

The Parish Matters

Volume 1,
Issue 3

SUMMER 2005

We asked ... You said

This year at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May, and at each of the three village fête days the Parish Council asked for your views on a range of issues. We have looked at what you said and are currently building your thoughts into the on-going Village Plan implementation work.

First, what you said: Many of you underlined, your continued concern about safety, particularly on the roads but also in and around your homes.

...your continued concern about safety ... better access to medical services ...

Secondly you want better access to services, particularly medical services with a strong plea to return them to the villages. Allied to this, where services cannot be delivered locally you ask for much improved access by public transport and, perhaps, by additional local voluntary services in cars or

minibuses. As far as the environment is con-

.. particularly concerned about Waste Transfer Site ..

cerned you are keen to preserve our green spaces and footpaths and continue to protect and enjoy Ashdown Forest. You are particularly concerned about potential development like the Waste Transfer Site at Maresfield. You do want more affordable housing in the villages to ensure their long term viability, but you obviously don't want excessive unrestricted development. Finally you want to enjoy yourselves with a Nutley, Maresfield and Fairwarp Festival. There were many more specific ideas and all the suggestions are now being progressed in two of the Parish Council's committees – the Strategy Committee and the Traffic & Transport Committee.

The priority work in the Strategy Committee is now:

• **Health** - we are looking to see how more health related services can be delivered within the Parish and/or better access provided to those services which have to be provided elsewhere.

• **Business** - there is already an informal Nutley self-help group and we seek volunteers to start up ones in Fairwarp and Maresfield

• **Youth** - the Parish Council wants to support more youth related activities and seeks volunteers to run events and so on.

And in the Traffic & Transport Committee it is:

• **Traffic Calming – speed** - a local action team is now working closely with the Police

• **Traffic Calming – road works** - ideas are being explored for Nutley High Street, Maresfield Bypass and the B2026

• **Public transport** - it is essential that a thorough review of the current inadequate provision of bus services is needed, allied to better access to the much improved train services at Buxted.

Both these Committees have non-councillors on

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SOME USEFUL

INFORMATION

Maresfield Parish Office
Churchfields, Nutley
East Sussex TN22 3NA

Tel: 01825 714555

Fax: 01825 714614

Parish Clerk

Mr Tony Allen

E-Mail: Clerk@Maresfield

Parish.Org.UK

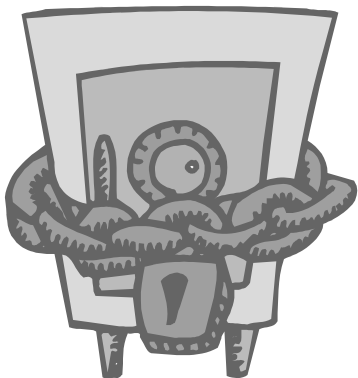
NEW WEBSITE

www.maresfieldparish.org.uk

them as well as councillors and if you want to help, please do get in touch with Tony Allen on 714555.

How Safe Do We Feel?

The South East has the lowest crime rate in England. Sussex has the lowest crime rate in the South East. Wealden has the lowest crime rate in Sussex.



These bald statistics suggest that we should feel very safe, but do we? Crime is only one factor in our overall safety. Do we feel safe on our roads or in our homes?

The Parish now has a direct councillor/police contact, Councillor Fry, in order to ensure speedier transfer of information into the Parish by the Police and from the Parish to the Police. There is a Police Community Support Officer for our area who

is now being seen out and about a little more. But more still needs to be done. Cllr Fry is shortly attending a special conference of local parish councillors with all the local safety authorities (Police, Fire, Health and the District Council) to discuss proposals for improved local safety and speeding will be high on his agenda.

We have also received warnings again about bogus callers.

- 1. Do not deal with people who knock on your door offering to do home improvement work or want to store their equipment on your property.**
- 2. If you do receive such a call, then stop before you answer the door, put the chain on and check the person's credentials. If you do not know the caller do not let them**

in, as once they are in it may be very difficult to get them to leave.

- 3. Do not agree to any work where the caller says "we are only in the area today"**
- 4. Do not be enticed into hiring the caller on the basis that they will offer you a reduction in price, if you allow them to store their machinery on your property.**

If you have any concerns, or ideas about how we could feel safer please contact the Parish Office.

