

***ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MARESFIELD PARISH***

YEAR 2005-06

PREPARED FOR THE
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 19TH MAY 2006

AT

FAIRWARP VILLAGE HALL

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PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Councillors

During the year, Andrew Wallace and Sandra Weekes resigned, both following changes in circumstances, and Mairede Thomas after an accident which left her immobile for quite a long time; in each case, they took the view that they were unlikely to be able to pull their weight as Councillors – I report our gratitude to them for their efforts while they were in post, and for their very proper approach to the role once they felt hampered from full performance of its duties.

Charlie Stevenson has joined the Council, and has very quickly become an effective member of our Planning committee.

The Office

Claire Goossens joined us at the start of the year and quickly became an effective Assistant Clerk; she has stood in very well for the Clerk, Tony Allen, when he has been away.

As widely reported already, Tony Allen put in a lot of effort to achieve the Certificate in Local Council Administration; we congratulate him for this. It is important in part because it will enable us to obtain Quality Council status and also because of his increased knowledge – a recent benefit has been his proposals for more efficient working within the Council and its Committees.

Maresfield Waste Site

Veolia (the new name for Onyx) received planning permission for the waste site. We worked very hard to oppose this, as did Maresfield Conservation Group (who worked with us) and others. That we failed is a great regret and a large blot on an otherwise successful year.

The Local Development Framework (LDF)

LDF is a new process for long-term planning covering a 20 year period (2006 -26), managed by creation of a flexible collection of documents covering the various aspects of planning, each capable of adjustment and updating as the plan period proceeds. It should work far better than the old Local Plan system (of which the Maresfield Waste Site was a bad example). We have polled Parishioners at fetes, in small "focus groups" and in three village meetings; and the resulting draft documents (one per village) have been available for review by Parishioners for some time. Our documents set out key facts and issues for each village and identify what we wish to see done and not done in the plan period. We have many people to thank for their input and in particular Nutley Conservation Group which has created a Village Design Statement for Nutley, a model of its kind, which is incorporated into LDF document for Nutley. Reference above to key facts and issues indicated that these are the headline documents, with other shorter documents likely to follow with our input on topics such as housing, protection and use of the countryside, business development etc.

Easylink

Nutley and Fairwarp have had the benefit of the Easylink service for some time; it provides subsidised transport from home to Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells and back for people who have transport difficulties. The subsidy was withdrawn last autumn, but we have led a group of villages with active support from the County and District Councils and from Crowborough Town Council to keep it going; initially that was on a temporary bridging finance basis, but the service has now been secured for some time and work is going on to create a new Community Transport Scheme for this part of the District, probably to be based in or around Crowborough. This has been a first-class effort by some of our Councillors, particularly Tim Sparrow, and by Tony Allen.

Play Areas

The Parklands Play Area is a fine resource for young children in Maresfield. It has been dogged by some controversy over the selection and siting of one piece of equipment, and this Council has not been able to find a quick solution and has been subject to some sharp criticism from the people most closely involved. It appears that a solution will now be agreed and implemented. A new play area has been set up in Fairwarp, locally led and financed – and the work in this sort of thing is considerable –we should all be grateful to people who put in such voluntary effort. The play areas in Maresfield Recreation Ground and in Nutley need upgrading and that process is underway.

Lobbying

A major part of the Council's work is pressing others to do what we think is their duty by our Parishioners. A lot of this is everyday work (clearing paths of leaves, cutting back hedges, getting to grips with motorbike racers etc) but some of it is more high profile. We have had real successes by reason of persistence and by making our case clearly and calmly. Highlights are the widening of the School Hill footpath in Maresfield; the extension out to the roundabout of the Batts Bridge Road 30mph limit; the realignment of the A22 in Nutley to widen the pavement just north of the shop; and the recognition by Sussex Police within its Policing Plan of the effect of extreme speeding on country and village roads – this is now County wide policy, on which we have led the way, and we look forward to seeing the Police starting to implement the new policy soon.

Partnership working

In 2004, we convened a small informal get together of chairmen of our neighbouring parishes. From this has grown occasional linking up of eight or nine parishes when we identify common interests which are more likely to be achieved by working together. This has borne fruit with the Easylink work and lobbying on the Policing Plan referred to above, and with a group get together to share experiences and concerns over planning matters. This has the potential to be an important development for our "cluster" of parishes.

People

We now have as many non-Councillors working on Parish Council activity as we have Councillors; this is a very good thing. We are all very grateful to those who give their time and skills in this way.

During the year, Pat Kennedy, ward councillor for Buxted and Maresfield on the District Council, became chairman of that council, a role which she fills with distinction. Among our parish councillors, Tim Sparrow became the chairman of the Local Strategic Partnership, and Hanno Fry became chairman of the Wealden Senior Citizens' Partnership. These roles enable them to bring a wider understanding of local issues into our council.

Karen Juniper has become more active as our PCSO, and does a good job in trying circumstances (Sussex Police did not make a plan for transport for PCSOs from Police Station to the communities which they support!). We hope to see the transport problem solved soon and to see a lot more of Karen. Having seen/heard her ticking off some young boys, I know that when she ticks you off, you stay ticked off!

Martin Greig has been Rector of Maresfield and Vicar of Nutley for 6 years. Last autumn he let us know that he had been diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia; he will retire on 1 July 2006. For his congregations, he has been a fine Vicar, and to many of us a good friend. Many people who have come in contact with the church only through baptism, marriage or death have greatly appreciated his ministry to them. We are sorry to be saying good bye to him and to Anne.

William King

COUNCILLORS

FAIRWARP

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Guy Hardy | 712647 |
| Steve Leaney | 712115 |
| Roger Street | 713227 |

MARESFIELD

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| John Gutteridge | 764781 |
| Ken Ogden | 761433 |
| Ray Tester | 712519 |
| Mike Cranfield | 749770 |

VACANCY

NUTLEY

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| William King | 713798 |
| [Chairman] | |
| Hanno Fry | 712410 |
| Tim Sparrow | 713460 |
| Peter Tester | 712117 |
| Chris Stephens | 712464 |
| Charlie Stevenson | 712823 |

COUNTY COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Tony Reid | 712242 |
|-----------|--------|

DISTRICT COUNCIL

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------|
| Frank Brown | 712076 | N |
| Norman Buck | 733191 | M |
| Jim Hollins | 01892 770175 | F |
| Pat Kennedy | 761753 | M |
| Sylvia Martin | 740547 | N |

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| F | Fairwarp |
| M | Maresfield |
| N | Nutley |

