

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015



www.maresfieldconservationgroup.co.uk

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TN22 2DJ

Issue No 68.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the last newsletter in early December there have been several significant events organised by the Conservation Group. Firstly the Christmas Market in the Village Hall, then in the evening the Lighting of the Christmas Tree. As with each year the Group fund the purchase of the tree and the mince pies. This popular event is now attended by a large number of villagers and their friends. The tree was greatly admired over the Christmas period.

This was followed in January by the Winter Supper. Sadly Michael was not well enough to attend but due to his forward planning over several months it was a most successful and enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to Michael and Carole as well as the chef Kelly Mileham and her team. A booking has already been made for Saturday 9th January 2016 to hold a similar dinner – please put it in your diary.

One of our aims is to maintain the village to a high standard so that it is a pleasant place in which to live.

Over the winter despite cold, wet, dark days work has been going on outdoors by members of the Conservation Footpaths Group. Led by John Smith they have been improving the footpaths in the Village. This has required some financial assistance from the Conservation Group for gravel which is not supplied by East Sussex County Council.

On 21st March a Village Maintenance day is being organised to ensure that the Village Gateway signs are clean as well as the verges cleared of litter. Despite refuse bins throughout the village it is disappointing there continues to be vast amounts of litter dropped. The main hedge in the Church Car Park has been cut by contractors but there is further work required as many overgrown bushes are limiting parking space. The footpath leading from the Car Park to the Village Hall has been improved by the Footpaths Group. Your assistance on Maintenance Day would be greatly appreciated.

The bulbs which have been planted over many years on the verges throughout the village are already showing signs of growth. We now look forward to the spring with the Village being brightened up by our wonderful display of daffodils.

Hope to see you at our fundraising and social events. As always volunteers are required to assist with maintaining your Village. Further information can be had by contacting me or the Secretary.

SHEILA CUMMING

Email - sheila.sunlands@btinternet.com

From the Secretary

The current financial year ends on the 31st March and I can report an outstanding year for Membership subscriptions of £3087 including Gift Aid, subject to annual audit, with a slight reduction in Members. Some of the membership reduction is due to people simply not returning the renewal slip and some to members relocating and sadly some deaths in which cases we send our condolences. Non renewal may be due to simply not making the return, we urge those members to get in touch and if there is some reason for not rejoining, we would really like to know about it so that we can try to resolve any problems with them. Since the Group changed from an annual membership fee to a donation to support the work of the Group the average per person has risen from £2.65 per person in 2005 to £7.01 this year and per household from £4.81 in 2005 to an average of £12.42 in this current year. This by any measure indicates great support for what we try to do in the Village of Maresfield and we thank you all very much.

At last, after a number of years of planning by the **MCG Traffic Sub Group** (*Dick Thompson, Ken Ogden and Michael Wheeler working with the County Council particularly with Tony Reid and Kal Peglar, and the Parish Council*) and the securing of funding from the Wellington Gate development **Phase 1 of the Maresfield Traffic Plan** will be installed this year with work starting on the 22nd July (27th July on School Hill itself) and continuing throughout August while the School is closed for the summer break. (*NOTE some preliminary works will take place earlier in the month of July*) **Phase 1** essentially includes the introduction of a 20 MPH ZONE throughout the village from the bottom of School Hill to The Parade in the Straight Half Mile and along the Batts Bridge Road to the village hall. There will be other measures. There will be an audit 6 months after the installation to see what impact the Traffic Plan has had on traffic movements in and through the the village and to plan any changes and the way forward to Phases 2 & 3 as funding becomes available.

The Group with the Parish Council has had discussions regarding the Traffic requirements for the Ashdown Business Park and plans have been put before us for comment which we have made. The scheme in this situation provides for pedestrian and cycle access to and from the site and measures to prevent HGV's from using the village as an access to it.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will decide local policies which will shape and influence where development goes and what it will look like, having regard to national policies, professional advice and the National Planning Policy Framework. Once all representations have been heard an evidence base for the proposed policies will be prepared and decided

democratically by the parish followed by an independent examination and finally a community referendum.

