

Maresfield Conservation Group



Newsletter September 2014



Issue 66

www.maresfieldconservationgroup.com

Printed and Published by Maresfield Conservation Group 22 Field End Maresfield TN22 2DJ

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2014/15

NAME	APPOINTMENT	ADDRESS (ALL MARSFIELD)	TEL. 01825
Dick Thompson	Life President	Newnham Cottage B B R	763179
Mrs Sheila Cumming	Chairman	Sunlands The Drive.MP	767484
Michael Wheeler	Secretary	22Field End	764799
Roger Wilmer	Treasurer	20 Limestone Way	370388
Stan Sadowski	Member (Web site enquiries)	Farthings The Drive MP	762933
Ken Ogden	Member	The Mill House London Rd	761433
John Gutteridge	Member	7 Queens Drive	764781
Mrs Mary Wrake	Member	Parkfield BBR	762727
Mrs Pat Palmer	Member	26 Field End	764804
Kim Braddle	Member	30 Ringles Cross	765214
Michael Clifton	Member	12 Limestone Way	762362

Committee Meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month.

All correspondence to the Group, including membership, should be sent to the Secretary at the above address or email wheeler22@btopenworld.com

Members of the Committee will be pleased to discuss the Group, its activities and any requests for project support and it is probably better in the first instance to discuss with your local distributor/collector.

From the Chair of the Committee

After several years as a Committee Member I was elected Chair of the Maresfield Conservation Group Committee at this year's AGM in July. During the last year there have been discussions on a very wide range of issues and projects which the Committee will now strive to take forward in accordance with the Constitution of the Group. This has as its aims the promotion of the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Maresfield. The Village of Maresfield has a very long history dating back to the time of a Roman road passing through it.

On the issue of conservation, plans have been drawn up and submitted to Wealden District Council for an extension to the Conservation Area to include listed buildings and land around Park Farm.

During the last school year the pupils of Bonners School produced very imaginative drawings of their ideas for the refurbishment of the Play Area at the Recreation Ground. During this coming session I hope to involve the school in other projects which will include the pupils in the wider village life.

Following meetings with East Sussex County Council, discussions on the traffic calming measures through the Village are still ongoing. I have been in contact with the Church regarding the retaining wall in the Cemetery on School Hill. The first stage is to have the tree stumps removed and work is planned to start in the next few days. However a certain amount of preparation is required where volunteer help would be greatly appreciated.

I am sure you will agree we must look after the present day village to make it a pleasant environment in which to live now and in the future. Whether you are a new resident or have lived here for many years you are very welcome to join us at our social events or volunteer to help with our many projects to help fulfil the aims of the Group.

Sheila Cumming

From The Secretary

Over 100 members receive the Newsletter on line and everyone can read it on the website www.maresfieldconservationgroup.co.uk as well as receiving information by email as it comes in. If you want to join in then please send me your email address and I will add your name to the growing list. Almost always I send out as blind list so that addresses cannot be picked up by unwanted mailers, although sometimes I have slipped up. It is also important to tell you that you can definitely elect **not** to receive these communications and if so just let me know and I will remove you from the list of contacts.

The recent campaign to remind you of the MCG position re the Neighbourhood Development Plan was a perfect way to remind members of the result of the consultation we carried out in 2011. That consultation took many hours of work by the most dedicated and long serving members of the Committee, hand delivered by our distributor members, collating and verifying the findings before the recommendations were delivered to members. **If** the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) goes the full course and gets to a referendum be sure we will vigorously promote the MCG position on your behalf, and I **declare** that we do have an **Interest**. That is:- To promote vigorously the site that will deliver the most benefit to the village, in any form, but particularly, open, accessible to all abilities, green space including connecting to existing, and new footpaths, and leisure space that will also include allotments and new recreational areas as well as a safe route to school.

