

The

Parish

News



What's on and What you missed

In & around

Ninfield & Hooe

June 25

50p



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

St MARY's & St OSWALD's NOTICE BOARD CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



St Mary's

St Oswald's

1st June 9.30 Parish Eucharist

11.00 Family Service

8th June 9.30 Parish Eucharist

11.00 Parish Eucharist

15th June 9.30 Family Eucharist

11.00 Parish Eucharist

22nd June NO SERVICE

11.00 Parish Eucharist

29th June No Service

11.00 Joint Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

St. Mary's - Tuesday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm Where Possible

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

APPOINTMENTS

All enquiries about Baptism, Marriages, reading of Banns or any other Church matters 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,

How do you like birthdays? Do you try and forget when yours is, or do you make a big splash every year? Do you like presents, or would you rather have experiences? This month Christians celebrate the birthday of the church. It's celebrated fifty days after Easter, which of course means it moves around and this year that puts it on the 8th June.

We remember the story in the book of Acts in the Bible, when the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of Jesus 'And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.' Acts 2 verses 2-4.

It's the moment from which a confused, frightened group of people with a little hope changed into an inspired, energised group of people who had the confidence and courage to go and tell the world that they had found something wonderful.

Birthdays can be a time for re-evaluating, looking back and planning forwards. How have you changed for better and worse in the years you have been on the planet, what do you want to achieve in the future? It could be said of the church that it (we) need to do the same – its history since those heady early days has not been completely swathed in glory let's face it.

So, if you are a part of the church or not, it's good to take stock and work out where next – for yourself, your family, an organisation you are part of. To look back at the places where we have not taken care of ourselves or others; where we have not been that nice, or thoughtful, where we have allowed ourselves to become lazy and self-serving and out of condition. To look also at the things we have done well, the talents we have made best use of, the times when things worked well, or we did the right things that resulted in our wellbeing and that of those around us. Christians can ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit to feel real and vital and to help us change and move forward in hope and courage and energy like those first Christians. The Spirit hasn't gone away, but just like with our bodies, we don't always listen to or take her advice – and it shows!

Perhaps the beginning of summer is a good time in the year to take stock of ourselves and the things we belong to – the hope (!) of better weather, the abundance of nature around us and longer days somehow make us feel that new things are possible. So, if you decide to begin a new healthier eating regime, or to take up a pastime that will enrich you, or some exercise, or if you think it's time repair a relationship or to take yourself in hand in other ways, I wish you every success. And if June is your birthday month too, I wish you a very Happy Birthday!

Paul

Prayer for June

June is the loveliest month, with long days and the beauty of summer all around us. Thank you that, in the church's year this month, we remember one of the loveliest of your followers – Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement. He encouraged the believers in Antioch to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Through his ministry of encouragement, a great number of people were brought to know you. Lord, we all thrive when we are encouraged. And we, your people, so need to be encouraged today in this world which can seem so confusing and discouraging. So, thank you for those who have encouraged us in the past, and for those who encourage us now. Help us to read your living unchanging Word and to remain true to you with all our hearts. Help us to be a Barnabas to those we know who might be struggling. May we bear fruit in our discipleship. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*from the
Parish Records*

St Mary's

20th April - Baptism of Frederyk Lorenzo Ham and Margot Aoife Ham

News from St Oswald's

Our Easter Day service was well attended and afterwards there were many youngsters searching the church and church yard for annual "Easter Egg" hunt. Others were content to share a cup of coffee and conversation.

The following Sunday again was well attended. We gathered afterwards to say a fond farewell to Simon and Janet Pattisson. They have now moved on to Somerset into what will become their "granny annex". We were sad to say our goodbyes and they were presented with a garden token and a bunch of flowers. The collection came from their many friends in the church and the village.

The Church was part of the VE Day celebration on Monday 5th May which went smoothly and was enjoyed by all those present. On the evening of VE day, 8th May we had a short service on the Green and lit the Village Beacon. Thank you to Rev. Peter Doodes for arranging the Service. It was good to see so many people there.

We are pleased to be the Venue for the monthly Coffee Morning which continues to be well attended. Thank you to the Hooe Community Group for their good work.

Note for your diaries, 5th July is the Church Garden Party. There will be the usual attractions. If you have donations for the Raffle, Tombola, or Bric-a-brac (not jumble), please leave them on the pews at the back of the church. The church is open every day from 9.00am until dusk.

Thank you to all those "dog walkers" who clear up after their dogs.

There are still some who do not. We regularly find deposits in the middle of the paths around the church. PLEASE, PLEASE, CLEAR UP YOUR MESS. The Church Yard is a public area with 5 footpaths criss crossing it. We would like to keep those paths clear and safe for all visitors.

Hooe VE Day Celebrations

-

News from St Mary's.



Coffee Morning Saturday 7th June

We are holding another coffee morning on 7th June from 10am to 12 noon in church. There is no cost, but donations are always welcome. There will be cakes, tea, coffee and to entertain us there will be Paul on the organ and The Friendly Voices.

