

The Hartley Herald

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Kent DA3 8EL
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March 2007

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 25TH MAY 2007 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 25th May. We have invited several guest speakers and are please to confirm that Dr Howard Stoate our MP will attend as well as David Brazier our County Councillor. This is your opportunity to review the work of the Parish Council and receive reports from the Chairmen of Council and various Committees. It is also an opportunity for you to express your concerns on local issues to our guests.

District and Parish Council Elections

A reminder that the elections for the Parish Council and Sevenoaks District Council will be held on Thursday 3rd May 2007. There will be 13 places to be filled on the Parish Council and 3 for the Hartley and Hodsoll Street Ward on the District Council. The persons elected will serve for a period of 4 years. If you are interested in serving your local community as a Parish Councillor you need to satisfy the following criteria; you must be 18 years of age or older, be either a British or qualifying Commonwealth or European Union citizen, and you must also have one of the following local connections:

1. Be on the register of electors within the parish.
2. During the previous 12 months occupied as owner or tenant, land or premises in the parish.
3. During the previous 12 months have as your only or principal place of work, an address within the parish.
4. During the previous 12 months have lived in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres of it.

A candidate at a parish election requires the signed support of two electors in the electoral area, that is a proposer and seconder. Nomination papers are available from the Returning Officer at Sevenoaks District Council telephone 01732 227242. Completed nomination papers must be submitted to the Returning Officer at Sevenoaks District Council between 28th March and noon on 4th April.

If you would like to have a postal vote you need to apply to the Electoral Registration Officer at Sevenoaks District Council Tel 01732 227243 or 01732 227188.

The Deadline for postal vote applications to reach the District Council will be 5.00pm on Wednesday 18th April 2007.

Father Hugh Bridge RIP

The Parish Council would like to extend it's sympathy to Fr Hugh's family, friends and parishioners following his unexpected death on 21st January.

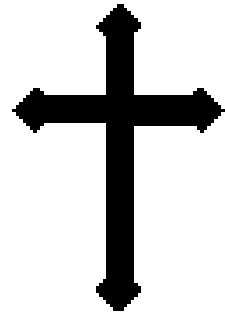
Father Hugh served the community as the Parish Priest at St Francis De Sales Roman Catholic Church since 1996.

He was a man with a strong sense of social justice and for many years directed the operation of Cathedral Employment Enterprises, an organisation that was dedicated to enabling people to train and find employment, a service that is now continued by Myrrh Education and Training.

The funeral mass, which took place on Tuesday 6th February with Bishop John Hine as the Principal Celebrant, was attended by many priests and parishioners as well as his family and local clergy of other faiths. At Fr Hugh's request he was buried in Hartley Cemetery, Church Road.

Fr Hugh touched many people's lives and anyone who would like to make a donation in his memory can leave their offering at Whitefriars, Church Road. Donations will be divided between the House of Mercy, who provide a day centre and temporary accommodation for homeless people in Gravesend, and Myrrh Education & Training.

He will be missed by all who knew him.



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

Wildlife Gardening Workshop

Sevenoaks District Council is holding a free Wildlife Gardening Workshop on Thursday 26th April at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Cramptons Road, Sevenoaks from 6.30 p.m. Places on the workshop are limited and must be booked in advance by telephoning 01732 227000 or by e mail: sus.dev@sevenaks.gov.uk.



The aim of the workshop is to give you first hand advice on how to use features of your garden to attract and protect wildlife. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a new gardener or want to make improvements to your existing garden. The event has been organised in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust and North West Kent Countryside Partnership.

Also the Gardening for Wildlife Award Scheme will be launched on 21st March - the first day of spring. Information will be available from the Parish Office. Entering the scheme is easy, just fill out the simple form which provides evidence that you think about wildlife in your garden. Every entry into the award scheme will receive a free Ladybird House provided by the Acorn Horticultural Centre at CARE Kent in Edenbridge.



Parish Council Surgery Dates

The next surgery will be in the Parish Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, on Saturday 14th April. Come along and see us between 10 a.m. and noon. This is your opportunity to speak to your elected representatives, to pass on your comments, criticisms and congratulations. We want to hear from you.

THE PAVILION

Are you looking for a venue for a children's party or perhaps a regular weekly or monthly meeting place? Look no further, the Pavilion at Manor Field is available for hire for only £7.50 an hour. It has kitchen and toilet facilities as well as the advantage of off road parking. For more information contact the Parish Office on 01474 709441.

Refuse Collection

The next free Saturday refuse collection operated by Sevenoaks District Council will be on Saturday 17th March 2007 at Wellfield between 9.00a.m. and 10.00a.m. and St Johns Lane between 10.15a.m. and 11.00a.m.

Refuse 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.

Benefit Surgery

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

There are two half-hour appointments available from 3.00pm and a drop in clinic from 2.00p.m. to 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, select option 2 for 'benefits' followed by 2 for 'other enquiries', or drop into the Library between 2.00p.m. and 3.00p.m. where you will be seen on a first come first served basis.

