



The Hartley Herald



The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8EL
Tel/Fax: 01474 709441 Email: mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk

March 2008

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ATTEND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2008 AT 7.45pm AT HARTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROUND ASH WAY

Your Parish Councillors invite you to attend the Annual Parish meeting which this year will be held on Friday 16th May. At the meeting we will be able to provide the accounts for the past year as well as a report from the Chairman of the Council. We have invited several guest speakers and hope that you will come along and listen to what they have to say and of course to ask questions. This is your opportunity to review the work of the Parish Council and for you to express your concerns on local issues to our guests.

Horse Riding at Northfield



The first year of riding at Northfield has been very successful despite the late opening because of vandalism. All riders and horses have enjoyed being able to exercise

in a more natural place than along the roads and walkers have also expressed their pleasure at seeing horses on the field. The trial period is over and it has been decided to continue the ride as a permanent feature of Northfield. The new season will open on 5th April but ground conditions permitting it will be open over the Easter weekend.

Details of how to become a member are on the Hartley Parish Council web site or contact Ash Green Sports Centre on 01474 707164.

Council Surgery Dates

Once again two of your Parish Councillors will be available in the Parish Office on Saturday 19th April between 10am and noon.

If there something going on (or not 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!

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Penny Cole, James Gaywood, David Graeme, Steffan Granger, Malcolm Harris, Jon 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 hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk or by phone 01474 709441

Temporary closure of Pepperhill Waste Recycling Centre

It has come to our attention that the site will be closed on **17 February 2008** for approximately **five months**. This is to allow Kent County Council and its contractors time to redevelop the site, and to build a new modern, purpose built recycling facility.

Whilst the site is closed, residents can take their household waste to either the Dartford Household Waste Recycling Centre, Old Rochester Way, Dartford Heath, Dartford DA1 5BY, operated by Kent County Council, or the Cuxton Household Waste Recycling Centre, Sundridge Hill, Cuxton, operated by Medway Council.

You may be asked for evidence of your address to ensure you have a right to dispose of rubbish at the site.

Alternatively visit The Teardrop Centre, Button St., Swanley BR8 8TE (opposite Pedham Place Golf Course) which is closer and no ID required.

Police Surgery Dates

The Police are continuing with their surgeries which are held in Hartley Library between 10.30am and 12 noon on a Saturday. Future dates are 8th March, 19th April, 10th May, 14th June and 12th July.

Getting to know you!

Spotlight on Steffan Granger



Steffan was born in Plumstead. His family moved to New Ash Green when he was 6, then aged 15, they moved to Hartley where he lived for 13 years. Steffan moved from the village in pursuit of his career, but never forgot Hartley and returned in 2005 along with his partner Elaine.

Steffan and Elaine are keen to live the 'good life', they grow some of their own vegetables, keep a small flock of chickens in their back garden and have an interest and concern for wildlife and the environment. They're both keen on cycling and walking.

Steffan is an experienced Civil Engineer with an expertise in Infrastructure which includes highways, drainage and services design, construction / refurbishment. He feels he has a lot to offer the local community with an objective but, considerate and straight talking approach. He understands the frustrations of trying to maintain a good infrastructure given the government imposed financial constraints and bureaucracy that seem to blight public life today.

Steffan is a down to earth, friendly and approachable person who, although having a forward thinking attitude, is a traditionalist at heart, that is to say he believes in traditional values of discipline, respect and family support. He would like Hartley to maintain it's current facilities or improve them in the future and feels this is something he can help the community to achieve.

Parking

Once again concerns continue to be raised about the inconsiderate parking of a few people. The main problem areas are around our two local primary schools and at Cherry Trees shops. Parking on pavements not only blocks the way for prams, pushchairs and mobility scooters but is in fact against the law, remember pavements are for pedestrians not vehicles.

At the rear of the Cherry Trees shops there is a customer car park for shoppers to use and the Council is pursuing a change to the front parking bays to make it more vehicle friendly parking. We would urge you to use the rear car park when possible, especially if you are there for long periods of time. We appreciate that the car park is badly signposted and the Parish Council hope to provide a new sign in the near future.

Parking at the schools is an ongoing problem; representations have been made to the council over the damage being sustained to Stack Lane which is now designated a Restricted Byway. The status of a restricted byway means that it is an offence to use a motor vehicle on this road unless you have an easement or legal right of way, so it could be classed as illegal for non-residents to drive on this Byway. So remember when delivering or collecting your child from the schools please where ever possible WALK but if this is not possible please park considerately, remember there are people living adjacent to the schools.

The Parish Council has asked Sevenoaks Council for the Parking Enforcement Team to visit the areas we highlight as creating problems so WATCH OUT!

Women's Institute Hall

The Hartley Women's Institute has very generously offered to transfer the freehold of it's hall to the Parish Council, so that this large, versatile and well used venue can continue to be enjoyed by the residents of Hartley for the foreseeable future.

The Parish Council, at the January meeting agreed to pay the cost of the legal transfer, and will undertake to maintain and refurbish the hall for the benefit of the users. Also of course, we look forward to the Hartley Evening and Afternoon W.I.s continuing to use the hall for their usual activities for many years to come.

Hartley Library Update

We now have a greater selection of DVDs for you to borrow - £2.50 for a whole week.

More people have joined the Tuesday morning coffee and chat. Everyone is welcome - a good opportunity to meet the locals and enjoy lively banter and lots of laughter!

Dates to remember:

Lisa is running craft sessions between 2-4 on 8th and 15th April.

Don't forget to look out for this year's Easter Chick Hunt Competition.

Garden Refuse Sacks

With the closure of the tip at Pepperhill you may wish to purchase sacks to dispose of your garden rubbish. The sacks are collected fortnightly on the same day as your normal refuse. Bags can be purchased from the Parish Office.