

# THE

# PARISH



# NEWS



News from the  
Churches,  
the clubs, groups,  
& societies of  
Ninfield & Hooe

**April 2021**

**50p**



# St MARY's & St OSWALD's

## NOTICE BOARD

### CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



Date	St. Mary's 9.30 unless stated	St. Oswald's 11.00 unless stated
1 <sup>st</sup> April	7.00pm Maundy Thursday	No Service
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	2,00pm Good Friday	Stations of the Cross
4 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Day	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
11 <sup>th</sup> April	No Service	10.30 Joint Parish Eucharist
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Family Eucharist	Parish Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish Eucharist	Parish Eucharist

#### Opening times for Private Prayer

St. Mary's - Tuesday and Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm

St. Oswald's - Open daily from 9.00am - 5.00pm

*Any alterations or additions to these service times will be displayed on the church notice boards, the weekly sheet and can be found on the church website along with other church details ~ [www.ninfield.org.uk](http://www.ninfield.org.uk)*

**APPOINTMENTS** All enquiries about Baptism, Marriages, reading of Banns or any other Church matter should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

**PARISH NEWS** Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the writer and not of the Parish Churches or PCCs unless it so states. This publication is produced and distributed by Members of both Parish Churches.

Dear Friends,

Easter is a time that reminds us of Hope! We all need hope to be able to face the future. This time last year we were not able to have Easter services in church and for many that was a great loss, including me! Many times, I have been reminded that we do not have to be in church in order to worship God. And that is true! I am also told that you do not need to go to church to be a Christian.

That is also true! I often use the analogy here of learning to play golf! Do you need to belong to a golf club in order to play golf? The answer is no, you can hit a golf ball around a field (being careful of any people around!). In a way that is golf, but it misses many of the advantages of playing at a golf club. To become a better and more confident golf player means joining a club. Then you will enjoy the fellowship of other golfers, learn from other players and even take lessons from a professional. You will still make many mistakes but hopefully you will learn from them and so become a better player!

The same thing is partly true of church. Yes, you can be a Christian and not go to church (whatever denomination) but you will gain enormously from meeting with other Christians who like you are at various stages in the spiritual growth. The first disciples enjoyed their fellowship together, but not only that, they learnt from each other, they encouraged each other, they supported each other. The same is true for us! I keep referring to the family of the church, and that is exactly I hope what we are in both our churches and indeed in our relationship with other churches. Like all families there will be tensions, frustrations, misunderstandings but more importantly there will be the mutual love and support that the family can bring.

At last, we can be together in church after yet another lockdown, but it is not over yet. At least many of us can be together, although we do not forget those who for whatever reason cannot join us at the moment. Our hope and indeed prayer is that we will soon be able to meet our friends in whatever situation we find ourselves. That is our hope!

Hope though does not mean the end of all suffering, it does not mean that when I wake up tomorrow the coronavirus will be gone, but to me hope means confronting my suffering and fear in a new

way.

That is what those first disciples learnt. Of course, they were fearful, and many of them certainly learnt what it meant to take up their cross and follow Christ. But they had each other, and they had their hope in Christ. My hope is that I bring this joy with me in all I do, the hope and joy of the risen Lord. We won't be better golfers, but hopefully we will be better Christians!

In the meantime, can I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter. Paul

## PRAYER

*I'm sure for many people isolated at home the time since Christmas has hung heavy. It can be challenging to make the most out of every day, and it is perhaps always a worthwhile exercise to consider our priorities:*

Can it be Easter Already?

Can it be Easter already?

Can that be really so?

The carols and the Christmas tree

Don't seem that long ago!

Can it be Easter already?

Do April showers splash?

The weeks gone by since Christmas day

Have gone in just a flash!

Can it be Easter already?

The time of Lent has passed

The forty days and forty nights

Went by so very fast.

If it is Easter already,

That time has sped away.

Perhaps it's time to ponder, pause

And savour every day!



By Nigel Beeton

## Editors' Note .....

Poetry seems to flourish at the moment and this month we have four pieces, all written by Hooe or Ninfield residents over two centuries, 1794, 1798, 1889 and 2021, interesting to see the difference in styles and spellings!

Walking through Ninfield this week you can't help but smile, the daffodils along the road are just glorious, the primroses and celandine showing their sunshine yellow heads are a delight, and according to Country File, flowers are good for us as the sight of them raises our endorphins which is good for us. Then there's the sound of the birds singing and the children back in the school play ground, just lovely, all we need now is some warmer, less windy weather and to meet up with friends and family, not long now, fingers crossed!

Again this month there are two more new advertisers, dog training and a sewing service so check them out.

This month the person delivering your News will be collecting £5.00 for your annual subscription, if you missed them and are not sure where to find them please email [ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com](mailto:ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com) or leave a message on 893326 giving us your name and address and we'll get back to you.

