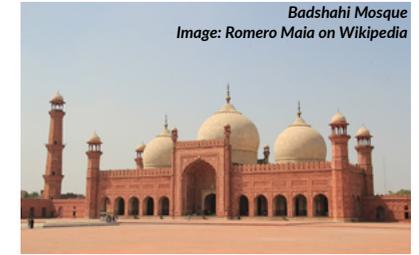
## The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Crowborough Community Centre  
Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE

Thursday 10 November at 2pm

*The Arts of the Mughal World*

Lecturer: Georgina Bexon



Badshahi Mosque  
Image: Romero Maia on Wikipedia

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Georgina is an art historian specialising in South Asian art, who has lived and worked in the UK, USA and Singapore. Her practice includes lecturing, writing, consulting and collecting and she has developed a network of gallery and artist connections in Europe, the USA and India.

She holds a BA in Art History from Southampton University, an MA in Arts Management and Policy from City, University of London and an MA in Art History from SOAS, University of London. Georgina is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Asiatic Society.

Refreshments follow the lecture. Members free, Guests and Visitors £6.

If you would like to join, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01892 861015. For any further information, contact our Secretary on 07884 428780.

## Maresfield Historical Society

Tuesday 22 November at 8pm, Maresfield Village Hall

Chris Horlock: "A Sussex Christmas"

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

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

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**Info: [uckfieldfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:uckfieldfolkclub@gmail.com) or 07788 994266**

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

**Maresfield Lunch Club**

The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on

**Thursday 3rd November**

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.

**PLAY BRIDGE IN MARESFIELD**

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Do join us – you will be very welcome. Call or text Jean 07932 824571

## Parish Council News

Please do log on to our Parish website [www.maresfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk) to keep abreast of Parish Council activity. We would welcome your feedback as we are aiming to make the website a really useful resource for Parish (not just Council) information. Let us know what additional information it should contain.

### Budgets

The Parish Council is setting a budget for the next financial year (2023/24) and this expenditure becomes the basis of the Parish Precept, part of your annual Council Tax Bill. The budget setting process commenced at the October 11th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee and continues at the November meetings of this Committee (Nov 8th) and the Parish Council (Nov 15th). Expenditure in the current year is going to exceed budget mainly due to unexpected inflation (when the budget was set) and setting the budget for the forthcoming year is going to be challenging.

All Parish Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and start with an allocated time for members of the public to raise issues and ask questions. Please contact the Parish Clerk for an invitation.

### Fairwarp phone mast

We still await further news of the proposal to erect a 40ft mobile phone mast in Fairwarp village, as we strongly opposed the proposed site (at the entrance to the Village) and have made constructive suggestions of alternatives. Whilst improvements to the phone signal in Fairwarp will be welcomed, it should not be at the expense of our beautiful countryside.

### Remembrance

We will be welcoming "our" Royal Signals unit back to Maresfield at Remembrance weekend. They will be parading to the Church for the Remembrance Sunday service. In addition, Officers from the Squadron will deliver a presentation in St. Bartholomew's Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th November - 'Signals Past, Present and Future' which will include their time spent in Maresfield.

### Road safety

Whilst road safety has never been off our agenda, and speeding is the number one issue Parishioners are concerned about, the recent serious accident on Crowborough Road in Nutley reinforces the need for action by the appropriate authorities. At its October meeting, the Parish Council was discussing what renewed pressure we, with our District and County Councillors, can exert so that suitable speed limiting measures are introduced on this dangerous road.

*Continued on page 17*

*Continued from page 15*

Both our Clerk and her Assistant are now working from the Parish Office and visitors are welcome. Visiting hours are 10.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday by prior appointment, if possible, please. (E-mail [clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk) or phone 714555).

To keep up to date about local matters the internet and social media are invaluable resources. 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 us on Twitter and Facebook.