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

| <u>2005</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 56500 | Precept | 65390 |
| 769 | Interest | 961 |
| 1086 | Other | 74 |
| 0 | Grants | 1219 Note 1 |
| 58355 | TOTAL | 67644 |

| <u>2005</u> | <u>Expenditure</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 15921 | Administration | 15185 |
| 16174 | Staff Costs | 28822 Note 2 |
| 3062 | Services | 5390 Note 3 |
| 632 | Subscriptions | 729 |
| 2020 | Grants – Section 137 | 215 Note 4 |
| 7360 | Grants - Specific Powers | 11982 Note 4 |
| 1154 | Miscellaneous | 5613 Note 5 |
| 5237 | Capital Expenditure | 582 |
| 51560 | TOTAL | 68517 Note 6 |

| <u>2005</u> | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 24870 | Balance as at 1 April | 31665 |
| 58355 | Plus Income | 67644 |
| 83225 | | 99309 |
| 51560 | Less Expenditure | 68517 |
| 31666 | CLOSING BALANCE | 30792 |

- Note 1: Community Fund Grant towards the cost of the Streetlight at Churchfields
Note 2: Additional amount in 2006 for salary of Assistant Clerk
Note 3: Includes £2500 for new fencing at Maresfield Recreation Ground
Note 4: Many of the 2005 Grants - Section 137 in 2006 are under Grants – Specific Powers
Note 5: This was a strategic amount held for traffic and transport initiatives and was used mainly on the Easylink Initiative and the new streetlight at Churchfields
Note 6: Total rounded down by £1 by accounts software.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

During the year the committee as it is required to do has kept a watching brief on The Council's financial position. At the beginning of this financial year our auditors suggested that our reserves were too low. Traditionally we retained £15,000 in our accounts for emergencies. They have advised that the figure should be closer to £30,000. The Parish Council has decided to increase the reserves accordingly but on an incremental basis. There has been some unplanned expenditure during the last financial year with which we have been able to cope. As was reported last year the salary agreement on which our Clerk's and Assistant Clerk's salaries are based took place after the 2006/7 budget was set. However, we managed to pay the extra that was required from savings in administrative costs.

Unplanned expenditure was also incurred when we found ourselves having to pay solicitor's fees for work trying to secure the access to their Recreation Ground for the residents of Maresfield. Additionally, we provided a new streetlight for Nutley in the vicinity of the Memorial Hall and also provided a significant contribution to the maintenance of the Easylink Bus Initiative after its existing funding was withdrawn.

There are also several areas where we expected to have to spend funds but in the end did not do so. East Sussex County Council finally paid in total for the widening of the pavements in Maresfield and Nutley. They had initially warned us that we would be expected to share the costs with them and we set aside money for that purpose. But they eventually picked up the whole bill and we are grateful to them for that.

We had also expected to spend some money at Maresfield on the Parklands' Play area. But, because of the difficulties with the siting of some equipment, this did not take place. There is money in the budget now for this coming year to help with whatever solution is agreed between local people.

This has meant that the increase in the budget this year works out at £3,811, or some 4.75%. This is line with local government increases in general. The increase in the precept to cover it, however, is £11,053. Two factors cause this discrepancy between the size of the precept compared that of the budget. The first is that the Parish Council is becoming more efficient at achieving its goals. Consequently there is less money left over from last year's spending to subsidise this year's precept. Secondly, as mentioned earlier, we have been required to increase significantly the reserves held for major emergencies.

However, the prospect for next year (2007/8) now looks much better. Barring any serious emergencies, we are on course for the precept to mirror much closer the amount required in the budget.

During the last year we have tried to audit the public property that exists in the three villages in order to create an asset register. It should enable us to monitor its condition and, if necessary take any remedial action. Associated with this initiative we have created a comprehensive risk assessment for all of the activities of the Parish Council together with the property for which it is responsible.

As I reported last year we have appointed a part-time Assistant Parish Clerk, Claire Goossens. She has now been in post for 12 months. The benefits of having this extra person clearly can be seen from the Council's performance during this period. We are now close to submitting our application to be appointed a 'Quality Council' and would congratulate all of those who have been responsible for bringing us to that position. In particular I would like to mention Tony Allen the Parish Clerk and the hard work that he has done to this effect.

Roger Street, Chairman, Finance & Administration Committee

ENVIRONMENT & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

After pressure from the Parish Council, work has finally been completed to enlarge the river duct under the A22 below Old Forge Lane. This was necessary to prevent fairly regular flooding of some properties upstream of this duct.

Our continued watching brief of the condition of highways and footways has resulted in several reported pot-holes, blocked gullies and drains and overhanging branches being attended to. In addition we have again accepted the ESCC offer to refurbish our milestones, clean road signs in the Parish and clean or paint some of our finger posts.

The Tourist Notice Board that was positioned in the lay-bye north of Old Forge Lane, being of no further use to ESCC, has been obtained and will be refurbished and used by the Parish Council elsewhere in the Parish.

Play areas in the Parish have given us a few headaches this year.

- Nutley's equipment is ageing and is hence requiring attention. Provision has been made for the necessary repair work to be carried out this coming year.
- Maresfield recreation ground play area has had new fencing and both Nutley and Maresfield Rec have had their usual top ups of Wood Chips.
- Parklands new play area has caused most problems, as one piece of equipment has inadvertently been so positioned as to cause annoyance to neighbours. This committee has endeavoured to find a solution to this problem that is acceptable to both the Offended Residents and the Parklands Committee that runs the play area that is affordable to all concerned. There is now some light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully we can report success next year.

It has been agreed that the Parish Council should re-launch its pamphlet showing the Public Footpaths within the Parish and this is now in hand.

The Lamp in the Car Park at Nutley has finally been supplied electricity from a Parish Council supply and is now lit all evenings until the late evening.

The Bus shelter at Parklands has been damaged by vandals on several occasions and has each time been repaired by Parish Council contractors. The costs have been recovered from our insurers but this will inevitably lead to a rise in our insurance premiums. Should anyone spot Property being damaged in the Parish, a call to the Parish Office would be appreciated.

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Peter Tester, Chairman, Environment & Maintenance Committee

CIVIL PROTECTION

During the year we have progressed in our emergency preparations both within the Parish and in joint activity with Wealden District and other parishes.

We have completed tidying up our Emergency Instructions. In particular, mainly through a good response to an Emergency Questionnaire and letters sent to individuals, it has been possible to update the Confidential section containing details of the skills, power tools, plant, various equipments and other services that Parishioners have kindly offered for use in an emergency. These are an important factor in our contingency planning and could play an essential part in our response to a variety of situations. In addition we are concerned that we should be aware of any parishioners who may need special assistance for various reasons in certain emergency situations

At last the generator to supply power in the event of a failure of the public supply has now been installed at the Parish Office. It is yet another task for the Clerk to test start it every month! The equipment is not fixed in this location so that it can be moved for use elsewhere should the need arise.