This sounds great doesn't it? It's called Localism. It is Government policy that we all have a say on Local issues but the fact is we don't take this up. It is dubious that many members of the public see this as such an important issue that the Government does, as giving the local community power over local issues such as planning.

A parish exhibition in Maresfield last year attracted 147 people from the Parish electorate of over 3,000 from Maresfield, Nutley and Fairwarp. A 4.9% turnout and a smaller number visited the Parish Office during the next week and made their observations to guide the SG on what sites to allocate the 50 homes that **Maresfield Village** has to accommodate under the WDC Core Strategy. A further petition was delivered to the Parish Office signed by residents of Wellington Gate who will be more affected than anyone else by any development in Maresfield. Because these residents did not attend either exhibition the conclusions do not reflect the petition. However these residents do have an opinion which of course would reject any development on either side of Wellington Gate ,Sites A & B, as we, **MCG**, should and do.

Why?

The spaces of Sites A,B & C were well fought hard for during the planning application process for Wellington Gate. Successfully the MCG claimed and won significant space, Site A, to protect the views over the Conservation Area and views from the south and public footpath of St Bartholomew's Church and increasing the size of a green lung in the centre of the village, and furthermore securing a bund on the other end, Sites B & C to protect the residents of the WG development from the noise of the bypass and reducing the application to a maximum of 80 homes on the Park Farm site. (Non Statutory Wealden Local Plan: December 2005 Land at Park Farm Chapter 19 Villages Policy V7)

1. Selecting any of these would undo the benefits achieved by the MCG under that planning application.
2. Because the only access to these two sites will be through a thoroughly congested Wellington Gate and onward onto Field End and the other roads before reaching Batts Bridge Road.
3. There will be no specific benefits that will be passed to the Maresfield Community by way of substantial new open space and new footpaths on any other site being considered apart from Side D LSOPF.

There have been changes to contact numbers on the last page of this Newsletter. Please check. MVW

Christmas Tree

As in previous years, it was very much a team effort with help from *Stuart Robinson, Simon Ashdown, Mike Bachelor, my daughter Katie and her husband Paul Brigden. Dick & Ann Thompson* who, once again, kindly lent us their gardening tools etc.

A big thank you to John Smith who used his trailer to pick up, and return, road closure signs and a tower which we used to decorate the tree. It was the tallest and fullest we have had so far and a step ladder would not have high enough to reach the top.

Once again a big thank you must go to Christina & Johnnie 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. I understand that they could be moving soon and I'm sure that you would like to join me in wishing them best wishes for the future. They will be greatly missed but hopefully the new occupiers will be happy to carry on the tradition.

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. Friends of the church (mulled wine) the Choir for their beautiful singing and David Brown for entertaining us on the guitar; he literally had people dancing in the street. Finally a massive thank you goes to Nick Cornell for organising the carol service etc. It was estimated that 300 plus people turned up, and I'm sure you will agree that once again the evening was a great success.

The evening ended with excited children, who had been patiently waiting for Father Christmas, finally seeing him make an appearance from the church ringing his bells. They surrounded him and all tried to chat to him at once before choosing chocolates and sweets from his sack. Between you and me I think he enjoyed almost as much as the children!

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

See you all again in December 2015.

Pat Palmer.

MARESFIELD FOOTPATHS GROUP (PART OF MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP)

From its initial start in mid December 2014 the group (of four) has made some progress towards updating the stiles and bridges within the parish. To date we have had only one day 'rained off' and have settled into a routine of three hours (9.30-12.30) each Wednesday morning.

What we have done to date:

Three replacement stiles with dog latches have been installed on one of the footpaths off Nursery Lane. Further along this route branches and brambles have been cut back and two fallen trees cleared. Steps on the steep bank which were filled with leaf-mould and debris have been dug out and are now much safer. There is another point where the path is worn, muddy and slippery and we already have the kit to shore this up and make a series of steps - it is on the list. A new stile with dog latch was installed on the path between Reedings farm and Cobdown farm.

Gravel, provided by Maresfield Conservation Group, was spread over the path from the churchyard and particularly around the kissing gates to counteract, to some extent, the mud resulting from the seemingly continuous wet weather. Two new way-mark posts have been installed and the steps to the A22 crossing cleared of debris.