**Martin Craddock** – Chairman, Maresfield Parish Council  
[www.maresfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings: November 2022

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

**Monday 7 November** Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)

**Tuesday 8 November** F&A Committee (Parish Office)

**Tuesday 15 November** Full Council (Nutley Memorial Hall)

**Tuesday 22 November** Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee  
(Maresfield Pavilion)

**Monday 28 November** Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)



### CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES IN MARESFIELD

**Saturday 3rd December**

- \* Christmas Market at The Chequers 4-8pm – all welcome
- \* Christmas Story read by Rev Ben Sear, with Carols and Songs featuring Bonners Children
- \* Christmas Tree Lighting – join the countdown!
- \* Then listen for Santa's bells...
- \* Mulled wine and hot chocolate at St Bartholomew's
- \* Supper available at the Chequers - don't forget to book your table

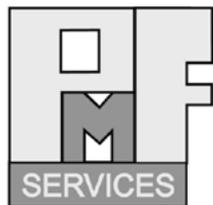
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## Local Government News

### Community Support

A lot of the Council's unsung work is caring for people in the community

The County Council are supporting people in the cost of living crisis by distributing the Household Support fund – £1.5m for food vouchers for families with children eligible for free school meals, and a further £2.2m for food banks.

At the end of October a small grants scheme will be made available through Sussex Community Foundation Crisis Fund to support voluntary sector organisations as well as organisations, including parish and town councils, wishing to offer Warm Spaces.

### Social Care

Plans are being made to implement the new Social Care system which means that no-one should pay more than £86,000 for their care.

Current estimates suggest that the County Council will need 130 additional staff to undertake financial and care assessments, make placements and set up Care Accounts for the estimated 3,000 additional people that are likely to be eligible for local authority support under the reforms.

### Hospital Care

Social care is, of course, linked to hospital care.

Part of the problem with the whole system is the number of patients who are Medically Ready for Discharge (MRD) but are unable to leave the hospital as a result of a shortage of care facilities in the community.

There are also capacity challenges in the independent care sector and County have done a lot to support the market with the recruitment and retention of care staff, including overseas recruitment and apprenticeships.

The Secretary of State for Health has announced £500m nationally for winter pressures and we await the details of the grant – the purpose, our share and who receives it (the NHS or Local Authorities).

Our plan is to use the funds to work as a whole system across East Sussex and the whole of Sussex to bring down the number of patients who are Medically Ready for Discharge and improve the flow through the hospitals.

**Roy Galley**

### Your local Councillors:

**Roy Galley**

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# Polecat

For most of us, our only encounters with British mammals are spotting them on the roadside as we hurtle past at 55mph. I'm sure many people these days believe that lying motionless on a road verge with its feet in the air is natural behaviour for a badger. Our road trips may be macabre safaris, but roadkill can tell us a lot about the state of our island's mammalian fauna. Hedgehogs, a squashed staple on the roadkill menu a few decades ago, are now hard to find flattened on the highway, reflecting their dramatic fall in numbers in the wider countryside. And recently an unfamiliar corpse has appeared on the tarmac: the polecat.

Before being killed by cars, polecats already had a long history of persecution in England – mainly for eating poultry and notoriously stinking to high heaven. To Shakespeare, and many others since, 'polecat' was an insult. The species was exterminated from Sussex around 1890. Indeed, the entire English population was banished to the wilderness of Wales. Yet we were happy to welcome their watered-down, domesticated form – the ferret – as cuddly pets and ruthless rabbit hunters.

After a century in exile, purebred polecats are making a comeback. This re-colonisation was the basis for a recent investigation by the Vincent Wildlife Trust who requested roadkill polecat corpses for DNA testing to verify their pure polecat lineage (as opposed to polecat/ferret hybrids). I was soon dodging traffic on the Steyning by-pass and excitedly picking up a dead polecat.

Being mustelids, polecats naturally smell but, take my word for it, they smell a lot worse when they've been dead for a few days.



Despite my discharging a whole can of Glade, my wife smelt that something was up seconds after I set foot in the house.

Putting a dead polecat in your freezer will test even the strongest of marriages. Thankfully, after some smooth talking, my marriage is still intact, but there are still some fish fingers that neither of us are brave enough to eat.

Next morning a package arrived from the Vincent Wildlife Trust containing heavy duty bags, some cool BIOHAZARD stickers and printed instructions for posting polecats.

After an interesting exchange at the post office counter, my roadkill casualty was posted. A few days later, it was declared 100% polecat; further evidence that polecats have returned to Sussex. It's great to have them back and many farmers are welcoming them too, as they do a great job of dispatching rats and rabbits. Look out for them in your headlights.

Image: Darin Smith



**Michael Blencowe**

Learning & Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

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

## St Bartholomew's Advent Quiz

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