



The Hartley Herald



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

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 11th May 2009 in the Pavilion at Manor Field. At the meeting Councillor James Gaywood was re-elected Chairman of the Council and Cllr Mrs Anne Oxtoby was elected Vice Chairman. The membership of the Committees and Working Groups are as follows:

COMMITTEES

Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

Cllrs Barnett, Mrs Cole, *Gaywood, Graeme, Granger, *Mrs Oxtoby and Sewell,

Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee

Cllrs Barnett, Mrs Burns, *Gaywood, Minns, *Mrs Oxtoby and Ramsay.

Communications Committee

Cllrs Abraham, Mrs Burns, *Gaywood, Graeme and *Mrs Oxtoby

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllrs Abraham, Alford, Barnett, Mrs Burns, Mrs Cole, *Gaywood, *Mrs Oxtoby, Ramsay and Sewell

Highways Committee

Cllrs *Gaywood, Graeme, Granger, Minns, *Mrs Oxtoby and Sewell plus the local County Councillor (co-opted)

Planning Committee

Cllrs Abraham, Alford, Mrs Cole, *Gaywood, Minns, *Mrs Oxtoby and Ramsay
* Ex officio

The functions of the Youth Committee were taken over by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with effect from Monday 11th May 2009.

Northfield Management Committee

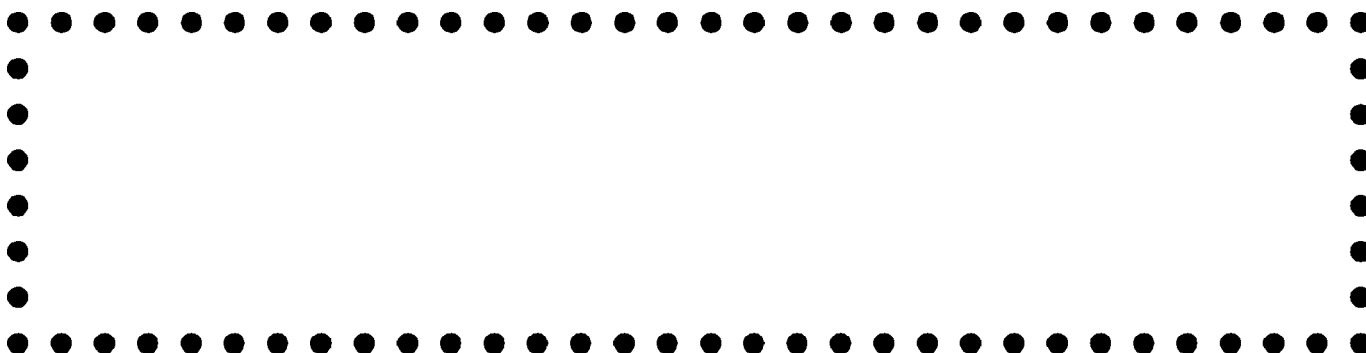
Cllrs Barnett, Mrs Brammer, Brown, Gaywood, Glover and Mrs Oxtoby
Northfield Management Committee was set up to manage the public open space at Northfield in partnership with Ash-cum-Ridley PC. Membership consists of 3 members from each Parish Council.

WORKING GROUPS

Standing Orders Working Group

Cllrs Alford, Gaywood, Mrs Oxtoby and Ramsay

The functions of the WI Hall Working Group were taken over by the Finance and General Purposes Committee with effect from Monday 11th May 2009.

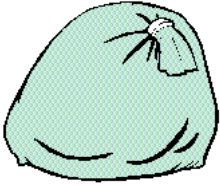


4TH JUNE 2009 - ELECTION RESULTS

The elections to the Kent County Council and to the European Parliament took place on 4th June 2009. In addition to this, there was a by-election in the Parish of Hartley. David Brazier was re-elected as your Kent County Councillor and Robert Coates was elected as your new Parish Councillor.

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

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE



Sevenoaks District Council's fortnightly Garden Waste Collection Service makes it easy for you to dispose of compostable garden waste, right from your property boundary, every two weeks on the same day as your rubbish collection.

Garden waste sacks are available to purchase from the Parish Office at a cost of £5.50 for a bundle of 12 sacks. Alternatively, you may like to consider purchasing a Wheelie Bin and Garden Waste Collection Service Permit at a cost of £41.00 for a 12 month permit, for further details contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

The next garden waste collections will take place during the week commencing 22nd June.

GRASS VERGES - ASH ROAD

You may have noticed that the grass verge on the right hand side of Ash Road, (just before you pass under the railway bridge), hasn't been cut as often as some of the other grassed areas in Hartley. This is because a cutting regime has been implemented to encourage the growth of the Bee Orchids that appeared last year. Next time you find yourself walking past the verge, why not stop and have a look?

PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY DATES

The Parish Council will be holding Surgeries on the following dates: Saturday 18th July, Saturday 19th September and Saturday 14th November between 10.00a.m. and 12 noon, in the Parish Office. Two Parish Councillors will be available on each of the above dates so, if there is anything that you would like to discuss with them on an informal basis, please call in, no appointment necessary.

IN THE ZONE SUMMER PROGRAMME



In the Zone, the holiday activity scheme operated by Sevenoaks District Council will return to **Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground on Tuesday 28th July 2009.**

The event will start at **11.00a.m.** and finish at **3.30p.m.** and it is planned to hold 'Silly Olympics' with a range of silly races and events including jelly on a spoon race, straw javelin, cotton wool shotput, backwards jump, hopping race and an obstacle course.

The events this year are Family Fun Days. Staff will not be registering children or be able to take responsibility for them during the day. Parents and carers are advised to stay and supervise their children — they can join in too! Children under 8 will not be able to take part if they are not accompanied by a parent or carer.

There is no need to book—just turn up. Please note that all activities are subject to the weather! Families are advised to bring refreshments and appropriate clothing for the activities.

The scheme is offered **free of charge** so make a note in your diary and come along!

PEDHAM PLACE HOUSEHOLD WASTE CENTRE, SWANLEY

The Pedham Place Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) re-opened on 8th April 2009.

Opening hours are as follows:

Mon - Sat. 08.00 - 16.30,

Sundays and Bank Holidays - 09.00 - 16.00.

Late night opening Wednesday, April to Sept - 08.00 - 19.00.

The Centre is closed on Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

DARTFORD CROSSING

Do you use the Dartford - Thurrock crossing? If so, did you know that purchasing a Dart-Tag reduces the charge from £1.50 to £1.00. You do not have to be a regular user, however, you must use your Tag at least once a year or you may be asked to return it. To apply online, visit www.dart-tag.co.uk or alternatively telephone 01322 280 200. You can also call in to the Customer Centre at Crossing Offices, South Orbital Way, Dartford, Kent DA1 5PR. There is a 'no charge' period between the hours of 10pm—6am

THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD

The Pavilion at Manor Field is available to hire and is ideal for children's parties or as a venue for a weekly or monthly meeting place. With kitchen and toilet facilities and plenty of off road parking, it could be just what you are looking for. For more information contact the Clerk at the Parish Office on 01474 709441 or email: mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

REMI NDER TO DOG OWNERS



Dog mess is a problem which affects everyone. It is not just unsightly and unpleasant, it is a health hazard. Please help to keep Hartley free from this problem, by clearing up after your dog.

The Parish Council has provided a number of dog bins in Hartley, to enable you to dispose of any dog waste responsibly. Dog bins are located for your convenience at the following sites: 1 at Manor Field, 3 at Northfield, 1 at Billings Hill Shaw, 2 at Rectory Meadow, 1 at Longfield Hill Recreation Ground, 1 at Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground and 1 at the junction of Brambledown and Hawthorns.

Fouling is not a crime. FAILURE TO PICK IT UP is the crime and you could be given a £50 fixed penalty ticket or taken to a Magistrates Court and fined up to £1,000 if you fail to clear up after your dog that has fouled in a public place!

WORKING WITH YOU IN HARTLEY—NEWS FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Getting to know local people and being able to offer advice and support to the communities we serve is one of the most rewarding aspects of working in a neighbourhood policing team.

The team was very encouraged by a crime reduction event that was held recently. Break-ins to sheds in the Gorsewood Road and Manor Drive areas of Hartley had caused concern for residents. We visited both areas in May to offer a free property marking service and to give local people the chance to have 'anti-tamper' screws fitted to their vehicle number plates, again free of charge. Here are some tips that may help to keep your property safe:

- Put all property away after use and lock the shed or garage.
- Shed alarms can be fitted quite cheaply and hanging curtains or nets at windows prevents the thief from viewing your property.
- Outdoor security lighting can also be installed at a low cost. Security lighting should be fitted at a height of at least 2.5 metres (eight feet).
- Do you have a clear line of sight to your shed or garage? If not, can trimming bushes and trees rectify this?
- Up and over garage doors can be made more secure by fitting a padlock with a hasp and staple to both sides.
- Double garage doors with a rim latch can be supplemented with a mortice deadlock.
- If your garage is attached to the main building ensure that connecting doors are locked and as secure as external doors.
- Security mark your property with your house number and post code. Details of specific makes, models and serial numbers should be recorded and stored safely. For larger and more distinctive items it is useful to take photographs to keep with the other details also mentioned.
- All ladders should be locked inside sheds or garages so thieves do not use them to gain access to the rest of the house. If this is not possible, then try to chain them up.
- Expensive mowers and bicycles should be secured to a fixed object or the floor to make them more difficult to move.

The neighbourhood team will also be taking its crime reduction message to the Brambledown area in early June. Along with Age Concern we will be visiting people living in sheltered accommodation to offer advice and to check that the appropriate security measures are in place.