We have participated in a number of activities sponsored by Wealden District and organised by the Emergency Operations Co-ordinator.

The main event was the table top Ex Summer Fete in which a number of other parishes participated. This posed a number of problem situations in our area in which Parish resources were called into use prior to the arrival of the emergency services and in their support afterwards. We are not a fourth emergency service yet with our local knowledge and albeit limited resources it is clear we still have an important role to play. It seems very likely that the Parish Council will also have to deal with various personal and material problems among parishioners in the aftermath of an emergency.

Some members of the Civil Protection Committee also attended a workshop on various aspects of radio communications in the District and especially plans to improve signals across the Ashdown Forest and another on Command and Control of emergency operations within Wealden District.

We now have a framework of general contingency arrangements for Civil Protection in Maresfield Parish. However a lot of 'fine tuning' has yet to be done. I believe it would be quite wrong at this time to place Civil Protection on a 'care and maintenance' basis only.

John Gutteridge, Chairman, Civil Protection Committee

PLANNING

Over the year the Planning Committee has been very busy indeed, considering a total of 119 new planning applications. It is interesting to note that of the 67 applications the Parish Council recommended for approval, Wealden District Council (WDC) went on to approve 56 of them. Of the 24 applications recommended for refusal by the Parish Council, WDC upheld the decision on 14 of them. There are 28 applications on which no decision has as yet been determined. These figures demonstrate that the Parish Council's input is a crucial part of the Wealden District Council decision making process.

The most significant change to the planning process at WDC is that 95% of all applications are now delegated to individual officers for consideration with the remainder going to Committee. The relevant Ward District Councillor must however approve the delegation of each application. Please note that despite this change, the Parish Council continues to be in receipt of all plans for comment and discussion, so any residents who have a planning problem or concern should contact the Parish Office.

Affordable Housing continues to be a big issue and at the moment the Parish Council is working with Wealden District Council to explore future possibilities. Central Government has recently granted £13 million to help fund HOPE projects, but unfortunately there were no sites within this Parish put forward. Nevertheless, we push on in a bid to cover Affordable Housing need both now and in the future. At a recently attended Wealden District Council led housing conference this need was once again highlighted.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those residents who have taken the time to express their views with regard to planning issues either by contacting the Parish Office or by attending meetings.

Ken Ogden, Chairman, Planning Committee

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee was established to develop issues referred from Council and to maintain a watching brief on local, regional and national matters that may affect the Parish, and to identify these issues to Council for action as required. In the last year, this Committee has covered the following items:-

- **Councillors Allowances** – Councillors can claim travel and subsistence expenses outside of the Parish Boundary; in practice they rarely do. Additionally a Basic Allowance (£100 p/a in 2005/06) exists, but this is not currently claimed by Councillors. The Policy Committee has been looking at compensation for actual costs incurred by Councillors in their Council duties, and for some this is quite considerable (well over the Basic Allowance level), when you take into account equipment costs, broadband connection, consumables (e.g. paper, printer cartridges) etc. This matter is being pursued up to Central Government level.
- **Local Development Framework** – The Committee developed a wide consultation process and produced the draft documents which set out key facts, requirements and issues for each village. It is also developing draft policies for affordable housing, and for the positioning of communications masts in the Parish
- **Grant Applications** – A grants process and applications policy was developed.
- **Fixed Penalty Notices** – The Clean Neighbourhoods Act gives Parish Councils (if they choose) the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences. We are awaiting Government guidance on implementation and its implications.
- **Committee Structures** – A review of the Council's Committees' structure was undertaken, the outcome of which was a proposal for fewer Committees and to reduce the number of meetings (and the related minuting and clerking role for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk) in order to free up more time to spend on achieving results. This was implemented by Council at its Annual Meeting on 16th May 2006.

Tony Allen, Clerk

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Integrated Parish Traffic Management Plan – The Committee worked hard throughout the year to develop this Plan. Feedback was taken from Parishioners comments on individual questionnaires, and from various consultations including last year's Village Fetes and the Parish Annual Assembly. Problems and solutions were identified and prioritised, and the next step is to focus on single achievable measures for each Village. The biggest difficulty is that most of our requirements revolve around getting approval and finance from East Sussex County Council (ESCC); some of our proposed measures are very expensive, but there may be other sources of funding that we can consider.

Maresfield By-Pass – The Parish Council's proposal to reduce the danger on this road by splitting it into three lanes. (i.e. two lanes in one direction, and one lane in the opposite direction), is not supported by ESCC, which prefers to use road markings to narrow the existing width of the two lanes. This work could be done when the road is next resurfaced, but this is not currently in ESCC's programme of works.

A26/Herons Ghyll – This part of the A26 is renowned for being very dangerous and the Parish Council is supporting Buxted Parish Council in its attempts to get ESCC to implement measures to improve safety at this point.

EasyLink Bus Service – This important door-to-door service for people with transport and mobility difficulties was saved from closure by the active involvement of Maresfield Parish Councillors, who are now working with neighbouring Parishes on securing its long-term future by the creation of a North Wealden Community Transport Scheme.

A22/Nutley Pavement Widening – After much persistence, ESCC were persuaded to increase the pavement widths, just north of the Nutley Village Stores. This has reduced the danger to the large number of people who use this pavement.

School Hill/Maresfield Pavement Widening – The narrow section of pavement, just above the School was widened to improve the safety of the many parents, children and other who use this pavement.

A272/Piltdown - The danger at this part of the A272 was highlighted following a recent very serious accident, the Parish Council is supporting Fletching Parish Council in its attempts to get ESCC to implement measures to improve safety at this point.

Public Transport – ESCC is being encouraged to ensure that connections between bus services that meet at the same place are synchronised so that longer journeys are made easier.

A22/ Nutley School Crossing – The problem of vehicles causing real danger at this crossing still exists; vehicles are still regularly 'jumping' the red lights, and even overtaking on the crossing. The Parish Council worked with Sussex Police and the School in a programme of education and training for the children (and parents!), and is now seeking urgent measures from ESCC to control vehicles and make the crossing more visible.

SpeedWatch Exercise – Sussex Police are now upgrading this Scheme to improve safety and enforcement levels and Maresfield Parish has been earmarked for the pilot run of the new Scheme. The Parish Office holds a list of volunteers who wish to get trained and involved in helping to reduce the occurrences of unacceptable speeding in our Villages.

