



**Annual Report
Of
Maresfield Parish**

Year 2004-05

**Annual Parish Assembly
7.30pm
Friday 20 May 2005
At
Nutley Memorial Hall**

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Councillors

Robert Woodgate resigned as a Councillor in November 2004. No election was called for, but we were glad to see a number of candidates come forward to consider joining the Council, and that there was competition for the available place. The Council had presentations from two candidates, asked questions of them and co-opted Andrew Wallace to fill the vacancy.

Chairman

William King was elected chairman at the AGM in May 2004. He writes that, from his perspective, this last year has been quite different from the previous year. In 2003, there was a lot of internal good housekeeping type work to be done, with a new Clerk, the opening of the Parish office and updating of our regulations for financial management and for meetings. In 2004, we have not been distracted by such internal things, and have been able to get on with the job far more effectively.

It is desirable that Councillors have different strengths (and weaknesses!), different interests and backgrounds; thus we represent our Parishioners more effectively. Some of us can put in more time than others. A major burden fell on our Planning Committee with the draft Local Plan coming out in its second draft; the proposal for housing at Park Farm and the general policy proposals all took up a great deal of time; then out of the blue came an application for a waste handling and civic amenity site at the Maresfield Camp/Ashdown Business Park. Ken Ogden has been a tower of strength and put in a huge amount of time as Chairman of that committee working on these issues and helping our efforts to get the best result for Parishioners. We are lucky to have him able to do so much. We should all be glad that our fellow Councillor, Tim Sparrow, is Chairman of the Wealden Local Strategic Partnership (a very important body influencing the direction of ESCC, WDC and others and seeking to improve their effectiveness). Other Councillors fulfill their role quietly and less visibly, but effectively. I have great confidence in the team we have and the way they work, and I hope Parishioners have some understanding of how fortunate we are to be so well represented.

This last point is validated by what we hear from our County and District Councillors and from Officers of the District Council. I was asked to join the WDC team (as the only outsider) which made a presentation to seek Beacon Council status for its affordable housing work, and we have played a part in other consultation and advisory exercises with them. When we felt the need to ask for our position to be listened to more fully by WDC, we have received a good response, and I believe that is because they know we work to a high standard.

County and District Councillors

Tony Reid has a heavy burden representing a large division and as Deputy Leader of ESCC; his role includes financial and admin responsibilities, and with a budget of the order of £500m, it is a big job. We are divided into three wards for District Council purposes, each partly within the Parish and partly out.

Thus we have five District Councillors looking after us - Norman Buck and Pat Kennedy for Maresfield (and Buxted); Jim Hollins for Fairwarp (and Hartfield) and Frank Brown and Sylvia Martin for Nutley (and Danehill, Chelwood Gate, Fletching, Little Horsted and Isfield); several of them have substantial roles within the District Council. We are grateful to all six of them for the attention they pay to our affairs, and particularly for the considerable support they have given in different ways to the work of our Planning Committee.

The Clerk

A year ago, Tony Allen had just finished his probationary six months and was newly confirmed in his post. In this past year, his knowledge, confidence and effectiveness have increased considerably, and he has obtained the relevant qualification for Parish Clerks through the Working With Your Council course. Last year, he set out to beat Crowborough Town Council in an undeclared race to complete annual accounts (and just won!); this year was a no contest as the job was done within a week of the year end. Our internal auditors report that our financial systems are first class. During the year, Tony has become far better known to Parishioners and is now in a position to provide far more in the way of services to Parishioners and to the Council.

Claire Goossens has just joined us as Assistant Clerk on a part time basis; her experience is in event management and we anticipate that she and Tony will be able to do far more of the things which up to now Councillors have fitted in when time allowed.

Committee membership of non-Councillors

We now have as many non-Councillors helping with Council work as we have Councillors. The Parklands Play Area and Traffic & Transport Committees are particularly well supported in this way. It is right to single out Derek Barlow for thanks; he took on chairmanship of T&T when there was a hiatus and ensured its continued operation.

The Conservation Groups

The planning application for the waste site led to Maresfield Conservation Group playing a major role in the work to create our response. Dick Thompson joined the working party and the Group financed the technical input from a specialist planning consultant.

Nutley Conservation Group's formation was at the time of the proposal for affordable housing at Hillmead in Nutley; it was unfortunate that their first task was a subject on which they felt the Council had not performed satisfactorily. The outcome having been satisfactory from their viewpoint that is hopefully water under the bridge, and that Group is now itself taking on a big task of preparing input for Nutley on the Local Development Framework.

Maresfield and Nutley are well served by these groups.

The Council's work

Highlights of what has been achieved for Parishioners are:

- Replacement and repair of fingerposts on the Forest

- Successful pressure for a tidying up of derelict land

- Completion of the Council's Emergency Plan (we are ahead of all other Wealden Parishes in this); purchase of an emergency generator; creation of an emergency database of skills, tools etc.

- Preservation of a green space or "lung" south of The Paddock in Maresfield (not absolutely final yet; but agreed by WDC's relevant Committee)

- A very powerful response to the planning application for the waste site in Maresfield

- Acceptance by WDC (against officers' advice) of our position on phone masts, i.e. that there needs to be an overall Parish plan for their siting, including for their sharing, to reduce proliferation; [this has been overturned on a planning appeal, but the issue remains live and we fight on]

- The Speed Indicator Device on the Straight Half Mile

- The extension of the Maresfield 30mph zone to the western end of Batts Bridge Road; [agreed but still to be implemented]

- Creation of local action teams to work with ESCC/Sussex Police/Safer Wealden Partnership to reduce danger on our roads

- The new Parish website www.maresfieldparish.org.uk

- An event in Nutley (now being repeated in Maresfield) for young people; run by ESCC and designed to identify what type of activity will improve the Parish for our young people

- A dialogue with Sussex Police Authority and with Sussex Police at policy level and at local level; policy level to be followed up to seek to include rural special needs in the policy; improved working relationships with the PCSO, Karen Juniper.

William King, Chairman, Maresfield Parish Council

COUNCILLORS

FAIRWARP

Guy Hardy	712647
Steve Leaney	712115
Roger Street	713227

MARESFIELD

John Gutteridge	764781
Ken Ogden	761433
Sandra Weekes	712691
Ray Tester	712519

NUTLEY

William King	713798
[Chairman]	
Hanno Fry	712410
Tim Sparrow	713460
Peter Tester	712117
Chris Stephens	712464
Mairede Thomas	via 714555

COUNTY COUNCIL

Tony Reid	712242
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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 2005

<u>2004</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2005</u>
49494	Precept	56500
450	Interest	769
114	Other	1086 Note 1
549	Grants	0
50607	TOTAL	58355

<u>2004</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2005</u>
16570	Administration	15921
16516	Staff Costs	16174
2428	Services	3062
605	Subscriptions	632
1350	Section 137 Grants	2020
3935	Other Grants	7360 Note 2
9093	Miscellaneous	1154 Note 3
3033	Capital Expenditure	5237 Note 4
53530	TOTAL	51560

<u>2004</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2005</u>
27793	Balance as at 1 April	24870
50608	Plus Income	58355
78400		83225
53531	Less Expenditure	51560
24870	CLOSING BALANCE	31666 Note 5

- Note 1: Includes £996.46 transferred from Fords Green Management Committee
 Note 2: Includes increased Village Hall grants and Fairwarp Playground
 Note 3: 2004 included provision for Village Plan implementation
 Note 4: Additional support for Parklands Play Area
 Note 5: Figure rounded up £1 by computer

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. I am pleased to report that the finances are in a healthy state. As a result of the new and stringent monitoring and recording system implemented in 2003, the records are continuously updated, easy to monitor, and, consequently, very well regulated. The Council's books are in excellent order. This is in no small part due to the expertise and commitment of our Parish Clerk, Tony Allen.

In 2004/5 we have had the opportunity to review our existing Financial Regulations. With the aid of a model provided by The National Association of Local Councils, we have now redrafted them. They will provide clear and comprehensive guidance for the Council to regulate income and expenditure in the future.

In December 2004 the National Association of Local Councils together with the Society of Local Council Clerks negotiated an agreement on Salaries for Parish Clerks. They also devised a model by which each post could be assessed and evaluated. The Council used the model to re-evaluate the post of Clerk to Maresfield Parish Council. As a result a new salary structure was agreed with the present post-holder to be effective from 1st April 2005.

The past year has seen the implementation of two significant Acts of Government. These are the Freedom of Information Act and Disability Discrimination Act. The requirements of both of these Acts have been reviewed in relation to the activities of the Council to enable us to ensure that we conform to their demands.

The Council intends to operate at the highest end of the spectrum of Parish Councils. Its members and its committees are constantly seeking to provide activities and services that will benefit the residents of the area for which it is responsible. To this end it is deeply committed to achieving the status of a 'Quality Council'. In order to cope with the additional tasks that have been generated in this respect, a decision was taken to employ an Assistant Parish Clerk on a part-time basis. This has now been done and we are already seeing the benefits. All of this has been achieved with a budgeted increase in expenditure of 4.55% for 2005/6.

