

***ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MARESFIELD PARISH***

YEAR 2016-17

PREPARED FOR THE

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2017

AT

MARESFIELD VILLAGE HALL

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Maresfield Parish Council – 2017 Annual Assembly Chairman’s Highlights Review

We started the year with ten parish councillors – four short of our full complement – and we made two co options during the year but unfortunately two councillors resigned. With some fifteen hundred households in the Parish surely it must be possible for us to fill our vacancies. Volunteers warmly welcomed!

Communications

Communications is the theme of our discussion at the Annual Parish Assembly this year and I want to write about the Parish Council website.

Since she joined the Parish Council back in June last year, Councillor Gemma Hallin has been involved with improving the Parish Council communications through its website and social media channels. She has been working with the Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk to:

- Create a new MPC website which improves the user experience and engagement, has clear navigation and contains useful and relevant information for its audience - the parishioners of our three villages.
- Build and maintain a database of email addresses of regular website visitors so that an e-newsletter can be sent out periodically to this audience (ensuring data permissions and regulations are adhered to).
- Get more user engagement through use of social media channels: improve our profile pages on Twitter and Facebook, increase the frequency of posting, improve the quality of posts (what do we want to tell our readers?) and follow other users and repurpose other users content.

So far, some changes have been made to the MPC homepage, and further work is due shortly on the remainder of the content pages. Councillor Hallin has also set up a Google Analytics account so we can monitor the amount of traffic that the site is receiving in real time. The social media profiles have been updated and the Clerk & Assistant Clerk are posting frequently on MPC's social channels. We are now preparing a long-term social media strategy that will incorporate 'themes' or 'topics of interest' throughout the year.

Planning

Planning monitoring has continued to be a major occupation of the Council with its Planning Committee, under Councillor David Watson’s chairmanship, making recommendations to Wealden District Council (WDC) on all the planning applications for property in the Parish – some seventy or so applications this last year, all requiring diligent examination and in some cases site visits.

In Nutley, revised plans submitted by Nutley Hall provide for the separate development of two cottages in Nursery Lane as annexes for adult care in a style sympathetic to nearby dwellings and the Forest and this time gained the Parish Council’s support. Meanwhile the ongoing Wealden District Council policy prohibits, except in very special circumstances, any new development in Nutley and Fairwarp in order to protect the Ashdown Forest.

The situation in Maresfield is that applications have been approved in 2016-17 for nine houses for the site off High Street/London Road adjacent to Bonners School and for up to eight houses on brownfield land opposite at Mill House Farm. With the approval last year of the Rydon Homes project for twenty-five homes on land south of Wellington Gate and a number of other small new-build applications some forty-eight of the fifty homes allocated to Maresfield Village in the Wealden Core Strategy have now been approved.

Construction of the Rydon Homes development is expected to commence in the autumn with construction traffic accessing the site from the A22 which will be subject to a 40mph speed limit during the works period.

The new John Lewis distribution depot at the Ashdown Business Park in Maresfield is now fully operational and we look forward to learning of more proposals for the remainder of this site.

There is the opportunity for the Parish Council, with developer assistance, to provide some new allotments in Maresfield but we will only proceed with this if there is going to be sufficient uptake from parishioners. We need to gauge this so please notify the Parish Office if you are interested.

The status of our Neighbourhood Development Plan is that it is 95% drafted but does not now include any sites recommended for development. Therefore, we expect Wealden District Council will now agree that the Plan does not need a Habitats Regulations Assessment, but it will still need to include a detailed Environmental Assessment which WDC say they will prepare for us. However, they do not seem to be proceeding with this work pending completion of the new Wealden Local Plan, which is unlikely to be adopted before the second half of 2018. In other words, yet further delay for our Plan and confirmation of the reality that the process is being effectively controlled by WDC to their agenda. Nevertheless, as I stated last year, an immense amount of good work has been done by our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Working Party members for which we are all grateful and the documentation on the NDP section of the Parish Council website is well worth reading.

Road Safety

Road safety and speeding continue to be the issues most frequently brought up by parishioners and the Parish Council's Road Safety Committee (chaired by Councillor Alan Strevens) strives to take action where it can.

The latest road accident statistics for Wealden District for Killed & Seriously Injured (KSI's), on which ESCC and the Safer Sussex Roads Partnership road safety policy and action is based are very worrying, showing a significant increase for the calendar year 2016 and Wealden remains as one of the worst Districts in the Country for road accidents.

We understand that installation of new signage by County Highways on the B2026 is in their work programme and hopefully this will better highlight the dangerous B2026/Crowborough Road junction as well as discouraging speeding on the B2026 past Fairwarp Village. County has agreed to introduce a 30 mph speed limit for the residential stretch of Nether Lane, Nutley, and this is now at the statutory consultation stage. Highway engineers from County recently visited Crowborough Road and have undertaken to provide us with a report into feasible options for addressing the long-standing speeding issues on that minor residential rural road. We continue to press our County Councillor and ESCC regarding the cleaning of road signs and the removal of overgrowing vegetation, but to little avail.

The Maresfield High Street 20mph and traffic calming scheme completed last year is achieving some speed and traffic volume reductions. However, it is not without its problems around drainage and the absence of double white lines. At school drop-off/pick-up times parents parking on the private land at Park Farm Close, by the Maresfield Recreation Ground, continues to cause congestion and other problems. The Council has serious concern about parking on the Straight Half Mile opposite the village shop which could contribute to an accident. Whilst the Council has no powers to stop this parking it is leafleting the offending cars in the hope that the drivers will park more considerately.

A revitalised Community Speed Watch team has been active during the year and a significant number of motorists are warned every month by the Police as they are observed by the CSW team. Our innovative proposal to use a mobile average speed camera system to enhance the effectiveness of CSW has not been accepted by the various relevant “authorities”.

Speeding on the A22 through Nutley including past the School continues to be a worry which is recognised by the authorities, as the mobile speed camera van does visit regularly. However, this and the replacement static speed camera are insufficient deterrents and official policy seems to be to wait for a serious accident before taking real preventative action.

Environment

The Parish Council’s Environment Committee under the chairmanship of Councillor Lolita Reeves continues to be busy particularly with the upkeep of the play areas in Maresfield, Nutley and to a lesser extent in Fairwarp.

The play area at the Maresfield Recreation Ground has been completely redesigned and re-equipped using developer provided finance and Parish Council funding. New fencing has been erected between the Recreation Ground and the Bowls Club.

The management of the Maresfield Recreation Ground, which the Parish Council owns as Trustee, is carried out very effectively by the Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee which is mainly made up of non-councillors and is under the chairmanship of Councillor Ken Ogden. The other recreation grounds in the Parish are not the responsibility of the Parish Council but we do make grants and respond to specific requests where necessary (and are responsible for the children’s play areas).

Earlier this year teams in the Parish took part in the “Great British Spring Clean” and collected large amounts of litter from road verges and other public spaces; we are grateful to all who took part.

The Parish Council will soon be deciding whether to refurbish the iconic red telephone kiosk outside Nutley Village Stores; its likely use would be as a book exchange and a site to house a defibrillator.

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Reeves attends a quarterly liaison panel with the Ashdown Forest Conservators to discuss matters of mutual interest. The Conservators very recently advised us that they are under some financial pressure over the next two to three years as ESCC reduces their annual grant and costs rise. They have suggested to representatives of their neighbouring parishes and the three local towns that we might like to consider making grants to the Conservators in 2018/19 and 2019/20 of collectively £60,000 for each year. I would welcome Parishioner’s views as to whether we should join in with this.

