



# The Hartley Herald



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

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March 2009

## **AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2009 AT 7.45p.m AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH CENTRE, ASH ROAD**

Your Parish Councillors invite you to attend the Annual Parish meeting which this year will be held on Friday 15th May. At the meeting, the accounts for the past year will be available and there will also be a report from the Chairman of the Council. Several guest speakers have been invited and we are pleased to confirm that Dr Howard Stoate our MP will attend, as well as David Brazier our County Councillor. We hope that you will come along to listen to what they have to say and to ask any questions that you may have. This is your opportunity to review the work of the Parish Council and to receive reports from the Chairmen of the Council and various Committees. It is also an opportunity for you to express your concerns on local issues to our guests.

### **INSPECTOR RECOMMENDS LAND AT HARTLEY WOOD IS REGISTERED AS A VILLAGE GREEN**

The Inspector appointed by Kent County Council to hear evidence in respect of the application to register land at Hartley Wood as a village green has recommended that the land owned by Southwark Council in Hartley Wood is registered as a village green. The Inspector was satisfied that the application met all the legal tests and the matter will now be considered by Kent County Council at a meeting of the Regulation Committee Member Panel, hopefully sometime in March.

The Parish Council welcomes the Inspector's findings and is confident that Kent County Council will endorse the recommendation and designate the land as a village green. In doing so this will secure and protect public rights of access in that part of Hartley Wood in perpetuity.

Members of the public wishing to view the Inspector's report in its entirety may do so at the Parish Office.

### **POLICE SURGERY**

The Police will be holding Surgeries on Saturday 7th March between 10.00a.m. and 12 noon at Hartley Library and on Thursday 26th March between 10.30a.m. and 11.30a.m. at Wellfield Community Hall.

The surgeries give 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.

### **INSPECTION AND TESTING OF MEMORIALS IN HARTLEY BURIAL GROUND**

In the last edition of the Hartley Herald, the Parish Council advertised its intention to inspect and test the memorials in Hartley Burial Ground. In light of new memorial safety guidance received from the Ministry of Justice, the Council will be reviewing its policies and therefore, the proposed inspection and testing of the memorials will be postponed until further notice.

### **INFORMATION LEAFLETS**

The Parish Council has produced a number of information leaflets which are available for collection from the Parish Office and Hartley Library. There are six leaflets available, entitled What is a Parish Council?, How to ask a Question at Council & Committee Meetings, Local Services and Useful Contacts, Amenities & Open Spaces, Planning and the Parish Council and Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance. The leaflets will also be available on the Parish Council's website.

### **NEXT COUNCIL SURGERY DATE**

Once again, two of your Parish Councillors will be available in the Parish Office on Saturday 14th March between 10.00a.m. and 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.

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Penny Cole, James Gaywood, Steffan Granger, David Graeme, 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](mailto:mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk) or by phone 01474 709441

## **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PEDHAM PLACE HOUSEHOLD WASTE CENTRE, SWANLEY**

The Pedham Place Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) closed on 9th February 2009 for approximately eight weeks. This is to allow Kent County Council to carry out environmental improvement works.

Whilst the site is closed, arrangements have been put in place to accept additional household waste at either the Kent County Council Dartford Heath HWRC or at the Dunbrik (Sevenoaks) HWRC sites. Alternatively residents may continue to use the site at Pepperhill.

### **BEE ORCHIDS - ASH ROAD**

Last year the Parish Council was delighted to note the appearance of 'Bee Orchids' on the grass verge on the right hand side of Ash Road, (just before the railway bridge if approaching from Hartley). Discussions are underway with Kent Highway Services to implement a grass cutting regime to encourage the growth of the Bee Orchids this year. Residents may therefore notice that the grass on this verge is not cut as regularly as some of the other grassed areas around Hartley.

### **HORSE RIDING AT NORTHFIELD**

The ride was enjoyed by about 20 riders and their horses during last year. It has been closed since November to preserve the track in good condition and will re-open again next month, weather permitting. Membership of the ride is open to any rider who is able to hack to Northfield. Details of how to renew or apply for membership of the ride can be found on the Parish Council's website or obtained from Ash Sports Centre tel: 01474 707164.