Roger Street, Chairman, Finance & Administration Committee

ENVIRONMENT & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

We continue to operate our procedure to persuade owner/residents to keep hedges and trees adjacent to Highways and Footpaths cut well back, such that Drivers and Pedestrians are not inconvenienced. Unfortunately there are still some householders who need an annual reminder.

Our watching brief over the condition of the Highways and footways has resulted in several repairs being completed. In particular, after much effort, Nether Lane, Nutley has been patched for its entire length. Other Footways are being considered by ESCC for remedial work. (Maresfield & Nutley)

Two of the Traditional Finger Posts in the Parish have been replaced at this Councils expense and were re-erected by ESCC workers. Having now put most of our Finger Posts into good order, we are looking into getting them listed as being of historical interest. We hope to have the use of these workers for a further two weeks this year.

The Council has offered to support our Village groups financially in a Tidy Roads Effort. This will mean a group being funded to tidy up a worrying spot in each of our villages.

We continue to regularly have our Childrens' Playgrounds checked and more Woodchips are added when necessary. Some maintenance work will be required this year on some of the equipment, and we have also arranged for a risk assessment to be carried out on all the sites to satisfy our insurers. A group in Nutley have shown interest in raising funds to upgrade the Nutley Play Equipment and we are currently working with them in the hope of bringing this to fruition.

The Maresfield Recreation Ground has its own Committee, but this group oversees certain aspects of the site. This year it will be necessary to replace the Chain Link Fencing around the Childrens' Play Area.

After consultation with the Nettlefold Trust, the Council has agreed to supply the power for the Lamp in the Nutley Car Park. A quotation for the work has been received and hopefully the change over will happen soon.

We continue to monitor our Public Footpaths and notify ESCC of any work required

Peter Tester, Chairman, Environment & Maintenance Committee

CIVIL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Since the last year's report we have progressed in our contingency planning for action to meet a civil emergency in our Parish.

The Emergency Operational Plan has now been completed. It incorporates a data base containing details of the resources identified in the survey in terms of personal skills, facilities and equipment available in an emergency. Our planning has now reached a stage when we are in discussion with the District Emergency Planning Officer about taking part in a Wealden District wide table top exercise later this summer. This would serve to validate our plan by testing our ability to respond to various emergency scenarios and our radio and telephone communications to cope with the traffic involved.

Our plan to install a generator at the Parish office is progressing so that we can have continuity of electric supply in the event of the breakdown of the public system.

Throughout the year our operators have continued with their monthly radio checks, often mostly among themselves as few other Parishes have come up on the net. It is to be hoped that a wider participation will be achieved to establish a complete radio net in the District and provide a more realistic and demanding test of communications. It is important to maintain our compliment of two operators in each village to retain our ability to provide the required level of communications.

Our plans are in place and their overall effectiveness will be put to the test and validated in an exercise later this year.

John Gutteridge, Chairman, Civil Protection Committee

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Your Planning Committee started the year with high hopes in forward planning on many subjects, including helping Parishioners to achieve great plans for Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley and further work on affordable housing. Many hours were put in by all to this end. Public meetings were held which resulted in lively debate and have paved the way for us to investigate new areas especially, the possibility of the Parish Council leading development for our local needs.

The "Big Issues", include Park Farm and the potential development of 100 houses, which was totally objected to by Maresfield. The Parish supported a decision to carry over the whole plan to the Local Development Framework, but members of Wealden District Council were not in agreement with this suggestion in its entirety. However, WDC have agreed to a drop to the West of the whole development, away from the Church area, but I do feel that objections will be raised further down the line, especially as any houses built cannot, at the present time, be supported by the necessary medical services.

The very good news is that we have been able to secure an increase in the size of the retained “green” area behind Maresfield Church.

Secondly, the proposed Waste Site at Maresfield Camp. This proposal shook everyone in their boots, but with much consultation, debate, numerous meetings and visits, the Parish Council have put forward a solid case against such a development and we now await the outcome of the meeting to be held by East Sussex County Council on the subject in June. This has been a lengthy process which I feel we should not expect to be resolved in the short term. Remember, it took 12 years to stop the development of the Millpond Depot.

On the Planning Committee it is our responsibility to decide whether to recommend approval or refusal of the numerous planning applications received on an annual basis, and I am pleased to say that it is extremely rare that Wealden District Council disagree with the recommendations of the Parish Council.

I wish to thank all Committee members and the Clerk for the hard work they’ve put in over the last year, and also thank our District Councillors for their support.

Ken Ogden, Chairman, Planning Committee

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

It is clear that excessive speed of vehicles throughout the Parish is of major concern to many Parishioners.

Your Council has suggested sites to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for Speed Indicator Devices (SID’s) as follows:

- Fairwarp – southbound at the junction of the Village and B2026
- Maresfield – north on School Hill and south on the Straight Half Mile
- Nutley - southbound at the junction of Crowborough Road and the A22

To date this has resulted in SID’s being installed in Nutley for traffic entering the Village from both the north and south directions, and on the Straight Half Mile for traffic entering Maresfield Village.

Areas of concern for the safety of pedestrians crossing roads have been identified at Batts Bridge Road and Duddleswell Tea Rooms.

Your Council is attempting to get results from ESCC for the cats eyes experiment on the B2026, where the centre line of cats eyes were removed and replaced with lines of cats eyes at the road edge.

Members of the Committee have inspected traffic calming schemes used in Brasted (Kent) and Ditchling (Sussex). The use of build outs in Brasted to create mini chicanes was not considered to be very successful.

Use of build outs and speed humps in Ditchling has been effective but people living next to them complain of noise. A successful pedestrianisation solution in Petersfield is also being studied, introduced following the construction of a by-pass.

The Parish consultation exercise has enabled the Committee to prioritise Parishioners traffic issues and identify preferred solutions. A Local Action Team is to be established under the Speedwatch Exercise scheme, where members of the Committee and Parishioner volunteers will work with the Safer Wealden Partnership, Sussex Police, ESCC and other agencies as required, to realise these solutions. Danehill and Fletching Parish Councils have shown interest in sharing the costs and use of SID's needed for this project.

In Nutley, after an initial negative response from ESCC, the Committee's persistent requests for the widening of the pavement between the pedestrian crossing and the Village shop has resulted in this proposal being actively investigated, due in no small part to the help of our County Councillor Tony Reid.

With regard to the Maresfield by-pass, we have suggested to ESCC that in the interests of safety, consideration should be given to three lane marking on this road (two lanes in one direction, and one lane in the other direction), instead of the current two very wide lanes which encourage dangerous overtaking. ESCC have said that the matter will not be considered further until this road is due for resurfacing, but have indicated their preference for a 'painted' width restriction of the existing two lanes, e.g. by adding cycle lanes each side and with cross-hatching in the middle of the road.

We are supporting Buxted Parish Council in their request to ESCC for further safety improvements on the A26 at Herons Ghyll, which has been the site of frequent serious accidents.

Concerns have been expressed to West Sussex County Council over the proposed landfill site at Freshfield Lane Brickworks, and the Committee is keeping a close watch on the proposed East Grinstead relief road, which if built, will have an impact on traffic movements and volumes through the Parish.

The Committee is working closely with Community Transport Officers concerning the threatened closure of the Wealden Easylink bus service due to lack of funding. This is a very popular service which collects people from their homes and takes them to either Crowborough or Tunbridge Wells for shopping trips. The Committee will make every effort to ensure that this valuable service continues.

There is now a much improved train service from Uckfield and we are hoping to get the train operators and the bus companies to co-ordinate their timetables to the advantage of the travelling public.

Ray Tester, Chairman, Traffic & Transport Committee

STRATEGY SUB-COMMITTEE

This committee exists to initiate and co-ordinate activities which arise from the implementation of the Village Plan. It also takes on tasks forwarded from the Council which do not come under the remits of the main, standing, committees.

During the year the sub-committee has progressed actions in a number of areas:

Information

Researched appropriate support to build the Parish Council website and project managed the subsequent work. Website now on-line at www.maresfieldParish.org.uk. Further material is constantly being added. Clubs, societies and local businesses and organisations who would like their contact details included on the site should send their information to the Parish Office, 01825 714555, clerk@maresfieldParish.org.uk.

Parishioners are encouraged to view the website regularly as it will contain agendas, articles and papers for Council and committee meetings and regular updates of local information.

Parish Matters, the Council's newsletter is now produced by a small sub-committee. Parishioners are asked to provide feedback on its relevance and helpfulness.

Youth

Weekly evening sessions of the youth bus, staffed by professional youth workers have been organised. Eight weeks in Nutley September to November 2004, eight weeks in Maresfield May to July 2005. Now developing suggestions arising out of these sessions.

Older people

Further discussions to identify real need now centres upon providing better access to services (particularly health related) either by bringing them into the village or providing additional transport.

