

The

Parish

News



What's on and What you missed

In & around

Ninfield & Hove

February 26

50p



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



St Mary's

St Oswald's

1st February	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
8th February	No Service	11.00 Joint Parish Eucharist
15th February	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
18th February Ash Wednesday	10.00 Eucharist & Ashes	No Service
22nd February	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,,

They say that time flies when you are enjoying yourself. It must be true for it seems no time at all that I was trying to walk in gale-force winds on the seafront in the days before Christmas. Since then, we have experienced the joys of a family Christmas, Carol Services, extremely cold weather including snow, then New Year. It has been a joyful time and has gone by in a flash.

In church terms, we have experienced Christmas, Epiphany and at the time of writing, we will shortly celebrate Candlemas. By the time you actually read this we will be heading into Lent. (It must be coming soon as Hot Cross Buns are on sale in the supermarket as well as Easter Eggs!) Time has flown by!

Lent – what does it mean? That period of forty days (if you don't count the Sundays) when we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. Jesus had taken himself off into the desert to listen to his Father, to take time out from the pressing needs of his ministry. He resisted the temptations presented to him even though they could have had enormous benefits but would have been against the wishes of his Father. During that time, he was strengthened for the future, certain of the path he had to take. (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13) But how is it for us? Perhaps the greatest temptation we have is to ignore Lent - to treat it as a rather old-fashioned archaic concept about purple altar frontals and no flowers, solely about resisting temptations, about giving up material things in sacrifice. We sometimes fail to recognise its significance as a period of preparation like Advent, but preparation for the sorrow of Passiontide and the joy of Easter. Don't mistake me - denial of things we enjoy can make us more appreciative of what we have, but there is opportunity to take more positive action during Lent.

Rather than giving something up, could we do something more? More prayer, more Bible reading, more service to our church and our neighbours. Lent for us should also be, as the time in the wilderness was for Christ, a time to listen to God's plan for us, a time to establish our priorities, a time to get them in order. To determine what is important in our lives as members of society and as Christians.

A time to acknowledge that forces exist which take us away from lives governed by Christ's teaching, forces of greed, of power, of self-interest, of impatience, of economic necessity. This is a time to face them and to reject them. In these forty days may we become closer to God, more certain in our faith, more able to understand the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and more prepared to experience the joys of Easter Sunday.

Paul

Dear Lord,

The shortest month, the snowdrop month! February brings those beautiful, hopeful little flowers, also called Candlemas Bells. Thank You, Lord, for the beauty and the hope.

Thank You for the reminder of when Jesus was presented at the Temple as a baby. Thank You, for Simeon recognising in that vulnerable baby the promised Saviour of all the world.

Oh Lord, how this world needs to hear afresh that message of salvation. Open eyes to see You and to know You. Open ears to hear Your message of hope and reconciliation. Open hearts to receive Your love and to share it, for the sake of all the suffering people of the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Editors' Comment...

Happy New Year. Back after our little break (went too quickiy!) Next month is the time for our nice delivery people to collect the annual £5.00 subscriptions.. I am sure they would all be grateful if you had the money ready when they call next month, Enjoy reading your magazine and don't forget if you want to write something or advertise an event we will find room.



Nicki & Carol

News from St Oswald's

December was a busy month preparing for Christmas. The Carol Service was the perfect start to the season, was well attended and the weather was kind. The mini bus from and back to the Red Lion was well used making parking easier.

Christmas Day was celebrated with our Parish Eucharist Service.

We had a visit from the Popinjay Archers who were testing out the church as a venue for a future event. More details next month .

The toilet extension is first on the list for January emails and action about to start.

Note for your diaries on the Saturday 7th March 9.30-12.00 we are having a Church and Church yard Spring Clean. We hope that the villagers can help clean and tidy both the church and the church yard. Coffee tea and biscuits will be available. There will be other dates later in the year for more assistance. There are a couple of large bushes that we would like to prune, but we will need any chainsaw safe volunteers to help and willing gofers to move the debris to the bonfire site.

Happy New Year to you all from the Churchwardens

Cleaning at St Oswald's Can you help please?

Two of our cleaners have retired or moved away so we have spaces on our rota. Cleaners do not have to be church goers; just have a wish to help look after the church building. Weekly cleaning takes approximately 1 to 2 hours and two people are allocated to each month. This means that we each do a fortnight twice a year.

