

NEWSLETTER

August 2008 Vol. 1 Issue No. 8



Cllr. Chantal Wilson, Chairman of Wealden District Council will visit Hartfield on the 1st September and would like to meet parishioners at 7.15pm in the Village Hall. She will address our P.C. Meeting and take questions at 8pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It hardly seems four months since our last newsletter went out to every household but although the time has gone so quickly, I can report that Councillors have been extremely busy and I am glad to say that some of our time has been spent by meeting with various

parishioners to get a better idea of our shared vision for the Parish so we can work together more efficiently. Unfortunately there is still a great deal of red tape that takes up quite a bit of our time.

One of the major concerns in the parish, which was brought to our attention, was the problem caused by overhanging trees, hedges and overgrown verges. As a result Cllr Tommy Mitchell and I met with Andy Brookes the Highways Maintenance Manager of East Sussex County Council and we spent a few hours driving around the parish identifying the problem areas and in instances where the offending trees and hedges were on private land, knocking on doors asking the landowners to take some action. I am happy to report that within a week, several trees had branches lopped, hedges were trimmed and some grass verges were cut back. We requested that pavements should be cleared back to their original width making it easier for walkers and those with pushchairs but ESCC can only cut one-meter width of verges. It was agreed that ESCC would be following up with those landowners who had not responded to our call.

It was a pleasure to see so many members of the community come together to tidy the village before the South and South East in Bloom, My thanks to Sheila van Maurik and all the helpers; after all it makes Hartfield a much nicer place in which to live.

Another extremely successful community event was the Concert on the Croft, a fund-raising event to refurbish the pavilion for future generations of the parish to enjoy. As Chairman of the Parish Council I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation but more details are contained later in this newsletter.

I look forward to meeting you at future Parish Council meetings or at other events in the parish.

John Chalke – Chairman Hartfield Parish Council.

LAUNCH OF THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE www.hartfieldonline.com

The new Hartfield Parish Council website is now up and running, however it is in its early stages of transition. The site address remains the same as before - www.hartfieldonline.com - and it comprises two sections – Your Council and Your Community. Go to the Council section to access contact details of all Councillors, information on sub-committees and up to date agendas/minutes of all full Parish Council and committee meetings. Copies of our latest newsletters can also be viewed and downloaded and there are regular updates on the progress of the Pavilion Fund, set up in order to raise money for the refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion.

The Community section gives you access to local organisations/societies and local sports clubs, details of emergency services (police, doctors etc.) and local attractions. There are direct links to the local school and church websites, plus a Diary of forthcoming Events and Latest News. If any local non profit organisations would like to have their websites linked into ours or updated information published please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk on 01342 834409.



As the website develops we will review the opportunities for local businesses to advertise on our website but first we are concentrating on the Council and Community Information.

OLD CROWN FARM DEVELOPMENT & THE LONG AWAITED NEW HEALTH CENTRE



Due to the seemingly endless delays on this project the Parish Council asked for a statement from the landowners regarding the current status of developments at Old Crown Farm. This is a verbatim quotation.

“Lord De La Warr and Mark Weaver of The Withyham Estate, together with their appointed design and build contractor Ashley House Plc, East Sussex Downs & Weald Primary Care Trust and Doctor Andrew Wolfle of the Groombridge & Hartfield Practice have been working hard to tie up loose ends over the last couple of months, ensuring that the final stages before going onto site run as smoothly as possible. Ashley House Plc is expecting to

appoint its building contractor in the next few weeks, and from then on they would hope to begin ground works before the end of October. As is often the case with these projects we are running slightly behind schedule, but our remit is very clear in that we intend to build the best surgery possible following all requirements.

Wealden District Council have also given planning permission for the nine affordable homes, the estate shop (which will be in the lovely stone Wheelwright’s building) and the new office. Whilst sad to be losing one of the village farms as Ron Hudson retires, we are very excited to be developing a landmark village project in a prominent location in Hartfield. The surgery will be completed first, with the housing and other projects taking shape during 2009”.

PAVILION FUND RAISING AND ‘CONCERT ON THE CROFT’

Saturday 2nd August was a Red Letter Day for Hartfield. The Hartfield and District Horticultural Society held their 147th Horticultural Show, a great traditional village event, this was followed in the evening by the “Concert on the Croft” to raise money for the renovation of the Sports Pavilion.



