

MARESFIELD
CONSERVATION
GROUP
NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER
2013



www.maresfieldconservationgroup.com

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*“THE
CHAIRMAN AND
COMMITTEE WISH YOU
ALL A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A
VERY GOOD NEW
YEAR”*



The Chairman's Message.

Dear members and friends of Maresfield,

As Christmas approaches, as rapidly as usual, I'm sure that you will be delighted to learn that our Christmas tree will again feature in the heart of the village, by kind permission of Jonathan and Christina Charsley of The Lodge. In conjunction with the church, the lighting celebrations will take place on Saturday, December 7th. starting at 6pm. This has been arranged for the MCG by our ever reliable committee member Pat Palmer, and she has our grateful thanks.

The first six months of our business year have been apparently quiet but, in fact, very interesting as our thoughts and work have been particularly directed towards the fifty home build which we are obliged to accommodate. The results of our survey overwhelmingly concurred that these should be placed on the land south of Park Farm, as this is the only site which would bring considerable benefit to the village in the form of substantial land gifted to the village in perpetuity for recreational purposes, and as a barrier against what many people fear; the eventual joining of Maresfield with Uckfield. The Maresfield Village Meadows Trust has been formed to manage this land, and is also in negotiation with East Sussex County Council regarding a further substantial acreage of land to the west of the village for similar purposes. The MCG will vigorously support the MVMT in its endeavours in this regard which will greatly enhance the village for all residents whether young, old, fit or disabled whilst also providing tremendous environmental education facilities. There is no sustainable argument for any of the other sites, and we shall soon be raising our collective voice as the process reaches the final stages. With over 400 members in the village, ours is a voice which must and shall be heard, and I hope that you to complete and returned the recently distributed survey form from Action In Rural Sussex confirming your wish for this site to be utilised. This information will be used by the Parish Council Steering Group to structure the Neighbourhood Plan and is tremendously important in allowing our views to be counted.

With the closure of The Chequers for refurbishment we have been unable to negotiate with the new owners, Green King, concerning the Winter Supper, and have therefore secured the village ha for the evening which will be professionally catered and decorated. Con't →

At the time of writing a few tickets remain but these will be swiftly taken up so if you wish to attend please contact us without delay.

The refurbishment of The Chequers also has ramifications for the annual Arts Show, to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5th as the new configuration may not be suitable for our displays. I have therefore spoken with Rev. Nick Cornell who has kindly agreed that we may utilise both the church and the churchyard for this major event in our calendar.

Whilst speaking of the church, we shall in the coming months be again turning our attention to the interior wall of the School Hill graveyard which is in a very poor condition. Our attempts last year to secure funding for this project were not fully successful, so we shall be re-doubling our efforts in this regard.

There are other relevant projects which will be announced in due course, and you may keep up to date with our work and events through newsletters or by viewing our website which may be found at maresfieldconservationgroup.co.uk

I thank you all for your support, and wish you all:

A Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

CLIVE F. WILSON CHAIRMAN.



Christmas Market

This years' event on the 23rd November was for the Group successful and 16 stalls represented a variety crafts mostly produced by the stallholders. To those people we give our most grateful thanks.

Whilst being a success stallholders came up with ideas that they think will improve the presentation and we will use these next year to make it more memorable.

We plan to have more outside decoration, a visiting Father Christmas delivered to the hall by pony and trap or something similar and setting up in a Grotto to distribute presents. Maybe the time can be changed and perhaps the date so that we don't clash with the Fairwarp Society. We did change the date to suit Fairwarp 2 years ago but they seem to have not heeded our request. Any way thanks to all supporters. MVW

From the Secretary/Editor.

THE calendar year that ends on the 31st December has shown to be the most financially successful for the Group with membership contributions at an all time high at £2354 plus about £500 expected in Gift Aid. Plus a record Quiz Night in March, the Summer Supper, Art Show, Winter Supper and contributions from Ann Thompsons Plant Stall at the Fete. Support for these events is essential. I think I have said before if just half of our membership turned up to public events and bought £1 worth of or raffle tickets had a cup of tea and a cake the events would make a few hundred pounds more each time. . Having achieved this, what project do you want the Conservation Group to support in the village? Let us know.