Another piece of news was the conviction of a 17-year-old youth for a garage break-in at New Ash Green recently. He was given a 12-month rehabilitation order, including intensive supervision for six months and a three-month curfew.

If you would like to talk to a member of the neighbourhood policing team about local issues of concern, please come along to one of our regular surgeries:

Saturday 13th June - 10.30a.m. - 12.00p.m. at Hartley Library

Thursday 25th June - 10.30a.m. - 11.30a.m. at Wellfield Community Hall

You can contact your local neighbourhood policing team on the following mobile numbers:

PC Pauline Patching - 07807 340040 or PCSO Charlie Maycock - 07989 992172

However, please bear in mind that we may sometimes be engaged on other incidents, or off duty, and might not be able to answer your call immediately. If you leave a message on our mobiles we will get back to you at the earliest opportunity but, if the matter requires a quicker response, then you can call **01732 771055** to report a non-urgent crime. If a crime is in progress or it is an emergency always call **999**.

You can also visit the Kent Police website www.kent.police.uk for more information on neighbourhood policing in your local area, news, crime prevention advice and more.

Getting to know you!



Jonathan Minns was born in central London but has lived locally for much of his life and in Hartley for 38 years. He has been married for 43 years and has two grown up children and three grandchildren.

After leaving school in Bexley, Jonathan went into

the Building Industry as a Quantity Surveyor, employed with a series of organisations ranging from Local Government to small, medium and large Construction firms, and self employed with a number of Construction Agencies.

Jonathan's hobbies include diary writing, Family History research, chess playing and Morris dancing.

Jonathan and his family have taken an active interest in the local Scout and Guide Troups and the family were heavily involved in the Gang Shows of the 1980's and 90's.

Whilst not against change, Jonathan is very keen to preserve Hartley as a village and believes that having a strong Parish Council is essential to convey the views of the residents to the Authorities who ultimately make the final decisions.

GET CREATIVE

West Kent Extra are running a series of **free** activities for the **over 55's**, as part of their Active Lifestyles Programme. Come and explore your creative side with Tamara Wilder of Wild Wing Arts at **Hartley Library**. Sessions will run every Friday for a period of ten weeks from **Friday 5th June from 10.30a.m. - 12 noon**. Discuss different ideas and themes and try new skills, from craft to story-telling. This is a new, friendly, social group and you don't have to have any specific skills or experience to join in—just come and have a go, for free!

The Active Lifestyles Programme is funded by a Local Schemes Grant from Kent County Council. For more information on the programme, or to book your place on the creative sessions, please call Heather Brightwell on 01732 749487.

HARTLEY LIBRARY UPDATE

Everyone is still welcome to join us at the popular coffee morning for a chat and laugh. The library reading group continues to meet on the first Thursday in each month. Our WI cabinet displays since our last update have been Bionicles loaned by Haydn Norman, Littlest Pet Shops by Lexy Gagg, Disney Pins by Sian & Zoe Jackett. At the moment we have Russian Dolls loaned by Amelia, Louisa, and Zara Halliday. There is still a waiting list, but if you would like to show a collection just let us have your name and we will let you know when to bring in your goodies.

Well done to all of the children involved!! Everyone visiting the library really looks forward to seeing what the next display might be. They are fantastic!

The Easter Chick Hunt again gave fun to children and adults alike including much amusement for Rob and I. 31 chicks were found by James Hay & Charles King who won Easter Eggs, Ben Collins who won a Lego Robot, Niamh Begley who won a soft toy Rabbit, and Kira Luscombe who won a soft toy Duck.

Frank is still delivering books to your door if you are unable to get to the library. Let us know if you need this service.

We have a new volunteer called Kat who runs the Bounce and Rhyme Time for the children every other Thursday from 2.15pm to 3.00pm. Our thanks go to Lisa, from whom Kat took over. Lisa has moved on to the heady heights of paid employment with which we wish her lots of luck!

Haven in Hartley - This is the name I gave to the project to provide our library with a quiet area for customers and staff to sit and read, or just sit and enjoy. I managed to obtain grants from Hartley Parish Council, and Kent County Council. Also a CSV Action Earth award that is still to be used. Our District Manager paid for the removal of the old fence, overgrown hedge, and rubbish that had accumulated over a number of years. Mr & Mrs Ellis, who own the land adjacent to the library, kindly arranged for their wall and fencing to be repaired and we thank them for their co-operation. This gave us a blank canvas to then play with. Our boundary fence was replaced, patio paving and walls were pressure-washed, gravel refreshed, and pots, seating and plants purchased. Please feel free to use the courtyard whenever we are open.

For those of you who are unaware, Rob and I will last work in the library on 20th June. I will become an OAP on 4th July and Rob is jumping on the band wagon! I have chosen to take retirement but have to say we will miss you all, big time! Just want to say thank you for making our time so enjoyable and special. We have had a wonderful time serving our customers and hopefully we will see you from time to time around the village.

Linda & Robert