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every Monday at 9am (excluding bank holidays)

SUNDAY 5 NOV 11.15 am All-Age Worship

THURSDAY 9 NOV 10.00 am Midweek Communion

SUNDAY 12 NOV 10.30 am Remembrance Service

SUNDAY 19 NOV 11.15 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 23 NOV 10.00 am Midweek Communion

SUNDAY 26 NOV 11.15 am Holy Communion

SATURDAY 2 DEC CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

5.00 pm Bonners Nativity

5.45 pm Tree Lighting

6.00 pm Santa and

refreshments

SUNDAY 3 DEC ADVENT SUNDAY

11.15 am All-Age Worship

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Maresfield

PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2023



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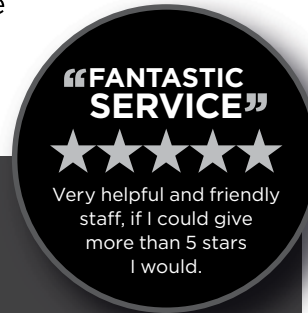
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The Rector writes



"Standing on the shoulders of giants" is an expression that seems to have been around for a long time, though often attributed to Isaac Newton who said, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

Whether we acknowledge it or not, our lives are built upon the lives and contributions of others. No one is truly an island. Our lives are the product of choices made, whether directly by us, or indirectly towards us.

In November we spend time remembering, particularly those who have gone before. Remembrance Sunday, on November 12th, is an opportunity to acknowledge that there are individuals, past and present, that have either laid down their lives, or put their lives on the line for our country's freedom. Who knows what life would be like if they hadn't? Remembrance is an opportunity to acknowledge, give thanks and consider how much we (may) take for granted, rests on those who have gone before.

On November 19th at 3pm, we will be holding our annual Lights of Love service. This is an opportunity to remember those we love but have lost; those special people that we miss. The service consists of hymns, prayers, words of hope and comfort and an opportunity to light a candle in someone's memory. Names are also read out in an act of remembrance. Refreshments are available after the service, and it would be lovely to see you.

As Christians, this time of remembrance is an opportunity to acknowledge that our lives and hope are from and built upon Jesus Christ. We remember that he the one in whom life is found and received. Our life stands on his shoulders.

In the Gospel of John, we are told about Jesus that, "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind." Our recognition that human life is precious and our ability to give and receive love, is rooted in the fact that were given life, not by something inanimate, but by a divine person who is full of life and perfect love.

This perfect love was most powerfully demonstrated in the act that brings us hope in this world. By dying on the cross and rising again, Jesus offers each one of us forgiveness and relationship with God and also the hope of life forever.

In the Gospel of John, we also find Jesus saying, "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." Jesus came to offer us eternal life, so that even if we die, we will live. This is a tremendous gift for which Christians give thanks always. But it has particular comfort for us at times of remembrance, as we remember that death is not the end, nor will this world of brokenness continue as it is forever.

As always, I offer you a warm invitation to our churches. Our Remembrance Sunday services are at 10:30am in Maresfield, with the Royal Corp of Signals in attendance, and at 10:45am in Nutley.

God bless, Revd Ben

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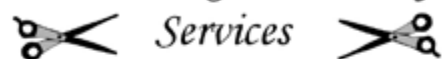
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DADS & TOTS



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.

Sessions run from 9-10:30am on a Saturday morning in St Bartholomew's.

Next sessions: 25 November 16 December

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).

Maresfield Historical Society

Tuesday 21 November at 8pm, Maresfield Village Hall

Delia Taylor: "ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association)"

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

Maresfield Lunch Club

The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on

Thursday 2nd November at 12.30pm

It would be very helpful if anyone interested in joining us would let us know in advance, to give us an idea of how many to cater for.

Ring Pat on 01825 769644 or email plangridge69@gmail.com to book your place.

Proposed improvements at Park Farm Lane

Plans are being brought forward that will see the refurbishment and enhancement of the entrance to Maresfield's recreation ground. Presently the entrance has an unsightly appearance, and some might say does not provide a suitable setting for the valuable community asset at the heart of the village. A scheme to introduce ornate iron gates and iron railings is presently before Wealden District Council seeking planning permission and heritage approval. The scheme is being proposed by the owner of Park Farm Lane, working in conjunction with local residents.