Finance

The Finance and Administration Committee, under my chairmanship and monitors the finances of the Council and continues to review the effectiveness of its administration. We have met with neighbouring councils to discuss areas where we could work and this will continue to be pursued as we search for further efficiencies and economies in our operations. As the Council has been unsuccessful to date in finding suitable Road Safety projects to fund it decided to reduce the amount of the Road Safety Project Fund which resulted in a reduction in the 2017/18 precept of 43.5%.

At last year's Parish Assembly, we received a presentation from North Weald Community Transport, in particular about Nutley's only local bus service – the 261. In order to maintain a Saturday service connecting Nutley with Maresfield/Uckfield and Forest Row/East Grinstead your Parish Council made grants totalling £3,200 in 2016/17 to NWCT and has agreed to make a grant of £1,132 in 2017/18 to maintain a slightly amended Saturday service (the 262) for this current year. Weekday services continue to be subsidised by ESCC but we must realise that if our local bus services are not used we will lose them.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow Councillors for their very considerable contributions to the work of the Council; many hundreds of voluntary hours are put in especially with the workload being shared by significantly fewer than our full complement of Councillors. Grateful thanks are also warmly extended to all those non-councillors who serve on our Committees or contribute in other ways to assisting with the Council operations. The Council's permanent staff remains as a full-time Clerk together with a part time Assistant Clerk and this restored level of staffing has enabled initiatives such as Community Speed Watch to flourish during the year. Lastly on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Tony Allen and Chris Arnold for their service during the year.

Martin Craddock
Chairman

COUNCILLORS 2017

FAIRWARP

Penelope Handley	712791
Lolita Reeves	713630

MARESFIELD

Ken Ogden	761433
Alan Strevens	508702
Laura Stevens-Smith	07443 857254
Gemma Hallin	07534 211704
Rob Taylor	371333

NUTLEY

Derek Barlow	713151
Martin Craddock	713879
David Watson	713034

COUNTY COUNCIL

Roy Galley	713018
Francis Whetstone	01892 770304

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Michael Lunn	07894 062727 M
Toby Illingworth	732115 M
Roy Galley	713018 N
Peter Roundell	724166 N
Chris Hardy	01892 770759 F

F	Fairwarp
M	Maresfield
N	Nutley

Finance & Administration Committee

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

<u>2015-16</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
117,675	Precept	117,669	
17	Interest	19	
110	Other		
1,733	C Tax Supp Grant	1,361	
5,954	NDP Grant Monies	0	
0	WDC S.106 monies	38,286	
125,489	TOTAL	157,335	

<u>2015-16</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	
17,378	Administration	12,664	
33,601	Staff Costs	44,513	Recruitment of Asst. Clerk
14,779	Services	18,075	
1,381	Subscriptions	1,591	
450	Grants – Section 137	600	
8,776	Grants - Specific Powers	10,695	
2,254	Projects	45,287	Includes £43,896 MRG S.106
149	Parish Office	512	
0	Other	0	
78,768	TOTAL	133,937	

<u>2015-16</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
61,550	Balance as at 1 April	108,271
125,489	Plus Income	157,335
187,039		265,606
78,768	Less Expenditure	133,937
108,271	CLOSING BALANCE	131,669
	Made up of.....	
39,669	Earmarked Reserves*	68,133
68,602	General Reserves	63,536

*Road Safety Projects £59,609.00
 NDP Grant Funding £8,524.00

The Marjory Pegg 2017 Awards for Services to the Community

When Marjory Pegg left Maresfield in September 2003 for her new home in France, the Parish said goodbye to someone who had been enthusiastically involved in community life for over 30 years, including a number as Chairman of the Parish Council. It was decided that each year a salver would be presented in her honour to someone nominated by the residents of Maresfield Village, and in 2012 this was extended to the whole Parish as the 'Marjory Pegg Awards for Services to the Community'. Sadly, Marjory passed away in April 2014. Many people help to build the fabric of village life in many different ways, by running local businesses, organising social clubs, serving on committees, giving their time to support local events and being a good neighbour and friend.

This year Mrs Jenny Lazenby from Fairwarp (posthumously) and Mrs Sheila Cumming from Maresfield jointly received the Marjory Pegg Salver.

Jenny was a true member of the community always happy to help and support wherever needed.

She was a stalwart of Christ Church both as a sacristan and as a choir member. She also raised thousands of pounds for the Church organising the Jumble Sale, a Quiz Night and the Christmas Bazaar each year.

Jenny would always actively support any fundraising in the village especially with baking her delicious cakes to sell or be raffled, and by helping with the Village fete, Fairwarp QE2 Pavilion Appeal and Fairwarp Community Society.

She will be much missed and it is very good to honour her memory in this way.

Sheila is Chairman of the Maresfield Conservation Group and is always out and about, whether delivering the local Church magazine, being involved in the new children's play area (now completed), planting beautiful flowers in the newly sited flower beds at the beginning and the end of the village and also she is very involved in the running of the village hall, organizing the village clean up, helping at the village fete and arranging the mince pies for the annual lighting of the village Christmas Tree.

There are other good works that Sheila is involved in around the Village - and she still finds time for her own home and beautiful garden and being a grandparent – how does she fit it all in!

This year the following people were given a Community Award Certificate for selflessly giving their time in various ways:-

1. Mrs Pat Bowler – for working tirelessly as the Secretary of the village hall. She never stops working for the hall and is always cheerful and on-hand with help and encouragement for all.
2. Nutley 'Little Deers' Pre-School Team – The Nutley pre-school, Little Deers, nearly folded a couple of years ago. Since then the staff and Committee have pulled out all the stops to bring this vital resource back from the brink. This year they have received a good Ofsted report which is unbelievable in such a short time. The pre-school is key to the future of the village and we are pleased to recognise this team for all of its hard work.
3. Mrs Pat Palmer - for all of her hard work in organising the Maresfield Fete and the Christmas tree lighting event. Had she not stepped forward to manage and coordinate the organisation and administration required for these village events, they may have been lost to the village forever.
4. Mrs Patricia Sidwell – for ten years until 2016, she worked tirelessly to ensure that the Christmas lights were put up on the Nutley War Memorial Hall. For three years during this period Patricia organised the Christmas festivities at the Memorial Hall which included a choir, music, food, a fairground and gifts for the children.

ASHDOWN EVERGREENS

The Club has been in existence for over 50 years and is for the benefit of residents within Nutley and the surrounding areas to come together once a month and meet in the Memorial Hall.

It is for those over 50 and we endeavour to encompass topics, which will interest everyone and give an opportunity for those who may live alone or are unable to enjoy the company of others due to the lack of transport to feel part of our village.

To give an example of what we have organised during the past year. In June 2016 we arranged a coach trip to Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, another to Bosham and Emsworth in August and a Christmas Lunch at the Llama Park. We invite various speakers and have enjoyed talks about Medical Detection Dogs, Camouflage & Trickery in the Animal Kingdom, Special Operations Executives plus more.

We make an effort to keep our subscriptions to a minimum and our main fundraising event is manning a tombola stall on Village Day. We also take the opportunity of applying for donations/funding wherever possible in order to help with the general administration costs which have to be met each year plus the ever rising fees for speakers, etc.