You will see several references throughout this Newsletter to the **Winter Supper**. Unfortunately there are only 80 places for this most enjoyable and prestigious event and will sold on first come basis. Sometimes people do drop out at the last minute and pass tickets back for me to sell on. In future this is not going to be possible and there will be no refunds except in special circumstances which I am sure you can imagine. If you reserve a place for the 10th January Winter Supper you must confirm the booking by paying in full and making your menu and wine choice as soon as possible. Cheques will be cleared within the month sent. If you find that you are not able to attend after payment it will be for you to sell on if you can but I can advise you of any on the standby list.

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?



From P 4. On September the 3rd the Committee will have a special meeting to discuss future projects that we can support that will reflect entirely our ethos of Conservation and according to our stated aims. Included in this will be the projects that we have already committed to on an annual basis, those are The Village Hall & St Bartholomew's Church, Village Grass Cutting and Maintenance. It is likely that we will have agreed to commit further funding to the dividing wall repair in the School Hill Graveyard and a long awaited Memorial Garden project in this location and for this we need further contributions to soften the blow or enhance our commitment. Notwithstanding this we do need your ideas on future projects which we will again discuss in December. Let's hear from you.

There are other calendar events that are mentioned and advertised in this communication please do give them your support by taking an active part. There are tasks that can be undertaken in our management of the Group without having to join the Committee like a **MINUTE SECRETARY** or by joining those concerned with the village **Footpaths and Maintenance**. Give me a call if you can help.

Last year's Christmas Tree Lighting with Carols was a great success and this year we have combined the Christmas Market on the same day 6th December. Pat Palmer will give the fullest details for the tree lighting and carols in the December Newsletter and watch out for posters. However stalls for the Christmas Market (11.00am to 2pm) need to be thought about and booked now. Thinking caps on for the Group and perhaps you have a skill of craft that you might like to show and sell for you or the group or another charity. Request (01825 764799) and Complete a Booking Form as **soon as possible**.

Membership.

Your Membership is important to us and thank you to all those that have renewed membership and increased their donation. If you have not renewed, or your usual collector has not called or missed you, please forward to me at 22 Field End.

I sincerely apologise for some problems we have had with the Membership Cards this year, which may have upset some members. We will sort this out soon as possible once some problems with the printer and some communication problems are resolved. Michael V Wheeler

You must not miss this wonderful event

Maresfield Conservation Group

ANNUAL WINTER SUPPER

SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH

2015 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

6-30PM FOR A WELCOME KIA ROYALE OR BUCKS

FIZZ COCKTAIL & CANAPÉS

*FOLLOWED BY A FOUR
COURSE FULLY SERVICED*

DINNER AT 7PM.

*SERVED WITH A WINE OF YOUR
CHOICE*

COFFEE AND TRUFFLES

TO FINISH

£29.50 per person

**Call Carole or Michael NOW for a booking form and Menu choice
01825 764799**

**Reservations can be made, however a place is not booked until paid
for. NO CANCELLATIONS or RETURNS except in very special
circumstances. WHAT A NIGHT! I wouldn't miss it for the world!**

Maresfield Conservation Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on 1st July 2014 at Bonners School, School Hill, Maresfield.

The Meeting commenced at 7-30 PM.

Present.

Sheila Cumming	Acting Chairman	SC	Stan Sadowski	SS
Dick Thompson		DT	John Gutteridge	JG
Michael Wheeler	Secretary	MVW	Mary Wrake	MW
Roger Wilmer	Treasurer	RW	Ken Ogden	KO
Michael Clifton		MC	Pat Palmer	PP

39 Members -4 Non -Members

Welcome - The Acting-Chairman, Sheila Cumming welcomed all to the meeting and briefed the members on the procedure.