So do come along and join us. **ALL ARE WELCOME**

St Oswald's Annual Garden Party

**Saturday July 5th
from 12 noon**

**in the church grounds
Featuring**

Hooe Village Band

**TEAS, CAKES, SIDESHOWS,
TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, PLANTS
AND LOTS MORE**

May/June Diary

		Venue	Page
30 th	Ladies Lounge	Tin Hut	25
30 th	Men's Shed	Spark Pav	9

Ninfield Health and Wellbeing Group aims to promote the health and wellbeing of people in the local community. Established in 2018, the NHWG is an umbrella organisation supporting a range of activities.

Ninfield Lunch Club

This is proving very popular and is on the 4th Thursday of each month. For details, please contact Maggie on: 07985588524 or email: maggiethecook@gmail.com

Book Exchange and Community Café

Methodist Hall 10 – 11.30 weekly on Friday.

First Friday monthly: Book Exchange and chat over tea/coffee and biscuits. Donations asked for books and refreshments. A wide range of books and good company.

Community Café open on all other Friday mornings – you will be made very welcome.

For details contact David on 07989729123 or dj_swales@hotmail.com

Health Walks

Every Thursday. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an hour. Meet 11.00a.m. at Sparke Pavilion at Ninfield Recreation Ground near the main entrance off Church Lane. A few more walkers welcome. Part of the East Sussex Health Walks Scheme. Please wear sensible footwear. For more details contact Robin 07940 324601

Women's Crafting and Knitting Circle

Memorial Hall. Weekly 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. £5 per session. A well established friendly group. Phone Jane on 862428 for details

Film Matinees

Memorial Hall Tuesday afternoons. Doors open at 1.30. Films start at 2pm. FREE entry and refreshments. Dementia friendly and subtitles.

Films and dates for your diary for 2025 are as follows:

24 June: The Magnificent Seven

2 September: Chicago

7 October: The Ladykillers

11 November: A Hard Day's Night

9 December: Arthur Christmas

For more information or to book a place (to ensure enough cake!) contact Jackie or Rose: 01424892422 or email: jackie.langley1@btinternet.com

MEN'S SHED

A now established friendly group meeting at Spark Pavilion. 10am last Friday of the month. Men putting the world to rights over free coffee. Contact Dave 01424 892883

FRIENDLY VOICES

Our Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon sessions are being held in the Church throughout the Summer and we will be singing at the Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th June. Please come along for some lovely cake and join in. We have some new songs plus maybe a couple of old favourites. We have also been invited by the Association of Carers to support Carers Week and attend some of their local Carer Cafe's to sing to and with the attendees. We may soon be in need of a tour bus. And I will finish with my usual mantra - everyone is welcome to join us. You do not need to be a good singer - just enjoy a good sing!

If you would like to know more you can email me at k.crittell@btinternet.com or call/text 07707683187

DARK SKIES

The bat walk and sunrise walk would both have been completed (always assuming the weather has been kind to us) but what are we going to do for the Summer Solstice? This year, the solstice falls on the same date as the Carnival and I don't think we can see the sun go down from the recreation ground and it may be a little noisier than usual, but hopefully I will find 30 minutes to sneak off and join everyone at the top of the path to the wood. Sunset around 9.20pm. The full moon is on 11th June - a Strawberry Moon, also sometimes known as the Honey, Rose or Mead Moon. The name Strawberry Moon comes from the Algonquin tribes who harvested their strawberries at this time of year.

If you would like to know more about Dark Skies or join the WhatsApp group, you can contact me via email (k.crittell@btinternet.com) or call 07707683187 ARK SKIES

Country Ways Dark

I have been struggling to get this story started as not much has happened around the Church since the last story. Writers block, it happens and some times you need a jolt to get out of it. I phoned a friend from the writers group and she came up with a cleaver angle. What would you sense going round the Church if you were blind!!! This would be a terror for me and one I find hard even thinking about. I have such respect for folks who are living this, they all seem so positive. I would think there is going to be a difference between anyone born blind and someone who becomes blind. So for the sake of this story I will try to think what it would be like if I lost my sight and walked my usual route that I take each day. Firstly there would be a difference between walking on the mown paths and the

longer grass, so as long as I had my memory I could find the route I need to take. Then there is the sense of smell. That for me is pipe tobacco which unfortunately, nowadays, tends to mask most other smell of the countryside. If the pipe were to be put away then there are plants that I could identify through smell. The hawthorn is now in flower and that smell is firmly in my memory, some don't like it but for me it is the smell of the hedgerows. When the ivy is in flower, back end of the year, the scent is very strong and usually starts me sneezing. The last one that comes to me is the elderflower. Both flowers and leaves both have a familiar scent.

