

The

Parish

News



What's on and What you missed

In & around

Ninfield & Hove

July 2026

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's

NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES



	St Mary's	St Oswald's
5 th July	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
12 th July	<i>No Service</i>	11.00 Joint Parish Eucharist with the Archdeacon
19 th July	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
26 th July	9.30 Joint Parish Eucharist	<i>No Service</i>

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,

As we look into the month of July and then into August we hopefully look for fine summer weather. For many of us it is a time for a change of tempo. It is a time to slow down from the usual rush. A moment to forget those deadlines, targets, and the usual timetable. A moment to put it all aside for at least a short while and as we take some time off for a holiday - either going away to somewhere different or maybe just staying at home and catching up on some much-needed sleep. It is a moment to rest. Certainly, our work fixated, success focused, demand driven culture denies to many the sleep that they need. Research has shown that too many people nowadays do not sleep long enough or well enough so as to be at their best. I know for myself that as I get older I seem to need more sleep and that without it I quickly become irritable and impatient. That need for proper rest is built into us, made as we all are in the image of God. In three days, says the Book of Genesis, God had formed the world. Then, in three parallel days he wonderfully filled it with the light of the sun and moon and stars and with the trees and plants and creatures of the deep, with the birds of the sky and all the animals that roamed across the earth. The apex of his work was the creation of humankind and God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! But then, having finished his work of creation, he rested.

On the seventh day he rested from all his work. That rest would not have included sleep. As the psalmist says when speaking of God's great care for us: the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps (Psalm 121: 3 – 4) which is a reminder that God not only made the hills, the heavens, and the earth but he also watches over us, never diverted nor distracted. We can never outgrow our need for God's untiring watch over our lives. But that 'watch,' that care and provision of us, includes God's recognition of our need for rest. So, our need to take a moment of rest, a day of rest in biblical terms, became a commandment. Jesus himself demonstrated our need for rest and our need for sleep. In Mark's Gospel we're told how he took his disciples away to rest after they had completed the work he'd given them to do (Mark 6: 31). And in Luke's Gospel we read how Jesus slept even as a storm raged around the boat on which he and his disciples were travelling (Luke 8: 23).

It calls to my mind some other words that we read in the psalms: God gives sleep to his loved ones (Psalm 127: 2). So, rest and sleep are God given gifts. But they are more.

They are moments to let go and to remind ourselves that God is in control.

I hope and pray that you will all know something of that rest (and chance to catch up on some quality sleep!) over the Summer and that whatever you are doing, it will be a time of real blessing, peace, and relaxation. But don't leave it at just that few days or couple of weeks. Remember that our need to rest 'a day each week' is built into us and indeed that not only can we rest on one day of the week, but we are invited to rest in Jesus every day, at any time: Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11: 28). So enjoy this time of holiday whatever you are doing. Paul

PRAYER

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about. Help us, Lord to recognise that we *have* time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

News from St. Mary's

I would like to thank Sami for her organisational skills in managing to find so many willing volunteers to do the magnificent job of deep cleaning St Mary's church. I was sorry I couldn't be there, but I do really appreciate the time, effort and hard work that it involved. Paul

St. Mary's
20th June - Marriage of Kieran Cornhill and Holly Scott

St Oswald's
22nd May - Funeral and burial of Geoffrey Baker.

*from the Parish
Records*

News from St Oswald's

A quiet month but we are busy getting ready for our annual Garden Party on 4th July and we are so pleased that all our stall holders are able to come and maybe we may have some new ones. Come along from 12 noon and have a look.

We have a new Parochial Church Council in place, two new members and Dawn has kindly agreed to be our secretary. John has been hoping to stand down for while so he is delighted. All we need now is someone willing to take on the role of Treasurer.

We have had the boiler serviced and luckily only needed minor repairs

The new Archdeacon is visiting and taking the service on 12th July. It is a joint service with St. Mary's so we hope everybody will attend.

Julian has done sterling work on the website which has made it more user friendly with up-to-date information of what is happening in our churches.

We have had another attempted break-in of the shed so we are reviewing our CCTV options which wont necessarily deter but we will hopefully be able to see the culprit.

Lastly, the saga of the toilet extension, all reports have gone in to Wealden DC and we are awaiting the outcome of Planning Permission.

Jack & Nicki - Churchwardens

**Come along and join us for
AFTERNOON TEA
SATURDAY 25th JULY
ST MARY'S CHURCH 3pm -5pm
Everyone welcome**

Join us for
**St Oswald's Church
Garden Party**

**Saturday July 4th
12 to 4pm**

Featuring Hooe Village Band

**BBQ, Teas, Cakes, Tombola
Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Plants and Sideshows**

The lane will be monitored

Editors' Comment... The weather is the one constant that challenges us year round! In the last month we were too hot, then the heating went back on, strong wind and rain caused events to be cancelled, it's a wonder that the Hooe gardeners managed to put on such a show, well done all of you.

