

***ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MARESFIELD PARISH***

YEAR 2007-08

PREPARED FOR THE
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2008

AT

NUTLEY WAR MEMORIAL HALL

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2007/08 ANNUAL REPORT

Parish Council Highlights

May 2007 saw local elections and a 'new' Parish Council in place and I had the honour to be elected its Chairman. Four of our long serving councillors retired at this time; Guy Hardy, Chris Stephens, Ray Tester and Peter Tester, and they are warmly thanked for their services to the Parish over many years. We are however lucky to have new Councillors who are keen and actively help to make up a strong team

We have strong Committees with very effective Chairmen, and they are thanked for their hard work:-

- Planning Committee – led by Cllr Charlie Stevenson whose preparation, attention to detail and PC skills have enabled us to make effective responses to consultations on planning applications; In particular his mapping skills enabled us to repel yet another communications mast application. There are many proposed developments within and around the Parish that are expected to materialise in the short and medium term, and we must be prepared to mitigate any adverse impact from them and seek the maximum benefits for our community.
- Environment Committee – led by Cllr Derek Barlow whose extensive engineering and practical skills have enabled us to maintain and repair the 'fabric' of the Parish to a very successful degree. This is an area where we are heavily dependent on the co-operation (and budgets) of other authorities and bodies, but this year we have managed to secure the completion of a good deal of effective work. Substantial work is needed in some of our play areas to open them up to a wider range of uses, which will cost tens of thousands of pounds, so we are looking for grants and help from our Parishioners in the project work.
- Finance & Administration Committee – led by Cllr Roger Street, not only has this Committee continued to do a great job of producing and closely monitoring the Council's annual budget, but it has made big strides in updating employees contracts, the asset register and getting to grips with the modern phenomenon of risk assessment and health & safety, which is an ongoing task.
- Strategy Committee - led by Cllr Roy Galley this Committee has the most wide ranging brief as it is responsible for pursuing the implementation of the Parish Plan, and covers such things as youth, affordable housing, traffic issues, transport, health and business – quite a remit. In particular we are determined to combat speeding vehicles, improve youth facilities, and get a Post Office service back in Nutley.

Thanks are again due this year to our County Councillors and District Councillors who have actively worked with us and attended our meetings; be assured that they are aggressively hounded for their help in areas outside of the Parish Council's control.

Particular thanks are due to our Clerk, Tony Allen, who has now been with us for over four years, for his hard work and in keeping the Councillors in-check! Also many thanks to our Assistant Clerk, Claire Goossens, whose contribution over nearly three years has helped to bring the work of the Council up to a very high standard; Claire is currently on maternity leave and in January gave birth to a bonnie boy named Edward.

I must also thank Cllr William King, our Vice Chairman, for his support and advice throughout the year; he still works extremely hard for the Council and we are very lucky to have him with us. Also we must not forget to thank the number of non Councillors who work closely with us; the Council can work much more effectively with the help and support of its Parishioners.

Cllr Ken Ogden

COUNCILLORS

FAIRWARP

Roger Street	713227
<i>John Handley</i>	<i>712791</i>
<i>Andy Clarke</i>	<i>712533</i>

MARESFIELD

John Gutteridge	764781
Ken Ogden	761433
Val Taylor	763256
<i>Justine Penfold</i>	<i>766551</i>
<i>Hanno Fry</i>	<i>712410</i>

NUTLEY

Derek Barlow	713151
David Finch	712142
Roy Galley	713018
Peter Harris	713141
William King	713798
Charlie Stevenson	712823

COUNTY COUNCIL

Tony Reid	712242
Francis Whetstone	01892 770304

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Norman Buck	732208M
Ken Ogden	761433 M
Roy Galley	713018 N
Sylvia Martin	740556 N
Michael Hoy	01892 770166 F

F	Fairwarp
M	Maresfield
N	Nutley

Finance & Administration Committee

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

<u>2007</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2008</u>
76443	Precept	80185
1007	Interest	1636
6633	Other	6570 Note 1
0	Grants	0
84083	TOTAL	88391

<u>2007</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2008</u>
14863	Administration	16508
31537	Staff Costs	33189
9342	Services	17191 Note 2
706	Subscriptions	977
340	Grants – Section 137	360
6665	Grants - Specific Powers	6710
1325	Projects	1276
1345	Capital Expenditure	184
6570	Other	6570 Note 3
72693	TOTAL	82965

<u>2007</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2008</u>
30792	Balance as at 1 April	42183
84083	Plus Income	88391
114875		130574
72693	Less Expenditure	82965
42183	CLOSING BALANCE	47609 Note 4

Note 1: Held on behalf of The Easylink Project,

Note 2: Includes accruals in respect of legal fees, play area maintenance, bus shelter and fingerpost repairs.

Note 3: Payments on behalf of Easylink

Note 4: Reserves of £35000 now held in accordance with auditors recommendation.

The last year has been comparatively uneventful in terms of the work of The Finance and Administration Committee. As I suggested last year we are now in a position where we are able to keep down the increase in Precept (Council Tax) to about 1% which is well below inflation. The reserves now stand at a much healthier £35,000.

