



NEWSLETTER

August 2010 Volume 2 Issue 4



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In the last newsletter we said that we were looking to co-opt another person on to the Parish Council. We were very fortunate to receive applications from two very able candidates but the disappointment was that we had space for only one. The successful candidate we welcome as our new Parish Councillor is Mrs. Clare Risby.

After six years of dedicated service as Vice Chair, Cllr. Nancy Holmes announced at the PC meeting last April that she would be standing down as Deputy Chair the following month which would be the start of the new PC year. My thanks to Nancy for her support and tireless hard work on behalf of the parish during those years; Nancy continues as Councillor and Chairman of the Town Croft and Parish Assets Committee. Cllr Jo Edwarde was voted in as Vice Chair and I welcome her and look forward to working with her.

The two major projects the PC are running at the moment are the refurbishment of the engine shed and car park at the coal yard and the refurbishment of the pavilion on the Croft are both progressing well.

Road repairs in and around Hartfield have started, there will be road closures at times but hopefully these will be advertised well in advance.

In June the Hartfield Horticultural Society organised an "Open Gardens" scheme in the parish. I took advantage of this and visited most of the gardens. I must say many of them were very beautiful and it was a good opportunity to talk to the home owners and fellow visitors and pick up many useful gardening tips. Well worth a visit next year. I hope your gardens are not suffering due to the hot dry weather.



I wish you all a happy summer break.

❖ **John Chalke - Chair Hartfield Parish Council**

TOWN CROFT & PARISH ASSETS



A new oak post now supports the old Hartfield Sign in the Memorial Gardens. Tom Mitchell who made such an excellent job of replacing the post and re-painting the sign is photographed alongside his handiwork. Mike Parcell, our local historian, tells us that the metal sign which was made by a Tim Reddick, was purchased in 1963 for 12 guineas, this was the prize money received by Hartfield for winning the best kept village that year.

Work on the pavilion modernisation continues. Calor Gas heating and a new water system have been installed and we have just had notification that our grant application for £6050 from the WARR Partnership towards the new kitchen, security and disabled facilities has been successful. Work can now go ahead. Soon the pavilion will be a much more comfortable venue for the sports clubs as well as host to other village events.

News in Brief: - We are working with CAMRA (Castlefields and Mottefield Residents Association) who have been most proactive in seeking grants to upgrade the children's playground. The application has got through to the second round and a facilitator has now been appointed from Groundwork the company who oversee and assist lottery applications. Please look out for a questionnaire which will soon appear on the Parish Council website as this will give parishioners the opportunity to comment on the suggested improvements, saying what they like now and what they would like to see in the future.

The Hartfield Tennis Club will shortly be implementing their planning permission to install much more environmentally friendly lights on the back court. Cricket Week was successful with sunny weather. All the seats on the Croft as well as those scattered round the Parish have been refurbished by our new handyman Gus Gullick. They now look very good and we hope they will be left alone by vandals and remain free from graffiti.

❖ **Nancy Holmes - Chair Town Croft & Parish Assets**

RIGHTS OF WAY



We are pleased to welcome Laura Hatch onto the Rights of Way Committee. Her youth and enthusiasm are just what we need. If anyone else would be interested in joining us, please let me know.

At the beginning of August a team of five diehards undertook training in stile installation. While the landowner remains responsible for public access over Rights of Way, we now have a team who can offer assistance where necessary. There was a unanimous decision however to wait for cooler weather and softer ground before putting the skills to good use!

Progress on the Pooh Bridge path has recently been made. The landowner and East Sussex County Council have signed an agreement which allows the diversion order to be issued. At this time the public will be asked to respond to the proposed new bridleway.

❖ **Jo Edwarde Chair Rights of Way**

TREES IN HARTFIELD VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA. HOW TO AVOID A £20,000 FINE!



Hartfield Village, sited in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was officially designated as a Conservation Area in 1983. In addition to buildings, the majority of trees are afforded special protection, as well as those covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

What is a Conservation Area?

Conservation areas are designed by local authorities to protect the character of areas of special architectural or historic interest. This includes trees and many hedgerows. Your property may be sited within such an area. If you should sell your house, it is important that you make your purchasers aware of the responsibilities connected with living in a Conservation Area.

What is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and what is its purpose?

TPO's are made to protect trees that have an amenity value, which means they make a valuable contribution to the surrounding area. They can be placed on single trees, small groups or woodlands that have a collective interest rather than just an important individual tree. Planning law does not define a tree for TPO purposes and it does not cover bushes or shrubs.

Trees in the Conservation Area

Some trees are sufficiently important to have TPO protection already; however ALL TREES in the Conservation Area have legal protection. This means that if you wish to top, lop, uproot or fell any tree which is not already covered by a TPO, you must give the Council 6 weeks written notice before carrying out the work. No work should take place without permission or you could be liable for a fine up to £20,000. The ONLY exceptions to this rule are:-

- Trees cultivated for fruit production or
- Trees less than 7.5cm diameter at 1.5m above ground or 10cm diameter if this helps other trees to grow.
- Even trees you consider dangerous or dying must not be touched until Wealden Council have given permission for felling.



Important Hedgerows

There are many hedgerows in Hartfield that enhance the rural ambience of our village. It is important that these hedges are cared for in keeping with a conservation area. If



they are allowed to get out of control without regular maintenance, it is often hard to return them to their original size and shape without baring the wood and in some instances killing them altogether. Some hedgerows are noted as being of significant importance to the Conservation Area and care should be taken to protect them. All hedges are of great importance to wild animals, birds and insects and advice should be sought before destroying hedgerows.

