

The

Parish

News



What's on and What you missed

In & around

Ninfield & Hove

April 2026

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



St Mary's

St Oswald's

2nd April

Maundy Thursday 7.00p.m. Parish Eucharist

3rd April

Good Friday 2.00p.m. Final Hour 11.00 Stations of the Cross

5th April

Easter Day 9.30 Parish Eucharist 11.00 Family Service

12th April

No Service 11.00 Joint Parish Eucharist

19th April

9.30 Family Eucharist 11.00 Parish Eucharist

26th April

No Service 11.00 Parish Eucharist

Opening times for Private Prayer

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

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

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

APPOINTMENTS All enquiries about

Baptism, Marriages, reading of Banns or any other Church matters should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

PARISH NEWS

Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the writer and not of the Parish Churches or PCCs unless it so states.

This publication is produced and distributed by Members of both Parish Churches.

Dear Friends,

You will be reading this letter at Eastertide when the whole Church acclaim **'He is risen! He is risen indeed!'** My prayer is that becomes a very real experience for each of you and your loved ones. And that through that acclamation you will experience the greatest gift of all, the Love of God. I am writing though in early March. Right now, the world seems an even more uncertain place than in the recent past and I have no way of knowing what circumstances will prevail in April. They will, I pray, be better than now as I view the distressing images before me in both Ukraine and now in the Middle East.

Many of you will have seen photographs of small groups of Christians continuing to meet for worship in Ukraine. You will have seen pictures of damaged buildings and of remarkable places of worship open to attack. The desperation of the people in Ukraine mirrors the anguish and hopelessness of too many people throughout the ages, not least the followers of Jesus in the days after his execution. The first disciples hid away seeking safety, just as many are doing now in Kyiv and now in Iran the surrounding countries.

Those who have been close witnesses of war and devastation sometimes make observations which stop us in our tracks. I recall a war correspondent, Christine Lamb, who wrote 'It is in the darkest skies that you find the brightest stars'. The people she met in the extremes of her work as she was reporting, restored her faith in humanity. It is that humanity and God's relationship with it which is at the heart of the Easter story. For whatever occurred that first Easter it was the restoration of the faith and confidence of the followers of Jesus which was the miraculous outcome of those events. And it is the restoration of the faith and confidence of disciples today which continues to tell the eternal truths.

Easter is about God's gift of new life to everyone. Of course, we use symbols to help us celebrate the mystery and will do so again this year, but Easter is about much, much more than those symbols. It is about an eternal Love which goes beyond anything we can imagine. A Love which restores our confidence and enables us to continue witnessing to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. A love which excels all other gifts from God and elsewhere. It is this love which is the source of new life. In the last few months, I have been thrilled and excited not just by the evidence of new life emerging in our gardens and countryside but by so much in our Church.

What will matter more than anything though, in our homes, in Church, in our communities and, yes, internationally, is if we experience once more that assurance of God's eternal love for men, men, children and the whole of creation which emboldened the first disciples and then the early Church.

One of the most ancient symbols of Easter is the butterfly. They have been used as symbols of the resurrection for generations. Emerging from the darkness of the chrysalis, the caterpillar is transformed into a glorious butterfly. The challenge we face, as individuals, as Church, and in our communities is to transform ourselves into butterflies which reflect God's glory both now and into eternity. It is we, the recipients of the greatest gift of all, God's love, who must continue our journey towards The Kingdom of God. Whatever our circumstances, whatever our means, it is our responsibility to respond to the Love of God in the same way as the first disciples as they learnt of the empty tomb and met the resurrected Christ for themselves.

May God be with you in your journeying at this time and a very Happy and Blessed Easter to you all. Paul

PRAYER

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible. Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us. In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime. In Jesus' name. Amen. By Daphne Kitching

When you mix children and religion...

The following are extracts from religious exam papers...

In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark because Noah built an ark. The animals came on in pears.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

News from St Oswald's

The last month, February, has been quiet in the Church. The Bell ringers rang a quarter peel in February for Simon Pattisson, who was their Tower Captain for several years. They will ring again at Simon's thanks giving service on Thursday 19th March at 11.30am.

We are now in Lent, and on the 15th March, it was Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday is 29th March and then the build up, to Easter.

On Saturday March 7th we had a Church and Churchyard Spring Clean. Thank you to all the helpers that turned up. Also, thank you to all the cleaners that take their turn to clean the church weekly. We were able to clean the most inaccessible places in the church and have a big bash at the brambles in the church yard. It is a challenge to keep the church yard tidy. We depend on the help of volunteers throughout the year. It is a church yard first and foremost and we were able to clear a lot of graves that have been neglected for many years. We do our best to allow nature to thrive in the church yard. It is a constant balancing act between nature and being pristine.

The year rushes on and as Spring has just arrived, we start thinking of our summer events. The Church Garden Party is on 4th July. We have a band of regular helpers, but if you are able to come and assist or would like to contribute some ideas, please contact either of the churchwardens (contact numbers below). Our church team is ageing and we have seen other helpers move away. Your help would be greatly appreciated. It is the end of another administering year. We need to elect two Church Wardens and there are four positions on the PCC to fill. Also, we have two positions on the Deanery Synod to fill. The meeting for these elections is on Sunday 19th April. Election of Church Wardens will be at 12.15pm followed by the APCM (Annual Parish Church Meeting) which reports on what the PCC (the trustees) have done over the last 12 months. The accounts of the church, reporting the income and expenditure of the church, are also presented. Those of you, who are on the Church Electoral roll, can attend and vote. It is an important annual meeting. We are seeking younger members, to take up positions to continue the work in our small country Parish.