We have a varied programme for 2017 and are pleased to report that people within our community are showing an interest and becoming new members.

Liz Lloyd
Secretary

The Fairwarp Echo

Fairwarp's village magazine is The Fairwarp Echo and is delivered to around 200 subscribers. Annual subscription is £5 for 12 copies for those living in the village of Fairwarp, or £13 for postal subscribers. A few copies are available to purchase in the Foresters Arms.

The Echo year runs from May to April and since February 2017, there has been an ongoing competition for new cover designs. This has been extremely successful and will continue to run for the remainder of 2017. Entries have been from children and adults, inexperienced and experienced artists and have been in chalk, pencil, pen and ink and water colour.

The Echo continues to carry regular contributions from Fairwarp Community Society, Fairwarp WI, Fairwarp Queen Elizabeth II Field and Christ Church; as well as articles on wildlife and horticulture from independent contributors. There are a number of new articles including 'Educating Grandma!', written by local resident Shelley Lee and a monthly recipe, supplied by Naomi Reynolds of the FCS.

Readers' letters are encouraged and appreciated and there has been an active exchange of comments between our stand in 'not-the-vicar', Ronald Chatwin and a couple of local residents in regards one of Ronald's articles. All adding to the excellent content of the magazine.

Please contact the editor, Helen Rowland on MHelenM.Rowland@gmail.com if you have an article for inclusion. Articles from outside the immediate village are welcome but may be subject to space availability. Cut-off dates are generally the 10th of the preceding month ie 10th May for the June edition. Please mark your subject line with Fairwarp Echo.

Helen Rowland

Fairwarp Football Club Season 2016 /17

This season FFC was back to fielding one team in Division 9 of the Mid Sussex League. The team failed to make a mark in the cup competitions, but maintained reasonable progress in their division. The team, with a number of players who still live in the village, were largely new to playing with each other at the start of the season and took some time to settle in together. Their endeavours have not been unrewarded but the table position does not necessarily show the real improvements which have been made this season.

Team spirit remains buoyant and the after-match drink is always one of high spirits and camaraderie. The players instigated a fun fines system which contributes to the players' Christmas party and to the end of season AGM and get together, as well as donating towards the new pavilion project. FFC Committee members are few but they are dedicated to the team and their hard work - from kit laundry, to ground preparation, week in and week out - is very much appreciated.

Finally, our thanks and best wishes must go to the Lazenby family. Jenny sadly passed away earlier this year but for nearly 40 years she has supported John as an FFC player, coach and Committee member. Jenny will be sorely missed but we hope to see John and the Lazenby family down at the QEII field in Fairwarp on a regular basis.

**Paul Rowland
Chairman FFC
01825 712292**

Fairwarp Sunday Juniors Training Group

The Fairwarp Sunday Juniors Training Group, which trains from the Fairwarp QE2 Field, is currently run by volunteer dad, Andy Wilson, ably aided by lots of other parents (mums are very welcome to join the training squad), whose children are usually, but not always, part of the regulars.

It continues to thrive and offers a local and friendly children's football training session which is non- competitive and suitable for all abilities. The age ranges from 4 – 12 and both boys and girls welcome. The trainers actively encourage parent participation and a prior knowledge of football isn't required in this very relaxed and friendly training environment. As always, during the course of the year, there were visits from Father Christmas & the Easter Bunny and the End of season BBQ, which was, and always is, fun for all the family, defied the weather and went ahead regardless!

The group operates term-time only and cost just £1.00 per session, on a pay when you play only. There is no joining fee.

If you wish to take part in this group, just turn up on Sunday at 10am and you will be made very welcome or email Helen on MHelenM.Rowland@gmail.com, or telephone 01825 712292 if you require further information.

Helen Rowland

Fairwarp QE2 Field Report for the Parish Assembly 2016-17

The Trustees continue to maintain the field to a high level with local resident John Lazenby spending many an hour cutting the grass and holding back the forest from our boundaries! Over winter the pitch wasn't as badly affected as last year with water and the drainage continues to ensure the field is available for most weeks of the year except in exceptional wet weather. Summer always brings a mix of hirers with scouts and families utilising the field for get-togethers and camping events.

The field is the home ground to the football team fielded by Fairwarp FC, Fairwarp Stoolball Club and a regular Sunday morning Junior Football group who train there throughout the year. The Trustees continue to support all these groups with personal involvement.

The Trustees of Fairwarp QE2 Field are continuing to progress the new pavilion project, albeit slightly delayed and a little frustrated with internal design issues and grants. But it is a long-term project and donations continue to be made and the annual Cricket & Croquet Day in August was once again well-supported by the village and the Foresters Arms.

Bookings for the year remain firm and the summer months always bring extra interest as the field is such a place of outstanding beauty to hold an event.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the pavilion project or hire the field should contact me on 01825 713531.

Russell Davison, Chair, QE2 Field

Fairwarp Stoolball Club

2016 was a year of consolidation with a core of the players of 2015 returning to the Club. We decided not to be part of a League as it seemed a lot of pressure on a young and inexperienced team. Young in age and knowledge!

We did, however, play three friendly matches and each match showed an improvement in skill and a dedication to the team. The last match against the Lewes Arms was great fun, as they are team filled with players who want to encourage other teams and appreciated the lack of experience of the majority of Fairwarp SC, giving a blind eye to a couple of silly mistakes. But to their cost when the final score was a draw!

This match was followed by a great sausage and chips supper at the Foresters Arms and a lot of banter between the two teams. Definitely a team for next year!

The season ended with a meal out for all who could come at Pizza Express. Ellie Rowland, founder of the Club, asked for votes on the 'name' of the team and following some enthusiastic and interesting suggestions, a vote was taken and the Fairwarp Falcons were born.

Training sessions are Wednesday 6.30pm-8pm and new members are very welcome. We operate on a £1 per play basis, and matches carry a charge as well.

Please contact Fairwarp.stoolball@gmail.com for more information.

Helen & Ellie

FAIRWARP VILLAGE HALL

Management Committee Annual Report for 2016

Committee Membership

The Committee comprises ten members. John Manthorpe, Lucy Stevens-Smith and Di Bowley, were re-elected to continue for the year under review as Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer respectively. Anita Long continued as Bookings Manager. Angela Tilly, John Lazenby, Paul Dean, Caroline Hill and Adam Bragginton continued to give active support to the Committee. We were pleased to welcome Rob Dewhurst as a new member and for the support he has given to the Committee.

The Committee have had a busy year. There are vacancies so new volunteers will always be welcome.

Hall Repairs and Maintenance

Repairs were necessary to the guttering and storeroom ceiling. A new fence was erected as a protective barrier by the central heating outlet pipe. Continuing maintenance was necessary to lights, tables, chairs and Kitchen and Hall fittings. Maintenance repairs were necessary to the Children's Play Area.

We have John Lazenby to thank for undertaking these tasks. We are grateful to Angela Tilly who organised the tuning of the Hall Piano.

The annual external maintenance contract remained in force throughout the year.

The Fire Safety equipment was examined and declared sound by Southern Alarms Ltd.

Expenditure

- *Running Costs*

Total running costs stood at **£8517** an increase over the previous year. This was largely due to the increase in maintenance costs at the Hall and the Village Green and in the insurance premium. Our Treasurer Di Bowley has kept the Committee informed of our developing financial position and we are most grateful to her for her continuing stewardship of the Hall's finances. The examined Annual Accounts are associated with this Report.