Sorry but there's not much news in this month as most of the groups are waiting for information to confirm the dates they can get started again, the May edition could be really busy with all their plans for the coming months, fingers crossed!

Meanwhile, enjoy the flowers and birds singing Celebrate Easter! Not too many eggs now!!!

*Nicki & Carol*



## OUR SCHOOL

The Bubbles have landed.

The gates are open again to a full compliment of happy little faces and to the obvious relief of parents and grandparents. Things are slowly getting back to Normal (number 2) with class bubbles and minimal contact – but it's better than the Normal (number 3) that has existed since Christmas. One day we'll get back to Normal (number 1). One day.....

Following on from the Parish Council's decision to declare a climate emergency I am pleased to say that Ninfield School (with the help of our friends at County) are leading the way. We have managed to secure Government funding to help reduce our carbon footprint. This will include a new boiler to get rid of the current oil guzzling monster, LED lighting, additional loft and wall insulation, replacement of old windows and doors and the provision of battery storage facilities to enable us to move to solar power if/when more finance is available. This all adds up to an estimated 43% carbon reduction as well as a very welcome reduction in the school's annual energy bill. This project will also give us a chance to get the children involved by showing them some real life examples of what can be done to look after our environment.

Meanwhile on the education front our remote learning provision seems to have kept everyone going, even parents have been learning new (or long forgotten) skills. So it has not been too difficult to slip back into classroom learning and face to face lessons. It's as if they had never been away.

Ian Moffat

Closing date for items for the **MAY** edition  
of the Parish News is **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April** please send to  
[ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com](mailto:ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com)

## Manchester Road Development

The application by the developer to change some of the conditions placed on them by Wealden District Council has been decided.

They asked to be allowed to make changes to some of the aspects within the site itself and this was allowed.

The condition for all of the safety works and alterations to Manchester Road to be completed before any building works took place, was not allowed to be changed. Rather than do these works first, they wanted to do them part way through the build, meaning all of us would be sharing the roadway with all the huge lorries and construction workers vehicles. Now, although still having to share that space, in places we should have some pavement and crossing points.

When are they starting? Really don't know, but would think probably, sadly quite soon, one small mercy, it has been quiet over there while we have all been at home with lockdown, if you don't count the works at Moons Hill or Bircholt!



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Calls for complementary advice also welcome

# Ninfield Parish Council

Clerk Jackie Scarff 07725 843505  
e-mail – clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

You will have all noticed the road works on the A269 near Lower Street. This work is to extend the 30MPH speed limit towards Bexhill, create a ghost lane to turn right into the Ingrams development. These works were required by Wealden District Council as part of the planning approval and then agreed between East Sussex County Council and the developer. They are expected to take about four months. The original planning permission was agreed back in 2015 and Wealden District Council with the developer having to fulfil conditions before they were allowed to start the building process. Wealden have now discharged all the conditions (ie agreed the plans submitted by the developer) which means they can start work.

We have been working on a project to identify verges in the village that we can nurture to allow native wild flowers to grow. We are hoping to be able to start the process required this year. What does this mean? The verges are managed by our grounds maintenance company to encourage native wildflowers to grow which in turn encourages more wildlife. These verges will be marked with a wooden flower to highlight that they are a wildflower verge. If you have any questions or want to know anymore please do not hesitate to contact the parish council clerk. clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

The parish council are still meeting virtually and if you would like to join a meeting please contact the clerk of a link. The next meeting will be Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7pm

## SMILE LINES

Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs!



Something different with potatoes!

### SAGALOO

2 tbsp Sunflower oil  
1 onion, finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, sliced  
1 tbsp chopped ginger  
500 gm potatoes, cut into small chunks  
1 large red chilli, cut in half, deseed, finely slice  
½ tsp mustard seed  
½ tsp cumin seed  
½ tsp turmeric  
½ tsp salt  
250 gm spinach

Heat oil in large pan, add onion, garlic and ginger gently fry 3 mins  
Add potatoes, chilli, spices, salt, cook 5 mins, keep stirring.  
Splash water over, cover with a tight lid cook gently 8 - 10 mins  
When cooked add spinach to wilt then serve

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## HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY (April 2021)

As we begin to anticipate something like a return to normal life again the government “road map” continues to prevent gatherings inside until at least the middle of June. We remain bound by this directive, as does Hooe Parish Council with regard to the opening of the hall. Our meetings, government guidelines and the availability of the village hall.

DID YOU KNOW... this month I am again grateful to Maureen Newport and her late husband, John, who had found this poem which had been written at the time of the restoration of St. Oswald’s church and bells in 1889. Cuthbert Routh was our vicar at that time. John Edmund Brand was a churchwarden and lived with his wife, Louisa, at Grove Farm next door to the church. My best guess is that the initials in the poem (HCR and LB) may refer to these people, although I cannot fathom the “H” in front of CR!

