



# NEWSLETTER

December 2008 Vol. 1 Issue No. 9



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**W**elcome to the Christmas edition of our Newsletter, I would like to thank all of you who have written and contacted councillors to say how much you enjoy being kept up to date with the Council's activities. As the Newsletter is on our website [www.hartfieldonline.com](http://www.hartfieldonline.com) even those who live aboard for part of the year in France, Spain and Greece have been able to keep in touch with events in Hartfield.

We have recently set the precept for 2009/2010 and realising the present financial climate that has probably affected most parishioners and businesses; we have kept the increase to an absolute minimum, knowing that our bills from suppliers will be increasing, so there will be tight careful budgeting. The increase is 2% which equates to £1.31 per annum for Band D properties. For other bands the highest increase will be £2.62

We thank Cllr Tommy Mitchell for all his very visible maintenance work around the parish and assistance will be given to him when we continue our programme into next year. The refurbishment of the playground is complete and other jobs include painting the black and white finger sign posts, repairing seats and bus shelters, etc. The Youth hut on the Croft will be included in 2009 maintenance and if any parishioners have any interest in running youth activities please contact our Clerk, Debbie Little. We are lucky in Hartfield to have volunteers who give their time to run Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and I am reliably informed that many of the youngsters in the parish really enjoy these organisations.

I have been asked to mention a road safety item. Please do not park on pavements or obstruct footpaths, as pedestrians are put in danger when they have to step into the road, especially the elderly and those with wheelchairs, pushchairs and children.

We always welcome your views and opinions, so please do contact any of the Parish Councillors, details overleaf. Our Parish Clerk Debbie Little is usually in the parish office in the Village Hall on Tuesday morning but can be contacted by telephone where she also has an answer-phone. You are most welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings held on the first Monday of each month except for Bank Holidays. Tea & Coffee is available. There are no meetings in January or August. There are ten minutes of public question time and reports from District and County Councillors at the start of all meetings.

On behalf of all the Hartfield Parish Councillors I would like to wish you all A Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

**John Chalke – Chairman Hartfield Parish Council.**



The "before" and "after" pictures show a bench at the bus stop in Shepherds Hill at the junction with Parrock Lane. This has been out of action for many years. With hardwood slats supplied by Kevin Hawes, Tom has now restored the bench to its former glory and children waiting for the 291 bus are shown already appreciating his efforts.



The Christmas Tree in the Memorial Gardens was kindly donated this year by Les Whitewood of Colemans Hatch.

# ST. MARY THE VIRGIN C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Report from St Mary the Virgin CE Primary School Pam Edwards - Head Teacher

"A good school with outstanding aspects" was the verdict of the recent Ofsted inspection at St Mary the Virgin CE Primary School in Hartfield, and confirms what local people have known for years. Head Teacher, Pam Edwards said, "This is truly wonderful news. We have worked really hard over the last three years to make sure the education our children get is first class. It is fantastic to have this view confirmed by the Inspectors." The curriculum has been recognised in that it "provides exciting learning opportunities, especially through 'learning journeys'. As one parent commented, 'The learning journey form of teaching inspires the children. They learn so much without realising. They are excited, inspired and eager to learn more'".



As a Church of England School, St Mary's also had an inspection by the Diocese. This confirmed the Ofsted findings. The two reports confirm that St Mary's is fulfilling its aim 'to widen the horizons of everyone in our school community by nurturing a love of learning, whilst developing Christian values and a respect for others and their beliefs.'

**The School** is arranging an open day for prospective parents in the New Year watch out for details. Anyone interested in learning more should contact the school 01892 770221.

## TOWN CROFT- PAVILION FUND RAISING & SPORTS CLUBS

### The pavilion fund

Currently stands at over £10,000. Huge thanks to Karen & Ken Thompson of the Anchor Inn for their magnificent cheque for £1000 raised by bonus ball and meat raffle competitions. The Village Fete also donated a generous sum to be used for ground improvement which would particularly benefit the sports clubs but also all Croft users.



Professional verti-draining and sanding therefore took place in November. Due to the tight financial climate we have paused our fund raising activities until the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009 when an exciting Fun Run is being organised around Hartfield (see below) but watch out for more details nearer the time.