July has garden parties, afternoon teas, live music, opportunities to get out and enjoy the summer, so check what's on and make a note in your diaries so not to miss anything.

If anyone has ideas on how we can improve the Parish News, get more people interested in our village and the events that go on, please let us know. Nicki & Carol



Monthly Diary

	Venue	Page
JUNE		
25 th Lunch Club	Methodist Hall	
26 th Men's Shed	Sparke Pavilion	15
26 th Ladies Lounge	Working Men's Club	26
JULY		
3 rd Book Exchange & Coffee Morning	Methodist Hall	15
4 th Garden Party	St. Oswald's	6
6 th Ninfield Flower Group	Memorial Hall	8
9 th Ninfield History Group	Methodist Hall	13
10 th Hooe & Ninfield Open Group	Bexhill Museum	8
11 th Music Night	Memorial Hall	19
13 th Horticultural Society Coffee	Memorial Hall	10
16 th Hooe History Society	St. Oswald's	11
16 th Ninfield Parish Council	Methodist Hall	
18 th Foods & Crafts Market	Memorial Hall	9
20 th Hooe Parish Council	Village Hall	16
23 rd Lunch Club	Methodist Hall	23
25 th Afternoon tea	St. Mary's	5, 15
26 th Songs Across the decades	Working Men's Club	18
27 th Ninfield History Resource Centre	Spark Pavilion	13
31 st Men;s Shed	Sparke Pavilion	15
31 st Ladies Lounge	Working Men's Club	26

.Hooe & Ninfield Open Group

We met on Friday 12th June 2.00p.m. in the Methodist Hall, Ninfield. Our speaker was Fiona Bower who gave us a very interesting talk on the charity Canine Partners. She explained how and why the charity began which at the time was to find suitable dogs to train as helpers and companions for people with disabilities. They started in a small way in West Sussex but have now moved to larger premises in Leicester where they have their own training centre and breeding facility. Fiona was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis a few years ago and her family were concerned about her safety whilst they were at work so persuaded her to apply for an assistance dog. There was a long waiting list and then the charity found a suitable dog for Fiona in 2017. He is called Mr. Wiz and she calls him her butler! He empties the washing machine, helps fold the clothes, take the duvet and pillow covers off the bed as well as picking up anything that might have been dropped on the floor. The main thing is that he has given her confidence to have a fulfilling life, which as she says, she would not have had the courage to do on her own.

Our next meeting is 10th July same time but at the Bexhill Museum where we will have a talk by Julian, the curator and then have a look around.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Nicki & Heather

Ninfield Flower Group

Monday July 6th 6.30 for 7pm.

Do come along to the Memorial Hall and join members for a display of floral art by

Angela Woodley, aptly titled "Here comes Summer".

Visitors £5, refreshments from 6.30pm.

Owing to the roof works on the hall we have no meeting in August but will return on September 7th

with a demonstration by Vanessa Jeffries from Willingdon flower club, titled "Memories".

Look forward to welcoming you.

Helen Cunliffe

Chairman

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB

The sun shone, the grass was cut and our open day was a great success with many new faces trying their hand at the bowls. Our inter-club season has started well with two wins and but sadly one loss against fiercely rival teams.

At the time of writing we are in seventh position in the Rother League. The Rother League is the bowls club equivalent to the football premiership league and contains ten teams. Whilst we are seventh, we have only played three games whilst the top teams has played five or six. The prospect is looking good and we are trying our very best to do the village proud ! Please come along to give your support, the next home fixtures are on the 1st, 8th, 12th, 15th and 30th July. Matches start at 2.00pm. Tea and biscuits will be provided.

And talking of biscuits, we are delighted that Lee, Astbury Windows and James, Haffenden Roofing have generously sponsored us this year, which means that you can now have 2 biscuits and not just the 1 with your tea !

For anyone that has been thinking of playing bowls please come along and join us on any Tuesday and Thursday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm and we will do our very best to give you friendly tuition. We will provide the bowls and of course tea and (two) biscuits.

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 18th JULY

FOODS & CRAFTS MARKET

9.30 - 12.30

We don't have a market in August so if you want to make sure you have enough meat in your freezer, a good stock of jams, chutneys or honey then come in and see us

Pop in for tea or coffee and a bite to eat

Ninfield Surgery has, as many of you know, gone over to Vita Healthcare. The system for booking appointments is no longer by phone but using their online booking system. You can only fill in the form between 8.00am and 6.00pm

1. Go to www.vita.healthcare
2. Click contact us on line
3. Click Collington and Ninfield Surgery (this includes all 4 sites)
4. Click on I have a health problem, if you would like an appointment, if you have a different request click on admin.
5. Fill in your date of birth
6. Fill in the questions to the best of your ability, the more detail you fill in they will be better able to allocate and appointment

This system does work, we filled in the form at 8.20a.m. and received a call back at 10.00a.m.!

