

The

Parish

News



What's on and What you missed!

In & around

Ninfield & Hooe

March 2025

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



	St Mary's	St Oswald's
2 nd March	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 <i>Family Service</i>
5 th March	10.00 Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Ashes	<i>No Service</i>
9 th March	9.30 <i>Joint Parish Eucharist</i>	<i>No Service</i>
16 th March	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
23 rd March	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
30 th March	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
Mothing Sunday		

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,

Have you noticed that we **celebrate** most of the festivals in the church's year, but Lent is very different. It's not a period we celebrate, just '**keep**'. Lent, the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays, begins on March 5th. This year our Ash Wednesday service is at St Mary's at 10am. And will include the imposition of ashes.

However, I doubt if you would find much around to tell us it is Ash Wednesday! Indeed it was not even marked in my diary!

Some churches and Christians treat Lent very seriously, whilst others, like the shops, social media etc ignore it completely, apart from perhaps Pancake Day! Already I see displays of Frying Pans, lemon juice and syrup! I wonder what the 40 days of Lent mean to you? Perhaps these days give us a chance to revisit those New Year's resolutions we made and take them seriously to try and break some bad habits. Maybe we, like many Christians, give something up: chocolate, social media, alcohol, or responding immediately to emails. You see, there isn't any real agreement about how Lent should be kept.

So what is Lent about?

I was taught when I was small that it's about preparation - preparation for Easter, which I guess is what we all would have said. The 40 days of Lent give us plenty of time to reflect and ponder on the death and resurrection of Jesus and perhaps appreciate Easter a little more as we take time to contemplate what it all means.

Perhaps it also provides us with an opportunity to practise resisting desires that would harm or hurt us. Trivial as this might seem, might a battle won over chocolate, wine or cake help us to win a battle over greed, lying or pride in the future?

Lent, taken seriously, can seem a very long six weeks. But Lent doesn't last. The darkness is broken by the glorious triumph of Easter Day.

Grey seems to have been the prevailing colour of the last few weeks. Dismal weather and not a lot of bright light. Perhaps our lives have been in 'Lent mode' too. Perhaps things haven't gone as we'd hoped, we don't get what we want, and joys seem to be thin on the ground. Yet, for us who are Christians, there is a wonderful and certain hope that however hard the darkness is in our lives; it will one day be lifted. Life's long Lent will end, as our earthly lives end and we journey into the amazing eternal Easter, where sin and death are destroyed for ever.

Whether or not, or how, Lent is kept is a matter of personal choice. I pray that, this year Lent for each of us will provide opportunities to be blessed and to bless others.

So, wishing you a meaningful Lent. 3

Paul

Prayer for March

Dear Lord, In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection.

Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives. We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it.

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in His name. Amen.

Diocesan Lent Course 2025

We shall be following the Diocesan Lent course during Lent exploring themes from the Nicene Creed as we celebrate its 1700th anniversary as part of the Year of Faith. The dates and venue are as follows:

God the Father almighty Monday 10th March Hooe Church 2pm
Only Son of God Monday 17th March Ninfield Church 2pm
The Holy Spirit Monday 24th March Hooe Church 2pm
One holy and catholic church Monday 31st March Ninfield church 2pm
Life of the world to come Tuesday 8th April Hooe church 2pm. (*note different day)

All are welcome to join us in this exploration of the Creed.

**Closing date for items for the
APRIL
issue of the Parish News
is THURSDAY 13TH MARCH please send to
ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com**

News from St Oswald's

It has been a very quiet month following the wonders of the Christmas period but life goes on.

Buildings Report

The toilet extension progresses slowly. An application for Planning Permission was submitted to Wealden District Council resulting in two Surveys - a Tree survey and a Geophysical Survey on how the North door was blocked up. This has raised concerns on the re-routing of pipework and possible archaeological remains. (We will need to have an archaeologist present throughout the work).

Burials

The spaces, for which we have permission, which are available for burials are causing concern due to the very wet autumn and winter we have experienced last and this year. We have applied to the Diocese for advice and hopefully permission to be able to use the higher land of the south side of the churchyard.

Churchyard and Church “ Spring Clean “

This will be on Saturday March 15th from 10.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. Please bring tools.

Change of date – Carol Service

I know it is early but some people like to keep a diary well in advance! The 2025 Carol Service will now be held a day early on Tuesday 16th December due to request from the Hooe Silver Band and our organist who were both unable to do the Wednesday.

Entries in Visitors Book

On October 22nd Margaret Chamberlain from Lyme Regis wrote-
“how wonderful to discover a beautiful church with an open door”

On 11th February Paul Wenham from Ashburnham Place wrote
“Thank you for keeping this special place open. My regular pilgrimage.”

This makes those volunteers who kindly lock and open up daily feel it is worth the effort and we thanks them for their time.