WE have now seen the Maresfield Traffic Plan through its safety audits and expect its implementation in August/September 2014 during the school holiday as School Hill will need to be closed for a period. More details will follow about the closure in due course.

IN this issue members of the MCG Executive have made contributions to the editorial. This is something that I hope will continue in the future. I invite members of the Group, as always, to make a contribution to the content. However as Editor I will reserve the right not to publish anything that is contra to our Constitution or current policy.

DISTRIBUTION of the request to support the MCG development policy took place earlier in November and hopefully was supported by the Membership. The Maresfield Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) covers the whole Parish and the whole consultation process has been very long and continues until, at the very earliest, the end of 2014 to get to a point as to whether or not the Parishioners accept the Plan. Members', playing a part in the process, is very important to the community's future and we will ensure that you are kept up to date with the process via Newsletters, the Web site and email. At the present time about 30% of membership households receive direct contact from the group by email which provides up to the minute information as I receive it. Most mail is sent out on a Blind List so that your email address is not shared with others. If you want to be included just send me an email wheeler22@btopenworld.com

THE SCHOOL HILL CEMETERY is still a priority project but the estimated cost at £3/5000 is still a long way from being raised. Donations to this specific project can still be made by sending cheques to me endorsed on the back by writing Cemetery Project.
Michael V Wheeler Secretary/Editor.

From Sheila Cumming Deputy Chairman.

Recreation Ground Play Area

Have you taken your children or grandchildren to the Play Area at the Recreation Ground recently? The plaque on the table says that it was given by the Parish Council in 1989 for the enjoyment of the Children of Maresfield - which is nearly 25 years ago. Although there have been some improvements over the years I am sure you will consider it is now overdue for refurbishment.

Through my role as Deputy Chair of the Conservation Group I am already negotiating to get a path to the Play Area. Funding has recently been agreed for this. Presently access is across the grass at the Recreation Ground which especially at this time of year is usually wet & muddy – quite unsuitable for pushchairs, scooters & bicycles. What is the point in having a Play Area if we cannot readily get there?

Some funding is due to come when the 9 houses off Park Farm Road, which overlooks the Recreation Ground, are built. The money is to be used for improvements to play equipment at the Recreation Ground and I would welcome help from parents to implement this project. We must have plans for the refurbishment of the Play Area to put to the Parish Council so that the funds when released will be wisely spent on the Children of Maresfield and not used elsewhere.

We are encouraged to let our children play outdoors. Refurbishment of the Play Area would make this a much more pleasant experience now and for the future.

Please get in touch and let me know your ideas –

Sheila Cumming

Tel: - 01825 767484

Email - sheila.sunlands@btinternet.com



You may be too late but try if you want to join us at this Annual MCG event

Maresfield Conservation Group

ANNUAL WINTER SUPPER

SATURDAY JANUARY 11TH

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

*6-30PM FOR A WELCOME KIA ROYALE OR BUCKS
FIZZ COCKTAIL*

*FOLLOWED BY A FOUR
COURSE FULLY SERVICED*

DINNER AT 7PM.

*SERVED WITH A WINE OF
YOUR CHOICE*

COFFEE AND TRUFFLES

TO FINISH

£27.50 per person

Call Carole or Michael NOW to see if there are places available
01825 764799

These mince pies may look familiar but look closely, they are not mince pies as we know them, though in fact they are what mince pies once were, made with minced meat. It was back as early as the 13th century that we ate the Christmas treat made with meat rather than the rich fruits and spices we are used to today.



This mince pie with a twist has been launched this yuletide, with a Welsh Lamb, beer and leek filling, and has been created by [Food North Wales](#) and artisan [Baravelli's of Conwy](#) and shows how the delicacy was once made. The Welsh mince pie has been created so those with or without a sweet tooth can enjoy this Christmas tradition.