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be the Coffee Morning on 13th July in the Memorial Hall. Please join us from 11.30 for coffee, cake and chatter. The big event of course is our Summer Show on 15th August. Vegetables, flowers, pot plants, baking, jam, chutney, photography and children's classes. There's something for everyone. This is a day when I eat my own body weight in cake as there's never time to sit down and eat sensibly - but one day a year is OK (isn't it?). There are a few schedules in the shop or you could pick them up at the coffee morning or email me. We are hoping for more children's entries - especially in the Junior Parish Product box. Even if you don't show (but why not give it a go), you can come along to the Memorial Hall at 2.30 to see the entries - it really is quite a spectacular display - and enjoy home-made cake (assuming I haven't eaten it all of course).

Kaye Crittell k.crittell@btinternet.com

HOOE HISTORY SOCIETY

Our speaker this month is Dick Carey, with his re-arranged talk entitled “Reminiscences of a Local Lad”. We can promise you all a lovely and entertaining evening, as Dick recalls tales from his life in Hooe. And what a very full life it has been. He will happily answer your questions – which could well lead him on to other tales. We meet as usual on Thursday, 16th July at 7.30 p.m. in St. Oswald’s church with refreshments to follow.

DID YOU KNOW...I thought that in this month when this church hosts its Garden Party, I would return to Kathleen Daniel’s “Stories from the Belltower”, first published here in 2003.

Most bells, when they are first made, are given inscriptions, with their dates, maker’s marks, donors, or some mottoes often in Latin.

Unfortunately, over the centuries, many of these are lost, especially if the bell has had to be recast due to cracking or chipping. This has happened in the history of our bells.

We know that in 1724 there were four bells, made by Lester, Pack and Chapman of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry; and later, in 1781, a certain Sir William Burrell recorded that he had visited the Church and found that the tenor bells (i.e. the largest bell) was cracked, and round its rim was inscribed in capital letters “SANCTA MARGARETA ORA PRO NOBIS” (Saint Margaret pray for us). It is interesting to note that St. Margaret’s Chapel once occupied the space where the pulpit now is, and its piscina is by the lower doorway (now walled up). The same inscription was on the tombstone of Thomas Acrouch who died in 1576 and his wife Elizabeth 1596, who were buried before the altar.

Later, in 1789, the four bells were recast and made into a ring of five by William and Thomas Mears, who had taken over Lester, Pack and Chapman’s work, and we know that the actual bell-hanger was Edward Simmonds who did much of the bell-hanging at that time, himself being an expert ringer. This new ring of five bells were then inscribed –

TENOR	Music is medicine to the mind
TREBLE	I mean to make it understood, that though I’m little yet I’m good
SECOND	To honour both God and King our voices shall in concert ring
THIRD	Long live King George III restored
FORTH	Peace and good neighbourhood

Every one hundred years or so the bells have to return to a foundry for a general “M.O.T.”, and in 1899, they returned to Whitechapel (now Mears and Stainbank), and the treble, second and forth were recast,

and the inscriptions then read –

- TREBLE Mears and Stainbank Founders London 1899
SECOND Mears and Stainbank, Founders London
*THIRD Long live King George Ye 3rd. Restored W and T Mears late Lester, Pack and Chapman of London Fecit 1789.
FOURTH Mears and Stainbank Founders London
To The Glory of God This Tower was Restored
Three Bells recast and the Peal Refitted By Miss H.C.
Routh AD 1899 in memory of her Brother John O. Routh
Vicar from 1842 to 1852
*TENOR John Norton and John Blackman Ch:Wardens
W and T Mears late Lester, Pack and Chapman of London
Fecit 1789
Music is Medicine to the Mind.

*It is interesting to note that the inscriptions on the third and tenor bells, which were not recast, have fuller inscriptions than recorded in 1789, but here perhaps the first record was incomplete.

In 1993 our bells returned for their general overhaul, this time Eayre and Smith, the whole cost amounting to £1500.00. In 1899 it was £170-0-0!

Note: The bells were restored again in around 2022 with a generous donation towards the cost being received from a local parishioner, now sadly deceased.
Peter Hayward.

DARK SKIES

Dark Skies - we are now past the longest day of the year - it doesn't seem possible! It's been a busy time for us. We sneaked in our annual Dawn Walk at the end of May (thank you Pete and Carol) with the weather being very kind to us with beautiful clear skies. Although not strictly related to dark skies, on the 10th June we welcomed James Duncan of Sussex Wildlife who gave a very interesting talk on identifying bird song, followed by a walk in Church Wood where we heard: Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Whitethroat, Wren, Tree Creeper, Chiffchaff, blackcap, jackdaw, crow, song thrush and the local chickens! Our next challenge will be to see how many we can identify when we watch the sun go down on Summer Solstice - I'm hoping for a nightingale.