March Diary

		Venue	Page
3 rd	Hooe Parish Council	Methodist	13
3 rd	Ninfield Flower Group	Memorial	20
4 th	Film Matinee	Memorial	8
6 th	Village Society AGM	Methodist	11
7 th	Book Exchange	Methodist	7
8 th	Flower Group Jumble Sale	Memorial	20
8 th	Hooe Coffee Morning	St. Oswald's	29
10 th	Carnival Meeting	Working Men's	26
12 th	CWF	Methodist	33
13 th	Ninfield History Group	Methodist	13
14 th	Hooe & Ninfield Open Group	Methodist	22
15 th	Foods & Craft Market	Memorial	22
15 th	St. Oswald's Spring Clean	St. Oswald's	5
20 th	Hooe History Society	St. Oswald's	17
20 th	Ninfield Parish Council	Methodist	
22 nd	Horticultural Spring Show	Memorial	18
26 th	Messy Church	Methodist	33
27 th	Lunch Club	Methodist	7
28 th	Men's Shed	Sparke	8
29 th	Ninfield Village Litter pick	Sparke	11

Editors' Comment... like us, are you totally fed up with the constant grey days and very cold weather? The only thing that cheers us up as we walk through the village is the daffodils and other spring flowers starting to appear, so a promise of spring and better weather is on the horizon.

One of the many things we like about Ninfield is that there is always something new, well this month it's a talk on fine scale Model Railways, so if you are an enthusiast pop along on 6th March to the Methodist Hall at 7.00pm and don't forget, the Spring Show on 22nd, beautiful flowers and plants on display, why not enter? There are cookery, handicraft and children's classes as well, Pick up a schedule at the shop. It's fun to enter and a fun show to visit!



Nicki & Carol

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 the next is on Thursday 27th March.
For details, please contact Maggie on: 07985588524 or
email: maggiethcook@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 further details contact David on 07989729123 or
dj_swales@hotmail.com

Women's Crafting and Knitting Circle

Memorial Hall. Fridays, Weekly 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. £5 per session. A
well established friendly group.

Health Walks

Every Thursday. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an
hour. Meet 11am 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 suitable footwear.
For more details contact Robin 01424 892778 robin@plowmate.plus.com

Friendly Voices

We have had some new voices join us over the past month, but we would
always like to see more. Singing really is good for you - and anyone can sing,
as the Friendly Voices have shown. We don't take ourselves too seriously,
just enjoy singing (and laughing). We meet on Tuesday evenings from
7.30pm at the Methodist Hall and Thursday afternoons from 2pm at Sparke
pavilion. At £1 a session, it's very good value. If you would like to know more
email me on k.crittell@btinternet.com or call 07707 683187. Or just turn-up
- you will always be welcome

Film Matinees

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

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

4 March: Swingtime

8 April: Billy Elliot

13 May: Grease

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

Dark Skies

We would have completed our Star Count for the village at the end of February and the results will be in the April News. Hopefully, this will become an annual event.

Although we have had some overcast skies in February, some of us saw the alignment of the planets, possibly an Ice ring (or it could have been cloud) around the mid month moon and the crescent moon at the end of January was a brilliant red (around 10pm). In theory, March is a quiet month for the night skies, but who knows. The main event will be the Full (Worm) moon on March 14th.

Men's Shed

Now an established friendly group meeting at Sparke Pavilion.

10 am last Friday of the month. So Friday 28th March.

Men putting the world to rights over free coffee.

For more information contact Dave: 01424 892883.

Country Ways,

I actually went to a meeting the other day and decided that I looked like Worzel Gummidge. Fine if I am in a field, as I always use to be. Not so good in polite society. I had only just decided to cut the beard and find a hair dresser when a cold snap was forecast. I suppose the make over can wait a few weeks. Lets also not get too deluded. In the photo op for wedding photographs I would still look like Worzel Gummidge but with a new hair cut!

Speaking of cold snaps. There is one apple tree at the allotment I still have not pruned and will have to leave it. It has started to produce buds early. Lets hope all our trees and shrubs are not too advanced and get burnt by the coming frosts.

I must admit to excitement when there are signs of spring. It is in the spring when the sap rises and I set to working with a vengeance, all traces of hibernation gone. I suppose you know you are old when that does not happen. I had cause the other day to look through my photo's. Not like my daughter who has millions in a cloud somewhere. I have a small box with mine in. I have never carried a camera and these were taken by others and I was given them. It is nice to see images of my past life and they will be there when the marble loss becomes too much and the perch and falling off come closer. As for now I can only wonder at what I use to do and where I found the energy from!

I did think I saw a bird new to me in this area which we had plenty of in Lincolnshire. A small white Egret. I remember when the first ones were seen along the coast. Twitchers arrived from all over to catch a sight of this bird which was quite easy. They are white and stick out like a sore thumb. Over the years there numbers increased as they nested in this area. They have the same nesting habits as herons all be it they seem to prefer smaller trees. The ones in that area of the east coast nested in a small stand of pines. We did have herons nesting, more inland, where they used full sized ash trees. It was not unusual to see egrets in groups of twenty or more. Over the same time period the flocks of thousands of golden plover and lapwings dwindled to the odd handful

Back to the local sighting which was with me standing in the Church car park, looking towards Hooe. I was watching this white bird flying over the fields. I know, there are hundreds of gulls doing just the same thing. This one was flying differently and I have seen egrets many times, so my mind said egret. I could not, in all honesty, write this sighting in the book because the mind plays tricks and my eyes are not what they use to be. But I can now. I was talking to a chap who delights in seeing birds in his garden. He lives very close to the area I saw the bird flying over and witnessed an egret. That's good enough for me.

CWF

were fortunate to have a visit from Wendy Paccinini who gave us a talk on the Leprosy Mission for which she is the Community Partnership Manager for London and Southeast. She is a young enthusiastic woman that spoke passionately about the work that had called her when she was looking for a job to be helpful to others.