Environment

Now being followed up by the Environment & Maintenance Committee but already refurbished all wooden signposts including completely rebuilding two and providing small grants to local societies to tidy up areas of the villages.

Police

Working via the Local Strategic Partnership have appointed a police/Councillor contact (Cllr Hanno Fry); embarked on further safety related work in conjunction with the Safe Wealden Partnership; have welcomed the new Police Community Support Officer, Karen Juniper, to the Parish (she now regularly visits the Parish Office and local organisations, including the mothers and toddlers groups).

Traffic & Transport

Projects are now overseen by the Traffic & Transport Sub-committee but during the year obtained major county grants to provide permanent speed reactor signs in Nutley and Maresfield.

Business

Had the first meeting with representatives of local business to explore ways the Parish Council can provide facilities and assistance to local people both individuals and firms.

Providing direct links to business advice and grants via the Parish website.

Health & Medical Services

In addition to the needs identified for older people the sub-committee has explored the provision of general healthcare services both inside and outside the Parish. Work on identifying the potential demand for a doctor's surgery within the Parish, for example, is now included in the broader Local Development Framework studies reported elsewhere.

The sub-committee

I would like to record my thanks for the hard work put in steadily, month by month over the year by the members of the sub-committee. Councillors and particularly the non-Councillors on the committee have moved these issues forward in their own time and the Council and I are very grateful for their hard work which has been very ably supported by the Clerk, Tony Allen, and now the Deputy Clerk, Claire Goossens.

Members: Ms Ceri Jenkins
Mr (now Cllr) Andrew Wallace
Cllr Hanno Fry
Cllr John Gutteridge
Cllr Peter Tester
Cllr William King

Tim Sparrow, Chairman, Strategy Sub-Committee

PARKLANDS PLAY AREA SUB-COMMITTEE

Since the last Report the Parklands Play Area was opened as planned last summer with due ceremony. All the equipment that had been planned within the budget was in position. Although only a comparatively a small play area, it has been enjoyed by children of all ages and from various parts of the Village.

Unfortunately the positioning and size of the frame, the main item of equipment, gave rise to complaints from residents of Forest Park immediately overlooking the play area. They felt strongly that it was intrusive and their privacy was threatened by children standing on top looking over the garden fences into their property. They demanded action to move the equipment.

The Sub-Committee considered that remedial action should be taken to erect a screen around the sides of the frame facing the nearest gardens. It was felt that given the right height it would serve to prevent any child standing on top from seeing into the gardens and also conceal the frame from view from the houses. It was agreed that once this action had been taken there should be a six week period in which all parties would consider its effectiveness. The Sub-Committee would re-convene to consider the results.

The frame will remain closed for use until the action has been completed. Screening material has been supplied by Wealden District and the timber posts bought by the members of the New Parklands Residents Association. Work on this is now in hand.

It has always been the intention to continue with fund raising to purchase more play equipment and this will continue. This is of course an expensive matter and more resources and sponsors are required.

It is to be hoped that the problem with the frame can be solved to general satisfaction and all equipment made available for use again. Attention can then be turned to building up the area with additional facilities to maximise its use for children's play.

John Gutteridge, Chairman, Parklands Play Area Sub-Committee

FAIRWARP ECHO

This is a monthly village magazine and takes in all aspects of village life, what is going on, for young and the not so young. The magazine is delivered by volunteers to many households or can be collected from the Church or the Foresters Arms. Many informative and interesting articles are included as well as information on local events.

Mrs R Thorne

THE FOREST CLUB

A very friendly club that meets usually the last Tuesday afternoon in the month at 2.30 in Fairwarp Village Hall. We have village transport kindly driven by our Mr. Tony Horne who collects members from their home and makes the return journey.

We have speakers most meetings followed by afternoon tea. Speakers have covered subjects ranging from Gardens, to Australia and Bee Keeping. Outings are organised for the summer months. This year Yalding Organic Gardens and hopefully Dungeness and Rye, again transport is arranged.

Very kind hostesses also invite us out to tea in the summer and this has become an annual event very much looked forward to.

Christmas is a very jovial time with lunch at Barnsgate Manor also a Christmas Party.

We will always be pleased to welcome new members.

Mrs. A R Billington

FAIRWARP FOXES - SHORT MAT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

The Fairwarp Foxes continue to meet weekly in the Village Hall. Regretfully due to illness, we have had to cancel some meetings but have more than held our own with matches against local clubs. We all get a lot of pleasure from our regular meetings, both exercise wise and socially. The Club finishes at the end of May until next Autumn when new members will be most welcome.

Mrs. P Endacott

FAIRWARP MUMS-TO-BE, BABIES & TODDLERS

The group meets in Fairwarp Village Hall Every Monday 1.30pm-3.30pm (excl. Bank Holidays, closed August)

The group first started in November 2000 as a result of being a bored stuck at home first time mum. At first it was a 'suck it and see' venture to see if anyone would turn up. Five years later, Fairwarp Mums to be, Babies & Toddlers Group is still going!

Somewhat sadly, in September 2004, the vast majority of our first 'intake' from November 2000, left the group to go on to primary school. Many of these children had been with the group from week one and many strong friendships amongst the children and the mums have developed in the last five years.

One of the first children to join the group had the honour (or was it the indignity) of having a bottom print made within minutes of walking through the door as he arrived when the group was doing hand prints and he needed a nappy change. His mum tells me she still has it.... He has now gone on to leave his mark at primary school. Another strong memory of him is the way we now sing 'See the little dinosaurs...' instead of 'See the little bunnies...' during weekly song time. (You have to be a parent...!)

The group offers a different craft every week, with lots of effort to make it seasonal and fun although we refuse point blank to guarantee cleanliness at the end of it. My own big girl (5) also went on to primary school at Nutley this year but she still checks out the crafts every week and makes intelligent comment on how well the 'little children' have done!

The older children of the group now, including my middle child (3) have quickly taken over where our leavers left off and many have obviously been just waiting in the wings for this opportunity! My youngest child, a very handsome young man (18 months) is now developing his social skills with the next wave of children in the group.

We have been lucky in having so many siblings following on to keep the group very much alive and I would like to thank all those mums who have thoughtfully provided this next generation for our Monday afternoons at Fairwarp. We always have room for, and welcome, new children to the group, so why not come and join us?

It is an absolute must that I thank all those people who have also given me much support and encouragement, especially during quiet times, and who have faithfully helped set up and clear up every week. The group would not be possible without you. Fairwarp is by far the smallest village of the parish and the mums and toddlers group is no doubt tiny by comparison to its bigger neighbours but we are sure that we can offer as big a welcome as anyone else with as much fun and games and chances to meet and make new friends for all – including mums!

Helen Rowland

FAIRWARP PCC – CHRIST CHURCH

The last twelve months have been very different - in May 2004 we said goodbye to Fr. Ian and Mrs. Terry Gibson. Ian had been at Christ Church for 17 years and was much loved. He is now Head of Staff and Chaplain to the Bishop of Chichester and the Gibson family have moved to a village in West Sussex. We miss them all but sent them off with our love and prayers and one of Juliet Murray's beautiful paintings of Ashdown Forest. Bidy Backhouse and our choir gave them a farewell concert in the church - the choir numbers were swelled by the return of lots of ex choristers, keen to be part of a special evening at which Ian and his sons were an integral part.

The following months offered a steep 'learning curve' - to use a current phrase - for the PCC as we began the process of exploring the way forward to appoint a successor but profiles duly were produced and in December Rev'd. Simon Morgan and his daughter Flavia moved into the vicarage; in mid April Bishop Wallace Benn conducted the Licensing Service and we have all welcomed Simon as our new Curate-in-Charge. We hope he continues to settle in and enjoy living in the village.

We had a busy year with baptisms, weddings and inevitably, funerals - Ian came back on several occasions to take the marriage services that had been arranged and we saw him also at Myrtle Wade's funeral in early January - Myrtle had been the backbone of our junior church for many years and also our Child Protection Officer and she is sadly missed, not just for these particular abilities but for all the many activities she participated in both the church and the community. We were also greatly assisted during the year by Rev'd. Richard Wolley, Acting Rural Dean for the Uckfield Deanery, who took many of our regular services and was a tower of strength through the various stages of appointing a new incumbent.

Our fundraising was boosted by a superb Auction in October, organised by Mrs. Jenny Lazenby and a percentage of the profits were donated to the proposed new playground equipment on the village green. Jenny continues to be a staunch fund raiser for Christ Church.

Churchwarden Eve Edsger has updated our web site and has taken over our weekly Spotlight notices. But, as ever, many people do many things to support our church family.

Anita Long

FAIRWARP "POP-IN"

Held every Wednesday morning from 10-11am (by kind permission of the Licensee John Lyon) at the Foresters Arms when coffee/tea and biscuits are available at a very modest sum. The meeting is an opportunity for local people to get together and exchange news and views. Average attendance is between 15 and 20 people. Last year surplus funds were sent to the Asian Tsunami Appeal. Everyone is welcome.