Ray Tester, Chairman, Traffic & Transport Committee

STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

A very busy year for the Strategy sub-committee which has been working on Village Plan initiatives. As ever, progress has been very varied.

Health Services

There is a significant demand for better access to health services in rural areas and this parish is no exception. For the moment we are targeting Nutley which has neither local provision nor suitable public transport to health services. We are continuing to work on the provision of doctors' surgery facilities in Nutley and have carried out detailed research including discussions with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and local doctors. Our ideal is to have a branch surgery of a local practice and we continue to put a major part of our efforts into that. So far the Ashdown Forest Health Centre has not welcomed our approaches. We are also very aware of the need to provide better access to other health services, particularly hospitals but also dentists, opticians and so on. We intend to seek greater co-operation from the PCT which currently seems deaf to its responsibilities in this area, as well as in the provision of public and community transport services which I cover later in this report.

Older citizens and Carers

The Parish Council has been concerned to ensure that these two groups of parishioners receive the help and support they need. Neither group is prone to complain or seek assistance so the Parish Council has enquired of those who are in touch with both carers and older people to let them know that the Council, councillors and the Parish Office staff are available, in confidence, to provide help and contact with other agencies should that prove helpful. A collection of leaflets and other sources of information is now held in the Parish Office and is available for display at meetings of relevant organisations, clubs and societies in the Parish.

On a broader level, the sub-committee feels that more effort should be made by the County Council to provide adequate support for all carers and old people, regardless of their means and it intends to seek full Parish Council support for this need.

Youth

At the other end of the age scale, previous work by the Council has shown that, apart from youth related sport, there are not many facilities for youngsters within our villages. Access to events and entertainment in surrounding towns is also difficult. The Council therefore has worked with Action in rural Sussex and the Uckfield staff of the County Youth Service to see what additional facilities might be appropriate. As a first step, informal evenings are now being run by the Council and Nutley Church to provide a fun forum to see if the youngsters of the village want to develop something more organised. More help and support from parents and youngsters would be very welcome. Please contact the Parish Office.

Transport and access

One of the major conclusions from the Village Plan survey was the lack of suitable transport for many people in the villages to get them to health related appointments, to do shopping and deal with other family matters and for leisure purposes. This particularly affects the young and the old but can be equally important to families where the only car is needed every day to get the "bread winner" to and from work. The Parish Council has therefore worked hard this year to get better public and community transport services. It persuaded the County to provide a short term grant last summer to keep the Easylink service running until longer term arrangements could be put in place.

It then organised the participating parishes, including Crowborough, to combine to provide financial support until the end of the financial year and subsequently it gained a three year grant from Wealden District Council to keep the service running and, more importantly, to build a proper community transport association based in the area. In the coming year we hope to see that association formed which will mean a better locally organised Easylink service along with direct provision of bus facilities for all groups, club, societies and organisations in the area. We will also target local bus companies to seek improved services and develop better access to local railway stations.

Business

The Strategy sub-committee welcomed the formation of a local business discussion group which meets monthly in Nutley and has encouraged Maresfield businesses to set up a similar group in Maresfield. The Parish Office remains an access point for local businesses to seek advice and to facilitate more local group activity.

Parish Website

Over the year we have built a website for the Parish. We initiated this with the help of a Buxted Councillor and, subsequently, with the arrival of Councillor Stevenson on the Council, we have been able to take the work in-house. The website is designed to provide access to current Parish Council activities, agendas, minutes of meetings and so on and, more importantly, to give ready access to wider community activities. Any organisation, club or society can now have its details posted on the website. Please contact the Parish Office for more information and help us make the website even better.

General

Steady progress on all the key issues identified from the Village Plan and successes is now being achieved. This has been due to the immense amount of background work put in by committee members, including the very welcome help from non-Council members of the committee, Fred Thorogood, Ceri Jenkins, and, more recently, Molly Smith. Moving so many initiatives forward has also only been possible because of the work of the clerk and deputy clerk in the Parish Office. I am most grateful for everyone's help.

We would welcome more assistance from outside the committee, either as members or to help us on specific areas of work so if anyone has a particular interest or concern in one or more of our key topics, I would be happy to meet them and see what they can do to help the Parish and parishioners.

Tim Sparrow, Chairman, Strategy Sub-Committee

FAIRWARP FOXES SHORT MAT BOWLS

This group of largely Senior Citizens meets on Friday afternoons in Fairwarp Village Hall to play bowls. This activity is popular because it encourages older people to keep active and to meet up with other local village teams to play matches and enjoy each others company. We try and play eight month of the year – during the summer months some of our members play outdoor bowls. Again this activity is much enjoyed socially and brings people together.

Mrs Peggy Endacott

FAIRWARP POP-IN

This gathering of people who live in and around the village, meet every Wednesday morning at the Foresters Arms (by kind permission of the Publican, Mr John Lyon) for coffee / tea / biscuits and a chat and is well supported. Between 15 and 25 people meet together to discuss both local and national events. This has been flourishing since 1999 and is enjoyed by all who attend. Long may it continue.

Mrs Peggy Endacott

FAIRWARP VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is run by a Management Committee for the benefit of the local community, and provides a wide range of activities. Some of these, such as the OFSTED registered playgroup (Stepping Stones), mums and toddlers, short mat bowls, WI and the Forest Club are open to local people to join. In addition, the hall can be hired for private functions such as wedding receptions, anniversary, birthday parties, jumble sales etc. A market selling flowers, bread, gift cards, home made cakes, books and various other items is held in the hall on alternate Saturday mornings.

Fairwarp's largest single fundraising event, organised by the Committee, but run by local people, is the Annual Village Fete held on the green. Last year it made a profit of over £3,000, the money raised is used to offset the running costs of the Hall, pay for major improvements and ensure that hire charges remain competitive. The 2006 Fete will be held on 8th July.

Not only does the event raise money for hall and green maintenance, but it is also a colourful, lively and enjoyable afternoon. Last year there was entertainment from majorettes, a fun dog show and children's races as well as activities for old and young in the form of competitions, a craft and product show, games, slide and bouncy castle, plus various stalls with interesting articles for sale.

In 2005, as a result of the good income from the fete we were finally able to complete the disabled access ramp which had become a legal requirement during the previous year. Although the cost of this was high (£4,800), Maresfield Parish Council kindly donated £1,000 to help towards this.

In addition we received a grant of £100 from Maresfield Parish Council under its Tidy Roads Scheme and this was put towards installing planters to the front of the village hall ramp to improve the appearance of the hall.