If you feel you could help, please contact Margaret on 01424 892576 for more information.

St Mary's

Funeral of Alice Driver 19th December 2025

*from the
Parish Records*

January/February Diary

JANUARY	Venue	Page
30 th Ladies Lounge	Working Men's	25
30 th Men's Shed	Sparke Pav	23
FEBRUARY		
2 nd Ninfield Flower Group AGM	Memorial	7
6 th Book Exchange/Coffee Morning	Methodist	22
12 th Ninfield History Group	Methodist	9
13 th Hooe & Ninfield Open Group	Methodist	8
14 th HVCG Coffee Morning	St Oswald's	29
16 th Horti Coffee Morning	Memorial	13
17 th Food & Crafts Market	Memorial	20
18 th Bonfire Society	Working Men's	12
19 th Hooe History Society	St Oswald's	15
26 th Lunch Club	Methodist	22
26 th Ninfield Flower Club Workshop	Methodist	7
27 th Ladies Lounge	Working Men's	23
27 th Men's Shed	Sparke Pav	22

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

It all seems a long time ago now but we celebrated the season in grand style with a very successful Christmas demonstration and the following week a delicious lunch at the Blacksmith's Inn. Thank you to the terrific team at the Blacksmith's for again making us so welcome and serving such delicious food.

So to 2026. We start our year with our AGM on 2nd February, hoping to keep proceedings short before enjoying a floral competition and refreshments.

On Thursday February 26th we have our first monthly workshop at the Methodist Church Hall. This will be an arrangement of flowers and/or foliage without using floral foam. Alternatives could be small/decorative pebbles, sand, gravel, marbles, compact moss, compact twigs or water tubes. We meet at 7.15p.m. and pay £4.50 to cover the hall hire etc. For further information contact 07966 659552.

On March 2nd we welcome Ben Cross from Crosslands Nursery in Walberton near Arundel. This family run nursery has been in existence for nearly 70 years specialising in Alstroemeria and Ben will talk to us and share his passion for these gorgeous flowers (we love them in flower arranging). There should also be flowers available to purchase. Do come along and join us. Visitors £5 which includes refreshments. There will also be a raffle.

March 7th is our spring jumble sale. If you are having a clear out please bring along SALEABLE items from 9.30am. Doors open for selling at 2pm.

Leaping ahead to April 13th when our demonstrator will be Duncan Grant with "Rottingdean Delights". If you've never discovered what delights there are in Rottingdean now is your opportunity to find out.

As always, visitors welcome. 6.30pm for 7pm start. Entrance £5.

Helen Cunliffe
Chairman

.Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

Our last meeting was in December when we enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the Blacksmiths Inn. It was a good fun and the food exceptional.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our January meeting due to the inclement weather or should I say one of the main storms that seem to happen with great regularity!

Our next meeting is Friday 13th February 2p.m. In the Methodist Hall Ninfield. Look forward to seeing you there.

Nicki & Heather

We sent an email to Ninfield Surgery to ask them if they could perhaps write something for the Parish News. Many people are concerned about the current situation and we thought they may be able to put our minds at rest.

The response was an automatic reply as follows:

We are currently experiencing high volumes of emails into our inbox which is delaying our responses, we will endeavour to respond to you as quickly as we can.'

Please Note:

There is a notice on the door of the surgery saying that

Starting on 2nd February on-the-day appointments will no longer be booked on the phone or in person. A triage form will be completed on your behalf and reviewed by a clinician.

You can complete the triage form on line yourself

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Ninfield Local History Group is planning an exciting events schedule for 2026. On 12th February we will kick off our meetings for this year with a talk by Colin Page taking us along the Dinosaur Bay walk. That's local history 140 million years ago!

Then on 12th March we will gain a rare insight from Caroline Little into the will of an Anglo-Saxon woman. You can find out more about our meetings programme on our website.

Ninfield Local History Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Methodist Hall in Church Lane, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. We welcome members and non-members.

The group also opens its archives each quarter at the Sparke Pavilion so that you can view photographs and documents relating to the village and the surrounding area, talk to a local expert and share your stories. We also have a range of publications for sale and these can be viewed and purchased in our online store.

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

Brian Stockton, Chair,

Smile Lines - Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress. One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God." The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

As the sun comes out and the snow and ice disappear, we look forward to warmer months ahead and reflect on recent work in Church Wood and around our village.