Looking back, the recreation ground was gifted to the parishioners of Maresfield by a local landowner to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The photo below shows the entrance at that time, comprising ornate iron railings and entrance gates to what is now Park Farm Lane.



The recently refurbished and recommissioned streetlamp is clearly visible next to the (then) pedestrian entrance. The gifting of the land is recorded on a plaque fixed to the base of the lamp. Sadly, the iron gates and railings, like so many others in the UK, were probably removed for the war effort and not reinstated afterwards. In recent years the entrance has been compromised by telecoms infrastructure and a patchwork road surface. The treeline on the edge of the recreation ground has impinged on the ornate streetlamp. Improvements to the lane entrance, both aesthetic and safety-related, were approved when the new houses on Park Farm Lane were built, but sadly never implemented by the developer due to insolvency. The recreation ground is now part of the Fields In Trust scheme introduced in 2012 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Parish Council is the Trustee of the Recreation Ground and manages day-to-day activity to maintain the ground for use by parishioners. The scheme allows for the preservation of the Recreation Ground forever, allowing residents, local sports clubs and organisations to enjoy the benefits of this priceless community asset.

Presently there is football for all ages, cricket, bowls and stoolball played on the recreation ground, with parking for 10 cars within the ground itself. In addition, a further 15 spaces on Park Farm Lane were made available by the



lane owner in 2012. The Parish Council carefully manages the parking to maintain safety and not unduly inconvenience the residents who live along the lane.

The proposals to reinstate the gates and railings would enhance the setting of the recreation ground

itself and the street scene within the village. The gates will operate in such a way that all legal rights and obligations will be fully observed. This is without doubt a very important heritage project for the village, that will respect the history and the importance of the recreation ground. The Heritage Officer at Wealden Council has lent support to this proposal.

It is hoped that the planning application will be determined in time for the new year and that the scheme can be installed soon after. The application can be viewed online at Wealden District Council's website; the reference number is WD/2023/2436/F. Please feel free to lend your support.

ST.BARTHOLOMEW'S REMEMBRANCE QUIZ

Saturday 11th November at 7.30pm

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Maresfield Conservation Group

I am sure you all agree we are very lucky to have a number of pleasant walks in and around the village. Invariably one bumps into someone for a chat. Unfortunately the other thing one tends to encounter – increasingly – is dog mess. Not only is this deeply unpleasant but also unhygienic. In some cases can cause health risks to both dogs and their owners and children. We are short of dog poo bins in the village, and that's something we can take up with the relevant authorities, but please do your bit and clear up after your dog; it is becoming a problem.

The MCG Development sub-committee met in early October and discussed a number of development issues that impact the village. We also agreed our terms of reference and mission statement. This is all to ensure that everything we do is transparent and accountable. We believe that everyone has a right to know what others are planning. Everything we do and discuss will be published on the MCG website and we welcome questions and suggestions from everyone.

We held our second litter-pick of the year in October; I would like to thank all of you who helped out. Its an important task and I am sure residents and visitors to Maresfield appreciate the efforts made not only during the two organised events each year, but by those who carry out this work throughout the year.

Our next scheduled event is the annual Christmas tree lighting which we do in conjunction with the Church and Chequers Inn. It takes place on 2nd December and I hope many of you will attend again, as this event grows each year.

Slightly further ahead into next year is our MCG quiz, so a date in your diary for 24th February 2024 to pit your wits against the rest of the village!

Footpaths Group

With other commitments to attend to, we haven't been able to go out every week for the last few weeks, but we've still been quite productive. This has included responding to a request to clear a tree which had fallen across a footpath near Mill House Farm. As we look forward to the autumn and winter we have two projects on hand: the first will be the never-ending job of clearing the leaves along the pavements in the village, and secondly we are going to be looking at the Millennium Walk with a view to carrying out any necessary repairs to the path and the signage. Finally, I would like to echo our Chairman's plea: please clear up after your dogs.



Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG
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The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE

Thursday 9 November at 2pm

The Lure of the Midi: Modern Artists and the South of France

Lecturer: Monica Bohm-Duchen

Ever since the late 19th Century, seduced by its intense light and sensual colours, visual artists have been irresistibly drawn to the Mediterranean coast of France. Claude Monet painted in Antibes in 1888; in the same year, Van Gogh persuaded Gauguin to join him in Arles. Cezanne's roots lay in his beloved Midi, to which he returned for good in 1899. In 1892, Paul Signac sailed into the unspoilt port of St Tropez, settling there and attracting large numbers of younger artists to the area – among them members of the future Fauve group. In the early 20th century, Renoir, Bonnard, Matisse, Picasso and Chagall would make the Midi their home.