Mrs. P Endacott

FAIRWARP STEPPING STONES – PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Stepping Stones Pre-school holds sessions in Fairwarp and Maresfield Village halls. The Fairwarp sessions are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings with Tuesday afternoons in Maresfield Village Hall.

The group continues to grow in size. With 35 children now on role, we are now bursting at the seams.

We have had a very busy year, learning about all kinds of things. Everyone took part in our Christmas production. There were lots of very proud Mums, Dads and Grandparents.

Lots of painting, cutting and glueing go on, together with cooking and gardening. We learn how to write and count. We know our colours and shapes and are all keen to experience anything new.

We have termly visits from the Music Train lady, when we all act, sing and dance the afternoon away. We look forward to her coming and bringing her puppets and bubble machine with her.

We have made and tasted food from all around the world. Had pancake races and made bread.

During the last part of our term this year, we will be practising for our sports day, having visits from Police cars and Fire Engines and getting ready for our end of term party.

We have 14 children leaving us in July going onto Primary School, and plenty of new children waiting to take up their place with us.

Suzanne Baldock

FAIRWARP VILLAGE HALL

Management Committee's Report for 2004

The Committee thanks Mrs Di Bowley for all the work she did during her time as Hon Treasurer and for her support to the Committee prior to her resignation. Despite Mrs. Bowley having resigned from the Committee in October 2004 she has assisted the Committee to prepare the financial statements that form part of the documentation for this AGM.

Unfortunately, Miss Michelle Sawyer who took over the role of Hon Treasurer at the AGM in 2004 has been forced to resign due to pressure of work. The Committee is urgently seeking a new Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. R. Burgess and Mr. A. White resigned from the Committee in March 2004 and were officially thanked, for their extended and valuable service to the Village Hall Committee, at an enjoyable party in November.

Mr. Burgess was instrumental in arranging for the Conservators to grant a licence to the Village Hall Management Committee for the Green and for preparing a new Constitution for the Management Committee in the form of a Scheme which was adopted at the AGM last year. We are appreciative of the work he put into achieving this.

Mrs Edwards is to be thanked for once more maintaining an efficient booking system. Income from the hall is up by 15% (£694.70). Mr Jackson's assistance with key arrangements is also appreciated.

The fete, on 10 July 2004, once more masterminded and organised by Mrs Bergan-Gander and Mr Lazenby was again the only event held to raise money for funds for the Hall. Despite absolutely torrential rainfall right at the start of the fete, resulting in the Majorettes being unable to perform and in spite of clashing with Uckfield Festival again, the fete went on to be the most successful of all time.

The total net profit was £2317.86 and all the stallholders and villagers who took part are to be thanked for all their efforts in raising this money, most particularly to the "Ladies (and Men) from Oldlands Hall" who ran a new tea tent, this proved to be very popular.

A consultation exercise for next year's fete was undertaken during the latter part of the year and it is expected that the ideas generated will be incorporated into the fete in 2005 and we have also received a few offers of assistance for which we are grateful.

As is widely known, the money from the fete is usually used for specific projects. This year the money is being put towards the building of a disabled access ramp in accordance with the requirements of the new Disability Act and must be built during 2005. Mr Pete Bowley is to be thanked for his ongoing efforts with the design of the ramp and hopefully the planning application will prove acceptable to the District Council.

The only other work on the hall over and above general maintenance has been cutting a new inspection hatch in the middle storage area at the back of the Hall to allow ease of access to the area below the hall.

Mr Lazenby is to be thanked for all his continued work in completing repairs and maintenance requirements to the Hall and the Village Green, sometimes at very short notice, throughout the year to a very high standard.

The Village Market continues to contribute towards the monies being raised towards Hall Funds. A total of £697.79 was raised in 2004, this is up by 13% on the previous year. Miss Ruth Spencer and Mrs Eve Sowter are to be thanked along with all the stall holders for maintaining this highly successful village tradition throughout the year.

The Sovereign Club raised £762 this year and requested that the money raised goes towards the disabled ramp in due course. Mr. Endacott is thanked for his efficient running of this fundraising club.

Three bequests (each of £1,000) were received during the year for which we are most grateful. £1,500 is for the hall and the other £1,500 has been allocated to the play area project. These are detailed in the accounts.

The Village Hall continues to monitor the play area development sub-committee with the past year having been spent mainly on applications for and eventually receiving of grants towards the project. Ms Wendy Green is to be thanked for her seemingly never ending applications to a huge number of organisations and her persistence in following them through. The original target set for fundraising was £42,000. Following final specification a further amount may be required to take account of inflation. £30,568.49 has been received to date and there are promises of £9,800 giving a total raised to date of £40,368.49, less expenditure of £396.25. The Management Committee would like to thank Ms Wendy Green, Mrs. Helen Rowland, Mrs. Di Bowley and Ms. T. Aitchison for the energy with which they have managed this project to date. It is intended that this play area project will be completed in 2005 following further consultation with interested parties in the village.

Mr Hoath is to be thanked once more for his continued assistance with matters in and around the hall. Especially his weekly bin manoeuvres and watchful eye on hall activities, oil and gas levels etc.

Finally, we became aware in the latter part of the year that the Committee was not very visible within the community that the Hall serves and it was determined that we should publicize the names of the committee in order that residents might approach us more easily with queries, issues, and offers of assistance. An article was produced for the Echo magazine with all the Committee's contact details.

We should like to particularly thank Mr. John Gaston, The Hon. Examiner & Scrutineer who has once more assisted us greatly in finalising and agreeing the accounts on a very tight timescale.

Sue Bergan-Gander

FAIRWARP W.I.

Two vital issues were discussed at the recent meeting in preparation for the National AGM at the Albert Hall in June. Our debate was lively, frequently unruly, but resulted in a vote for the first resolution which abhorred current financial losses by Dairy farmers in the U.K. Secondly, and equally vigorous was our condemnation of waste disposal methods, the creation of ever more waste by packaging, and the proliferation of landfill sites. What can we do about this?

There came an emotional jolt as one of our members described her trip to Nepal and Tibet, at present in the vicelike grip of Chinese rule. Up there, in the clouds and the cold; called "The Roof of the World", peasant communities struggle and suffer, yet preserve a dignity and beauty which humbles those who hear of it.

At Fairwarp fete, on July 9th, the W.I. will be selling books. Offers of books will be gratefully received at the ten in the morning. Proceeds go to the Village Green and Village Hall fund.

S.R. Lee

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF MARESFIELD CHURCH

Chairman's Annual Statement

The Association of Friends was established at the very end of 2002 and in May 2003 we received the Quinquennial Inspection Report on the state of the church's structure. This survey itemised a long list of items that needed attention; some were urgent in order to keep the church watertight and the structure sound, others were less urgent but still desirable. The total cost of these renovations far exceeded the resources of the Church and indeed with fundraising activities generating around £5,000 per annum it was going to be a real problem to finance these repairs even over an extended period. This was the problem facing the Committee of Friends.

How things change. 2004 will now be remembered as a very special year for the Friends as we were so fortunate to receive a large anonymous donation which on its own will be sufficient to cover the costs of the repairs. Indeed you will notice that work has started, evidenced by the scaffolding outside at the start of the year and also by the truly wonderful restoration work now completed on the North Lych-Gate. All church repairs have to be done with great care and sensitivity and all are subject to the watchful eye and processes of the Church and its architects.

In addition to the donation the various activities of the Friends raised over £4,000 in 2004.

The Bridge party held last February raised over £400 and I am pleased to report that a repeat event held this week raised some £700. Our thanks go to Mary Wrake, Liz Cordery and Anne Seigne for organising these.

The Carol concert raised over £400 too and that was a wonderful evening and again Liz Cordery did a splendid job assembling the choir and organising the event.

The largest fund-raiser of the year was the Auction of Promises. This raised nearly £3,000, about £2,500 profit, and I am sure we will be repeating this in years to come. I discovered that a lot of people in the village did not know what an Auction of Promises was but hopefully the word has spread and more people and wallets will attend in future!! So many people and businesses from the village and surrounding area gave promises and we are most grateful to them all. In particular the Chateau in France donated by the Wilmot Morgan family was a major money-earner. Much of the organisation of this event was done by our two newest members of the committee; Caroline Mack and Sue Merchant.

We are planning some new events for 2005. The Bridge evening has got us off to a good start. Then, on 3 July 2005 we have organised an 'Open Gardens' afternoon starting at 2pm in the Village Hall and we look forward to seeing many villagers and others on that occasion. Later in the summer we are planning an outdoor picnic concert on the green by Park Farm. This should be a great family event and we will let you know as soon as we have fixed a date.