Despite heavy rain in November, our waterways seemed to cope well and regular clearance of debris prevented the ponds overflowing. Our wood chipper has earned its keep and visitors will have noticed that we are attending to paths throughout the Wood to keep them passable. We have attended to some fences which have been brought down by falling trees but overall Church Wood is in good shape.

Our work around Ninfield has included repairing benches, repairs to the white gate to the rear of St Mary's Church and creation of the rustic fence alongside. The Smithson seat on Church Path was effectively rebuilt off-site then reinstated before Christmas. In addition, NVS supplied and erected the Christmas tree at the Memorial Hall (with sponsorship from Catsfield Christmas Tree Farm) we erected the tree on the Recreation Ground and the tree in St Mary's Church.

Our sister organisation, Ninfield Health and Well-Being Group, organised Christmas lunches which were very well attended.

Finally, a note for your diaries, our AGM is booked for Thursday 5th March, 7pm at the Methodist Hall. There are changes afoot and our new committee will welcome your ideas! We need your help to enable us to meet the needs of our village and shall welcome offers of assistance, not necessarily physical work but secretarial and administrative.

**PLEASE COME ALONG : YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT TO US :
FREE REFRESHMENTS : GUEST SPEAKER**

COUNTRY WAYS

COLD

Its been cold, its been wet and worst of all its been wet and cold at the same time. The crisp frosty starts to the day are wonderful to be out in as long as you are dressed for it. The heat the body holds keeps the cold at bay for a while but after a time the cold creeps in. Rain, wind driven rain, makes mud which dulls the day. My old dog hates the wet, she absorbs it and takes an age to dry off. Then there is the cold rain, the sort of rain that is only a touch away from snow. This is the worst of winter, nothing to delight and everything needed to make my knees stop working. But there is a positive to this ever changing weather pattern, the imminent changes in pressure do make the birds sing out and the pike feed. I haven't fished for pike for quite a while but remember well those days when all the elements are to your advantage. Fish that seem impossible to catch suddenly throw themselves at you. There have been days, when walking around the Church, that bird song is absent. It is as if all the birds have gone away. There is nothing flying, no wren deep in the hedge shouting at me, not a sound, not a movement, nothing but silence. Then before the storm arrives they are all there, singing their hearts out. This use to happen to game keepers. You can feed you feed lines in the morning and they are full of birds. My longest feed line was one hundred yards long and five yard wide, this is covered in deep straw. But the next day nothing not a bird in sight, even calling the pheasants does no good. The only thing to do is kick over some of the straw and if there is grain still there you may have a problem to deal with. Usually though all the grain has gone and its just the pheasants have decided to hide away that day. All this talk of bird song is of course leading up to some sort of point. My grandson has a new app on his phone. I still don't know what an app is but he assures me he can now identify individual birds from their song. It does and he is happily wandering around compiling a list. Now I am not going to knock anything that motivates a young person to get out and study birds. When I was a lad I was given a long playing record of bird songs. That just shows how much things have changed. Many now won't know what an L.P is, but then I don't know what an app is. Now anything which stimulates an interest in the wild life and our countryside is really important and I have to admit this new app is a much better tool than my old L.P.

The reality is when the old L.P, recorded in the B.B.C voice was king, there was just so there was so much more wildlife to listen to. AT

Ninfield Bonfire Society

In 1605 the Gunpowder plotters were actively putting their plan in to place. They had started digging a tunnel towards the house of Lords until they discovered a cellar directly underneath the House of Lords was available to rent. Well, we aren't planning any tunnel digging, but we are starting to organise our fund raising for the year.

We have our first general meeting in February on Wednesday the 18th from 7.30pm at the Working Men's Club. All are welcome old and new members. If you'd like to be part of this amazing tradition then come see us and see if you'd like to get involved.

We are then doing our first fund raiser of the year with the 'Vintage Games Night'.

This will be on Saturday the 21st of March from 7pm till 10pm at the Working Men's Club. Come and join us for an evening of vintage pub games, beer and laughs. Even a prize for the winner.

Our main Bonfire event is on Saturday October the 24th 2026

FIRE – FRIENDSHIP - TRADITION

Smile Lines - God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our 2026 schedules are now available! You can pick up your copy at any of our events/meetings and we also have a few available in the village stores or you can message/email me. We do not meet in January - we are all preparing for the start of the growing season and cleaning pots for new seeds.

