



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

June 2006

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 8th May 2006 in the Pavilion at Manor Field. At the meeting Councillor James Gaywood was re elected Chairman of the Council and Cllr Malcolm Harris was elected Vice Chairman. The Council expressed its appreciation towards the previous Vice Chairman Cllr Alan Barnett for his hard work over the years.

The membership of the Committees and Working Groups are as follows:

COMMITTEES

Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

Cllrs Barnett, Gaywood, Harris, Mrs Oxtoby, Sewell, Mrs Solman, Tremain and Ward

Burial Grounds and Garden of Remembrance Committee

Cllrs Barnett, Mrs Burns, Mrs Coutts, Gaywood, Harris and Mrs Oxtoby

Communications Committee

Cllrs Abraham, Alford, Mrs Burns, Gaywood, Harris and Mrs Oxtoby

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllrs Abraham, Alford, Barnett, Gaywood, Harris and Ramsay

Highways Committee

Cllrs Gaywood, Harris, Ramsay, Sewell, Mrs Solman and Ward

Planning Committee

Cllrs Abraham, Alford, Mrs Coutts, Gaywood, Harris, Ramsay and Mrs Solman

Special Projects Committee

Cllrs Alford, Barnett, Gaywood, Harris, Mrs Oxtoby, Ramsay and Tremain

Youth Committee

Cllrs Mrs Burns, Gaywood, Harris, Sewell and Tremain

Northfield Management Committee

Cllrs Barnett, Brown, Mrs Clark, Gaywood, Glover and Mrs Solman.

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

Community Facilities Working Group

Cllrs Alford, Mrs Burns, Ramsay and Sewell

Standing Orders Working Group

Cllrs Alford, Barnett, Gaywood and Ward

HARTLEY WOOD



Residents may have noticed that attempts have been made to prevent members of the public from gaining access to part of Hartley Wood by erecting fences and displaying warning signs. This action has been taken by the London Borough of Southwark, who own 28 acres of woodland in Hartley Wood where it abuts the landfill site off Hartley Bottom Road. Hartley Parish Council is currently seeking to have this area of woodland designated as a village green and, if successful, would secure the rights of access for members of the public in the area of woodland owned by Southwark in perpetuity. To qualify as a village green, the land must have been used by local people for recreational purposes without obstruction, permission, secrecy or force for a period in excess of 20 years. The Parish Council has presented evidence to Kent County Council, who as the registration authority, will determine the outcome of the Parish Council's application. Hartley Parish Council is extremely concerned about the action taken by the London Borough of Southwark and is taking steps to discuss the matter further with Southwark. For further information, please visit the Council's website on www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk or call into Hartley Library to pick up a leaflet.

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Alan Barnett, Jane Burns, Yvette Coutts, James Gaywood, Malcolm Harris, Anne Oxtoby, Brian Ramsay, Vince Sewell, Margaret Solman, Andrew Tremain and Chris Ward. 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.

NORTHFIELD

The acquisition of this splendid area is proving to be a great success. 95% of the trees that have been planted have survived which by any standards is very good and easily meets the requirements of the Forestry Commission for them to pay the Northfield Management Committee the balance of their grant later this year. It is intended to give some attention to the ancient woodland which has been neglected for many years. There is an excellent group of volunteers which has contributed greatly to this valuable asset.



When the early consultations about the uses to which the area could be put were carried out, the provision of a horse riding route gained a good deal of support. The plan is to make it circular with the entrance/exit being in Church Road. There will be a membership scheme for the users which will be regularly monitored and reviewed. **If you have any comments or believe that circumstances have changed since the first consultation please let the Parish Clerk know.**

RECTORY MEADOW

An 'Open Day' is being held on **16th June at 11am** with refreshments, in order to celebrate our success in achieving Local Nature Reserve status for Rectory Meadow and also to thank the organisations and individuals who have been instrumental in restoring the meadow to when decades ago it used to be grazed. We are greatly indebted in particular to the North West Kent Countryside Project and their band of volunteers over the last nine years, with their guidance and dedication in restoring what they regard as a rare and valuable habitat. Grants totalling nearly £7000 for 'surveys' and a '10 year management plan', fencing, tree felling and information plaques etc, were gratefully received from the Rail Link Countryside Initiative. The above organisations and local volunteers who have helped over the years have been invited to the Open Day, and members of the public are welcome to attend. English Nature and Sevenoaks District Council will also be represented.

CAN YOU HELP?

New Ash Green & Hartley Cricket Club are seeking someone to prepare & clear away the Cricket Club teas on a Saturday afternoon at Manor Field, for which a small payment would be made. If you are able to help, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office who will pass on your details to the Cricket Club.

REFUSE SACKS

Are you in need of additional refuse sacks? Sacks can be purchased from the Parish Office at a cost of £4.00 for a pack of 12 garden waste sacks, £1.50 for a roll of black refuse sacks and 50 pence for a roll of recycling sacks.



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

As you will have read in our previous Newsletter the United Reformed Church has now closed its doors to the holding of Religious services. The members of the Church will be using the facilities of All Saints for their services. This of course could create a problem for the WI and others who use the car parking area; but rather than seeing this as a problem it could be seen as an opportunity. At present the Village has no Community Centre/Village Hall of its own, a fact that was highlighted by Sevenoaks District Council a couple of years ago when it appeared we were the only village in Sevenoaks without one.

So was born the idea of, if possible obtaining the building/land for community use as a Village Hall/Heritage centre open to all residents. Approaches have been made to Sevenoaks District Council and our local MP for support and the Parish Council has met representatives of the URC to look at the future of the site. The meeting with the URC was very useful and they seemed very supportive of our ideas. They did though emphasise that they were controlled to some extent by the Charity Commissioners to ensure that they make best use of the Land/Buildings.

From this has been born a Feasibility Study by ourselves into the potential usage and costings of such a project, bearing in mind that if the land/buildings were lost to developers the opportunity for our own Community Centre in the centre of the village may never appear again. This study will have to go before the main Parish Council and once ratified will be presented to the URC Synod as our draft views.

I understand that as this goes to press that the URC Synod has given permission for the continued use of the car parking area, as they are sympathetic to the community use.

Therefore can I please ask, so that we can respond, if anybody has any skills, knowledge of funding or would be prepared to use such a facility can they please contact the Parish Office, this will allow us to judge the need/support we will get. Please let us know if you could help.