CRIME PREVENTION

If you want to find out more about safety why not come along to our Crime Prevention Event in the Pavilion on Maresfield Recreation Ground between 4.00pm and 8.00pm on Thursday 15th September.

The Maresfield Parish Police Car

Hopefully you are now all aware that we have a Community Constable, Karen Juniper specifically allocated to our and neighbouring Parishes. She has been well in evidence at the summer fêtes for instance. Karen is based in Uckfield and carries out her duties alongside other Community Constables. In an emergency she obviously has access to normal police vehicles but she has to rely on the availability of pool vehicles for her very necessary general patrolling, getting to meetings

of play-schools, clubs, societies, the Parish Council and so on .



Our Community Constable, Karen Juniper

Tim Sparrow

Heathfield & Waldron Parish, through a local garage, have provided an additional vehicle which has their logo (and the garage's logo!) on it. Does anyone in our Parish have the contacts that could generate a vehicle for this Parish, perhaps a group of donors, who would all have their logo on it and who would of course receive from the Parish Council maximum publicity for their help?

Local Development Framework: Village Meetings

William King

The LDF will be developed for the whole District over the next few years, forming a long-term basis of "spatial planning", i.e. where are the houses to go and how many of them, where is business activity to occur, what policies are needed to protect the countryside or to permit business activity, and the like. It is a replacement for the old Local Plan system, and should be a great improvement because it is more flexible, is built up in layers of documents (i.e. not one blockbuster, all in one

MEETINGS

**Maresfield Village Hall
Monday 17th October**

**Fairwarp Village Hall
Thursday 27th October**

**Nutley Village Hall
Friday 4th November**

document) and has a far higher component of local community input. We have been working on basic documents for each of our villages: at this stage, these are just ideas for dis-

cussion, not proposals. We do hope you will want to have your say about this. The documents are short (four pages or so, though lists of businesses, clubs and so on may extend them), but the issues are crucial to the future of our villages. Will you come to a meeting to discuss these? – we hope so. A display will be set up from 7.00pm, but you are welcome to a copy of the document in advance – please call Tony Allen for this [714555].

Oakwood Park

William King

Oakwood Park is to the west of Park Farm, Maresfield, across the by-pass. Two developments have occurred there. First, there is an area of hard standing and use of fields for equestrian events. Secondly, there is a new commercial use of the farm buildings. These cause concern because of the sub-standard access to A22 directly onto the by-pass, and the safety issues of horseboxes and heavy commercial vehicles pulling out into

fast moving traffic. Some vehicles have been seen to need the whole width of the road to make their turn, causing south bound traffic to be brought unexpectedly to a halt. We have spoken to the land owner who assures us that it is intended to find a satisfactory access which the Highways Authority finds acceptable. We have urged the County and District Councils to deal with the safety issues. They say they cannot do so

until next spring, when an existing temporary planning permission will expire. We will be chasing this up then.



Long Term Planning

Ken Ogden

In the 50s and 60s houses for rent were built, helping to make our Parish villages a close knit community with the provision of mainstream homes for local families. Then in the 60s and 70s there was an increase in the number of low cost houses for sale which people could buy at two and a half times their income. The 70s and 80s saw the sale of district council homes, which was fine for many families. Then in the year 2000, we started knocking down houses with an original price tag of £300,000 to replace them with newly



built homes attaining a sale price of between £750,000 and £1,000,000. Some may say this is fine, but what about the housing needs of the young, the elderly and local workers. We need to enable young families to live locally so as to keep our villages viable in the future. So please think hard before you object to the building of Affordable Housing and work with us to achieve a balance over the next few months.

We are hearing quotes of up to 40,000 houses per year in the South East just to cover economic growth. Then we have the "No Brigade" saying on the one hand that we have run out of water and are therefore unable to sustain further development but who continue to water their gardens with the other hand. We are all awaiting the outcome of the High Court case with Wealden Planning, but in the meantime we press on regardless, endeavouring to do our best for our Parishioners, and hoping to be able to please the majority in the long run.

Maresfield Parish Leads the Way

Tim Sparrow

At meetings in Sussex and wider it has been reported that East Sussex in general and the Wealden District in particular has the greatest proportion of Parishes that have completed Village Plans. Maresfield was one of the first (2001) and its work, not only in carrying out the original consultation and plan development, but in the subsequent activity to implement it, has been applauded by the District Council, the Weal-

den Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), County



Councillors and Action in Rural Sussex and has been noted by South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and Government Office South East (GOSE). Not that we expected anything less, but it's good to know we are a showcase.