Our first event is our Coffee Morning on February 16th, meeting in the Memorial Hall from 11.30. There are no speakers, just coffee, cake, chat and seeds. A very informal affair and all are welcome - you do not need to be a member.

On March 9th we have the return of Emma Davies (a very popular speaker from last year) with a talk and practical guide on propagation. As usual, the event will be in the Memorial Hall and doors open at 6.30 for a 7.00pm start.

Kaye Crittall

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HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

Goodness! Here we are again looking at the start of a new year and as I write this we are in the middle of a cold snap with snow on the ground – a bit of a rarity in recent years. I hope it improves in time for our meeting on 19 th February when our speaker, Dr Jeremy Leach, will give us a talk on A Life of Grime –from Sludge to Nudge. Jeremy qualified as an Environmental Health Practitioner back in 1978. This talk will take you through how he came to be doing the job, take you on a journey through the world of environmental health and examine some of the key historic moments that impacted on public health in this Country. Finally, he will look at the last 10 years of his career as he switched to a policy role using insights from the behavioural sciences – hence the ‘Nudge’. Despite holding a coveted Blue Peter badge, there will be no cutting out of cardboard or the use of sticky back plastic during this talk. We meet at 7.30p.m. in St. Oswalds Church, as usual.

DID YOU KNOW... I have dipped into the newspaper archive of 1891 to find this report of a trip to Hooe to attend a bazaar raising money for the church restoration. I think it is quite an uplifting read, but with a little too much for one issue of Parish News, the article will conclude in the March edition.

‘One of the most picturesque walks and lovely spots round about Hastings is that which surrounds a pretty country village situated about five miles from everywhere and called Hooe. It is an awkward place to get at. But the views from the top of the hill are really worth walking several miles to see, and the broad expanse of meadow land, dotted here and there with ploughed fields, with a turnip or wheat field thrown in by way of variety, is a sight which cannot fail to please. Almost every hill has its windmill painted white and the little farms and homesteads add a charm to the whole, and brings to perfection landscape which in itself is magnificent. Hooe possesses a fine old church, and in aid of the funds now being raised for its restoration a bazaar was held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday and Wednesday last. This sacred pile of buildings is situate a mile from Hooe village. The Church of St. Oswald is a very ancient stone building, in the perpendicular style, and consists of chancel, nave, small chapel on the north side, and a low, but very massive, tower, containing five

good bells. There is a stained - glass window, with figures representing Edward III. and Phillippa, similar to that said to have been stolen from Bexhill Church. The exact date of the church we were unable to ascertain, but the register dates from 1531. At one time the Manor of Hooe was among the possessions of the Earl of Eu, by whom it was given to the Abbey of Bec, in Normandy, early in the twelfth century, and shortly after a Priory of Benedictine Monks was established here attached to the Abbey, but both have long since passed away. The interest the archaeologists attach to the Church of St.Oswald is, no doubt, further enhanced by the inscriptions on the bells, which are as follows 1st 'I mean to make It understood, That tho I'm little yet I'm good; 2nd To honour both of God and King, Our voices shall in concert ring.; 3rd ;Long live the King, George 3rd restored.; 4th Peace and good neighbourhood, Not to repeat what gone and past, For the five bells are come at last.; 5th John Norton and John Blackman, churchwardens; music is meditation to the mind; The date on each bell is 1789.'

(To be continued) **Peter Hayward**

Friendly Voices

2025 was quite a year for the Friendly Voices - we sang at the Alzheimer's Fundraising event in August, Michaelmas in September, various Association for Carer events through the year, Remembrance Day tea, the Home Made Fayre, Christmas Market and Carol Concert in Ninfield Church. Our repertoire of songs is growing and we have some new challenges for 2026 - who would have thought it? If you enjoy singing (and laughing), we meet in the Methodist Hall on a Tuesday evening (from 7.30pm) and Sparke Pavilion Thursday afternoon (2-3pm), why not come along and join in with us - all are welcome. We are not a choir, just a group of people that get together for the fun of singing. You do not need to be a good singer, just enjoy a good sing! Call me on 07707683187 or email k.crittell@btinternet.com or just turn up at one of our sessions.

Ninfield in 2026:

Well, let's start with the good: Happy New Year to all our subscribers and advertisers, who's support helps keep the cost of printing the magazine affordable. The co-editors, distributors are all voluntary with no payment except for expenses incurred in producing the magazine. They don't even ask for payment while collecting from the printers or distributing around the village. We rely on them and try to ensure no enormous bundle, just for near neighbours, although not always possible but all is done with good grace. But we can always do with more distributors so the journeys for our distributors is shorter. So, please let the editors know if you'd be happy to pass them round with your immediate neighbours, and lessen the load for others.