The writer B.B. described most wonderfully the smell of the English countryside whilst sitting on an old milestone surrounded by early summer growth. It is a scent produced by all that is around him, not one in particular. The fishermen and fisherwomen knows this. A pond or river gives off it very own smell, just the hint of it leads to the desire to cast a line. Mind you if I got that small at the Church something has gone seriously wrong. My memory, which is fallible, has sent me off down the horse walk! Touch is a sensation that is invaluable. The bark of trees is all different as are the leaves, I think I could tell one from another. Things to touch would have to be all at the right level, I can't even imagine what it would be like to seek out ground dwelling plants. There is of course the Church itself, not only have you got the different textures of the stone but you are touching a material worked by someone's hands all those years ago. This is bringing a story out by your senses. I would be the same if you caught the smell of a fox that had crossed your path, memory and imagination could be triggered and another story is there to enjoy. Sound is another weakness in me nowadays, been around shooting to long. I can't pick out the high shrill sounds any more. Shrews, insects and sopranos can go undetected. Mind you it would be very pleasant just listening to bird song and the wind in the trees. So if there is anybody out there who has lost their sight and would value checking out the countryside around the Church, then please get in contact with me. I would be more than happy to try and explain what your senses are finding out.

AT

From Sami

The LADIES LOUNGE

Hopefully you'll have this magazine in time to come to this! Because the next date is FRIDAY 30th MAY, at the Tin Hut, 4.30- 6.30pm (Actually...You're welcome to stay as long as you want .. the evening session starts at 7pm!) Look forward to seeing everyone, the lovely Club ladies will be behind the Bar for whatever you'd like to drink, including light refreshments and I'll bring some cake! There's some sets of playing cards and a jigsaw if anyone wants to do something as well as have a good natter!! I was also thinking of maybe getting a punchball on a stand in the corner, to get rid of the anxt of a stressfull month!! - after Me, you can be first!!!! Hopefully the sun will be shining, we have tables outside and in...There's green fields to the sea, as a mind clearing view. Time to relax and unwind, have a laugh with friends old and new....Put the world to rights if you want to..Sit and meditate if you'd like to...Keep an eye, hold a hand, pat a shoulder...just 'check in' if you can...It's your Lounge, your time...

Don't forget to pass the word to friends who couldn't make it last time, Ladies, you are ALL welcome - call 07970 650321 for more information

A PLEA FOR VOLUNTEERS!

For NCA90 - Helpers for setting up Marquees on the Recreation Ground on Thursday 19th June. Donations please of Bottles for the Tombola, Cakes for the Tea Tent on Saturday, Bakers for the Bake-Off Competition, Volunteers to help run Coconut Shy, Golf Game, the Energy Assault Course, selling Raffle Tickets and in big loud letters...

MARSHALLS FOR THE PROCESSION!

Then Helpers to get the whole lot down on Sunday 22nd with the famous full English Breakfast as a reward!!! Please call me on 07970 650321 if you can give a little bit of time for any of the above!

Last 3 Carnival meetings before the Anniversary event.

Monday, 2nd, 9th and 16th June at Sparke Pavilion, 7pm. Everyone welcome!

Thank you!

MOVEMENT & DANCE:

Dance classes continue as follows on a weekly basis

MONDAY 10am MOVEMENT 2 MUSIC Memorial Hall, with coffee and refreshments afterwards till 11.30am

WEDNESDAY 6.30pm DANCERCISE Memorial Hall

THURSDAY 9.30am SILVER SWANS BALLET Methodist Hall

FRIDAY (alternates) Memorial Hall

6.30pm BALLROOM,

7.30pm BURLESQUE/SHOW DANCE.

All classes are £6 pp per class.

Don't forget the Mantra...Move it, or Lose it...it's SO beneficial to Dance, Exercise or Move during the week...you'll feel better in mind, body and spirit!!!Thanks for all help, interest, and continued support for all classes, shows, events...please come to meetings or get together.

CALL 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

FB. NINFIELD CARNIVAL FÊTE AND EVENTS.

Hooe VE Day Celebrations

The various groups in Hooe came together to organise the VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations on Monday 5th May 2025.

The cool, overcast weather did not stop the village turning out in force to enjoy afternoon tea in the village hall which was suitably decorated with national and county flags and a very interesting display of documents and photos by Hooe History Society and a display of military memorabilia by Richard.

The wonderful war time themed music led by George Fitzgerald on the piano, the 'Andrews Sisters' singers and an audience sing-a-long all helped capture the mood.

Outside there was a BBQ and children's games in the hall garden and the Red Lion had their wood fired oven cooking pizza in the beer garden.

A big thank you to Jack, Julian and Ann and to everyone who helped to make this event special. Also the residents of Hooe who came along to make the day such a success.

Kitchenham Farm NGS Open Garden 2025

Kitchenham , Ashburnham, is opening its garden this year on Saturday June 7th and Wednesday 11th in aid of the NGS. Please come and support this worth cause raising much needed funds for nursing and caring charities. Marie Curie, Macmillan, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, the Queen's Nursing Institute and Parkinson's UK. FSW (who has been helping vulnerable children and families in Sussex since 1890) will be providing delicious homemade teas. There will also be a plant stall. Other dates the garden is open are Wednesday 6th August and Saturday 11th August 2025.

