

# MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP NEWSLETTER



## MARCH 2014

Issue Number 65

[www.maresfieldconservationgroup.com](http://www.maresfieldconservationgroup.com)

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### From The Chairman

As spring and, possibly, summer approach, we may look forward to the annual Arts Show which will this year be held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

This show has grown considerably in recent years and it is my hope that this year will prove to be the most successful ever. Although time is now becoming late we could still accommodate a few artists and we would also be very grateful for donations to the Grand Prize Draw which has become the largest in our calendar of events.

Due to the changes at The Chequers we are unable to utilise facilities there, as we have in the past, and I am therefore very pleased that Rev. Nick Cornell has agreed that we may utilise the church and, with a fair wind, the churchyard.

We are always grateful for help from members with the erection and take-down of the display units, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who would be prepared to help us in this regard. Otherwise it falls again to the small group of stalwart men and women who constantly work on behalf of the wider membership.

In my tenure as Chairman I have tried on many occasions to motivate the membership, now over 400, to provide some degree of volunteer assistance to the group, the work of which is substantially accomplished by just a few members. I urge you to consider what you could do to help us. Your membership is, of course, greatly valued but we would be most appreciative of a little more practical input from those who are able. Why else would one join?

We have made tremendous leaps forward in the last few years through diligent work from the committee, the embracing of technology and by ensuring that every possible gain for the village has been rigorously pursued, but it is a never ending battle which requires allies with diverse fields of experience

Moving to other matters, it a source of great regret to us that E.S.C.C. feel that they cannot undertake the first phase of the Maresfield Traffic Plan, School Hill, this year which we understood would take place during the school summer holidays. Their stance is that, due to the excessive problems caused by recent weather and their own constraints, they have to put this project into their 2015 schedule. We have naturally been most vociferous in our arguments against this decision and have, indeed, been successful in ensuring that the funding is available, but the timing of the work seems to be a battle which we may not win as we are wholly in their hands in terms of the actual work schedule.

We have also to consider the car parking facilities in the village. It is the view of the committee that the top section of the recreation ground should be formally utilised for this purpose, as it has been informally for many years, but although there are many sound reasons for this movement I understand that the Recreation Ground Committee have other views.

We have many events during the Spring and Summer which I hope you will all attend, and we shall continue to provide as many such occasions as are viable.

My best wishes for the summer, which I hope will bring a spring to the step and a more appreciative view of what needs to be done, by each and every one of us, to keep our village conserved, viable and alive. This village is our home.

#### **CLIVE F. WILSON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.**

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*Since Clive wrote this he has found it necessary to resign as Chairman of the Group because of his failing health. Clive has played a major role, in moving the Group forward, and was responsible setting up the web site, and has had a special interest in the Art Show from where his previous knowledge has been a considerable advantage. On behalf of the Group we thank Clive for his past input and support. In the meantime Sheila Cumming will act as Chairman until the AGM elections.*

Michael V Wheeler Secretary

#### **From The Secretary.**

I cannot precede with this editorial until I relate to you all, belatedly, the wonderful experience of our WINTER SUPPER in the Village Hall. Together a few dedicated helpers we transformed the hall into very pleasant and practical dining room in which 80 members enjoyed a very professional dining experience prepared and served by Kelly Mileham and a superb team of ladies who looked after us well. Although the Supper is not a major fund raising event, it is intended as a celebration of the end of one year and the beginning of the next for the Group, we did in fact raise about £247 from the net raffle proceeds. The event was oversubscribed and inevitably this led to some disappointments but we will most certainly do it ourselves again next year and you must be sure to BOOK early. Thank you to the TEAM: - Carole my joint organiser, Michael Clifton, Roger Wilmer, Stuart Robinson and Sheila Cumming and Lesley Wilmur for the table centre pieces.

\*

The next social event was the Quiz Night on 15<sup>th</sup> March which raised a massive £833 with some deduction to take into account, and what a turnout with 90 participants. Again oversubscribed, most tickets were sold by the beginning of February and again shows that booking early is essential. Let's hope that the Summer Supper is as successful as ever. (Booking has started, see details later in this Newsletter).