The end of 2025 was marred by the arrival of traffic lights signalling the start of works to build a new estate immediately opposite the Memorial Hall. These lights caused many problems as it made exiting the Memorial Hall car park even more difficult than usual and almost impossible from Lower Street. Residents opposite the site also had to guess which way traffic would flow so they had a chance to exit their own drives.

The problems were compounded by extensive mud being churned up and brought onto the road, as the contractors rushed to comply with the Start deadline set by Wealden Planning. It was alleviated somewhat by the use of a road sweeper, clearing the gulleys but less success on the main part of the road. Fortunately, Wealden Enforcement were soon on hand to ensure no further hedge loss occurred. We will now have a long construction period while construction equipment and supplies arrive or depart. The lengthy construction phase of the adjacent Ingrams Farm (now Mapplehurst Way etc) draws to an end so there will be more traffic entering and leaving that site.

To make things even worse, the cold snap and freezing conditions seem to have caused no end of burst mains, down by Lunsford Cross at Pear Tree Lane a burst froze overnight and caused an accident with a car overturned. There was another by the Powdermill Hotel, another in Catsfield Stream and also on Standard Hill. Signs no doubt of ancient infrastructure not being upgraded in favour of shareholder dividends and bonuses.

Another sign of neglected infrastructure were several dangerous potholes, one of which seemed to have claimed numerous burst tyres. The Highways Steward at first deemed it not to be urgent, but no doubt the presence of police and numerous recovery vehicles brought a rethink and it was repaired. East Sussex Highways say that their contractor, Balfour Beatty only get paid for the initial repair of any pothole, subsequent repairs are at the contractors expense. The false economy of that is revealed by the repeated appearance of the same pothole after a few weeks. Simply bunging a shovelful of tarmac and hoping that traffic will press it into the hole just doesn't work! You only need to venture down Pear Tree Lane from the Ninfield Road to see that the pothole repairs were done privately and have lasted much longer than Highways attempts.

One other aspect of the snowfall was that many side roads became ice rinks as even the main A269 from Boreham Bridge right through to the Catsfield roundabout wasn't gritted! As a consequence the much needed refuse collection of the Christmas recycling didn't happen, with many bins overflowing, presenting wildlife with their own delayed Christmas meals. That sparked debate as grit bins can be provided (with approval from the Parish etc Council) plus a licence! The cost of these bins is vastly inflated from identical ones available on the Internet. Speaking of which, Sky are changing us to fibre this month.... So Happy New Year!

KR

St Oswald's Church. Hooe

I am sure most of you are aware that the Union Jack is flown from the tower and can be seen for miles. Unfortunately because of the high winds in the area the flag only seems to last about 9 months. It costs about £85.00 to replace. A resident has recently bought a new flag but it would be nice to have a few coppers in the pot so that when a replacement is required we could purchase one straight away. If you would like to help please contact Carole or Peter Ballard on 01424 210980.



News from Ninfield CE Primary School

Happy New Year!

A new year and a great opportunity for the Ninfield Local Governing Body to introduce the community to Caroline Harvey, the Executive Headteacher at Ninfield CE Primary School. Caroline has been a headteacher for 20 years and the Headteacher at Sedlescombe CE Primary School for the last nine years. Since September 2025, she has taken on the role of Executive Headteacher of both Ninfield and Sedlescombe CE Schools and we are so delighted that she has joined us. Of course, we wholeheartedly wish Dan Getty, previous Head, all the very best in his new role within another DCAT school



and are very grateful for all that he has done for Ninfield CE Primary School.. Caroline is really passionate about working with the whole staff team to create a learning environment where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to achieve their very best. Having had the privilege of observing Caroline demonstrate her creativity and passion for education to the DCAT Trustees, as well as in the school environment, we are confident that Caroline will be a tremendous asset and inspiration for children and adults alike. We are also looking

forward to strengthening our community links and we hope to share regular updates via the Parish News. Watch this space!