Wealden District is also at the forefront of this work with two-thirds of its Parishes having completed or currently working on their Village Plans.

Funds available for Youth Projects, Especially Sport

Tim Sparrow

The Parish Council is keen to encourage youngsters and those volunteering to work with youngsters to develop youth related activities in all three villages. There is a source of funding available for suitable projects through Action in rural Sussex. Up to £7,000 per project can be sourced through the Local Network

Fund. Both Fairwarp and Maresfield have had successful applications for children's play area projects. This grant is still open so bring forward your projects. Now there is also new money for community sports groups with grants from £250-£5,000 available.

For more information call

Claire at Action in Rural Sussex on 01273 407305.



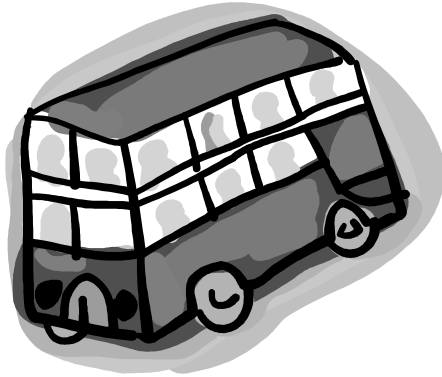
Parish Pump

Are you in touch with events in our Parish? Are you a frustrated author or reporter? If so, you may wish to write a column each week for the Parish Pump section of the Sussex Express Newspaper, as our Parish is not currently represented. Please let the Parish Office know if you are interested.



The Wheels on the Bus Go Round - Again!

For some time local villages have enjoyed a special bus service to Crowborough on Thursdays. You join a "club", ring up when you want to join the bus and it picks you up, waits while you do your shopping or other visits and then brings you back. It was financed by a Countryside Agency grant which ran out last spring. The Community Bus service kept going for a while but suddenly in early July announced it would



end on 30 July. Over its week's work it provides transport for

something like 150 passengers' journeys into, and also in and around, Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells – people who

couldn't make the journey otherwise. On hearing this news, the Parish Council contacted the East Sussex Rural Transport Partnership and East Sussex County Council and in urgent discussions negotiated, within a week, a grant for the service for three more months.

This will give all the Parishes involved the chance to work together and using their own funds and external help, see if it can be maintained more permanently. If you think the Wealden Easylink Service is of value to you, to someone you know or to the villages generally, please write urgently to the Maresfield Parish Clerk giving your support.

Caring for Carers

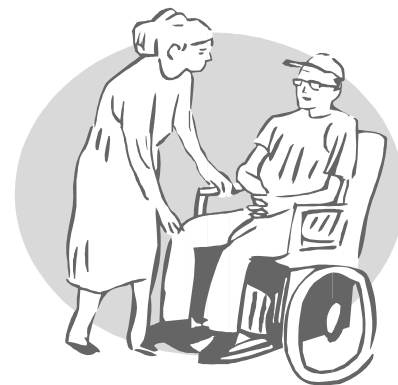
Tim Sparrow

Our villages, like others, have their fair share of those who are looking after others. Often it is older people that are being cared for, though not always. And often it is adults caring for others, though again not always – it is surprising how many children have adopted a caring role when one or more disabled parents are unable to fulfil all they would wish in the home.

The Parish Council is keen

to ensure that all carers are receiving the help and support they need, even to the extent of getting respite care when they need it. There are a number of agencies who can help, both statutory and voluntary, and the Parish Council is seeking information from anyone who has first hand experience as a carer using any of these support services, so that it can be passed on to others who might find it useful.

(Please contact Tony or Claire in the Parish Office 714555).



Technical Help Needed!

William King



Market research & Opinion polls

Is there someone in the parish with knowledge of the above topics? We would like to be able to find parishioners' views on some topics without having the high cost of sending questionnaires to everyone. If you have expertise in this area, please could you give us a bit

of advice? Please call Tony Allen [714555].

We are concerned that on some topics the response we receive may not be representative, ie we hear a lot of views from people against something, but hear nothing from "the silent majority". This is not the way to deal with big issues, but could be useful to point us in the right direction at the outset or to find opinions on low impact issues.