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our programme of talks continues apace and having enjoyed our June talk concerning the fascinating history of Bexhill pubs, we now turn the clock back for our July meeting when we will hear about William Duke of Normandy's journey to the battle with King Harold in 1066. Our presenter will be Simon Mansfield and his talk entitled "From Dives to Battlefield".

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, so do come along if you can! The group also opens its archives each quarter at the Sparkes Pavilion so that you can view photographs and documents relating to the village and the surrounding area, talk to a local expert and share your stories. Our next Resource Centre morning is on Monday 27th July 2026. We also have a range of publications for sale, and these can be viewed and purchased using our online store or in-person at one of our archive mornings.

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 using this email:

info@ninfieldlocalhistorygroup.org.uk.

Brian Stockton, Chair, Ninfield Local History group



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**Contact Nigel 07590532829 or
nigel@indiefarmer.com**

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

We have our summer break now until September. Thanks to everyone who helps ensure we can run these afternoons and we look forward to seeing all those we know and those we are yet to meet when we start again on Tuesday 8 September with the romantic comedy *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Book Exchange and Community Café

Methodist Hall 10-11.30 on Friday.

The Book Exchange Café will be on Friday 3 July with the community café open every other Friday morning. 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 07989729 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. These walks are now part of 'The Ramblers' and are known as Ramblers Wellbeing Walks, ,Ninfield. Brief details can be found on ramblers.org.uk. Meet 11 am at Sparke Pavilion at Ninfield Recreation ground near the main entrance off Church Lane. A few more walkers welcome. Please wear suitable footwear.

Contact Robin: 07940 324601 or robin@plowmate.plus.com

Afternoon Tea

Following a very successful free tea and cake afternoon at St. Mary's Church at the end of May we are going to repeat this on Saturday 25 July from 3 – 5 pm. We hope that the weather will be as kind as it was on the last occasion. We feel this is probably a venue best for summer meet ups, but watch this space for future activities planned by the HWBG. Donations to the fund for the church roof

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Meetings: We had a very successful AGM and sociable Annual Parish Meeting in May and have just completed our June meeting. All meetings were attended by villagers with lots of participation and we look forward to welcoming more members of our community to our next meetings. The July meeting has a new date (apologies for the date change), the meeting will now be held on the 20th of July, as usual there is no August meeting.

We also look forward to inputs in the future from District and County Councillors as it is so important that there is representation at this level and an opportunity to ask questions and to hear updates from these councillors.

At our recent June meeting a focus was on the land assets of the parish council including discussion of future use by new users and potential land lettings. Thank you to those who gave a community viewpoint on several aspects including Hooe's footpaths, recreation ground and other parish land. We are keen to ensure all Hooe's footpaths on parish and private land are usable and will be keeping this as a focus in future. If you experience a footpath problem please report it.

Pavilion: Particular thanks must go to Councillor Carey who has constructed two replacement doors for the pavilion on the recreation ground, thanks Dick you are such a talented craftsman.

Village hall: We were so impressed to see the arrangements for several recent parties in the village Hall (photo enclosed). This lovely space has been well used in the last couple of months and we look forward to continuing use by a range of people for a range of activities. Regular community get togethers are at planning stage - dates to follow!

Community events: As I write this (on a rainy day in early June) we are 2 days before the Hooe Open Gardens which includes the HVCG coffee morning and refreshments. This fabulous community event is a highlight every 2 years for many and the 12 gardens promise to each look a picture - I hope we all enjoyed it and the weather improved as promised!

Community voice: As always, we welcome comments and suggestions from our community so please do contact any of the councillors if you wish to let us know about something Hooe related. NMSW

Ninfield Parish Council are asking...

Could YOU become our next councillor?

Help shape your community, you get to meet lots of people and make a real difference.

The Parish Council is looking for friendly, thoughtful people who care about the local area. You don't need to need to be a politician – Parish Councils are apolitical. You don't need to be an expert, just someone who wants to help represent their community.

We currently have two councillor vacancies.

So what does a councillor do.... Listen to residents and bring forward idea to improve life in the village.
Help decide how money is spent on local services and projects.
Support community spaces like the sports pavilion, recreation ground and the children's play areas.
Generally help plan for the future of the village.

Becoming a councillor you will make a visible difference, meet people and be part of a team, and give something back to your community.

Anyone who is at least 18 years old, registered to vote in the village or have lived, worked or owned a property here for at least 12 months before an election.

You must be a British or citizen of the Commonwealth. You may be eligible as a citizen of the European Union, you would just need to check about EU citizens voting and candidacy rights in local election.

If you are interested please contact the clerk – clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk or any of the other councillors – their contact details can be found on our website.



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Ninfield Bonfire Society News

Summer Events, Lewes Bonfire and Keeping the Tradition Alive

There is a lot happening for Ninfield Bonfire Society this summer as we continue planning, fundraising and preparing for another busy bonfire season.