Amanda Worssam email: aworssam@yahoo.co.uk



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NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB

Held a very successful Open Afternoon on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the end of April. We had lots of new visitors who enjoyed a first experience on the green and later joined us for a lovely tea provided by our members. I am delighted to report we have several new members following this afternoon but we are always looking for more!

If you missed the Open Afternoon and would like to try playing bowls you are very welcome to join us on a Tuesday evening around 5pm.

If you are unable to make Tuesday evenings please give our Captain or Secretary a ring – numbers below – and they will be able to arrange a suitable time to suit you.

For more information or a chat please contact

Roger Bryant – 07765 490852 Val Smith – 01424 843436

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 21st June

FOODS & CRAFTS MARKET

**The market will be on the Recreation Ground as it
Carnival Day**

Many of your favourites will be there

Back to normal in July

Hooe History Society

Our speaker on Thursday, 19th June is one of our favourites, Ken Brooks. His talk is on one of his many interesting subjects, "First life forms". The Burgess Shales contain the fossils of animals that lived around 500 million years ago, and were discovered in Canada by Charles Walcott in 1886. These amazing creatures are spectacular and very different from later species. Also, many of them preserve exoskeletons, limbs, and internal organs. They appeared rapidly in the early history of life on Earth in what is often called the 'Cambrian explosion'. We meet as usual in St Oswald's church at 7.30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW...following on from last month when we read the recollections of Ross Clifton during the war, I thought it would be nice to read a few more, this time from his friend, Brian Pont. There is a little more content to this so it will run over to next month and beyond. I think it's a fascinating read. Brian remembers that prior to the start of the war (around 1937 or 38) his father, Gilbert Pont, took him outside to show him a German Zeppelin (it may have been a Graf Zeppelin) moving in a westerly direction along the coastline at a height of about 1,000 feet. Gilbert thought at the time it may have been taking photographs of the coastline, as there were already tensions at home and abroad. It was clearly a German airship as its livery was in full colours – the red tail was decorated with a swastika and it also had a black cross emblazoned on the side. It was also in about 1937 or 38 that Brian's uncle took him to an airshow at Wilmington. It took place in a field beyond the crossroads at Wilmington, on the right hand side, just before the road dips down to the River Cuckmere. The aircraft on display were mostly bi-planes but one particular aeroplane stood out for him – the Messerschmitt 108 displayed there. It was possibly flown by the Luftwaffe chief test pilot, Hanna Reitsch and attained speed of about 300 m.p.h. This was the forerunner to the Messerschmitt 109 which was the German workhorse during the war that was to follow. Brian's understanding was that the 109, in the early days, was faster in level flight than the Spitfire as it had fuel injection, but the Spitfire had more manoeuvrability. Rolls Royce kept developing the Merlin engine throughout the war, eventually giving the Spitfire a significant advantage over its rivals. A twin engine passenger bi-plane, an Armstrong Argosy belonging to Imperial Airways, also overflew the showground that day. It was a newly developed passenger aircraft and provided quite an impressive spectacle on the day. He clearly remembers the day war broke out as he heard the declaration by the Prime Minister over the radio and it was on his birthday! He too recalls his friendship with Ross Clifton and the anti-aircraft placement behind Broad Green Farm, although he thought there was just one 40mm Bofors gun there to begin with. This was later increased to four guns as the war dragged on. The Bofors guns held five shells per magazine, which it could fire in quick succession.

These four guns were linked to a “predictor” unit. The Kerrison predictor was one of the first fully automated anti-aircraft sighting-control systems. This was the first to be fast enough to be used in the demanding high speed, low altitude role, which involved short engagement times and high angles of fire. The Predictor proved to be able to hit practically anything that flew in a straight line, and it was particularly effective against dive bombers. Brian also recalls that there were four other guns around the village. Three of these guns were situated, one at Castlehurst, one in the top field at Sunnybank, one at Millbank (on the Top Road). He was unsure as to the location of the fourth gun

Peter Hayward (to be continued..)

Ninfield Flower Group

Our May workshop evening proved to be a great success with each member arranging flowers and foliage supplied by another member. One didn't know what one was getting so no planning in advance, but a bit of quick thinking. The results were all very different and very creative and the evening was very relaxed and enjoyable.

We now have a demonstrator for our meeting on June 2nd and it will be a return visit by Chris Campbell-Dykes from Hailsham. Her theme will be Nursery Rhymes, so we look forward to a rather nostalgic evening. As always we meet in Ninfield Memorial Hall. Refreshments served from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Visitors welcome: entrance £5.

We have lots of ideas for our Carnival competition (June 21st) celebrating the last nine decades since the first Ninfield Carnival took place. We look forward to welcoming you to the marquee where you can “have-a-go” for just £1.

On July 7th we welcome Brenda Bull as our demonstrator with “Ancient Routes”. Brenda is soon to become the next Chairman of Sussex Area of NAFAS and is a very experienced

Helen Cunliffe
Chairman

Worms Eye View

What memories have been recalled these last few weeks, not only nationally but personally as well. During the war my father had been working in a munitions factory in Guildford. Obviously due to the long distance from home he had lodgings there but when he had a half day on Saturdays he would cycle home to Hailsham, approximately 60 miles and then he would leave again after dinner on the Sunday to cycle back to Guildford, quite a distance for a short break. This soon to come to an end when the war ended, and he was able to come home for good.