We are especially grateful to those in the village community who have made donations to help with our expenditures and to the Maresfield Parish Council for their Grant which supported the purchase of an outdoor Table Tennis Table for the Village Green and for their contribution to the cost of maintaining the Children's Play Area.

- *Purchases*

Expenditures were incurred for new boiler fence, the Table Tennis Table, memorial plaques for the three new trees on the Village Green and new bunting for the Village Fete.

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Fund Raising

- *Hall and Equipment Hiring*

Hall hiring continues to be the major source of income for the Hall. Income for the year stood at **£8887** – an excellent and record result.

Rates had been increased by £2 for a four-hour session from 1st January 2016. Hirers accepted these increases without complaint recognising that the session charges, at £14 for local hirers and £20 for outside organisations, remain extremely low and competitive. Anita Long has once again managed the Hall hiring dealing with queries, new hirers, payments and all the issues that arise throughout the year. We are very fortunate and grateful to Anita that we have such a professional and expert organiser of this crucial and sometime demanding feature of this Charity's central function

The Large Screen and projector acquired by Adam Bragginton for the Hall has been a great success and used by many Hall hirers. We are grateful to Adam for ensuring that the equipment is ready for use for the various hirers.

- *Village Market*

Income from the market was **£1546** a slight increase on the total of **£1489** for the preceding year. The market continues as an important part of the community life of the Village providing a valuable service and a regular meeting place for villagers at the associated coffee mornings run by Christ Church. We are most grateful to Eve Sowter, Ruth Spencer and their stallholders for all that they do to make the market such a welcoming place.

- *Sovereign Club*

The Club made a generous grant to Hall Funds of **£350**. After expertly managing the Sovereign Club for twenty-seven years David Endacott handed over the running of the Club to Angela Tilly. We thank David for his splendid contribution to our village life over so many years. Our grateful thanks too are due to Angela for taking on the organisation of the Club

- *Village Fete*

The Fete was organised by a sub-committee of the Hall expertly led by Di Bowley supported by members of the Village Hall, the Fairwarp Community Society and Fairwarp Women's Institute, an enthusiastic team supported the sub-committee by organising the Arts and Crafts. Caty Worlock Pope continued with the important job of running the Tombola.

Once again the Fete was a great success - very well attended on a sunny afternoon. The 'Village Volunteers' once again provided vehicles and did the backbreaking work of transporting, and then erecting, all the tents, tables, stalls and chairs, and other equipment on Friday evening and then dismantling everything for return to the Hall on Saturday evening. We are grateful too to those local organisations and individuals who sponsored activities.

The Village Hall Committee underwrites the risk and the costs of the Fete, financing the equipment hiring, the advertising, PA system, Band and entertainers. The Committee provides the tents, chairs and tables. As before Village organisations at the Fete were able to raise funds from their own stalls.

Fete income for Hall funds was **£5737** which, after the Hall's setting up costs of **£1438**, generated an excellent profit of **£4299**. This very good result reflects the enthusiasm of the village community for this enjoyable annual event and especially the hard work of the organisers.

Village Green

The Hall Committee continues to be responsible for the maintenance of the Village Green. Following the planting of three flowering cherry trees on the Green commemorative plaques were attached to each in memory of three villagers who had died - Anne Sainsbury, Audrey Billington and publican John Lyon. Each had done much for the wellbeing of the Village

As part of the 'Clean For the Queen' day Village Hall members did a thorough clean of the Village Green, the Hall Car Park and the Forest track in between to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday in March.

The Hall Committee were pleased to purchase, with the help of a Grant from the Parish Council, an all-weather Table Tennis table. This was sourced by Caroline Hill and erected on the Green in October by Rob Dewhurst, Paul and Bertie Dean and John Lazenby We are grateful to them all and to Emmett Jaques who provided table tennis bats and balls. It is already proving very popular with villagers.

Regular mowing of the Green is undertaken using the mower hired from the Sports Field. We appreciate the co-operation of the Sports Field and thank John Lazenby for undertaking the task.

The Fairwarp Community Society, with the cooperation of the Village Hall Committee once again organised the erection of the Christmas Tree on the Green over the festive season.

Children's Play Area

Necessary maintenance and repairs have been carried out to the Play Area on the Green - thanks once again to John Lazenby. The Play area remains in regular use for village families and their children.

Village Hall Car Park

With the opening of the Recycling centre at Maresfield and the introduction of kerbside recycling bins for households in the Village the large, unsightly and rarely used bins in the Hall Car Park were removed by Wealden District Council. This welcome move made possible an increase in the number of cars that are able to park at the Hall.

Village Website

We are grateful to Adam Bragginton for his development work on the Fairwarp Village Website and the increased information now accessible about the Village Hall and Green

Future Plans

We plan to replace the dilapidated storage shed on the patio with a new, larger, storage shed. We are grateful to Maresfield Parish Council which has agreed to meet part of the purchase cost by way of a Grant.

Plans are already in hand to decorate the main Hall in the summer and to purchase a seat to be placed alongside the new Table Tennis table on the Green.

Appreciation

We are fortunate in the Village at having a Committee of willing volunteers who give up a lot of their time to ensuring that the community has a welcoming Village Hall, Village Green and Play Area. We are grateful to our Hon Secretary Lucy Stevens-Smith for the efficient and friendly way she organises the business of the Committee. All of the Committee have the thanks of the Chairman for all that they do.

Fairwarp Village Hall Management Committee

FORDS GREEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Fords Green continues to be a major Nutley asset offering a home to 3 major village sports and the Fawnswood activity club which looks after school children both before and after the school day and during the holidays. All the sports clubs have been doing well. The two senior football teams were both promoted last season and are likely to be promoted again this season. A significant addition has been the Nutley Rams (kid's) football club which plays on a Sunday morning. Stoolball won 47 out of their 72 matches last season and are keen to get more players. The cricket players played 18 matches in division 5 of the East Sussex league. The Green hosts Village Day on the last Saturday in June each year, and Teas on the Green on Thursday afternoons in August to which all are welcome.

You can keep up to date with our activities through the website <http://fordsgreen-nutley.org.uk/>

Nutley Preschool Annual Report 2017

We started the academic year with strong numbers, and have increased to 32 children on our register at this time, a 20% increase on 2016. We anticipate a further increase to 35 by the end of the Summer Term. This increase in numbers is a credit to the hard work of the staff and committee to ensure we provide the best Early Years' experience we can. We have increased our promotion of Preschool with social media and are reaching out to all neighbouring communities.

In February 2017, we had a routine Ofsted inspection, from which we retained our grade of Good. We are all very pleased with the report, which was incredibly complimentary and has encouraged the whole team to strive towards Outstanding by the time the next inspection comes. The report is available on the Ofsted website.

Our staffing levels have increased in line with the increase in children, and we are now pleased to employ 7 people.

We have been continuing to develop our Garden space, this year with the assistance of a £2000 award from Tesco Bags of Help Scheme. We have doubled the size of the sandpit, repainted all the fences and woodwork, installed tractor tyre platters and still have more to do. A huge thanks to the Garden team, parents and committee for their continued work to ensure our outdoor space is spectacular.

Financially, we are in the same situation as most rural preschools. The funding we receive from the government does not cover costs, and we still have to actively pursue other sources of income.