In closing I would just like to state how the Committee sees its responsibilities and what our vision is for the use of Friends money. We would like to develop the church as a place that can be used by the village for more than purely worship. To this end, we plan to deploy funds to install toilets and to further improve the church building. The church in past centuries was the centre of village life and we feel that a building of this size and beauty should be used more than it currently is and become once again a centre for local activities.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members of the Association for their support and to the hard-working committee who give up their time and much energy to organise the events. There are so many organisations in the Village competing for funds and it is difficult to fit things into this busy schedule. However we have had a good year and look forward to 2005 with optimism.

Stephen Farrant

BONNERS SCHOOL REPORT
April 2004-2005

Staff, children and parents are delighted with the school's successes during the year.

On the academic side 7 and 11 year olds achieved outstanding results which drew praise from the highest quarters.

The Healthy Schools initiative which won us a silver award involved everybody, young and old. The bursar led dance fitness sessions, a teaching assistant held PE in the playground whilst the cook and another classroom helper took part in a Ready, Steady Cook competition in front of the whole school. Their salad dishes were called Spring Flowers and the Eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The week ended with a grand picnic held on the sports field in glorious weather.

Jamie Oliver's recent involvement in promoting healthy school dinners has given a much needed boost to headteachers who have been campaigning for better food for years. Under the government's healthy food scheme all infants receive a piece of fruit every day and at Bonners the juniors are treated to a selection of exotic fruits by the PTFA every Friday. A weekly breakfast club, which encourages good table manners and polite conversation as well as providing nutritious food, is proving very popular but needs volunteers to run it.

An upstairs room in the old school house has been transformed into a smart, functional ICT suite by a group of parents and friends. Interactive whiteboards are now at the top of teachers' wish lists and hopefully will soon be available to them from special grants and fund-raising.

A School Council has been formed with representatives from each class and all Year 6 children have responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of younger pupils. The rapport between the different age groups is remarkable.

Staff and other volunteers continue to run a variety of extra-curricular clubs at lunch-time or after school whilst the PTFA find ever more ingenious ways of raising money for the benefit of the children.

Most of the annual budget is used to pay salaries and running expenses. However, some funds are allocated for building improvements, so the boys' toilets have at last been refurbished and the playground fencing renewed.

There is always more to do and more to achieve, so do continue to support our village school.

Maureen Cottingham, Foundation Governor

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Two main issues have dominated the activities of Maresfield Conservation Group in the past year.

The first is the proposal for a large housing development south of the village at Park Farm as part of the Wealden Local Plan Review. From the start we have been opposed to the development of this green field site, and we have also pressed for a reduction in the overall number of houses allocated to the village with the main emphasis on the provision of affordable homes. However, in the event of any development going ahead, we wished to secure the largest possible green area south of the Church as a permanent feature of the village. This we have managed to achieve in large measure as an agreed revision of the plan and we must thank the Parish Council for their sterling work on this.

The second issue is the planning application by Onyx for the development of a major waste management site west of the village on the old army camp. We have from the start been strongly opposed to this and have worked closely with the Parish Council to present the strongest possible case against it. This included retaining a specialist consultant who provided invaluable advice on the planning aspects of our case. The matter is now in the hands of the County Council for a final decision and we are hopeful they also will reject the application.

Our other small scale activities have also continued, including litter collection, plant tubs, painting railings, and cleaning footways. Our future proposals include the achievement of a safer crossing on Batts Bridge Road for children accessing the new play area, improvements to the existing footpath south of the village to Uckfield and improving and tidying the well used steep lane beside the Chequers leading to Underhill.

Dick Thompson

MARESFIELD FRIENDLY CLUB

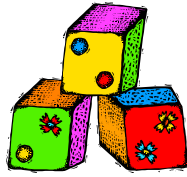
The club had a very happy and successful year marked only by our Chairmans ill health.

Various committee members stood in to run our once a month meetings, where several guest speakers both entertained and informed us. We also had a "blossom run" coach trip followed by a cream tea, a delightful garden party held at a members home and an excellent Christmas lunch where we were entertained by children from the local school singing carols.

All in all a very good year.

I have been asked to become our new Chairman and I have a similar programme in place for this year.

Gillian Small



Maresfield

"Parent & Baby / Toddler Group"

'Welcoming mums, babies and toddlers'

Supported by St. Bartholomew's Church & Kids Club

We set up the Maresfield Parent and Baby/Toddler Group in November 2004 and are so pleased to report that the Monday morning sessions are continuing to flourish and the mums and children are equally enjoying themselves! We have been given the majority of a storage cupboard in the hall which has made my life so much easier – we only store a couple of the bulky items now together with refreshments. The support from St. Bartholomew's has been fantastic and thanks are given once again to Sigrid, Eileen and Wally for their help setting up, making coffee, keeping the biscuits topped up! and the packing away afterwards of the toys. We have written to the Village Hall Committee thanking them for working so hard to accommodate our storage issues.

We had a primary school music teacher to give a music session during a morning and arranged for a Photographer to come in and take individual photographs of the children – the results were fantastic and all photographs were sold.

A Homeopathist came and gave us a talk on the 14th March 2005 giving us an insight into her work and the possible ways Homeopathy can work for children. We look forward to perhaps holding other talks if anyone has any further suggestions.

We have had an enquiry from a grandparent wanting to bring their grandchildren along – they enjoyed the morning as much as their grandchildren! if anyone knows of any other families who would like to do the same, please let them know they are equally welcome.

We arranged an Easter party for the children and some of the float was used for an Easter egg hunt, snacks for the children and a "Ladybird book" and a small packet of milk buttons for each child – these were very popular. We also had an Easter bonnet parade by the children.

We are arranging a Summer term trip to Blackberry Farm with a picnic.

Heather Farrant

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME- UNDERHILL, MARESFIELD

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Underhill , Maresfield was set up in February 2004. This Scheme covers 10 households at the present time, although interest has been shown by other residents to increase this number in the future.

Maresfield Parish Council was approached at the onset who provided valuable information and contacts in order to get the Scheme up and running. Indeed, funding was also made available to assist with the initial start-up costs, with a total of £200 in two instalments being donated by the Parish Council.

An initial meeting was then held, with all the appropriate residents being present, at the request of the Crime Prevention Officer, Mr David Smith. He provided everyone with valuable leaflets and information on various products etc, and safety measures and how the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should operate to its best effect.

To date, a number of meetings have been held, at appropriate periods in time and a newsletter has been set up to keep residents informed as to how the funding is being spent etc and any other important items of information necessary to share.

To date, the funding has been spent on two neighbourhood watch signs to be erected at both entrances to Underhill , including the necessary licensing and public liability insurance costs. Furthermore, the funding has also provided each household with a shed/window alarm which has been particularly useful due to the rural location and vulnerability of the households in the area.

The on-going support of the Parish Council has played an extremely important role in the success of this Scheme.

Debbie Lyne

MARESFIELD RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

The Recreation Ground is busier than ever both from a sport participation and from daily use by the villagers both adults and children and from passing visitors stopping for their sandwich lunch.

2004 was the first full year following the rebuilding of the pavilion that has seen a very encouraging rise in the numbers of both the active sports persons and supporters to watch the sporting activities.

The footballers have increased in numbers and with the junior 'dynamo' club is now seeing the almost maximum use of the main pitch at the southwest end of the ground. For the juniors a 'junior size' pitch has been marked out with this in full and success use on the Saturday mornings. To really keep the participants on their toes a full training session is held on Tuesday evenings that now includes a Ladies squad that has now 18 members with games home and away played throughout the winter. The overall match results have been moderate but as soon as funds arrive a Portuguese manager will be sought.

The Stoolball and Cricket clubs both reported encouraging seasons and both progressing in an upward fashion with members numbers increasing. Both would like to see more participants and any one interested to come along on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the Stoolball club and the weekends for the cricketers. On the very junior cricketing front a small coaching group started last year on Saturday mornings and has recommenced this season. Again more younger juniors are sought to boost the numbers and will be made very welcome.

The Bowls club is ticking over and has been working on the green and the fencing and now is to bowl their best for the summer season.

With the additional sports participation especially with the footballers, this has resulted in additional funds becoming available that are being used for both pavilion maintenance, ground rolling and reseeding and the re-planting of the southerly hedge. This is already showing good results following the early seeding at the beginning of April and the growth of the new beech trees. The seeding will continue through the summer whilst the further planting of the hedge is planed for next winter.

During last summer on the warmer days and especially during the school holidays, the recreation ground was extensively used by mums and grandparents with the family children on both the field and in the play area. It was not unusual to see over a hundred persons at the ground enjoying the fresh air on such days. Within the car park nearer the road it is hoped to see a youth encouragement bus facility one evening a week to offer introduction to early teenagers to computing and other similar learning skills. This has the Committee's full support.

One negative subject is the exercising of dogs over the ground and whilst the majority of owners are keeping their dogs on leads whilst at the ground, regrettably a small number fail to act correctly with the dog fouling of the area that is not removed that could well cause the most unpleasant disease problems especially to the youngsters playing on the ground.

John Mason

MARESFIELD W.I.