Another exciting piece of news for me was that the exams for leaving Junior School in Hailsham posted their results and quite a few of us had passed to go to Bexhill Grammar School for Girls, including three of my friends and myself and also four boys who would be going to the boys school which was next door to the girls school. And so five years of trundling on the school bus from Hailsham to Bexhill began, boys upstairs and girls downstairs. That was how it was supposed to be!

I must say it was all enjoyable despite being hard work, but I did learn how to play cricket, hockey and tennis properly as well.

Back to today, after some lovely warm days it has turned cold again, such a shame with all the various events celebrating V.E Day but they are still going well and being enjoyed by everyone.

To end with a particular memory of school during wartime; before the power that be started issuing air-raid shelters, when the air-raid siren sounded we had to get down under our desks and "occupy" ourselves until the "all clear" sounded. I will leave you to imagine what jinks went on. Life was and still is never dull!

Anne

.Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

We met on Friday 9th May in the Methodist Hall in Ninfield.

We welcomed back local journalist and author Philip Elms. This time he gave us an entertaining and informative talk on The Smugglers of East Sussex. We all thought we knew something about the smugglers, but Philip's talk was a real eye opener. It seems everyone was involved in smuggling from the humblest labourer to the most respected churchman. Philip told us of the characters involved in the illegal trade during the 18th and 19th centuries and of the dreadful fate that befell them if caught by the authorities. He gave us a vivid account of the Battle of Sidley Green, the 200th anniversary of which is due to be commemorated in 2028.

Next month we meet on Friday 13th June in the Methodist Hall at 2.00p.m. We are having a talk by Alan Tipping, a Hooe resident, on his life in the wilds of Norfolk.

Don't forget it is an Open Group so all are welcome.

Nicki & Heather

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Carnival

Ninfield will be celebrating its 90 year anniversary with one of the most appropriate Carnival Queens it has ever had. No doubt her Court of Princes and Princess's will be equally memorable. But even before Ninfield had a formal Carnival, it had plenty of occasions that almost all in the village participated in. They may have had a much harder life than now, but they knew they had to make the most of any spare time to enjoy it to the full. Bands, both of brass, or small combos, banjos etc seem to have abounded, and many more than now could tickle a tune or two out of a piano. Choirs, amateur dramatics and virtually Everyones Got Talent seemed to bless every family with at least one performer.

But what does "carnival" mean? It derives from the Latin phrase: "carne vale", meaning "farewell to meat", during Lent, and the tradition is that meat (and many other pleasures) were given up while fasting for 40 days. So it has an alternative name of Shrovetide, a cleansing time for penitence. So we also have Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) when all grease, fats etc were consumed in excess so that none were left uneaten, in readiness for the fasting to come. Nowadays many (like me) carry around a sufficiency of fat reserves to last at least 40 days – just in case! 40 days occurs fairly frequently in the Bible, Quadragesima (40 days) or the periods that not only Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by the Devil) but also Moses and Elijah also spent 40 days fasting. And the 40 days also gave us the word "Quarantine" of recent memory! But where then does Lent come from? It is a shortened form of the Old English lencten, meaning "spring season" which is a more secular connection to Carnival when it becomes a time of enjoyment after the long dark and cold winter nights. Lencten certainly evokes the lengthening of the days after wintertime.

The day before Lent is known as Shrove Tuesday, which is derived from the word shrive, meaning "to administer the sacrament of confession to; to absolve." Pancakes are associated with Shrove Tuesday because they are a way to use up rich foods which are not eaten during the Lent fast. The day after is Ash Wednesday, when the remnants of the leftover food were burnt and people could cover themselves in ash as a sign of penitence. Then we have Maundy Thursday, again for the Latin for the practice of washing the feet of the poor. It has a similarity to laundry for many.

Carnival is often also linked to the many porcelain masks from Venice and it is a tradition in many Countries to have Carnival Clubs, whereby families jealously preserve certain roles and costumes for their own use, such as Pierrots, Columbines and Harlequins, often with specific colour codes to differentiate each family. And Venice instituted the wearing of masks, allowing anonymity of the wearer and free of potential repercussions (ahem). Carnival (the period between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday) would suggest that masking was a convention of Carnival and was applied at some point.

The bauta is a mask, now often heavily gilded, although originally simply stark white, which is designed to comfortably cover the entire face; this traditional grotesque piece of art was characterized by the inclusion of an over-prominent nose, a thick supraorbital ridge, a projecting "chin line", and no mouth. The mask's beak-like chin is designed to enable the wearer to talk, eat, and drink without having to remove it, thereby preserving the wearer's anonymity. The bauta was often accompanied by a red or black cape and a tricorn hat. In the 18th century, together with a black circular or semicircular clasped cape called a tabarro (and zendale hood), the bauta had become a standardized society disguise. It was obligatory to wear it at political decision-making events so as to act anonymously. Only citizens (i.e., men) had the right to use the bauta. Its role was to guarantee secret ballots.

