



HARTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2011 – Volume 2 Issue 8



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last May the Parish Council set some challenging objectives for the end of 2011 and I am pleased to report they have been, or are about to be, met. Firstly, we aimed to occupy Goods Yard House (at the old coal yard site) before Christmas. The builders will be out by 16 December and our first tenant moves in soon after. The Parish Council will undertake a staged move from the Parish office in the Village Hall and begin to hold committee meetings in Goods Yard House from January. The first full Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5 February as there is no meeting in January. The office will be open to the public for advice and information on Mondays, 9.15am – 11.15am from 9th January. The official opening ceremony is on Monday 23rd January and while we would love to invite everybody, space prevents us from doing this. Instead we are holding an Open Day on Tuesday 24th January between 1.00pm and 8.00pm when everyone is very welcome to come and have a look round our lovely new Parish Office and Meeting Room, while enjoying drinks and refreshments.

We also aimed to complete the leasing arrangements with the Playschool by the end of the year. This has been slower than expected although the solicitor may still produce a final draft before Christmas. Hopefully everything will be finalised and signed in the New Year.

Almost all Councillors, both new and long standing, have completed at least one training course. In the New Year we hope the Council will qualify for the 'Power of Well Being'. This is a new power which relates directly to the Localism Bill due to become law in early 2012. More details will be given in the April Newsletter.

Lastly, The Parish Council web-site has been revamped and updated and is full of information about meetings and decisions taken as well as news items and forthcoming events. Just visit www.hartfieldonline.com. It has been a busy few months and I would like to thank, on your behalf, all the Parish Councillors and Emma the Parish clerk, for giving their time and energy to make all this progress possible. I wish them and all those who live or work in Hartfield Parish, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Jo Edwarde
Chairman, Hartfield Parish Council.

YOUTH HUT QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to all those who took the time to complete the questionnaire sent out with the summer Newsletter. Initial analysis indicates a firm preference for the Parish Council to work with a Youth Organisation to provide activities for the young people of the Parish. Opinion on the future of the Youth Hut was less clear. Most people opted for the two year programme which is to refurbish the existing building but a significant number of people considered a complete rebuild to be the best way forward. This was the 5 – 10 year plan and was the most expensive option.



The Parish Council will now undertake a feasibility study of these two options which will include a more detailed questionnaire aimed at young people, to discover what sort of building their preferred activities would demand. Hopefully this will be carried out in the spring 2012.



PRECEPT & MONEY MATTERS



The autumn is the time when the Parish Council sets the level of Precept. This is the amount of money Wealden levy from residents on behalf of the Parish Council to cover the cost of its activities. You may remember last Spring that while we planned an increase of 2.5%, the request was processed as 0.5%! However, with very careful budgeting the increase in Precept for 2012/2013 has been kept at 2.5%. This represents an increase of about 4p per week for a Band D house.

During the budgeting process questions were raised concerning the relatively low income from the Town Croft assets against the high cost of maintenance. Last year the cost of maintaining the Croft, the Pavilion and the Youth Hut was over £7500 plus any unforeseen maintenance bills. The income from these assets was just over £4570. The Parish Council currently subsidises these community facilities by about £3000 each year. This is why individuals and user groups are asked to contribute towards the running costs. For example, Hartfield Youth Groups have a discounted rate, the sports associations each contribute an annual levy and organisers of one-off events are also asked to contribute. In this way both the subsidy and contributions from users are kept at an affordable level.

It is very pleasing to note that the Goods Yard House project has been completed on time and within budget. It is even better news that by May 2012 the gross income from the flats will exceed the interest repayments on the original loan. This is a good financial position to be in and well worth waiting for.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The next six months will fly by so we are pleased to report that plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are already taking shape. The Parish Council are funding the provision of a marquee for Saturday 2 June and Sunday 3 June 2012. There will be a summer prize draw to help meet some of the cost and tickets will be on sale leading up to Jubilee weekend. On the Saturday night there will be an evening celebration and we are delighted to announce this will include a cabaret given by Gerard Kenny. Sunday will see The Big Jubilee Lunch. This is a Nation-wide celebration inviting people to bring and share items for lunch while different Community Groups and individuals will provide and organise activities for the young and not so young! The lunch will be set out in the marquee which will also offer some shelter if the weather is unkind.



So far we have: volunteers to run a hats/crowns competition for children and adults; the Castlefields and Mottefield Community group have arranged for a leader from Active Play to centre children's activities around the Play Park; we have a volunteer to provide musical entertainment (possibly a sing-along) in the marquee; members of the cricket club have volunteered to run some cricket activities using the cricket nets; the Playschool will organise an activity such as face painting; Rev Paul Brice will lead a Thanksgiving in the marquee, before lunch.



Other ideas include a Heritage exhibition to span the 60 years of the Queen's reign; a tea dance in the marquee; cream teas. But this is only the beginning. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to run a "one hour disco" for the children? Is there anyone with busking skills to entertain during lunch time? How about a parents and children's football match?

The idea is to attract all members of the community, young and old, to celebrate together at no great expense. If you have any ideas we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Parish Clerk
Emma Fulham on 01342 822404 or parishclerk@hartfieldonline.com



HARTFIELD FUN RUN 2012 - SUNDAY 15th APRIL



Make a note in your diary and come along to support the Pavilion Renovation Fund.