Members free, £7 for visitors – who are very welcome.
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County Council News

Gatwick

Gatwick Airport are putting forward an application for a new northern runway. Since this is a scheme of national importance, it is being progressed by the Planning Inspectorate and the decision will be made by the Secretary of State. It is, of course, in the County of West Sussex. Nevertheless, East Sussex is being consulted. At this stage, it is only a matter of raising issues of concern and on October 10th ESCC agreed a series of queries relating to road and rail links, noise, environmental factors and the effects on nature. The issue will return to the Council at a later stage.

Roads - Maintenance Update

In September Highways completed 37 pothole repairs in Buxted and Maresfield division. The following planned maintenance works are scheduled to take place in October in this area:

12-13 October: Station Road, Buxted. Carriageway patch repairs.

16-17 October: Herons Ghyll. Wall repairs at entrance to Oldlands Hill.

16-17 October: Bell Lane, Nutley. Minor drainage improvements outside Woolpack Farm.

16-20 October: Perrymans Lane, Furners Green. Carriageway patching.

18-19 October: Picketts Lane, Horney Common. Drainage investigation.

19 October: A272 Goldbridge Road, Piltdown. Carriageway patch repair.

23 October - 17 November: Perrymans Lane, Furners Green.

Bridge repairs. Road closure.

Recycling

In East Sussex, recycling contamination has reduced recently. There is currently only about 7% contamination. Lots of other authorities have much higher levels.

41% of waste was recycled, reused, or composted in East Sussex in 2022/23. We collected nearly 50,000 tonnes of mixed recycling from the green bins outside residents' homes. About 10% of this was material that should not have been in the recycling bin.

The facility that we use sorts the recycling into different material streams and takes out the contamination. Contamination found in our recycling mostly includes black bag waste, food and textiles. ESCC are working on a leaflet for residents, and this will show what is wanted in the bin and what we not wanted in the bin. It is important to add that less than 1% of our waste goes to landfill. Most of it goes to the Newhaven Energy Recovery facility. Materials produced there are also recycled.

Roy Galley

cllr.roy.galley@eastsussex.gov.uk 01825 713018

District Council News

Water

Representatives of South-East Water were questioned on 11th September at a meeting of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The Chief Executive, David Hinton, and two of his senior colleagues apologised for the recent cut-offs and were franker than I'd expected them to be. The main point that emerged was that SE Water, the regulator (OFWAT) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have for far too long failed to plan properly for the challenging effects of population growth and climate change. A good example of this is that DEFRA's current guidelines require water companies to prepare emergency plans for dealing with up to 15,000 households having their water cut off, but double that number were cut off last December. As Mr Hinton told the Committee, the core problem is "not a failure of infrastructure, but a lack of it".

Waste Vehicles

A relatively small but nonetheless welcome innovation prompted by the changing climate came to fruition in August. All 33 waste collection and street cleansing vehicles used in Wealden are now powered by hydrogenated vegetable oil instead of diesel. This is predicted to reduce their carbon emissions by 90%. I should, in fairness, add that the previous Council administration initiated this change.

Community Forum

About 35 residents came to the Community Forum I held in Maresfield on 5th September (a great improvement on the attendance at my first one!). There was a lively and knowledgeable discussion about a range of planning issues for almost the whole meeting; I'd hoped to discuss other topics too but the purpose of the forums is for people to raise their concerns, not for me to tell you what I want you to hear. The next one will be held in Fairwarp early in the new year. These are open to all residents of Maresfield Ward.

Sewage

The Council (at my behest) has obtained advice from an expert planning barrister about what we can (and can't) do through the planning system to deal with Southern Water's frequent illegal flooding of our district with untreated sewage. We can't refuse planning permission on this basis, but where the evidence shows that systems are currently unable to deal with outflows from a new development, the planning officers will be recommending to planning committees that they impose conditions barring occupation of some or all of the new homes until the problems have been dealt with to the satisfaction of the Council. This will be a major improvement on what the Council has up to now thought it could do.