The Committee also got involved in other activities on behalf of the village last year e.g. consultation by the Parish Council regarding the local development framework for Fairwarp.

One of the major projects over the last few years has been raising funds for the improvement of the play area located on the village green to provide equipment for slightly older children. This project, which is nearing completion, started from very small beginnings, a donation of £500 from Maresfield Parish Council to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Further information about the hall and the activities run in it can be found in the monthly Fairwarp Echo which celebrates its thirty fifth anniversary this year.

Sue Bergan-Gander

BONNERS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A caring school committed to achievement for all

Bonnors CE Primary School has, once again, completed another successful year. Following an intensive period of marketing we were able to admit more than our designated admission number in the reception class in September. This slightly off set the impact of the large number of Year 6 children who left us in the July. Continuing to attract new families remains a focus for us in order to maintain the viability of our present number of class sizes. In an area with demographics, this is a challenge. Standards in the school continue to rise. We successfully set the standards in order to receive a Quality Mark from the Basic Skills Agency in September (awarded to 10% of all school nationally). This is a prestigious award and recognises the commitment of the whole school community to its continued successes.

In March our Deputy Headteacher was successfully promoted to a larger school within the County; a reflection upon the excellence of opportunity offered at Bonnors.

Not only do our children continue to thrive academically, the wide range of enrichment opportunities open to them enable them to develop and pursue their sporting, artistic and creative passions. Children remain constantly enthusiastic, unfailingly cheerful and above all happy.

Our staff also continue to show high levels of enthusiasm, passion and care. They are inspirational teachers and are consistently evaluated as good or outstanding by inspections agencies.

We are happy to have our self evaluation judgement confirmed by the local Authority that we are a good school offering good value for money, which reflects the opinion of inspectors at our last Ofsted inspection.

We look forward to the coming year and the joy and continued successes.

Marion Ponting, Head Teacher BONNERS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BONNERS CE SCHOOL 2005-06

Bonnors School has 87 children in four classes with a dedicated team of teachers and teaching assistants backed up by office and caretaking staff who are equally enthusiastic about the school and its success. Parents and volunteers from the community continue to play an important role in the life of the school, listening to children read, encouraging their literacy and maths skills and as ever holding fund-raising events.

The governing body has seen some changes in the past year. Stephen Wilson, a parent, is now chairman. He and other parent governors are using their professional expertise to take a fresh look at the role of the body to maximise its efficiency and overall strategic position.

In addition to their normal curriculum five children have been selected to join other local pupils to study maths at a higher level. Further enrichment opportunities are also available for more able pupils through a recently launched LEA programme. Half and whole day sessions in history, poetry, music, art and science will be offered to children from each age group to extend their skills in these subjects. Uckfield Community & Technology College has continued to lead our local schools in developing the sports expertise of both pupils and teachers and Bonnors has again participated fully in this link with the college. Children are being encouraged to walk or cycle to school and regular use is made of the "walking bus" with the help of parent volunteers. Greater use of this facility by pupils is one aim of the new Bonnors school travel plan and an essential ingredient of our Healthy Schools programme.

The School Council, made up of representatives from each class, is proving an invaluable source of ideas. It is good to see how much the children are committed to and involved in their own education.

The governors congratulate the headteacher, staff and pupils on another successful year.

Maureen Cottingham, Governor, Bonnors CE Primary School.

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Two main issues have dominated the activities of the Conservation group in the past year the first is the long-running battle of the Maresfield Waste Site. It seems we have finally lost this. Despite consultations, submissions, petitions and public inquiries, the County Council approved the waste contractor's planning application and the Secretary of State in turn decided not to intervene on the grounds that "there is not sufficient conflict with national policies to warrant calling in."

However, as we know the development was contrary to the County Structure plan, the Wealden Local Plan and even the County's own Local Waste Plan, which has only recently been adopted.

We are bitterly disappointed by the outcome, as we had worked very closely with the Parish Council to present the strongest possible case against this development, including retaining a specialist consultant to give advice on the planning aspects. No one should doubt the need for a Waste Management Plan, or for a properly organised waste facility. However, our concern from the start has been the location of this facility and the serious implications for the whole environment of the village. The danger is that the remainder of the army campsite could now become a large industrial area, very different from the business park as originally envisaged, with the potential to generate even greater volumes of traffic in and around the village. WE believe we must now concentrate on developing more effective measures to ensure we are not engulfed in this way. The Parish Council is currently pressing the County Council to give proper consideration to these problems, and secure funding, and we greatly welcome this.

The second issue is the proposed housing development south of the village. As things stand, under the current non-statutory Wealden Local Plan, there is a scheme for 80 homes on Park Farm. As part of this scheme we have been able to secure agreement to preserve a green area free of development south of the church, which hopefully could become a permanent feature of the village. There is also another scheme put forward by a group of local landowners and their architects, which was the subject of a recent presentation in the village hall. This is a purely private initiative and does not form part of any official plan. The originators insist that they are not attempting to pre-empt decisions on the scale of development, but are setting out a framework as a guide to future growth. Rather than the usual suburban add-on, the aim was to create the more traditional village street layout. However if we are to judge this or any other scheme and fully understand the implications for the village, it is important to know numbers involved, and the context in which the plans are being prepared. Although Wealden District, as the local planning authority, is in the early stages of preparing the new form of Local Development Framework, they should at least be in position to give some information on new housing allocations and the possible allocations for this are under the South East Plan and the possible distribution between settlements.

These major issues have tended to overshadow our smaller scale activities and projects. We were delighted with the work by the County Council to the extended pavement on School Hill leading to the school. This improvement should make for a safer walking route to and from the school and give encouragement to the "walking bus". We are exploring the possibility of establishing a 20mph zone on School Hill to give further protection, and in addition, to provide a safer crossing point on Batts Bridge Road, adjacent to the bus shelter, for children accessing the play area. We also wish to make a contribution to enhancing the equipment in the play areas. Our project to improve the existing public footpath south of the village, as the first stage of a user-friendly walking route between Maresfield and Uckfield has been somewhat delayed due to staff changes in the County Council. However we hope to restart this in the near future. Our project to trim and tidy the steep hill beside the Chequers Inn and to replace the timber barrier was completed with a welcome contribution

from the Parish Council. The clearance work was carried out by Bernard Patience free of charge as a gift to the village.

Finally please remember to visit our plant stall at the Maresfield Village Fete on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May.

Dick Thompson, Chairman, Maresfield Conservation Group

MARESFIELD LAWN GREEN BOWLS CLUB

The 2005 season for Maresfield Lawn Green Bowls Club produced similar results to the last two year. The Club played over forty matches during the season and despite slightly lower membership figures than 2004, we completed our full schedule of matches both in the Horam league and our ongoing friendly matches with local clubs.

