



The Hartley Herald



The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8EL
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December 2008



A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR is wished to everyone in Hartley from your Parish Councillors. In the season of goodwill, we would ask that everyone keep an eye out for their neighbour, as some may find it difficult to go out in bad weather. At Christmas time, many of us will have a tree surrounded by presents for our family and friends, so to help make sure that they go to the right person, check your home security, thieves love Christmas too!

WOODLAND AVENUE RECREATION GROUND

Hartley Parish Council is currently conducting an online consultation on the proposed refurbishment of the play equipment at Woodland Avenue recreation ground.

Your views are important to us, so please take the time to complete the survey which can be found at: www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

If you would like to take part in the survey but don't have access to a computer, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office.

HARTLEY REMEMBERS

The annual Remembrance Service was held at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November. Residents joined local Scout and Guide groups to remember those from Hartley who had made the ultimate sacrifice. It was good to see so many residents from every age range present. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Royal British Legion, local organisations and local authorities.

We must especially thank Len Johnson for reading out the list of names on the War Memorial and the bugler from the Salvation Army who played the Last Post and Reveille.

HARTLEY HEALTH WALK

The first ever Hartley Health Walk left Hartley Library on Tuesday 4th November at 10.00a.m. led by trained volunteer walk leaders.

Cllr Felicity Broomby, Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council, took part in the walk, which is the first ever health walk in the Sevenoaks District, completely organised by volunteers.

The walk proved to be very popular, with a total of 37 residents taking part. The free, weekly walks will take place every Tuesday morning at 10.00a.m. starting and finishing at Hartley Library and lasting for approximately one hour. Participants are encouraged to dress according to the weather and to wear comfortable footwear.

An ideal way to stay healthy and meet new people. Why not make it one of your New Year's resolutions?

NEXT COUNCIL SURGERY DATE

Members of the Parish Council will be available on Saturday 13th December in the Parish Office from 10.00a.m. to 12 noon. 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.

POLICE SURGERY

The next Police Surgery will be held in Hartley Library on Saturday 13th December from 3.30p.m. to 5.00p.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.

HARTLEY'S COMMUNITY WARDEN - SAFER KENT AWARD WINNER

The Safer Kent Awards 2008 were recently held at Leeds Castle, hosted by the Chair of the Kent Police Authority and Chief Constable Michael Fuller.

Hartley's very own Community Warden, Adam Osborn, was one of six runners-up who were acknowledged for making a real difference to neighbourhoods and improving the quality of life of local residents.

Adam was commended for his part in restoring Hartley pond, which has been totally transformed and now boasts its own family of ducks! Congratulations Adam, a well deserved award!

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Penny Cole, James Gaywood, David Graeme, Steffan Granger, Malcolm Harris, 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

INSPECTION AND TESTING OF MEMORIALS IN HARTLEY BURIAL GROUND

Hartley Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of Hartley Burial Ground next to All Saints Church in Church Road. Whilst memorial owners have a specific duty to ensure memorials are installed and maintained in a safe manner, Hartley Parish Council has a general duty of care to ensure the safety of all visitors at the Burial Ground. In accordance with guidelines set down by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and the National Association of Memorial Masons, the Parish Council will be inspecting and testing the memorials in Hartley Burial Ground and has adopted a "Memorial Safety Programme and Testing Policy", explaining how it intends to carry out this process. A copy of the policy document is available from the Parish Office or may be viewed on the Council's website at www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk

It is intended that the inspection programme will commence during 2009 and will involve three elements:

- (a) initial inspection and testing of memorials,
- (b) immediate or temporary stabilisation of any memorials identified as unsafe and,
- (c) thereafter, the repair or making safe of memorials which have been stabilised temporarily.

Hartley Parish Council will employ the services of an independent and competent company specialised in this field of work to undertake the inspection and testing of memorials in Hartley Burial Ground. The company will be required to report back its findings and recommendations to the Parish Council, which will then take whatever action deemed necessary to ensure the stability of memorials.

The Council understands that this can be a sensitive issue and it is hoped that early consultation and liaison with memorial owners, visitors to the Burial Ground and the wider general public will enable the inspection to be carried out in the most efficient, effective and sympathetic way.

Anyone wishing to obtain further information should contact the Parish Clerk at The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL on telephone number 01474 709441. Alternatively the Parish Clerk may be contacted by e mail on: mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk

NORTHFIELD

The Parish Councils of Ash-cum-Ridley and Hartley are proposing to dispose of land on Northfield located in the parish of Hartley, for the provision of an electrical sub-station, access thereto and underground cabling.