If there is a criticism of our year, it has to be that some of the Council's Committees again failed to match action with their intentions. In recent years we have put money aside in our budget to spend on projects in respect of traffic, youth, transport, business support etc. This year, as in the past, we failed to carry these through. It seems that the end of the financial year almost inevitably comes as a surprise to us and we then find it's too late to be able to utilise the available resources. It is a weakness that has dogged us throughout my time as Chairman of this Committee. The answer is to adopt an effective and more disciplined business planning model and I urge my successor to adopt such a practice.

Cllr Roger Street

Environment Committee

The newly formed Committee found itself embroiled in issues from day one. In Maresfield, the New Parklands Residents Association were anxious to see completion of the installation of the new children's play park equipment, and we had to resolve issues with the supplier relating to a dispute over misinterpretation of the agreement for this work. The Committee was able to assist in getting the installation completed albeit that the original plan was not totally met by the supplier.

The question of play area safety has been of concern and the Committee has engaged a professionally qualified company to undertake regular inspections against the present day standards and to report any deficiencies. As a result of their initial reports some items have been withdrawn from the Ford's Green play area for refurbishment. Weekly visual safety checks are carried out at Fords Green and Maresfield play areas by Councillors and we are indebted to Cllr Hanno Fry for taking on the Maresfield play area inspections. Also a special mention is due to Tony Godden for his valuable work in looking after the Parklands Play Area, and to Stuart Robinson who as a volunteer helps us to look after the Maresfield play area.

Some initial discussions with the mother & toddler groups have taken place and for Nutley they have indicated that they would like to see a major re-vamp of the Fords Green play area to replace most of the existing equipment, a lot of which is now, many years old. Funding would be a problem as estimated costs are of the order of £40K plus, and we are putting together a project team to look at this. The Committee is looking into sources of funding.

During the year repairs have been carried out to bus shelters and other items that have been the subject of small-scale vandalism. Repairs to finger posts, village notice boards, and the myriad of other 'fabric and furniture' in our Parish are also being dealt with, as required.

Complaints from Parishioners in Nutley Ward relating to mowing of verges have been chased up with the responsible authorities. Overhanging trees, particularly in respect to high vehicles have to be monitored to ensure that they are kept under control, and similarly, overhanging hedges that cause pavement and footpath obstruction. A high number of individual Parishioner enquires have been dealt with again this year, including many more relating to the posting of advertising bill boards

Cllr Derek Barlow

Planning Committee

The job of the Planning Committee is to provide consultation to Wealden District Council on planning applications and in theory this should work as a co-operative process but in practice often seems to be a competitive process with Wealden District Council and so we tend to look back on the year as a series of wins and losses.

It shouldn't be like this when everyone should be working together to build and provide a better environment for all our Parishioners, weighing their needs, fears and desires against the demands of others, including District and County Council, businesses, developers and large companies.

We have worked hard to be even-handed in the small scale residential developments which may only affect a handful of people, but we have worked a lot harder on those things which have far wider consequences for many people.

Unfortunately, at a higher level than the Parish Council it seems planners tend to give way to large organizations unless they are absolutely certain of their stance, so we may end up having to accept something we don't want or need and gain very little or nothing in terms of compensation. So I would say we are probably 2-1 down at this point, with two 'goals' scored against Maresfield but one scored for Nutley.

In the coming year there are several developing schemes in the planning stage, inside and outside the Parish, which will have an impact on our villages and the general amenity of the Parish. We hope and trust the inevitable further development of Maresfield will be done sympathetically, in true co-operation with the villagers of Maresfield and to their benefit.

While external expansion around the Parish will lead to increased levels of traffic for the villages to contend with, the Ashdown Forest will also come under further pressure from more visitors as the population increases. The Forest has been designated a Special Area of Conservation, so all local developments should be assessed as to the detrimental impact they may have on it. So far it seems our local authorities are aware of this requirement but have not really engaged with it, nor it seems has English Nature. It is something we will be paying close attention to in the coming year.

I wish to extend my thanks to the 8 strong Committee members for their continued support and attendance every fortnight, and to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for producing the often copious minutes.

Cllr Charlie Stevenson

Strategy Committee

This year the Strategy Committee has agreed a Parish Plan which sets our priorities and guides what we do. It is based on extensive consultation over the last 2 or 3 years.

The Priorities we established were:-

Services for Young People
Affordable Housing for local people
Road safety, Speed and Traffic Volume
Community Transport

On young people, we are working with our local Church in Maresfield and Nutley to develop an effective youth group. This is initially for 10 to 14 year olds but we hope to extend this age range. We are also working with a number of other interested parties to try and develop alternative activities. We have allocated money to help and we have other funds available. The Parish Council cannot provide the services but it can support and encourage

We are working with Wealden District Council on a number of possible sites where affordable homes for rent could be provided for local young people who could not otherwise afford to live here. Much will depend on the cooperation of landowners and Social housing providers, but we are optimistic.

On road issues, we are working in partnership with the County Council and some improvements have been made in Nutley and Maresfield. We are continuing to focus on volunteer speed watch activities in our villages and on Forest roads. It may not work in the face of ever increasing traffic volumes and speeds but we have to try. The police cooperate where they can but they have many other priorities.

As for Community Transport, progress is painfully slow but we are lobbying the County Council and working with other Parishes to see if we can not only keep the Easylink service going but develop a wider range of services.

We are keeping a watching brief on other local concerns. In particular we are in monitoring health issues and regular touch with the Post Office to try to restore a part-time Post office in Nutley having supported the successfully relocated service in Maresfield.