**LATE NEWS: Despicable thieves broke into the pavilion yet again and stole amongst other things the cricket club drinks.** The police have been called and are still investigating - sadly local people are suspected.

### • Hartfield Junior Football

Boys and Girls keen on football will be interested to know that Lee Farren from the Hartfield Football Club has brought professionally run junior football from East Grinstead to Hartfield on a trial basis. The Under 9 Dynamos and Hotshots + an U10 team may have been seen in action on a Saturday morning. Any keen Hartfield youngsters should get their parents to contact Lee on 07840 686361 for details of coaching sessions or simply watch out for activity on the Croft and turn up.

• **Hartfield Tennis Club** – Are still looking for a secretary. This is a pleasant not onerous task. Either contact our Clerk for details or ring Richard Hodge on 01892 531855.

• **Hartfield Cricket Club** – Are always keen for new recruits and to attract new players. Junior cricket coaching may be arranged in April. . Secretary Mike Brunson 01892 538856.

Watch the dedicated sports clubs notice- board adjacent to the Village Shop for all sports news.

**Nancy Holmes - Chair of Town Croft & Parish Assets 01892 770294**

## FUN RUN



Sunday 19 April 2009 Town Croft, Hartfield, TN7 4DH  
Juniors 2k (1.2 miles) Starts 10.30 am  
Seniors 10k (6 miles) Starts 11.00 am  
Walkers Welcome

All proceeds to the Hartfield Sports Pavilion Renovation Fund

Run details, route map and registration form from: Jo Edwarde – 01892 770201 or [hartfield.funrun@live.co.uk](mailto:hartfield.funrun@live.co.uk)

Thanks to: **CENTRAL GARAGE, UPPER HARTFIELD LTD** for sponsoring this event.



In 2008 Hartfield achieved a high silver gilt medal, a point up from 2007, also winning the best Small Village, but not yet the coveted GOLD. The two key areas where we missed out were the village green and the grass along the High Street. The highlight was the Commercial Landscape Award against huge competition which went to our own Hartfield Playschool for their stunning new garden. The competition is not just about floral displays. Green issues and community involvement all play their part and next year we hope to involve the school much more in environmental schemes. Peter Holman, who runs South and South East in Bloom, has promised to come to Hartfield next year giving us some hints and tips to inspire us on to better things. Nancy and I have met with the inspirational Limpsfield organisers who have won Gold two years in a row. One little tip they had was to encourage people to automatically put a plastic bag in their pocket when going out for a walk and to pick up litter as they went. Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped to achieve so much during 2008. Please send in your suggestions or comments for 2009.

**Working parties meet in the Memorial Garden on either Tuesdays at 2.00pm or Saturdays at 9.30am**  
**Dates: JANUARY: Sat 10<sup>th</sup> & Tues 20<sup>th</sup>; FEBRUARY: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & Tues 17<sup>th</sup>; MARCH: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**  
South East in Bloom Coordinator Sheila van Maurik - 01892 770273.

## ENERGY SAVING

### Save the world and Save your pennies!

The PC is keen to adopt policies to both reduce its own impact on our environment as well as working with residents to reduce theirs. We are about to look at how to make this a reality. In the meantime Wealden have suggested the following actions at an excellent 'Affordable Warmth in Wealden' summit they recently hosted. Adopting these measures would be a great start to help reduce your fuel bills as well as help reduce your impact on our environment. But don't despair - if you already are doing this call Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 512 or the Wealden Energy Efficiency Helpline on 01323 443321 for advice about grants or other actions you can take.