The Aspidistra Project by Bonners School Pupils Introduced by Jenny Eadon and Anne Radford Executive Head Teacher of Bonners School. Three of the children who took part provided significant commentary during the showing of the DVD about Aspidistra the largest radio transmitter, originally 600 Kw, introduced in the early 1940's to beam out black propaganda to fool the Nazis and the German War effort. Hidden in the depths of the Ashdown Forest it was one of the nation's most closely guarded secrets. The giant transmitter was so powerful that it was able to broadcast to German U-boats in the Atlantic Ocean spreading misinformation to German military and civilian population. This project researched the history of the transmitter through archival evidence, interviews with local residents and historical societies. Pupils from Bonners School and local volunteers were involved in providing the information. The School produced the DVD during July 2013 with the filming taking one (1) week to produce and the School skilfully using many of its room settings for scenes during its production.

At the end of the DVD the children were asked various questions by some in the audience about their involvement and scariest moments during the DVD production particularly when many of the old buildings were both desolate and empty. The buildings now in a refurbished state are used as a Police Training Centre.

Mrs Jenny Eadon, a School Governor, was also thanked for her involvement and for all the local support that went into making the Production in this Lottery Funded Project.

The children were given a rousing hand of applause following their presentation.

SC thanked the School and the children and presented to the School a donation

The Meeting then broke for refreshments before the order of business.

7. Apologies received from a number of members Gordon & Anne Hodson, Clive & Linda Wilson, Kim & Anne Braddle, Keith & Angela Parr and Mrs E Gutteridge.

8. Minutes of the last Meeting The Minutes of the AGM of 2nd July 2013 were proposed as correct by Ann Thompson and seconded by the Rev Nick Cornell. Agreed.

9. Matters arising Questions to Chairman on Matters arising **Questions to the Chairman.** A question from Graham Allt about the improvement of bulb planting in and around the village generally. SC advised that last Autumn Ann Thompson had planted bulbs in the Church Car Park and that she and MW had been out and about the village including up to the Batts Bridge roundabout making notes on the areas for extra bulb planting this Autumn.

MVW asked the members were they content with the new era of grass cutting as that was now under the control of the MCG with funding from the ESCC and annual expenditure was now £1,212, there was a general consensus on the improvements.

MVW also advised that weeding control had been carried out around the Village but would take a little time to show the results.

MVW asked SC for an update re the recently received reply for the Police and Crime Commissioner for East Sussex, Katy Bourne (KB), who could not attend the Meeting and in particular the A22 motor bike nuisance between the two principle roundabouts that straddle the village. The KB response on “powered two wheelers” advised that an operation was ongoing over the summer months by surveying the nuisance using both marked and unmarked Police cars with a determined objective to prevent the “powered two wheeler” perpetrators from braking the speed regulations. The A22 at Maresfield is already one of the roads targeted during Operation RIDE .

The last comment from the Commissioner, KB, was that if Maresfield Residents do not consider the traffic calming measurements are being effective get in touch with the ESCC.

A question was asked about the potential moving of the Uckfield Police station and MVW advised that KB had made it known that the new plans were not yet developed and would be looking at the opportunities but recognised the importance of keeping the Uckfield Police Station open .

The Commissioner had been asked whether after eighteen (18) months in her role she was still enjoying it but the replies were targeted more at listening to the Public than answering the precise question

Finally, MVW advised that although he had the telephone number of the local Police control and the Department involved he strongly recommended that Residents send individual letters of question or complaint to the Police as such letters have far more input than a telephone message.

A question came from the Audience, Sean Martin, who raised a question about the Maresfield Traffic Calming Plan and whether it had been published?

MVW advised he would send a copy.

10. Questions to the Chairman on Published Chairman’s Report There were no questions.

11. Questions to the Secretary on Published Report MVW advised that from the MCG Newsletter Members could see the income had risen from £2,157 to £2,464 and of course the gift Aid added a further £356 giving almost a £3,000 figure.