Socially the club continued its programme of Barbecue, Cheese and Wine Party, Races nights and other events which were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all of the members.

The 2006 season has now opened and we are all looking forward to a happy and successful year. If you are interested in playing this relaxing summer game why not come and join us every Thursday evening at 5.30. You can find us at our Green situated on Maresfield Recreation Ground.

Peter Haley, Chairman, Maresfield Lawn Green Bowls Club

MARESFIELD LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The year just ending has been a good one for the Club. We now have more members than for the past three years, and the juniors in particular have done very well in external matches and tournaments.

It is 5 years now since Courts 1-4 were resurfaced and Court 5 built, and they are beginning to show signs of wear and tear, particularly when damp. We intend therefore to dip into the Court Refurbishment Fund to power clean Courts 1 and 2 in the second half of April 2006, then to repaint and re-cover them in a silicone based, anti-slip mixture. A similar arrangement will be made to refurbish courts 3-5 in the spring of 2007.

Having successfully achieved CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) status in 2005 and with it an 80% reduction in Council Tax, we have now applied for full charitable status, entitling us to claw back 28% of subscriptions of all members paying the standard rate of income tax or above.

The money is treated as Gift Aid to the Club, not reimbursed to members, and we are also entitled to tax relief on any subscriptions for juniors paid on their behalf by parents who themselves qualify. If only half of members qualify, the concession will be worth well over £1500 to the Club.

The Committee proposes a further modest increase in subscriptions of £4 per adult member for the coming year, in line with the LTA loan repayment conditions. However, to encourage ongoing junior participation in our activities, we do not intend to make any change in junior subscriptions for 2006/07.

MARESFIELD WI

We have had a busy year including a party celebrating 50 years. Our programme for the year has included 9 speakers. We all enjoyed a talk with slides on pub signs and their history and one on Chartwell.

4 members attended the council meeting in Hove. Ann Widdicomb was the principal speaker.

We are now 30 members which is an increase of 5 during the year. We will welcome anyone who would like to join us either as visitor or a member. We meet in the village hall at 7.30 on the 2nd Tuesday in the month

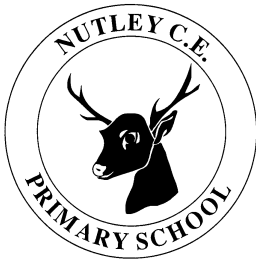
Anne Seigne

NUTLEY BOWLS CLUB

During 2005 Nutley Bowls club became eligible to be registered with the Community Amateur Sports Club Scheme which will be a benefit in the future. Last season saw the return of Thursday club nights and proved to be a great success with both new and old members including some very enthusiastic visitors from Nutley Hall. Fund raising events included a Jumble Sale, Call My Bluff Wine Tasting evening, Nutley fete, Alf Sayers Day and a Quiz evening which was supported by many friends from other bows clubs. The season culminated with a grand BBQ for members and their partners. The very good condition of the Bowls Green maintained during the very hot summer was a credit to the very hard working 'Green Team' especially when the automatic watering system broke down and was out of action for two months.

Nutley Bowls Club is always looking for new Members. Anybody interested in taking up a new hobby or just wishing to have a go are welcome to visit on a Thursday evening or come along to one of our Open Days the next one is to be held on 21st May. More information can also be obtained from the Secretary on 01825 764975 or visit our new web site www.nutleybowling.org

Keith Paul, Secretary



NUTLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.nutleyce.e-sussex.sch.uk

Report to Maresfield Parish Council April 2006

Another busy and successful year at Nutley School where we have seen the development of new teaching space and our new library. Our continued success owes so much to the dedication and commitment of the whole staff from teachers to dinner-ladies and to the willingness of the whole community to support and to drive forward high quality education in our village.

Our many themes for development this year have included maths, ICT, a range of other curriculum policies and work on improving playtimes for the children through the provision of a wider range of equipment and the re-scheduling of playtimes to give the children more space to play. Once again we were delighted that our Year 6 English SAT results were amongst the top 20% in England for 'added value'.

Thanks to fundraising through JOGLE and the Parents and Friends Association we have been able to revitalise our sports equipment. We now have a wider selection of equipment for playtimes and for athletics, hockey and tennis. We now provide at least one sports club per evening after school each night and the amazing fact is that 98% of our junior children attend at least one school sports club! Last year we were also very pleased to provide cycling proficiency training for the oldest children, we were delighted that one child went on to represent the school in the LEA final, achieving 2nd place overall.

During this year our commitment to the arts has also gone from strength to strength. The whole school worked hard to put on a fantastic production of Twelfth Night, with all children performing in some way. We were also delighted to produce our first summer music concert which featured our school choir and all children who play a musical instrument, the evening was a great success and the concert is now to become an annual event. However, our most ambitious musical adventure was to participate in The Mass of the Children by John Rutter with Forest Row Choral Society last month. It was a truly great experience for the children which we hope to repeat in the future.

Our link with the charity Starfish provided an excellent opportunity for the children to see the DVD that the Pathfinders from Church made in Cambodia. The children were able to see how the money that they had raised had been used and to hear first hand from the Hacker Family about the trip to Cambodia. The church organised the Advent Club again this December many children from school attended and it was enjoyed by all. We were also pleased to publicise the Toy Service and to see more children from school at the service.

During the autumn term a survey was undertaken to establish the need for a Breakfast Club in Nutley. The results of the survey showed that there is probably enough call for the service within the village and surrounding areas. With this in mind and with the extended schools agenda pushing forward we hope to offer a Breakfast Club and other facilities for the families of the village within the next three years.

Finally, our delightful garden which inspires us all as we walk into school every day. Thanks to the hard working volunteers who have helped the children to achieve beautiful displays and success at the Horticultural Shows. We very much enjoyed opening our garden for the recent Nutley Open Gardens and hope that everyone enjoyed their visit and the delicious cream teas!

With grateful thanks to all who contribute to the success and development of our school.

Amanda Gander-Miller
Head Teacher

Ray Kennedy
Chair of Governors

NUTLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

The main focus of the Group's work this year has been on the production of a Village Design Statement for Nutley. This involved seven sub groups researching various aspects of the village during the summer, wide scale consultations, including a fortnight's open exhibition and the invitation to everyone to examine the document on the Group's website and to send in their comments. More formal consultations have taken place with the Parish Council and with Wealden District Council. The Statement is in harmony with the Parish Council's Local Development Framework and is included in its appendices. We are still waiting for a final response from WDC.