There is little to report about the Toilet extension as we are still waiting for an update from our Architect. The Planning is on hold until we know the results of having trial trenches dug to ascertain, what is under the area we are proposing to build over.

Church Wardens Jack 892576, Nicki 893867

News from our churches

A Date for your diary - St. Mary's are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 23rd May from 10am to 12 noon.

The Friendly Voices will again be singing at this event.

Archdeacons Visit

The new archdeacon will be taking the joint service at St.

Oswald's on Sunday 12th April at 11am. It is hoped that he will be able to answer questions about the future of both churches, although at present he is just getting to know the area. It will make a change for me to sit in the congregation! Paul

APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

These will be held at St Mary's on Sunday 19th April at 9.30 and at St Oswald's on the same day after the 11am service in church. All are welcome to each meeting. There are forms in both churches for the Electoral Roll, PCC, Churchwardens. At these meetings we not only look back over the past year but also look forward to the year ahead. Paul

Editors' Comment...

'Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdie is' well I know where some of them are - in our chimney judging by the echoing tweeting we hear every afternoon!!

Don't the villages look lovely with all the beautiful daffodils and other spring flowers..

A big thank to our distributors for collecting (most) of this year's subscriptions. We know its a thankless task and thank goodness it is only once a year.

Nicki & Carol



March Diary

MARCH	Venue	Page
26 th Lunch Club	Methodist	9
27 th Men's Shed	Sparke Pavilion	32
27 th Ladies Lounge	Working Men's	25
28 th Horti Spring Show	Memorial Hall	11
31 st Easter Basket Class	Memorial Hall	18

APRIL

9 th Ninfield History AGM	Methodist Hall	9
10 th Open Group	Methodist Hall	20
11 th HVCG Coffee Morning	St Oswald's	29
11 th Writing workshop	Methodist Hall	32
13 th Flower Club	Memorial Hall	13
14 th Film Matinee	Memorial Hall	18
16 th Hooe History Society	St Oswald's	15
16 th Ninfield Parish Council Meeting	Methodist Hall	12
18 th Foods & Crafts Market	Memorial Hall	20
18 th HVCG Footpath Walk	Hooe	29
19 th St. Mary's APCM	St Mary's	6
19 th St Oswald's APCM	St Oswald's	6
23 rd Lunch Club	Methodist Hall	9
24 th Ladies Lounge	Working Men's	11
25 th Quiz Night	Memorial Hall	10
30 th Working Men's Club AGM	Working Men's	11

More News from St. Oswald's

St. Oswald's has something to celebrate! By the time this goes to print you will be hearing a joyous sound on Sunday mornings. Tucked away in the bell tower, learners have been, dedicatedly, taught the ropes, to be able to ring the parish to church on Sundays on all 5 bells. It's been a while since 5 bells have been fully rung on a Sunday and as people know there has been a lot of chiming going on! Robert Pilbeam and Rob Richardson are now competent in handling a rope when the bell is up. So well done to you both for sticking with it. It's the start of a very rewarding, absorbing hobby, a passport to ring at churches around the country and have an interesting, social, and fun time whilst learning a traditional skill. Thank you to their mentors that come from out of the parish and have their own churches to ring at on Sundays. We need more local ringers. Please give it a go yourself.

We practise on Wednesdays 5.30 to 6.30 or Saturdays 9.30 to 11.30 with a break for tea and a chat. If it's for you please call Peter Ballard on 01424 210980 or Alan Pink on 07766258118 or email Alan.pink@mac.com

Thank you Carole Ballard

Can you help?

Over the years John and Cynthia Fairclough have done a great job in the role of Treasurer and PCC Secretary to St Oswald's, Hooe. However, they now feel that the time has come to hand over the reins to someone else which I totally understand. If you are able to help in any way, would you please contact either myself or the wardens at St Oswald's. Paul

FRIENDLY VOICES

From 2nd April all of our sessions will be held in the St. Mary's church. If you are walking by, please feel free to come in and listen or join in! Times and days have not changed - we meet Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and Thursday afternoon at 2pm. Anyone is welcome to come along. I

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The AGM will be held on Thursday 9th April 2026. This will be followed by a presentation on the Brasseys, Normanhurst and the Victorian Dream . Presented by Brian Stockton, the talk will focus on how the Brassey family was the product of the extraordinary industrial energy of the Victorian period, how it became established in the local community through the building and occupation of Normanhurst Court and ultimate demise of this country house and estate, a fate shared by many houses in the 20th century.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Methodist Hall in Church Lane 7.30 p.m. to 9.00p.m.

We welcome members and non members

info@ninfieldlocalhistorygroup.org.uk.

Brian Stockton, Chair, Ninfield Local History group

Lunch Club

The next lunch club will meet on Thursday 26th March and then 23rd April. If you would like a place, contact Sam on 07484 847933.