The work:

Installing one stile each day may not seem too onerous but all the tools and the surprisingly heavy stile kits have to be carried some quite long distances perhaps requiring each member to make two or three journeys and then, of course the tools are carried back, usually, with the remains of the old stile or gate. This makes for quite a full and energetic three hours. Three of the volunteers had not carried out any of this work before but, over the weeks, they have become quite expert and even more enthusiastic.

As each task is completed a report has to be submitted to East Sussex County Council Footpaths and supplies ordered from them for the next project. The work has been made very enjoyable by the appreciation of and conversation with the walkers we have met and particularly by the pleasant and welcoming attitude of the landowners.

Feedback

Constructive comment and reports of any problems with footpaths are very much welcomed.

It was usefully mentioned that some walkers had been 'less than enthusiastic' about the height of two stiles and this was rectified by putting down some hardcore to raise the ground and reduce the initial step in these instances.

Following this advice the recommended height of the steps has been modified when installing further stiles.

Footpath 80

There has been some comment about the condition of footpath 80 to the rear of Mill Farm where the heavy rain and movement of cattle has obliterated the path and made it impassable. This is beyond the scope of the footpaths group to rectify. However MCG has contacted the landowner who is aware of and embarrassed by the situation. It appears that the, almost continual, rain this winter coupled with the movement of the cattle has created a problem that has not been seen in previous years. The land owner will be moving the cattle within the next two weeks and, when the ground dries sufficiently, will roll the footpath to restore the surface. The landowner, who thinks that there may be a problem with a spring flooding the area will investigate this and rectify it. Hopefully the drier weather will improve matters quickly.

The future

We look forward to the spring and summer with drier days providing the opportunity to tick some more completed tasks from our list which hopefully will contribute to the enjoyment of people walking these routes.

John Smith MCG Maresfield Footpaths Coordinator

**VILLAGE CLEAN UP DAY
SATURDAY 21ST MARCH
MEET IN CHURCH CAR PARK
9-30 AM
PICKERS, HV JACKETS & BAGS
PROVIDED**

Friday March 20th Queens Drive Public Footpath, verges and roadway will be dealt with by MVMT and MCG members come and join this group at 9-30am.

*Maresfield Conservation Group's
22nd Annual Art Sale
Bank Holiday Monday
4th May 2015
10-00 am to 3-00pm
In Maresfield Village Hall
Over 120 exhibits*

This Annual event is planned as a two day event for the Bank Holiday Weekend as is usual. However this year The Secretary is asking for people to come forward to assist in any way that they can to ensure a continuation of this community event. If you can help, call me urgently so that a decision can be made.

*EXHIBITORS SHOULD CONTACT THE SECRETARY
FOR ENTRY DETAILS 01825 764799*



Maresfield Village Fete
Monday 25th May 2015 at 12.00
Maresfield Recreation Ground

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP'S

ANNUAL SUMMER SUPPER

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2015
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

BOOK NOW

CALL 01825 764799

DON'T MISS THIS MOST ENJOYABLE
EVENT

WINTER SUPPER TABLES



Members and Friends begin to enjoy the event



OUR CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE LODGE



Merchandise

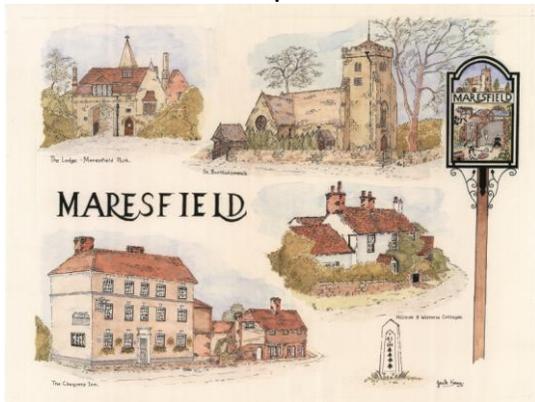
available in the Village Post Office in the High Street or from the Secretary at 22 Field End TN22 2DJ