We have been very grateful to receive unexpected donations from the Fete Committee and St James the Less, as well as awarded local grants. We still run many fundraising events throughout the year to top up the accounts and overall the Preschool is financial sound. We would like to thank the community for their on-going support of Nutley Preschool, to secure the future of Little Deers, for our youngest and future residents of Nutley and the surrounding areas.

Nutley Horticultural Society

During this year we had three successful flower shows, Spring, Rose and the big Autumn show all of which are a showcase for the talents of the gardeners, cooks and artists who take part. Our thanks go to the judges who kindly give their time to judge all the entries. The playgroup children put their sweet little entries into the spring show as well.

We also had two outings, one to High Beeches in May and one to Bradness gallery and gardens in Barcombe which were interesting and enjoyable.

We had two talks one by Harry Townsend in May on Kew Gardens and one in September by Patricia Liechti-Clark on unusual hardy plants. Unfortunately the speaker for our AGM talk, John Negus, cancelled due to the foggy weather on that day in January.

We ran the tallest sunflower competition again this year and Jeff Histed won with his sunflower of over 12 foot. As this is a popular competition we will be running it again in 2017.

The horticultural committee maintain the flower boxes in the children's playground on Fords Green with colourful displays of annuals which are renewed periodically.

We had a membership of 67 during 2016.

Claire Sullivan (Chairman)

Nutley War Memorial Trust

Most of the village probably don't give the Village Hall much thought. It's a village institution that has stood at the Northern end of the village for as long as most of us can remember. However, there is a story to tell about how Nutley War Memorial Trust was founded and how the hall came to be built.

Nutley War Memorial Trust was founded in 1948 when a parcel of land was given by Frederick Nettlefold to be used for the benefit of the people of Nutley. Some of the land was sold over the years and the proceeds were used to build the Memorial Hall in commemoration of those from the village killed in the two world wars. The land the Trust owns comprises the hall, tennis and squash club, social club and bowls club. The last two are the land only, not the buildings.

The trust is very active in maintaining and developing these facilities. We are involved in ongoing maintenance to property, discussions on future developments and increasing our media presence.

Looking towards the future we have ongoing discussions with the Pre-School and the Parish Council on how the hall can be developed to best serve the community. A feasibility study for a purpose-built pre-school has been drawn up to be built between the Hall and the Social Club, bordering the field. Early soundings have been taken from the County Council and Parish Council and they appear supportive. Should the project proceed it will need close collaboration between both the Trust and the Social Club. We will keep the village informed from time to time.

The hall is over forty years old and requires continual maintenance, as does the Tennis and Squash Club building for which we have certain landlords' responsibilities. We endeavour to keep the Hall in good repair and we have recently replaced the floor at considerable expense and replaced the fire alarm with an upgraded system. We were fortunate in receiving small grants from Gatwick Airport Community Trust, the Police Property Fund and Waitrose, but we nevertheless used a considerable sum from our reserves. We have replaced the water pump in the Tennis and Squash Club and replaced the exterior hall signs. We are hoping to refurbish the hall toilets in the next year if we can secure a grant to assist with the cost.

We are developing a new website, one that we can amend and update to keep the village informed. The new website is www.nutley-war-memorial-hall.co.uk. It's the same as the old address but ending .co.uk not .org.uk. We are also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NutleyWarMemorialTrust. Post something on Facebook and let us know what you think of our media presence. We do appreciate your comments. We welcome anyone who wishes to join our management committee. We meet once a quarter and you don't need any particular qualifications or experience. We are a diverse group in both experience and age. You don't need to commit a lot of your time, but any time you can spare will be appreciated. It's your village. Help make it a better place to live.

St James the Less, Nutley - Review of 2016/17

St James the Less, Nutley is a warm and welcoming community of nearly 100 people of all ages and backgrounds who meet every midweek and every Sunday for a variety of activities and services.

Our achievements over this year include:

Church Hall and Kitchen Refurbishment

This year has seen a great deal of improvement in our church hall and kitchen with a redecoration of the hall and a complete refit of the kitchen. The hall and kitchen are an essential part of many of the activities below which we provide for the wider community and their refurbishment will help us better serve the village and community. We are so thankful for the church members who helped plan and sort out the kitchen refit. We are especially grateful for the many who attended fundraisers for the work, but the bulk of the funding came from the Parish and Wealden District Council and we want particularly to thank them for their generosity towards this wonderful updated community facility.

Work within our community:

- The church undertakes a number of **social activities** open to the whole village, including our:
 - **Monthly Village lunch**
 - **Weekly Coffee-Popln**
 - **Weekly term-time Sunrise Café**
 - **Perspectives meeting**
- The church provides a number of events for **children and young people**:
 - We run a termly **Messy Church** involving crafts, games & meal.
 - The **Summer Holiday Club** was again successfully held at Tyes the home of Nigel Pullan, with 50 plus children attending.
 - We hold the summer **Teas on the Green** event.
 - A **Sunday School & crèche** are available at church during services.

- The vicar is an active part of **Nutley Church of England Primary School** governing body and regularly visits the school for assemblies, lessons and other events and helps lead services for school at special times of the year.
- We provide **pastoral care** to members of our village through visiting by both church members and clergy.
- We continue to provide the monthly **Parish Magazine** and are thankful to the Parish Council for their support towards the magazine.
- The church held a number of **baptisms, funerals and weddings**.
- We have kept our **historic church building and churchyard** open and well-maintained for the benefit of the whole community.
- The **church hall** (see above) has been used both by church and other village societies for the benefit of the whole community.
- We have enjoyed community seasonal services at the seasons of **Easter, and Christmas**. Particularly enjoyable was the new initiative of the **Harvest Songs of Praise**, which we hope to repeat this coming year.
- There have been special services throughout the year:
 - **Remembrance Day**
 - **Churchyard Service** for the bereaved
 - **Lights of Love** raising funds and awareness for the St Peter and St James hospice
- We have enjoyed a number of cultural and entertaining fundraising events:
 - The **Church quiz**
 - **Concerts** by our organist David Bailey

Staffing

- **Pauline Ingram** continued as our voluntary curate and is helping with many aspects of church life.
- **William King** continued as our churchwarden and reader giving a great deal of time and energy to the work of the church.
- **Angie Welton** has continued her role as a joint part-time administrator between Nutley and Maresfield Churches.
- **Nick Cornell** served as Acting Archdeacon of Hastings until the end of September 2016.
- **Volunteers** are many and varied and have given a huge amount to both church and community – thank you everyone!

Rev Nick Cornell

St Bartholomew's Church, Maresfield - Review of 2016/17

St Bartholomew's Church remains a welcoming and friendly community and on an average Sunday we welcome between 40- 50 adult worshippers and 10-15 children over our two services.

Our achievements over this year include:

Staffing

- **Pauline Ingram** continued as our voluntary curate and is helping with many aspects of church life.
- **Simon Ashdown and Susan Butcher** continued as our churchwardens providing a huge amount of time and service to the church and wider community. We thank Susan Butcher for her many years of service to the church and community as she steps down as churchwarden this year.

- **Angie Welton** has continued her role as a joint part-time administrator between Nutley and Maresfield Churches.
- **Nick Cornell** served as Acting Archdeacon of Hastings until the end of September 2016.
- **People giving freely of their time and energy** are the only way that we can do all that we do in the church and community – thank you everyone!