*“He liveth best who loveth best  
All things both great and small.*

### Restoration of Hooe Church Tower

A little Bird was flying home across the stormy sea,  
Flying towards our Sussex coast, as tired as bird could be,  
With keen unerring instinct, how it flew, and flew, and flew,  
Till with drooping wing it perched at last,  
On the old Church Tower at Hooe!

See! all is changed! the Tower itself is there, but not the same,  
The ruined stones replaced by new, see! see! the glittering vane!  
The little Bird is seeking now for where it’s nest should be,  
“Tweet! Tweet! ‘tis there! oh Builder kind!  
My home left still for me!”

Head ‘neath its wing, too tired to sing, the wee bird sank to sleep,  
And the Tower seemed full of shadowy forms, and voices low and sweet!  
And then I knew the Bells were home! come Ringers good and true,  
Restored! Recast! and hanging there, dressed in their metal new,  
Oh Bells! One, Two, Three, Four, and Five, how much have ye to tell!  
Since first ye were hung in the good old Tower!  
Which guarded ye so well!

### (Bells in Concert)

We are old! very old! Four hundred years or more,  
We recall the time when Spaniards proud threatened fair England’s shore,  
When England’s Queen defied them all, and her good men and true  
Drove the cowards home o’er the wild sea’s foam,  
Helped by the men of Hooe!

We recall the time 1649 when our good church was spoiled,  
 When robbers profane her beauty did stain, leaving her poor and wild,  
 We recall the dread year, when with hearts full of fear,  
 The Earthquake Storm drew near our shore,  
 And men fasted and wept, as the awfulness crept  
 And threatened our Homes and our Shore!

We rejoice to believe we are now on the eve of a far happier time!  
 When that good heart and true who our Tower did renew,  
 Will rejoice when she hears Hooe Bells chime,  
 May she hear them one day when the soft breezes play,  
 In her garden so fair by the sea!

Chiming clear in sweet sounds, reaching forth to her grounds,  
 And thanking her as best may we.

For there's nought so divine as spending one's time  
 In gladdening the hearts of God's own,  
 So with tongues all aglow we are just chiming now,  
 "May God bless dear H. C. R's Home!"

L.B.

*Affectionately dedicated to my dear Friend, H.C.R. May, 1899*

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## EDUCATION IN NINFIELD

We are all proud of our Ninfield School, but ..... it wasn't the first school to be in Ninfield....

Back in the 1750's there were these references..

Pledge for £7 Date:30 Jan 1756. ESRO reference: PAR 430/31/9/1  
Description: Ann Sheather of Ninfield, widow, school-dame, to John Lavender of Ninfield, yeoman. Household goods listed in schedule possession granted by the delivery of a spring to draw corks.

(Quite why a school would need to draw corks (from a bottle, not with a pencil) is unclear at this remove in time, perhaps the children drove her to drink!)

Witnesses: James Russell, Elizabeth Apps. Also endorsed: receipts for interest, Mar 1757 - May 1761; receipt by JL from James Russell for goods bought from Dame [Ann] Sheather, Dec 1761; agreement with the churchwardens and overseers to take £3 3s, Mar 1764; receipt for £1 1s paid by Mr Wickham, Apr 1764; receipt for the balance, Mar 1766. Creator(s) Parish of Ninfield.

Bond. Date:10 Apr 1759. ESRO reference: SAS/B 32 Description: By Ann Sheather of Ninfield, widow, and John Sheather (son?) of the same place, carpenter, to John Ellis of Ashburnham, miller, in £220, for performance of covenants in a mortgage of even date between the same parties, wherein the said Ann is described as one of the daughters of John Friend, late of Ninfield, carpenter, deceased. Signatures of Ann and Thomas Sheather (husband, dying between the start and conclusion of the agreement, or another son?) and seals. Witnesses:- Nicholas Gilbert the younger, Charles Chane. Creator(s) Budgen, Revd Walter, 1862-1952.

and the family were in the area over 100 years earlier...

Conveyance (bargain and sale) for £260. Date:12 Apr 1636 ESRO reference: AMS 3542 Description: Richard Easton of Bexhill, yeoman, and his mortgagee Henry Sheather otherwise Stace of Battle, yeoman, to John Wenham of Moor Hall in Ninfield, gent, and his son John Wenham.

For Marshland called Charnefolde (16a) in Hooe (to the North: lane from Sewers Bridge to Lord Dacre's land; to the E: land of John Threele, gent; to the S: land of Lord Dacre, land called Bakynsmersh; to the W: common watercourse), occupied by Thomas Sheather otherwise Stace.