\*

I am very surprised when, there is rarely any feedback from members, positive or negative, about articles in the Newsletter that members receive. For instance the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and I wrote about important matters in the last Newsletter which received no comment at all. I am not sure what to make of this but it is either that you believe your Committee has everything in hand and can be relied upon to deliver to the village the best possible result from our deliberations or contacts and negotiations on your behalf or, members are not interested, or it is something else. It is important that members have a say and we would like some guidance how you are thinking.

\*

You will all I am sure have noticed that the village in general has benefited

from the contract that we undertook to cover the grass cutting in the village and from the new arrangements that prevail for the County Council to cut the roundabouts more regularly. For the year 2013/14 we kept within our budgets and for the next twelve months ending March 2015 we will embark upon more work that is sadly neglected by the County and District Council, but within the budget we set. Earlier this month our contractors began recovering the footpath width on the Straight Half Mile with a good response from local people. This first stage was carried out to achieve a costing for that work and based on that we will extend the area that we will cover under contract. In addition we will set dates and ask for volunteers from our membership to tackle other areas like Batts Bridge Road and School Hill especially the approach from the south footpath and school entrance. Let me know if you can help.

\*

It is disappointing that Phase 1 of the Adopted Maresfield Traffic Scheme will not be in place until late summer 2015. Excuses can come easy but in this case we all know of the difficulties caused by this last winter which has caused delays to other work and not least of all damage that has occurred because of the weather. In our special circumstances it is not a question of a delay of a couple of months but a whole year because the work can only take place in the school summer holidays to lessen disruption by the closure of School Hill. We will have to remain patient there is no doubt that the plan will be implemented because the funding is in place. Coincidentally we may be able to implement further measures of the plan because other funds will become available from the Ashdown Business Park and the 9 home development on Park Farm Lane.

\*

As we move towards the AGM it is important that members wishing to take part in Committee Meetings to be nominated as a Committee Member or an Officer, so if you are one then it's time to seek a sponsor.  
Michael V Wheeler Secretary

The Village Fete will take place on the Late My Bank Holiday under a new Organising Group. Email Pat Langridge [plangridge69@gmail.com](mailto:plangridge69@gmail.com) for details.



**Bank Holiday  
Monday  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
MARESFIELD  
VILLAGE FETE  
RECREATION  
GROUND  
PARKING AVAILABLE**

## FOR THE KIDS....

Fun Fair  
Punch & Judy  
Dance Displays  
Novelty Dog Show  
Ice Cream Van  
Mr Brillo, the Clown  
The Balloon Lady  
Arena Events  
**AND THE ADULTS**  
Resident Jazz Band  
Licenced Bar  
Hot Food  
**HUGE Plant Stall**

**Want A Stall? Able to Help? More information Call:  
Pat Langridge on 01825 769644**

## Christmas Tree

Today the sun is shining, the sky is blue, birds are singing and spring really does seem to have arrived.

What a change from the first Saturday in December 2013! Yes, I remember it well as it was tree erecting and decorating day. It was cold and overcast, the ground was sodden with all the rain we had been experiencing day after dreary day. It just never seemed to stop did it? However, we were lucky in that it didn't rain that Saturday, not very much anyway. (Not the case when it came to taking it down. The rain started quite gently but by the time we finished a couple of hours later it was bucketing it down...we were all soaked to the skin).

As in previous years, it was very much a team effort with help from Stuart Robinson, Kim Braddle, Simon Ashdown, Mike Bachelor, and Sheila Cummings, my daughters Julie & Katie and Katie's husband Paul Brigden. Also Dick & Ann Thompson, once again, lent us their gardening tools etc.

As in previous years there was a lovely atmosphere and good community spirit. A big thank you must go to Christina & Jonnie Charsley from the lodge, who not only let us put up the tree in their front garden, but who also kept us all well fed and watered. This year it was with scrumptious bacon sandwiches, masses of steaming hot mugs of tea and coffee, followed by hot minced pies and mulled wine.

The evening lighting up celebration was really well organised and there are many to thank for all their help. Carol Wheeler, Mary Wrake, (mince pies) Sheila Cummings (home baked biscuits for the children) Michael Wheeler (for organising the road closure and traffic stewards, many thanks to them and Friends of the church (mulled wine) Sally Ruane on the piano accordion etc. Finally a massive thank you goes to Nick Cornell for organising the carol service and the sound system. It was estimated that 200/300 people turned up, and I'm sure you will agree it was a great success all round.