It will be a long haul on many of these topics but we will persist.

Cllr Roy Galley

North Wealden Community Transport Partnership Report

The year has been one of highs and lows for the operation. After a number of discussions with officers of ESCC, over several months, in respect of the Section 106 monies available from the Lidl and Morrison developments in Crowborough, it became clear that the ESCC would not release any of those funds to assist NWCTP.

We are grateful to Crowborough Town Council for their continuing financial support; unfortunately on its own it is not sufficient to start operations. We have been seeking office / garaging accommodation and are grateful to Sam Bryant of Southern Rail for her offers of help in respect of redundant buildings at Crowborough Railway Station. We have not pursued this matter further until our own position is clearer.

In November 2007 NWCTP was formally registered as a limited Company, with the help of the legal department of the Community Transport Association. The Trustees were checked under the CRB requirements. A full provisional Business Plan was produced in October 2007 and submitted to ESCC and others, in the hope that we would be considered worthy of some funding. We applied for The Argus Newspaper Appeal 'mini-bus offer', but were unsuccessful; apparently over 90 applications were received.

NWCTP is now taking over the liaison with the 'Easylink' service to try to ensure that proper working agreements are in place with the participating councils and the relevant paperwork is being produced.

There have been changes in personnel during the year. Early in the period Mark Severn resigned, due to changes in his employment, and in April 08 Stephan Butler resigned as our Company Secretary and also as Chairman of the 'Easy link' Forum. We are pleased and grateful that one of our own Councillors, Roger Street, will be joining the Company, as a Trustee and also assuming the duties of Company Secretary.

In conclusion, in the new financial year we will seek to expand the role of the 'Easylink' service where that is possible and to continue to seek adequate sources of funding for the business as a whole.

We need additional trustees to help take matters forward and will be seeking such people both from the existing Easylink Forum and by advertising the posts publicly. We know that there is a real need for community transport services in this area, and in many cases there are indifferent or failing public bus services and people who, for various reasons, cannot access public buses.

There are many examples in Sussex of successful community bus services and we believe that NWCTP could be part of that number, but without appropriate levels of funding it will always be a struggle.

Cllr Derek Barlow, Trustee



After the excellent response to our mail-out to all the residents of Fairwarp Ward, which was funded by Maresfield Parish Council, Fairwarp Community Society held its inaugural meeting on 28th June 2007 and elected a committee of 12 members and a constitution.

The aims of the Society are:-

- (a) to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Fairwarp Ward.
- (b) to promote high standards of development, planning and architecture.
- (c) to promote and develop interest in features of historic or community interest.
- (d) to preserve and improve the amenities of the Ward.
- (e) to foster and encourage the growth of the community spirit among the residents of the Ward.
- (f) to provide a focal point for all organisations, clubs and societies already operating within Fairwarp Ward and to provide a forum for the residents of the Ward to express their views on topics relevant to the aims of the Society.

We then, rather hurriedly, had to organise a meeting to discuss Fairwarp Ward's response to Wealden District Council's Local Development Framework and after amalgamating all the responses to our questionnaire duly submitted these views to the Council.

We have held three very successful social events starting with a Social Evening held in December to which over 50 people came to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or two and took the chance to get to know each other a little better. Our Race Night in February raised over £900 and was greatly enjoyed by one and all. Most recently we held a Quiz Night which certainly stretched the brain cells but every one rose to the challenge with great cheers going up when the more difficult questions were answered correctly! To date we have raised over £2,050 from these events and membership subscriptions. Our initial aim is to help towards funding a newly refurbished or even a new pavilion at the recreation ground.

At present we have over 100 members representing over 60 households and will continue to expand as time goes on.

Craig Williams, Chairman

Fairwarp Football Club

For further details about Fairwarp Football Club contact Paul Rowland 01825 712292.

Fairwarp's two teams have performed well during the season although they have once again been blighted by the weather that has resulted in numerous games being cancelled. At the time of writing a number of matches are still to be played with the rain once more stopping play!

Fairwarp 1st X1 are in a respectable position midway in Division Five and reached the finals of the Stratford Cup sadly losing 2-1 in a nail biting match against Newick II at the Burgess Hill County ground

Fairwarp 2nd X1, having had a dismal season in 06-07, shook out the moths and have maintained a respectable midway position in Division Nine during 07-08, again still with a number of matches outstanding at the time of going to press.

Fairwarp Football Club plays at the most beautiful ground in the league and are currently hoping to be involved in the proposals for the redevelopment of the pavilion which is also the oldest in the league!

It has been pleasing to welcome a number of new young players from the village who have found positions within the teams and have contributed immensely to the success of the Club this year. The Chairman and the Managers thank all those who regularly come to support the club when playing at home and look forward to welcoming many more supporters to the sidelines.

Paul Rowland

Christ Church, Fairwarp

A regular pattern of services and pastoral work has been maintained throughout the year. This work, in the main, has been led by the Revd Simon Morgan with the occasional assistance of the Revd Ronald Chatwin. At the Confirmation service in June, the Bishop of Lewes confirmed eight candidates from Fairwarp along with others from churches in Buxted and Groombridge.

The organist and choir-mistress retired in September after many years' service, and Christ Church, along with many other local churches, has not been able to secure the services of a permanent organist. However, visiting organists have played at the Sunday worship, weddings and funerals. Choir members have responded well to the unfamiliar situation.