Proviso that John Wenham the elder is to pay 5s 0d for the poor to the churchwardens of Ninfield. Recites: mortgage for £100 from Richard Easton to Henry Sheather, 9 Oct 1633. Witnesses: George Wenham, John Newington, William Berrick. Endorsed: receipt for 5s 0d; John Yeldinge and Walter May, churchwardens of Ninfield, to JW; Witnesses: John Fuller, George Wenham, Andrew Waters; 4 Jun 1645.

nor was that the only link to teaching at that time...

Agreement to appoint Thomas Colbran of Ninfield as schoolmaster in the free charity school of Sedlescombe. Date:1755. ESRO reference: PAR 481/25/1/1 Creator(s) Parish of Sedlescombe.

and who knew of Mrs Packham's involvement in the purchase of "School Field" (which presumably is the Rec?)

Draft conveyance of School Field (4a 1r 35p) in Ninfield, Thomas Allnutt [Brassey] Earl Brassey to Naomi Packham of New House Farm, Ninfield, widow. Date:1918. ESRO reference: SHE 7/3/18 Creator(s) Sheppard and Son, Battle, solicitors.

In 1911 the Packham family from Hellingly were at Ingrams Farm.

Kevin Regan

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## Content, A Dream

Rev John Sharpe, Curate, Ninfield 1798

Sleep, o'er my weary eyes was shed,  
His balmy dews my senses bound,  
And fancy's fairy visions led,  
In changing groups, their airy round.

Hope, and Ambition's restless train,  
With gloomy Discontent and Care,  
While passing through the troubled brain,  
Bade my lorn heart their tumults share.

Hope softly breath'd his flattering tale,  
And told the joys of wedded love,  
Then pointed thro' the flow'r spread dale  
To Hymen's temple in the grove,

Soon as he fled, Ambition next  
His fabric to my vision rear'd,  
With sleeves of graceful lawn perplex'd,  
And high Cathedrals tow'rs appear'd.

Sudden the fairy phalanx lost  
Their glittering forms; their image gone,  
Beauteous a female figure crost  
My eager view, and dazzling shone.

Mild as young Zephyr's balmy gale  
O'er violets in the woodland brake,  
Or soft as vernal odours sail  
From dew clad roses, thus she spake:

"Virtue my name; obedience pay,  
And venerate my sacred shrine;  
Sweet shall each passing hour decay,  
Content and Quiet shall be thine;

Lift not Ambition's restless cry,  
Nor heed Hope's mild attractive call;  
Eager they lift the wretch on high,  
And then precipitate his fall.

And why should Discontent annoy  
The Village Curate's humble state?  
Still must his Happiness destroy  
All idle wishes to be great.

Be good: and calm each day shall glide,  
Calm shall night's starry curtain fall,  
Each modest wish shall be supplied,  
Nor fears, nor doubts, they breast appall.

**The April Shower**, Rev. John Sharpe  
Ninfield, Sussex Curate of Ninfield. 1794.

On yonder copse the humid bow  
Imprints its heaven painted dyes;  
While, at the sun's warm, radiant glow,  
The rainy cloud retiring flies.

Fresh from the renovating stream  
Of Nature's mild, benignant shower,  
The fields with gayer verdure gleam,  
And brighter blows the woodland flower;

Lost in the transitory rain,  
Obscure awhile and dim their state;  
Till comes light's vivid ray again,  
Again they smile with Joy elate.

Thus when young Love, with frolick wild,  
Affirm'd his empire in my breast,  
Glad was my heart when Susan smil'd,  
Joy's sunny beams their warmth imprest;

But, by caprice the fair one taught  
with causeless anger often frown'd  
Then with despair the view was fraught,  
And Sorrow stalk'd the landscape round.

Reason at length, with friendly ray  
Dispell'd the misty vapour drear,  
Brought back the splendour of the day,  
Bid Nature's loveliest charms appear;

Arrayed each hill in cheerful green,  
While woods their foliage bright renew;  
With beauties cloath'd each sylvan scene,  
And flow'rs on every hillock grew.

Taught my disord'd fancy wild,  
That Nature's self was still the same;  
But led astray by Love's blind child,  
I gave her unappropriate blame

To Passion's arts no longer prone,  
Convinc'd of Reason's mightier pow'r,  
Experience'd, let me grateful own  
That Love is but an April show'r

Still it obscures the op'ning morn  
Of Manhood and deforms his day;  
Till Reason, child of Light, be born,  
And drive the vapour far away.

Lo! ere to-morrow's glass be run,  
Ere Evening's western shades descend,  
Perchance thy pilgrimage is done,  
Thy weary way-worn toil shall end.

Pray (so the mighty master said)  
Nor, if 'tis granted thee, repine;  
Give me today my daily bread,  
Heaven's joys tomorrow may be thine";.

### **Book Exchange:**

All being well, non-essential shops will re-open from Monday 12th April. This being the case, we will have a Book Exchange on Friday 16th April from 10.00 – 11.30am.