Work within the wider community

- The Rector is an active part of **Bonnors school's** governing body and regularly visits the school for assemblies, lessons and other events and helps lead services for school at special times of the year.
- We continue to provide the monthly **Parish Magazine** and are thankful to the Parish Council for their support towards the magazine.
- The Church has held a number of **lunches** at various points in the year open to the wider community.
- The church held a number of **baptisms, funerals and weddings**
- **The friends of the church** have run a number of community events and we are so grateful for the monies raised to support the church's fabric and the hard work of these volunteers.
- The Church Flower Team organized a weekend **Flower Festival** with a number of activities including beautiful displays, a music concert, quiz and lunch all raising money for our School Hill Cemetery Appeal.
- We have busy services at the important **seasons of Harvest, Easter and Christmas**.
- We have worked together again with Maresfield Conservation Group to provide the **Christmas Tree lighting event** for the community with carol singing and mulled wine and this proved extremely popular with many guests.
- We have run the **Alpha course** for those beginning or considering the Christian faith at the Chequers.
- We have installed a new **Sound system** in the church making services and community events much easier to hear!
- We provide **pastoral care** to members of our village through visiting by both church members and clergy.
- We have kept our **historic church building** open and well-maintained for the benefit of the whole community.

Work with Children and Youth

- The **Baby and Toddler Group** each Monday at the Village Hall is proving extremely popular with mums, dads and carers. We often have towards 30 children at a session and a monthly health visitor provides a valuable service to the wider community.
- We run the **fortnightly "PULSE" youth group** for ages 10-14 at the Village Hall. The group is open to all from the village for games, socials and other activities. We are grateful to the Parish Council for their grants both this and previous years.
- The **Toddler Praise group** attracts a number of parents and carers for a Bible Story, craft and singing and has been proven very popular.
- A **Sunday School** is held in the village hall during services.

The School Hill Cemetery Project Completed

After many years, the School Hill Churchyard project is finally completed at a cost of nearly £25,000. This has created a beautiful, quiet space in the middle of our village and is open to all as a place for reflection. It also opens the possibility for the burial of loved ones' ashes in the village. Please contact Rev Nick Cornell if you are looking for a burial in the village.

We want to say a huge thank you to the wider community for a wonderful combined effort of fundraising, donations and grants, which have meant that the project raised all the monies necessary.

Challenges for the year ahead

- We are looking to obtain the permissions necessary and raise the funds for a kitchen and toilet in the church building to improve the facilities within the church.
- We are looking to fill two vital, voluntary positions - a new editor of the parish magazine and church finance coordinator; please contact Rev Nick Cornell if you are interested.

Rev Nick Cornell

Maresfield Conservation Group Annual Report for Parish Assembly on 10th May 2017

Throughout the year the Conservation Group has been active in maintaining the village to improve its appearance and amenity.

The Footpaths Group have continued to attend to the paths within the village and repair stiles and gates on the Rights of Way footpaths. Following the work on the verge near Lampool Corner it was seeded and in the autumn bulbs were planted. Recently there has been further planting and seeding for wild flowers to become established. Also in the autumn extensive work was carried out on the Rabbitty Lane footpath where muddy conditions at certain times made passing very difficult. When this was completed the footpath from the A22 end of Rabbitty Lane to the underpass was reinstated which now provides a circular route without having to cross the A22.

In June 2016 MCG purchased and erected three planters at the entrances to the village and these have been maintained by MCG members. Last summer they had annual flowers and then in the autumn bulbs and winter flowers were planted. A flower bed at the Church Car Park was also created to brighten up this area. These are all in addition to the wooden flower tubs on School Hill and Batts Bridge Road.

Last year a donation was made to Maresfield Village Hall to assist with the replacing of roof tiling on the old part of the hall. The lunch club received a donation towards replacing the fridge. There was also a donation to the Church to assist with the cost of grass cutting at the School Hill graveyard.

In October and March MCG organised Village Clean-up Days when vast quantities of litter was collected despite several members giving of their time to collect litter on an ongoing basis. This year the Group registered with the Great British Spring Clean which was a national initiative organised by Keep Britain Tidy.

For several years East Sussex County Council has made a contribution to MCG towards grass cutting in the village. In April 2016 there were changes to the contract and from April 2017 there were numerous further changes to the terms and conditions. After much consideration the decision was taken to terminate MCG being responsible for grass cutting and pass it back to ESCC. The new contract increases the frequency of grass cutting which hopefully will be to the benefit of the village.

Fund raising events have been held during the year. Thanks go to Ann Thompson for a generous donation from her very successful plant stall at the Fete. In July the Summer Supper was held, then in January the Winter Supper, followed in March by a very well attended Quiz Night.

Early December saw the village Christmas Tree erected along with the Lighting of the Christmas Tree service. As in recent years this was followed by mince pies and mulled wine. To assist with safety at the event, the roads were again closed for its duration.

The event including the tree and lights is mainly funded by MCG and this year included the cost of the purchase of road signs.

Since August 2015 MCG has been very concerned about the condition of the white rails on High Street, around the corner of the pavement adjacent to the church wall. There was no response from East Sussex Council until August 2016. After inspection and consultation with ESCC Highways it became apparent that removal or replacement was necessary. MCG wished to replace the posts and rails with wood again but this was rejected by ESCC. Following further consultation ESCC agreed to replace the existing posts and rails with white posts that conform to current safety requirements. Initially MCG were going to have to fund this project with some assistance from Maresfield Parish Council. However the new white posts will now be funded and maintained by ESCC. Although they will not look exactly the same there was no option but to accept this, as the alternative was for ESCC to remove the post and rails completely without any replacement.

In the autumn, after the Play Area at the Recreation ground was completely refurbished, the MCG provided a picnic table within the Play Area.

The MCG is very conscious of using funds that it has raised wisely for the maintenance of the village and for the benefit of its residents of all ages.

The Committee would thank all of those in the village who have assisted both with the raising of funds and undertaking voluntary work with the various projects.

SHEILA CUMMING

Chairman, Maresfield Conservation Group

www.maresfieldconservationgroup.co.uk

MARESFIELD VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2016/17

This is yet another year when the Village hall has been very busy. The Committee is delighted to report that the activities carried out in the Hall are extremely wide ranging. Village Lunches, Women's Institute, a Mother and Toddler group, a Youth Group, Bridge group, Badminton group, other Sporting Groups, Fitness Classes, many types of Dance groups and worshippers from the local Church meet regularly to enjoy the facilities.

Successful fund raising by committee members at two Bridge afternoons held in September and February raised additional funds for the Hall. Thanks are due also to the many supporters who give generously of their time and expertise. Other Maresfield groups have used the Hall for Charity Fundraising events and Quiz nights. The Maresfield Millennium Players also presented their annual productions of a Pantomime in February and a play in October.

This time last year, the Committee had plans to improve the wall at the north end of the hall by putting in a fire resistant membrane; however, this plan had to be put on hold when reports were received that a tile had fallen off the roof. Further investigations revealed some significant issues with the oldest sections of the roof. Estimates were obtained and, thanks to the generosity of many and careful financial planning, on 6th April, Clarke's of Eastbourne were able to start work to repair the roof over the small hall (including the link to Newnham Cottage) and the flat roofed area and bargeboard at the rear of the hall. The total cost for the work was just over £18,000.

In September 2016, the Committee was pleased to receive confirmation that the procedure for registering the Deeds of the Hall with the Land Registry had been completed and the originals returned.

Once again, we were pleased to receive a 5 star award for the kitchen, which continues to be well used for many different events throughout the year.