Bonfire Night itself may be in October, but the work that keeps the tradition alive happens all year round. From safety planning and fundraising to community events, procession organisation, fireworks, making torches and volunteer support, it takes many hands to bring Ninfield's traditional Sussex Bonfire celebrations together.

One of the big highlights this month is **Ninfield Music Night**, taking place on **Saturday 11th July 2026 at Ninfield Memorial Hall**. We are very excited to be bringing live music back to the village with a great line-up of local bands and musicians. Popular rock band **Cushty** will be headlining the evening, supported by **Diamond Project 1066**, **Ellie Valentine and her band**, and **Paul Huggett**. There will also be food, a bonfire bar and a great village atmosphere.

This event is not only a chance to enjoy an evening of live music locally, but also an important fundraiser for the Society. Every ticket sold and every bit of support helps us continue to organise Ninfield Bonfire Night for the village.

To purchase tickets: Adults £10 | Children £5

Email ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com for BACS payment details, or call **Sarah on 07809 684488**.

We are also delighted to share an exciting opportunity for Ninfield Bonfire Society members this year. On **5th November 2026**, we have the chance to attend and process at **Lewes Bonfire**. Lewes is one of the most well-known bonfire celebrations in the country, and taking part in the main procession will be a very special experience for those attending.

Numbers will be limited and attendance will be for **paid members only**. More details will follow in future editions, but if you are interested in being part of this opportunity, please email ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com.

NBS are still looking to fill two important committee roles: **Treasurer** and **Health and Safety**. These roles are essential in helping us keep Ninfield's bonfire celebrations safe, organised and running each year. You do not need previous committee experience, just a willingness to help, be part of the team and support a village tradition that means a great deal to many people. There will be support from the existing committee, so you would not be on your own.

We will also be at **Ninfield Village Market on Saturday 18th July**, so please do come and say hello. We will have information about the Society, merchandise available to browse, and tombola if you would like to try your luck. It is always a lovely chance to chat with residents and share more about what goes into keeping bonfire alive in Ninfield.

Plans are also well underway for this year's **Ninfield Bonfire Night on Saturday 24th October 2026**. The procession, bonfire, effigy and fireworks all take time, teamwork and funding, and we remain hugely grateful for the support we receive from the village.

If you enjoyed last year's bonfire, why not consider becoming a member? Membership helps support the Society and plays a part in keeping this long-standing Sussex tradition going for future years.

Membership details can be found at:

www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk/membership

We would also be very pleased to hear from any local businesses who may be interested in sponsoring the Society or supporting our events.

For more information, please email ninfieldbonfire@gmail.com or call **Sarah on 07809 684488**.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit:

www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER ISSUE

As usual the next issue will cover both August and September and because the school who prints this for us will close at the end of the summer term we have to get everything in early, so start thinking about what you are proposing for those two months.

As we write this we are waiting to know what date we need to have the copy to the printers, but will be earlier than usual!!!!

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Some of you will know that I research local War Memorials combined with available Family History sources. I do it, because as simply reading a name and bare details doesn't give any sense of what the person meant to their family. One that's nagged at me for a long time was the WW1 Memorial in St Oswald's, in Hooe. Quite honestly, for a tiny village where everyone seemed to know all the families, there's a surprising number of details that don't match with the records available now. The first public mention of any type of tribute to be fitted in Hooe Church in memory of the men who had fallen in the First World War was in the Bexhill Chronicle, dated **23rd August 1919**. It read:-

“War Memorial Tablet – It is proposed to erect a mural tablet in the recess in the north wall of the church to the memory of parishioners who fell in their country's service in the Great War. A design for a marble tablet and estimates of the cost have been submitted by Mr Francis, of Station Road, Bexhill. The inscription suggested runs –
“In grateful memory of the men of this parish who died for us during the Great War, 1914-1919. F. Clarke, C. Hayward, H. Hutchinson, H. Jones, W. Miller, W. Plester, T. Sargent, H. Vitler, R. Vitler, W. Vitler, V. Munn.” The Vicar, the Rev. C. Routh, “The Lodge”, Hooe, will be pleased to receive donations.”

Of this suggested list of the fallen, **F. Clarke** doesn't appear on the finished memorial and added, were the following five men, William Alfred Harden Dennett, Francis Ernest Stanley Dodson, Thomas Newland, Thomas George Noakes, and Frank William Pocock. The original design for the memorial was produced by the artist **Alfred Robert Hayward**, a well-respected painter in oils at that time and the **brother of Charles Hayward**, one of the fallen on the list of names. The “Bexhill Observer”, on the 28th June 1924, reported on a meeting held to discuss what to do with what was left over. The report appears below:-

“War Memorial – A meeting of the subscribers was held in the School. The Vicar, who was elected to the chair, stated that the proposal, carried at the last meeting to use the balance of the money for the direction of a shelter at the Common was negatived by the Rural District Council. The Secretary's letter to this effect was passed round the meeting. A motion proposed by Mr Newport and seconded by Mrs Freeman, to erect an oak shelf for flowers under the Memorial was carried unanimously; and after