An army of volunteers miraculously transformed the marquee into a concert venue within a few hours and having picnicked on the Croft, the audience were treated to an evening of entertainment from the Band of the Surrey Yeomanry and the beautiful voice of Sally Stapleton, a young singer from Edinburgh whose range of songs were astonishing, from Whitney Houston and Bette Midler classics to enchanting children’s melodies from her newly released CD. Star of the show was singer, songwriter and musician Gerard Kenny. Over three hundred people packed the marquee and the evening raised over £3500. Gerard wrote and conducted the final song to celebrate the “Village in Bloom” competition and this beautiful corner of England - Hartfield, where from his native New York; he has now made his home.

The show was compéred by Chris Hardy, who was a keen member of our small energetic team of organisers. We are very grateful to all those who gave their time to make the “Concert on the Croft” so successful raising an amazing £3,500 for the pavilion fund. Jon Sanders and John Charteris did a great job running the bar. Particular thanks to Sally Stapleton and Gerard Kenny who performed free of charge and attracted such a large audience.

Concert Organising Team: Jo Edwarde, Chris Hardy, Anne Higgins, John Chalke, Nancy Holmes - including Jon Sanders & John Charteris who ran the bar

2nd September - Golf Day & Dinner at the Royal Ashdown Golf Club

21st September - 20:20 triangular cricket tournament on the Croft

1st November - Sports Clubs’ Dinner at the High Rocks



The pavilion fund currently stands at £8384, time now to get together with the Sports Clubs to consider various applications for grant funding.

SUSSEX POLICE



Wealden District Commander's Chief Inspector Neil Honnor has issued an invitation to all parishioners. He would like to promote their 'Face the People' sessions. These public meetings are an opportunity for local people to hear about work that the community safety partners are undertaking and for partners to listen to what the community would like them to prioritise. Doors open at 6:45pm and the meeting starts at 7:15pm.

The dates and nearest venues to Hartfield are: -

10th September Uckfield Civic Centre and 17th September Crowborough Pine Grove

PCSO KAREN JUNIPER & PC PAUL STEPHENS of the Sussex Police (Uckfield Station) met a small group of invited parishioners, together with the Chair & Vice Chair of the Parish Council, in the village hall in early August to discuss what were felt to be the top priorities for them to police in Hartfield. Particular concern was expressed for the elderly and vulnerable with bogus callers and this prompted a letter of advice by PCSO Karen Juniper. Unfortunately it was too long to be reproduced in full in our Newsletter but is sent as a separate enclosure to this newsletter. It is also available on our website for those with internet access. A programme of policing for Hartfield has been agreed.

HARTFIELD – NEW STAR OF THE SILVER SCREEN

Two film crews have already visited Hartfield this year.

FIRST visit was from **ITV Meridian** filming Country Ways, "Hartfield Villages in May", where at least two very well known local residents were interviewed; Mike Parcell, historian and master craftsman about the art of chair –caning/ rushing and Tom Mitchell showing his amazing collection of war memorabilia. Representing the next generation of country craftsmen were Jim Cooper, Farrier and Gareth Johnson's son Peter interviewed about various country skills. Already shown on South West television, it will be going out on Meridian TV in Hartfield AT 7.30pm on the 4th December.



NEXT we were contacted as Trustees of the playschool through our website by Kingfisher TV who were filming locally for the BBC about the legacy of Lord Beeching and the closure of the railways. Hearing about the Hartfield Playschool housed romantically in the old railway station adjacent to the Forest Way Country Park, they were keen to find out more of the history and to film a positive side of the lost railway lines. Unfortunately we were confronted with a slight problem, the film crew were only in the area the following day and the Playschool was closed for the summer and many families were away on holiday. With frantic phone calls and much cooperation (or was it magic) performed by Sarah Adams, the administrator, a large number of children and parents were conjured up for the crew to film. Unfortunately it was too short notice to gather any of the original amazing parents involved with the purchase of the station and the start up of the Hartfield Playschool in the seventies but Kingfisher wanted to do a very short filming session anyway. Edwina Currie a keen charity cyclist presented the programme and was very relaxed and friendly.