Leprosy thrives in the countries where malnutrition is rife. It's not a disease that is common in our better developed countries but it's from us that they search for funding. Leprosy has been mentioned since biblical times and continues to devastate the lives of people living in poverty across Asia and Africa.

There is still severe discrimination against those that contract the disease which if not cured quickly can cause blindness and loss of feeling in hands and feet. Daily tasks become fraught with danger of burns and cuts. Fingers curl making it impossible to hold, all adding to the daily struggle of poverty.

There is a cure, which is a combination of three antibiotics called multi drug therapy. Taken daily for 6 to 12 months, but fast treatment is vital to prevent disability. Wendy herself has recently been to Odisha in India to give hands-on help and spread the word when she returned, to encourage us more fortunate people to recognise the suffering that goes on in these countries. The need for clean water, shelter and the restoration of dignity comes at a cost.

We wished her well and support in her own mission to promote the plight of Leprosy sufferers and we were all thankful for her visit to us, acknowledging the fact that we were grateful to live in a country that is not affected so devastatingly by this terrible disease.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS in Ninfield include

Memorial Hall Movement2Music Dancersize Ballroom Burlesque
Squirrels Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers Pilates Yoga
Cardiac Exercise Ladies Badminton Crafting & Knitting
Ladies Table Tennis Art Group Mothers & Toddlers
Junior & Teen Kickboxing

The Methodist Hall Art Group Little Stars Dance Mark Time (for
Brass instrument players) Yoga Pilates Friendly voices Silver Swans

Sparke Pavilion A gentle exercise walk around Ninfield
Information throughout the magazine and on contacts page



NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

We are a very friendly, encouraging club situated on the recreation ground in Ninfield. Coaching is available if you have not played before & plenty of match opportunity for the more experienced players.

We also have a busy calendar of social & club days

For more information or a chat please contact

Roger Bryant – 07765 490852

Ali Evans 07840 717303

Val Smith – 01424 843436

Ninfield Village Society

As we reported last month, our AGM is on the Thursday 6th March in the Methodist Hall from 7pm.

Free refreshments will be provided and after brief reports from the officers we shall then be addressed by local resident Bob Cummings on Fine Scale Railway Modelling. Please do come along to this free event especially if you are interested in model railways !

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES....Ninfield Litterpick will be on Saturday 29th March, part of the National Spring Clean arranged by local and national government. We meet at The Sparke Pavilion at 10am and you should all be finished by about 12 noon.

Let us see if we can beat last year's total of bags collected !

The History behind Ingrams Farm - Continued from last month

PLACE: HOOE. Hundred: Ninfield. Total population: 73 households (very large).

Total tax assessed: 12 geld units; 0.5 never paid tax units (very large).

Taxable units: Taxable value 12 geld units. Payments of 1.65 salt-houses.

Value: Value to Lord in 1066 £25. Value to Lord in 1086 £21.4s. Value to Lord in 1070 £6.

(Note: Again, the value greatly reduced after the Invasion and still not back to pre Norman levels after 20 years). So, you can see it was very much more important than Ninfield, despite the Hundred being named for Ninfield. It is probable that Hooe village was further south than today, but much may have been swallowed up when the huge storms in the 1300's swept shingle and sand all up the south coast, almost choking Pevensy Bay completely and even forcing Rye, an ancient Cinque Port to open Rye Harbour some 3 miles away as the harbour in Rye itself had been left high and dry.

Hooe had: Households: 56 villagers. 15 smallholders. Ploughland: 44 ploughlands (land for). 5.5 lord's plough teams. 35 men's plough teams. Other resources: Meadow 71 acres. Pasture 7 grazing for pigs. Woodland 10 swine render. 1 mill, value 0.35. 30 salthouses. 1 church. (The salthouses show how close it was to the sea, to flood fields at high tide and then draw off the saline water to boil in salt pans, leaving just the salt).

Lord in 1066: Earl Godwin. (Note: They refer to King Harold as just "Earl" Godwin).

Lords in 1086: Alfred; Gerald; Ingelrann (of Eu); Osbern; Reinbert the sheriff; Robert; another Robert (the cook?); Werelc; Wihbert, a man-at-arms. Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Robert, Count of Eu.

NOTE: The reference to Ingelrann (or Ingeram in some documents) which can easily be corrupted over time to INGRAM, as a surname, derived from this ancestor, Ingelrann. It will also be noted that he also came from Eu, no doubt as part of the household bodyguard for Count Robert. Ingelrann no doubt fought in the Battle and was given land as a reward for ensuring the safety in the fighting of his lord, Count Robert.

Ingelrann of Eu also held lands at Wilting.

WILTING in the Hundred of Baldslow, Sussex. Total population: 14 households (medium).

Total tax assessed: 4 geld units; 0.1 never paid tax units (quite large).

Taxable units: Taxable value 4 geld units. Taxed on 4.0.

Value: Value to lord in 1066 £5. Value to lord in 1086 £4.: 9 villagers. 5 cottagers.

Ploughland: 9 ploughlands (land for). 3 lord's plough teams. 6 men's plough teams.

Lord in 1066: free men, two. Lords in 1086: Ingelrann (of Eu); Ralph; Reinbert the sheriff; Robert; Count of Eu. Tenant-in-chief in 1086: (Robert) Count of Eu.