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Cook Time: 5 hours, 15 minutes

Total Time: 5 hours, 45 minutes

Yield: Depends on size of cutters

Ingredients:

- **For the mincemeat:**
- 500g / 1 lb minced Welsh Lamb Shoulder
- 2 large apples, peeled, cored and chopped to small dice
- 750g / 1 2/3 lb dried, mixed fruit (with candied peel)
- 1tsp mixed spice
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- Zest and juice of 1 orange
- 225g / 8 oz of brown sugar
- 150ml / 2/3 cup Great Orme Brewery Celtica ale (or equivalent)
- 150ml / 2/3 cup Brandy
- 2 small leeks, washed and finely sliced
- Salt and pepper to taste

- **For the pastry:**
- 750g 1 2/3 Plain / all purpose flour
- 375g / 13 oz salted butter, cubed
- Milk to bind pastry
- 1 tbspc Icing sugar

Preparation:

- Into a large, roomy baking bowl, place all the mincemeat ingredients, except the leeks, and using your hands, thoroughly mix all the mincemeat ingredients together.
- Place the mincemeat mix into a saucepan - or a slow cooker - and cook over a very low heat for 5 hours or until the mincemeat has reduced to a thick paste. Stir the mixture occasionally to make sure it is not sticking or burning.
- Meanwhile, sift the flour and sugar into a large mixing bowl and add the cold, cubed butter.
- Rub the butter into the flour using the tips of your fingers until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Gradually add the milk, a spoonful at a time and gently combine to create a soft dough. Do not work the mix too much.
- Turn out the dough onto a floured board and knead very gently until smooth. Wrap the pastry in cling film and allow to rest for half an hour in the fridge or until the mincemeat is cooked.
- Preheat the oven to 180°C/ 375°F/gas5.
- Take the dough from the fridge and roll to about 3mm thick. Using a pastry cutter cut out circles of pastry large enough to fill your mince pie tin, a 12-hole muffin tin works perfectly for mince pies. From the remaining pastry cut out little stars for the tops.
- Spoon in the mincemeat mixture taking care not to overfill the cases. Top off each one with a pastry star.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes or until the pastry is crisp and golden brown. Serve warm or even cold as you would the 'regular' mince pies.



Christmas is forever

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a
shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do
yourself.

Author: Norman W. Brooks, "Let Every Day Be Christmas:"

Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. What Decked the halls in the famous carol?
2. - Who first recorded "Jingle Bell Rock" in 1957?
3. According to the carol, how many ships came sailing in on Christmas Day?
4. - The following letters represent each of the words in the title of which carol - OIRDC?
5. - Who sang Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer in the 1950's?
6. - Which actor was central character "Buddy," in the film Elf?
7. - What other name is given to the carol "O Tannenbaum"?
8. - In the Nightmare Before Christmas where did Jack Skellington ("The Pumpkin King") live?
9. - 'Holy Infant so tender and mild' are lyrics taken from which carol?
10. - The following letters represent each of the words in the title of which Christmas Song - RTRNR?
11. - What was "Roasting on an Open Fire" Sung by Nat "King" Cole?
12. - Which 'Beach Boy' wrote "Little Saint Nick" in 1964?
13. - What was the name of the family featured in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation?
14. - In which movie was the music from Carol of the Bells featured?
15. - "Christmas Is All Around" by the character Billy Mack was featured in which film?
16. - In which movie was the song 'White Christmas' first featured?
17. - 'O tidings of comfort and joy' are lyrics taken from which carol?
18. - In Toy Story, the final scene takes place on Christmas Day. What were the names of the rivals in the film (the cowboy and the sci-fi action figure)?
19. - The following letters represent each of the words in the title of which Christmas Song - SCICTT?
20. Who was Mommy seen kissing in the famous Christmas song?

Answer -1 Boughs of holly 2 Chuck Berry 3 Three 4 Once in Royal David's City 5 Gene Autry / Bing Crosby 6 Will Ferrell 7 O Christmas Tree 8 Halloween Town 9 Silent Night 10 Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer 11 Chestnuts 12 Brian Wilson 13 The Griswold family 14 Home Alone 15 Love Actually 16 Holiday Inn 17 God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 18 Sheriff Woody and Buzz Lightyear 19 Santa Claus Is Coming To Town 20 Santa Clause

From Carole Wheeler, Member, with extracts from her mum's The Household Encyclopaedia 1938.