Former pupil Louise Sanders whose daughters Maisie and Clover now attend Hartfield Playschool



Cllrs. John Chalke, Nancy Holmes & Jo Edwarde with Edwina Currie outside Hartfield Playschool



Edwina Currie on a Charity Bike Ride raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Research

Watch out for the programme called **Beeching Tracks** due to be broadcast on BBC TV at the end of September or the beginning of October, actual date yet to be announced.



Many members of the community and councillors, led by Sheila van Maurik, did a tremendous amount of work to enter this competition and the judges appeared very impressed with Hartfield Village and the new playschool garden, however until the official judging on 2nd September, when we hope one of the workers will be able to accompany Sheila to the Award Ceremony, we will not know how we fared.

Back to reality: - Next working party 10th September at 6pm.

LATE NEWS

UPDATE ON THE COALYARD - Since our last newsletter was published we have accepted an offer from Town and Country for the sale of the back part of the site for affordable housing as planned. We anticipate contracts will be exchanged in the very near future; however this is presently in the hands of solicitors who, as we all know, control the timeframe.

Telephone Boxes - BT has proposed the removal of uneconomic telephone kiosks. The Parish Council has written to ask that the ones in Hartfield Village, Colestock Cross and Wych Cross should be retained. If you wish to personally make representations please do so to Roger Bates at Wealden DC Pine Grove Crowborough TN6 1DH or email roger.bates@wealden.gov.uk Requests for formal listing to retain traditional red boxes would need to meet very strict criteria from English Heritage.

Tom Willoughby our long term local reporter has retired and we are most grateful for his many years of dedicated service. Our new Community Life Correspondent for the Courier newspaper group is Caroline Tully 01892 770800 email reports@chestner.co.uk.

Free Electric Blanket Testing - 15th October 10am to 12noon at Groombridge Village Hall
17th October 10am to 12noon at Crowborough Fire Station & 2pm to 4pm at Nutley Village Hall.

Remember our great **Hartfield Village Fete** on the 13th September 2008 – 12 Noon

Your Parish Council

Clerk to the Council	MRS. DEBORAH LITTLE	01342 834409	parishclerk@hartfieldonline.com
Chairman of the Parish Council	CLLR. JOHN CHALKE	01892 770540	johnchalke@gmail.com
Vice Chair and Chair of Town Croft & Parish Assets	CLLR. NANCY HOLMES	01892 770294	nancyholmes@btopenworld.com
Chair of Planning	CLLR. KEVIN HAWES	01342 825827	kevin_hawes@talktalk.net
Chair of Rights of Way & Tree Warden	CLLR. CLAIR PARK	01892 770326	clairpark@btinternet.com
Chair of Environment & Transport	CLLR. MIKE BURBRIDGE	01892 770919	mike.burbridge@googlemail.com
Chair of Playgroup Trustees	CLLR. JO EDWARDE	01892 770201	joedwarde@hotmail.com
	CLLR. PETER CRANE	01424 736961	peter.crane@sky.com
	CLLR. ANNE HIGGINS	01892 770312	annehigginshartfield@hotmail.com
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	CLLR. TOM MITCHELL	01892 770227	
	CLLR. CHRIS SIMMONS	01342 850837	
	CLLR. JOHN SMITH	01892 770871	cidercentre@aol.com
	CLLR. SHEILA van MAURIK	01892 770273	
WEALDEN DISTRICT CLLR. (Hartfield Ward)	CLLR. MICHAEL HOY	01892 770166	michael.hoy@wealden.gov.uk
WEALDEN DISTRICT CLLR. (Holtye Ward)	CLLR. DAVID JONAS	01342 826144	david.jonas@wealden.gov.uk
EAST SUSSEX COUNTY CLLR.	CLLR. FRANCIS WHETSTONE	01892 770304	franciswhetstone@eastsussex.gov.uk

Other useful numbers

Wealden District Council 01892 653311

East Sussex County Council 01273 481000

Local Police Community Support Officer Karen Juniper 0845 6070999 – Ext. 19463

karen.juniper@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Emergencies as usual 999 or 112



Remember to Recycle