The evening ended with excited children, who had been patiently waiting to meet Father Christmas, finally seeing him make an appearance through the lodge gate to the tune of Jingle Bells. They surrounded him and all tried to chat to him at once before choosing chocolates and sweets from his sack. He told me later that night he had enjoyed it so much. >P13

# Maresfield Art Festival & Picture Sale

Bank Holiday Monday

May 5<sup>th</sup>

2014

10-00 am to 4-00pm

Set up Sunday the 4th May

Entries now being considered call Clive 766815  
or Michael 764799

# **MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP'S**

**ANNUAL  
SUMMER SUPPER  
SATURDAY  
12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014  
FROM 6-30  
FOR A WELCOME DRINK**

**IN  
THE GARDEN OF NEWNHAM COTTAGE  
(WITH KIND PERMISSION OF DICK AND ANN THOMPSON)**

**TICKETS  
£15 PER PERSON  
TO INCLUDE A BOTTLE OF WINE OF YOUR  
CHOICE BETWEEN TWO SHARING  
TICKET NUMBERS ARE LIMITED**

Maresfield Conservation Group

## **Village Clean Up Day Saturday 22nd March 2014**

**From 9-30 a.m.  
Meet in Church Car Park  
Bags, Pickers and secateurs will be provided  
(Bring Gloves)**

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### **IMPORTANT DATE**

**MARESFIELD CONSERVATION  
GROUP  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2014 AT 7-30 PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

More details later. However consider if you would like to serve on the Executive Committee or stand as an officer as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. If so you will need to be nominated by a member and the nomination has to be with the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014.

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*If you have a couple of hours a week or month to spare please consider volunteering for work on one of our current projects.*

*Call Michael 01825 764799 to discuss*

## SMOKED HADDOCK with celeriac and spinach gratin



250gm/9oz leaf spinach  
1 celeriac peeled  
25gm/1oz butter  
170ml pot double cream Small grating of nutmeg  
500-600gm/1lb 2oz un-dyed smoked haddock fillet cut into 4 portions  
Small pack chives, snipped

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Tip the spinach into a colander and sit it in the sink. Slowly pour a kettle of boiling water over the spinach to wilt it, then run under colder water, squeeze out as much water as you can and set aside.

Quarter the celeriac and cut each piece into thin slices. Butter a gratin dish and tip in the celeriac, spinach and the cream. Season, add the nutmeg and toss everything together. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 30 mins. Remove the foil, toss the celeriac around, cover again and put back in the oven for 30mins.

Remove the foil again, lay the fish on top and place a small knob of butter on each fillet. Cover with foil again and bake for a final 20mins until the fish is cooked and the celeriac is tender.

Scatter everything with chives and serve.

Serves 4 people.



CAW with Ack.to A N Other

A Night to Remember Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the Annual Winter Supper in the Village Hall  
Members and Friends enjoyed a welcome cocktail and canopies followed by a fully serviced 5 Course meal and dinner wine, prepared on site by Chef d'cousine Kelly Mileham.



The bare bones



Nearly there



Magnificent Table Decoration by Lesley Wilmer.



All done ready to go

## **Con't from p 7**

he wanted to come back next Christmas!

I am sure that there are many people that need to be thanked that I haven't named in person and if you are one of them, then I apologise but send you a great big thank you anyway.

See you all again in December 2014.

**Pat Palmer**

\*\*\*\*\*

**From the Deputy Chairman Sheila Cumming**

### **Recreation Ground Play Area**

After so much rain, it is wonderful to see the sun shining - just the weather to encourage us to get outside again. However a visit to the Play Area at Maresfield Recreation Ground continues to be a challenge getting there. The Parish Council has agreed that a footpath will be laid but it has still to be decided by the Recreation Ground Committee where it will be positioned. Presently the grass is still so muddy that attempting to cross with pushchairs or bicycles is extremely difficult. When football is in progress, access is extremely limited - there are only very narrow strips of land between the football pitches and the perimeter fences. The same situation arises when the cricket season commences.

As many will be aware work has now started at Park Farm Lane to clear the ground and start building the nine homes that are to occupy that site. I am still awaiting help from those who presently use the Play Area with ideas for the refurbishment. Plans need to be started NOW so that they are ready to be implemented when the money comes forward for this project. If you would like a more exciting and enjoyable Children's Play Area now is your opportunity to be part of it.