Ladies Lounge

The Ladies Lounge will meet on Friday 27 March from 4.30 to 6.30 pm at Ninfield Working Men's Club (The Tin Hut). This relaxed and friendly meeting is for Ladies of all ages to relax, have a drink, (alcoholic or otherwise), nibbles, cakes and enjoy the chance of having a chat about anything and everything in a convivial atmosphere. A donation only of £1 to the Tin Hut's Charity, plus very reasonable drinks prices! Contact Sami for more details: 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

EARLY HEADS UP!!

AN AFTERNOON TEA IN MAY !!

The Health and Wellbeing Group would love to invite everyone to come together for an Afternoon Tea, with Cake, in our beautiful St Mary's Church, on Saturday 30th May, from 3pm - 5pm. Hopefully this will be the launch of regular get togethers, for chat, information, fun, entertainment and the chance to catch up with friends, neighbours and Ninfield groups, clubs and societies.

More information next month, and look out for further details on notice boards, websites and social media.

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 25th APRIL

QUIZ NIGHT

DOORS OPEN 7.00 pm START 7.30 pm

£8.50 pay at the door, cash or card

Includes light supper, bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tables of 6, booking essential

Ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.co.uk or 01424 8923326

If you emailed last month, sorry, please do so again as wrong email address in last month's advert!

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

By the time you read this, we would have had our Spring Show and filled the Memorial Hall with spring flowers (hopefully!). Results and a full report in the May Parish News.

Last year it was too dry and this year it's been too wet - we gardeners are never happy - but we should have some spare seedlings ready for our Plant Market on 25th April. Plus various plants propagated by enthusiastic attendees of our talk on 9th March. Our stand in speaker, Hannah Fox of Bright Green Fox, gave us all some great tips on various propagating methods. It will be too early for my attempt at cuttings from the famous Lower Street rose (maybe next year), but I am sure we will have some of Ivan's lovely rose plants. I already have dianthus, lavender, exhibition onions and cherry tomatoes, plus a few others in the greenhouse and we welcome any donations you may have. I can either collect them the day before or you can bring them along to the Memorial Hall (from 8am). Doors open at 9am and, as well as plants there will be time for refreshments and then going back to the tables of plants for anything you may have missed!

Our next evening talk will be on May 18th. Dr Mick Lynn will be giving a talk on Gardening for Wildlife. Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start and all are welcome, you do not need to be a member.

What's on at Ninfield Working Men's Club in April

Happy hour every Friday 7pm to 8pm

Chase the Ace Members Draw on Fridays from 9pm

Ladies Lounge last Friday of every month 4:30pm to 6:30pm come and join on the 24th April for tea coffee and bar cakes, chat, relax and unwind members and non members welcome.

Working Mens Club AGM Thursday 30th April

Important - Ninfield Carnival and Sports Association Update

At our last meeting on the 2nd March co-Chair Sami Hughes-Guard stood down at our meeting with immediate effect. Our Treasurer, Kaye Crittall and Secretary Catriona Smith gave notice that they were standing down at the AGM in October. I want to thank Sami (and Robin), Kaye and Cat for all their incredible and selfless work with Carnival over the years raising huge sums of money for charity.

By the time you read this we will have held an Extraordinary meeting to discuss the plan going forwards. This plan will include not only securing a committee for the future of our amazing carnival association but also ensuring we have a Constitution fit for purpose, determine what we are and get this actioned (charity, CIC or Ltd company) as well as discussing the best way forward with events for this year. We love bringing these events to our village and we know you love them but in order to run these events we need supporters and helpers both in the run up to, on and after these events.

It's now time for people to come and support the Carnival Committee; if you would like to get involved please call/message me or contact us at ninfieldcarnival@gmail.com.

Ninfield Carnival and Sports Association was 90 years old last year and I want to future proof the Association for the next 90 years.

Donna Powell Interim Chair

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

NINFIELD METHODIST HALL

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 6.30PM

The Councillors meet third Thursday of the month and all residents are welcome to go along, so please go along!

Ninfield Flower Group

The dynamic Ben Cross gave us a fascinating talk on his flower business growing Alstroemerias at our March meeting.

If you supported our jumble sale, either bringing things along to sell or coming to buy, thank you. We had a very successful afternoon. However, this is the last jumble sale we will hold for the foreseeable future. Our grateful thanks to the members of Ninfield Bonfire Society who came along to help us clear up at the end. We are nearly on our knees by then and you know you are so appreciated.

Our next demonstration will be on Monday April 13th when Duncan Grant will be creating arrangements on the theme of Rottingdean Delights. Refreshments 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

Visitors welcome £5.

Helen Cunliffe

Chairman

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL METHODIST HALL

THURSDAY 16th April 6.30pm

The Councillors meet third Thursday of the month, all residents are welcome to go along, so please go along!

WHISKERWATCH PET SITTING

Local animal-loving pet sitter available to do pop-in visits, longer stays as required and overnight / holiday stays in pet's own home. Enhanced DBS and fully insured. (Known as Helen from Evri). Sit, stay and play! 07865 663 675



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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker this month is Stuart Corner with his talk on The Secret Life of the Honey Bee. The plot is in the title – to say anything else, would be to give away the story! We meet as usual in St Oswald's church on Thursday 16th April at 7.30 p.m. with refreshments to follow.