Exercise Summer Fete 2005

John Gutteridge

Last month a team from the Parish Civil Protection Committee took part in a Wealden 'table top' exercise to consider problems in dealing with emergency situations in the light of the current security level and other calls on the emergency services.

The initial setting was of a sunny Saturday afternoon at a village fête. Then, however, starting with an explosion and a fire, a series of scenarios portrayed developing emergency situations on

which we were asked to comment on how we would react, how we might deal with them, what resources and materials would be needed and from where we might get them.

Many of the measures to be taken were covered in our Emergency Plan but events did not always go according to previous assumptions and impromptu decisions had to be made at the time. Although there was no one right answer, we were generally successful in dealing

with the situations presented to us.

In the light of this exercise we shall look at whether any amendments to our Plan are necessary. We shall then consider holding a similar type of exercise within the Parish involving each Village later this year.



Overhanging Vegetation

Peter Tester

Does your hedge overhang the footpath? Are people forced to walk at the edge of the footpath,

or even on the road? Do trees on your land overhang the roadway? Think about the effect this

has on other road users - particularly the elderly and people in wheelchairs and buggies.

Your Parish Council has agreed to keep ESCC informed of properties where overhanging foliage is a problem. We have undertaken to inform occupants of the offending hedge or tree and trust that the necessary action

will be taken. However, the County Council has the power to issue a notice giving 14 days to lop

or remove obstructing foliage. Should the work then not be carried out, the County Council then has the power to

instruct Contractors to do such work as is necessary and to bill the person in default.

Some hedges in the Parish are now in need of major surgery to return them to the property boundaries and to return our footways to their original widths.. We know this may leave the hedge unsightly at first, but assure you

that it will recover fairly quickly to give a strong hedge back on the property boundary . If yours is such a hedge, please think of your fellow Parishioners and take the necessary actions before you get a note from the County Council. Your Parish Office/Tree Warden is available for advice should you need it. Tel. 714555.

... has the power to issue a notice giving 14 days to remove obstructing foliage ...



Meet Councillor Chris Stephens

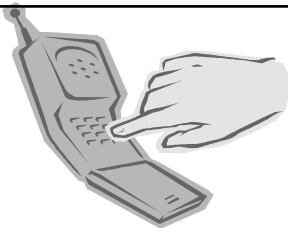


I was born in Marlpits Cottage, Nutley on 15 August 1928 and went to Nutley C of E School. I was there throughout the Blitz, and went on to East Grinstead County School, which later became the County Grammar School. After leaving school I completed two years National Service, mostly on Accountancy and Crime as well as Administration via the Orderly Room. I also spent some time travelling around POW camps to repatriate former Prisoners of War. After learning Television with EMI, the originators of the electronic TV; in 1959 I

started my own business and erected some 15000 TV aerials! In the 1960's I was co-opted to Maresfield Parish Council. Attending a Tree Warden's course, has given me the realisation that life is better viewed over several hundred years at a time – perhaps this is something to be borne in mind when considering Planning! My interests include: Poetry – without which I would find it difficult to cope at all, for the lasting and satisfying pleasure it gives; Schools – I was a Governor/Manager for a long time at Nutley School; Street Furniture – the tradi-

tional signposts and mile-stones of perhaps some 100 years ago. My hope is not to see all the former cottages become Stockbroker's residences with swimming pools and the "ordinary" folks segregated in ghettos of low-cost, low-expectation areas.

ICE - In Case of Emergency **claire Goossens**



East Anglian Ambulance Service has recently launched a national "In Case of Emergency (ICE)" campaign with the support of Falklands war hero Simon Weston.

The idea is that you store the word "I C E" in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency". In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who your next of kin are and be able to contact them. For those people without a mobile telephone an alternative means is to place a card in your

purse or wallet outlining the following information: Your name and place of work. Next Of Kin details including relationship and telephone number (both home and mobile). Local contact (for example a nominated neighbour or friend, in case your NOK is unavailable) including telephone number. Details of any vital medication you have to take on a regular / long term basis should be included e.g. insulin.