For Harvest Festival the Church remained open over the weekend so that visitors to the Ashdown Forest Festival could view the beautiful flowers on display in church.

Major work to improve the path from the car park to the Church door and to install handrails and a light at the entrance from the car park has been well received. The total cost in 2007 was £18,376. Two anonymous gifts of £1,000 each were received to help defray the cost. The church roofs have been repaired and work is planned to seal walls from damp.

During the year fundraising events included jumble sales, a concert by the Vasari Singers, a plant sale, a barbecue, an auction of promises, and the plant stall at the Fairwarp village fete.

David Jenner

Fairwarp Recreation Ground 2008

Another year in the life of this beautiful amenity within our area. The pavilion still stands (just about)

Frank Gorringe a long standing Trustee has been looking after the grounds mowing, rolling and generally making sure the site remains in good condition and is something the villagers of Fairwarp can be proud of. A new equipment store is currently under construction to replace the old corrugated building.

Fairwarp Community Society is assisting in the start of fund raising and this exciting new venture could at last see considerable improvements to the facilities on offer including hot water and electricity. The new facilities will do nothing to detract from the old style "cricket pavilion" that is there today.

Russell Davison (Trustee)

Fairwarp Mums to be, Babies & Toddlers Group

Group meets every Monday (term time) 1.30-3.30pm at Fairwarp Village Hall.

Report by Helen Rowland. Contact Helen on 01825 712292 for more information about the group. The group is now in its 8th year with a steady group of mums and babies ranging from new born to rising 5s. The mums are friendly and helpful and willingly welcome newcomers into the group, having them soon making tea and helping clear up at the end of the session (although this is not obligatory!). Now that the weather is finally turning towards summer (fingers crossed), every opportunity is taken for the children to use the fully enclosed patio area and the outside toys. The group as usual will end its summer sessions with a Teddy Bears' Picnic before taking a break during August.

This September, the youngest of my own children will be starting in Reception at Nutley Primary School and the reins of the Toddler Group are being handed to Nicky Osborne who is looking forward to taking over the group in September. Nicky has 5 children so knows a thing or two about what they enjoy doing, I hope everyone will give Nicky their support. The group will continue to provide singing (although Nicky admits she needs help!), painting and a craft every week along with a selection of the many and varied toys held by the group which have been built up over the years. This is a perfect opportunity for me to thank everyone who has helped me with the group since its conception in 2000 and to Maresfield Parish Council for their regular grant to the group and without which many of the opportunities made available to the children would not have been possible.

Helen Rowland

Nutley Church of England Primary School High Street Nutley East Sussex TN22 3NW

Report to Maresfield Parish April 2008

Another busy and successful year at Nutley School where we have continued to see our school grow and flourish.

We were very proud to receive the news that our children achieved our best ever SATs results in July last year. Once again our results for Maths and English put us in the top 20% of primary schools in the country and also demonstrate our high levels of 'added value' for each child.

During this year we have refined our science teaching through the school and also concentrated on the further development of reading. We held a very interesting Reading Information Evening for Parents and continue to invest in our Library and other reading resources.

A main focus for this year has been our application for 'Healthy Schools' status. In order to achieve this we have undertaken a variety of food projects within the school including re-organising lunchtimes and inviting parents in to join our 'Food in School' Day where they were able to try out school lunches and to find out more about the importance of healthy food and regular exercise along with the children. In addition, we have completed work on Personal, Social and Health Education, attained the nationally recognised 'Active Mark' and continued to work on our Travel Plan. We were delighted to hear that our application was successful and will be formally presented with the award in June.

We are very grateful to the whole village for their support for our planned new teaching space. During the year we have received several very kind donations from the community and currently plans are underway for the development of the new accommodation which will enable all of the children to have the high quality environment that we want to provide for everybody at Nutley School.

As part of our huge fund raising effort this year we entered a team for the Dragon Boat Race at Bewl Water in September. We finished a brilliant second out of 60 boats and raised nearly £6,000. We also organised a 'Knickerbocker Glory 5K Forest Fun Run' in October and were blessed with perfect weather for the sponsored run/walk across the Ashdown Forest. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this event which raised over £900.

Other highlights of the last year include a fabulous 1940s Day where we recreated Nutley School, as it would have been during wartime, this was complimented by a fascinating visit to the Imperial War Museum. We also visited Kew Gardens to find out about plants from all over the world and back in school listened in awe to a wonderful harp recital which has inspired at least two children to begin harp lessons! The children worked very hard to raise money for others during Charity Week. They sold cakes, popcorn and their unwanted toys and raised over £200 for their chosen charities. Due to popular demand we repeated 'Tale Time' to celebrate World Book Day which involved the children returning to school for hot chocolate and bedtime stories read by staff, governors and children! We won the Uckfield Schools Kit Car Grand Prix for the second time and narrowly missed winning the Uckfield Swimming Gala, we experienced wonderful art days in all classes and we are currently preparing for a mini-production of Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo for our Music Concert (May 20th at 6.30pm) - everyone is invited!

As ever we continue to be indebted to our fabulous teaching and support team and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the school. Grateful thanks also to whole the community for the support shown towards the school in the last year.