Based on this the Committee would not be recommending any increase in fees for 2014/15 but it would be helpful to ensure

12. Questions to the Treasurer on Published Treasurer’s Report - Income & Expenditure Statement for Year Ending 31st March 2014 – See attached.

then made six (6) specific comments:-

- a. Firstly a big thanks to the Independent Examiner, John Smith, for his time and professionalism in reviewing and scrutinising the accounts, very much appreciated;
- b. The accounts showed an overall surplus of £577 for the year;
- c. The MCG Bank balance on 31st March 2014 was £6,946;
- d. The subscriptions were up over £300 from the previous year. Many thanks to “The Collectors” for their hard work;
- e. Finally, fundraising, £3246 net was generated throughout the year. The donation of £646 came from the Plant Stall at the 26th May 2014 Village Fete. Dick and Ann Thompson must have worked hard throughout the year to produce so many lovely plants and very many thanks for all their hard work;
- f. The remaining £2,600 was generated very much by the activities of Michael & Carole Wheeler. Along with a small band of helpers, they

ran the 6th May 2014 Art Show; the 23rd November 2013 Christmas Fayre; the 13th July 2013 Summer Supper ; the 11th January 2014 Winter Supper and the 13th March 2014 Winter Quiz. Many thanks for all your hard work, it is greatly appreciated.

Questions- none were raised.

MVW advised Members that a new year for Income had started and to help with the subscriptions a new and improved form was being prepared and would be made available shortly.

It was proposed that the MCG Accounts for 2013/2014 be adopted - proposed by Carole Wheeler and seconded by Pat Langridge.

7. Election of Executive Officers, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.

MVW advised that nominations had been received for Sheila Cumming as Chairman; Roger Wilmer as Treasurer, and Michael Wheeler as Secretary; the nominations were so elected with the unanimous approval of the Members present.

8. Election of Executive Committee (up to eight (8) Members)

MVW advised that nominations had been received for Mary Wrake; Pat Palmer; Stan Sadowski; Ken Ogden; John Gutteridge; Michael Clifton and Kim Braddle; the nominations were so elected by a show of hands from the Members present.

MVW clarified that Dick Thompson, Life President, sits as an Executive Officer without the requirement for re-election.

9. Any Other Business (previously requested in writing) There were no questions in writing.

- a. SC asked any Member who would like to contribute towards the running of the Committee to contact MVW and then gave a brief précis of the variety of tasks that were considered over the year including but not limited to the Minute Secretary, a role currently filled by Michael Clifton a Committee Member; Planning roles with the Committee; assisting in fund raising and social events and helping one of our current projects –the repair of the wall in the School Hill Cemetery.
- b. A question in the form of a proposal was raised by Mr Brian Porter requesting limiting to £100 the financial limit that may be proposed by the MCG to any other Charity.
- c. MVW advised that the Committee of the MCG, itself a Charity, had previously voted for an agreed £2,000 Project limit without further Committee /Membership approval and

MVW advised that the Committee of the MCG, itself a Charity, had previously voted for an agreed £2,000 Project limit without further Committee /Membership approval and to seek such a restricting power of financial control that would be operationally undesirable, it would be necessary to convene an Extraordinary Meeting or the question put in writing for the next AGM. Further those donations to other Charities such as the Church and the Village Hall would be impacted.

It was suggested from the floor that the question was out of order as it had not conformed to the requirements of the Agenda.

The question/proposal was agreed to be withdrawn.

f. Three questions were asked by a Mr S Martin:-

1. The village should make clear the clarification of the two (2) separate identities and objectives of the MCG and MVMT Charities in their care of Maresfield- there are clearly two (2) different sets of responsibilities;
2. Is the village too small to have two (2) such Charities, would it be helpful if the public face came together as one body?, and
3. Referring to an article in The Daily Telegraph about a group of travellers who just arrived and parked without consent on a village green and the authorities had a monumental task in forcing them to move on , could this happen in Maresfield, does the village have any plans that could be implemented in the event of such a thing happening? Should the village consider preparing a plan that included a Volunteer Watch type of procedure so Residents who witnessed the beginnings of a Travellers entry could contact other Residents generally via an alert system both within the village and specifically in the area that the Travellers had targeted and commence the formation of a Residents' civil resistance that may include a village open area blocking plan by the use of a significant number of Residents' cars?

