



The Hartley Herald



The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8EL
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December 2009



A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your Parish Councillors would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. If you are out and about during this festive season, please spare a thought for your neighbours, as some may have difficulty getting to the shops, especially in bad weather. Remember to lock up when you leave your home and when you are out, keep your purses and wallets out of sight. Don't give thieves a Happy Christmas!

POLICE SURGERY

The next Police Surgery will be held on Thursday 28th January 2010, at the Wellfield Community Centre from 10.30a.m.—11.30a.m. The surgery gives you the opportunity to raise any concerns that you may have about local policing issues. The Neighbourhood Team will see people individually on a first come, first served basis.

PC Karen Perkins: 07807 340040,
PCSO Rachel Rowbottom: 07972 004449,
PCSO Steve Vincent: 07772 226159,
Community Warden, Adam Osborn: 07813 713085.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial on Sunday 8th November. Residents gathered with the local Scout and Guide groups and the local clergy to remember those from Hartley who had made the ultimate sacrifice. The Service was, as usual, very well attended and wreaths were laid by local organisations and local authorities. Cllr Vince Sewell read out the list of names on the War Memorial, in the absence of Len Johnson who sadly passed away earlier this year. He will be greatly missed.

Once again we offer our thanks to the bugler from the Salvation Army who played the Last Post and Reveille.

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

The next Parish Council Surgery which will take place on Saturday 16th January 2009 between the hours of 10.00a.m and 12 noon. Members of the Parish Council will be available to discuss any issues that you may have. If there is something going on in the Parish that is of concern to you that you would like to discuss on an informal basis, please call in and see us, no appointment necessary.

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT — COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT

The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Unit (CSU) is a new initiative jointly run by Sevenoaks District Council and West Kent Police and is based in Sevenoaks District Council's Argyle Road Offices.

Residents can use the unit to report various community safety issues such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti, fly-tipping, drug problems, intimidation, hate crime, noise nuisance, rowdy behaviour, issues about licensed premises, abandoned vehicles and environmental nuisance, by calling **01732 227000** or emailing community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk. Residents can also obtain crime reduction advice, information about Neighbourhood Watch and other community safety issues. The CSU brings the Police, the Council and other agencies together to give a more co-ordinated response to your community safety concerns.

If your call is regarding an emergency, a crime or serious incident which is happening now then dial 999.

WEST KENT WATCH

West Kent Watch is a crime prevention portal for the residents and traders of the West Kent area and beyond. They provide a regular newsletter to all subscribers, containing all local crime reports and relevant information for your area. Subscription is free, so sign up today at www.westkentwatch.com

COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWSLETTERS

You can now find out how Kent Police are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in Hartley, by looking at your local newsletter. In the newsletter, you will also find contact details of your neighbourhood officers, priorities for Hartley and meeting details, so you can have a say on policing where you live. You can find your newsletter at www.kent.police.uk/newsletters.

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Robert Coates, Penny Cole, James Gaywood, Steffan Granger, David Graeme, Jonathan Minns, Anne Oxtoby, Brian Ramsay and Vince Sewell. 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

HAWK YOUTH PROJECT



Hello! Allow me to introduce myself. I am Matthew Butt and I am the new Youth and Community worker for the HAWK Youth Project.

The HAWK Youth Project delivers youthwork in your area. It is funded and supported by 6 main partners; Hartley Parish Council, New Ash Green Village Association, Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Ash cum Ridley Parish Council and West Kingsdown Parish Council. For the last 6 years the project has been led by Glenn Walsh who decided that it was time for him to move on to new things. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the work he did and handing over a project moving in all the right directions. The project works in New Ash Green, West Kingsdown and Hartley and its focus is on working with 13-19 year olds in each of the communities.

In Hartley we are looking to roll out a new programme of 'detached' youth work. This will involve a team of youth workers going out onto the streets to meet with young people. We look to deliver informal-social education on issues relevant to young people, such as drugs awareness, smoking cessation, sexual health, alcohol awareness and the value of working together as a community. Our other aim is to support and empower young people to become adults that can aspire and achieve great things in life. At HAWK we see young people as a part of the community that needs to be catered for and not a 'problem' that needs to be solved. If you have any thoughts on youthwork in the area of Hartley, I would love to hear from you. I can be contacted at: Hawk Youth Project, The Parish Office, Ash Sports Centre, Ash Road, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8JZ, Tel: 01474 702760 or email: hawkyouth@live.co.uk.

HERO PROJECT

Sevenoaks District Council's HERO (Housing Energy Retraining Options) project offers practical advice and guidance on a range of options to help you plan your future housing and career and to better manage your finances. Council officer Mike Williams can help local residents get back into work, assist with housing problems and offer advice to overcome the recession.