*some discussion, on a motion by Mr J Luck, it was decided to give the balance to the Church Organ Fund. **Attention was drawn by Mrs W Munn to the omission of a name on the Memorial**, and the meeting decided that steps should be taken to see whether this could be rectified. The expense was to be borne by the fund. After a statement by Miss Hayward, of the history of the fund, the choice of the Memorial and its position, showing that the wishes of the majority of the subscribers have been carried out, the meeting closed.”*

One of the inconsistencies was William Miller. He's shown as lost on HMS Good Hope, sunk in 1914, not 1915. But of the 900+ crew there was only 1 WALTER Miller with no link to Hooe. However

1915 Feb 20 Death of Isaac John Miller - Hall's Cross (HMS Viknor) Bexhill Chronicle

*HOOE - The news of the death of Mr. Isaac John Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Miller, of **Hall's Cross, Hooe**, has just been received. He was on H.M.S. "Viknor", the armed liner, which was sunk (either by mine or owing to the rough seas) in January, all the crew being drowned. He was in the London Fire Brigade for four years, and was called up in August, 1914, from the Royal Naval Reserve, Had he survived, his time would have been up next August. He was 28 years of age, and he leaves behind a wife and a child aged 12 months, who reside in Kensington, London. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have 20 nephews and one son at the Front, and another son has enlisted since the war began, in the Australian contingent.*

It seems that John Herbert Miller, a farm hand in a tied cottage, was in Hooe with his 2nd wife, having left his earlier family behind. He was working for the Vitlers at Halls Cross Farm, and the young family had left Hooe between 1915 and 1923, so someone "misremembered" the wrong brother and the circumstances. KR

Lunch Club

The next lunch club will meet on Thursday 23 July in the Methodist Hall. If you would like a place, contact Sam White on 07484

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News & Reviews etc!

Hopefully you'll be reading this edition before the end of June, which will be really fabulous, as I can do a quick reminder for Ladies Lounge on 26th of this month, as well as pre-warn for the end of July, Friday 31st!

Firstly -THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS COINCIDENCE!:

On BBC Breakfast recently, the team were highlighting the fact that the first weekend of June was all about National Volunteering Initiatives, for things like the Big Lunch, or The Big Clean.

Well! We'd already organised that in Ninfield on Saturday 6th June at St Mary's Church! A dozen willing volunteers completely transformed the Church and left it gleaming and sparkling, from top to bottom, just amazing and much appreciated! Huge thanks to everyone who came up to St Mary's Church and really made the Cleaning magic happen! What a difference! And what fun we all had, a real Community gathering, lots of banter, tea, cake, and pride in a job well done!

(The resident swarm of Bees were kind and unconcerned...thank goodness!)

Also... A very, very kind resident called to offer an amazing, anonymous donation of £1,000 towards the essential Church Roof repairs, such a wonderful thing to hear, SO many thanks.

The HWBG raised £50 towards the fund at the Afternoon Tea held in the Church on Saturday 28th May, there'll be another Tea on Saturday July 25th, again in the Church, and any donations will go towards the Roof/Clock Tower repairs.

£68,000 plus is needed....

If anyone can help with the Church roof repairs fundraising, please get in touch - your donations and contribution would be so much appreciated.

On behalf of St Mary's, and everyone who donned rubber gloves, wielded mops and very long, extending cobweb brushes, Thank you again!

LADIES LOUNGE: FRIDAY 26 JUNE!! 4 30pm - 6.30pm. Its the last Friday of every month, at the Working Men's Club: our lovely, lively Ladies gathering! It's great to relax, unwind, natter, moan...!. enjoy some Cake, and each other's company!! All ladies, all ages are welcome; it's a fabulous afternoon for chatter, laughter, support and friendship- and an opportunity to

switch off , with like minded , marvellous women!! Next Lounge is Friday 31st July, 4.30pm...Put the date in your diaries and tell all your neighbours and friends!

AFTERNOON TEA GATHERING on SATURDAY 25th JULY! At St Mary's Church 3pm -5pm- Everyone welcome!! Following the success of the event in May, please come and join us again for the second gathering , which is for ALL residents! Come and have a lovely catch up over afternoon tea, a gossip with friends and neighbours, take the opportunity for some information gathering, a chance to catch up with forthcoming events, and to get to know what is generally going on, in and around your Village!

AND...to really appreciate and enjoy our beautiful Beacon, the Centre of our Village, the stunning, historical St Mary's Church ! Call me on 07970650321 or Jackie Langley 01424 892422 for more information, and if you'd like to 'Bake a Cake' it would be VERY much appreciated!

