



Mayfield and District Newsletter October 2023

I am standing in for Madelyn again so it will be a brief one! We wish you a speedy recovery, Madelyn.

Events in November

2.00pm, Thursday 16 November Brian Freedland on The View from the Wings. Brian returns to Mayfield U3A with his insider's view of the theatre. He has worked with jugglers, conjurers and comics, notably the unpredictable Tommy Trinder, so come and find out more about his fascinating career.
Five Ashes Village Hall, TN20 6JA

12noon Sunday 19 November Lunch at The Dorset Arms, Withyham, Hartfield TN7 4BD

To book your place email marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com or ring 01435 872289

2.30pm Tuesday 21 November The Pheasants are Revolting with Ian Dowding
Being a restaurant chef is never boring. From culinary disasters via unscrupulous bosses to badly behaved celebrities you can learn about it all.
Heathfield u3a at The Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, TN21 0XG

Anyone for Scrabble? Annie Schofield is setting up a new group - all levels welcome from beginners up. 'We have chosen the Heathfield Co Op café as our venue as it central for people from Mayfield in one direction, to Burwash in the other. It also has plenty of free parking! I am planning an initial get together to decide on day/week to play, so please message me if you are interested annie.schofield21@gmail.com'

Christmas Lunch

**Don't forget our Christmas Lunch on Thursday 14th December in Five Ashes Village Hall, once again catered for us by SueWright . Keep the date free as this is a busy time of year. Apologies for any clashes.
Order forms will be sent in mid-November**



Our monthly talk this October was on the fascinating topic of Médecins sans Frontières. Given by Dr Claire Mason. It was a real insight into the work of the organisation in general, and in particular in Papua New Guinea and India. Started originally in Biafra, MSF is perhaps best known for their high profile all over the world in areas where natural disasters or war have devastated the population. HIV and TB (with which about a quarter of the world is infected) are areas of huge importance, and they make great efforts to work with governments and health services to improve both medical and practical outcomes with these diseases. They are impartial and always politically neutral, with no weapons allowed in their compounds. There are 40,000 staff in 70 countries, and as well as the medical element of their work there is also an important journalistic one, making people aware of what is going on in the world.

As a specialist in tropical diseases, Claire had been involved in a project focused on TB in Papua New Guinea, a country whose population is based on subsistence farming, has 800 different languages and also has the logistical problems of anywhere that comprises jungle and mountains. More recently, she spent several months in India, where many people have very complex health needs. The hospitals are overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of patients, many of whom had first gone to their traditional healers before seeking more modern treatment.

Wherever they are deployed, MSF uses as many local people as possible as co-workers, and much of their work is to encourage people not only to access the help available but to maintain whatever course of treatment they have been given. Some of their medical teams work full time for MSF, others share their time with various projects abroad and their careers in their home country.

Anna Thompson