KR

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk / RFO: Jane Warrener 07548 528754

Email: clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk **Website:** www.hooe-pc.gov.uk

The newly established table tennis evenings on a Wednesday at the village hall from 7pm to 9pm have been a great success and a welcome distraction from the grey winter weather. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet up and have some exercise and a lot of fun!

The new curtains and secondary glazing have been installed in the village hall and have made a huge difference in the temperature and acoustics. Another allotment plot has become available to rent and if anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk.

The Village Hall Project Committee meeting is to be held in the village hall on Monday 3rd March at 7pm and the next Full Council meeting is to take place on Monday 10th March at 7pm.

Councillor Gayle Kirk
Hooe Parish Council

" Ninfield Local History Group

The Ninfield Local History Group have a full programme of interesting talks in the year ahead. On March 13th we welcome Janet Taylor who will be giving a talk about the beautiful and historic Pevensey Castle.

On 10th April we will hear about the Voyage on the Sunbeam, the around-the-world trip by Annie Brassey and her family on their yacht in the 1870s. This talk is given by Ken Brooks.

Our meetings are held in the Methodist Hall, Church Lane, Ninfield and begin promptly at 7.30pm. Refreshments are provided. . Entry for members £1 and visitors £4



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nigel@indiefarmer.com**

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

We're always looking for new people to get involved and help keep our traditions alive. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Ninfield Working Men's Club (Tin Hut) TN33 9EE. Whether you're new to the village or have been part of the bonfire fun for years, feel free to drop in, say hello, and find out more about what we do.

We'll also have a stall at the Ninfield Village Market on **Saturday, 15th March**. Stop by for a chat, learn how you can get involved, and explore our merchandise. We'll also be running a tombola, so come along and try your luck!

Shake, Rattle & Roll – A Rock ‘n’ Roll Night!

Get ready to dust off your dancing shoes and step back in time for a **Rock ‘n’ Roll Night!** Join us for an evening of **live music, dancing, a fully stocked Bonfire bar, delicious food, and fun games** - all in the name of good times and community spirit. Whether you're a seasoned jiver or just love a great night out, this event promises fantastic entertainment and plenty of laughter.

So grab your friends, embrace the **1950s vibe**, and let's make it a night to remember!

Date: Saturday, 26th April

Location: Ninfield Memorial Hall, TN33 9EE

Tickets: £6.00 Adults | £3.00 (Ages 11+) | **Free** (11 & under) Any special requirements please contact Sarah on 07809684488/ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com. Don't miss out - come along and let the good times roll!

Help Us Keep the Tradition Alive!

We're looking for anyone who would kindly give us **woodland access** to source materials for this year's **torch bats and brushwood faggots** - essential for our **torchlit procession and bonfire**.

We need to coppice: 150 Chestnut and/or Hazel bats (approx. **6ft long, 1 to 1.5 inch diameter**) for our torches.

If you have access to a **wood we can coppice**, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact: Ash at ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com

Call: Sarah on 07809 684488

Torch Bats and Brushwood Faggots: Torch bats are rods of wood with a rag-wrapped end, treated to stay lit during the torch-lit procession. Their

origins trace back to ancient Roman times when torches symbolized hope, enlightenment, and, at times, mourning. Each year, we prepare approximately 300 torches, cut to about three feet in length, and store them until they're ready to be treated for Bonfire Night.

Brushwood faggots are bundles of twigs and small branches tied together to form the base of our bonfire. They're prepared in April, cut to around four feet in length, and left to dry over the summer. These faggots ensure a quick-lighting fire that provides bright light, burns efficiently, and minimizes leftover ash, paving the way for the evening's spectacular fireworks.

If you'd like to join us in preparing torches or faggots, keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on upcoming workshops. It's a great way to contribute and meet fellow community members.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we plan for another spectacular Bonfire Night, we need your help to keep this beloved Sussex tradition alive by helping to organise the procession, bonfire, effigy, and fireworks. This requires time, effort, and funding. Here's how you can support us:

- **Become a Member:** Membership is open to all and gives you the chance to join our procession and others across Sussex. Your involvement can range from helping with fundraising and making torches to simply collecting donations on the night.
- **Volunteer Your Time:** Join us at events or help with preparations.
- **Sponsor Our Event:** If you're a local business, consider sponsoring us to support this free event for the community. Contact Sarah at ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com or on **07809684488** for more details.

This is your bonfire, and your participation makes all the difference.

Stay Connected

Find us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and at www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk. Keep up with the latest news, event details, and ways to get involved.

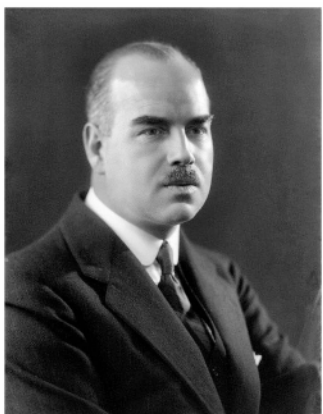
Remember, Remember the 5th of November!

Hooe History Society

Our speaker on Thursday 20th March will be Gary Newport with his talk entitled "Unsolved Mysteries". From deciphered scientific riddles to perplexing cosmic conundrums, venture into the enigmatic unknowns of the universe. Embark on an exploration culminating in the realms of Dark Matter and Dark Energy where secrets await to be unveiled. This is a follow up to Gary's splendid talk last year. We meet at 7.30 p.m. in St. Oswald's Church as normal.