K.R.

Editors' Comment...

Nicki & Carol

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News, Views, Reviews and some interesting Stuff!

Firstly...a big promotion of the Solstice Carnival Weekend, celebrating 90 years of the Carnival & Sports Association. It's only a few weeks away, and, not only are we all praying for lovely, dry, warm, sunny, wind-free weather ...but we're upping the anti, and pulling together lots of exciting things for the 2 day event. There will be the usual staples, but also nods to Carnivals past, with people who have helped us over the years coming back to do their bit again for this special year. We have maintained, and polished up our Village Fête for the day on Saturday, but preceeding that, on the Friday evening we will have the return of Ninfield's Got Talent in the main Marquee: with Bar, Pizza Leonati van, Ice Creams & Milkshakes, and Anne's yummy Cupcakes.

There's time still to enter!!! Dust off the dance shoes, tune up the microphone, brush down the keyboards and crack out the comedy bones!!! Call me!! EVERYONE is welcome to enter! £100, £50, £25 cash to win!

Then at midday on Saturday, the Carnival Procession will leave Lower Street, as was always the tradition, and weave it's way through the village, coming back to the Rec for 1pm. Please see Donna's report on this..she has been AMAZING in recreating and reinventing this wonderful showcase. On the Rec, of course, the Tea Tent, Ninfield's Bake-Off, the Dog Show, Tug of War Competition, China Smash, Coconut Shy, and 40ft inflatable Energy Assault Course! The Bar, BBQ, Crafts Tent, Market Stalls, Bottle Tombola and Grand Raffle. The Charity this year is Association for Carers and local causes.

On Saturday evening, from 7pm there will be music in the Marquee, the Bar and BBQ will stay open and a Nepalese Street food van will be on site for the night. Danger-Zone, an 80s cover band, will be on stage from 8pm, so come and dance the night away; a great way to round off the exciting weekend!

Sunday morning breakdown and full English Breakfast is FREE for ALL who have helped from Thursday set up to taking it down...that's something to entice you!

Now, you hopefully are looking at some pictures attached to this article! Yes, our wonderful Carnival Court for 2025, led by Queen Esme Goldsmith, who, at aged 3 months is pictured in her Pram, with her Mother, on the first Carnival day in 1935. Esme, has gracefully agreed to lead the Procession, with 9 local little ones - 9 for 90- and we were all so thrilled to introduce them on Pram Race day.

There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes, for the last 5 months, by a small committee and helpers group, to get to this stage; meetings, phone calls, emails, WhatsApp messages are constantly being fielded and actioned: this year we are very grateful for some Sponsorship support to help cover the 'Extras' needed to make the event a one-off special occasion. In the afternoon event report, ALL sponsors, donations and help will be listed and thanked...because we are...very thankful!!!

Ninfield has a long history of Village events, sports, and occasions; some of our 90 years will be shown on a rolling news reel of pictures, kindly put together by the History Group for us... we are so looking forward to adding our bit of history to Ninfield's archives...

And we would LOVE you to come and join us on Solstice Weekend, 20th and 21st June, for the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of Ninfield Carnival & Sports Association.

Thanks so much, for all help and support ...See you there!



NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Well we had our usual rush at the Plant Market. The first 30 minutes are always manic followed by a steady stream of buyers for the remainder of the morning. Thank you to everyone that donated plants and to all of you that bought plants. As I said last month, we never know what's going to arrive - last year there were lots of Hosta's and this year none, but we had a good selection of roses and vegetable plants. It wasn't just about plants though, it was also a good opportunity to catch up with coffee and cake. June and July are quiet months for the society and events. We have our Summer Visit (more on that next month) but, like everyone else, spend most of the time working in and enjoying our gardens. At least the dry weather has meant that the slugs have not been as rampant this year and my Hosta's are looking wonderful at the moment - hopefully there will still be some decent leaves to enter into the Summer Show. **Kaye Crittell**

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Interested in local history? There's a thriving local history group on your doorstep! Nnfield Local History Group meets each month at the Methodist Hall in Church Lane, on the second Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. We also open our archives every quarter at the Sparkes Pavilion so that you can view photographs and documents relating to the village and the surrounding area, talk to a local expert and share your stories. Our talks this year have included: The Sackville family, Pevensey castle, Annie Brassey's Voyage on the Sunbeam and most recently, a talk on the Suffragists and Suffragettes. Our talk on 12 June 2025 is entitled "Warrior Women of 1066". Not to be missed!

You can find out more about the group, view photographs and see our full schedule on our website, www.ninfieldlocalhistorygroup.org.uk or get in touch: info@ninfieldlocalhistorygroup.org.uk.