We have reviewed our Risk Assessment and the previous safeguards will be in place so remember to wear a face covering. You may also wish to wear gloves. We have a large stock of books so can only take a few donations, no more than 6 books per person please. If all goes well we will have a further session on Friday 21st May.

Look forward to seeing you!



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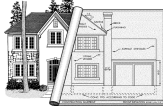
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## Are You Legal in 2020?



Did You Know? As of January 2020 the regulations surrounding the disposal of rural sewage change. You are now NOT allowed to discharge your septic tank directly into the environment.

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Never showing signs of woe.  
Backpacks with their coffee and tea,  
Sitting on the green they will likely be.  
Cleaning and polishing the notice board brass.  
Picking up litter from the grass.

Years of fundraising for a good cause,  
They surely deserve a round of applause.  
Their names begin with M and M (Not the kind you eat)  
So, give them a wave and a smile, next time you pass the seat .

HJ March 2021

## Message from Ninfield Surgery

We are nearing the end of the waiting room refurbishments and the patient toilet is now more accessible. If you have visited the surgery recently, hopefully you will have seen the improvements being made.

### Proposed Merger

We are pleased to announce that Collington and Ninfield Surgeries and Pebsham and Sea Road surgeries have applied to merge together to form a new practice with effect from 1st July 2021. There is a letter with questionnaire available from Ninfield Surgery Entrance Porch with further details, questions and answers that might be of interest and also a patient survey. If you would like further information or to participate in the survey, please pop to the surgery to collect a copy. Any questionnaires will need to be returned by the 30th March 2021.

### PPG for Ninfield and Collington Surgeries

We have held our first virtual PPG (Patient Participation Group) meeting and if anyone else would be interested in joining our PPG (meetings currently being held virtually), please contact Ninfield Surgery to register your interest.

The next virtual meeting will be on Wednesday 14th April at 10.30am.

### Covid 19 Vaccinations

As you will have heard in the local and national press, the vaccination programme is going well. We have been in contact with patients in Groups 1-6. Patients that are over the age of 56, should have heard from NHS England inviting them to book at one of the Covid Hubs.

We would continue to ask patients in those groups not to contact us, we will be in contact with you.

We have started contacting those for a second vaccination due soon too. Again, please don't contact us, we will contact you when clinics are available for these appointments

We would thank our patients for their continued support during this time.

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## **Message from Sami. . . . .**

Well...once again.. There's not a lot to say really: - at time of writing, mid March, we are all waiting with bated breath for the confirmation of the next set of release dates, due on the 29th that will give us an idea as to how successful, so far, is the road map out of Lockdown!

There are misleading headlines in the national press, coming from misquotes and spun suggestions, which don't help the general mood at all; people aren't daft, everyone knows that this time has to be the last time we are in Lockdown, and any easing of restrictions must be very slow and very balanced....we don't want to be in the same position as Italy - which is going through the 3rd wave and another lockdown!! If all goes to a sensible plan - we may all be having a much needed get together some time later in the year; the Carnival Committee have got thoughts, ideas and plans - for a possible 'Village Something' mid July- that are being discussed in a Zoom meeting at the end of March ..but for now just keep everything crossed!

March Fitness continued at pace, and lots of people joined the classes on Dancercise 4 You! - on Facebook, live streaming. It is hoped that the Memorial Hall will be open from May - and maybe we can restart the Movement 2 Music on Monday mornings, plus Tap, Dancercise, Ballroom and Burlesque- as soon as there is a clear, final date, the posters will be up!!

It's a huge disappointment that, again, I won't be doing the 'Evening with..Sami UN-Guarded..' show at the Memorial Hall, on 22nd May -not enough time for definite publicity, and social distancing precludes a big audience capacity - once again, watch this space, the postponement, with a rescheduled date, will be published as soon as humanly/Covidly possible! All plans for the Gala in November are still in the diary...but let's not get too ahead of ourselves! Oh I can't wait to get back on stage...doing commercial castings by self tape, classes and small performances online - it's just NOT the Same!!!

So- keep on keeping on; keep going- that's all we can do - with as much positivity as possible, and every confident hope that the vaccination roll out will continue to be fast and effective... I was lucky enough to go to the theatre, Eastbourne Congress to have my jab! Very good system,

lovely people and, even though I have an awful needle Phobia, it really was all fine. Next 36 hours felt as if I'd been run over by a bus.. but hey ho!!

Take care, stay safe and see you on a dog walk at some point!

Please email [samanthaguard@btinternet.com](mailto:samanthaguard@btinternet.com), call 893699 or txt 07970650321, for information on Dance Classes, Carnival, Shows and Events, Thank You!

### ***Ninfield Village Society***

With the current coronavirus restrictions we regret that we are unable to hold our usual Annual General Meeting this year. I am pleased to say that a brief general report has been made by our chairman Roger Saunders, and a Treasurers report along with a report about Church Wood by me as secretary/treasurer. These cover the period 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021 and will be recorded in our minutes. Existing members will have their membership extended free for another year.