Amanda Gander-Miller **Head Teacher**
Ray Kennedy **Chair of Governors**

NUTLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

The full Committee of the Group has met on ten occasions so far this year and one of the main focuses of our work has been on providing detailed responses to the following public consultations:-

1. Wealden District Council's Local Development Framework Options
2. Two consultations by the Primary Healthcare Trust
3. Mid-Sussex's proposals for developments in East Grinstead and the consequences of a relief road
4. The Ashdown Forest Strategic Plan.

At the AGM in June we raised the prospect of Nutley becoming a Transition Village and in two subsequent public meetings through the showing of the Al Gore film "An Inconvenient Truth" and an illustrated lecture, discussed the implications of the end of Peak Oil and the effects of global warming and climate change on our way of life in Nutley.

We have campaigned against the proposals for the O2 mast near Chuchfields and for developments in Bell Lane. We have also provided advice and support to individual families facing planning issues. Last year we faced a deficit in our budget because we distributed free copies of the Village Design Statement to all households in the village. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals the loan we took out has been repaid and the funds are in a healthy state once again.

Members of the Group are at present exploring the possibility of setting up a Conservation Volunteer group and having been successful in our bid to the Parish Council for funds this year, we will be working on the production of a village map during the summer.

Jock Compson (Chairman)

REPORT OF NUTLEY WI, 2008

Nutley WI is flourishing, is solvent, and has had an interesting year. We now have 31 members; including three new members who we are sure will make valuable contributions to our group.

We have had a varied programme, with talks on such topics as Women of the Raj, Royal Air Force Search & Rescue, and Dog Training. We are lucky to have most interesting residents in Nutley, three of whom spoke to us this past year: Mrs Pat Thompson on her life as a Doctor and an Army Wife; Mrs Jean Lumsden on her experiences in the WAAF; and in January Col Brian Thompson gave us a fascinating description of his six months as a vet in the Falklands after surrender. We also had an interesting talk on Michelham Priory, which inspired us to make that the venue for our August outing.

We enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at the Buxted Inn, as always beautifully cooked and good value. Our Birthday lunch was catered for us by Full To The Brim from East Grinstead in the Church Hall. We were entertained by two of our members with poetry readings and a humorous essay.

We have been well represented at county meetings, as well as entering craft items at the Ardingly Show and serving in the WI tea marquee. We took an active part in the Resolution meetings and participated in the Great Milk Debate. It is good to see the WI raise its profile on matters that we care about, such as climate change, recycling, and the plight of dairy farmers.

We have always supported WI Ashdown Forest Group activities well, especially important now that there are only three institutes involved. We had two very different talks (one on Great Lovers and the other on Belly-Dancing); an outing to London Docklands; and a beautiful Carol Service at Nutley. We have also had renewed contacts with our WI friends in New Zealand, whose magazines have given us lots of new ideas and recipes!

The Craft group is concentrating on knitting, producing vests and squares galore, to be made into blankets to go to Rwanda. Now they are working on larger blankets and mastering the art of crocheting.

The catering side of our activities continues to provide us with our main source of income. Sadly this included providing refreshments following two funerals, but our efforts seem to be appreciated by the bereaved families. As usual, our jams, cakes and sandwiches sold at Village Day also made us a good profit –in spite of the deluging rain!

We look forward to next year, with the prospect of good talks and outings, the companionship of friends and of serving our community.

Jan Matthews

ST JAMES THE LESS CHURCH

Review of the year

Our Vicar, Jon Hobbs, completed his first year with us in April. There is widespread delight in having a vicar in post again, and in getting to know Jon, Bethan, Esme and Reuben; and gratitude for all Jon's considerable efforts to teach and pastor us, and to reach out to young families for whom he is developing a monthly 4pm All Age Service. During 2007, the Revd Bill Kemm started to take some services, to visit Parishioners in the residential/nursing homes and to take communion to the homes of those unable to attend church. William King continued training towards being licensed as a Reader; and Brendan Martin began work with Jon in preparation for ministry selection. He has helped develop the work with our young people and began a youth group for teenagers from the church. Jack Griffiths commenced a long period of travel in Africa which involves working for Thare Machi Education. Shirley Coxen again travelled to Nicaragua to work with the Peace and Hope Trust.

Achievements and performance

Important developments in the church's work were the development of The Xtreme (a youth group, which meets approximately monthly and has become well-established), the new 4pm Family services on the 1st Sundays of the month and Village lunches in the Church Hall.

Work was completed during 2007 on the re-decoration of the church – snagging completed from the 2006 works, and the selection and laying of new carpet. Work was planned and agreed for further improvements to access for people with mobility difficulties; and to replace and resite the oil tank; this should take place later in the year.

In our Perspective meetings, we have sought to continue thinking through key topics facing people today, and we hope we have provided a warm welcome to the village with our weekly coffee pop-in, provision of tea at the Village Day, the Teas on the Green, the summer Kids' Club, Advent and Easter Clubs. Two courses on introducing and exploring Christianity were led by the Vicar jointly with Maresfield church, with 5 attending from the Nutley Parish. Jon also led an 8 week Lent course. And he and Brendan take assemblies every other week in the school.

There was great delight early in the year when Francesca Kosh, Philip Thomas and Rachel Kennedy were confirmed.