## **WOODLAND AVENUE RECREATION GROUND — HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY?**

As reported in the last edition of the Hartley Herald, the Parish Council has been conducting an online consultation on the proposed refurbishment of the play equipment at **Woodland Avenue recreation ground**. The consultation has been running since the beginning of November 2008, but so far, only 25 responses have been received. If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in the consultation and have any ideas about the type of equipment to include, please visit our website at [www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk). If you would like to take part in the survey, but do not have access to a computer, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office. Your views are important to us.

### **MEMORIAL BENCH, BILLINGS HILL SHAW**

The Parish Council is currently considering the possibility of installing a bench on the open space at Billings Hill Shaw. If you, or someone you know would like to provide a memorial bench to be sited in this location, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office.

### **SWANLEY & DISTRICT VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

Have you considered volunteering in your community? The Swanley & District Volunteer Centre holds a 'drop in' on the third Tuesday in the month at Hartley Library between 9.15a.m.—11.15a.m. If you would like to volunteer or find out further information on what is involved, why not come along?



### **CHARLTON COMES TO HARTLEY**

Charlton Football Club will be running weekly football skills sessions at **WOODLAND AVENUE RECREATION GROUND** on Wednesday evenings from 5.00p.m.—6.00p.m. for 8—13 year olds and from 6.00p.m.—7.00p.m. for 14+ year olds, starting on 25th March 2009. The sessions will run for approximately twelve weeks and will once again be provided **FREE OF CHARGE**. No need to book. For further information call Dan (West Kent Co-ordinator) on 07904 965816.

### **HARTLEY HEALTH WALK**

A total of 92 people have signed up for the Hartley Health Walk since it started on 4th November 2008. The free walks leave from Hartley Library every Tuesday morning at 10.00a.m. and last for about an hour. The walks are sponsored by Sevenoaks District Council and are led by a trained volunteer. Any age and ability is welcome and you can walk at your own pace.

### **BENEFIT SURGERY**

A Benefits Assessor continues to be available at Hartley Library each Wednesday afternoon, between the hours of 2.00p.m. and 4.00p.m. for any resident requiring general advice and guidance on benefit claims. The Assessor will be able to verify documents for benefit claim purposes, check new claims and offer advice on any other documents needed to support a claim.

There are two half-hour appointments available from 3.00p.m. and a 'drop in' clinic from 2.00p.m.—3.00p.m. If you would like to take advantage of the service and want to make an appointment, contact the Council's Benefits section on 01732 227000 or call in to the Library between 2.00p.m.—3.00p.m. where you will be seen on a first come first served basis.

## REPORT FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Since the end of December, officers have been carrying out additional duties in the north of the Sevenoaks district, focussing on preventing burglary and car crime. The operation is being supported by crime reduction activities including property marking and promoting Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the district.

People can take simple steps to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime. Consider investing in 24-hour timers for your home, which can be connected to sidelights or even a radio. Having a light on in a house, in an upstairs bedroom for instance, can be a deterrent to a would-be burglar, and can be especially useful for commuters when coming home later on in the day. Make sure that your windows and doors are locked up before leaving your house or going to bed. Ensure your outbuildings are also kept locked and secured, and possibly consider enhancing your home security. The best way to secure the high-value property in your sheds and garages is by purchasing and fitting a quality hasp and staple and closed shackled padlock, and fitting a shed alarm. It is possible to have your high-value shed and garage items property marked by contacting your neighbourhood policing team.

It is also possible to purchase property marking kits (£20), to mark-up items in your home such as televisions, mobile phones and radios. These kits mark up to 50 items, and also include property and window stickers. For more details, please contact Carey Amor on 01580 711004.

We also have some good news to report. A teenager was recently arrested on suspicion of burglary in Hartley, following an incident at an address in Gorse Way where a shed was broken into, although nothing was taken other than a pair of gloves. The teenager was charged with burglary. Police bail was not granted and he remained in police custody until he appeared before magistrates in Sevenoaks.