Despite the obvious difficulties this has been a good year for Church Wood:-

The Thakeham application to build on two fields adjoining the wood was thankfully rejected by WDC Planning Department avoiding the inevitable detrimental effect this would have to the woodland and surrounding ecology. Our thanks to the many who objected to this application.

The discovery that we have Great crested newt is great news.

Finally the wonderful news that Church Wood is to become an official "Local Nature Reserve". It is hoped that this will bring long term security and benefit to our community wood and visitors in the future. Our thanks go to the Parish Council and clerk for dealing with all the bureaucracy involved in making this happen.

Robin Goldsmith 892778

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## NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

Well, what a remarkable achievement to have passed with out celebration! On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February we had hoped to invite you all to our birthday party, the Charity Commission formerly confirmed the status of the hall in 1921 making the Committee 100 years old. (Yes and some of us feel that old at times too!) A constitution set out the terms by which the hall should operate and these rules still control the committee today. We may not have been able to celebrate in the way we had hoped but celebrate we did, when, a few days later we received a phone call from someone who lives in the village offering us a substantial amount of money towards the big build!!!! Absolutely amazing, and to say we were surprised and highly delighted is an understatement.

So on behalf of the village we say a huge THANK YOU to our benefactor

Now we have to decide the best way to proceed and without being able to meet up the committee is having to have very protracted discussions by email, snail mail, phone or zoom meetings to discuss the various options, we have to make these decisions soon so in next month's edition we will hopefully set out our plans.

For those of you who are new to the village, a little history, the hall itself was built about 1862/3 and over that time has seen many changes, initially built and used as a drill hall till after WW1. The villagers then bought it for £150 to be used for the amusement, recreation, instruction and benefits of the inhabitants and residents of Ninfield, and this it has done for the last 100 years.

Over that time it has seen many changes, the addition of the stage, windows (there were none when first built!), A new roof, toilets, kitchen along with various repairs, re decorations and now its biggest change. Extend the building to accommodate a disabled persons toilet, new ladies and gents toilets and a better equipped kitchen plus lots of storage. It will be so much better, far more user friendly.

We've had the structural engineers report, planning permission has been granted, we are all getting excited at the prospect of being able to actually get this project off the ground thanks to this extremely generous donation, although we might not get it all finished immediately, but that's for another day.....



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## **Worms Eye View**

Today is the 1st of March and I continue to keep to one of my New Year Resolutions. that is to share my thoughts with you early in the month. Of course the weather takes priority in my thoughts, it has been so nice for the past fortnight, really warm on some days, so warm in fact that one local gentleman bet me it would reach 20 degrees by the end of March. Well I did hear that it had reached 18 degrees so I wait to see if I am about to loose 10p!

Obviously, we on the farm appreciate the ground flying out and just hope that the weather will be kind to our ewes (and every one else) as lambing looms up, mid march for us. Actually we have got some naughty girls (or was it the rams), that lambed very early for us, seven of them actually and they did produce eleven nice lambs who are growing very well and enjoying playing in the field by my kitchen window. They are, plus all the birds on my bird table time wasters but lovely with it.

Recently I watched the BBC Country File programme which bought to notice two birds that I have never seen on my bird table or on the surrounding hedges. The first bird was the Ring-necked Parakeet, a very colourful bird. I had no idea there were so many in the wild in this country. They are very outstanding and would outshine my woodpeckers who are regular visitors. Have you seen these parakeets? Apparently there are quite a few in Hampden Park, Eastbourne, not too far away "as the crow flies".

The other bird I am now going to look out for is the Great Grey Strike, who is another winter visitor to our shores. It is quite a small bird but very smart and is a predator whose diet includes small birds, lizards and frogs. Apparently they keep more to scrubland and marshes so as well as counting the farm animals as I walk around in the mornings, I am now also looking out for this smart bird and its untidy nest.

Meanwhile I welcome sparrows, tits, robins, blackbirds, woodpeckers and pheasants regularly to my bird table, but I am aware of an old superstition which says "if bird droppings fall on you it is a sign of misfortune"; hence I don't sit under it, but view it from a safe distance.

Enough, lets all have a happy Easter and look forward to the pandemic easing even more. 25

*Anne*

# **HOOE PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Clerk Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

Email [hooepc2@btinternet.com](mailto:hooepc2@btinternet.com)

## **Voting will take place in Hooe**

Good News! The Village Hall will be used as usual as our local Polling Station on May 6th . The Parish Council is keen to keep this facility in the village as it is so convenient for residents to be able to vote locally. So the hall will be open on that day Village Hall Opening soon!

