

Report for MCG Annual General Meeting on 3rd July 2018

During the last year Maresfield Conservation Group (MCG) have continued to actively look after the village and improve its facilities. These have been funded through subscriptions to the Group and fund raising events. Thanks to those who have given many hours of voluntary work to achieve this.

In June 2017 the white posts and rails on the High Street were replaced with white plastic posts. The wooden posts and rails, which had been there for decades, were rotten and beyond repair. After negotiation regarding their replacement the project was taken on by East Sussex Council Highways. As there was the safety of pedestrians on the narrow pavement to be considered they had to be replaced with white plastic posts which conform to present day standards.

The booklet "Maresfield in 1840" written by Clive Brooks and published in 1997 had been out of print for several years. In July it was brought up to date and reprinted by the Group with copies now available.

A new website came on line in August to give more information on the activities both past and present of the Conservation Group.

The usual fund raising events have been held throughout the year. This started in May with the ever popular plant stall run by Ann Thompson at the Village Fete, in July the Summer Supper, the Winter Supper in January and in March the Quiz Night. At Christmas the MCG again donated a Christmas Tree to the Village. This year it was located in the Churchyard and MCG organised, along with St Bartholomew's Church, the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Service. As in recent years MCG organised the road closure to ensure safety of those attending the event.

The two Victorian Lights on School Hill and the one in the High Street on the church wall, are all in need of repair. Quotes are being obtained initially for the light at the entrance to the Recreation Ground.

In October MCG again organised a Clean-up Day and in March registered and participated in the Great British Spring Clean. On both days large amounts of litter were collected in addition to several members and residents of the village collecting litter throughout the year.

The Footpaths Group have continued to meet most Wednesday mornings throughout the year. However, the weather earlier this year curtailed work for several weeks. Interconnecting footpaths in the village have been cleared as well as Rights of Way in the Parish. The grant from the Parish Council to MCG for maintenance projects assisted with the Footpaths Group purchasing equipment. A project that MCG have recently taken on is the re-instatement of the Maresfield Parish Millennium Walk which begins in the centre of Maresfield at The Chequers and is a circular walk by Fairwarp and Nutley back to the starting point. Many are unaware of the existence of this walk which was devised as its name indicates in 2000. The work being undertaken by the MCG Footpaths Group is to clear and re-sign the footpaths. New way markers are required as many are now missing making it difficult for walkers to follow the route. A booklet detailing the various walks was produced in 2000 and it is planned to have this updated and reprinted. As well as the Millennium Walk, which is 11.32 miles, there are 8 shorter walks.

Donations were made to the Village Hall towards the cost of the new electric cooker and also the replacement of the Village Hall sign. The Lunch Club received a donation towards equipment that they required. The Church was given assistance towards the cost of grass cutting at the School Hill cemetery. The Parish Council arranged for the replacement of the oak trees at the Recreation Ground. These were planted by the Footpaths Group with MCG assisting towards the cost of the young trees. This year the MGC made a donation to the Historical Society help cover the expenses incurred in having speakers to their meetings.

My thanks to the members for their support of the work of MCG.

Sheila Cumming, Chairman of MCG