



The Hartley Herald

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8EL

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December 2006

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Your Parish Councillors wish everyone in Hartley a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. In the spirit of goodwill to all and as the winter nights draw in, we would ask that everyone keeps an eye out for their neighbour. Christmas is a time when many people fall victim to the opportunist thief so remember to lock up when you leave your home and when you are out and about to keep your purses and wallets out of sight. Shopping and valuables are best hidden, out of sight in the boot of the car out of temptations way.

Volunteers Wanted

Christmas and the New Year are often times when many of us will make an extra effort to help others or make a resolution to do something positive in the community. The Volunteer Centre has launched 'POP' - the Positive Opportunities Project. It is a way of offering people living in rural areas access to information and advice on volunteering. From the beginning of 2007 they aim to establish monthly drop in sessions in all of the northern parishes of Sevenoaks district.

So if you have thought about volunteering but were unsure of how to get involved, come along and speak to someone from the Volunteer Centre. Sessions will be held in Hartley Library, Ash Road from 12.30 to 2.30p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. If you can't get to the library you can phone them for more information on 0845 2412180.

Parish Council Surgery Dates

Members of the Parish Council will be available on Saturday 13th January in the Parish Office from 10am to 12 noon. If you have any points to raise or questions to ask your Parish Councillors please come along, no appointment necessary!

Want to know what's going on in Hartley but don't know where to look?

Visit our website at www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk where you will find local information, minutes of council meetings, agendas and dates for future meetings. You are always welcome to come to any of the meetings and find out first hand what your Parish Councillors are doing on your behalf. At many meetings you may be given the opportunity to speak if you wish to do so. Dates of meetings are placed on all the notice boards which can be found outside the Parish Office in Ash Road, Hoselands Green, Wellfield - opposite the sheltered housing and outside All Saints Church in Church Road.

District and Parish Council Elections

The elections for the Parish Council and Sevenoaks District Council will be held on **Thursday 3rd May 2007**. There will be 13 places to be filled on the Parish Council and 3 for the Hartley and Hodsoll Street Ward on the District Council. The persons elected will serve for a period of 4 years. To stand for election candidates must submit a nomination paper to the Returning Officer at Sevenoaks District Council by no later than **Noon on Wednesday 4th April 2007**. Nomination papers can be obtained from the Returning Officer.

If you would like to have a postal vote you need to apply to the **Electoral Registration Officer at Sevenoaks District Council Tel 01732 227243 or 01732 227188**.

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Yvette Coutts, James Gaywood, Malcolm Harris, Anne Oxtoby, Brian Ramsay, Vince Sewell, Margaret Solman, Andrew Tremain and Chris Ward. They can be contacted via the Clerk, Julie Hoad at the Parish Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Kent, DA3 8EL, by e mail mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk or by phone 01474 709441.

Kentcarshare Scheme

Kentcarshare is a free, simple, secure, internet based service that enables you to register your car journey on-line and find others to share the cost. Car sharing can be used to get to work on a daily basis, going to the shops once a week or even for social events that happen once in a while. There are over 1700 registered users across Kent. Car sharing not only cuts down on congestion on our roads, lowers pollution and reduces parking problems but also cuts down on your travel costs. It also has the added bonus of introducing you to new people. The system allows you to register your journey and specify any special conditions, for example same gender only, passenger only or work colleague.

For more information log on to www.kent.gov.uk/carshare.

Gorse Wood - Fly-tipping

An extensive clean up operation has recently been carried out in Gorse Wood to clear some of the dumped rubbish that has accumulated over the past few months. Those who dump rubbish in this way are not only spoiling our village but costing all of us money from our Council Tax to clear up their mess.

There is no excuse for dumping rubbish we have weekly collections of household rubbish, fortnightly collections of garden rubbish, a bulky collection service, the Saturday collection service and two local tips. For those of you who are unsure of their location they are at: Pepper Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre, Station Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, and Button Street (also known as the 'Teardrop Centre'), Swanley, Kent. The fortnightly 'Bulky Collection' service operated by Sevenoaks District Council will collect white goods from your kerbside for a small fee. Most white goods can be collected for around £10 per appliance, and they can also take non-recyclable items. Prices vary depending on what you have removed.

For further information on waste collection services visit the Sevenoaks District Council website at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk or phone 01732 227000.

REMEMBER anyone found fly-tipping or dumping rubbish in the wood or any other public open space could be liable to prosecution.

Hartley's Community Warden

Hartley has a new Community Warden, Adam Osborn, who will be taking the place of Mat Honeysett until June 2007. If you have any issues that you would like to discuss with the Community Warden such as anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, graffiti etc. or just need somebody to talk to, please feel free to contact Adam on 07773 397135.

Highways Committee Report

Following on from the report in the September issue of the Hartley Herald you will know that the Highways Committee has been looking at the proposals raised by the Chief Parking Officer for additional parking restrictions around Hartley.

The Highways Committee decided to consult those residents who would be affected by the proposals, whilst this is not the normal process for a Parish Council it was considered that because of the impact on the residents, a local consultation should be conducted. Following this consultation and the representations made by residents both in writing and in person at the Highways Committee meeting it was plain that the residents of Fairby Lane, Round Ash Way, Chantry Avenue, Oast Way and Conifer Avenue were happy with the status quo; the Parish Council therefore is to object to the proposals for timed yellow lining but will be supportive of the tightening of the restrictions outside the two entrances to Hartley Primary School.

The Council would like to thank all those who attended the Committee meeting (59) for their personal interest and it is hoped that they will support the Parish Council in what it believes to be the key issues.

One piece of good news is that the Council has received confirmation, after much pestering, that our interactive sign on the Ash Road will be in place by the end of March 2007.