The project, started on 17th August 2009, aims to help residents who are out of work and facing problems like potential homelessness and debt. The project is unique in that it will look at an individual's whole situation and offer tailored advice on housing, finance, retraining, applying for work and child care to help them improve their situation.

Mike Williams will be available to meet with residents face-to-face at Hartley Library every Monday between the hours of 2.00p.m.—5.00p.m. by appointment only. To arrange a meeting call Mike on 01732 227386 or email hero@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

HARTLEY HEALTH WALKS ARE ONE YEAR OLD

On Tuesday 3rd November the Hartley Walk to Health Group took time out from their usual walk to celebrate their first anniversary. The group, which meets every Tuesday at 10a.m, called in at Redlibbets Golf Course for a quick drink and nibbles to mark the success of the walks which started at the beginning of November last year. Each week 35—45 walkers, led by trained volunteers, leave Hartley Library for about an hour's walk through the woods, fields and meadows around Hartley. Walkers are encouraged to walk at their own pace and the group has back and middle markers to ensure that no-one gets lost! If you would like more information about joining the group please contact Jackie Rye on 01474 703527 or visit www.jackierye.piczo.com alternatively just turn up for the next walk.



INSPECTION AND TESTING OF MEMORIALS IN HARTLEY BURIAL GROUND

Hartley Parish Council owns and manages Hartley Burial Ground which is located adjacent to All Saints Church in Church Road, Hartley. Burial authorities have a general duty of care to maintain their burial grounds in good order. In addition, burial authorities may have duties under the health and safety legislation. In this respect Hartley Parish will do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that visitors and those working in Hartley Burial Ground are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. As part of this process Hartley Parish Council intends to assess and manage the risks imposed by memorials installed in the Burial Ground in order to provide assurance that the risks are low and that they are properly managed. In May 2009 Hartley Parish Council adopted a Memorial Safety Programme and Testing Policy which sets out how this will be achieved. The policy adopted by the Parish Council is risk based and proportionate to the management of risks associated with memorials in burial grounds. The adopted policy has been developed based on guidance issued by the Ministry of Justice. Copies of the Council's Memorial Safety Programme and Testing Policy and its Risk Assessments are available, on request, from the Hartley Parish Council Office in Hartley Library. The Parish Council hopes the work will commence within the next few months. If any member of the public requires further advice, they should contact the Clerk at the Parish Council Office.

LIBRARY UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to Hartley Library, Jackie and Rose. Jackie and Rose are the newest members of the Sevenoaks District Team and we look forward to exciting times at the library.

If you have not visited your village library recently here is a reminder of what is on offer:

- FREE secure internet access,
- We sell gifts and greetings cards. Need an environmentally friendly bag to take your books home in? No problem, we sell those too.
- We charge very reasonable rates to send a fax to anywhere in the UK or overseas.
- We offer a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books for the very young through to the young at heart. The library is FREE to join and you can borrow books for FREE for three weeks.
- Hire talking books - great for long car journeys or helping you through that pile of ironing.
- Volunteers run our FREE Home Library Service for customers who have difficulty getting to the library. If you know someone who would like to receive the Home Library Service, please talk to Rose or Jackie.
- Hire DVDs for a week. We have the latest titles which are competitively priced so you'll still have pennies for popcorn... On Tuesday it's 3 for 2 on all DVDs - cheapest one free.
- Coffee 'n' chat is on Tuesdays from 10.00am. Why not come along and make new friends over a cup of coffee or tea and biscuits.
- Baby Rhyme Time will be starting again shortly. It's a great way to meet other mums and introduce your little ones to nursery rhymes and it's FREE. More information soon.

Come and visit your local library at Ash Road, Hartley DA3 8EL.

Opening times: Tuesday 9.00am to 5.00pm
Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm

Telephone 01474 704403



WOODLAND AVENUE RECREATION GROUND — UPDATE

Plans for the proposed refurbishment of the play equipment at Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground are on going. During the last year, the Council has consulted with children at both Hartley Primary and Our Lady of Hartley RC Schools and carried out an on line consultation, which can be found at www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk if you have not yet had an opportunity to comment. During the summer, the Clerk and Members of the Council attended the West Kent Xtra Play Days and the In the Zone Summer Programme events held at Woodland Avenue and asked young people and their parents/carers for their views on what changes they would like to see. The results of these consultations are currently being considered and the Council will soon begin the process of seeking grants for the refurbishment. If you have any ideas about the type of equipment to include or if you know of any funding sources, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH EXTENSION

Work has now started on the western extension to Hartley Church. It has long been felt that the facilities at All Saints should be improved. The church has been too small for major services and disabled worshippers have had difficulty in negotiating the steps down into the nave. These issues will be addressed by the new extension which will also include toilets and the facility to make refreshments.