Please remember never to leave anything in your car, even for a short time. Do not hide objects under a coat or put them in the glove box - thieves know where to look. Consider storing your vehicle in your garage, where your vehicle will be out of sight - you could even get additional security for your garage by using pad bolts to secure the door. This could significantly reduce the chance of you being a target for crime - including theft from/of your vehicle, as well as criminal damage. **Out of sight, out of mind.**

For further help and advice on these issues, please contact:



PCSO Pete Hylands  
07969 584 203

PC Pauline Patching  
07807 340 040

PCSO Charlie Maycock  
07989 992 172



**Kent  
Police**



## HARTLEY LIBRARY UPDATE

Lisa continues to perform her Bounce & Rhyme Time sessions with babies and toddlers every two weeks, the next get togethers are on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March. Lisa also ran a Craft session on 17<sup>th</sup> February [ticket only] and this enjoyed a very good attendance.

Frank continues to deliver books to your door every month if you are unable to get out. If you would like to take advantage of this scheme then just give us a ring.

Free Coffee & Chat on Tuesday mornings [opening time onwards] has grown in numbers, new faces are always welcome - see you soon?

Premier titles due during February - Taken, Burn After Reading, Open Season 2, Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, and High School Musical 3. Best deals to be had every Tuesday when 3 DVDs are borrowed for the price of 2!

The W.I. cabinet displays any collection that the children of Hartley want to share with the public. If you have a child who wants to share, please talk to Linda or Robert. Recent displays include David Cole's "Monsters in my pocket", Grace Cole's "Puppies in my pocket", and currently Carter Norman's "Lego".

Are you free the first Thursday of each month? Come and join in our reading group from 9.30 am onwards. Meet like minded people and enjoy lively discussion around chosen books.

As always it is a pleasure to see you at any time.



Linda and Robert

## HARTLEY'S COMMUNITY WARDEN

Adam Osborn is the Community Warden for Hartley. If you have any issues that you would like to discuss with Adam, such as anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, graffiti etc. or if you just need somebody to talk to. Please feel free to contact him on 07813 713085.

## THE PAVILION, MANOR FIELD

If you are seeking a venue for a regular weekly or monthly meeting place or perhaps a children's party, the Pavilion at Manor Field could be just what you are looking for.

With kitchen and toilet facilities, as well as plenty of off road parking, the Pavilion is available to hire at a reasonable rate. For further information contact the Clerk at the Parish Office on 01474 709441 or email: [mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk).

## ELECTION DAY 2009

The next county council elections will take place on Thursday 4 June 2009. Elections will also take place on that date for the European Parliament.

You can vote only if you are shown on the electoral register. Contact Sevenoaks District Council to ensure you are entered on the electoral register - especially if you have recently moved.

You can now vote by post. For more detailed information on how to register to vote, what further elections are happening in your area and what democratic institutions you are electing, go to [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk).

## KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES

Kent Highway Services will soon be launching 'The Parish Portal', a key part of its transformation initiative which is designed to offer a full range of highways services online. "My Kent Highways Online" will provide the General Public, Parish Representatives and Council Members with a number of online services to make access to highways services more convenient. In the meantime, if you are aware of any roads or pavements that need repairing, you can report issues online at [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways) or by calling 08458 247 800, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you know of any potholes that need repairing, these can also be reported to Kent Highway Services, as above.

## REFUSE AND RECYCLING SACKS

If you require additional refuse or recycling sacks, these can be purchased from the Parish Office at a cost of 50p for a roll of recycling sacks and £1.50 for a roll of black refuse sacks

## GARDEN REFUSE

The fortnightly garden refuse collection continues throughout the winter. Garden waste is collected on the same day as your ordinary refuse. The next collection date for Hartley will be during the week commencing 2nd March 2009. Garden waste sacks are available to purchase from the Parish Office at a cost of £5 for 12 sacks.