GROWING, Loving, **LEARNING** Together

DARK SKIES

We are so lucky with our skies over Ninfield. There were some amazing skies through December - especially if you were willing to brave the cold in the early hours when the sky was at it's clearest and, as a good friend of mine would say 'you could see the stars beyond the stars'. There were also incredible sunsets and a supermoon on 3rd January. The next full moon (20th February) will be a Snow Moon - let's hope not a forewarning of the weather. Dark Skies is an informal whatsapp group, sharing pictures and information - we do have some events (Bat Walk, Dawn Walk), but haven't out a formal calendar together for 2027 yet. If you would be interested in joining our group, please message/call 07707683187 or email k.crittell@btinternet.com

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY

FOODS & CRAFTS MARKET

9.30 - 12.30

After our break in January we're back, and we are very proud to announce that this will be our 10th year since opening, so watch this space as we'll put on a special market for our 10th anniversary later in the year, meanwhile we'd like to say a huge thank you to all of you who come along most months to support the local business community while benefiting from lovely local produce and a sociable morning out!

local meat from Helen,

fruit & veg, bread & cheese from Sarah

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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.

BOOK EXCHANGE AND COMMUNITY CAFE

Methodist Hall 10-11.30 on Fridays.

First Friday monthly - Book Exchange and chat over tea/coffee and biscuits. There is a wide range of books and good company. Community Cafe open every Friday. For further details contact David on 07989729123 or dj_swales@hotmail.com

HEALTH WALKS

Every Thursday. Trained local volunteers lead a gentle walk of about an hour. Meet 11am at Sparke Pavilion, Ninfield Recreation Ground near the main entrance off Church Lane. A few more walkers welcome. Please wear suitable footwear. For more details contact: Robin: 07940324601 or robin@plowmate.plus.com

WOMEN'S CRAFTING AND KNITTING CIRCLE

Memorial Hall. Weekly 10.30 am - 12.30 pm on Friday. £5 per session. A well established friendly group. Phone Jane on 89428 for more details.

MEN'S SHED

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

LUNCH CLUB

The next lunch club will meet on Thursday 26th February. If you would like a place, contact Sam on 07484 847933.

FILM MATINEES

On the second Tuesday of the month in Ninfield Memorial Hall. Screening and refreshments are free and films are dementia and hearing loss friendly. We start again in March. For further information or to book a place contact Jackie or Rose 01424 892422 or email jackie.langley1@btinternet.com.

Programme for 2027

Tuesday 10 th March	Calendar Girls
Tuesday 14 th April	King Creole
Tuesday 12 th May	The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society
Tuesday 9 th June	Calamity Jane
Tuesday 8 th September	Four Weddings and a Funeral
Tuesday 13 th October	Matilda
Tuesday 10 th November	Whisky Galore
Tuesday 8 th December	Scrooge

LADIES LOUNGE

The Ladies Lounge will meet on Friday 27 February from 4.30 to 6.30pm 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.co

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More new, views and reviews from Sami

Firstly, Thank you.... to everyone who has kindly sent cards , messages and flowers, marking the passing of my incredible Mum, Joy Hughes. Since my Dad died in 1994, Mum and I have been each other's everything and the immense void left since her passing will take some time to heal.

She loved Ninfield, and spent many of her happiest times in the Village, enjoying the Horticultural Society shows, At Gala Nights and Shows, the Homemade Fayre and Markets, at The Carnival Fête, and supporting my Dance classes in person and online. She was very excited that I had decided to mark my recent '!5th' Birthday with a Charity Challenge- unfortunately she won't be there in person now, but I know she'll be cheering it on from a safe distance, sitting on a Cloud! See details below...x

LADIES LOUNGE:

I do hope to see you at our Ladies Lounge gathering at the end of JANUARY which is FRIDAY 30th, from 4.30pm, at the Working Men's Club, it'll be a relaxed start of the year celebration, with Bar, Tea, Cakes and snacks - and 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. FEBRUARY date will be Friday 27th , then MARCH 27th. Call me 07970650321 for more information.

NINFIELD CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION!

Plans are starting to be pieced together for The Summer Carnival, Fête and Event, which will be the weekend of 26/27th June 2026. The next Carnival meeting will be on 2nd February 2026 7pm at Sparke Pavilion, and everyone is welcome to join us!

LINE DANCE CLASSES- are a HIT!!!

A few spaces are still available- All classes are at the Memorial Hall; fortnightly on Tuesdays- 2.30-3.30 pm and Fridays 6.30-7.30pm, refreshments are available, all classes £6 pp/per class. Everyone is welcome, Ladies, Gents, youngsters...it's purely for Fun.. so Stetsons or Cowboy Boots only if you want to! Beginners are very welcome, as are those who 'haven't done it for years!'