Ian Tysh, Maresfield Ward

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Parish Council News

Parish Council Website

Please do log on to 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 Parish Council) information. Let us know what additional information it should contain.

Budgets

The Parish Council is setting a budget for the next financial year (2024/25) 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 10th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee and continues at the November 7th meetings of this Committee and the Parish Council (Nov 21st). 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 (714555).

Fairwarp Phone Mast

We understand alternative sites for the proposed 40ft mobile phone mast in Fairwarp village are still being considered, as we strongly opposed the originally proposed site (at the entrance to the Village) and 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 in Maresfield

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 at 10.30am on 12th November.

Recreation Ground Parking

The sports clubs using the Maresfield Recreation Ground have agreed to a Parking Protocol in order to eliminate any nuisance due to their activities causing excessive use of the private Park Farm Lane. Access to parking for other Permitted Users of the Recreation Ground remains unchanged – in other words you may park at the Recreation Ground as before if you are actually using the Recreation Ground (including the Pavilion and children's play area). Access over Park Farm Lane to park for other reasons such as shopping or school drop off is not permitted.

Dogs

Concerns have been raised about dogs being walked unleashed particularly in Maresfield. Even friendly dogs can be alarming to children and the elderly so please keep your dog on the lead at all times on the highway and under firm control in other public spaces.

Continued on page 19



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Continued from page 17

Parish Clerk

Our Parish Clerk works from the Parish Office and visitors are welcome. Visiting hours are 10.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday by prior appointment, please. (E-mail clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk or phone 714555.)

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

Parish Council Meetings: November 2023

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 7 Nov	Finance & Admin Meeting (Parish Office)
Monday 20 Nov	Planning Meeting (Fairwarp Village Hall)
Tuesday 21 Nov	Full Council (Nutley Memorial Hall)
Thursday 23 Nov	NDP Steering Group (Parish Office) – if necessary
Tuesday 28 Nov	Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee (MRG Pavilion)

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



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 18th November

Danehill & Chelwood Gate Village Market
Danehill Memorial Hall, London Road RH17 7HS

Please come along and support this ever popular market and pick up some unusual gifts not available on the high street.

Slugs

I've had a strange fascination with slugs since I was a little boy. Back then I believed that they were homeless snails that had lost their shells. It turns out I was right. Sort of. The whole eviction process had started as far back as the murky Mesozoic when some land snails cast off the shackles of a shell and evolved into slugs for some truly independent living. Sure, shells are great for protection and will help you to avoid drying out but they're clunky and require calcium to construct. Without them you can roam anywhere and (to namecheck another mollusc) the world's your oyster.

The slug's shell has never been completely lost – a fragment remains hidden under their skin, a tiny, shrunken souvenir of their snail ancestry. Another link to their slimy dynasty is that all slugs, like all snails, are both male and female. As hermaphrodites, they possess both sets of sexual organs and this means that, if the situation dictates, they can go it alone and simply self-fertilise to produce their offspring. A true state of independence. Self-fertilisation creates a clone - or in a slug's case hundreds of clones - but the problem with inbreeding is a lack of genetic variability. Clones all possess the same weaknesses. An entire slug population can be wiped out by the same parasites and pathogens. To produce varied and resilient offspring, most slugs go in for the more old-fashioned approach of finding a partner for a quick rustle in the undergrowth.

But one garden slug species has turned this chore into art - a flamboyant celebration of a lack of independence. The spotted and striped Leopard Slugs start their performance by chasing each other around

a tree, giving each other sonic, sensuous strokes and cheeky nibbles.

Then they climb, shimmy along a branch, and descend on a rope made of their own mucus.



Image: Felicity Wehrle



Image: Nick Upton

Here, hanging in mid-air, the slugs turn their sexual organs inside out, entwining them to create a moonlit globe. This graceful, balletic trapeze performance must be one of the most mesmerising sights on our planet. If you search hard enough, you can find beauty in the strangest places. Still, if I was strolling through the woods at night, I'd hate to walk into it face-first.

Michael Blencowe

Learning & Engagement Officer,
Sussex Wildlife Trust

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

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

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

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

We'll sing hymns, pray and hear words of encouragement. There will also be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory.

Following the service there will be plenty of time to be still and refreshments will be served in the church hall.

There is no need to book ahead, please just arrive on the day. If you would like to find out more or have a loved one's name read during the service, please call our Vicar, Ben, on 01825 508352.