Northfield Licensed Ride

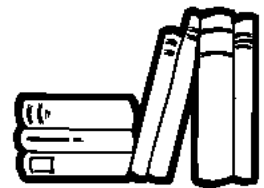
A new off-road ride on Northfield will be opening on Saturday 7th April 2007. If you own a horse or pony and are interested in using this new 1½ mile ride come along on Saturday 17th or Sunday 18th March between 2 - 4 p.m. to the Ash Green Sports Centre (upstairs in the viewing gallery). You will have the opportunity to walk the ride and find out how to become a member of the Northfield Licensed Ride. This is a facility for local riders as there is no parking for boxes available



Further information can also be obtained from Hartley Parish Council on 01474 709441.

Hartley Library

Many of you will know us by now - I (Linda) have been working here for over 18 months, and my husband Robert has just commenced to provide cover for the lunchtime period. We would like to take this opportunity to let you know what is on offer in **Hartley Library**.



As you would expect Adult, Junior and Teenage - Reference, Non-Fiction and Fiction books are available for free loan. Please note that we have recently had many new additions to our stock.

There are 2 computers available for public use which are also free of charge, with a black & white/colour printer, scanner and memory stick reader. You can book your computer time (1 hour) in advance to ensure that a computer is available for your use.

There is a selection of DVDs and videos for rental for periods between 2 nights and a week; and CD and cassette 'talking books' are available for periods of up to 3 weeks.

We have photocopying and faxing facilities. Both have nominal charges except when photocopies and computer printouts are for children's homework, then we do not charge.

If we haven't got the book, DVD, etc. that you want and it is available in another library then we can arrange for it to be transferred within days to this branch for a nominal charge of 25p (free to under 18's in full time education).

Every other Thursday from 2.30p.m. to 3.00p.m. you will find babies and toddlers making music at our 'bounce & rhyme' sessions - Our next session is on 15th March.

On the third Tuesday of each month between 9.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. you can talk with a member of staff from the Volunteer Bureau.

Assuming that you want to visit us but you don't know where we are, you will find us on Ash Road directly opposite Round Ash Way - there are a few parking facilities.

We can be contacted at Hartley Library on 01474 704403

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| Monday | Closed |
| Tuesday | 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m. |
| Wednesday | Closed |
| Thursday | 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m. |
| Friday | 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m. |
| Saturday | 10.00a.m. - 2.00p.m. |
| Sunday | Closed |



You will note that we are now open throughout the day (no lunchtime closure), and that Saturday opening times have changed.

Hope to see you soon - we would love to meet you - why not join us for coffee and chat on Tuesday mornings?
Linda & Robert.

Hartley Post Office

There has been much publicity recently about closures of rural post offices and we would encourage residents to make full use of the many services that Hartley Post Office provides.

Hartley Post Office is situated in Ash Road and is open Monday - Friday 9.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. and 2.00p.m. - 5.30p.m.

Services on offer include: stamps, next day inland postal service, world wide parcel service (up to 30kg), inland and international postal services, commemorative stamps and coins, postal orders, banking services, personal loans, foreign currency ordering with 0% commission, (Euros are stocked on the premises), traveller's cheques, savings stamps and savings accounts, household bill payments, payment facility using debit and credit cards, Post Office credit card, travel insurance, home insurance, gift vouchers, flowers by post, phone cards, mobile phone top up cards, fishing licenses, Post Office Home Phone service, National Lottery cards, Transcash Green, Giro payments, Child Trust Fund and Premium Bond saving certificates.

The Big Lottery Fund Children's Play Programme

A formal expression of interest form in respect of the provision of a skateboard park at Woodland Avenue has been lodged with the District Council. The District Council has informed the Parish Council that our bid for funding will be included in the portfolio of projects to be submitted to the Big Lottery Fund in March 2007. The Youth Committee will be undertaking a consultation exercise with local residents in the near future, if in the meantime you would like to make any comment about the provision of amenities for the youth of the parish please either write or e mail the Parish Clerk, we welcome your views.



Highways Update



We are pleased to report that following our representations to Sevenoaks District Council, reflecting your majority views regarding the proposed parking restrictions around Hartley Primary School they have accepted most of our amendments (specifically no timed yellow lines). SDC will consult with the residents affected as to the parking restrictions proposed around the school entrances.

We continue to make strong representations to both Kent Highways and Sevenoaks District Council about the lack of action taken to solve the problem of flooding in Springcroft. We have been advised that due to lack of funding they are not in a position to carry out any work to solve the problem. Kent Highways have been looking at the feasibility of providing some form of drainage at the junction of Manor Drive and Springcroft to see if it is possible to prevent the silt - the major cause of the problem - from running into Springcroft. Watch this space!

We can also report that at last we have been promised that arrangements are in hand for the installation of the interactive speed sign on the Ash Road, just before the zebra crossing opposite Hartley Garage for North bound traffic. The cost of the sign is being met through our local members' community grant, our thanks go to Councillor Brazier for his support. We can only hope that the promise by Kent Highways is fulfilled although they are dependent of the electricity supply from EDF.