Maresfield WI consists of 25 members and has been pleased to welcome 3 new ones recently. We have 11 meetings in the year and these have included a visit from a llama! Volunteers help provide lunches for the Red Cross twice a year. The WI runs a stall at the village fete and we visit sick members.

Anne Seigne

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

The most obvious event this last year (at least to the casual passer-by) has been the major repair work on the church building, funded by a most generous gift to the Friends of Maresfield Church. Many have commented on the repaired lychgate, but less obvious are the renewed guttering (in an attractive but expensive reproduction of the original cast iron design) and repairs to the exterior south wall. Still to come in due course is renewal of some of the roofing.

This may be the most visible happening of the year, but more significant is the establishment of a Parent and Baby/Toddler group, sponsored by the church (see a separate report for more details). As well as this we are also very pleased at the fact that so many of our members express their Christian faith through their involvement in other village groups -- so much so that we can seem a bit short-handed for our own activities!

Early in the year we ran an Alpha course for those seeking to learn more about the Christian faith. While numbers were small, this was important, as it focuses on what the church is here for. We will happily repeat this as and when people express an interest.

We are very conscious of our privilege and responsibilities as custodians of a building that has been at the centre of the village for about a thousand years, and many of our members devote a lot of time to its care. However, we are also very aware that looking after a building is not what a Christian church is meant to be about, and at times it seems an impossible burden. We are therefore very grateful for the Association of Friends of Maresfield Church and the contribution they make to the building's upkeep and repair.

Finally, while we always welcome any contribution to the upkeep of a fine (but expensive) building, and to the general costs involved in ensuring that the church's ministry continues, we are not primarily here to raise money but to welcome and, in God's goodness, to help and support every member of the parish on their journey through life.

Best wishes

The Rev'd Martin Greig

ASHDOWN EVERGREENS

The year 2004 was a special one for Evergreens as it was 40 years ago that the club was formed in 1964.

We took two trips by coach one was to Denbies Vineyard in Dorking and our special birthday celebration was a river trip on the Thames. This outing was funded by a lottery grant from "Awards for All".

In October we celebrated again with a birthday cake and three ladies all in their nineties were presented with Floral Baskets.

During the rest of the year we had many speakers on various subjects and also ran a successful Tombola at the Village Day.

Our year ended with a Christmas Lunch at Maresfield Indoor Bowls Club. We are looking forward to our first outing this year in June to Chelsea Royal Hospital.

We extend a warm welcome to new members. Come and join the Evergreens.

Cynthia Hudson, Secretary

CROWBOROUGH ROAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

This year our overriding policy remains just as important as ever. Greater improvements for the safety and peace of this unique road, which leads through a quiet residential area, into the main unfenced grazing area of the Ashdown Forest, are our continuing priorities.

We have been encouraged by the fact that E.S.C.C's Road Hierarchy Review seeks to "take account of the needs of all road users and to ensure that traffic is concentrated onto roads appropriate for its journey purpose."

Consequently, we are optimistic that this will achieve some of the results which Crowborough Road residents have campaigned for over many years. Keeping the speed limit to 30 m.p.h., reducing the weight limit to 17.5 tonnes and reducing the size of road signs at the junction with the A22 are all of primary importance for a safer environment.

C.R.R.A. Committee has been in regular communication with E.S.C.C. personnel. They are currently arranging for a site meeting with County officers concerning the hazardous nature of speeding traffic along the C3 Crowborough Road.

Following the residents' desire for the most environmentally friendly traffic calming measures, they voted for an enhancement to the white lining system. Subsequent discussions have taken place with the Transport & Environment Department of E.S.C.C. and it is anticipated the work will commence shortly, within this financial year.

One or two local matters serving the needs of the Crowborough Road residents were addressed by the Committee.

The public footpath via Londoderry Farm to the Forest has been made accessible with the installation of an attractive wooden kissing gate.

With police training, a local campaign to monitor traffic speeds was investigated by the C.R.R.A. However, it is apparent a better use of resources will be achieved by working with the Maresfield Parish Council's initiative and residents are asked to co-operate.

Throughout the year we have received co-operation from both members of East Sussex County Council and the Maresfield Parish Council and we wish to thank them for their support.

Margaret Picknell

NUTLEY BOWLS CLUB

Following a delayed start to last year's season, due to some vandalism on the Green, the Green Committee all worked very hard to repair the damage and Nutley Bowls Club enjoyed a very successful season. Once again the Alf Sayers Competition Day proved to be a resounding success with Nutley welcoming many local Bowls teams, unfortunately the weather was not kind to us and everyone had to decamp along the road to Maresfield Indoor Bowls Club. Preparations for this year's competition are already underway and hopefully the sun will shine. This season sees the return of a Club Night on most Thursday evenings (depending on match fixtures and weather) from 7.00p.m. onwards. We are always happy to welcome new members of all standards to our friendly but small and thriving Club and anyone interested should just pop along and have a chat.

Keith Paul

NUTLEY NUTKINS (BABY & TODDLER GROUP)

Nutley Nutkins Mother and Toddler Group has continued to be well attended this (academic) year even though we did lose a larger than usual number of little folk to School. We have been lucky enough to have a bit of a baby boom locally which has helped us to boost our numbers. Nutkins has invested in and replace some very tired toys which have all proved to be a big hit with the children. Particularly popular are the new ride on toys, scooters and the much loved dressing up box. We have also been able to fund an outing to Pandamonium (children's indoor play area) which was greatly enjoyed by all. We have also been able to continue offering craft sessions bi-weekly which the children really love. This has all been made possible by donations received, including that received from yourselves. On behalf of Nutley Nutkins thank you. As for the future, we have had discussions as to how we could improve the group and would very much like to promote pretend play. As with all groups of this nature we are reliant on donations and fundraising so no definite plans can be made at this stage.

Cecille Monks



NUTLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Report to Maresfield Parish Council April 2005

Developing Opportunities and Realising Potential

School from the outside, can seem an unchanging environment, a conveyor belt of children travelling to young adulthood along a well-worn path. From the inside, nothing could be further from the truth. Across every aspect of school life progressive change is underway, delivering excellent educational, artistic and sporting opportunities for all pupils.

The principal aim of all who are involved at the school, whether teacher, support staff or governor, is the provision for pupils of a rich and fulfilling school experience. We believe the combination of a wide and varied curriculum, enthusiastic teaching and a caring, supportive environment provides the best educational opportunities for all pupils.

Children learn best when they are stimulated, excited and challenged by the subject being taught and at Nutley we have excellent classroom practitioners who provide pupils with a personalised programme of education designed to maximise their potential. This personalised teaching which supports every child is central to the ethos of the school. An enriching curriculum, which informs and excites the children about the world around them whether through Dance, Sport, Art, Music or Drama is key to raising academic horizons and whole life potential.

Since gaining Arts Mark Gold in 2003 the creative arts have gone from strength to strength at Nutley School.

This year we have developed specialist teaching for art and design and music in and dramatically raised the profile of our choir by moving practices from lunchtimes to lesson times – no more hard choices between football and singing! We are delighted that nearly all of the children in the upper school are now choir members. The choir will participate in our inaugural evening music concert in May which will also see contributions from all of the children who learn musical instruments through the school.

To raise standards in the creative arts we have planned our curriculum to ensure that specialist teachers deliver as much of the art and music curriculum as possible and we have organised regular focus days for music and art through the school also led by specialist teachers.

This year we launched our Writing Project to inspire good quality writing across the school. During our Writing Week in September the whole school adopted new handwriting and presentation policies which are being consistently used throughout the school, the children are very proud of their beautiful new handwriting!

We visited Hever Castle to inspire our writing, we were visited by the poet Roger Stevens who captured the imagination of all of the children and a journalist came into talk to the

older children about his work. All of this inspiration has raised the profile of writing through the school and with our parents.

This was reflected in our SATs results where we met or exceeded our LS targets in English and all of the pupil's performances were well above the national average in English and maths. Thanks to all of the staff for their continued hard work and consistent rigour.

Our exciting Library development will further inspire our children with aspects of reading and writing and we are very grateful to the PFA for promising £2000+ toward new books. On this note, a huge thank you to one of our parents Austin Warren who, as we write, is completing a cycle ride from John O'Groats to Lands End and aims to raise £10,000 for the Library, new sports and playground equipment and a donation to Chailey Heritage.

We continue to value highly our links with the Starfish charity and the children were delighted to welcome John Hacker to talk about their trip to Cambodia (before they went). The children were very interested and amazingly perceptive about the work that Starfish would be trying to do in Cambodia. We are looking forward to a return visit to see the slides of the trip.

The children have been very pleased to be able to attend an Advent and Easter After School Clubs run by the church. Both clubs were very well attended and really enjoyed by the children, it was wonderful to see so many children in the church.

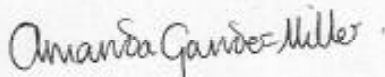
Following wide-ranging consultation with parents, pupils, governors and staff we now have a revised uniform policy.