Brian Stockton, Chair,

**Closing date for items for the
JUNE
issue of the Parish News
is TUESDAY 13TH MAY please send to
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Hooe Village Community Group

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Facebook: Hooe Village Community Group
Email: hooevcg@gmail.com

Chairman: Pam Doodes
Treasurer: Jenny Cosham
Secretary: Sally Durman

If you would like to receive news
and regular updates about our
forthcoming events
please email us your contact details

HVCG exists to
Encourage, Promote and Support
Village activities and charitable works



14th June: Coffee Morning

5th July St Oswald's Annual Garden Party: No HVCG Coffee Morning in July as this is the month St Oswald's hold their Annual Garden Party. However, HVCG is pleased to be able to help with their event - so we hope to see you there!

9th August: Footpath walk and a village Treasure Hunt for those who do not wish to walk, all followed by cake and coffee at the Durman's – full details later

5th May Hooe Village V.E. Day afternoon celebration

HVCG was pleased to help with this enjoyable event. I am sure you will be able to read more about it elsewhere in the Parish News

10th May: V.E. Day Anniversary themed Coffee Morning at St Oswald's Hooe.

This is one of the many messages we received after the May Coffee Morning:

"Thank you all for another wonderful coffee morning. The warmth of the sunshine and beautiful atmosphere is just perfect. The smiles of happiness is once upon us all again" It certainly was a great morning! The church was packed with folk not only enjoying the usual homemade cakes, the free to use library, jigsaw exchange and conversation, this month Hooe History Society provided us with a comprehensive display of the history of Hooe covering the period up to and including VE Day. This included personal recollections of some of our residents which gave a vivid picture of life in the village at that time.

As if that wasn't enough, we were lucky to have an amazing display of military memorabilia brought to us by an extremely knowledgeable and informative collector, Richard. He was generous with his time and gave us so much information it left one wanting more! Heartfelt thanks Richard!



But we didn't stop there..... we like to fill our mornings!! Now – if that wasn't enough, we were also pleased to present a donation of £250.00 to Friends of Bexhill Hospital. Their representative, John Dowling (remember him when he was the reporter on Bexhill News?) was thrilled and gave us a short but detailed potted history of the Friends. A really worthwhile charity.

Lighting of the Beacon V.E Day Thursday 8th May

The short memorial service and lighting of the Beacon at The Flag Green on the evening of the 8th May, was enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. Such a fitting way for the community to mark the 80th Anniversary of the ending of the War in Europe.

A couple of long-time residents remarked on the fact we all refer to that small of piece of land as The Flag Green, when in fact, historically it is called The Coronation Seat. Sadly, the original Coronation Seat is no longer. Should it be replaced? Maybe a VE Seat should be provided too? If you have views, please let us know, we will love to hear from you!

Gruffalo Fun Event 28th/29th May

Here is our very own Gruffalo, (do you recognise him?!) who was pleased to present our donation to Patricia who is the Chairman of the committee organising the Friends of Sussex Hospices Gruffalo Fun event



We are on the lookout for volunteers to help at the event. Please contact the Doodles if you are interested. (01424 892329)

A little incentive – volunteers may bring their little ones to the event free of charge!

All profits from this event which is organised by Friends of Sussex Hospices are distributed to Sussex Hospices

Roads Meeting with Dr Kieran Mullan M.P.

You may recall that in January our M.P, Dr Kieran Mullan, was invited to Catslide to meet with about 20 Hooe residents to hear our concerns about the road related problems we are experiencing in the village. At that meeting he promised to do all he could to help us.

In April Peter and Pam D were delighted to have been invited to meet in his office with representatives of the Highway Agency, Police Road Safety Unit, ES County Council Officials and Councillors, Rother District Councillors, and Balfour Beatty, ESCC's contractor. The meeting was lively, constructive and at times a little tense. Peter and Pam came away with the impression that our MP was and would continue to try to do his best to address our concerns. He has promised to keep HVCG updated and so, of course, when we receive any positive, or negative, information, we will pass it on.

Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Last month we said we would let you know the total donation we were able to send to this Appeal. Thank you to those of you who donated, we were able to increase HVCG donation of £400 to £435.00

Stoolball As reported last month HVCG was pleased to sponsor Hooe Stoolball Club, their Team Shirts look amazing! We have added a dedicated page to our Website where you will find a list of their fixtures.

Perhaps you might like to make a note of the dates of one or two of their home matches? You could wander up to the Recreation Ground to offer support, or even chat to Judy or Linda to find out more about the opportunities the club offers:

Thursday 5th June Catsfield Ladies 7.00pm

Thursday 19th June Icklesham Ladies 7.00pm

Thursday 26th June Robertsbridge Mixed 7.00pm

Thursday 3rd July Icklesham Mixed 7.00pm

Working Party at the Bogs – 2 June dates

A working party from **The Powdermill Trust for Nature Conservation** will be at The Bogs from 10.00am on **Sunday 1st June**

Sussex Botanical Recording Society will be visiting on **Saturday 8th June** when they will be surveying the rare flowers.

As Owen, PTNC, said 'Anyone would be welcome to join us in our visits'. Meeting up with volunteers is a good way to find out more about our very own Nature Reserve. May we see you there?

Keep in touch

Our 'Friends of Hooe Village Community Group' list of members is growing fast. By becoming a Friend, you will receive regular email updates about our activities, our news and share views. It won't cost you anything but will help you keep in touch. We have application forms at our events or just contact us!