However, the hall is open for that one day only. If guidelines do not change the Parish Council plan to open up the hall from around 21 st June, a definite date will be announced nearer that time. We are all looking forward to getting involved socially again.

## **Parish Council meetings**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 12th April; this is dependent on the amount of business to be transacted and will be held by Zoom. The following meeting, the AGM, will be held on TUESDAY 4th May at the earlier time of 6.00pm. This is just a formality; it will be a standalone short meeting. Normally the APM (Annual Parish Meeting) is held on the same evening but, in line with other Parish Councils, Hooe has decided to cancel it this year. The APM, which is normally a very social meeting bringing village clubs and societies together with residents and accompanied by refreshments would have little meaning held over Zoom. There will, I am sure, be opportunities for us all to get together later in the year.

## **Road maintenance**

We are pleased that ESCC has carried out remedial work on Top Road as promised. Now we are waiting for the rains to find out if the work has, in fact, rectified the problem of severe flooding. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you experience problems with our roads, be it flooding, potholes or any other concern.

## **Recycling facility behind the Red Lion PH**

Wealden District Council has decided to close the recycling facility currently situated behind the Red Lion PH. As we are now able to dispose of recycling materials in our domestic bins this facility is less important than it once was.

## **Relax on our new benches**

If you are out and about exercising around the village do wander up to the Millennium Wood. There you will find comfortable benches placed Hooe PC

so that you can relax and enjoy the fresh air. These benches were purchased for the village using a Wealden District Council Grant for which we are grateful.

### **Litter picking**

..... And when you are out and about why not carry a bag with you and wear gloves so that you can pick up litter as you go by? We are grateful to those residents – including The Smith Family and Geraldine - and there are others – who are now in the habit of doing their bit to keep the parish clean. We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who contributes. If you are in need of bags, or a litter picker please get in touch with the Doodles, 892329.

### **Let's plant trees in Hooe**

The Parish Council is delighted to support a suggestion by a resident for the promotion of tree planting in the parish. Our Clerk, Jackie, will be contacting the Woodland Trust for advice and guidance and for information on how to apply for saplings which will be delivered for planting this autumn. We think planting trees in the roadside hedgerows and on verges should be avoided – there are many other places, including private gardens, where trees would be a welcome addition. Our Chairman, Dick Carey, and our Tree Warden, David Formby will be planning additions for the millennium wood, the recreation ground and on other parish land.

This is an exciting community project and we hope other residents will get actively involved. We would love to hear from landowners, gardeners, specialists, keen gardeners and amateurs alike so that information, knowledge and experience can be shared for the benefit of the whole village. Everyone is welcome!

### **Open Gardens –**

Save the Date 10th and 11th July - something to look forward to! I am sure the Tree Planting project will be one of the subjects of discussion at our Hooe Open Gardens weekend which is planned to take place over the week end of 10th /11<sup>th</sup> July from 11.00am until 5.00pm. Those who have committed to opening their gardens are beavering away making them as attractive and inviting as possible. The organising committee is meeting regularly under the Chairmanship of Gary Durman putting together the plans for the weekend. There will be many beautiful gardens to visit and plants for sale; delicious refreshments will be served all day.

Be sure to visit the bazaar offering many locally made original interesting items to tempt you.

This will be a great day out right on your door step.

For a taste of our last Open Gardens weekend please visit [www.hooe-open-gardens.com](http://www.hooe-open-gardens.com) Gary would love to hear from you if you would like to open up YOUR garden or if you would like to get involved with the organisation. His 'phone number is 893007. Our meetings are more like social occasions, it always surprises us that the work actually gets done – but it does! Pam Doodes Vice Chairman

## SMILE LINES

Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in.

When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'

**The story of the Easter Bunny** is thought to have become common in the 19th Century.

Rabbits usually give birth to a big litter of babies (called kittens), so they became a symbol of new life. Legend has it that the Easter Bunny lays, decorates and hides eggs as they are also a symbol of new life.

Decorating eggs is believed to date back to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although chocolate eggs didn't arrive till 19<sup>th</sup> century in France and Germany, initially these were bitter and hard. Chocolate making improved and hollow eggs were developed So the Easter egg hunt, a popular part of Easter traditions which children enjoy suddenly got a whole lot better..

Easter Bunny doesn't do all the work alone though! In Switzerland, Easter eggs are delivered by a cuckoo and in parts of Germany by a fox

# Ninfield Methodist Church

Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)  
15 Holmesdale Road, Bexhill TN39 3QE.. Tel: 01424 733137;  
email: revpwilliams@yahoo.co.uk  
website: ninfield.hbrmethodistcircuit.online

Sunday Services for April 2021:

2nd 2.00pm GOOD Friday United Worship at St. Mary's Church

4th 10.30am EASTER Praise and Communion with Rev. Tricia Williams

11th 10.30am Service of Worship and Praise with Rev. Clive Redknapp

18<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Service of Worship and Praise with Rev. Cynthia Park

25th 10.30am Service of Worship and Praise.