P.A Bowler.
Secretary
Maresfield Village Hall.
April 2017

MVMT Trust 2016/17 Report for the Maresfield Parish Council Annual Assembly

The work of the Trust has been centred on its website, woodland management and grant applications.

Planning.

The Land Transfer was completed in early August but the Land Registry portfolio of titles (9) have yet to be finalised.

The site remains open with the Members' Bluebell Day to be held on St. George's Day, 23rd April. Members and non- Members are welcome to come and look at the bluebells and primroses in the northern woods, please remember to bring your cameras/phones.

A second Trustee has undertaken further training through the Plumpton College and the Certificate is with the Insurers.

The Trust is now in its second year of the new Insurance Policy with no claims throughout 2016 but this has been helped by its attention to its Health and Safety Policy and risk assessments.

In early September 2016 and very much with the support of the Uckfield Volunteer Centre, the Trust found a very willing volunteer in Cambridgeshire to undertake the role of Webmaster.

May I offer readers of this Report the opportunity to review the website and comment on its images, details and content- see www.mvmt.org.uk .

Two Grant Applications have been submitted for Structural work and a third is in the course of preparation.

- 1- Submitted-One through Groundwork on behalf of Tesco for up to £5,000 for work in the northern woodland to lay and finish a footpath, and
- 2- Submitted -One recently through the Maresfield Parish Council to conduct a similar task in the western wood but involving more tree root removal and then the shaping and cutting of a footpath but after consent is sought to go over land inhabited by the Badger sett. These are known as "permitted disturbances" by Natural England, and
- 3- One application in the course of preparation to the Sussex Lund Application at the High Weald Organisation to cover the eradication of non- native trees in the Trust's case the Cherry Laurel but having to use significant applicable chemicals although this is done with the knowledge and written support of both a Scientific and Planning nature from the Woodland Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust. Only three of the Trust's Trustees are involved in this sensitive work.

Responses to Applications 2 and 3 should be known in a month or so but Application number 3 may not be known until late July. As it happens, these dates will fit well with the tasks to be done and the seasonal development of the fauna and flora.

The Site Preparation Plan has been updated and with all the above work will require its annual update.

One new element in the work introduced by a newly co-opted Member, who has introduced to the Trust the skills and management of the Freshwater Habitats Trust who in September, 2016 undertook the first ever water assessment trial of the water in the main pond. As a result of the evidence gained and the Lab. Work undertaken on the samples of the invertebrates found the main pond water was confirmed as clean and in good health. This year a further assessment will be conducted to include a review on the three types of dragonfly that use the main pond and the pond plants.

This leaves the feeder pond to be reviewed although the work conducted in the September/October time by Trustees to deepen and strengthen its sides has seen considerable improvements in the water level and cleanliness and hopefully this will remain over the summer when it usually dries completely.

Operational.

Two benches have now been installed with their legs concreted in the ground and the first of the two donated picnic tables has been installed, this by the feeder pond.

From the end of March 2016 to the 17th April, 2017 the working Party has recorded over 424 hours of mixed work on removing the invasive Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron Ponticum, cutting the island in the Main pond, deepening the Feeder pond as well as preparing the northern woodland for the footpath. This has meant removing many small cuttings, trimming damaged and low hanging trees in addition to laying the contours of the path that will form the eventual design.

The treatment to the Cherry Laurel stumps has used the existing stock of Glyphosate bullets hence the need for further grants.

The big change to the main pond design has come from creating a curve at the northern end thereby creating a complete island that previously existed only when the water level was very high. This island will become the site's safe haven for wading birds to roost.

Trials in the main pond to remove in water growing trees using the donated boat, with and without a winch as the platform for cutting operations, has not been very successful owing to its instability.

One small negative issue has been the partial blocking by an external body of a water inflow locally to the main pond that is now with the ESCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority in East Sussex for review and recommendation on action.

Social Events.

The Trust tried its first Bingo evening on 31st March in the village Hall and 35 Players enjoyed the evening winning over £120 in Prizes and returning £121 to the Trust. This will help with the 2017 Insurance costs and the need for more woodland products.

Two further Bingo evenings are planned for the 28th April and 26th May, 2017 with the Village Hall being booked. Within those dates the Trust will consider the success of the event and how far it should be carried forward. The considered operation will be one session per month excluding December.

As I prepare this draft, the Trust will be taking all those actions to hold its first Quiz of the year and eight tables have been booked with over 50 players attending. Volunteers will be preparing the hot supper and sweet.

The October Quiz went very well but it would have been better with more tables taken this time the numbers are more significant.

The day after the Quiz, St. George's Day, the Trust will be holding its Members' Bluebell Day and all will be welcome.

One small but important point, in keeping a detailed Excel spreadsheet of the activities and time invested excluding Trustee Meetings a figure in excess of 342 hours has been spent on the Trust's organisation, accounting and planning of events. This record will never be wholly accurate as the many volunteers for the first Bingo and Quiz Night have not recorded their hours and excludes the many unaccounted for hours by the Treasurer, Examiner and the Trust's Solicitors, Dawson-Hart.

Prepared 17th April, 2017
By Michael Clifton
Chairman of the Trust

Maresfield Historical Society

The purpose of Maresfield Historical Society is to promote and explore the heritage of the village and surrounding areas with regular talks, displays, guided walks, research projects, liaison with the local school and maintenance of an archive of local material. We meet about 9 times a year usually on a Tuesday on topics in Maresfield Village Hall and all our events are open to both members and non-members of the Society.

We began our 2017 -2017 programme with a visit to Marshalls Manor at the invitation of the new owners who are undertaking a massive renovation programme of this beautiful and historic property. This year our speakers have addressed a range of topics from the very local subject of life on a local farm in the early 20th century, the history of the lost village of Tidemills, post medieval iron industry in the Weald and fascinating insights into the restoration of both the Nutley Windmill and the extremely popular Bluebell Railway. We will complete our current programme with a talk on the history of our beautiful historic church, St Bartholomew's, which will take place in the Church itself.

Our programme planning for 2017 - 2018 is now underway with talks on Sussex trug making and Lewes Bonfire already in the diary.

We are a society with a small membership but have been encouraged by the number of visitors who have attended our recent talks. Naturally, we hope that they will become members in the coming year and so help us to ensure that we can continue to flourish and provide talks of interest on a variety of historical subjects.

NORTH WEALDEN COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP LTD
*(An Active Member of the Community Transport Association UK, the East Sussex
Community Transport Operators' Association and the Wealden Bus Alliance)*
2016 Report on the Wealdlink Community Bus Service – March 2017

A registered charity, based at Hodore Farm in Upper Hartfield since 2011, we operate a fleet of six minibuses, and throughout 2016 our operation consisted of:

- A pre-bookable, door-to-door shopping service funded by 8 parish and town councils and Wealden District Council
- A community trips service
- Three contracted services for East Sussex County Council: routes 224 (Crowborough-Rotherfield-Town Row–Wadhurst, also serving Crowborough Hospital – Monday, Wednesday, Friday), 225 (Heathfield Town and Battle Abbey – Tuesday and Thursday) and 226 Crowborough-Alderbrook-Rotherfield-Mayfield, also serving Palesgate Lane and Steel Cross – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday).

- A Saturday service (262) partially replacing the 261 East Grinstead-Uckfield service but operating from Hartfield and serving passengers in Nutley and Maresfield and also available to walkers on the Ashdown Forest. This service has been funded by Uckfield Town Council, Maresfield Parish Council and the Wealden Bus Alliance.

