



# The Hartley Herald



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

## REPORT FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Hello, my name is Rachel Rowbottom and I am the new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Hartley. Since joining the Swanley neighbourhood policing team at the beginning of July, I have thoroughly enjoyed working in the area and I have met lots of local residents and young people.

I think it is important that the residents of Hartley feel they can speak freely to me about any local policing issues, and this is why I will soon be holding regular monthly surgeries so that local people can talk to me on a one to one basis. If you would like to contact me, my mobile phone number is: 07969 584203.

We recently held some crime reduction events in Gorsewood Road and Springcroft. Local neighbourhood officers and crime reduction officer Andy Blackmore were on hand to give residents advice, security mark items of property and fit anti-tamper screws to vehicle number plates. More events are planned and these will be publicised through the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme and the Parish Council.

If you can't make it to one of our events but still have property such as bicycles, power tools, mowers or computers that you would like to have marked, please contact myself or a member of the neighbourhood team on one of the numbers below.

Another piece of news is the conviction of a man for a robbery in Church Road, Hartley. He pleaded guilty to the offence at Maidstone Crown Court and was given a sentence of three years and four months.

Finally, here is some general vehicle crime reduction advice. Remember never to leave anything of value on display 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. This could significantly reduce the chance of you being a target for crime - including theft from/of your motor vehicle, as well as criminal damage. Out of sight, out of mind.

Contacts:

PCSO Rachel Rowbottom - 07969 584203, Suzanne Daniell (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) - 01732 379 373

## SCOUT HEADQUARTERS VANDALISED

As you may be aware, the Headquarters building of Longfield and Hartley Scout Group in Larkwell Lane, was extensively vandalised overnight on Friday 10th/ Saturday 11th July. Vandals forced their way through the front door of the Scout hut and caused damage to the inside of the building estimated to be well in excess of £10,000. Scouts will be unable to use the hut until repairs have been carried out. Although most of the repair work will be covered by insurance, the Scout Group is keen to improve the security of the hut by installing roller shutter doors and security lighting. The Group, like all Scout Groups is run by volunteers who raise all their own funds, so if you would like to make a financial contribution towards the security improvements please contact David Tremain on tel no: 01268 273180 or 01474 874773. It is anticipated that the Scout Hut will be back in use in late September.

## REMI NDER TO RESI DENTS

Residents please note that kite flying on Northfield is not permitted due to the danger from overhead cables.

## HANDYVAN SERVICE

Handyvan is a unique home support service from Help the Aged, to help you feel safer in your home. For more information contact your Community Warden Adam Osborn on 07813 713085.

## INVITATION TO RESIDENTS - PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Do you have any issues that you would like to discuss with your Parish Councillors? If so, please come along to one of the Parish Council's Surgeries which will take place on the following dates: Saturday 19th September and Saturday 14th November, between 10.00a.m.—12 noon, in the Parish Office, no appointment necessary.

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

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## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH EXTENSION**

Work was due to begin on the All Saints Church extension on 24th August 2009 and is planned to last 26 weeks, including a 2 week break for Christmas. The Contractors working hours will be 8.00a.m.—5.00p.m. Monday to Friday. The storing of vehicles and materials will be on a compound on Manor Field and part of the lay-by outside the Church. This will be an out of bounds area, so if you see anyone in this area who shouldn't be, please do contact the police on 01622 690 690, as these compounds can sometimes be targeted.

## **REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION**

From 1st September voter registration forms are being sent to households throughout the area by Sevenoaks District Council. Details can once more be confirmed online or by using the popular freephone service. In addition to these services we are pleased to announce the arrival of the text registration service. Simply text your unique reference number to confirm no change of details. All of these methods save bringing or sending the forms back to the Council.

A simple help sheet that explains how to use all of these services and answers the most frequently asked questions, is enclosed with the registration form.

So if you don't want to lose your vote at the forthcoming election, don't delay in responding to the form, whether by phone, online, text or by posting the voter registration form back to the Council Offices. Only those people whose names are on the electoral register will be able to vote at the forthcoming Parliamentary General Election.

Households that have not received a form by late September, or have any questions about completing the form can e-mail [elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or phone the helplines on 01732 227188 or 01732 227243.

## **HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO**

Sevenoaks District Council's HERO (Housing Energy Retraining Options) project offers practical advice and guidance on a range of options to help you plan your future housing and career and to better manage your finances. The Council has a trained HERO Officer called Mike Williams who can talk to you free of charge on a one to one basis about: housing problems, saving money on fuel bills, debt or mortgage advice, welfare benefits, retraining or further education options, getting back to work or starting your own business.

Mike Williams will be available to meet with residents face-to-face at Hartley Library every Monday between the hours of 2.00p.m.—5.00p.m. by appointment only. To arrange a meeting call Mike on 01732 227386 or email [hero@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:hero@sevenoaks.gov.uk).

## **IN THE ZONE SUMMER PROGRAMME**

In the Zone, the holiday activity scheme operated by Sevenoaks District Council, visited Woodland Avenue recreation ground on 28th July. The day was very successful with around 85 children and their families taking part, enjoying a day of fun and games and silly Olympic challenges. There were 'jelly on a spoon' races, 3 legged races with parents and children tied together, crawling, skipping and hopping races, spaghetti javelin and cotton wool shot put to name just a few! For 0-5 year olds and their parents and carers, there was musical bumps, music, singing and dance. All this was provided alongside the free play equipment with circus skills, balance and co-ordination, arts and crafts, sports and giant games. It was a lovely family atmosphere and a lot of positive feedback was given from parents and children on the day.

## **FREE FUN IN HARTLEY**

Over 70 children took part each week in the West Kent Extra Play Days over the summer holidays. The free Play Days visited Woodland Avenue Recreation Ground every Wednesday in August and children enjoyed arts and crafts, football, rounders, hockey and cricket, drama workshops and the army challenge. Biscuit decorating went down very well, with most parents getting a brief chance to admire them before they were eaten! Recycled materials were put to excellent use in the junk modelling and storytellers from the library entertained the younger children.

The Play Days are run by the community development arm of the West Kent Housing Association and are funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play programme. The days were supported by Hartley Parish Council.

## **HAWK YOUTH PROJECT**

Glenn Walsh, the HAWK Youth Worker will be leaving HAWK on 25th September. We wish him well in his new employment in youth work in Swanley and would like to thank him for his efforts over the last few years working with the youth in Hartley. His replacement, Matthew Butt is due to start on 1st September.

## **REFUSE AND RECYCLING SACKS**

Sevenoaks District Council's next delivery of black refuse and recycling sacks to Hartley residents will be during the week commencing Monday 2nd November 2009. Should you need additional sacks before then, they 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 sacks. Garden waste sacks can also be purchased at a cost of £5.50 for a pack of 12.