Set of 4 tent cards with envelopes, showing listed buildings £4.00



Large tent card and envelope showing of all the above Single £1.50

Pack of 4 tent cards with envelopes. £5.00



This card is also available as a full sized APRON for £7.50 and a TEA TOWEL for £3.50. Both made in 100% cotton

MENUS FROM CAROLE



Leek Soup

100gm/4oz red lentils
700g/11/2lb leeks
225g/8oz carrots
225g/8oz floury potatoes
25g/1oz butter
1.5litres/21/2 pints chicken stock
Salt and pepper

1. Rinse the lentils in cold running water. Wash and trim leeks cutting away the roots and tough outer leaves. Cut into fine slices, peel potatoes and carrots, grate them coarsely using a hand grater or processor.
2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan add leeks and fry gently for 5 minutes or until softened.
3. Add the lentils and the grated carrots and potatoes to the pan. Stir in the hot chicken stock, bring the soup to a boil and then reduce heat cover pan with lid.
4. Simmer the soup for 45 minutes or until the vegetables and lentils are soft and the soup is thick. Season to taste, serve in warmed soup bowls with lovely crusty bread! Mmmm, serves 4.

For a vegetarian version, use vegetable stock instead of chicken.
Cooks tip: Allow soup to cool, then seal in a plastic container or strong freezer bag, will freeze up to 6 months.

Ack. A.N.Other

ANOTHER FROM CAROLE



Sausage Casserole

- 1 large onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 4 rashers thick cut back bacon
- 450g/1lb pork sausages
- 450ml/13/4 pint chicken stock
- 227g/8oz can chopped tomatoes
- 2 bay leaves
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- Black pepper
- 420/14oz butter beans
- 1 tablespoon chopped flat leaf parsley to garnish

1. Peel and finely slice onion, peel and crush garlic, roughly chop bacon. Prick sausages with a fork, heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium high heat, add sausages fry for 5 minutes, turning regularly until browned

2. Remove sausages from pan, add onion, bacon and garlic and fry for 5 minutes until onions are softened.

3. Cut each into 3 pieces and return to pan, add stock, tomatoes, bay leaves and thyme, season with black pepper and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 20 minutes stirring occasionally.

4. Drain the beans and add to pan simmer for a further 10 minutes. Serve the casserole garnished with parsley. Enjoy ! Ack. A.N.Other

MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

2015 /2016 Diary

2015

February	4 th	Committee Meeting
March	4 th	Committee Meeting
	14 th (Saturday)	Quiz Night
	21 st (Saturday)	Village Maintenance Day
April	1 st	Committee Meeting
May	4 th (Monday)	Maresfield Art Festival
	6 th	Committee Meeting
	25 th (Monday)	Maresfield Village Fete
June	3 rd	Committee Meeting
July	7th (Tuesday)	A.G.M.
	18th (Saturday)	Summer Supper
August	7 th (Friday)	Collectors Evening
September	2 nd	Committee Meeting
October	7 th	Committee Meeting
	10 th (Saturday)	Village Maintenance Day
November	4 th	Committee Meeting
December	2 nd	Committee Meeting
	5 th (Saturday)	Christmas Market
	5 th (6-00pm)	Christmas Tree Lighting

2016

January	6 th	Committee Meeting
	9 th (Saturday)	Winter Supper

**MARESFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR 2014/15**

NAME	APPOINTMENT	ADDRESS	TEL.
O1825		(ALL MARSFIELD)	
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 (Web site enquiries)	Member	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.

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: 764799 or 767484

Cricket Club.

Contact: 764315

Field End, Res Assoc.

Contact 764799

Maresfield Bonfire Society

Contact 761917

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: 769004

Women's Institute.

Contact: 765782

Parklands Res. Assn

Contact: 767102.

Recreation Ground Committee

Contact: 749756.

Stoolball Club.

Contact: 763463.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Contact: 769004

Kids Club.

Contact: 762192.

Maresfield Badgers Short

Mat Bowls.

Contact 01825 767420

Maresfield Village Meadows Trust

Contact 762362

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: 760042.

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@btopenworld.com