It's great fun, good exercise and VERY fashionable at the moment!!

07970650321

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!!!

65@65- A CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY!

Saturday 28th February, Memorial Hall 2.30-9pm and the premis will be a DANCEATHON for anyone to come and join in; with the 65@65 element being my personal Challenge to do 65 Dance routines, at 65 years old, in 6.5 hours..!!!

There are 2 Fundraising elements -

1) for beautiful friend, Actress/Singer/Dancer Nicola, in her early 50s, who was diagnosed with **Motor Neuron Disease** only a year ago and has now lost her voice and the ability to eat. It's starkly, aggressively, swiftly taking her...and it's shocking. So MND, and

2) **LOST CHORD**, my usual Charity that provides Music and performance for people living with ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA; will both benefit from this Fundraising Challenge. Look out for further info, start limbering up, and get ready to join me for 65@65! To support, and help, please Call 07970650321, or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com.

Thanks for all help, interest, and continued support for all classes, shows, events...please come to meetings or get togethers...
CALL 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com
FB. NINFIELD CARNIVAL FÊTE AND EVENTS.

CLOSING DATE FOR MARCH EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS

IS

13th FEBRUARY 2026

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Hooe Village Community Group

Contact us: **Website:**
hooevillagecommunitygroup.co.uk
Facebook: Hooe Village Community Group
Email: hooevcg@gmail.com

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

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

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



Our forthcoming events

Coffee Mornings: Pop these Coffee Morning dates in your diary to ensure you keep the dates free! – Saturday 14th February: Saturday 14th March: Saturday 11th April. We are delighted these are so well attended and enjoyed. Here are just a couple of the comments we have received by email:

'..... all the bakers very talented in baking delicious cakes for us all. Much appreciated' LS

'We've so enjoyed the beautiful coffee mornings with you all. You bring so much joy warmth and indeed wonderfulness throughout St Oswald,s and Hooe Village' JF

June 13th /14th Open Gardens weekend

If you'd like to open YOUR garden this year or volunteer to help, please contact Gary 01424 893007. He would be delighted to hear from you. One of the attractions of our event is the variety of gardens open, they are all very different and have individual interest. Let's hope for good weather!

Events in the planning stage

Community Litter Pick: This usually ties in with the national event as we rely on Wealden District Council to collect the spoils.

Footpath Walk: It's all a bit nippy to hold an organised walk now as we like to welcome all ages and abilities. The date will be in the spring, when the trees are budding and the spring flowers are cheering us. Just as soon as we have fixed the dates, we will let you know. They will be put onto our website and hopefully will be published in the Parish News next month.

Your ideas please: As we are a Community Group we always like to respond to ideas and suggestions for events/social evenings from you. Please keep in touch. We also welcome offers of help. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the ladies of the village who often turn up with delicious cakes for us to sell at the coffee mornings. Donations: If you have a particular cause/charity you would like HVCG to consider supporting please write to us outlining the reason for your request. Every application is considered seriously.

Past events Musical Evening: Good Company did us proud! Over 60 people attended and all thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The entertainment was amazing ('Are they professionals? we were asked), the refreshments were well received, everything devoured with relish. The atmosphere was warm and friendly, which contrasted with the weather! The father of one of the entertainers said afterwards, 'I didn't know she had it in her, where did that come from, I wonder?' So, thank you to Good Company and to all who braved the cold November weather and joined us for a fabulous evening of entertainment. **January Coffee Morning:** Some new and some old faces, all welcomed and pleased to get together with lots to talk about. Note to selves: Sausage rolls disappeared in a flash – more required this cold weather! Hot drinks were also more popular than usual. As were books and jigsaws.

Trip to Devonshire Park Panto

A comment by a resident who said she loved the panto but didn't like going by herself led so started the annual visits The first year there were 5. This year 22 from Hooe descended on to the Devonshire Park Theatre to see Peter Pan and were welcomed from the stage. The comedians who appear each year are amazing; they really make the show. We have already received 12 requests to repeat the outing next year, if you would be interested please let the Doodles know. Next year tis Cinderella, details on the theatre website. We are informed the last night, 17th January 2027 is already booked out with limited seats available!