Nutley Business Network **Chris Siddons**

Nutley Business Network, set up earlier this year, is a group of business owners who meet each month. The nature of the meetings is very informal, and the idea is to promote networking amongst local businesses, discuss general business topics, and for members of the group to provide advice and assistance to each other with business issues. There is, of course, a purely

social side to the group- the evenings are an enjoyable way to meet people from other areas of the business world. The first two meetings of the group have seen interest from business owners in the fields of Art and Design, Accountancy, Health and Safety, Music and Entertainment, Nutrition and Tax Advice, so discussions have been wide ranging and interesting.

The group currently meets in The Nutley Arms on the first Thursday of each month, and we would welcome new members at our next meeting on Thursday 1 September at 7.30pm. The group is open to self-employed people and business owners from the whole of Maresfield Parish. Contact Chris Siddons (713213)

Maresfield Green Bowls Club

Maresfield Green Bowls Club was established in the early 1950's in Maresfield Village (just off the "chicane") and has been providing a friendly , happy venue to generations of players from this area in East Sussex and Kent.

The Club is mixed, for men and women, bowling "at home" and "away" with surrounding Bowls Clubs during the months of April to September, meeting many friends with varying interests and a common goal - to enjoy a good game of Turf bowling. There are weekly "roll-ups" to practice for the coming match, and, a friendly game with fellow members .

We are open for new members, enquiries to David Browning, 01892--661652 for details.



Grants/ Donations

The Parish Council is now seeking bids for Grants and Donations for the financial year 2006/07. These are required by no later than 30 September 2005. When submitting a bid give as much detailed information as possible as to the exact purpose for the money requested. Further details from the Clerk, Tony Allen, on 01825 714555.

Feedback

The Parish Council would like to thank all those groups / clubs who send in annual reports of their activities. We are very keen to be kept aware of any successes you have or problems you may experience throughout the course of the year.

Please feel free to contact us at any time, especially if we can be of assistance. Also please remember to let the Parish Office know if there are any changes to your contact details.

The Parish Matters

This newsletter is about YOUR Parish. Let us know what you think.

MANY THANKS to Di Miles for pulling together all of the articles into this very professional format.

Spotlight on Local Business Nutley Social Club

Nutley, although a small village, seems to have a big community feel about it which runs from sports, arts and horticulture right through to the Social Club which has a wide variety of entertainment to cover everyone's tastes. The Nutley Social Club has been an integral part of village life for over 30 years and is run by a group of local volunteers who believe it is very important to have this focal point within the village.

The Nutley Social Club holds regular varied entertainment events from bands and discos to solo singers and comedians. The Social Club shows all "Sky Live" sporting events – football, rugby, cricket, grand prix to name but a few and if you have enough energy there is also snooker, pool and darts to entertain you.

We have regular family fun days with bouncy castles and BBQ's held in our beer garden throughout the summer and a children's party at Christmas.

We are located opposite Nutley Primary

school and our opening times are weekdays 5-11pm, Saturdays 4-11pm and Sundays 12-10.30pm.

August -

Saturday 27th

Live Band - 'Looking Back' – a medley of hits to remember!

September -

Saturday 3rd

Live Band – 'Tongue & Groove'- 6 piece band.

Saturday 10th

Solo Singer - 'Mark Turner' – Come and request your favourite song.

Friday 23rd

Disco - 8.30 pm til late.

October -

Saturday 8th

Singer - Anne Avril – come & listen to the talented lady singer.

Saturday 22nd

Live Band - '6 T's' – playing a variety of music from the 60's era.

Saturday 29th

Disco - 8.30 pm til late.

All our drinks are sold at substantially reduced prices..... approximately 25% less expensive than most Pubs. The cost is 50p for non-members (£1.50 for entertainment nights) a small price for an evening out! If you would like to become a member a whole year's membership is £9 for adults and £5 for OAPs.

We have a variety of rooms which can be hired for day or evening events, such as birthday parties, christenings and business meetings.

If you would like to know any further information about the club or book a room, please telephone us

on 01825 712021.

We welcome all residents of Maresfield Parish and surrounding areas - we have a lot to offer so why don't you come along?

MARESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

FAIRWARP

Guy Hardy	712647
Steve Leaney	712115
Chris Stephens	712464
Roger Street	713227

MARESFIELD

John Gutteridge	764781
Ken Ogden	761433
Ray Tester	712519
Sandra Weekes	712691
Andrew Wallace	762900

NUTLEY

William King (Chairman)	713798
Hanno Fry	712410
Tim Sparrow	713460
Peter Tester	712117