



## **STOP PRESS - MCG could be in real trouble.....but this is entirely in your hands!**

**History:** The Maresfield Conservation Group (MCG) is a voluntary organisation which was formed in 1991. Our aim is to conserve, protect and improve Maresfield village's assets. The Executive Committee of MCG is made up of local village volunteers who are elected annually by the Group's members.

**Currently:** After four years, John Smith, our Treasurer will be standing down at the end of this financial year, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. John has proved to be an excellent treasurer whilst always retaining a great sense of humour.

I have been Chairman for the past two and a half years and intend to resign in July 2021. Which means we need to find someone to fill the above roles!

Our present executive committee are unable to fill these positions either because they work full time or have other commitments. Stan Sadowski currently takes care of the membership and website and, is not only doing a brilliant job, but will be carrying on his role in the foreseeable future.

**The Future:** This will depend on local people coming forward as members of the Executive Committee. Due to current Covid restrictions we are unable to hold an AGM, so we could in these circumstances co-opt new members onto the committee. We, the Executive Committee, are really concerned what the future will hold if nobody comes forward and helps to ensure that the vital work MCG has done for the past twenty nine years carries on into the future. **It's up you....failing that....it could be crunch time!**

### **Updates:**

#### **Church Gate – Official Opening planned.**

The church gate opposite the car park and providing access to the footpath through the churchyard, presented to the church by an infantry Officer Cadet Training unit in 1947 was found to have deteriorated quite significantly over the years. Initially it was thought that a coat of paint could cheer it up but further examination revealed that very much more work was required. The problem was handed to Ian Shaw, a member of the executive committee who engaged a local blacksmith. Necessary repairs were completed and the gate re-hung at the end of September. It was suggested that a small ceremony (now scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> October) should take place to re commission the gate remembering the military connection that Maresfield has had through two world wars.

Angie Weldon was able to locate a surviving member of the OCTU that presented the gate and discovered history connecting it to The Artists Rifles which became 21 Special Air Service (a territorial army unit) and, in turn, became the basis for the present regular army 22 SAS. Two representatives of Artist Rifles will be attending on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Fete Shed – East Sussex Highways to the rescue!**

As most residents will be aware there was no village fete this year and not only because of Covid 19 but due to the lack of a leader to drive the fete forward. MCG have taken over the village fete funds pending a new fete leader and committee being formed. The group also took over responsibility for the fete hut on the recreation ground and the contents which include the main marquee and tents. On inspection it was found that the hut was extremely damp, the wooden floor and parts of the walls were rotten and there was evidence of rats living under the floor. Action had to be taken with rat poison. Repairs to the walls and repainting were completed by the Footpaths Group. The hut was then cleared and thoroughly disinfected with the intention of removing the rotten floor and replacing it with concrete. Estimates for this work were obtained and again it was thought that, with a suitable supply of concrete, the Footpaths group could provide the labour. Possible sources of suitable concrete revealed that East Sussex Highways had a 'Social

Value' budget aimed at providing just such assistance to local communities. Contact with them confirmed that, not only would they supply the concrete mix but would also provide the experts to carry out the work and would include the refinement of a much needed waterproof membrane below the concrete floor. The work was carried out on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October by a very cheerful group of three experts provided by individual companies that work with East Sussex Highways.

The community now has, free of charge, a four inch thick concrete floor to the hut which should keep the equipment dry and fresh until required by a new fete committee. Other organisations will also enjoy using this facility.

VERY many grateful thanks are due by Maresfield Conservation Group and the residents of Maresfield to East Sussex highways and associated companies for this generous 'uplift' which has a 'Social Value' of £1064 including VAT.

Keep safe and well,

Very best wishes,

Pat Palmer

Chairman

Maresfield Conservation Group

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