DID YOU KNOW... My parents married at the end of March 1946, just after the second world war, when rationing remained in place. Mum had been in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, based at Bamburgh on the north-east coast, where she first met Dad. She was, at the time of writing this, demobbed and living at The Tallies, Hooe, with her parents, sister Audrey and brothers Don and Gerald. Here is an excerpt from one of her letters to Dad (in Ilford) ahead of their wedding. It was written about 80 years ago, almost to the day and just goes to remind us how their generation had to struggle through life, even after the war had finished. It is a far cry from the world we live in today.... or is it?

...I was up early again – and such a lovely morning. I was in the mood for work and was able to get through it by 10 o'clock, so started on the ironing which kept me busy until 12. Then this afternoon Mum and I have been into Bexhill to try and organise a few more things for 30th. It has been quite a successful afternoon. First of all we tried one shop for cakes, which had previously refused Mum, when she asked at Christmas – but we spun a good yarn and the manageress is going to let us have some things such as fancy cakes, and shortbreads –but we have to supply the sugar, so we are doing this, 2lb will do about 4 doz. cakes. Then we tried another shop, and they are doing sandwiches, sausage rolls (but we have to find 3lb sausages) bridge rolls (we are supplying eggs for filling) and fancy cakes and sponges. Also we are getting some ham from our grocer, so will be able to make a few ham sandwiches. We still have another little shop to go to which are going to help us out. Then there will be our own things we are making – such as jellies, trifles and blancmanges, iced coffee sandwiches, and various other things, such as jam tarts etc: from our own bakers. So I think we shall have plenty, it has certainly relieved my mind a lot. Do you think all this will be O.K. We also get tea, sugar and milk ration from one of the shops where we are getting the sandwiches from. The girl was sweet and very helpful. The only thing that is worrying me, is where we shall be able to get 3lb sausage meat.(Cont...)

While we were in Bexhill we enquired about my flowers and the Bridesmaids, they are going to be terribly expensive, mine alone at the moment would cost about £3, the others 15/- each, but the woman told me that in three weeks they would come down perhaps quite a lot. She couldn't tell until a week before hand. Anyway she promised me she would make a perfect Bouquet for me. I think I shall have pink carnations, and cream roses with the fern. I think it would look very pretty... (More of Mum's letter next month)

Peter Hayward

a

A Poem!

A little Dormouse came to stay.
Not known to us until he lost his way.
Had he made a home to hibernate?
Not to know his turn of fate.
He appeared on the lawn out of the blue.
Where was the nest? I hadn't a clue.
He was barely breathing, and very cold.
I had no idea if he was young or old.
So I snapped him quickly with Google Lens.
Afraid he would be eaten by Hens.
Google said he was a rare Hazel Dormouse.
Now very sadly without a house.
So rare he is on the endangered list.
Curled up in a ball that I could have missed.
Maybe he had come from Ingrams farm.
Where building and bulldozers could do him harm.
A dash to Bexhill sanctuary was needed.
Lets hope he lives to the man I pleaded.
Into an incubator he was to be placed.
So off I hurried in great haste.
A little girl at the age of six.
Made in our garden a nest of sticks.
She thought back to Ninfield he might walk.
If only the little mouse could talk.
It cheered her to see him on the news BBC.
And a mention in the observer, as well as can be.
Soon to be released back into the wild,
To the relief of Grandma and a happy child.

News from Ninfield CE Primary School

It has been another busy few weeks in school, and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the wonderful learning experiences taking place at Ninfield.

TIME TO DANCE



We had the opportunity to watch the children from Ninfield perform on the stage at the White Rock Theatre in *Time to Dance*. *Time to Dance* is a celebration of dance that brings children together from local primary and secondary schools to learn and perform routines linked to a shared theme.

This year's theme was The Past, and the children at Ninfield performed a brilliant Egyptian-themed dance. The girls looked absolutely stunning in their Egyptian costumes and danced beautifully, with huge smiles and real confidence on stage. We were also incredibly proud that our group included the youngest performers of the evening, with children participating from Year 1 all the way to Year 6. The older pupils supported and encouraged the younger ones, helping them feel confident and perform at their very best. It was a wonderful evening full of pride, joy and celebration.



READING SCRAPBOOK CHALLENGE

Thank you and well done to everyone who entered a Reading Scrapbook page. The Headteacher and Head of School had great fun looking through the entries and even found some new reading inspiration along the way!

They were so impressed not only by the books chosen, but also by the creativity and care that went into the presentation. The drawings, photos and thoughtful embellishments made each page eye-catching and unique, and it was wonderful to see how much pride those children took in their work. Well done to everyone who took part!

We look forward to catching up with you in the next edition.

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.

Film Matinees

Over 40 people enjoyed Calendar Girls, the first film of the 2026 season. Our next film is on Tuesday 14th April and is Elvis in King Creole. Films are held in Ninfield Memorial Hall. Screening and refreshments are free and films are dementia friendly and have subtitles. Doors open at 1.30pm for the screening at 2.00pm. Do come and join us for a friendly and relaxed afternoon. To ensure enough cake, please book a place by contacting Jackie or Rose on 01424 892422 or email Jackie jackie.langley1@btinternet.com

Book Exchange and Community Café

Methodist Hall 10-1130 on Friday.

There won't be a café on Friday 3 April as it is Good Friday. The book exchange will take place the following Friday (10th). Donations asked for books and refreshments. There is a wide range of books and good company. You will be made to feel very welcome if you'd like to join us. Contact David on 07989 729123 or dj_swales@hotmail.com

Men's Shed

Now an established friendly group meeting at Sparke Pavilion. 10 am last Friday of the month. Men putting the world to rights over free coffee. For more information contact Dave: 01424 892883.