About St James the Less

Our overarching desire as a church is to help and encourage people to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Services are held as below (in contemporary language except as marked) and a club for young people is held at each of the main services except in summer holidays. For more information, do see our website:

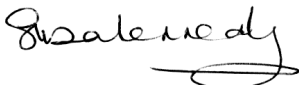
www.nutleychurch.org

Sundays

1st	9.15	Holy Communion and 4.00	All Age Worship
2nd	8.00	Holy Communion* and 9.15	Morning Prayer
3rd	9.15	Parish Communion	
4th	8.00	Holy Communion* and 9.15	Morning Prayer
5th	9.15	Parish Communion	

Wednesdays

10.00 Morning Prayer* except 3rd Wednesday Holy Communion* [* *Book of Common Prayer*]

Helen F. Compson 

Helen Compson and Sue Kennedy (Churchwardens)

ASHDOWN EVERGREENS

The club has had another successful year; we have followed our usual diary of events. Meetings in the Memorial Hall with speakers on various subjects, also social gatherings birthday celebrations with music from Glynis, an old favourite that many remember from her nights entertaining in the social club, a coach outing in the summer, and a Christmas lunch at a local venue.

We also have fundraising events such as tombola on the green for Village Day, and an afternoon tea in the summer recently with the use of the pavilion on Fords Green.

Cynthia Hudson

NUTLEY PRE SCHOOL NUTLEY NUTKINS

Nutley Pre School continues to go from strength to strength. In July we were inspected by Ofsted and received a grading of 'good' and a great report. Our pupil numbers have increased almost to capacity and continue to look healthy for the coming academic year. We now employ five members of staff (four of which are part time) two of them are currently studying for their NVQ's and one is studying for her childcare degree. The staffs are a very strong team and this is demonstrated through the quality of care they provide and imaginative delivery of the curriculum. The Committee remains focused on fundraising and providing all the parents with regular opportunities to get together.

Highlights this year include our nativity play 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' and the topic of 'Our Community' where the children visited a local restaurant and businesses, mapped where they live in relation to all their friends and went onto the forest to appreciate the natural beauty and wildlife of Nutley. Our immediate future focus is the implementation of the new curriculum in September and ensuring we provide our children and staff with every opportunity they need to develop their full potential.

Nutkins Mother and Toddler group still meets regularly every Wednesday afternoon. We have struggled for numbers for the first half of this year but have recently seen an increase of new members. As some weeks we are unable to cover hall hire through attendance fees and many of our new members have babies, our craft activities are now monthly rather than fortnightly. However, we are proud of our group and know how important it is for parents and carers to meet together to share problems and tips.

Kirsty Milne


NUTLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are a very active club under the direction of our Chairman, Peter Kirby and number 60 members. Our meetings are monthly excluding August and December and have a variety of Speakers on different historical subjects.

During last year we had Martin LLoyd on Assassins, Spies & Traitors. A Mr Povey on Downland Villages, Mr Perry-Nash on Sussex Life in the Middle Ages, and a lot more. May, June & July we do interesting Walks or visit places of interest. This June we are going to Battle Abbey with a Guide. November meeting usually takes a musical form, still with an Historical theme. We meet on the Fourth Thursday of the month. Next Year we aim to make St. George's Day (April 23rd) special and hops to involve all in the Village so have booked the Memorial Hall for a large part of the day.

We trust that all will lend their support in one way or another,

Paddy Brooker



Hon. Secretary
Mrs Paddy Brooker
Bramley Cottage
Nursery Lane, Nutley
E.Sussex.TN22 3NS

NUTLEY WAR MEMORIAL TRUST

The Trustees have now installed a loop system for the hard of hearing in the Memorial Hall.

New stage lighting has also been installed. The old lights did not conform to modern standards and requirements and the Trustees felt that it would be false economy to do anything less than replace the whole system with new state of the art equipment. The new lighting is now available for use by organisations wishing to put on plays etc. It is up to users to supply their own operators.

The Trustees have been able to assist the Nutley Bowling Club financially by providing funds for the acquisition of a new machine shed.

The year 2008 sees the 60th anniversary of the setting up of the War Memorial Trust. To mark the event the Trustees will be holding a small celebration (a piece of cake and bubbles) after the AGM on the 10 July this year. All residents of the village may attend as of right but users of the hall from outside the village will also be invited. Details will be promulgated in the Parish Magazine in due course

B M Sidwell
Chairman - Nutley War Memorial Trust Committee
April 2008

NUTLEY FORDS GREEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee meet every two months or so with the AGM held each June. This last year 07/08 has as usual been busy, the old metal framed seats around the **Green** have been refurbished with new paint and new oak slates, signs have also been put up in the Pavilion in respect of the new 'no smoking' legislation. A disappointing feature of many Committee meetings over the last year has been the 'endless' discussion over the responsibility for the maintenance of the large trees bordering the **Green** brought about by the concern of a Committee member over the possibility of litigation in the event of a member of the public being involved in an accident caused by a falling branch. At the time of writing the Conservators of Ashdown Forest from who the **Green** is held on a 'peppercorn rent' refuse to continue the old arrangement that consisted of dealing with any tree problems brought to their notice.