Gerald Cramp together with a small team has provided the mandatory archaeological brief as the contractors removed the vast amount of soil between the church and Church Road to achieve a level access from the road to the new west door. These excavations have revealed evidence of life in this area back to the 12th century and fragments of the church discarded when the church was refurbished on previous occasions.

At the moment, the archaeological group is processing the finds ready for analysis and display. In the New Year, there will be a small exhibition of some of the finds in Hartley Library and on Friday 12th February 2010 at 8pm, Gerald will give an illustrated talk to the Friends of All Saints in the Church Centre. Everyone is welcome.

HARTLEY PARISH PLAN

Villagers may wish to know that after five years work the Hartley Parish Plan is now ready for printing and distribution. The committee has worked hard to produce both the Hartley Village Design Statement and the Parish Plan. The Parish Plan will be distributed free to every household in the parish. The Village Design Statement is available, priced £5, from the Parish Council Office in Hartley Library. Copies of both documents are being placed in local libraries.

Getting to know you!



Continuing our series of "Getting to Know You," in this edition we are putting the spotlight on our newest elected Councillor, Robert Coates.

I was born in South Norwood, London, SE25 literally a stone's throw from Crystal Palace FC - needless to say I have been a lifelong supporter! The second of

two children I attended both Primary and Grammar schools in Shirley, Croydon. I left school in June 1969 aged 15 and started work two weeks later aged 16 for Barclays Bank, Belgravia (at that time a monthly British Rail season ticket from East Croydon to Victoria was £5 7s 0d (£5.35)). After 3 years of commuting to London I changed employers and commenced working for Crosse & Blackwell, who were then a subsidiary of The Nestle Co Ltd as an assistant management accountant. 1974/5 saw yet another change in direction. I settled down to what was to be 31 years in the Civil service. I worked in Peckham SE15 for 11 years, Bromley for 6 years, Dartford for 6 years, and Chatham for 8 Years all for the same Department employed in a number of posts which included National Insurance Inspector, Finance Officer, Accommodation Officer, and Personnel Officer. At this point Gordon Brown announced in his 2004 Budget speech that he was to reduce the number of civil servants in London and The South East by 60,000. I accepted a "Redundancy Avoidance Early Retirement Package" and another phase commenced in

Hartley Library - the best thing that ever happened to me! Having worked in the same office as Linda since 1986 it was inevitable that we would be working together again. She tried to shake me off but was not successful!

As you will have read from my by-election leaflet last June, I have lived in Hartley since 1992.

I am step-dad to Linda's two grown up children, Damian who is 31 this year and Donna-Marie who will be 32. As you may already know we have one elderly cat who has just celebrated her 18th birthday [or should that be her 126th in their years!].

We have joined The Hartley Country Club where I have received instruction on the finer points of Lawn Bowls. I subsequently played in seven midweek matches for the club and I would like to think that I did not disgrace myself. I am now enjoying weekly indoor triples matches at Deangate Ridge which will continue right through to when the outdoor season starts next April/May.

My Land Rover is now officially a "classic" as she is 20 years of age, however Linda still insists on referring to her as POJ [Pile of Junk!] despite the fact that she recently passed her MOT first time.

To date I have attended my "New Councillors Information Day" training, and I have also attended several full Parish Council meetings, together with Finance and General Purposes, Communications, and Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee meetings, and hosted one Parish Saturday morning Surgery. It has been a steep learning curve, however I am endeavouring to get up to speed as soon as possible.

Thanks to all who voted for me last June, I will try to fulfil your expectations of me by serving the community of Hartley to my best ability. No doubt you will let me know if I don't!

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCOUT HEADQUARTERS UPDATE...

I am very pleased to be able to confirm that we have now completed the repairs made necessary by the mindless vandalism of the summer on our HQ. The facility is back in working order and looks very smart for its enforced 'freshen up' this should see the HQ through the next 5 years. All groups are now back using the facility - and this whole process has been helped very much by an overwhelming amount of generosity from individuals and organisations locally who have made financial donations - to who I would like to say a very grateful thank you from the whole group - we have around 130 members in Longfield and Hartley Scouts who can now continue to enjoy the facilities that we provide. So, once again THANK YOU for your support. We have and will invest now and in the future so that we can continue the good work with the young people of our community.

David Tremain., LHS6 - Chairman.

THANK YOU...

Ivy Sharp would like to thank all those who helped her raise £1,088 for the Guys and St Thomas's Hospital Heart Research Unit.

If you know of anyone who has helped the community, please let us know and we will endeavour to give them a mention in the Hartley Herald.