



NEWSLETTER

August 2012
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Summer 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Despite high winds, thunder storms and heavy rain, the planned events so far for 2012 have been achieved with success far above expectations dampened by this "Great British Summer"! Community events such as Storyfest and the Community Play triumphed over the weather bringing different sections of the community closer together in shared effort achievement.

The Parish Council's contribution to this summer of celebration spanned the Jubilee weekend. The evening event went with a sparkle thanks to the organisers, Gerard Kenny's cabaret and the determination of all those there to have a good time. Particular thanks go to those who sponsored the fireworks which were exceptional, despite the storm which accompanied them. The families' event the following day got off to a dismal start which was quickly lifted by the Hats and Crowns competition. The Bring and Share lunch, organised by the WI meant greater enjoyment of the Hartfield Sax Quartet and Mike Hayes rolling out golden oldies accompanied on the keyboard. Despite a soaking, the sports clubs still ran football and cricket activities for the youngsters who looked the part in their cricket whites. Many people were still there to enjoy the cream tea provided by the Village Hall committee later in the afternoon. Thanks to all who made the whole weekend very worthwhile.

As mentioned in the April Newsletter, to further mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Town Croft has been registered as a Field in Trust. New notice boards will be placed at the entrances to the Croft to acknowledge this. Being a Field in Trust allows us to apply for grant funding to help with the upkeep of the sports field and accompanying buildings. If any parishioners would like to see additional commemoration of the Jubilee in the Parish, and would be willing to fund raise for this, please contact the Parish Clerk with your ideas.

Meanwhile, Parish Council business continues as ever, dominated this year by changes in the law and reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I hope by the time you receive this, the sun is shining, the incessant rain is a distant memory, and we are all enjoying the Parish of Hartfield at its best.

Jo Edwarde
Chairman, Hartfield Parish Council

HARTFIELD AREA COMMUNITY BROADBAND UPDATE



Since the Spring newsletter when we provided our last update on this project we have been busy collecting and analysing your additional responses to our residential and business questionnaires. We received twelve additional residential responses and nine additional business responses for which we are very grateful whilst some original respondents also provided us with additional information. This data enabled us to submit an Expression of Interest in the second round of applications for funding from DEFRA's Rural Community Broadband Fund in early July and we hope to hear the result of our application within approximately two months.

In the meantime East Sussex County Council published their Local Broadband Plan and this was accepted by Central Government in April. Their plan sets out an ultimate vision of competitive provision of superfast broadband (both fixed and mobile), offering typical speeds of 100Mbps to everyone (100% of homes and small businesses) in East Sussex by 2017. In the meantime their interim aim is to achieve the Broadband Development UK target of 90% superfast coverage (24Mbps or above) and at least 2Mbps (the universal service commitment) to the remaining 10% by 2015. As such, there is hope that even if we are unsuccessful in our bid for DEFRA funding, superfast broadband may come to the parish in the longer term.

Laura Hatch

If you would like to see this newsletter in colour please go to our website

SOUTH & SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

Thank you to those who helped with planting the High Street tubs which look wonderful this year thanks to the generosity of Perryhill Nurseries and to those who gave their time to tidy up everywhere before the village judging. Unfortunately the very poor standard of grass cutting on the verges was not within the Parish's control. The judges were shown round the Hartfield Playschool and its wonderful garden, the converted Goods Yard building now the P.C's headquarters, and adjacent affordable houses. They also visited Mottefield and Castlefields and the complex of offices and houses adjacent to the farm shop and pantry. They were fascinated by the set of the Community Play in St. Mary's Church and appeared genuinely impressed with the activity and development in Hartfield that blended in carefully with our Conservation village. As one of the judges remarked, "it is not all about floral displays but the involvement of the Community". Next year we hope even more people will get involved. The awards take place on the 13th September at Fareham.



Dan Maher – South & South East in Bloom coordinator for Hartfield.

THE LOCALISM ACT



In April 2012 much of the new Localism Act came into force and local councils across the country are adjusting to the new duties and powers which this brings. Much of the act deals with Planning regulations and how communities can become more closely involved in shaping the character of their neighbourhood. Discussion within the Parish Council on the best way forward continues but whatever proposal is finally put forward, there will be public consultation and everyone will have the opportunity to respond.

One of the cornerstones of the Act is to introduce the "General Power of Competence" to Parish Councils. This frees a Council to make decisions and take on activities previously not allowed. It relates mainly to the way a Council uses and raises money and it is too early to judge the possible impact of this new freedom. The raising of money through the Precept remains unchanged. The Parish Council must meet certain eligibility criteria before gaining this new power, one condition being for the Parish Clerk to be suitably qualified. Our clerk, Emma Fulham, is to be congratulated on recently obtaining her Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Since April we have been challenging East Sussex County Council (ESCC) on the standard of highways grass cutting throughout the Parish. After a considerable number of emails we discover the contractor has to visit 52 locations throughout the county and the Parish of Hartfield is number 47. With the appalling weather we have experienced this year, the whole programme has been put back, added to which the quality of work finally carried out is unacceptable. County Cllr. Francis Whetstone is now taking a personal interest in the problem and at the July PC meeting apologised for the service given by ESCC and is working towards improvements to be made. The Localism Act allows Parish Councils to bid for services previously provided at District and County level but this would be expensive so we continue to press for a better standard of service from ESCC.

