



Parish Council Christmas Newsletter 2017

Chairman's Message

Thank you for taking the time to read this Christmas Newsletter from the Parish Council. With the weather turning colder and with winter upon us, thoughts start to turn towards Christmas. One of the village's most anticipated events is the Hartfield live Nativity, which this year is on Friday 15th December.

More recently, our Hartfield community enjoyed poignant Remembrance Day celebrations at St Mary's and at Holy Trinity. A number of us were also fortunate enough to be present at the 2 minutes silence at 11am on the 11th November to mark the 99th anniversary of the Armistice, when James Castle dipped the Union Standard at the Hartfield War Memorial.

In contrast to the fledgling Christmas spirit, austerity continues to bite across the country. We in Hartfield are not immune to this as East Sussex County Council will need to make further budget cuts and will, therefore, focus on the delivery of core services. Hartfield parish is likely to be impacted and the Parish Council is currently discussing ways to combat potential service reductions, such as grass cutting.

The A264 near Holtye golf club has been the subject of much discussion between the Parish Council and the East Sussex County Council Highways team. It is a dangerous stretch of road with a history of terrible accidents, the most recent being in September. I can report that during 2017 the Country Council has been actively investigating ways to make this stretch of road safer and will consult with relevant parties shortly, with a view to making changes during the first half of 2018.

It is encouraging to see that Hartfield's village hall is being used in a number of diverse ways, from comedy nights to a cycling rest stop. However, there remains a need for volunteers across many of the community groups. If you have some time and are willing to get involved, then there are various organisations that would really appreciate hearing from you, including the Memorial Garden helpers, the Village Hall, the Fete, HARTS, 1st Hartfield Scouts, The History Group and the Horticultural Society to name just a few. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Also, great to see the Anchor has been busy. Now off the market, it has been rejuvenated and has received positive coverage in the local press.

Lastly and most importantly, we wish you and your families a peaceful and joy filled Christmas season and a positive start to 2018

Giles Horner, Chairman of Hartfield Parish Council

Grass Cutting

At a recent Parish Council meeting, we were advised there is a possibility, due to the current financial pressures on East Sussex County Council, that verges will not be cut in 2018, other than for safety purposes. Whilst we will obviously do what we can to see that this service continues, it does mean urban and rural grass cutting may well be affected. The Parish Council is looking at possible ways to address this situation, without significant cost to the Parish. We would like to put forward the suggestion of holding a number of community clean up days. In the last few years, we have had a Clean for the Queen event and a Great British Spring Clean. A number of volunteers have turned out and worked tirelessly for a few hours to target specific areas that needed a clean or a tidy up. Those events made a real difference.

Continuing this approach, is there a community appetite for holding more clean-up activities but to extend these to include grass cutting or strimming key areas that could otherwise become a wilderness? Whilst so much will depend on the prevailing weather conditions next spring, a few hours on a Saturday morning in April, May, June and July could see us bring the verges under control with parishioners help. In addition, would any local gardeners or contractors also be prepared to come on board and help us as part of this community activity?

If you are interested in helping please contact the Clerk in the first instance. The first event will be subject to the weather conditions at the time but is likely to be held on Saturday 21st April. We will confirm dates via email to those interested and on the Parish Council website. If you have any suggestions or comments on these plans please do contact us.

Hartfield Parish Plan

As some of you will remember, Hartfield embarked on the development of a comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan a few years ago. For various reasons that project was deferred, at least until the situation around the Ashdown Forest has been clarified by Wealden District Council.

In the meantime, the Parish Council would like to develop a plan for Hartfield, in consultation with residents. We want to construct a plan to set out how

the Parish should focus its resources over the longer term. The next 5 to 20 years perhaps?

The sort of areas we might want to think about as a community could include:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Older people
- Younger people
- Homes and planning
- Business, commerce and communications
- Transport, roads and infrastructure
- Tourism and leisure
- Ashdown Forest and the environment
- Parish Assets of community value
- Policing and crime
- Resident involvement

Your views

If you are interested in being involved in this project or have some thoughts to contribute then please contact the Parish Clerk, Emma Fulham at: parishclerk@hartfieldonline.com and/or our Chair, Giles Horner or Vice Chair, Roger Eastwood (contact details available on the last page of the newsletter).

Our intention is to aim to start to develop your Parish Plan over the next few months and bring it out for the first stage of consultation with residents in time for our next AGM on 23rd April 2018.

We want this plan to be about what **YOU** think is important for the future for Hartfield.