DID YOU KNOW... our village has known a number of outstanding individuals throughout its history. One such person is Sir Henry White-Smith C.B.E. He came from a wealthy, well-respected family and was one of the pioneers of British aviation and one of the founders of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors, Ltd. He was a member of the Government Advisory Committee on Civil Aviation. He received the C.B.E. in 1918 and was knighted in 1921. He came to Hooe in 1935, moving into Court Lodge where he farmed six hundred acres of land and bred pedigree dairy Shorthorns. In July 1939, he guaranteed the sum of £200 to help the council to go forward with their layout and equipment scheme in the new Coronation playing field. He took a keen interest in Hooe, was a member of the Parish Council between August 1941 and October 1943 and helped, financially and professionally, with many projects, including the improvement to "Junction Gardens" so as to present a more impressive entrance to the village from Ninfield, where the Curved "Apollo" Seat would be installed.

During his time here he introduced a pioneering method of making stock feed of high nutritional value from the young grass as opposed to the old-fashioned method of hay making. It involved tumbling the grass through a drum heated by a coke furnace before being baled or broken down into meal. This method had several advantages, probably the chief of which being that meal prepared from the dried grass has a protein content of about 17 percent compared with about 6 or 7 percent in hay. An article in the Sussex Express indicated that, "It is understood that his installation is the first of its kind in East Sussex, though the principle involved has been growing in popularity in recent years in other parts of England. He was co-opted as a member of Hooe Parish Council in 1941 and acted as vice-chairman and a manager for the primary school during his two year tenure until his death in service.



Following his death in 1943, Mr A.R. Hayward (chairman of Hooe Parish Council) wrote in the Bexhill Observer as follows:-

“Although the very large number of people who attended the memorial service for Sir Henry White-Smith at Hooe was evidence enough of the desire to pay tribute to his memory, nevertheless, will you allow me a little space to add an appreciation on behalf of the parish of the good work and help he was ever ready to give for the welfare of the community, especially as a parish councillor and school manager, where his valuable experience of affairs and his generous financial help were ever ready to assist. Only recently he was going into the question again of the possibility of a main water supply and the problem of post-war housing, both of which, we know, are urgently needed. Hooe has, indeed, lost a friend, the like of whom, we may not readily see again”. Peter Hayward.

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Depending on when you receive the magazine, you may just have missed our first evening meeting of the year. On Monday 10th March we will be welcoming DoorStep Herbs who will be giving a talk on Stinging Nettles and how to use them. There will be teas and tinctures to sample as well as many other ideas on how to treasure your nettles! Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start and our events are open to both members and non members.

We then have a Spring Show on Saturday 22nd March (schedules available from the shop and/or our meetings (if you don't yet have yours). As usual, there are a variety of classes - everything from a Specimen Trumpet Narcissi to a collection of pot plants, photography, handicrafts, cookery, flower arranging and children's classes. Over the past few years we have struggled with entries for the flower arranging classes - but we know there are flower arrangers out there. We have a class for novice arrangers as well as the more experienced (or adventurous) so why not have a go. If I can do it- then anyone can.

Children's classes include: A painted pebble, a decorated egg, Birds breakfast on a plate and A4 poster to celebrate 90 years of Ninfield Carnival. We hope to arrange with the Carnival committee for all posters entered to be displayed on Carnival Day and would love to see a mass of posters from the children of the village.

Worms Eye View

February is here, January seems to have rushed by. It is nice and dry this morning but a bit nippy! I have looked out our diary from 1965 and February started off fine but then became very cold. We were milking back in those days, so a very early start. The milk lorry would trundle down the hill to us at about 7.45; we were the first stop and needed to get the milk churns out and on the stand by then. We had not got a bulk tank back in those days and kept getting more cows and therefore more milk churns to put the on the milk stand. Fortunately we had our two girls by then and they were quite a distraction whilst we labelled the milk labels etc, and got the last churns ready for the driver. Breakfast was a nice welcome break after that busy start in the mornings. How calm the mornings seem these days.

I am sitting by the window as I write these notes. Not a god idea really, too much to watch and keep me from doing the things that need to be done. For instance, this morning I have caught sight of two rats underneath the bird table, busily eating up the bits and pieces that have fallen from the table. I have knocked on the window and they have scarppered off, not for long though I'm sure. Now the cat has appeared looking for a tasty mouse. I think she is too small to deal with the rats, yes, they are really big and I don't relish the thought of her bringing her catch into the house to first of all show me what a clever girl she is and secondly to play with it !!!

I have been reading on in the diary and I see that we had a TB test on our cattle in the February as well. It wasn't compulsory in those days but it was worthwhile, because if we did have a clear test it increased the value of our stock and this in turn would reflect on market prices for any cattle that were sold. Of course it is compulsory now, and it is a relief every time it goes well and the call all pass the test.

I can see that the trees have started quivering, so I must go and do any necessary jobs outside before it starts

Anne

A quick reminder that, if you have not already done so, to give the person who delivers your Parish News £5.00 for the coming year.

Please email ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com if you keep missing them and would like to pay or if you would like to receive a regular copy delivered if you live in Hooe or Ninfield

Ninfield Flower Group

With so many dull, grey days lately it is a joy to be welcomed into a room by a vase of brightly coloured flowers. So we are looking forward to our first demonstration of the year on Monday March 3rd with Jennifer Thompson and her title "Flowers in Rhyme". Refreshments served from 6.30pm and the action commences at 7pm. Visitors always welcome, £5. The floral arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening and you could be a lucky winner.

