



HARTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Christmas Newsletter 2021

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Hello Hartfield,

Thankfully since mid-July we have finally been able to get back to some normality and it is so good to see our diverse array of community activities and facilities back in action. We had our first, and much welcomed, in person council meeting in July at Goods Yard House and we have continued to meet in person; albeit with social distancing. It was not straightforward running the Parish Council over the period when we were not allowed to meet, and I thank the Clerk and my fellow councillors for their hard work.

I would also like to express my thanks to two councillors who are stepping down after many years of service. Barbara Maude joined the Council six years ago and has made a huge impact. She was the driving force behind the Village Clean days that we ran pre-COVID and has provided significant help in other areas behind the scenes. Anita Emery joined the Council in 2016 and has provided support across a range of issues, including planning and finance. We wish Barbara and Anita well as they move on to other challenges. We will be co-opting new councillors in December. It was with extreme sadness that we heard of the death of our Wealden District Councillor, Chris Hardy on September 27th after a long battle with cancer. Chris was a regular attendee at our PC meetings always keeping us up to date with his report from Wealden. Chris had the great honour of being Chair of WDC for several years.

Our Remembrance Day celebration at St. Mary's was well attended. I would like to thank everyone involved, with special praise to our young parishioners for their excellent church readings, and the efforts of the British Legion volunteers—in particular James Castle who decorates the Parish in poppies and assists in so many ways. After the service, Reverend Julie blessed the new Remembrance bench next to the Beacon.

And now unbelievably, we are already heading towards Christmas. The Hartfield village outdoor live nativity is always a favourite of mine. We all certainly no longer take for granted gathering for our village traditions and celebrations. I hope that you are able to come out for the nativity this year! 17th December meet on the Town Croft at 6pm. I have discussed the topic of volunteering in previous letters, but we as a community cannot thank enough all of those volunteers who give us their time and support. Your efforts, often silent and unpublicised, are hugely valuable and appreciated. Once again I thank all those in our community who look beyond their front door and give of their time to better our Parish. The appeal I make again this Christmas is to consider getting involved if you are able, or more involved if at all possible, in giving back to your community. Whatever your skills, they are valuable to your neighbours. Hartfield Parish is a precious place and it is what we make it.

So together as a community we push on into a new year and a future where we hope the strains of COVID, and all that accompanies it, will begin to fade. These new routines try our patience, but we must continue to carry on: getting booster vaccines when recommended, wearing masks to protect others in crowded places, washing our hands. These efforts will enable us to move beyond this pest.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Ashdown Forest parking consultation. This is open for all to comment until 6th December 2021. For further information please see www.ashdownforest.org.

You may be aware that poet William Butler Yeats very much enjoyed living in our Parish at Stone Cottage in Coleman's Hatch together with fellow poet Ezra Pound during the winters of 1913-1916. He composed his Christmas poem 'The Magi' during that period in 1914. I share it with you as we test our patience and faith and continue to push beyond this pandemic. What a blessing it is that Christmas this year won't come with as many rules and constraints as last year's. Most importantly, enjoy it as it comes!



The Magi, by William Butler Yeats

Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye,
In their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones
Appear and disappear in the blue depth of the sky
With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones,
And all their helms of silver hovering side by side,
And all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more
Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied.
The uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor.

I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and happy and healthy 2022.
Giles Horner, Chairman of Hartfield Parish Council

ZERO CARBON AND HARTFIELD PARISH – Councillor Roger Eastwood.

One of our objectives at HPC is to reduce our carbon footprint by using, where we sensibly can, solar power and LED low energy lighting in the buildings we are responsible for and improving insulation using sustainable materials, for example. We are also looking into supporting the introduction of EV charging points in the Village and would be interested to hear from local businesses that may be willing to “host” an electric vehicle charge point at some stage. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to get involved.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2022 – Councillor Burnett -Dick

Next year, 2022, Hartfield along with villages and towns across the commonwealth will be celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We intend to mark the occasion with events and activities in the village centre which will include speeches from local dignitaries, a barbecue and bar, live music, activities for the children, traditional dancing and the lighting of our beacon at a pre-organized time to coincide with all other national and international participants.

Having had to cancel so many local activities in the past two years we are intending to make this gathering of villagers as special as we can. It's time we all had a party!