If we do not have plans submitted and approved by the Parish Council, the money may be diverted to other projects and there will be no improvement at Maresfield Recreation Ground Children's Play Area. Our children and grandchildren will be deprived of an enjoyable area to meet and play.

Please contact me **NOW**

**Sheila Cumming**

Tel 01825 767484

Email: - [sheila.sunlands@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.sunlands@btinternet.com)

## **An Additional Note from the Secretary**

The Maresfield Conservation Group is one of the largest membership groups in the County, if not the largest. The work that it does is very diverse and covers not only the obvious of conservation but planning issues, traffic, planting, village appearance and grass cutting contract. We have a web site and we produce a regular Newsletter. We fundraise to support our work and to support other village projects. Our social side is also quite diverse and is supported by many members and others.

We do this with a small number of very active members who, as a Committee, meet up once a month to manage the Group.

Committee Meetings are abhorrent to some people who may otherwise join the management team. You don't have to be a Committee Member to contribute a particular skill to the Group so if you would like to take part by taking over a particular section that appeals to your skills please call me so that we can discuss this. People who desire to volunteer without strings are important and we would like to use your talent to relieve the work load that the Committee has to bear. MVW.

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### **Maresfield Village Fete.**

The co-ordinator for this years' Fete Day Parking is Michael Clifton who would like to hear from anyone that could spend an hour or so assisting with the car park operation. Please call him on 01825 762362 if you can offer any help for this important job.

Over the past 7 years this part of the Fete has raised a total of £4708 towards the running costs of this major event whilst in the organising hands of Graham Allt and his team.

CALL MICHAEL AS SOON AS YOU CAN

\*\*\*\*\* ----- \*\*\*\*\*

WE would value any article, photo, short story on any subject, sketches or drawings. A letter to the Editor or an open letter to members would be most welcome also.

Send to the Editor in Word by email :- [wheeler22@btopenworld.com](mailto:wheeler22@btopenworld.com)

Or to 22 Field End, Maresfield East Sussex TN22 2DJ

# *MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP COMMITTEE.*

**FOR THE YEAR 2013/14**

<b>Name.</b>	<b>Appointment.</b>	<b>Address (all Maresfield).</b>	<b>Tele 01825.</b>
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
Vacant	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 Ringle 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.*

## **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.

<b>Badminton Club.</b>	<b>Parklands Res. Assn</b>
Contact: 764975.	Contact: 767102.
<b>Bonners School</b>	<b>Recreation Ground Committee</b>
Contact: 762381.	Contact: 749756.
<b>Brownies</b>	<b>Stoolball Club.</b>
Contact	Contact: 763463.
<b>Rainbow Guides</b>	<b>St. Bartholomew's Church</b>
Contact: 765288.	Contact: 762192
<b>Conservation Group.</b>	<b>Kids Club.</b>
Contact: 763179.	Contact: 762192.
<b>Cricket Club.</b>	<b>Maresfield Badgers Short Mat Bowls.</b>
Contact: 764315	Contact 01825 767420
<b>Field End, Res Assoc.</b>	<b>Maresfield Bonfire Society</b>
Contact 764799	Contact 761917
<b>Maresfield Residents Group.</b>	<b>Maresfield Dynamos Jnr.</b>
Contact: 763256	<b>Football Club.</b>
<b>Football Club</b>	Contact: 749640
Contact: 764496	<b>Millennium Players.</b>
<b>Maresfield Historical Soc.</b>	Contact: 769644.
Contact: 766751	<b>Companions Lunch Club</b>
<b>JG Theatre Club</b>	Contact: 07932 824571
Contact: 763588	<b>Uckfield Gymnastics Club</b>
<b>.Maresfield Lawn Bowls Club.</b>	Contact: 764141
Contact: 01892 665178	<b>Village Hall Committee.</b>
<b>Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club.</b>	Contact: 763947.
Contact: 762391	<b>Village Hall Bookings.</b>
<b>Maresfield Parish Council.</b>	Contact: 07876 718955.
Contact: 714555	<b>Wealden Indoor Bowls Centre.</b>
<b>Mother &amp; Baby/Toddler Group.</b>	Contact: 767690.
Contact: 764207/762192	<b>Maresfield Bell-ringers</b>
<b>Women's Institute.</b>	Contact 767758
Contact: 768911	
If your Group is not included here or the information is incorrect please advise the Editor on 01825 764700	