- Turn off lighting when not in use - lighting costs 10 to 15% of the electricity bill.
- Switch to energy saving light bulbs - each energy saving bulb can take up to £9 off your bill
- Turn off appliances when not in use, don't leave them on standby
- When buying appliances make sure they are energy efficient - look for the logo
- Turn heating down by 1 degree - you're unlikely to notice any difference except on your bill!
- Draw curtains at dusk which will help to prevent heat loss from windows
- Do your washing at 30 degrees - machines and powders work well at lower temperatures
- Service your boiler so it is as efficient as possible

**Mike Burbridge - Chair of Environment 01892 770 919.**

## COUNTRY MATTERS & R.O.W

### Watch out there's a beetle about!



Another invasive creature in gardens/woodlands is a large black beetle which grows to 37 mm long. If found please place in a container and contact the local Plant Health Seeds Inspector on Defra website or contact Cllr Park for telephone number. It is very destructive to trees and plants and has been brought on imported Acers from China and distributed by mail order.



**Our ROW team carrying out way-marking tasks  
- overseen by the 'Neigh-bours'**

The R.O.W working party dates for 2009 are:

**JANUARY:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, **FEBRUARY:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, **MARCH:** Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>, **APRIL:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, **MAY:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>,  
**JUNE:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>, **JULY:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>, **AUGUST:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, **SEPTEMBER:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>, **OCTOBER:** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>,  
**NOVEMBER:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, **DECEMBER:** There is no meeting. **Clair Park - Chair of R.O.W. 01892 770326.**

## ADVICE FROM OUR COMMUNITY CONTACT POLICE OFFICER



### Tips to secure your home

Leaving your home during hours of darkness, without putting on lights or drawing the curtains, indicates to the opportunist criminal that there is no-one at home. Unfortunately, every year sees a spate of early evening burglaries associated with the darker evenings. Taking the steps outlined below will help keep your home safe:

- Use an automatic time switch on an indoor light, either in a room that cannot be peered into from the road or upstairs. Regularly change the timing on the switch.
- Put a time switch on a radio that has been tuned to a chat station. This will give the impression that the house is occupied. Again, regularly change the timing on the switch. Fit security lighting, either dusk to dawn energy efficient lighting that will come on automatically as dusk sets in, or brighter, passive infrared activated lighting drawing attention to movement.
- Ensure that gates or access to the rear of the house are locked and secure. Don't forget to lock your shed; your tools can be used to break in. Trim overgrown plants – don't give burglars a hiding place.
- Trust your instincts. If you see anything suspicious let the police know. If you think a crime is about to happen or is in progress dial 999.

For more information and regular advice sign up to: [Communitycontact.Wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Communitycontact.Wealden@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

## KEY ONGOING MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST

### Health Centre/affordable housing etc. Old Crown Farm

All we can do is keep enquiring on your behalf and relaying to you what we are told. The latest estimate to start is January 2009 but meetings are still ongoing. Meanwhile we thought you would be interested to know why the green fencing had appeared. "The fencing is intended to keep reptiles out of the site for the duration of the construction period – grass snakes being the main offender here. We learned through surveys carried out that there are grass snakes nearby, and therefore being the wildlife loving nation we are we need to put measures in place to ensure none of them are harmed while we build"

### Old Coal Yard

We were holding this newsletter ready to announce the exchange and therefore the details of the sale of part of the yard for the promised 9 units of affordable housing. At the last moment the solicitors have found another document that needs clarification so we are still waiting for the magic word. As soon as the exchange has taken place planning permission will be worked on for prompt submission by Town and Country Housing for the promised 9 units of affordable housing.

### Parish Plan

Dr. Peter Furneaux, Chairman of the Parish Plans Team would like to invite you to a public meeting on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall at 7.30pm to show the completed draft of the Parish Plan. He emphasises this is a living/working document. Watch out for posters nearer the time. Acting secretary is Jenny Robinson 770337

### 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. CHRIS SIMMONS	01342 850837	
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. KEVIN HAWES	01342 825827	kevin_hawes@talktalk.net
	CLLR. ANNE HIGGINS	01892 770312	annehigginshartfield@hotmail.com
	CLLR. GEORGE KORBEL	01342 822720	george@uni-com.uk.com
	CLLR. TOM MITCHELL	01892 770227	
	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  
Local Police Community Support Officer  
[karen.juniper@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:karen.juniper@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

East Sussex County Council 01273 481000  
Karen Juniper 0845 6070999 – Ext. 19463  
Emergencies as usual 999 or 112

Newsletter Coordinator – Cllr. Nancy Holmes  
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