Health Walks

Every Thursday. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an hour. Meet 11am at Sparke Pavilion at Ninfield Recreation Ground off Church Lane. A few more walkers welcome. Please wear suitable footwear. Contact Robin: 07940 324601 or robin@plowmate.plus.com

Women's Crafting and Knitting Circle

Weekly 10.30am – 12.30pm on Friday. £5 per session. A well established friendly group. Phone Jane on 892428 for more details.

CFW has come to an end.

Very sadly after many years and many exciting activities, so many organised by Pam Doodes and the committee, we have wound up. We owe a huge thank you to Pam who promoted and tirelessly nurtured 'fellowship' to the members that mainly came from Ninfield and Hooe with others that wanted to feel the 'hug' of friendship at the monthly meetings.

Pam says that

'26 years since she took over the helm have flown by, things have changed over the years but, thanks to you, the members, the group has always been cheerful, friendly and comfortable. I hope we all keep in touch.

Since 1999 we have held just under 1300 meetings, listened to a variety of speakers, some excellent, others ghastly, enjoyed afternoons of discussion and games, Summer teas and Christmas lunches. In the early days we had visits to the Eastbourne Pantomime, a visit to Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice and picnics in the park. We were also very successful raising much needed funds for the Children's Hospice and other charities by organising coffee mornings in gardens and in halls, enormous Craft Fairs and taking stalls at Boot Fairs. In all, this little group can proudly say that we raised just under £20,000, plus donations given to speakers talking about the charities they represented.'

The members would like to give Pam and Peter a huge 'hug' with thanks for the fun.

Past members and committee members need to be remembered too. Thank you.

Carole Ballard

Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

We met on Friday 13th March at the Methodist Hall and despite it being 13th we had a very enjoyable meeting. We were treated to a talk by Allan Tipping who was a game-keeper in Norfolk before he moved to Hooe. His subject was fish. He started by going back into prehistory when the Clovis people migrating to Alaska before the ice age melted the land bridge to separate Europe from the Americas. He said that fish were far more plentiful back then and lots of small fish were easier to catch and as they were eaten whole they were a great source of protein, carbohydrate and fat. They had traps made from plant fibres so that fish could swim but be unable to get out. So, you could leave them and do other things. He then talked about the various types of freshwater fish, especially salmon and trout as they were prized for having a stronger flavour than the rather bland taste of other fish that were allowed to be caught by common (or coarse) people. In more modern times fish and especially eels were fished by monks as meat was not eaten on Fridays. Time went by quickly and then we all had cake and tea and a time to catch up with friends.

Our next meeting is 10th April. 2.00pm in the Methodist Hall, Ninfield. All welcome.

Nicki & Heather

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

FOODS & CRAFTS MARKET

9.30 - 12.30

local meat from Helen,

fruit & veg, bread & cheese from Sarah

Cakes & bakes from Anne & Jo, Fern's delicious honey,

Linda's amazing jams & chutneys

lovely locally made crafts and more!

Pop in for tea or coffee and a bite to eat

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In recent issues of the Parish News there have been several pieces on World War II. One told of evacuees staying in Hooe to avoid London's raids. I thought the enclosed would show what evacuees had safely avoided:

Dust in the Trees

I remember the war, the bombs, the raids,
blackout and sirens but memory fades.
I remember nights of sleepless fear,
waiting, waiting for sounds of all clear.
I remember the throb of an enemy plane,
steadily nearer, it's mission insane.
I remember the dread as the engine cut,
the rush of air before it blew up.
I remember the crash, the rumbles, the roars
of falling bricks when a flying bomb scores.
I remember a sense of mingled relief,
"Not us this time, but another's grief. "
I remember the sight devastation leaves,
then stared down the road at dust in the trees,
now each tree under a covering of white.
So much, too much, was happening that night
with dust and destruction as a gliding bomb falls,
and dust from ceilings and once solid walls.
But I'll never forget how that home had gone
as the sky lightened to birds' innocent song.

by Margaret Siddall

Note:

V1 flying bombs (also called doodle bugs) were pilotless aircraft, carrying a bomb, they were catapulted into the air. The fuel was expected to reach central London, but it was insufficient so the engines cut out and they glided down on South London where they exploded.

V2 rockets, were noiseless until they landed with a horrendous crash causing more damage to a much wider area.

Listen with Mother

Nina: Scrolling through social media I came across a fascinating and thought-provoking article about missed opportunities. It was about all the questions that people wished that they had asked loved ones before losing them... so having the opportunity I asked my mother and here are her answers. Question 1 - What was your proudest moment?

Margaret: Mmmm, I wouldn't say proudest – pleased perhaps! In 2022, just before I moved to Hooe, I won the Devon Radio annual writing competition in conjunction with the area WI. The subject title was "Open your eyes" as a sonnet. First, I had to find out the rules for a sonnet, not something I had written before, and submit my entry.

Nina: So, what was your proudest moment?

Margaret: I was delighted when my neighbours brought a large trophy into me in hospital telling me my sonnet had won the competition.