It does seem that we live in different times, in part brought about by the 'compensation culture' that now exists and to this end to satisfy the terms of our Insurance cover the Committee had a 'risk assessment' on the trees carried out, this and the work which the assessors say needs to be done will take approximately £1000 from our meagre resources which come from the annual subscription paid by the three sports clubs who use the playing area and the Pavilion, from the Parish Council to cover the cost of the grass mowing and from our fund raising. In order to ensure that Committee members have the confidence to continue in their roll more costly Insurance cover has also been taken out.

On a more cheerful note plans are afoot, though the pace is slow to bring the Pavilion up to present day expectations, this will include a toilet for the disabled, an increase in the number of toilets for the Ladies from one to three, to install a shower for Referee's and to build a larger more modern kitchen. The cost is estimated at £35,000 and money is being sought from various funding bodies and the Committee must raise funds themselves.

We look forward to a busy summer season with cricket, stoolball, the village Fete a fundraising BBQ and later in the summer the Village Party.

Bert Keays

Maresfield Mother and Baby/Toddler Group

We have had a very good year once again and have attracted many new mums and babies/toddlers. We will be saying a goodbye to some of our older members who will be going to Pre-school this Summer Term. We are thankful once again to the support of St. Bartholomew's Church and in particular Eileen Coles who helps us each week with refreshments. We also would like to thank Sigrid who helps with the setting up. We are listed in Kites database free of charge – but our best form of advertising is still “word of mouth”. We also have our own website.

We have had a major reorganisation of our ‘portion’ of the store cup'd – due to lack of space, we have donated quite a few toys to Stepping Stones pre-school, Bonners School Reception and for fundraising purposes for Bonners School. Other larger toys are being stored in Jon and Bethan's garage for potential use at a later date – thank you Jon and Bethan. We have purchased storage boxes which have helped (in organisational terms) with the packing and unpacking of the toys.

We have purchased some dressing up clothes and can now set up different corners within the Village Hall:- book corner, home corner, baby play area, toddler play area, train set, dressing up, playdough, puzzles etc. Bethan has lent us her CD player so we now have music while the children play – the atmosphere is lovely. We held an open morning to encourage new members which was highly successful – we would like to arrange this event again for the end of the Summer Term. We are very grateful to report that the Village Market has kindly given £50 to our group in 2007.

We have held 2 Tempest Photography sessions this year and again this has helped provide “commission payments” to the toddler group. We have held a Christmas Party, an Easter party and will be holding a Summer party at the end of term. We have organised a trip to Monkey Business indoor play centre using money in the bank and will be organising a Summer trip to Blackberry Farm this coming term. We would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for allowing us to use the village hall at a reduced rent each week.

We are holding our own financially and have a surplus this year once again. Detailed accounts are available if required.

Report compiled by and on behalf of the “Maresfield Mother & Baby/Toddler Group”

Heather Farrant

MARESFIELD VILLAGE FOOTBALL CLUB

With five teams, plus a Ladies and Veterans Teams the club is very strong both financially and socially, but it seems such a shame that only the First and Second Team can play in the Village. Our other teams have to travel to Lewes and Isfield to fulfil their fixtures.

However on the pitch, our Ladies proved to be the most successful team last season, finishing Runners Up in their division. quite an achievement when over the previous four years they had only recorded one victory. This turn around was due not only to the players, but also to the manager, Nick Holmes Siedle whose enthusiasm was second to none. The men's teams all had a fairly average season finishing midway in their respective divisions.

We are losing some of our talented youngsters to University next season, so we need to replace them, therefore if there is anybody, over 16, especially in the 16-20 bracket, looking to join a friendly and sociable club, you can contact the secretary on 01825 749640 for further details.

Finally, as stated in my opening paragraph it seems a shame that all Maresfield Teams cannot find pitches in the village, and hopefully with all the new development talked about, this will be resolved. It has also got to be remembered that Maresfield Dynamos (Not connected to the Village club) also has many teams enabling boys as young as six to take part in organised sport, and they need somewhere to play and train.

Terry Gee

Maresfield Village Football Club

BONNERS CE SCHOOL 2007-2008

This year has been another year of challenge and celebration at Bonners School.

We have experienced a degree of staff turn-over. One member of staff left in January in order to begin maternity leave and another left at the same time to take a break from teaching.

We appointed a new acting deputy head teacher at this time and also appointed two temporary members of staff. Both of these complete their periods of employment in August and we look to appoint permanent members of staff in September.

Despite the high level of induction that has been necessary across this year we have continued to deliver a high level of teaching and learning experiences to our pupils.

One of our aims has been to make learning exciting and more 'hands on'. To this end we have been increasing the number of visits children make within the local area and the number of visitors who come to share their own experiences with children. One of these events was the VE Day party to complete the Year 3/4 children's learning about the Second World War which you may have seen in the media.

Earlier this year we received a visit from our School Improvement Partner (SIP), an external moderator who reports to County on standards at the school. She found that the work we have recently undertaken in making children's learning more creative has greatly enhanced pupils learning; that exciting starting points (a WOW! Starter), along with increased numbers of visits, visitors and special days are being used to effectively extend children's learning and provide very motivating experiences.

She also found that children's involvement in the local community, as well as the way we enrich the curriculum through our links with other schools, clubs and our pre and post school provision was very good.

We have now been able to complete our negotiations with an outside provider and are able to offer both pre and after school extended school day provision. A facility which many of our working parents have found very beneficial.