Town Croft, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AD
10k (6 miles) 5.6k (3.5 miles) and 2k (1.2 miles)
Something for everyone - Families, Runners and Walkers

SOUTH & SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

After several years of coordinating Hartfield's entry into the South East in Bloom competition, Sheila van Maurik has handed over the reins to Dan Maher who lives in the village (01892 77062). Although it is a competition for the whole community and not a Parish Council led initiative, we hope that you will support Dan's efforts on behalf of the village and also thank Sheila for her tireless efforts in previous years to get Hartfield looking good in time for the judging.



Community News

GREAT LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Give your friends shingles for Christmas! ...and help stop the church falling down. £50,000 is being raised for work on the tower. The spire needs 10,000 new shingles. Buy some shingles for the St Mary's Spire (leaflet enclosed) or pick one up from church or shops

HARTFIELD STORES NEW DELIVERY SERVICE

Hartfield Stores have introduced a new delivery service. The service will be available from Monday to Friday within a 3 mile radius free over £30. You can phone your order through on 01892 770501. For details contact Julie or Paul.



YOUR CAB NEEDS YOU!



If you've ever thought of volunteering but weren't sure where you'd fit in or how you could help, why not consider joining your local Citizens Advice Bureau? There are many roles at your local CAB ranging from from adviser, receptionist, admin worker, to trustee or IT support. If any of these interest you or you have skills that you think would be useful at the bureau, Wealden Citizens Advice would love to hear from you, so please call Ruth Maddison or Caroline Mack on 01825 762807 for an informal chat about what's involved.

HARTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAY & STORYFEST

Funded by the ARTS COUNCIL June 25th - July 11th Claque Theatre leads Hartfield villagers in a Community Play. It will be about our heritage, famous local residents and pertinent memories. In May 2012 a Children's Book Festival (StoryFest) will be held on the Croft with famous authors attending. The Storyfest team invite you to a Fun Quiz and Auction of Promises on Sat. 7th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, tickets £5 from Emma Stillwell 01892 770536. A Drama Search with playwright Jon Oram will be held in Church at 7.30pm on Wednesday January 11th to listen to the emerging story, all are welcome. For more details visit www.claquetheatre.com, www.hartfieldplay.co.uk or call Penny Lamb 07725 982 977.



Now is the time to get involved, workshops and rehearsals start in the New Year.



THE RUDE MECHANICAL THEATRE COMPANY returns to the Town Croft on 26th July 2012 with a new production "Who saw Marjory Daw" a sequel to "Gentle Harry's Farm" enjoyed by so many last summer.

HANDYPERSON GRANT SCHEME 2011-2012

1. Do you need help with small jobs around your home? 2. Do you find it difficult to pay for this help? 3. Are you aged 65 or over? 4. Do you have savings of less than £10,000?

East Sussex CC may offer grants of up to £200 to residents if you can respond "YES" to all these questions:- Find out more by contacting Social Care Direct 0345 60 80 191 or email socialcaredirect@eastsussex.gov.uk or write to Social Care Direct St. Marys House, 5 St. Leonard's Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 3UU



CAN YOU HELP THE HARTFIELD SCOUTS?

1st Hartfield Scout Group continues to grow at an astounding rate, which is absolutely fantastic. However, with more young people wanting to join, the Group is quickly running out of space for storage. We are looking for just one facility to store all our equipment together, rather than being spread between four or five different locations. The facility has to be of sound construction and rodent free to conform to the Group's Insurance Conditions. Do you have an existing building or garage available or some land where they could put a storage container? Please contact Neil Postlethwaite on 01892 770743 or gsl@1sthartfield.co.uk if you are able to help.



HARTFIELD WARMING THE HEARTH



A local scheme has been launched stemming from the idea of redistributing Winter Fuel Payments. People who do not need their extra heating payment (or anybody else) can consider donating to the village scheme and those in need of heating assistance can apply for a contribution towards their fuel bills. The scheme will be administered by James Lambeth and the money processed through the church, which runs many charity collections every year and is audited. James will be able to assess, confidentially, how much money has been raised and how much can be distributed and this will occur in the New Year when the weather is coldest. Please respond to

Warming the Hearth by 31st December, whether donating or applying for assistance. A form is enclosed for either giving or applying. The deadline for applications is 31st December and forms should be returned to James at Heatherley, Butcherfield Lane, Hartfield, TN7 4LB – Telephone 01892 770003

STOP PRESS: NEED FASTER BROADBAND? WE NEED YOUR HELP ASAP!

We need to establish the current status of broadband coverage in the Parish and demonstrate the level of demand for improvements as a first step in our initiative to secure funding for high-speed broadband in the Parish.

Deadlines are very tight so please complete and return the enclosed Broadband Survey promptly. This may also be completed on the Parish Council Website:

<http://www.hartfieldonline.com>



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Chair of the Parish Council Chair of Rights of Way & Chair of Playschool Trustees	Cllr. Jo Edwarde	01892 770201	joedwarde@hotmail.com
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East Sussex County Councillor	Cllr. Francis Whetstone	01892 770304	franciswhetstone@eastsussex.gov.uk
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