LINE DANCE CLASSES- are a HIT, there's a great national outpouring of love for the Country Music genre at the moment, and we in Ninfield are just adding to the excitement!!! We're having SO much FUN!

A few spaces are still available- All classes are at the Memorial Hall; fortnightly on Tuesdays-2.30 pm, moving to 4pm at the end of July (see Classes list below) and Fridays 6.30-7.30pm, all classes £7 pp/per class. Everyone is welcome, Ladies, Gents, youngsters, it's purely for Fun-but of course you can don the Stetsons, Rhinestones and Cowboy Boots if you want to! Beginners are very welcome, as are those who 'haven't done it for years!'

Oh yes...and, It's very good exercise too! Yeeeha!! 07970650321 !

MOVEMENT & DANCE: VENUES UPDATE!!

All Dance classes will continue, running as follows on a weekly basis- but, due to Memorial Hall closures for roof repairs, I have had to revise session venues and costs, so please see any changes below. New advertising will also follow on social media and notice boards.

PLEASE NOTE The Memorial Hall 6 week closure for roof and cladding renewals, from 20th July, will mean- MOVEMENT 2 MUSIC class on Monday mornings will be moving to HOOE VILLAGE HALL - MONDAYS 20th July & 27th July -1st class 9.45am, 2nd class 10.45am- 11.45am.

NINFIELD METHODIST HALL - MONDAYS 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th AUGUST- 9.45am & 10 .45am.

TUESDAY LINE DANCE class will start later, at 4pm, in the MEMORIAL HALL- after the workmen are clear. From 27th July, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY EVENING CLASSES will remain in their original Halls at their usual times!!! All participants will have full details of new venues; any new members, those wishing to start a class, please Call me on 07970650321 for full information.

.....
MONDAY - MOVEMENT 2 MUSIC with coffee and refreshments afterwards till - Cost is STILL £6 pp per class to include refreshments!.....

Please Note-

TUESDAYS (Alternates) LINE DANCING Memorial Hall 2.30- 3.30pm (4pm after 27th July)

WEDNESDAY 6.30pm DANCERCISE Memorial Hall

THURSDAY 9.30am SILVERY SWANS BALLET Methodist Hall

FRIDAY (alternates) Memorial Hall

6.30pm BALLROOM,

7.30pm BURLESQUE/SHOW DANCE.

LINE DANCE- 6.30 - 7.30pm (alternates)

ALL these classes are NOW £7 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 togethers....

CALL 07970650321 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

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

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Chairman: Pam Doodes
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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



June 13th/14th Open Gardens weekend

First, we had a heatwave, and so our gardeners were worrying about how dry their gardens were and how the plants were suffering – then we had strong winds and heavy rain!! The beautiful display of roses around the village suffered hugely from the wind, but, with foresight, many took photographs when at their best. Those photos are on the website

www.hooe-open-gardens.com

Who would have thought there would be so much stress opening one's garden for the enjoyment of others? But all was well. The skies cleared and the weather was kind, warm and sunny, with just a little wind.



When gardeners get together there is always interesting chat, be it about the weather, the trials and tribulations of fighting aphids and slugs, the quality of the wine enjoyed in their gardens

The final planning meeting – some of the gardeners

HVCG is sincerely grateful to all who opened their garden and to the many other volunteers who helped with the event. Marquees needed to be erected, signs made and placed, tables and chairs transported, cakes and other refreshments baked, teas served, washing up and dismantling everything to be carried out. To show our appreciation we were pleased to invite all to a celebration thank you BBQ on the Sunday evening.



Ready for the off

Lindy, one of our gardeners, produced a truly amazing three fold guide to her garden, such a great idea, it was so informative!

We are hugely grateful to Athelas for sponsoring our event again this year. We are so fortunate to have their support and advice.



“Oh Look” said a lady visitor – “another beautiful garden to enjoy – thank you!”

Just one photo to whet your appetite, see our website for more!

Sue Pattenden

At every coffee morning without fail we could guarantee that Sue would be there, sitting in her favourite place surrounded by family and friends, generating much fun and laughter. We so enjoyed her company. We were all very sad to hear of her passing. Our thoughts are with Peter, her girls and her extended family at this difficult time. We all miss her.

Future Events

4th July - St Oswald's Church Garden Party: As usual, HVCG is delighted to be able to assist with this much-loved annual event. See you there

HVCG Coffee Mornings resume on 10th October. For many years, each September, Jane Fuller and family have organised a coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Nurses. Please come along to support Jane – and, for once, it gives the HVCG Team a chance to sit, enjoy coffee and natter, without the washing up!!

Friends of Sussex Hospices Gruffalo Fun Event



Our grateful thanks to those who volunteered at the FSH Gruffalo Fun event held on 27th and 28th May, at Framfield Grange. The Heat Wave didn't deter the 850 plus children who came and enjoyed the huge variety of attractions. These included pond dipping, model making and handicrafts, the woodland trails, the magician and of course, hunting the Gruffalo!