16th 10.00-11.30am Book exchange in Hall (see separate notice)

A Very Happy Easter to you all.

We are so pleased that we plan to re-start our services on Palm Sunday (March 28th) and hope to be open for Sunday services throughout April including the very special

EASTER DAY. It will be good to have our own minister, Rev. Tricia Williams, leading worship on this day.

We will be progressing cautiously and for the time being still need to socially distance, wear masks, & are not permitted to sing inside Church. We have now got fairly familiar with all these procedures so it is not such a shock as it was in 2020. We are also encouraged that the vaccination programme is progressing well. We give thanks to all.

In April 2020 I wrote these words: 'We look forward to the season of Easter and wish you all a Blessed Easter-time when we can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Do come along and join us for Easter Praise on Easter Sunday, if you are able. It is also wonderful to see all the new life springing up around us in the countryside – lambs, daffodils, primroses – amazing! - May God's Peace and calm be with us all, at this special time of year.'

Last year we weren't able to meet in Church but this year WE CAN.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 26:20-25, 31-35, Mark 14:17-21, 27-31  
Luke 22:22, 31-34, John 13:21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.  
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had  
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the  
Passover meal, Jesus said



John was sitting  
next to Jesus, so  
Peter said



So John asked Jesus



It is the person I give  
this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece  
of bread in sauce, and  
gave it to Judas.



What you are about to  
do you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



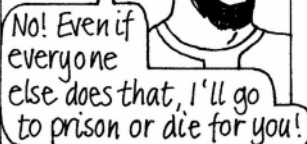
They continued  
the Passover meal.



Jesus then told the rest of the  
disciples



Peter said



Before tomorrow morning  
you will have denied you  
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I  
will never disown you!



# Directory of Groups & Clubs

**NINFIELD ACTION GROUP** Paul Coleshill 893138

**NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY** Secretary Carol Holland 893326

**NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB:** Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, Bexhill 843436

**NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:**

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

**NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING:** Jane Dommersen 862428

**NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY:**

Secretary Jennie Harmer 892357 jennieharmer@aol.co.uk

**NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP** Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

**NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:**

Show Organiser: Rose Franks, Little Gates, Potmans Lane, 892422

**NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

**NINFIELD PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS**

**Preschool:**

**Toddlers:**

**NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS:** Phil Ringrose 892792

**NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY:** Robin Goldsmith 892778

**1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP**

Group Scout Leader: Martin Gausden martin.gausdengsninfield@hotmail.co.uk

Explorer Scout Leader: John Hornby 07783471115

Scout Leader: Glen Harrison 07936552785 ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison 07970 359724 ninfieldcubs@gmail.com

Beaver Scout Leader Sandra Creasey 07908 558721 ninfieldkaa@googlemail.com

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

**NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB:** Julia Hurrell 07508 080608

**DANCE & DRAMA CLUB:** Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

**HOOE BELL RINGERS :** Simon Pattisson 845087

**HOOE HISTORY GROUP:** Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

**HOOE LINE DANCE GROUP:** Heather Sinden 893422

**HOOE OPEN GROUP:** Heather Sinden 893422

**HOOE SPORTS CLUB** Chairman: Tim Bryant, 2 Saddlers Cottage, Hooe

**HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS:** Gary Durman, 893007

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Pam Doodles, Catslide, Hooe 892329

**SENLAC BELLS**

**STOOLBALL:** Fixture Sec. Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

# PARISH WHO'S WHO

**PRIEST IN CHARGE OF NINFIELD AND HOOE** Rev Paul Frostick,  
18 The Ridings, Bexhill on Sea. East Sussex. TN39 5HU. 01424 218126.

## PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

*Churchwardens:* Mr Phil Ringrose ☎ 892792  
Mrs Catriona Mary Owen ☎ 225421

*Secretary:* Mrs Ann Ringrose

*Treasurer:* Mr Phil Ringrose

## PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD, HOOE

*Churchwardens:* Mr Jack Rist ☎892576  
Mrs Janet Pattisson ☎845087

*Secretary:* Mr John Fairclough

*Treasurer:* Mrs Cynthia Fairclough

# USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

**THE PARISH NEWS** Email [ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com](mailto:ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com) ( 893326

## NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Jackie Scarff ( 07725 843505 [clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk)

## HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Jackie Scarff ( 07548 528754 [hooepc2@btinternet.com](mailto:hooepc2@btinternet.com)

## READING ROOM

Booking Enquiries: Anne Ringrose ( 892792 email [ringrosep@aol.com](mailto:ringrosep@aol.com)

## MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: [ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com)

## HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Booking Secretary: Mrs Sally Durman, 1 Elizabethan Cottages, Hooe ( 893007

## METHODIST CHURCH HALL

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