We employ, part-time, an Operations Manager (who also drives) and an Office Manager (who often acts as passenger assistant), who organise the day to day running of services and four additional part-time drivers for the contract work and we also have around 12 volunteers who drive for the shopping and trips services. **More drivers, particularly volunteers, are urgently needed.** We have six Trustees who oversee the overall management of the charity, under the chairmanship of Dave Graham, who also currently chairs the East Sussex Community Transport Operators' Association and is a Director of the Wealden Bus Alliance.

Wealdlink Shopping Service: The door-to-door shopping service, which is part-funded by contributions from the participating parishes and a service level agreement with Wealden District Council, operated on 218 days during 2016 and in that year 4,000 passenger trips (one passenger shopping journey = 2 passenger trips) took place from the 8 participating parishes (Buxted, Crowborough, Danehill, Forest Row, Frant, Hartfield, Maresfield and Withyham) to Crowborough centre, Tunbridge Wells, and Eastbourne.

Wealdlink Community Group Transport: We operated 55 community trips, including many school trips, during 2016. Trips for adults included those for church groups, walkers, older people's groups and care homes.

Contracted Services: Some changes were made in 2016 to the three services listed above, some at the request of the County Council. The majority of the passengers using these routes are concessionary bus pass holders, and they provide a much valued service for those who use them. In 2016 we provided 12,700 passenger journeys, only 500 of which were by fare-paying passengers.

The Future The Buses Bill is currently going through Parliament. The 1985 Act deregulating services failed to increase competition as intended and at present all the profitable routes are dominated by the big 5 bus companies. In East Sussex unprofitable rural routes have been relying on ESCC subsidies, but these are being reduced and the smaller operators are no longer prepared to run some routes, with the result that Community Transport operators now run some 44 routes throughout the county on a shoestring.

Statistics show that in Wealden 32.8% of households do not have access to local food shops and 31.5% have no public transport links to hospitals. An even greater percentage are unable to use public transport to get to work or to further education. Parish councils are increasingly being approached to help fund some services but should be given more say in how they are run. AiRS, 3VA & the Wealden Strategic Partnership are conducting a study at the moment which includes car schemes such as that provided by our own HATCH. Car drivers do not always realise how much it costs to keep a car on the road – this can be between £2,000 and £7,000 per annum. Older drivers are often inclined to continue driving for longer than they should from the safety perspective. All these issues need to be addressed, but community transport is a finite resource.

15/03/2017

*Enquiries to: Eduardo Angeleri (Office Manager)
or David Homewood (Operations Manager) 01892 771332*



Victim Support is a National Charity divided into local areas, to provide emotional and practical support to victims of, and witnesses to, crime. This can include Domestic Violence, Hate Crime, Rape and Homicide. All volunteers have to attend a 4 day Core Learning course with the option of doing further specialised training in supporting the above crimes.

There are approximately 200 volunteers in Sussex, a number of whom are allocated to support victims and witnesses in your Parish. Support is provided by these fully trained volunteers who work in the community and can make home visits to provide emotional and practical support, maintaining contact with the victim as long as they feel a need. They can also organise personalised alarms, food vouchers, meetings with Crime Prevention officers.

Young Witness Service volunteers prepare young witnesses for going to court by making home visits and discussing their concerns and arranging for them to visit the court to familiarise themselves with the surroundings.. Support may be over a number of visits depending on the needs of the young witness.

Volunteers are now working in the Restorative Justice programme and a number of successful meetings between offenders and victims have taken place.

We really do appreciate the ongoing support of Maresfield Parish Council to enable us to continue to recruit, train and monitor volunteers to work in your Parish with victims of crime.



COPING WITH THE
EFFECTS OF CRIME
TOGETHER

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Results for 2016/17

- Despite concerns about overspending budgets, the Council came in on target.
- The Council set a budget for 2017/18 of £365 m.
- ESCC has worked closely with the local NHS including GPs to make best use of combined budgets and the government's additional funding called the Better Care Fund.
- ESCC has acquired EU and national funds to support local businesses. It is calculated that as a direct result businesses have created 633 jobs in 200 different companies.
- The Broadband project has lifted 96% of properties to a 2mgbt level but two additional contracts have been let to increase the scope in difficult to reach areas.
- A significant capital programme has completed the Hastings to Bexhill link road, started investment in Newhaven and Eastbourne and completed schemes in Uckfield and Hailsham. A number of school building projects have also progressed.
- 87% of schools in the County are judged outstanding or good by OFSTED.

Recent Developments.

- Additional government funding of £22m over the next 3 years has stopped the need for cuts in Adult Social Care.
- Transport grants have allowed for a planned investment in drainage of £1.4m with £300k on pavements and 150k for Community match.
- The proposed new National Funding Formula for schools whilst increasing overall East Sussex funding for schools by 2.7% would have resulted in losses for most rural schools. ESCC is campaigning strongly for changes.
- A new detailed plan has been agreed on how to spend the total NHS, Better Care and Social Care funding which amounts to £862 m.

Challenges for the next 4 Years.

- Full integration of health and social care including GP services.
- Maintaining small schools.
- Encouraging more Academies and perhaps Grammar Schools.
- Making sure the Costain CH2M contract works.
- Further Broadband improvements.
- Implementing a £1m project to reduce the killed and seriously injured on our roads.

Local Issues.

- We now have the go-ahead for a 30MPH limit on Nether Lane, Nutley. This was not universally supported but the majority were in favour. It is one of the first schemes to go ahead under the revised Community Match programme.
- Work is progressing on the feasibility of options for improving road safety on the Crowborough Road.
- Having carried out a safety audit of the Maresfield Traffic scheme, officers are looking at the possibility of a crossing patrol officer to help pedestrians to cross from the recreation ground.

Roy Galley

Summary of the work of WEALDEN CITIZENS ADVICE in 2016/17

Wealden Citizens Advice (WCA) provides free, confidential, independent and impartial advice and campaign on the big issues affecting people's lives. Our goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever the problem they face.

Last year we:

- helped **4,527 people with 19,986 issues**;
- secured **around £5m in improved financial outcomes** for our clients including **over £3m in additional income** such as previously unclaimed benefits or tax credits.

A national survey of clients suggests:

- we help people **resolve 2 out of 3 problems**;
- **4 out of 5 feel less stressed** as a result;
- **95% would recommend us** and **satisfaction rating** with the service is **over 90% - it was 100% for WCA** last year!

We also take part in specific projects. For example, we have just finished a 6 month pilot Money Advice project where we worked with the Clinical Commissioning Group. A summary of the outcomes shows how successful this has been:

- **111 clients were helped**;
- **4 in every 5 clients had a long term health issue or disability**, with over three quarters saying their health was poor or very poor and two thirds saying that illness/accident had contributed to their financial difficulties. Half of all clients had mental health issues. We estimate that these clients have had **over 600 GP appointments in the last 6 months**;
- **Half of all clients said their financial difficulties had made their lives nearly unbearable**, with two thirds in serious difficulty and behind on many bills including essentials such as housing, water and energy;
- **Over £1.2m in debt managed**, with **average client indebtedness over £11k**;
- **£0.5m in debt written off** so far for clients who started their advice in this period;
- **9 out of 10 clients** who have completed their advice said they felt: more in control of their finances; less stressed/anxious; more able to manage their finances and with greater peace of mind for the future.