If you are in any doubt whether or not you need to seek permission, please contact me on 01892 770326 and I would be delighted to advise, alternatively the Planning Department of Wealden District Council - Pine Grove, Crowborough 01892 653311.

❖ **Clair Park – Parish Tree Warden**



Hartfield Village Fete 11th September 12 Noon

All the attractions of previous years but plans to make it better than ever. A fairground organ will create a jolly atmosphere, there will be some exciting new as well as traditional stalls, ferret racing, a novelty dog show, with professional dog photographer, Morris dancers, children's entertainment, delicious home-made teas, Willetts Farm dairy ice cream, strawberries & cream with Pimms or a good pint of Harvey's will be available! Come and enjoy all the fun of the Fayre! Don't forget your raffle tickets. All proceeds go towards

Hartfield Organisations. More helpers always needed on the day, please contact

❖ **Chairman Peter Furneaux 01892 770820 or Secretary Val Ball 01342 822377**



HARTFIELD VILLAGE HALL '100' CLUB

The management committee invite you to support your Village Hall which is a registered charity and self funded by hirers & fundraising events. We will soon have a big expenditure on the roof as well as ongoing maintenance. Sarah Talbot, a new committee member has organised a scheme to raise funds. For an annual sum of just £12 you have an opportunity to enter a monthly prize draw to win £20 or £10 and a special Christmas Draw with prizes of £75, £30 and £15. More than half the tickets are already sold so hurry to get in with a chance. Please ring Sarah on 01892 770580



Claque Theatre invites you to participate in a Hartfield Community Play

For those of you who saw the Withyham or Tunbridge Wells plays you will know how brilliant they were. The next meeting is on Tuesday 31st August in St Mary's Church Hartfield at 6.30pm - do come along and hear about this exciting project with the country's leading Community Playwright and Director, Jon Oram who will be there. A feasibility study will be completed between now and December with a public meeting in January. If the community reaction is positive the plans will move ahead, a new committee will be formed and the final promenade performance will be scheduled for June 2012. See www.claquetheatre.com or more information is available from the group set up to gauge the interest in the production of such a community play in Hartfield. Please contact Caroline Tully 01892 770730 tully@chestner.co.uk Val Ball 01342 822377; Jonathan Squire T: 01342 850474 or Nancy Holmes 01892 770294. You will be warmly welcomed to the meeting on the 31st so do urge your friends to come along too. This venture needs many skills, ideas and people of all ages and from all backgrounds. Hartfield has a colourful history that would make for an exciting play. There are many community groups who meet regularly so a cross section from these would really unite the Parish. Those who have lived in the parish all their lives will have invaluable contributions towards the authenticity of the play as well. Lets make it happen.



A HUGE THANK YOU. On the 12th July David Shaw and Linda Jones the South and South East in Bloom Judges visited Hartfield. They were greeted at the Anchor pub by two scarecrow judges created by Val Ball and Diana Jones and they then went on to view a splendid display created by our guides and brownies celebrating their Centenary Year. We had so much to show this year as both Castlefields and Oaklea had entered as "Neighbourhoods" and



the judges said that they did not and a half was village looked



now so much to see feel that an hour time enough. The absolutely fantastic, awash with flowers and marvellously clean. We are also so lucky that Perryhill and Casablanca Nurseries continue to sponsor our village planting. We will not know the result of the inspection until September but whatever that may be, surely it has just been worth getting Hartfield to look so sparkling. I would like to take

this opportunity of thanking all those people and institutions who worked so hard to get the village looking so good. As the list is so long, it would be inappropriate to name individuals but the depth and measure of help and support was terrific and quite moving. Most other parish entries to the Bloom Competition are created by a village committee which could make our plans and working parties much stronger. So if anybody would like to join me in forming a committee for next year's competition, could they please call me on 01892 770273 or speak to me at the Hartfield Village Fete on the 11th September, when I will be on the White Elephant stall.

❖ **Sheila van Maurik - Coordinator Village in Bloom**



2010 FUN RUN

This year's run raised an amazing £1350 which has given the Pavilion Fund a welcome boost, helping to make the next stage of renovation that much closer. A huge thank you to all the many Parishioners who volunteered to help on the day – it would not be possible without you. Next year's date is Sunday 17th April and I hope to see you there!

❖ Jo Edwarde

OLD CROWN FARM

The farm shop and offices at Old Crown Farm are nearing completion and should be ready for occupation by 1st September. Complete Land Management who manages the Buckhurst Farm Estate will occupy the offices. A local catering company will run their long established business from the new farm shop and will provide freshly baked cakes scones and bread to serve the coffee shop soon to open. Meat will be sold which comes mainly from the Estate, however other local suppliers for fresh vegetables etc. may also be used. The nine affordable houses are going up fast and Wealden District Council have asked us to remind parishioners that only those registered with them who are able to demonstrate they meet the strict local criteria, will be eligible to apply for a house. Not until the houses are nearing completion will they be advertised so please be alert. Rumours have been circulating that some houses have been allocated already but this is completely untrue.



THE OLD COAL YARD

The new road and services are now going in during the playschool holidays and will serve both the nine affordable houses and the Engine Shed. Our architect Woodward Ambrose is working on the design to refurbish the old historic building for conversion into offices and two small flats.

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Printed by EMS Limited, Medway House, 18-22 Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead, RH19 3BJ - 01342 323700

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