Hooe Village Community Group, enjoying working together for the good of everyone

Ninfield Carnival Procession Update

By the time you read this we will be within a few short weeks of this event happening. I am so excited with the upcoming carnival procession for our 90th anniversary but I won't lie it is also very scary with just how much work there is to do. I know it will be amazing and loved by so many which means it will all be worth it.

For those who made it to the Pram Race we were proud to present your Ninfield Carnival Court. We received some lovely letters and drawings which truly melted my heart. I couldn't say no or pick so as it is a very special year for Ninfield Carnival and Sport Association we decided to have all nine children, plus it was nine for 90. The Carnival Court is being led by Queen Esme.

Esme was a baby in the first ever Carnival in 1935 so who better to be heading up our Carnival Court.

Your Ninfield Carnival Court for 2025 is:

Arwyn aged 9	Wynter aged 5
Alana aged 8	Ivar aged 4
Jessie aged 8	Lucy aged 4
Elouise aged 7	Alice aged 2
Arlo aged 6	

It is now time to start planning your floats and entering, in order for the procession to be amazing we need your help. Remember you don't have to be motorised you could push something along, be on rollerblades/skates, walk, dance, scoot - just get involved and be part of our 90th year and have lots of fun. For further information please contact Donna on 07812 670435 or to register email ninfieldcarnival@gmail.com

Lastly, I do still need marshalls to ensure the safe running of the event. I need 23 marshalls and at the time of writing this I am 9 short. If you can attend a short safety briefing on the Friday evening and are available between 11-130pm on Saturday 21st June and would be willing to stand on a road closure to ensure the safety of all involved it would mean so much.

Let's have fingers and toes crossed for great weather and an excellent turnout. **Donna**

NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Philip Wagstaff

Tel: 01424 550427

email: office@hbrmethodists.org.uk

website: hbrmethodists.org.uk

Sunday Services for June 2025:

- 1st 10.30 am Café Worship for all the family with local Worship Team
8th 10.30 am Family Praise Service & Communion with Revd. Jonathan Todd
15th 10.30 am Family Praise Service with Alan Hurrell
22nd 10.30 am Family Praise Service with Dawn Novis
29th 10.30 am Family Praise Service with John Berryman

Events for June 2025:

- Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café including:
6th 10.00-11.30am Book exchange in Hall
11th 2.30 – 4.00pm Christian Womens Fellowship
7.00 – 8.30pm Church Council meeting All welcome
17th 2.15 – 4.30pm Time Together Tuesdays See below

We welcome all to come along to our Church and enjoy our Sunday worship and celebrations. I believe we are living in a time when more people are exploring spirituality and the meaning of the Christian Faith so it is great that we have two churches in our village which both tell about the Love of God. I know that you will receive a warm welcome at either Church.

Every Sunday our local group of Methodist churches runs a Zoom service online at 6.30pm and anyone is welcome to participate. Access is via this link: <https://hbrmethodists.org.uk/circuit-zoom-service>

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing



But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?



But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!

Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Sarah Seymour 07809684488

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: Fiona Stedman 01424 892418

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Show Organiser: Kaye Crittall, Stepping Stones, Lower Street, 892883

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. •Corinne Gibbons •892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD MUDDY BOOTS Early Childhood Centre

Sunshine Room 01424 892 037. Snowdrop Cottage 01424 892 600.

NINFIELD STOOLBALL Emma Kehoe 07565 010647

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Sue Thompson 892294

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Robin Goldsmith 0 7 9 4 0 3 2 4 6 0 1

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader Glen Harrison gharrisonninfieldscoutsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader: Josh.explorers@gmail.com

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison tracey.harrison67@gmail.com

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

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Brian Welford 213549 nik.sec.nwmc@outlook.com

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

DARK SKIES GROUP Kaye Crittall 892883

THE FRIENDLY VOICES Kaye Crittall 892883

PILATES & YOGA Susan Trimmer 07977 872284

LITTLE STARS DANCE Kirsty Mills 07875 235398

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Peter Ballard 01424 210980 or 07891479554

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE SPORTS CLUB Jay Skinner-Swain jay19942009@hotmail.co.uk or 07713 950161

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Jane Warrener: 07548 528754

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

1066 RINGERS (Hand Belleplates) Carole Ballard 01424 210980

STOOLBALL: Hooe 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

Churchwarden: Mrs Catriona Mary Owen
After 4.00pm 225421

Secretary:

Treasurer:

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD'S, HOOE

Churchwarden: Mr Jack Rist ☎892576

Secretary: Mr John Fairclough

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

THE PARISH NEWS Email ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com 893326

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Jackie Scarff 07725 843505 clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Jane Warrener: 07548 528754 clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: EMAIL ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Jane Warrener: 07548 528754 clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Booking Secretary: Mr David Swales 07989 729123

C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL 892486

DOCTORS The Surgery, High Street, Ninfield 892569

NINFIELD STORES, Lower Street, Ninfield 892281