Further details will be posted as we move towards this very special date but in the meantime if you have any questions please feel free to contact Colin Burnett-Dick via your parish council.

HIGHWAYS – Councillor Mike Colenutt

Following issues of reported speeding in and around the village the Parish Council arranged with East Sussex Highways for speed surveys to be conducted at various locations. The sites selected were:

B2110 Castlefields	B2110 near Parrock Lane Upper Hartfield
B2110 near village hall	B2026 Cotchford Hill
B2110 Gallipot Hill	

Of these sites, only two showed a significantly higher average speed over the current limits
B2110 near Parrock Lane-- 30mph zone, data was 39mph travelling East and 36mph travelling West.
B2026 Cotchford Hill-- 40 mph zone, data was 38 mph travelling North and 46 mph travelling South.

It may be there is a perception of greater speed than is the reality. However, the Parish Council are keen to set up a Speedwatch group to monitor the problem areas.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEER AND COORDINATOR FOR HARTFIELD

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join together with the support and supervision of local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices. Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence.

The role requires a few hours a week and full training is given by Sussex Police on behalf of the Parish Council. The area initially to be covered will be Jib Jacks Hill and Cat Street. The group is approved and has several willing volunteers but needs a coordinator. For further details and if required a chat please contact Steve O'Connell at Sussex Police by email csw@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

HARTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN– Councillor Roger Eastwood

Hartfield Parish Council are in the process of reviving the Neighbourhood Plan work that was started and then parked a few years ago. Quite a lot has changed in the planning world over the last few years and at some stage, in 2022 probably, there will be more changes centred around the Governments “levelling up” agenda. Until that is a little clearer, it doesn’t make sense for us to move towards the Public Consultation phase on our draft plan but we will continue to work with Wealden and other bodies in the meantime.

PARKING – Councillor Giles Horner

The Parish Council is aware of the parking issues raised within the village centre. This has become increasingly problematic over the past 18 months with the greater popularity of the village. This issue is not new and has been reviewed previously. Whilst the Council is grateful for the thriving local businesses and beautiful local scenery, lockdown and its easing has presented a number of issues with the increased numbers of visitors. Litter, dog fouling and parking are all on the rise. We have increased litter and dog bin facilities, but the Council recognise that parking remains a challenge.



The Council has previously investigated several sites for additional parking, but there is no additional land available in or near the High Street. The Council has installed weekend parking signage and an additional parking sign to encourage people to park at the school car park at weekends, though driver behaviour is to generally to park as close to their destination as possible. The Council also provides parking at the pavilion and the Playschool / Goods Yard House sites. The Council has also looked into the feasibility of yellow line schemes, but they are currently unenforceable in Wealden and not a matter for the police, as well as being expensive.

The Council will continue to monitor the situation and is looking into some portable weekend signs to highlight the parking options but are mindful that we live in a conservation area and also that we need to see whether the unusually high level of visitors to the area abates as COVID restrictions continue to ease. As parishioners, you can help by reporting parking which may cause an accident to 101 for police intervention. The Council has asked the PCSO to attend at the weekends to see what input they can provide.

BONFIRES FIREWORKS AND HEDGES.

These are the main complaints we regularly receive.

Wealden District Council are the authority for noise and bonfires and complaints can be logged on their website. Please note late night fireworks are illegal except on certain celebration days and should be avoided. Regular nuisance bonfires can also face enforcement action from WDC. Hedges should not impede the pavement and there are regular issues with some footpaths being narrowed to prevent easy access for families, buggies and wheelchairs. If these are not resolved East Sussex County Council can take action and charge the householder for remedial works.



PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE NEWS

The Parish Council continues to work on its strategic plan encompassing improvements to sustainability, highways safety, parish assets and community projects. This newsletter has been issued prior to the final budget setting for 2022/23 and, whilst the Council strives for cost efficiencies, the assets of the parish require regular maintenance for safety and enjoyment of all. Unfortunately contractor costs and material costs are rising in the UK, thus we expect a need to increase slightly the precept to cover our increased costs although the Parish element of council tax is only a small proportion of the total bill.