Also in March on Saturday 8th, our first Jumble Sale of the year. If you're having a clear-out we will be pleased to accept saleable items on the morning from 9.30am. Doors open for selling at 2pm. Entrance 50p.

Looking ahead to April 7th Sue Flight is finding that "Spring is in the Air", and we certainly hope the weather will have greatly improved by then.

Our May 12th meeting (one week later than usual owing to the May bank holiday) will be a fun, swap-shop workshop evening. Each member / visitor will be asked to bring along a selection of flowers, foliage and a couple of small accessories and to swap them with another person to arrange into an interesting design.

Do come and join us!

Having a spring clear-out?

**Jumble Sale
Saturday 8th March.**

**We accept saleable items at the hall
from 9.30 till 12.00**

**We cannot accept child car seats
upholstered furniture without a fire retardant
label.**

Doors open for selling at 2pm. Entrance 50p.

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Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

We met on Friday 14th February in the Methodist Hall in Ninfield. We hadn't arranged a speaker so Heather produced a quiz. Groans all round but we managed to persuade everyone to make up teams of four. The questions were General Knowledge but until you start doing a quiz the knowledge you thought you had disappeared out the window. Luckily most of us remembered things like when the NHS was formed and the flavour of Pontefract Cakes (liquorice as I am sure you know!) Nicki, Marjorie, Jane and Sally won but then it was realised that all the other teams only had three members (oops!) Tea/coffee was served and everyone had a chocolate roll to make up for having to use brain power!

Next month we meet on Friday 14th March in the Methodist Hall at 2.00p.m. when we will have speaker from the Cats Protection League

All are welcome.

Nicki & Heather

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 15th MARCH

9.30 - 12.30

FOODS & CRAFTS MARKET

The Pop Up Cafe will be open for

Bacon & eggs, teas & coffees, and more!

There'll be your local farm meat, cakes & pies, honey fruit and veg, bread, eggs, cheese and who knows what else,

NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME 9.30 - 12.30

Quiz Night

Saturday 13th April

7.00 for 7.30

£8.50 pp

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

£8.50 inc choice of hot supper.

Bring own drink/nibbles Cash or card

Tables of 6, 1st prize £30 . 00

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News, views, reviews and Revues?!

NATIONAL WEEK OF MOVEMENT & DANCE- Starting Monday 3rd March.

It's going to be a brilliant week (and a bit!) of different Dance classes, here in Ninfield, for ALL age groups. Looking at all the promotions on TV, with Arlene Phillips, Angela Rippon and many others, the Mantra of 'Move Or or Lose It' is now being escalated to really encourage people to try a bit of dance and feel the immediate benefit.

EVERYONE can get involved, and everyone is welcome to try a class and enjoy the social interaction and physical benefits, on your doorstep, in the Memorial Hall!.

The list will start with an EXTRA bit added to the MOVEMENT 2 MUSIC Class for the over 60s. MONDAY 3rd MARCH 9.45-11.30, Chair based and Standing exercises, plus Line Dance, Latin Fun, 60s Swing and much more. Ending with Tea/Coffee and biscuits. It's a great get together!

M2M- Monday 3rd March 9.45am

Dancercise- Wednesday 5th March, 6.30pm

Ballroom -Friday 7th 6.30pm

Burlesque/ Show Dance- Friday 7th 7.30pm.

All the class details at the end of this piece: DO try and come to one of them...you'll have fun and feel fantastic!

The added highlight in these weeks of Movement and Dance, will be a SPRING DISCO NIGHT on Friday 14th March, in the Memorial Hall, from 7 -10.30pm. Following the now VERY popular format, with fantastic music, some great routines, a Bar, some nibbles and the feel good factor as we finally shake off the winter blues and Dance ourselves into Sparkling Spring! I am really excited to be bringing the chance to DANCE to everyone, please contact me - numbers below!

DANCE/EXERCISE CLASSES.

Samantha Hughes-Guard A.I.S.T.D (Hons)

Please call 07970650321 or email me at samanthaguard@btinternet.com for more information.

MOVEMENT 2 MUSIC - Monday mornings 10-11.30am at the Memorial Hall-

Chair based and Standing exercises for the Older but Still Active person.- great fun, lots of laughs and a sing along too -for improved fitness, balance and strength, and to enjoy a get together with friends . £6 per class, to include coffee and biscuits. Everyone welcome... Ladies And Gents!!

DANCERCISE - Wednesday evenings 6.30pm at the Memorial Hall - great exercise, great fun and the chance to learn new styles of dance. £6 per class.

BALLROOM - Fridays (fortnightly) 6.30pm at the Memorial Hall - learn to Waltz, Cha Cha, Jive - chase the Strictly series!!! £12 per couple, £6 per person, per class.

BURLESQUE /SHOW DANCE- Fridays (fortnightly) 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall - Show Dancing?!, -think Chicago, Cabaret... Fabulous fun and great for getting the mind and body uplifted! £6 per class.

SILVER SWANS BALLET CLASS : Thursday mornings 9.30am - at the Methodist Hall - the most serene, calm, glorious 50 mins of the week! £6 per class.