Any objections to the proposed disposal should be sent in writing to either Mrs Jane Redman, Clerk to Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council at the Parish Office, Ash Green Sports Centre, Ash Road, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8JZ, or Mrs Julie Hoad, Clerk to Hartley Parish Council at the Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL.

MEOPHAM CRICKET CLUB

If you are, or know of, an aspiring young cricketer who would like to join a club with excellent facilities and first class coaches, then Meopham Cricket Club could be just what you are looking for.

If you would like to join the club, which plays at Longfield Hill, or would just like more information, please call Tony Wade on 01474 813567

RECTORY MEADOW LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

The Parish Council recently commissioned a Botanical Survey at Rectory Meadow which was undertaken by the Kent Wildlife Trust. Three notable species were recorded during the survey: man orchid, warted amanita and bluebell. Also of interest was the presence of breeding tawny owl in the eastern woodland block. A total of ten butterfly species were recorded along with a good number of moths, bumble bees, hoverflies, grasshoppers and crickets. A few fungi species were recorded in both the grassland and woodland areas.

The Parish Council would be delighted to arrange guided tours for interested groups, and a free leaflet commissioned by the Parish Council, is available to collect from the Parish Office.

ASSISTED REFUSE COLLECTION

Residents who are unable to carry their refuse and clear recycling sacks to the boundary of their property for collection may be eligible for help from Sevenoaks District Council. Residents who are frail, elderly or those with disabilities who have no one else in the house who can help, may be exempt from taking their refuse to the boundary of their property. In such cases the District Council's refuse collectors can collect the refuse from within their property. For more information on this service call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000 or email direct.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk

HARTLEY VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The Parish Council is delighted to report that the Hartley Village Design Statement, produced by the Parish Plan Steering Committee, was formally adopted by Sevenoaks District Council in April of this year. New Design Statements are adopted as Informal Planning Guidance and will be used in assessing applications for development and other changes within these villages.

The Statement will shortly be going to print and will be available to view in the Parish Office. In the meantime, if you would like to look at this document it is available to view on the District Council's website at: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/hartleyvds.pdf

HARTLEY WOOD



Hartley Parish Council would like to thank all residents who supported the application to register land at Hartley Wood as a Village Green and who gave up their time to attend the non statutory public inquiry at the beginning of October. The Parish Council is particularly grateful to Chris Alford, Gordon Angell, Tony Austin, Wendy Brooks, Ian Gibbons, Alan Gollidge, Peter Mansfield, Ian Mansfield, Michael McCready, Gill Pearson and Grant Wren who presented evidence at the inquiry.

The application to register land at Hartley Wood as a Village Green was submitted to the Registration Authority in 2005. The landowner, Southwark Council, objected to the application and the matter was referred to a non-statutory public inquiry for determination.

The appointed Inspector, Lana Wood, heard evidence presented by both parties over a period of four days. She has indicated that the decision will be available early in the New Year.

The Parish Council was disappointed with the position of two residents, Dr Roberts and Mr Glover, who were called by the objector, Southwark Council, to give evidence at the inquiry. The Council was surprised with the stance taken by those two residents, as the registration of the land as a Village Green will be for the benefit of residents and, if successful, will preserve public access in that part of Hartley Wood for ever.

LIBRARY UPDATE

205 children took up the Team Read challenge of reading 6 books during the summer holiday break. 201 [98.05%] were successful and received a certificate and gold medal! Those who finished also had the opportunity to win a £5.00 book token in a "spot the table tennis ball" competition. This was won by Amelia Halliday.

Hartley was the most successful library in the whole of Kent, so a very big "Well done" to all!

The issue of DVDs has increased by 218.95% over last year [April to March], probably due to the increase in our stock and the new titles which are now arriving on a monthly basis. Premier titles due during November - Indiana Jones and The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Kung Fu Panda, Mamma Mia, Chronicle of Narnia - Prince Caspian, and Mummy - The Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. As always best deals are every Tuesday 3 DVDs for the price of 2!

At present we have a display of Judo items loaned to us by Henry and Jamie Cross, in the WI cabinet.

Prior to this Luke Watkins displayed only a small part of his impressive collection of Dinosaurs.

There is quite a long waiting list, but if your child would like their collection displayed please give us their name and we will make a note and let you know when to bring in their items.

Our new roof has now been completed and we would like to thank you all for your patience while the work has been ongoing. Please remember that the library parking space is restricted in size therefore we politely request that you always try to park considerately.

Library business has been continuing as normal with Coffee & Chat every Tuesday morning, Library Reading Group the first Thursday of each month and Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time [Father Christmas has noted his diary to call in to see the babies and toddlers at the 18 December session]. Volunteer Drop In on 3rd Tuesday of every month, [but not in December] and Police Surgeries [dates as per their notice in the library].