- **COAL** to save. To make coal last longer it should be sprinkled with a solution of soda and water and allowed to dry before using. Use about a tablespoon of soda to a quart of water.
- **EMBROCATION** to make for sprains and sore throats. Put ½ pint turpentine and two raw eggs into a large bottle cork and shake until the mixture becomes a thick cream, gradually add 1 pint vinegar and ½ oz ammonia shake thoroughly and bottle for use. This embrocation can be kept for years!!!
- **FLIES**, a fresh of sting nettles hung up in the window will prevent the entrance of flies.
- **FRECKLES** to remove. Stand some grated horseradish in sour milk for about four hours and use as a wash for the face morning and evening.
- **HAIR**. To prevent spread of grey. Take ¼ lb of lard and 4 dr. Spermaceti and melt together, when nearly cold stir in 4dr oxide of bismuth and a few drops of perfume as preferred, use when dressing the hair. To prevent dark becoming grey it should be washed with a mixture of 1oz sulphate of iron and a full pint of red wine!!
- **MUSSELS**, to test, boil with the fish a silver fork or spoon, if the silver retains its brightness they are wholesome, but they are poisonous if the silver emerges black or a dark colour.

NOT SURE I would recommend any of these tips!!

Quick Recipe

MACARONI, Savoury to cook,

1/4lb macaroni

1/2pint tomato sauce

1/4lb ham or tongue

brown breadcrumbs

1oz butter

salt and pepper

Enough for 3 to 4 people

Boil macaroni till tender in water with salt, melt butter in a saucepan add the ham or tongue cut into shreds pour in the tomato sauce put in the macaroni season well. Put the mixture in a buttered fireproof dish, sprinkle over a few brown breadcrumbs, bake for 10 mins in a hot oven and serve. **CAW**



Contribution from: - Dick Thompson Life President MCG. Chairman FOSAS

Butterfly Conservation – Sussex Branch



Butterfly Conservation is a registered charity dedicated to the conservation of butterflies and moths. It has a professionally staffed Head Office in Dorset and branches, run by volunteers, in each county.

The Sussex branch holds regular outdoor events in summer across the county, plus an indoor AGM and a Spring Social. It manages the Butterfly Conservation reserve at Park Corner Heath and Rowlands Wood, it advises landowners across the county how to conserve and protect butterflies and moths, and it collects and compiles records of butterflies in Sussex. By being a member of Butterfly Conservation nationally you automatically become a member of the Sussex branch and receive our annual Sussex Butterfly Report and Sussex Branch Newsletter.

Our events are a great way to see butterflies, learn about them, visit some wonderful places and see many different habitats across Sussex. Through the winter, many people enjoy taking part in our regular conservation work parties which take place at different sites across the County.

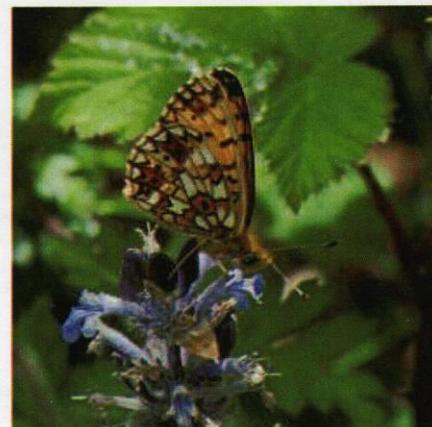
Butterfly Conservation's Rowland Wood Reserve in East Sussex was bought in 2011 to help support the last remaining population of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in the South East. (pictured below) The butterfly, which has distinctive rows of pearl-like silver spots on the underside of its wings, has suffered from a catastrophic population decline over the last 40 years. The 77-acre site has been set up to help safeguard this threatened butterfly's future in a region where it remains extremely vulnerable.

The area is still famed for its butterflies with regular sightings of the White Admiral (pictured below), Grizzled Skipper and the Silver-washed Fritillary. It is also a haven for nightingales, nightjars, dragonflies, damselflies and dormice.



The main point of contact with our members is our website, www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk Members use this to view the sightings page, updated daily; the events page, which gives details of a wide range of events organized by the branch throughout the summer; and find out where to go on our Sussex Sites section.

Sussex is a fantastic county for butterflies and moths - we hope that we can help you find out more about them, and that you are inspired to help protect and save them too.





The poinsettia originated in Mexico, where it is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

In Mexico, a heart-warming story explains the origin of the poinsettia: On a Christmas Eve, long ago, a poor little boy went to church in great sadness because he had no gift to bring the Holy Child. He dared not enter the church, and, kneeling humbly on the ground outside the house of God, he prayed fervently and assured our Lord, with tears, how much he desired to offer him some lovely present --"But I am very poor and dread to approach you with empty hands." When he finally rose from his knees, he saw springing up at his feet a green plant with gorgeous blooms of dazzling red.