Nina: I remember that highlight well and it is a great piece of writing. You brought that cup with you when you moved here to Hooe. I think one of my proudest moments is when you asked me to accompany you to the Queen's Garden Party to celebrate your charitable work in Devon. What a special day we had. So, question 2 - What was your funniest moment?

Margaret: I still laugh when I think about it! I have an electric foot spa which a friend said she would set up for me. Water went in then something from a selection of spa products my niece had given me. When the water started bubbling up the bubbles started to rise. As I swished my feet around the bubbles rose and rose, I lifted my feet as my friend was trying to remove the bubbles. She managed to gather up a huge armful of synthetic bubbles and let them loose in the garden. When she returned another armful had risen. We were both laughing and laughing as more armfuls were let loose in the garden. I am laughing now...

Nina: I remember the photos and the laughter we had at your antics. Do you fancy a footbath now?

Margaret: Oh yes please! Now, where are those spa products...

Margaret Siddall, Nina Siddall-Ward, Hooe

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News, Reviews, Updates and Goodbyes...

LADIES LOUNGE: I do hope to see you at our Ladies Lounge gathering at the end MARCH which is FRIDAY 27th, from 4.30pm, at the Working Men's Club! Come and enjoy some lovely relaxed, supportive, fun company with fabulous women! The Bar will be open, the open fire (if cold outside)roaring and welcoming, and snacks and cake available! There's shoulders to cry on, jokes to be laughed at and support to be treasured. Huge thanks go again to Debby, Belinda and the Committee of the WMC for their wonderful ongoing support. Next date APRIL 24th. Call me 07970650321 for more information.

A LIFE OF JOY!

To celebrate my lovely Mama, I am doing an Afternoon Tea, with added Fizzy, on Friday 3rd April, Good Friday, which would have been her 92nd Birthday; at the Memorial Hall, from 3-5.30pm, and those who knew Joy over the years are most welcome to come; there'll be music, chat, stories and laughter... Please, please let me know, really quickly, if you would like to join us- so I can get numbers for catering purposes! As I said before, Mum loved the Hall, and everything that goes on here in the Village- she was a super fan of Pat's sausage rolls and always was first to buy any raffle tickets! Call or text 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com
Thank you .

YESS!!! CHARITY DANCEATHON CHALLENGE

65@65 in 6.5 hrs...COMPLETED!

What an amazing day...a LONG day...setting up, cooking food, 6.5 hours dancing, then taking it all down and getting out...But...

It wouldn't have happened without the incredible support, kindness, help and confidence from lovely friends. The 'Support Crew' - Kaye Crittall - so brilliantly manning the kitchen and donations, ably helped by Janice Wood and Sally Parry and they all also danced through various sections through the day. And to Robin, my other half, who did the Bar and brought the very necessary bottle to me at 9.40pm, as I finished the last Burlesque steps...! Tracey Dixon, Deborah Sweetman, Helen Rawlinson - such amazing help and positivity, my fabulous friends who just keep dancing! Celia Hoad and Naomi Shrubbs (Reeves) 2 stunningly beautiful young Mums, gorgeous friends, who danced as youngsters, and are now rebooting their passion, alongside their incredible dancing daughters and who stayed all day, tried every dance, picked the routines up photographically and who's absolute joy of dancing helped keep me going to the end. (And, those last 30 dances were, fast furious and INTENSE to say the least!!!) Oh...and they helped take lights down, clear up food and bar and made the get out SO much easier! Stars! So many local people came, went home, and came back! And some came over from classes in other areas. It was such a lovely atmosphere, lots of fun and laughter. Thank You ! I'm still processing it all; the body held out well actually! Looking at little bits of video is bittersweet, I'm still 42 in my head!!!

But, I think my darling Mama, Joy, would have been proud. I think she was watching, somewhere; she took me for my first dance class 62.5 years ago; I miss her.

So....the reason why I did this Fundraising Challenge, marking my 65th birthday?... At time of writing the total from the Gofundme link and Cash donations is £3,310- I'm absolutely gobsmacked! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED AND SUPPORTED THE TWO CHARITIES- M.N.D & ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY, MUSIC PROJECTS. Every penny will go towards the ongoing research, and care, for both Charities - 50/50.

2 last things...

1- to the gorgeous Nicola Filshie - you are an inspiration; your bravery at being the face for MND Scotland is extraordinary- and so vital: in the mix of so many Rugby chaps diagnoses...your glorious dancing, singing, acting Persona is a beacon for Women battling this dreadful disease, thank you.

And-

2 - to ALL 'Ladies of an Age'...NEVER think you 'can't' or you 'shouldn't'; just bloomin' do it; because you Can, and you Should!!! Much love, and so many thanks again.

LINE DANCE CLASSES- are a HIT!!! We're having SO much FUN!

A few spaces are still available. All classes are at the Memorial Hall; fortnightly on Tuesdays- 2.30-3.30pm and Fridays 6.30-7.30pm, all classes £6 pp/per class.

Everyone is welcome, Ladies, Gents, youngsters, it's purely for Fun-but of course you can don the Stetsons and Cowboy Boots if you want to! Beginners are very welcome, as are those who 'haven't done it for years!' It's very good exercise and VERY fashionable at the moment!! 07970 650321 Yeeeha!!