We hope that you all have a good Christmas and trust that 2009 brings you all that you wish for! As always it is a pleasure to see you at any time.



Linda & Robert

PLANNING

The Parish Council is consulted by Sevenoaks District Council on all planning applications for development within the parish, as well as major applications outside the area which are likely to have an impact within the Parish. The Planning Committee usually meets every other week, on a Wednesday morning, commencing at 10.00a.m. at Hartley Library, Ash Road. Notice of the meetings are displayed on the Parish Council's website and on the Parish notice boards which are located outside the library, outside All Saints Church and on Hoselands Green. Residents are welcome to attend the meetings and will be given an opportunity to express their views before the Committee reaches its decision. If an application affects a resident they can write to Sevenoaks District Council with their views. It is helpful if a copy of the letter is also sent to the Parish Office.

Planning applications are available for inspection at the Parish Council Office during the hours of 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. Monday to Friday.

TREE-CYCLE WITH THE COUNCIL THIS CHRISTMAS

Worried that you will not be able to dispose of your real Christmas tree after this year's festivities have ended? Please worry no more! Sevenoaks District Council will collect your tree for free throughout January and it will be shredded into environmentally friendly compost.

Leave your tree at your property boundary after Christmas, and it will be collected during your usual fortnightly garden waste collection round, until the end of January. Trees should be placed where you normally put your refuse and recycling sacks, the night before your scheduled collection day. Garden waste collection dates for January 2009, are during the week commencing 5th January and week commencing 19th January. Only trees with an 89mm (3.5") in diameter or smaller trunk, will be collected.



If your tree's trunk is more than 89 mm (3.5") in diameter, it can be taken to your nearest KCC household waste recycling site.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION TIMES

Residents will be pleased to note that there will be no changes to refuse collection times over the Christmas and New Year period. The fortnightly garden waste collection service will also be unaffected.



Please ensure that your black and clear sacks and green waste are put out by 7a.m on your day of collection.

The next delivery of black and recycling sacks to Hartley residents will be during the week commencing Monday 26th January 2009.

Most of us produce more rubbish over the Christmas period so if you need more black, recycling or garden waste sacks, you can buy them from the Parish Office.

SWANLEY & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Have you ever thought about volunteering in your community? It doesn't mean giving up days of your time, just an hour or two each week would make a lot of difference.

Requests are received from social services and families asking for help. Somewhere, not too far from you, a lonely, isolated, elderly person could be hoping that someone could pop round for a chat.

Requests are also received from the elderly, asking for help in getting them to their medical appointments. Trying to get to hospital from Hartley is a task in itself!

The centre is in need of local volunteers that can help them, help these people. Volunteering can be so rewarding. If you have some spare time why not give them a ring on 01322 669292 or 0845 2412180. They would love to hear from you.

REPORT FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

The recent Safe Plate and Property Marking event held on Saturday 11th October for New Ash Green, Ash and Hartley residents was a great success. Your Neighbourhood PC, PCSO, Crime Reduction Officer and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer were all on hand to answer any questions on the day. Residents had the chance to have their number plates fitted with tamper-proof screws to combat the national problem of number plate theft. Additionally, local people had the opportunity to have items of property marked. All of these services were provided free of charge.

Further dates will be announced soon and will be advertised via local Neighbourhood Watch schemes and the respective parish councils. In the meantime, it is possible to have your bicycle or high value property items marked at your house at a time convenient to you. Please contact your PCSO, Neighbourhood Police Officer or Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer for more details or to arrange a visit.

The nights have begun to draw in and an empty house on a winter afternoon or evening can be vulnerable. Consider investing in 24 hour timers for your home, which can be connected to lights or even a radio. Having a light on in a house, can be a deterrent to a would-be burglar and can be especially useful for commuters who come home later in the day.

We also tend to see a rise in the number of burglaries at this time of year so don't get caught out. Make sure that your windows and doors are locked before leaving your house or going to bed. Store your presents in a safe and secure place, not on clear view through a window, or wrapped under the tree. Don't throw boxes or packaging that contained presents such as electronic gadgets, out with the rubbish as this could alert thieves to the fact that there is new and expensive equipment in the house. Ensure your outbuildings are also kept locked and secured and possibly consider making enhancing your home security one of your new year's resolutions. For further help and advice on these issues, use one of the contacts below:

PCSO Lianne Fry - **07772226041**

PCSO Charlie Maycock - **07989992172** and

PC Pauline Pat ching - **07807340040**

Hartley's Community Warden, Adam Osborn can also be contacted to discuss any issues that you may have, or if you just need somebody to talk to. Please feel free to contact him on **07813713085**.