MVW briefly responded to questions one and two by stating that at present there could be no other way and although the MCG had been active since 2002, it was through the actions, decisions and seed funding of the MCG that the separate MVMT was founded, thus the MCG were instrumental in the objects of the separate MVMT Charity and therefore there should be no question of clash of identities of the charities.

MVW requested Mr Martin to consider submitting a written proposal that the MCG Committee could consider in detail.

On the topic of question three, MVW advised that this matter had been considered by the village and the Recreation Ground entrance to the cricket pitch and surrounds had been protected by the removal of the previous Beech poles by the side of the road way and replaced with concrete poles that seemed to have acted as a deterrent. The special area for either entry or exit had two (2) metal poles sunk into vertical shafts that could only be removed by a kick-plate in the hole but no other plans or procedures had been considered or implemented. SC enquired whether anyone would be prepared to come forward with ideas and/or a written proposal.

SC thanked all those present who attended and hoped that the Meeting was found to be very helpful.

SC then confirmed the Saturday, 12th July 2014 Summer Supper.

Mrs Wilma Porter wished to make special reference and offer her thanks for the January 11th 2014 Winter Supper stating that she thought it was excellent and hoped it would be repeated on the same theme with MVW advising that a date had been set for Saturday, 10th January 2015 Winter Supper and details were still in preparation.

Allan Sallows then offered a vote of thanks from the floor to the Officers and the Committee for all their hard work and efforts over the previous year.

SC then proposed a vote of thanks and a show of hands to Mrs Carole Wheeler as without her express assistance many of the village fundraising and social events would not happen.

Finally before the meeting was closed SC advised that the Ashdown Singers would be performing at the Village Church, St. Bartholomew's, at 7:30 PM on Saturday 5th July 2014.

Date of Next Annual General Meeting- Tuesday, 7th July 2015 in the Maresfield Village Hall.

Maresfield Conservation Group
Village Clean Up Day
Saturday 11th October 2014
From 9-30 a.m.
Meet in Church Car Park
Bags, will be provided
(Bring gloves, pickers and secateurs)



Maresfield Conservation Group
**Christmas Market Saturday the 6th
December**

2014 11-00 a m to 2-00 p m in the Village Hall take an opportunity to raise money for your group or to sell your home made wares for Christmas Gifts with modest fees for a 24sq.ft. space.

On sale will be Christmas Puddings especially made for us, mince pies and Christmas cakes to order and collect on Christmas Eve. Mincemeat, pickles, jams, curds, and confectionary.

Call me on 01825 764799 for details and booking form.

A BIG DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Our **WINTER SUPPER**
will be held on Saturday 10th January 2015

(See Main Advert page 7)

Carole's Autumn Choices

PORK CHOPS AND CIDER CASSEROLE

- 2 pork chops
- 1 large unpeeled potato (chopped into medium sized cubes)
- 1 large slice d onion
- 1 large Bramley apple (peeled and sliced)
- ½ pint cider
- Worcestershire sauce
- Seasoning

Pre heat oven to 375f/190c gas 4/5
Fry chops to seal.
Fry onion to just soften
In the base of the casserole lay cubed raw potato and place chops on top.
Lay onion slices round side of dish.
Cover chops etc with apple slices.
Pour over cider mixed with a few drops of Worcestershire sauce.
Season and cover.
Cook in mid oven for approx 1 ½ hours.
Serve with brightly coloured vegetables of your choice.

CHEESE PATE

- 5oz Butter (melted)
- 1lb Full soft Cream Cheese
- 3 cloves garlic
- 3 tbsps. fresh herbs (any)
- Salt to taste

Cut butter into small pieces and melt in a saucepan gently, soften the cheese in a bow add finely chopped herbs plus garlic crushed with a little salt, mix well, slowly add the butter a little at a time, mix in well before adding more butter, put in a pot and let it set.

CAW

ack. Elham Villagers favourites

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.

Bonnars 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: 01892 665178

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 764677

If your Group is not included here or the information is incorrect please advise the Editor via email: - wheeler22@btoopenworld.com