Comments from parents, children, staff and governors in the uniform questionnaires strongly supported a smarter, more consistent approach to school uniform and rigorous enforcement of uniform standards. Our new uniform, which is very well supported, creates a professional, hardworking image and reflects the ethos and aspirations of the school.

During this last year we were delighted that Mrs Tina Bernard reached the Southeast final of the National Teaching Awards for 2004. The judges who visited were extremely impressed by her teaching skills and also by the many favourable comments made by the children, parents and governors who met them. Tina was runner-up in the whole Southeast region and we are all very proud of her amazing achievement.

The school is constantly evolving. Highly professional staff in a caring environment encourage each child to fully participate in school life and to use the many opportunities available to them. This recipe for success can be credited to a dedicated staff, high expectations, a focused governing body and a supportive school and village community.

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



Amanda Gander-Miller
Head Teacher



Ray Kennedy
Chair of Governors

NUTLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

The group was established on 12th September 2004 at a meeting called to discuss disquiet in the village caused by the perceived lack of consultation over the proposed Hillmead development. This prompted a "wake up" call to many who felt the need to be more closely involved in local plans and the future design and development of their village.

The aims of the group are:

1. To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in Nutley and its surrounding area.
2. To arouse interest in proposed developments so that proposals can be discussed and views expressed before decisions are taken.
3. To co-operate with other organisations, both local and national, that have similar views as the group, in order to further the long term interests of Nutley residents.

Progress with these aims is as follows:

1. This month the group has launched an ambitious project to produce a Village Design Statement for Nutley. It is hoped this will include a wide range of interested parties, and it will give an accurate and visual record of the amenities and characteristics of the village as they are now. On the basis of this, we hope to work with the Parish Council in the production of a Village Plan to feed into the Local Development Framework. This will help to ensure sensitive planning and development with the aim of responding to the village's needs and enhancing the character of the village in the future.
2. Nutley Conservation Group now has over 100 paid up members and several supporters who are with us in spirit, but have yet to pay their subscription! The committee has formally met on nine occasions and has lobbied against developments and the processes initiating developments that its members feel are potentially detrimental to the character of the village. Very many members objected to the Hillmead development, and the committee, on behalf of the group, has opposed the proposals for Old Nether, the Old Police House, and the siting of mobile phone masts at the Telephone Exchange.
3. Contact has been made with other conservation groups, Friends of the Earth, the Environmental Agency, the Environmental Law Foundation, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Conservators of Ashdown Forest and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. We are looking forward to working closely with the Parish Council in the future, in pursuit of our joint aims.

Jock Compson (Chairman)

NUTLEY FORDS GREEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

How quickly a year goes by! The Green looks in fine shape perhaps due more to April showers than our 'due diligence' but we strive on.

2004/05 saw lots of cricket, football and stool ball and of course the village fete with the village party once again a great success, and is it not uplifting on high days in the summer to glance across as you drive by to some terribly important destination and see the Nutley Playgroup over by the swings.

Recently the Parish Council supplied a lorry load of new wood chippings for the children's play area, these were brought to the Green by Ray Tester and spread by other members of our committee.

Other maintenance work to report is the refurbishment of the Pavilion's Ladies room, the trimming of excess growth from the trunks of the large trees over by the A22 and last but not least the refurbishment of the plaque in memory of Lt Colonel 'Bruno' Brown OBE which is situated inside the railings by the A22 and next to a copper beech tree planted in his honour by the Nutley, Maresfield and Fairwarp branch of the British Legion of which he had been President two decades ago.

A memorial seat has been positioned by the railings to the south west of the Green by Barric and Patricia Sidwell in memory of their son Richard.

Our current proposed maintenance project is the installation of a 'French drain' along the out side of the railings on the northwest of the Green, we have found over recent years that the height of the track bordering the Green is causing water to spill onto the football pitch, in effect turning it into a floodplain, the French drain (land drain Covered in shingle) will direct water towards an existing pipe under the A22. We have started fund raising for this project and hope to complete it by the summer.

At our 2004 AGM Peter Tester who had been our Chairman since 1992 explained that various pressures meant that he would have to relinquish the office of Chairman, however Peter was re-elected on the understanding that a new Chairman would be found by the Autumn.??

The present committee are.

Chairman/Secretary. Bert Keeyes
Treasurer. Mick Francis
Football. John Topps
Cricket. Mick Scott/ Derek Scott.
Stoolball. Carol Brown/ Jane Topps
Maresfield P C. Ray Tester/ Sandra Weekes
Fete Committee. David Finch
Village Reps Ernie Wilson/Richard Benford
Nutley War Memorial Trust committee. Barrie Sidwell.

Our AGM this year is on 14th June at 8pm in Nutley War Memorial Pavilion, please come along .

Bert Keeyes

REPORT OF NUTLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Once again, the Society has had a good year and remains in a healthy financial condition.

We have had many excellent talks ranging from the history of Chailey Heritage, cloth working in the Weald, the experiences of an evacuee and the life of John Logie Baird, the pioneer of television.

We enjoyed wonderful walks in Lindfield and the Priests House at West Hoathly, but the best evening was exploring the old Boring Wheel Mill with Peter Kirby and Andrew Norman.

In November we held our Christmas meeting in the Memorial Hall, in anticipation that it would attract wide interest in the village. It did. Bob Ogley gave us an account of his experiences on the night of the Great Storm of '87, and we shared our memories with an display of our own excellent photographs taken around the village. A very nostalgic evening enjoyed by all.

We took part in Village Day, showing Peter Kirby's collection of old farm implements, and a team from the Society won the RNLi quiz. We also continue the work of recording the inscriptions on the gravestones in the churchyard.

Muriel Parker retired after 11 years, first as Treasurer and then Chairman and Peter Kirby agreed to stand in as Chairman for the coming year.

Jan Matthews

NUTLEY LADIES FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Nutley Ladies Friendship Circle meets on the second Thursday of each month usually in the Church Hall at 7 45pm and has a membership of about thirty. Over the course of the last year we have enjoyed a number of interesting talks by a variety of speakers e.g. a speaker from Fairtrade and John Hacker on Nutley Church pathfinders group trip to Cambodia for the Starfish Initiative. In the summer we try to leave the confines of the village and last summer we went on a canal boat trip on the Wey and Arun canal. Unfortunately a visit to Rachel Hardings in Hosted Keynes garden had to be cancelled because of the weather - the first time in over twenty years that a summer meeting has been cancelled.

In addition to talks and trips we held our usual Christmas party and summer taste in. We also had a lovely cream tea in a members garden, held a coffee morning to raise funds and ran a cake stall at Nutley village day.

If anyone is interested in joining us contact Jackie Norman on 712056 for details of this years programme.

Jackie Norman

NUTLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2004

What a fantastic year 2004 was for our society. Our programme included a wide range of speakers. Laurie Manser told us about his memories from a garden boy, Glenda Law took us to the Canadian Rockies and Vegetable container gardening by Leonard Stebbings gave us plenty to think about. One of our favourite speakers, Hillary Newman described the care and identification of Rhododendrons and other acid loving plants and Barbara Cornwell's tales of country ways in Barcombe enthralled us all. We had a couple of superb outings to fascinating gardens - one to Barton Pines and the other to Latchfords. And our Open Gardens weekend was a resounding success with nine fabulous gardens. Thanks go to all the owners who worked hard to make their gardens so enjoyable: Joy Anderson, Dee & Keith Birchell; Ron & Cynthia Hudson; Chris & Tim Sparrow; Jean & Brian Payne; C & J Robson; R & G Rowsen; J & Veronica Wybird and Jennifer Grant.

Once again the social event of the year was our annual barbecue at Wych Cross - many thanks to John Hacker and his staff for a memorable evening - great food, great company and, above all, great fun.

Our quiz evening this year was the best ever with nearly one hundred people taking part resulting in a hard fought contest between six visiting and eleven Nutley teams. For the third year running, Groombridge came out on top and took the shield home - start practising for this year's event.

On to the shows, and what wonderful shows they were with increased entries, more first-time exhibitors than ever before and an incredible array of quality exhibits. Special mention must be made of our Sally Keeys showmen of the year - Claire Sullivan won the adult award and Lucy Smith took the junior trophy. Thanks to all of our judges and everyone who helped make the shows so special, including everyone who entered. Once again, many thanks to Fred who as seed secretary, has managed to get a considerable discount by buying in bulk.

We are extremely lucky to have dedicated and hard working committee members who all work hard to ensure that all of our events run smoothly. 2005 has already started well and with nearly 120 members we look forward to another successful and exciting year for our society.

Di Miles

NUTLEY PCC

St James the Less

Annual Report for 2004-05 to Parish Annual Assembly

Our church has had a wonderful year. The highlight was the preparation and successful undertaking of a trip by our teenagers to Cambodia to work on a project for Starfish; the project included some setting up work for an automated education centre and the making of a video for promotion of Starfish's work. John and Steph Hacker led the expedition.