There is no doubt that the new legislation puts new responsibilities onto your elected Councillors. In Spring we agreed a Beliefs and Values Statement to guide our actions carried out in the interests of the people of Hartfield.

Beliefs and Values

As part of the first tier of government, Hartfield Parish Council exists to serve the communities within its boundaries by striving to balance the rights of individuals with a shared responsibility to protect and enrich the special character of the Parish. We contribute to the development of a safe and secure environment and provide space and accommodation for activities which enhance the lives of those who live and work here. We believe that the heritage and landscape of our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is important and work to protect and add to this for future generations. We aim to act with integrity at all times and believe individuals should be treated with respect and consideration. We endeavour to be supportive, inclusive and to foster a sense of community. We believe that working openly and constructively with the community and higher levels of government brings benefit to all but the Parish Council will challenge decisions which diminish the quality of life at the local level.

We hope we are living up to these Beliefs and Values and everyone is benefiting as a result.

Jo Edwarde

COLEMAN'S HATCH SHOW



Sadly the summer show had to be cancelled as the field was waterlogged; another victim of this dreadfully wet summer. The show committee, although bitterly disappointed, have shown typical British stoicism and rearranged the Autumn Show on the 29th September to incorporate some of the classes that were due to be judged at the summer show. These include children's entries, crafts and photography. The barn dance will be held in the Coleman's Hatch Church Hall with smaller tents in the grounds adjacent. For full details of the show please contact **Eve James 01342 823506**

RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE

I am pleased to inform you that having been on the committee for a couple of years I have taken over as chairperson of the Rights of Way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing chair Jo Edwarde for all her hard work in ensuring that rights of way within our parish have been maintained to a high standard as well as her persistence in resolving a number of key issues.



First a couple of footpath updates:

- A new sand school has been built at Faircote Hall and the reinstatement of Footpath 15 across the old sand school is in progress. Walkers are asked to use the alternative route until this is complete.
- Footpath 6 at Newbridge is also currently closed and walkers are asked to use footpath 7, which is close by, instead.

Please consult the Parish Footpaths Map, on sale in the village shop, for further clarification.

Additionally, you may remember that in the Hartfield Parish Plan, Initiative 5.1 in relation to Rights of Way included a proposal to consider whether it would be possible to better cater for the needs of disabled people, those who are active but unable to climb stiles and those with pushchairs. To address this proposal the Rights of Way Committee considered the preparation of a walks leaflet to specifically suggest routes that may be suitable for these groups of people. However, having undertaken a review of many routes it has unfortunately been concluded that production of such a leaflet is unlikely to be possible due to the limitations posed by the often hilly topography of the parish, the constraints of ensuring appropriate parking provisions at the start/end of any route, the presence of at least one stile along many existing routes and the confines for the parish boundaries. However, we would like to direct all of our parishioners and their visitors who have restrictions on where they can walk to the fantastic facility that is offered by the Forest Way, which can be easily accessed from a number of points within the parish including the new car park at the Old Coal Yard. Alternatively we found a number of paths with no stiles on the Ashdown Forest, particularly within the Old Lodge Nature Reserve area. However, in the case of the latter we would urge you to check the steepness of your intended route on a map or with the Ashdown Forest Centre before heading out as some areas are quite hilly or require a return journey along the same route.

Laura Hatch



Having enjoyed all the fantastic 2012 Hartfield celebrations to date we, as your local neighbourhood policing team, would like to update you and give you some useful tips.

Despite the miserable spring we have still seen a rise in the number of vehicles broken into in the Ashdown Forest car parks. Please spread the word to leave all valuable items at home or if you do have to take things with you, to make sure you place all handbags, laptops and other valuable items into the boot and out of sight before you even drive into the car park. Thieves sometimes watch visitors securing their valuables, which makes it very easy for them to know which cars to target. We also advise people to leave their glove boxes empty and open while parked on the Forest to show there is nothing of value in there. Please do pass this message round to as many people as you possibly can.

Remember to close and lock all your windows and doors before leaving your house even if you only plan to be out for a short time. It only takes seconds for someone to climb in an open window. It may seem obvious but burglaries are increasing across Wealden so don't be the next victim. Also, if you are out in your garden, or in the shed, please close and lock your front door. Thieves will take any opportunity to steal what they can.

When you go on holiday, ask a neighbour to pick up your post and open and close your curtains for you so it looks as though the house is occupied. Timers for light switches are cheap and very effective, so buy yourself some to turn the lights on and off while you are away.

We are still marking property in your sheds, garages and outbuildings so if we have not yet been to yours give us a call to arrange a visit.

We are, as always, still looking for more speed watch volunteers to join the speed watch team, so if you are interested, please let us know. We are also still looking for younger members to join our three monthly policing panel meetings. This is where we discuss the policing issues of Hartfield and set the policing priorities for the following three months. Again if you or anyone you know is interested, please get in touch. All the best, enjoy the summer and see you soon.