Praise was also given to the school for the way we enable children to develop self confidence and life-long learning skills through involving children well in their own learning. She found that we had excellent approaches to encourage good behaviour and children were enabled to develop autonomy in making decisions about all aspects of their school through an effective School Council.

I hope you will join me in congratulating all staff and parents for the contributions they have made to ensuring Bonners continues to provide a high standard of education for all our children.

Marion Ponting
Headteacher

REPORT OF MARESFIELD WI, 2008

Maresfield W.I has had a busy year. The highlight being a talk from Tom Harte -Dyke on his World Garden at Lullingstone Castle. Fairwarp W.I joined us for this special event and Tom kept us all amused as well as touching on his time spent in captivity. His Granny had a great influence on his choice of a career in the garden.

We held our A.G.M in November when Anne Seigne retired as president. We all welcomed Grace Brady as her successor. She has already injected new energy into the membership and we have several new faces joining

Barbara Isitt died in July. She had been a very active member for a long time and had written reports of our activities for local press and Parish magazine. Her family have enabled us to put a plaque in her memory on a bench at the tennis club next to the one in memory of her husband Chris. She is very much missed.

Our activities during the year have included supporting the village fete, cooking for the disabled in Uckfield, helping at a coffee morning in the village for Mac Milan cancer.

We had an outing to Michelham as a follow up to one of our speakers at a monthly meeting.

Jean went to the National AGM at **The Albert Hall** representing 4 institutes in our group and very much enjoyed meeting members from all over the country

The Committee **organised** the Christmas party- the members all helping with the food **with a great talk by a Punch and Judy man.**

Another year gone but what a good one!

Anne Seigne

Field End Residents Association (Including Maple Close)

The last year has seen a few changes in the residents in this community and this spring we have enjoyed once again the fruits of the labours of planting 2000 daffodil and narcissus bulbs planted by the residents here. The new trees (10) have all taken well and during the autumn of 2008 we shall again review what areas need attention. Members also took part in the Village clean up days in November 2007 and this March.

Our young members looked forward to the opening of the new youth club, Pulse, and we have made a donation towards its funding. We hope to be able to fund this again next year.

We note with regret that Persimmon have been granted outline planning permission to build on Park Farm as we would have preferred a development that was not just another tack on development but one that was permeable and better connected with the village centre, However we note that conditions have been placed on the developers to provide a direct footpath/cycle link to the village and to school and traffic measures the offset the direct impact of traffic generated by the new development. Additional traffic generated by the 80 homes scheme will have a considerable effect on this community, probably doubling the number to around 1800 movements a day.

We hope to continue to work with the various bodies including of course the Parish Council to serve our people well and fairly and to help this and other communities in the village to an improving environment.

FERA has several individual members in the Maresfield Conservation Group and has a paid up Association Membership which means that all residents have an interest in the Conservation of the area and its future.

Members are also represented on the focus group that is striving to achieve a good outcome from any plan that comes out of the Wealden District Council Local Development Framework and to this end we hope that we can also reflect what others may want to achieve for the future of our village.

Michael V Wheeler. Chairman.

Maresfield Conservation Group

(Current Membership 420 plus 92 Association Members)

From The Chairman

As you know, our Winter Supper was held later than has been usual but provided a very enjoyable start to the new year and something of an 'event' after the busy Christmas period. The Bowls Club proved to be a gem of a find in terms of venue, offering us the opportunity to mingle beforehand and to eat a delicious meal in comfortable and spacious surroundings. That a good time was had by all was clearly evidenced by the fact that some of us were very reluctant to leave even at 10.30pm.

It seems strange now to be harking back to the dark days and nights of January. The fruits of our bulb planting efforts in the autumn can be clearly seen along the verges and on the roundabouts in the village providing a glorious swathe of colour that really lifts the spirits. Thanks again to all those who assisted in this very worthwhile effort and please remember that we hope to embark upon a similar exercise this autumn when all help will be most welcome.

I am sure that you will have noticed the work that has been undertaken to clear the area on School Hill immediately adjacent to the Recreation Ground. This was an item that I mentioned in the September Newsletter and I hope that you will agree that the result is a considerable improvement on its previous appearance.

We were very pleased to have been able to complete this particular activity as part of our continuing efforts to maintain the village environment in good order. In this respect, we continue with our efforts to secure the services of a handyman to help maintain the historic centre of the village.

We have, needless to say, encountered some bureaucratic obstacles along the way, not least regarding the provision of public liability insurance but there are a number of avenues that we can explore which we are optimistic will provide a solution.

We also await various approvals before we can proceed in respect of the proposed village gateways and are also examining ways in which we might overcome the Church authorities' concern with carbon emissions that are currently frustrating our church lighting project. Whilst you may be sure that we will persist in our efforts to complete all our projects currently on hand, we are always very pleased to receive suggestions from members for any new initiatives for us to get our teeth into. The annual Art Show was held slightly later this year with a record of 209 paintings and five side stalls a preview was held on the evening of May 2nd and the exhibition itself on 3rd May. Admission was free and well attended and revenue was exceptional with over £1200 of paintings sold. Another notable date is, of course, the Village Fete on 26th May, which this year promises to be a lively affair run along traditional lines. Weather permitting (and it surely cannot be as atrocious as last year) this should be a very good day out and we will be in attendance again with courtesy of Ann Thompson's renowned plant stall.

Ceri Jenkins Chairman