We have been delighted also to have our choir strengthened by three male voices (Messrs Goodwin, Morley and Taylor) and the return of Sarah Smith to the alto section, and to have had the whole church's worship strengthened occasionally by a greater involvement of the school.

Hanging over us was the need to replace the wiring and lighting of the church; the cost was c£25,000, and though we had some savings to put towards this, we faced a big struggle to find the money. As has happened before, members of the congregation and others in the village were very generous, and we were confident that we could borrow and then slowly repay the sums required. Then, unexpectedly, we received legacies from Florence Shanks and from the mother of Pam Henry and Letty Gillett, sufficient to enable the work to be completed and for us to go on with redecoration work. Electric wiring work is dull stuff but the new lighting is terrific, good enough for us to look forward to winter!

The Church continues to try to serve the local community in as many ways as it can, and is always open to suggestions about how it could do so more effectively. The regular membership is drawn from very varied traditions, but we all find that the exploration of our spiritual journeys, and the development of our relationship with Jesus Christ, are helped by the love, friendship and support we give to and receive from one another.

William King

Nutley Pre-School - Caring for our Village 2 ½ - 4 year olds.

The Pre-School year began last September with staff refreshed from their summer break and having said goodbye to the children starting primary school they looked forward to the relaxed work load of around 12 little ones. Together they enjoyed the Topic 'All about me' and got to know each other. A new parent committee was formed to assist the very able Chair and Secretary who had stayed on from last year. With Christmas approaching our numbers increased and the children did us proud with their Production of 'Whoops-a-Daisy-Angel.'

Now coming to the end of our year, we have 18 -20 children every morning and 10-12 two afternoons a week. We have enjoyed Topic's on Chinese New Year / Numbers and Letters / Spring and On Safari. With trips out to The Theatre / A meal at the Wok Inn Chinese restaurant / Pandamonium indoor play centre / A Wildlife centre and now looking forward to the end of year trip to Blackberry Farm. With a variety of visitors to support our Topic's including parents in their roles as Pilots and air Hostesses to name a few, the children and staff have been kept very busy !! All this and a wonderful outside play area almost completed along with the Forest on our doorstep for nature walks.

Interested? Come and see us in action, we're a friendly bunch and would make you very welcome. Niki Adam (Supervisor)

Joanne Masters

NUTLEY TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

A small (VERY small!) group of volunteers last November undertook the task of starting to decorate the interior of the Tennis and Squash Club (do not have the funds to employ professionals). In one weekend we managed to almost complete the top level. The kitchen remains to be done and the 2 upstairs loos need another coat. New curtains and table clothes have been made and so the upstairs is looking rather a lot smarter. The club has reached the finals for the "Heart of the Community" project run by the Courier as the tennis courts are in dire need of resurfacing. If we do manage to achieve this it is our intention to also have them marked up for netball (Nutley school's netball playing area is on a slope!!). It would be really good to see the club used more and for this we need more members which is why we started with a bit of a "spruce up". Mini-tennis for the school children is already successfully run from there on a Monday afternoon. It would be great if we could get volunteers in to help finish the down stairs of the club and one day plan lovely things for the outside of the club to encourage more local people up there – especially in the summer, but for this to happen we need people and money! The main objective is to increase membership of the club.

Tina Warren

NUTLEY WAR MEMORIAL TRUST

The Nutley War Memorial Trust – the work of which often appears to be overlooked by the Nutley community – is an organisation with charity status set up nearly sixty years ago when a parcel of land was given for the benefit of the village. Since that time parcels of land have been sold to finance the building of the memorial hall, the social club, (which is no longer the responsibility of the Trust), the tennis and squash courts and to acquire the freehold of the bowling green. The Trust management comprises a committee elected annually at an annual general meeting (which sadly has been very badly attended over the past year or so) and that committee is responsible for the appointment of a chairman, treasurer, secretary and auditor – and the running and administration of the assets. The officers remain in office until they resign or the committee feels they should be replaced.

The hall is recognised as one of the finest in the area and is used almost to capacity by village organisations. It is in very good condition and has recently had toilets installed for the disabled. The squash and tennis courts have been running at a loss for some years due mainly to under use but the infusion of new blood into the Nutley Tennis and Squash club (the lessee) has enabled the parties to enter into a new lease which should see a reversal of the loss making trend.

The AGM of the Trust will be held this year on 16th June in the church hall.

Barry Sidwell

NUTLEY W.I.

Nutley W.I. reports a successful year 2004/5. Possibly our most heartwarming success is the fact that we have three new members, all first class people who we are delighted to welcome.

We miss several valued members; Maureen Knight, Joyce Eldred and Letty Gillet all died in 2004, a great loss in every case. Joyce Eldred was still our very efficient Secretary at the time of her death, unexpected at that time although she had been very ill for some while.

Members have taken part in the many trips, meetings and so on that have been available during the year, joining with County Federation, other Institutes, groups, and of course those organised in-house. The special visits to gardens around the County organised by Programme Secretary Sonja Conway have been particularly enjoyed.

Apart from the social enjoyment, Nutley W.I. has taken part in all the events for both National and County.

President Pamela Henry spent several days at the National Annual AGM held in 2004 in Sheffield.

Other members have attended the County Meetings wherever they have been held, plus the events aimed at specific subjects such as health, cooking and so on.

We have supported, as well as our own events, every other organisational event in the village such as Village Fete Day. We have helped out at other Groups' events and some of us are members of the Nutley Support Group for the St. Peter and St. James Hospice.

The Church is supported, and other village interests such as the Memorial Hall fund raising schemes such as the 200 Club, and much else.

Individual W.I. members are regarded as 'get up and do' type of people and are often asked by other residents to help in various submissions, protests and concerns. We do what we can, but have to point out that we have no more 'clout' than any member of the Public when it comes to addressing held concerns with various authorities. We have to act as individual residents in our own right, and not under the W.I. banner. We are not, under the rules of the Charity Commissioners, allowed to help finance directly other charities.

We aim to help, but those who have a case to put need to do so in their own names. Advice etc. from a W.I. member comes from that member acting as a private person, not as a W.I. member.

There are National and Local concerns that may be addressed but only under the banner of the County Federation and with their permission.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes presents, every year, Resolutions on a number of subjects to the Government. Each County Federation goes into this thoroughly, with every individual Institute sending delegates to the meetings discussing the Resolutions and deciding which of the many we will choose to put to Government.

Many of these have been approved and activated by various Governments. This year we have selected the problem of Farm Milk Prices at the Farm Gates and Care of the Environment.

We support the specific that farmers who actually produce the milk should be fairly treated by being paid the correct sum for their produce. At present it costs farmers more to produce a pint of milk than they are paid for it. Supermarkets have to shoulder much of the blame - they use milk at a low price as a 'loss leader'.

The problem will have to be addressed intelligently, eventually; with methods as they are, our dairy farms will continue to disappear. The country already imports milk from abroad, a truly ridiculous situation that we hope to turn around.

The other Resolution is about waste. Plastics, Paper, metals and so on are not recycled in quantity enough, and only a small proportion of these materials are made use of after their initial use. Plastics form the biggest section and the most

dangerous. The W.I. proposes to back all efforts to save the waste that is unnecessarily filling one landfill site after another all over the country.

The Resolutions form a major, and important part, of our year with many meetings around the County attended by our delegates.

Another major part of our work is to cater for the various parties of people who apply to us to provide lunches, teas etc. for parties travelling through the County. This year we will have catered for a number of such occasions with the visitors in numbers from 120 down to 25. This part of our work is necessary to bring in the wherewithal to keep our Institute viable. The amount the Institute receives from our subscriptions would not pay for our hire of the Memorial Hall, the Miller Room or our Speakers. We work hard on this.

Apart from work and serious efforts, W.I. members enjoy themselves. Nutley has a grand time on our Birthday month, March, with a lunch at a local hostelry, and we celebrate Christmas in the same way.

We have a flow of excellent speakers who continue to widen our fields of knowledge as well as entertaining us.

Perhaps the best and most important aspect of the W.I. is the friendship that forms between members and, eventually, their families as well. Women with all manner of skills and experiences learn of each others lives, achievements and outlooks, and also of their tragedies and sadness suffered, all of which are shared with intelligent, caring friends.

Nutley W.I. is 81 years old this year, 2005, and our oldest member will celebrate her 99th. Birthday later on in December of the year. We aim to continue to exist and to be a viable, helpful group in an evermore difficult world.

Forget Jam and Jerusalem. The W.I. membership embraces doctors, chemists, business women, artists, writers, sportswomen. Many of them would not know how to start to make the Jam, but we can all sing Jerusalem.

In 2005 we have an excellent Committee headed by President Pamela Henry, Secretary Jan Matthews, and Treasurer Shirley Awcock. Two of our Committee members live in Uckfield, but chose to join with Nutley because they not only liked our members but admired our way of running an Institute.

Beryl Easton