MOVEMENT & DANCE:

Dance classes continue in 2026, running as follows on a weekly basis

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

TUESDAYS (Alternates) LINE DANCING Memorial Hall 2.30-3.30pm

WEDNESDAY 6.30pm DANCERCISE Memorial Hall

THURSDAY 9.30am SILVER SWANS BALLETT Methodist Hall

FRIDAY (alternates) Memorial Hall

6.30pm BALLROOM,

7.30pm BURLESQUE/SHOW DANCE.

LINE DANCE- 6.30 - 7.30pm (alternates)

All classes are £6 pp per class.

Don't forget the Mantra...Move it, or Lose it...it's SO beneficial to Dance, Exercise or Move during the week...you'll feel better in mind, body and spirit!!!!

Thanks for all help, interest, and continued support for all classes, shows, events...please come to meetings or get together....

CALL 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

FB. NINFIELD CARNIVAL FÊTE AND EVENTS. (This page will continue!)

NINFIELD CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION!

This was my entry for March...

" Plans are already gathering pace for The Summer Carnival, Fête and Event, which will be the weekend of 26/27th June 2026. There's also a plan for an extra Fundraising event in May; more details as they become available! Committee members will be at the Saturday markets , hoping to sign up willing helpers, Volunteers and Sponsors for the various elements of all the events...." Since then things have changed, rather dramatically. Whatever rumours, Chinese whispers you may have heard, the FACT to underpin all the current flux and uncertainty with Carnival 2026 is that, unfortunately, the Battel Bonfire Boyes changed their usual mid July date for their Big Weekend fundraiser and announced, at the end of February, their 2026 event to be held on Saturday 27th June - the date already checked, decided, and announced for Ninfield Carnival, Procession and Fête. There is a protocol, a courtesy, among societies, and villages, that generally stops events clashing with each other- after all, it's in everyone's interests to keep dates clear of competition when relying on footfall for fundraising. But although NCA had publicised our dates in the Observer, this Parish Magazine and lightly on social.media, B.B.B are deemed bigger, and their event very well attended, and vital for their Fireworks fundraising. It looked to be 'Event suicide' to try and compete. After much discussion at the meeting on 2nd March, I felt I had to step back from decision making , and the role as Co-Chair, although the statement released some days later rather inferred I had resigned completely...!!! Also minuted at that meeting was the resignation of the Treasurer, and Secretary at the forthcoming AGM in October. This however was my eventual statement in the Observer..

NCA- "Well, better update everyone.... Sadly, after the last meeting, Monday 2nd March, I decided to step back from the role of Co-Chair with immediate effect. The time has come; I've been on the Committee for nearly 21years, and Chair for 12yrs: - some say "Too Long"...and I guess that's the problem- I, and Robin; well, here's the question, are we too old???! We are happily of the old school; we like to do our voluntary work with fun, banter and the will and wish to get a good job done , with trust, friendship and passionate creativity. Mickey Rooney, well known American film star, famously said in a movie with Judy Garland..."Of course we can! My Dad's got a barn...we can do the show right here!" Well, not in this H&S, Risk assessed, AI, litigious world; it's now much tougher and far less spontaneous! We have always been up front and centre with our accountancy, our publicity, our fundraising, our donations and, of course, our Charity work- and I'm so proud to have helped raise many tens of thousands of pounds in my 21 years with Ninfield Carnival & Sports Association. Whatever happens next with NCA, I wish the new regime every success; we'll help out if and when we can, and I hope that the Village continues to enjoy the established high standard of 1st class, professional, brilliant, wacky, fundraising Carnival entertainment for 2026 and beyond! Next NCA meeting is diared for 30th March, with an Extraordinary Meeting booked at Sparke Pavilion for 2.30pm, Sunday 22nd March."I'm sure there will be Carnival meeting, and Event announcements elsewhere in the Magazine. Thank you, as always, for your support over the years- so much appreciated by both Robin and I.

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

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

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



Our forthcoming events

Coffee Morning - Saturday 11th April: 10.30 - 12.00 Homemade refreshments – Free to use book and jigsaw library – Great company!! Why would one miss it?!

Saturday 18th April – A NEW EVENT In response to popular demand, we have arranged an HVCG Footpath Walk. Those of you who have joined our walks before will remember just how enjoyable they are!

- **Saturday 18th April**
- Meet at 10.00 in the Red Lion Car Park
- The walk should last no longer than 2 hours
- Well behaved dogs (and children!) welcome, but we must take care when on farmers' land
- Strong shoes advised, warm/maybe wet weather gear and perhaps liquid refreshment
- We will have our mobile phones fully charged and ready – perhaps you could all do the same? Safety first!
- This walk will not be too arduous – gently does it!!
- Following the walk, we are sure that some will wish to linger over a drink at the pub or meet at Hope Cottage. Please arrange this with your friends and fellow walkers!

Please keep an eye out for further information which will be available nearer the date. In the past we have given details of convenient points to drop out of the walk or join it if a shorter route is preferred.

We will send a final update to all those on our email list.

Saturday 9th May - Coffee Morning – all the usual attractions!

June 13th/14th Open Gardens weekend: At last, the weather is changing for the better. Our gardeners are so relieved to be able to set to in their gardens and start preparing for our Open Garden weekend. It's hard work getting ready to open a garden but very enjoyable, especially when one witnesses just how much pleasure folk get from their visits.

We have decided to keep the entry price the same as before. For just £5.00 one can spend a whole day visiting all the gardens on show and sharing ideas.