The Parish Council has contributed just over £8000 to community initiatives and local groups this year, including local sports and youth clubs and Wealdlink. For the 2022 grant scheme, please check the Parish Council website for forms in February.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hartfield Memorial Garden

Our small group of amateur gardeners are looking for extra volunteers!

We meet for a couple of hours in the morning on the second Saturday of each month to help keep the Memorial Garden looking loved! We bring our own tools, gloves, etc.

If you think you might be interested, either pop along on the second Saturday of next month or email Jo at joedwarde@hotmail.com.

HARTFIELD RIGHTS OF WAY VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to walk the Parish footpaths once a month and do light clearing? Our group of volunteers are looking for “new recruits”. We walk on alternate Thursdays or Saturdays in the 4th week of each month.

We meet at Goods Yard House at 9.30a.m. and are generally back by noon! We bring our own gloves and secateurs with the option of small hand saws and loppers.

For more information or to volunteer please e mail me at janetlittleford@hotmail.com



HARTFIELD VILLAGE HALL

The refurbishment of the three cloakrooms is almost complete. Lack of supplies due to Covid meant delays in our installers being able to fit the double-glazed units. This will now be done just before Christmas. These brand-new windows were part-funded by a grant from the Gatwick Trust for which we are most grateful.

GROUPS HIRING THE HALL. Whilst some of our regulars have returned following the Covid shutdown – WI, History Group, Lunch Club, Guides, Scouts, Ballet, Art Classes for both experienced and complete beginners (contact Alison 07763 188538 –

ajberryartist@gmail.com) and JCK Martial Arts. A new Puppy Training School recently started and private parties remain popular. Sadly, we lost a couple of regular bookings such as HYPE Youth Club which folded due to lack of helpers and the fitness classes due to lack of instructors. We have new groups too, one which recently started is a Puppy Training School. For details of hiring the hall, please contact our admin and bookings clerk, Paula Jones 07973 448494 email hartfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

FUND RAISING – Hartfield Village Hall is a registered charity; the building being owned by all Hartfield Parishioners so we need to continually raise funds for its upkeep.

HARTFIELD CALENDARS are now on sale in the Village Shop, Pooh Corner and Nick the Butcher. They feature beautiful sketches of many of the buildings in the High Street by the late Tony Goddard taken from the Hartfield Millennium Map.

100 CLUB TICKETS with monthly prize draws are now available from Linda.graham@hartfieldonline.org 01892 770487.

STOP PRESS NEWS: We are really delighted to inform you that professional international musical singer and actor **MATTHEW GOODGAME AND THE SPINETTES** will be returning to the Village Hall with a new Valentine show next February 13th. Watch out for more details, tickets not yet available. **BOWJANGLES** are also returning to the Village Hall in February. Their last performance was a sell-out. They are an amazing group of talented musicians playing their violins whilst performing dance routines on the stage. For details from HARTS ring Bernie or Julie Madden on 01892 771419.

Nancy Holmes- Secretary to Hartfield Village Hall 01892 770294 – nancyholmes@btopenworld.com

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY (NB The Churches’ own comprehensive newsletter is enclosed)

Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm 25th April 2022 at Hartfield Village Hall

NB -All Parish Council meetings are on the website and notice board.

Hartfield Village Fete 3rd September 2022.

Please note the Parish Council offices will be closed from 20th December and re-open on 4th of January 2022.

Clerk to the Council	Mrs. Emma Fulham	01342 822404	parishclerk@hartfieldonline.com
Chair of the Parish Council.	Cllr. Giles Horner	0203 4016895	giles@hartfieldonline.com
Vice Chair of the Parish Council & Chair of Finance	Cllr R Eastwood	01892 863172	roger@hartfieldonline.com
Chair of Planning	Cllr. R Eastwood	01892 863172	roger@hartfieldonline.com
Chair of Environment & Transport	Cllr. Mike Colenutt	01892 770840	mike@hartfieldonline.com
Chair of Town Croft	Cllr. Robert Nathan	01892 770903	robert@hartfieldonline.com
Wealden District Councillor (Hartfield Ward)	Election Pending		
East Sussex County Councillor	Cllr. Georgia Taylor	07510 074255	cllr.georgia.taylor@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 - 8.30am - 5pm East Sussex County Council 0345 60 80 190.

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

or Email: customer@eastsussexhighways.com