We hope the final result of this work will be illustrated in an attractive booklet which will be of general interest but more importantly will encourage sensitive planning and development in response to the village's needs, whilst enhancing the character of the village in the future.

Apart from the numerous sub committee meetings held for work on the VDS, the full committee met on four occasions. We have campaigned actively, and sometimes controversially, against proposals to build nine log cabins at the Nutley Arms, the development of The Old Police House, (Duck Bang House), and the siting of a mobile mast at Nutley Telephone Exchange. More recently we have written to the Government Office of the South East, about the proposal to build a waste transfer station and recycling site at Maresfield. This was to raise questions about the procedures the application went through but also to stress our concerns about the anticipated impact such a development will have on the narrow lanes to the south of the village.

Jock Compson, Chairman

FORDS GREEN SPORTS GROUND NUTLEY

To those of you who are new to the area, Fords Green being Forest land, has been set-aside for the use of organised sports, social events and the playing of games by children in safety. The green is managed by a small number of volunteers known as the Fords Green management committee. Its members are responsible for the maintenance of the green and its buildings. This year has seen a number of changes to the committee with Bert Keeyes who was kindly holding the position of temporary chairman, reverting back to Secretary, our Treasurer Mick Francis resigning after a number of years devoted service, the appointment of Jim Elsworth as our new Treasurer, the appointment of a new village representative Desmond Lacon and the appointment of a new Chairman Richard Benford.

Our year has once again seen a number of sporting activities on the green including cricket, stoolball and football. This has attracted a sizeable number of visiting teams including their supporters.

The green was again the venue for the village fete which was very successful and appeared to be even larger than in previous years. New to the green this year and organised by William King, was the meeting of the Parochial Church Council over a number of weeks during the summer. We understand that William will once again be holding his meeting on the green during 2006 and hope that more people can find the time to drop in for a chat and a cup of tea.

Running maintenance has been the name of the game this year, with the erection of a wooden goal wall built by Mick & Derek Scott being the only addition to the green. Unfortunately the wall has been so successful, that the area of grass in front of it has turned to a mud patch. To overcome this, we will in the near future be converting the wall to make it mobile, allowing it to be easily repositioned.

Whilst only one new project was undertaken during 2005/6, this year could be completely different. One of our projects for 2006 is to pave the area between the pavilion and children's play area. This will help stop mud being trampled into the pavilion during winter sports. The other project being considered by the committee and being a little more ambitious, is a small extension to the pavilion at the back to allow an increase in the number of Ladies toilets as well as a toilet for the disabled. Provided planning permission is granted, we will be holding a number of fund raising events during the year to help toward the cost. If anyone has any suggestions on fund raising or would like to help in any way, please contact Bert Keeyes.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people who volunteer their time in keeping the green and pavilion neat, clean and tidy for the enjoyment of the entire village. I would also like to thank Maresfield parish council for their contribution towards the cost of maintaining our grass cutting equipment.

Richard Benford

NUTLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have had some interesting talks about such interesting characters as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, William Robinson – and a monk from Battle Abbey.

In April Molly Robson gave us a talk on Groombridge, which we followed up with a walk around the village with her in June. In May we walked around a part of Royal Tunbridge Wells which most of us had no idea existed.

The highlight of the summer was a visit to the Bluebell Railway, arranged for us by one of our members, Brian Smith. Seeing around the restoration sheds and the station, followed by a buffet supper.

In September we had an excellent talk about the Sussex Coast, by Geoffrey Mead. The highlight of the Autumn was a talk about Old Lewes and the surrounding area by Tom Reeves, whose family photographic studio holds a unique treasure trove of slides of places and events in the town.

Village Day we showed our collection of Photographs of the Great Storm, and also displayed them at the East Grinstead Historical Societies Open Day.

Mrs E P Brooker, Hon Secretary

NUTLEY LADIES FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Nutley Ladies Friendship Circle continues to meet on the second Thursday of every month in the Church hall. We continue to have a membership of about thirty and our annual membership fee is just £5. We raise further funds through raffles, coffee mornings, a summer cream tea and we run a very successful cake stall at Nutley Village Day. This all helps to pay for the hire of the church hall and fees to our speakers. Over the course of last year we have been entertained by a speaker from 'Fair Trade, Ann Menzies talking on writing her cookery books and more recently a very interesting talk on calligraphy and a speaker from Trading Standards. Last summer we visited Finchcocks, near Goudhurst and enjoyed a cream tea on the Bluebell Railway.

If anyone wishes to join the Friendship Circle you can contact Jackie Norman on 712056 for further details.

NUTLEY NUTKINS

Nutley Nutkins has continued to attract the youngest members of our community. We have been lucky enough, (thanks to donations) to be able continue offering regular craft sessions, two annual outings and seasonal parties (Easter, Christmas, year end etc.) This year we have added a treasure chest of dressing up outfits to our collection of toys, which have proved to be very popular and which we intend to expand. Thanks to our close relationship with the Pre-school we have also been able to use the outdoor play area.

Cecille Monks

NUTLEY PRE-SCHOOL

Nutley Pre-school has had quite a year. One of our longest standing members of staff retired at the end of the academic year. A new chair, and secretary were elected in October along with numerous new officers coming onto the committee. We held yet another very successful Jumble sale in October and a number of other fundraising events since. New events including coffee mornings, a snow man drive and a quiz night, all of which helped bump up our funds. Thanks to all the efforts of the committee, parents, and along with the donations we have received and the help of one of the pre-schoolers fathers we have been able to purchase and erect a much needed pergola to offer the children shade whilst in the outdoor playarea. We are currently in discussion regarding what our next big project will be. We are very grateful for all donations, which help us continue to provide the children of the community with a the best possible pre-school, run by qualified and dedicated staff, along with ongoing improvements such as the outdoor play area and its expansion. We would like to thank the Parish council for their continued support.

Cecille Monks

NUTLEY PARISH NEWS

The past year has seen continued growth both in the content and appeal of *Nutley Parish News*. Feedback from villagers shows that it is having a real impact on the life of Nutley.

The fact that it is free of charge and delivered throughout the village undoubtedly is a major cornerstone, but with its appeal to all, churchgoers or not, there is something for everyone in each issue. The Nutley Organisations local directory fills a real need, while the Welcome and Farewell feature introduces new residents to the village – and the village to them.

The inclusion of news of the many and varied organisations in this buy village far outstrips that of most other parish magazines, while still ensuring that church events and activities are dealt with in full. It is becoming increasingly apparent that NPN provides a very effective medium for advertising and the amount of paid-up display advertisements is continually rising.