If you would like to open your garden, Gary (01424 893007) will be thrilled to hear from you. We can always find room for more gardens, the greater the variety on show the better.

As you can imagine staging an event such as this can take time and energy. We organise and plan car parking, risk assessments, insurance, signage, literature, marquee, garden tearoom, homemade refreshments and more. Whilst we really enjoy this, we would welcome a little help – in fact, the more the merrier! We'd love to hear from you if you would like to get involved.

I can hear someone saying that this event clashes with the usual monthly coffee morning. Please don't worry - you can still enjoy coffee with your friends but at a different venue. For this month only we will be transferring the coffee morning to the garden of Elizabethan Cottages where refreshments will be served from 10.30.

Please visit our website: www.hooe-open-gardens.com

Other events to look out for:

- Regular coffee mornings
- St Oswald's Church Summer Event – HVCG always happy to help!
- Beetle Drive – under consideration
- Your suggestions for events are always considered!!

Advertising the event!

Have you seen our smart new banners?

We are grateful for Peter D for organising them, and Robert for erecting them monthly



This month our Useful Chap is Jack



In addition to moving furniture he always ensures the church is warm and welcoming. He is also rather partial to copious cups of tea.

We were pleased to invite over 30 of Dick's friends from the village for a birthday celebration afternoon tea party. A great excuse to get together. Happy Birthday Dick!

Don't forget – if you would like to hear what HVCG is up to email us and we will add you to our Friends email list.

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

New Writing Courses in Ninfield

There are two new, introductory writing workshops coming up this spring at the Methodist Church Hall, Ninfield.

The first is on Saturday 11 th April and is for anyone interested in autobiographical or memoir writing. It intends to cover some of the fundamentals such as what autobiographical, memoir and biographical writing are, the why, who and what of autobiographical writing, how to make your writing interesting and engaging, and the pleasures and pitfalls of writing about real people and events.

The second workshop is on Saturday 30 th May and is a broad introduction to fiction writing. The plan is to cover some key skills such as taking an idea and transforming it into a workable plot, describing effectively, creating believable characters and giving them voice.

Both workshops are 11.00am-4.00pm so bring your lunch! They are £60 each, for the day.

I am an experience writer with four published books, a regular magazine column with Sussex Living Magazine and numerous features for a variety of magazines including Writing Magazine.

I am also a qualified teacher and have taught English and creative writing in Further Education for many years. I have delivered workshops and webinars for a wide variety of organisation including The National Trust and various universities, and have presented at national conferences and webinars on writing related topics.

For further details, please check out my website:
<https://writethistime.com/shop/>

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Sunday Services for April 2026:

- 5th 10.30am EASTER DAY – Family Praise with Jill Sayers & Easter Egg Hunt
- 12th 10.30 am Taize style Family Worship with Deacon Jean
- 19th 10.30 am Worship & Praise Family Service with Gillian Lambourne
- 26th 10.30 am Worship & Praise Family Service with Christine Thacker

Events for April 2026:

3rd 10.00-11.30am Book exchange & Café in Hall

Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café

A Very Happy Easter-time to everyone. Easter is such a special time in the year and we hope you will enjoy the celebrations whatever you may be doing.

On Easter Day we will have a special service of celebration which will include family communion and an Easter Egg Hunt for all young people and us older-ones as well. Who will be the first to eat their chocolate? We will look forward to 'giving thanks' to God for all that He has done. 'Jesus is risen!'

On April 12th we will celebrate with a Taize style Family worship. Taize is a gentle way of 'being' & connecting with faith in a quiet, undemanding & meditative atmosphere. It is gentle with readings, prayers and recognition of the mystery of life. We hope it will provide spiritual refreshment and deepen our faith . Everyone is welcome to come along and give yourself some time to pause and relax.

Please remember and pray for all that we are doing to share the love of God in our community. It's so exciting!

Have a good April 2026.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I've given up the most to follow him!
I'm the oldest!



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...



The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...



Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.



He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!



Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.



I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple



Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!



Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.



Do you understand why, your teacher, did this? I am setting

you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.

Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Sarah Seymour 07809684488

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

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Donna Powell 07812 670435.

NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING: Jane Dommersen 892428

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY: Fiona Stedman 01424 892418

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HEALTH & WELLBEING GROUP Jackie Langley 892422

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: Kaye Crittall, 892883

NINFIELD LADIES BADMINTON GROUP: Rita Proctor 07879 024736

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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NINFIELD MUDDY BOOTS Early Childhood Centre

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

NINFIELD STOOLBALL Emma Kehoe 07565 010647

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Sue Thompson 892294

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

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader Glen Harrison gharrisonninfieldscountsgsl@gmail.com

Explorer Scout Leader: Josh.explorers@gmail.com

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

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

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

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

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

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

DARK SKIES GROUP Kaye Crittall 892883

THE FRIENDLY VOICES Kaye Crittall 892883

PILATES & YOGA Susan Trimmer 07977 872284

LITTLE STARS DANCE Kirsty Mills 07875 235398

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Peter Ballard 01424 210980 or 07891479554

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE & NINFIELD OPEN GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

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

HOOE STOOLBALL: Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

HOOE VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Jane Warrener: 07548 528754

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Churchwarden: Mr Jack Rist 892576

Churchwarden: Mrs Nicki Murphy 893867

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