Cllr Roger Eastwood

Commercial sponsorship of Parish Assets

The Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep of a number of Hartfield parish assets and we are at the very early stages of exploring whether local organisations may be interested in sponsoring some of these.

So we would like to hear from local businesses or people who may potentially be interested in sponsorship opportunities or have views on this matter. Please contact the Parish Clerk for an informal discussion.



NEWS FROM HARTFIELD VILLAGE HALL. The Committee of Trustees are continuing to fund raise and find ways of reducing the overheads of running the hall on behalf of all parishioners. We were delighted to receive a substantial grant from the Gatwick Conservation Trust which we put towards upgrading all the lighting, inside and out to LED which is not only eco-friendly and cheaper to run but also allows softer lighting which is more conducive to evening events. We hope you will have noticed

how smart the hall looks outside having been re-painted and all rotten wood replaced. This was a costly exercise paid partly from our own funds, topped up by a grant from Hartfield Parish Council. We have just received news of a super grant from the hugely successful Hartfield Village Fete which will go towards the interior decoration of the main hall which will be fitted in between bookings as soon as we can. The popular 2018 Hartfield historic calendars are now on sale in Hartfield Stores which helps our funds. The hall is home to many local groups including all the Youth Movements. To book the hall or catch up on events please see our website www.hartfieldvillagehall.co.uk

YOUTH GROUPS There are many flourishing Youth Groups in the Parish, including the ones overseen by Rev. Julie and Katrina Thomas (Children and Families' Worker) and their helpers. These include Teddy Tots, Sunday Discoverers, the Big Breakfast & Waffle. Lee Buck continues to run the Youth Clubs, HYPE (years 7 & 8) also PULSE - Years 9-11 +) in the Village Hall on Mondays.

1ST HARTFIELD SCOUT GROUP 1st Hartfield Scout Group is now back with a full complement of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Beavers and Cubs meet at 5pm and 6:30pm respectively on a Tuesday and Scouts meet on Thursdays at 7pm. Beavers have experienced a weekend 1940's style Christmas camp this term. Cubs have been wall climbing at Blacklands and Scouts have kick started their adventures with their new leaders. There are still a few spaces left in Scouts, but the return of the group has been welcomed with enthusiasm so contact us soon if you want a space. For information on Scouts please contact Claudia Castle on 07504844767. Contact Jane May on 01342 851446 if you are interested in becoming a leader or have any outside secure space the group could use for storage.

GUIDES & BROWNIES meet on a Wednesday in the village hall and have many & varied activities.

Thanks to all those helpers and leaders who make these activities possible for our young people.

Hartfield Arts & Theatre Society

HARTS came into being after the hugely successful community play, "Parallel Lives", held in St Mary's church, Hartfield in 2012. We wanted to keep alive the camaraderie generated by the play and provide a varied programme of cultural events which everyone in our village, young and old, can enjoy.

Art for All
Poems & Pints Nights
The Live Nativity
Musical events
The Human Fruit Machine
and more.....

Please contact HARTS if you want to know more about our events or to become involved

www.HartfieldARTS.wordpress.com

 www.facebook.com/groups/hartsartstheatresociety

HARTSLife is for Living



Hartfield Fun Run 2018 Sunday 8th April 2018, from 10.30 am

www.Hartfieldonline.com click Fun Run or TEXT Eddie 07880 518059

Something for everyone so bring the whole family!

Our Parish Clerk and Councillors are here to help – Do contact us.

Parish Council Website: <http://hartfieldonline.com/> PC Facebook Page :<https://www.facebook.com/hartfieldparishcouncil/>

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Chair of the Parish Council.	Cllr. Giles Horner	0203 4016895	gileshorner@hotmail.com
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Wealden District Councillor (Hartfield Ward)	Cllr. Chris Hardy	01892 771348	Cllr.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

Other Useful Numbers

POLICE [Contact us online](#) or call 101 when it's less urgent than 999 for Police, Fire or Ambulance.

Wealden District Council –01323 443322 - 8.30 am -5 pm Council Offices at Vicarage Lane Hailsham BN27 2AX

East Sussex County Council 0345 60 80 190 Offices at County Hall St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE

For grass or highway issues please contact East Sussex County Council on Phone: 0345 60 80 193 or

Email: customer@eastsussexhighways.com

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Annual Parish Meeting 7:30pm 23rd April 2018 Village Hall

Parish Council and Committee meetings for 2018 will be on the website and notice boards.

- **The Parish Council offices will be closed from 18th December and reopen on 8th January.**