What is Holly?

For centuries, holly has been synonymous with the holiday season. In ancient Rome, holly branches were given as a gesture of friendship during Saturnalia, the winter solstice festival. Druids would decorate their homes with holly during Britain's gloomy winters, believing that the sun always shone on this sacred tree. Likewise, pagans would bring holly and other evergreens inside to ensure that Nature would return in the spring

Acknowledgements TLC

A Contribution from Mary Wrake (Committee Member)

Drivers attempts to summarise the details of an accident in the fewest words possible.

- Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.
- The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions.
- I thought my window was down but I found it was up when I put my head through it.



- I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.
- The pedestrian hit me and went under my car.
- The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.
- To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front I struck a pedestrian.
- My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.



- An invisible car came out of nowhere and vanished.
- I was sure the old man would not get across the road when I struck him
- The pedestrian had no idea I which direction to run so I struck him.



- I approached the junction and a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever been before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.
- I had been driving for 40 years and fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP COMMITTEE.

FOR THE YEAR 2013/14

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Appointment.</i>	<i>Address (all Maresfield).</i>	<i>Tele.01825.</i>
Mr. D Thompson	Life President	Newnham Cott. B. B. Rd	763179
Mr Clive Wilson	Chairman	2 Field End	766815
Mr. M V Wheeler	Secretary	22, Field End	764799
Mr Roger Wilmer	Treasurer	20 Limestone Way	370388
Mrs Sheila Cumming			
	Deputy Chairman	Sunlands The Drive MP	767484
Mr Stan Sadowski	Member	Farthings The Drive MP	762933
Mr. K Ogden	Member	The Mill House, London Rd	761433
Mr J Gutteridge	Member	7,Queens Drive	764781
Mrs. Mary Wrake	Member	Parkfield, Batts Bridge Rd	762727
Mrs Pat Palmer	Member	26 Field End	764804
Mr Kim Braddle	Member	30 Ringles Cross	765214
Mr Michael Clifton	Member	12 Limestone Way	762362
Julie Best	Minute Secretary		733494

Committee meetings usually take place on the First Wednesday of each month.

Any correspondence to the Group, including Membership enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary at the above address.

Members of the Committee will be pleased to discuss the Group, its activities and any requests for project support and it is probably advisable to speak with the one local to where you live in the first instance.

Any Member interested in joining the Committee should in the first instance contact The Secretary.

Organisations in Maresfield.

If you need to know more about any of the following, please get in touch with the Club/group contact who will be pleased to help you.

Badminton Club.

Contact: 764975.

Bonnors School

Contact: 762381.

Brownies

Contact

Rainbow Guides

Contact: 765288.

Conservation Group.

Contact: 763179.

Cricket Club.

Contact: 764315

Field End, Res Assoc.

Contact 764799

Maresfield Residents Group.

Contact: 763256

Football Club

Contact: 764496

Maresfield Historical Soc.

Contact: 766751

JG Theatre Club

Contact: 763588

.Maresfield Lawn Bowls Club.

Contact: 761078

Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club.

Contact: 762391

Maresfield Parish Council.

Contact: 714555

Mother & Baby/Toddler Group.

Contact: 764207/762192

Women's Institute.

Contact: 768911

Parklands Res. Assn

Contact: 767102.

Recreation Ground Committee

Contact: 749756.

Stoolball Club.

Contact: 763463.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Contact: 762192

Kids Club.

Contact: 762192.

Maresfield Badgers Short

Mat Bowls.

Contact 01825 767420

Maresfield Bonfire Society

Contact 761917

Maresfield Dynamos Jnr.

Football Club.

Contact: 749640

Millennium Players.

Contact: 769644.

Companions Lunch Club

Contact: 07932 824571

Uckfield Gymnastics Club

Contact: 764141

Village Hall Committee.

Contact: 763947.

Village Hall Bookings.

Contact: 07876 718955.

Wealden Indoor Bowls Centre.

Contact: 767690.

Maresfield Bell-ringers

Contact 767758

If your Group is not included here or the information is incorrect please advise the **Editor on 01825 764799.**