Welcome to Jenny, our new Parish Councillor



We are all thrilled to congratulate Jenny, newly co-opted onto Hooe Parish Council.

Jenny has lived in Hooe and been involved in the community for many years. She is well known and much admired and loved

If you are one of the very few folk who have yet to meet her, she is always at the coffee morning so stop by to introduce yourself



The latest addition to our group of useful chaps is

Julian
The furniture mover

He joins:
Neil at the sink
Robert with his pinny
and
Kieran in the servery

Will **YOU** be next?

We are very grateful to all of them!

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.

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

We would like to thank Ninfield Village Society who once again supplied and decorated the beautiful Christmas Tree in the main hall, it was very much admired by our visitors and very much appreciated by us

We'd also like to thank all of you who continue to support the various events that are put on in the Hall, we'd also like to thank all the volunteers who help us putting on, those who put up tables and chairs, make teas and coffees, help with washing up and clearing away afterwards.. You are all amazing and it's so nice to hear you all chatting and laughing as you work. If there are others who would like to help occasionally please email ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com or speak to one of the committee

Our AGM is due shortly and any one interested in helping in anyway please come along, date to be confirmed shortly.

We have wanted to run some fun events that you would be interested in, some are well attended others less so, we would be interested in knowing what you think might be a good idea. It could be educational, entertaining, something for children, things for families, something for small groups as well big events. So please, thinking caps on and either email ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com speak to a member of the Committee or come along to the AGM or the market, the next one is 21st Feb then 3rd Saturday of the month thereafter.

Ninfield Parish Council

Next m Meeting is on Thursday 20th Feb at Ninfield Methodist Hall, everyone invited to attend

NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Ian Couchman

Tel: 01424 550427

email: office@hbrmethodists.org.uk

website: hbrmethodists.org.uk

Sunday Services for February 2026:

- 1st 10.30am Café Worship with Revd. Ian Couchman
- 8th 3.30 pm Circuit United Service - Christchurch Methodist Church, Bexhill
- 15th 10.30am Family Worship & Communion
- 22nd 10.30am Worship Praise Family Service with Drina Hampson

Events for February 2026:

5th Thursdays weekly: After-school Club 3.15-5.00pm (Term-time only)

6th 10.00-11.30am Book exchange & Café in Hall
Fridays 10.00-11.30am Community Café

27th 2.00-4.00pm Church Council Meeting (all welcome)

We are pleased that our minister the Reverend Ian Couchman will be with us for our Café style worship on February 1st and he will also lead the United Service at Christchurch Methodist, Bexhill on February 8th. Ian is organising a united service at one of our area Methodist Churches every quarter so please note there will not be a service at our Church on February 8th.

Our After-school Junior club continues on Thursdays weekly as shown above. The programme includes music, dance, games, competitions, toast & drinks. Register on the day or contact: tim.fudge@hbrmethodists.org.uk.

We have enjoyed some amazing services over Advent & Christmas were then encouraged to meet with the St. Mary's, St. Oswald's congregations for a united Covenant service in January with Reverends Paul & Ian. So good.

Very best wishes to you all for 2026.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli..

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



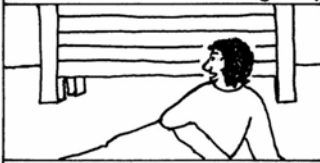
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Sarah Seymour 07809684488

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

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

NINFIELD CRAFTING & KNITTING: Jane Dommersen 892428

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY: Fiona Stedman 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

. •Corinne Gibbons •892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD MUDDY BOOTS Early Childhood Centre

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

NINFIELD STOOLBALL Emma Kehoe 07565 010647

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Sue Thompson 892294

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

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader Glen Harrison 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

1066 RINGERS (Hand Belleplates) Carole Ballard 01424 210980

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Churchwarden: Mrs Catriona Mary Owen
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Secretary:

Treasurer:

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD'S, HOOE

Churchwarden: Mr Jack Rist 892576

Churchwarden: Mrs Nicki Murphy 893867

Secretary: Mr John Fairclough

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THE PARISH NEWS Email ninfieldhooenews@gmail.com

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Jackie Scarff 07725 843505 clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

Jackie Scarff: 07725 843505 clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

MEMORIAL HALL

Booking Secretary: EMAIL ninfieldmemorialhall@gmail.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Bookings Jackie Scarff clerk@hooe-pc.gov.uk

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Booking Secretary: Mr David Swales 07989 729123

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