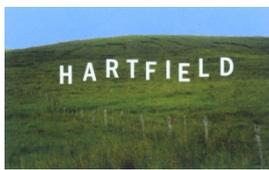


PCSO Sharon Dersley - 07787 685769 - sharon.dersley@sussex.pnn.police.uk

PC Jennifer Elphick - 07917 050870 - jennifer.elphick@sussex.pnn.police.uk



Please note Hartfield High Street will be closed for resurfacing for two days on the 3rd and 4th of September. Diversions will be publicised, leaflets dropped and full details on the East Sussex website. It will be inconvenient for many but will make such a difference when completed.



As well as the jubilee celebrations reported on earlier, this has been a momentous year for large scale community events in Hartfield.

STORYFEST The idea had evolved from the early discussions about the production of the Hartfield Community Play and the tremendous efforts of Emma Stillwell, Sally Paynter, Buff Baughn and Tam Weaver resulted in a fantastic day involving famous children's authors with very appreciative and enthusiastic audiences. Plans are in place to repeat the festival again next year. Watch out for advertising confirming the date. The colourful flags heralding Storyfest remained a talking point for a long time after the event.



HARTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAY

For twelve nights in late June and early July, audiences were enthralled watching an intimate story unfold in the beautiful setting of St. Mary's 13th century church. The play enveloped the audience in the story, putting them close to the action. "Parallel Lives" was a promenade play written and directed by Claque Theatre's Jon Oram who was supported by a truly dedicated and talented team of assistants, costume designers and a superb musical director. With a cast of over 80 (50 plus from Hartfield) and audiences often reaching 150 per night, all those involved in this truly unique experience were touched by the thoughtful story line based on comprehensive research of Hartfield's interesting history, several people remarked -*with echoes of the present!* The memory of this community play will live on in the hearts of those who became involved. Friendships were formed and plans have been made to meet again as a group. Watch this space for offshoots that might develop.

Nancy Holmes



This year for the first time the Hartfield Horticultural Show and the Village Fete are combining forces to make one much larger event on the Town Croft with a new identity. Representatives from all local organisations were invited to join the committee. Many of the previous attractions will be there including the popular

dog show but in addition there will be many new exciting events, stalls and side shows. Andrea McGlew, the newly appointed head of St. Mary's School, will be organising a barn dance in the evening. Watch out for advertising giving more details nearer to the time. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find two books of raffle tickets which we hope you will be able to sell to friends and family. Stubs and/or unwanted tickets should be returned in the envelope provided. Do please come along and make this a bumper event so we can raise lots of money to give to local organisations as we have done in the past. These events take a lot of organisation and if you feel able to help in any way **Alan Morris 01892 770328** would be delighted to hear from you. Helpers are also required for the Dog Show please contact Jo Edwarde joedwarde@hotmail.com or 01892 770201 (answer phone) For all other info please contact our Secretary **Val Ball 01342 822377** or Chair **Jim Lusted 770396**

Clerk to the Council	Mrs. Emma Fulham	01342 822404	parishclerk@hartfieldonline.com
Chair of the Parish Council	Cllr. Jo Edwarde	01892 770201	joedwarde@hotmail.com
Chair of Playschool Trustees			
Vice Chair of the Parish Council & Chair of Town Croft & Parish Assets	Cllr. John Smith	01892 770871	smithorchardview@aol.com
Chair of Planning	Cllr. Anne Higgins	01892 770312	annehigginshartfield@hotmail.co.uk
Chair of Environment & Transport	Cllr. Mike Colenutt	01892 770840	mikecolenutt@btinternet.com
	Cllr. Kevin Hawes	01342 825827	kevin_hawes@talktalk.net
	Cllr. Nancy Holmes	01892 770294	nancyholmes@btopenworld.com
Chair of Rights of Way	Cllr. Laura Hatch	01892 770625	lauraherrington@hotmail.com
	Cllr. Dan Maher	01892 771062	dan-maher@live.co.uk
	Cllr. Neil Postlethwaite	01892 770743	neil@dotdit.co.uk
	Cllr. Helen Searle	01892 770018	helen@helensearle.com
	Cllr. Clare Risby	01342 824599	clare.newbridge@dsl.pipex.com
	Cllr. Christine Tamplin	01342 824064	casablancaurseries@tiscali.co.uk
Representing Holtye Ward	Cllr. Charlotte Beare	01342 850669	charlottebeare@btinternet.com
Wealden District Councillor (Hartfield Ward)	Cllr. Chris Hardy	01892 770759	chris.hardy@wealden.gov.uk
Wealden District Councillor (Holtye Ward)	Cllr. Rowena Moore	01342 314402	Cllr. rowena.moore@wealden.gov.uk
East Sussex County Councillor	Cllr. Francis Whetstone	01892 770304	Cllr.franciswhetstone@eastsussex.gov.uk
Parish Tree Warden	Mrs. Clair Park	01892 770326	clairpark@btinternet.com

WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL 01892 653311

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL 01273 481000

POLICE – Emergencies 999 or 112 PCSO Sharon Dersley 0845 6070999 sharon.dersley@sussexpnn.police.uk

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