This monthly output would not be possible without the feedback from our clubs and societies, and the voluntary work of those who turn up monthly to put the issue together ready to be delivered. Thanks are due to them and all those who work behind the scenes and do such a good job for us.

We look forward to serving Church and Village in the coming year.

John Taylor, Editor, 712271

ST JAMES-THE-LESS, NUTLEY

We were shocked and sad to hear from Martin Greig that he is ill, and that he is accordingly to retire early, at the end of June. He had a period of sick leave in the Autumn and has since been working on a part-time basis. We will miss him very much, but have surprised ourselves a little by managing to keep everything running smoothly – the Wardens have risen to this challenge and we are grateful for the increased work they have coped with so well.

Dick Marks died at the end of last year. He was a gentle, quiet man, generous and popular, a stalwart in our church and a very effective Treasurer.

Susan Edwarde has taken on the Treasurer role; a demanding job as the accounting rules have changed.

Our choir has been strengthened by the return of Sarah Smith and the addition of new voices – Sue Kennedy, Bruce Morley and Francis Goodwin.

Developments in the life and worship of the church have been made:

- Monthly prayers were introduced for the families and the lives of those recorded in the Book of Remembrance for that month. These are said on the second Sunday of each month during the 9.15 service.
- In place of the usual midnight service on Christmas Eve, a successful Crib service was held at 5.30pm attended by many families with young children.
- Our church band Cross Purpose was formed and has performed at some services.
- In February we held a service in celebration of marriage.
- A Young Persons Committee was formed who met and report back to the PCC any issues.
- Teas on the Green were run during the school summer holidays at the Ford's Green pavilion, and proved popular with mothers and small children – though the first "customer" was a father and small son! This will continue this year at 3.00pm on Thursdays from 20 July to the end of August.
- Perspectives has been set up to discuss ethical issues, open to all and with discussion having a spiritual basis, so not exclusively Christian.

Other major events were

- The complete rewiring of the church resulting in a new lighting system which provides the opportunity to spot or dim as required.
- Easter and Advent clubs run in the church for the children of our local school.
- A Churchyard Service held in the summer for families of those buried there.
- The Archdeacon of Lewes & Hastings taking our service for Remembrance Sunday

NUTLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE

This group was set up in 2002 to raise funds for the work of St Peter and St James in caring for the terminally ill at the Hospice and in their own homes. A secondary aim is to raise awareness of the Hospice in the village and surrounding areas.

To date, nearly £6,000 has been sent to the Hospice to help the nurses and doctors to care for the patients, some of whom have come from the Nutley area.

During the past twelve months the Support Group Committee has staged a Quiz Evening, Songs for a Summer Evening and a Christmas Tea and is grateful for the generosity of people who have attended these events. They would welcome anyone who would like to join them in this valuable work in helping to support this worthwhile charity. For further information please call Wilma Porter on 712462.

Wilma Porter, Chairman

NUTLEY TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

Over the last year our achievements have been:

- an Open Day attended by many local children and adults resulting in new memberships and a raised profile in the village
- a “makeover” weekend involving members getting together to paint and decorate the upstairs of the clubhouse
- taking on a tennis coach, Nick Turner
- taking on a squash coach, Naomi Duthie
- setting up Club nights for both tennis and squash
- introduction of a squash ladder
- developing a good working relationship with our landlord, the Nettlefold Trust
- creating a swipe card security entrance to the clubhouse
- entering mixed and ladies teams in the Weald and Horam Tennis Leagues, playing against clubs much larger than ourselves, with our mixed pair winning the Horam Knockout Trophy
- gaining Community Amateur Sports Club status

Over the next year our plans are to:

- hold a working party on the 30th April to ready the outside areas for the summer season
- hold an Open Day on May 7th to again encourage new members and raise our profile in the village
- join both the Lawn Tennis Association and England Squash to give the club and our members added benefits
- hold fund raising events to be able to afford resurfacing the tennis courts which would then be able to be accessed only by our swipe card system

Overall it has been a successful year and we look forward to succeeding with our plans for the next. We would like to thank the Council for their generous donation of £250, and hope you can see we put it to good use!

The Committee, Nutley Tennis & Squash Club

NUTLEY W.I.

Nutley W.I. Members have had another very busy year in which we have worked hard and have also enjoyed ourselves in the doing, and otherwise.

Our usual Programme of Speakers has been successful, even to us getting a very willing stand-in at very short notice when one Speaker was prevented from attending.. Everyone enjoys our teas! As ever, some of our favourite Speakers were those of our own number, and those from the village or nearby, for people have led interesting lives that, in the describing, both instruct and entertain us.

To keep ourselves financially viable as all our costs go up, we have continued to cater for teas and lunches to parties from far and near, people who are enjoying the beautiful countryside from their coaches, official bodies from our own County Headquarters and official groups such as the Men of the Trees and the Ironworkers Groups. We get regular, year after year bookings, for the excellence of our catering and general production is well known.

We have also had the honour of being asked to provide the refreshments that followed the funerals of both some of our own loved and valued members, and those of people who live nearby. Again we give good food and drink plus tasteful and sympathetic welcomes on such sad occasions, sadness that we, too, share.

As a Charity ourselves we are not allowed to support other Charities, but we were given a Dispensation to raise money for the tragic circumstances of those affected by the Tsunami on Boxing Day 2004. We raised a considerable amount of money at a special event in the Spring of 2005. Our members, outside the framework of the W.I., work hard for other Groups in the village, especially for the Nutley Support Group for the St. Peter and St. James Hospice at Chailey.

Attendance has been made at all the big County and National Meetings, some of these being accessed at considerable distance meaning overnight stays. Members attend all the East Sussex Federation Councils, providing official attendees who have votes in matters of importance both within the W.I. and nationally.

We are involved in the voting for the Resolutions each year that are forwarded by National Federation to H.M.Government. These resolutions, all of them put up by W.I. Members all over England, are voted upon by the entire National Membership before being placed in Government hands. It has to be said that W.I. Resolutions are, as one would expect, sensible, workable and of great use to the whole country and its people. Many of these Resolutions, we are proud to report, are taken on board and have taken their place in Public Life.

This year we have been fortunate in attracting a number of new members, people that we are delighted to welcome.

President of Nutley W.I., Pamela Henry, together with her efficient Officers and Committee, are pleased with the last year's activities, and we trust that new regulations issued by National Federation will not affect these in the future. The W.I. is an excellent movement, and Nutley welcomes more new members to our friendly band that very much enjoys the meetings, the activities, and the wonderful friendships that form.

Beryl Easton