In the last 7 years Gruffalo Fun has raised in excess of £57,500 for Sussex Hospices. The figure for this year is not yet known

We extend our sincere congratulations to the author of the Gruffalo books, Julia Donaldson who was made a Dame of the British Empire in the Kings Honours list in June 2026

Planning: During the summer months we will be meeting up to discuss our future programme of events. Please let us know if there any events you particularly enjoy and would like us to consider staging.

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY

For some unknown reason our year starts On the 1st of March and ends on the last day of the following February. So in early March we held our annual general meeting which resulted in an amicable changing of roles with a different chairman a new treasurer and secretary. Membership fees were collected and then following a tea break Barry Chasely gave a very interesting talk about bees and beekeeping.

As usual we organised a village litter pick at the end of March in support of the "Great British spring clean". This was well supported by local volunteers who gave up two hours of their Sunday morning to help. Afterwards it was remarked upon that the village was looking pristine. A lot of our volunteer time is spent working in church wood which we maintain on behalf of the parish council. It is so pleasing to us to see visitors enjoying being there, particularly the pre-school playgroups children who seem to be delighted to be out in the woodland learning about nature at the same time. On the 22nd of April this year we found out from them that it was Earth Day when we should reflect on how we are treating this planet of ours, plenty of food for thought there.! The county ecologist recently inspected the wood for the parish council and gave it a glowing review which is very pleasing to the village Society who have been caring for and improving the woodland ever since it was given to the village some 30 years ago. The wood itself is classed as a semi natural ancient wet woodland which is a very rare habitat now, in addition it is also a local nature reserve. If you are not already familiar wit Church Wood a visit is highly recommended, you will not be disappointed. RG
For mor information please contact our chairman 07940 324601

FOR OUR GREEN AND DISAPPEARING LAND

Off they went a merry band, Hammer and stakes in their Hand.
Brazen as brass in the fading light, to rescue Ninfield from its plight.
One on the corner at Standard Hill, second at Catsfield to fit the bill.
On next to the workers club, Ninfield's busy social hub.
The siren rang loud from afar, so they all ran into the bar.
Who on earth would stand them bail, when cops sling them into jail.
Ninfield crowd funded their release much to the amusement of the police.
So Wealden council please take note, liberal planning will lose your vote.
Neighbours go not gently into the night rise up for Ninfield in its plight. HJ

NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
Minister: Reverend Ian Couchman
Tel: 01424 550427
email: office@hbrmethodists.org.uk
website: hbrmethodists.org.uk

Sunday Services for July 2026:

5 th	10.30 am	Church Anniversary / Birthday - Family Celebration with Reverend Ian Couchman
12 th	10.30 am	Family Worship with Tim Fudge
19 th	10.30 am	Worship & Praise Family Service with John Troughton
26 th	10.30 am	Worship & Praise Family Communion with Alan Hurrell

Events for July 2026:

3 rd	10.00-11.30am	Book exchange & Café in Hall &
Fridays	10.00-11.30am	Community Café
23 rd	1.30-3.00pm	Summer Fun Club – ‘Laser Quest’ (see below)

On 5th July we will celebrate the 155th Anniversary / Birthday of our Church so do come along to join in this special time with our minister the Reverend Ian Couchman. Should be a great occasion to ‘give thanks’ and there will also be Birthday cake & coffee after the service! It is so good that the Methodist Church has been a part of Ninfield life for all these years.

Laser Tag Summer Fun Special We look forward to all the excitement of another Laser Tag Holiday club special, for all young people, so please make a note of this event in your diaries. . As we expect this to be very popular please book your place a.s.a.p. with Tim Fudge (our Community Lay Worker) or David at: tim.fudge@hbrmethodists.org.uk

Every Sunday we continue to organise a Junior Church which means that young people who come along for our service at 10.30am can move into our Hall for their own activities, after a short combined time together in Church. Parents can either stay in Church or move into Hall.

Please continue to remember & pray for all that we are doing to share the love of God in our community.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



Saul became jealous and angry.

David had to go on the run and hide.



When he wasn't fighting the Philistines, Saul tried to catch David.

One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



God has given you a chance to kill him!

David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



Saul didn't notice.

Then David felt bad.

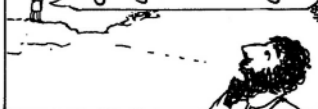


He is God's chosen king. Having the chance to do something doesn't make it right.

David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.



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:)

Scout Leader: Elaine Gausden ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

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

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

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

WORKING MENS CLUB Debby Potheary 07814530783WMC_Secretary@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: Jackie Scarff 07548 528754

1066 RINGERS (Hand Belleplates) Carole Ballard 01424 210980

PARISH WHO'S WHO

PRIEST IN CHARGE OF NINFIELD AND HOOE Rev Paul Frostick,
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PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

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: Mrs Dawn Ralph

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

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NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:

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