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

"Do you love the Village Carnival? Band Night? The Fete? The Halloween event? The Pram Race? The Parties? The Michaelmas Fayre? Then it's time to take action.

2025 is a special year for Ninfield Carnival Association, it's the 90th Anniversary, and we have some amazing photos dating from 1935 right to the present that we are going to show in a rolling news reel at the celebrations. At our Committee meeting at the end of January, we agreed to hire a Marquee for the weekend in June, which will house the Ninfield's Got Talent event on Friday 20th June, from 6pm; and the Band, Danger-Zone (tbc) on Saturday 21st, from 7.30pm. There will be street food stands on both evenings, and the traditional BBQ during the Fete on Saturday.

The Committee invited residents to a meeting on 4th February at the Blacksmiths Inn, and we were encouraged to see nearly a dozen people come and pledge their help to save the Carnival.

Donna Powell has volunteered to try and reinvent the Carnival Procession of Floats and she will be approaching ALL local groups, clubs and societies, as well as those from nearby towns and villages, to see if folk would be able to join in and help celebrate #NCA90.

The next Carnival meeting is on Monday 10th March, at the Working Men's Club at 7.15pm. Some may not know where the Club, or Tin Hut, is; some may feel intimidated and not want to walk in...CALL ME !!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

PLEASE try and come along, join us for a drink and a chat, put your ideas forward... WE NEED YOU!

SAVE THESE DATES!!

SATURDAY 5th APRIL Memorial Hall This is earmarked for the 2025 Heart of Ninfield Event, where all groups, clubs and societies, along with local businesses, come together to present what they do and invite residents to join them, have a chat, partake of some lovely free lunch and get involved with all the brilliant events!

SATURDAY 12th APRIL- Memorial Hall. IT'S QUIZ NIGHT!!! The welcome, and much acclaimed return of Ninfield's fabulous Quiz, with hot supper included in the price. Teams of 6, cash prize for the winners, lots of laughs and banter...and scratching of heads! Doors open at 7pm, Quiz starts at 7.30pm, supper at half time!- bring your own nibbles and drinks, there'll be a Raffle, and all funds raised go towards the next building repairs..which will be The Roof!!! Look out for notices boards, posters and posts for details, and everything will be here in full detail in April's magazine!

THE PRAM RACE...Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May
VE DAY, 80th Anniversary ...Thursday 8th May. PLEASE look out for information as these two events are now being created for everyone in Ninfield and Hooe to enjoy.

Thanks as always for all your help, friendship and support....it's so much appreciated.

Contact me for all information on Dance Classes, Events and any other Stuff!!! Tel. 07970650321 email samanthaguard@btinternet.com
FB Ninfield Carnival & Events.

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Hooe Village Community Group

Contact us:

Website:

hooevillagecommunitygroup.co.uk

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Email: hooevcg@gmail.com

Chairman: Gary Durman

Treasurer: Peter 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



Please note these dates for your diary:

8th March: Coffee Morning at St Oswald's Church, Hooe

5th April: Community Clean-up 10.00 start at The Red Lion Car Park

12th April: Coffee Morning at St Oswald's Church, Hooe

February Coffee Morning:

We enjoyed another pleasant morning. Lots of chatter and laughter. The only complaints were about the February weather and the fact the car park was full! It doesn't seem possible that we have been organising coffee mornings for the past 7 years. How time flies! It is gratifying, witnessing how much they are enjoyed by everyone who joins us.

Anne, who has always taken responsibility for the complete running of our free to use library and jigsaw exchange was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

A small gesture designed to show our appreciation for all she does for us quietly and professionally.



We are fortunate indeed that at the end of our coffee mornings so many people set to and help clear up.

Previously we featured – Neil and Nicky at the sink this month it is Joan on the floor brush – and a great job she did too!



Public Defibrillator awareness and Basic Life Support Session Saturday 18th January

Those who attended this session found it extremely interesting and informative. We all left confident we could use a defibrillator in case of emergency and learnt other lifesaving skills such as giving mouth to mouth resuscitation. We were pleasantly surprised at just how simple it is to operate the machine, which talks one through the whole process.



Our enormous thanks to the instructor from Bexhill Primary Care Trust, whose training was delivered in a simple, easy to understand way and with humour. She has agreed to return to us again and, hopefully she will be at St Oswald's Church Garden Party in July. Her useful training sessions are invaluable, one never knows when these skills will be required.

Annual Litter Pick

Our village Annual Litter Pick will take place on **Saturday 5th April 2025**. Let's hope for a fine day – we look forward to blitzing the village, removing all the rubbish discarded by thoughtless people.

In the past this event has become very competitive! Volunteers not only report

at the end of the morning the number of sacks they have been able to fill, but also discuss the various items picked up. One year we collected/located over a dozen empty half bottles of vodka from one spot (Yes, we did report that to the police – whoever left them must have been driving to the spot), 26 tyres, wine and beer bottles, a full bottle of wine (destroyed , we didn't drink it!) mudguards, fast food cartons and sweet wrappers, 4 empty commercial cooking oil drums, a double mattress, a fridge and endless quantities of soiled nappies. Thankfully Wealden collect our filled sacks very promptly and arranged removal of the large dumps we find hidden in the undergrowth. Last year we filled 24 rubbish sacks. Our ambition is to fill fewer sacks this year because we hope there will be less discarded rubbish. Why do people think it is acceptable to cover the countryside with their discarded rubbish? The Annual Litter Picking Morning is a worthwhile experience, we do hope you will join us.

Saturday 5th April 2025

Meet in the Red Lion Car Park for a 10.00am start. Leave the filled bags where you fill them for us to collect! Return to the Red Lion Car Park at approx. 12.00 noon. Many people then linger.....



Donation

Trudy Hampton-Hodges, C E O of Warming Up the Homeless, Bexhill, was absolutely delighted to receive another donation from HVCG, this time in the sum of £500

Calling Friends of HVCG - Would you like to help now and then?

HVCG is always on the lookout for folk to join in. We have a lot of fun; it's not all work!! Why not give it a try? Just drop an email (address at the top of this report) and we will do the rest

We would also encourage you to submit suggestions of your favourite worthwhile local charities/organisations for us to consider supporting.

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

Beef Stew

1 tbsp sunflower
750g/1lb 10oz braising steak, cut into 2cm³/₄in cubes
25g/1oz butter 2 small leeks, trimmed and finely sliced
1 tsp ground ginger
2 tsp paprika
40g/1½oz plain flour
425ml³/₄ pint good-quality beef stock hot
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1 small celeriac, peeled and cubed into 2cm³/₄in pieces
2 heaped tbsp hot horseradish cream
salt and freshly ground black pepper chopped fresh parsley, to garnish

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large ovenproof pan and fry the meat over high heat until browned all over. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 160C/140C Fan/Gas 3.
3. Add the butter and leeks to the unwashed pan, and fry for a few minutes. Sprinkle in the ginger, paprika and flour, stir and cook for a minute. Stir in the stock and bring the boil, stirring until thickened. Add Worcestershire sauce and season with salt and pepper. Return the meat to the pan, bring to the boil, cover with a lid and simmer for a few minutes.
4. Transfer to the oven and cook for about 1¾–2 hours. After this time, stir in the celeriac, bring back to the boil for a few minutes then return to the oven for about 30 minutes, until the meat and celeriac are tender.
5. Stir in the horseradish cream, sprinkle with parsley and serve at once.

NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Philip Wagstaff

Tel: 01424 550427

email: office@hbrmethodists.org.uk

website: hbrmethodists.org.uk

Sunday Services for March 2025:

- 2nd 10.30am Café Worship for all the family**
9th 10.30am Worship, Praise & Family Communion with Alan Hurrell
16th 10.30am Family Worship & Praise Service with Gillian Lambourne
23rd 10.30am Family Worship & Praise Service with Christine Thacker
**30th 10.30am Mothering Sunday - Family Worship & Praise Service
with Jill Sayers**

Events for March 2025:

- 5th 7.00 – 8.30 Ninfield Methodist Church Meeting (open to all)**
Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café including
7th 10.00-11.30am Book exchange in Hall
12th 2.30 – 4.00pm Christian Women’s Fellowship
26th 3.15 – 5.30pm Messy Church

A reminder that March 4th is Shrove Tuesday, or better known today as *Pancake Day*; and then in the Christian calendar it is followed by *Ash Wednesday* on March 5th and the first day of *Lent*. The period of Lent then runs throughout March and up to the evening before Easter Day. We all look forward to *Easter Sunday* on April 20th. A little way to go yet!!

We will however be celebrating Mothering Sunday with Family Praise on March 30th as shown above, & I feel sure our March Messy Church will look at a similar theme. It’s so good that our churches have so much to remember & celebrate - so why not come along & ‘Give Church a Try – it will surprise you’.

Lent is the time when we specifically remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert & endured temptations prior to Easter.

As always we invite you to come along to any of our services or events. We also have a Church meeting on March 5th, anyone can come & hear about our plans & aspirations – our minister the Reverend Philip Wagstaff will chair the meeting. The Community café on Fridays continues to be very popular so perhaps put this in your diaries.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

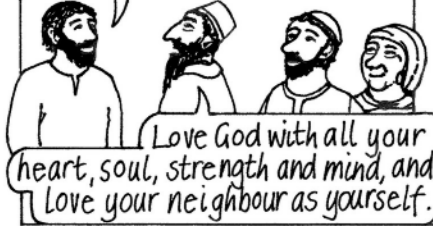
It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what must I do to get eternal life?



What does it say in the Bible?



Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and Love your neighbour as yourself.

You've got it right.



But who counts as a 'neighbour'?

So Jesus told a story -

A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho



That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers who left him for dead.



Oh no!

A priest was walking the same way, and after him a lawyer.



Oh, they are good people, they'll help.

They saw the hurt man but they walked past



I bet it's an ordinary person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria came that way...



Oh no! We hate them and they hate us Jews! That hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt man, and cleaned and bandaged his cuts.



What? No!

He put him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for him to stay.



So who was a real neighbour to the hurt man?



The... the Sss... the one who helped him.

So go and do the same.



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 892428

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY: Fiona Stedman 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 892778

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader Glen Harrison gharrisonninfIELDScountsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader: Josh.explorers@gmail.com

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

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THE FRIENDLY VOICES Kaye Crittall 892883

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PARISH WHO'S WHO

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PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

Churchwardens: Mrs Catriona Mary Owen
After 4.00pm 225421

Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose

Treasurer:

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD, HOOE

Churchwardens: Mr Jack Rist ☎892576
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