

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE WELL HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

December 2005

Trafalgar Day

This was a great success. The Residents' Association worked with Shoreham Parish Council to present this tribute to Lord Nelson and the sailors who defended our way of life 200 years ago.

Despite the rain, over 100 people attended and were kept warm with hot soup, tea and coffee and Morris dancing from the West Hill Morris. Our local rector, Canon Leslie Virgo, said a few words before the free rum was distributed for the toast to Nelson. The beacon, made by local Well Hill blacksmith Joe Gregory, was soon ablaze and the West Hill Morris performed a few more dances. There was spontaneous singing of Rule Britannia, God Save the Queen and Jerusalem. 200 years ago the Royal Navy beat the French and Spanish so that we have our own unique culture. We on the Hill were not ashamed to celebrate that historic victory!

There were many people involved in producing this event, including Barbara Ide (the Shoreham Parish Clerk), three parish councillors, all six members of the WHRA committee (plus a few spouses). It was delightful that several residents of Well Hill offered their drives for use by those arriving by car. Without this unsolicited help our PCSO Dave Birchell would have had to spend time keeping the road open!

Trafalgar Competition Winners

Bert Till won 1st prize £15 (M&S Vouchers)

Gerda Nikodem won 2nd prize £10
Answers are on the back page.

Resident's Carol Service

WHRA Carol Service will be on Tuesday 20th DEC @ 7.45 pm in the Mission Church. There will be coffee, tea and Mince pies afterwards and a chance to chat to your neighbours. Always a popular event and a lovely way to start the Christmas season.

Police and Crime

This is the time of year when thefts increase. This year's most stolen items are portable satellite navigation systems.

There were two attempted thefts of garden machinery in November. The police advise keeping all machinery and tools locked away when not in use. Shed alarms can be purchased from the police. Contact our PCSO Dave Birchell on 01732 370849 to order a shed alarm.

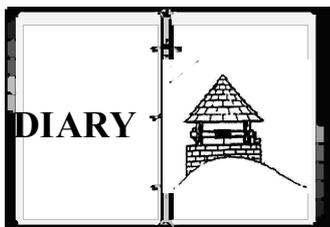
Don't invite crime at Christmas - Do not leave presents on display in cars and in rooms easily visible from the road. As PC Ann Davis says, "when I am patrolling the village [Crockenhill] in the dark it is nice to look into your lounges with the lights on displaying all your valuables, remember that a burglar can do the same, so when you put lights on inside your house, draw the curtains or pull the blinds." Phone 01322 861421 for Ann. Do not leave large cardboard boxes outside to advertise that you have bought a new very expensive TV - better still - break them up and put them in your white recycling sacks.

For other advice on crime prevention see our website's links pages at <http://www.whra.org.uk/links.htm>.



**The committee wishes all residents a
MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**





DECEMBER EVENTS

Sunday 18th Christmas Carols at 9:45am in Well Hill Mission Church

Tuesday 20th - Residents Carol Service at the Mission Church from 7:45pm

Tuesday 20th - Carols in The Five Bells, Chelsfield Village from around 8:30pm

Newsletter

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by E-mail, or have a contribution for the next Newsletter, please mail us at editor@whra.org.uk.

Free Saturday Refuse Collection

2005 December 17th and February 25th
Crockenhill at Church Road: 11:00am to 11:45pm
Crockenhill Village Hall: 12 noon to 12:45pm

2006 February 18th
Well Hill Village in the Kent Hounds car park: 12:15 to 1:00pm

Normal Refuse Collection

Monday 26th will be collected Wednesday 28th
Tuesday 27th will be collected as Thursday 29th
Wednesday 28th will be collected Friday 30th
Thursday 29th will be collected Saturday 31st
Friday 30th—NO COLLECTION
Monday 2nd January to Friday 6th January collections will be one day later than usual.

Please note that collection times may vary so put your rubbish out early!

For more information contact Sevenoaks Direct Services on 01959 562936 or e-mail direct.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk

The WHRA has an e-mail list for local information. When requested we also pass on information from the police. If you would like to be kept informed when thieves are in the area, please let us add you to our mailing list. You can register at <http://www.whra.org.uk/emailist.htm> Please note that we do NOT pass your e-mail address to any third party and we do NOT display your e-mail address in e-mails sent to this list. More details on our website.

Stolen Property

The Metropolitan Police recovered a large amount of stolen property from Waldens Farm recently including a large quantity of saddlery and tack. If any Well Hill residents have had this type of property stolen contact Orpington Police 01689 8313 1212

Rock and Fountain Reopens for Business

After being closed for over two months for essential electrical work and refurbishment the Rock and Fountain reopened on Thursday 24th November 2005 under new management.

The new managers are a young couple Kate and Ben. Ben's brother Tom will also be working behind the bar.

Kate has previously working in the hotel trade in Greenwich for six years and Ben has been a chef for sixteen years at premier establishments including Marriot hotels.

The Rock and Fountain's new opening hours are 11am to 11pm every day except Sunday when it will close at 10:30pm.

There are two non smoking areas.

On the opening day the interior of the Rock and Fountain was a little Spartan but this is expected to change quickly as Kate and Ben find their feet.

Food

Food will be served at Lunch Time and in the Evening.

All food is home made and in the coming weeks, Ben expects to increase the amount of local produce in the menu.

There is a Christmas Party menu priced at £25 per head and there is a special Christmas Day menu at £50 per head. Contact Kate and Ben on 01959 534335.

Beer

On the opening lunchtime there were three real ales:

Fullers Jack Frost
Fullers London Pride
Fullers Discovery
Children

As before, children are welcome in the Rock and Fountain.

Visit <http://www.whra.org.uk>

Dark Skies

The Well Hill area is a beautiful place. Most people appreciate its beauty during daylight hours. But how many see the beauty of the night?

Although we are close to London, we have relatively dark skies especially to the east. In the towns and cities very few stars are seen at night due to light pollution. But in our area that is not a major problem and on a clear night thousands of stars are visible with the naked eye.

After the Sun, the Moon is the largest object in the sky. It is bright enough to cast shadows on our dark lanes. It is easy to see the craters on the moon with a pair of binoculars. 8 or 10 times magnification is all that is needed. The craters nearest the terminator (the line between the dark and lit sides of the moon) are easiest to see and will be very clear at the time of the first and last quarter of the moon (8th December and 23rd December).

The brightness of the moon will blot out many of the fainter stars so the best time to observe the stars is when the moon is below the horizon or around the time of a new moon (31st December). At this time there is lots to see in the night sky including three planets.

Venus is the first star to appear just after the Sun sets. It follows the Sun down in the south west and is visible from sunset to about one hour after sunset.

Mars is the next star to appear. It will appear duller and redder than Venus and will be in the south east. By 8pm it will be due south and high in the sky. Being the brightest star in the sky it will be easy to identify.

Around this time Saturn should be visible. It will be low in the sky slightly north of east. It is not as bright as Mars but is brighter than surrounding stars. The rings can be seen with a small telescope. Saturn will be due south around 2am and, like Mars, high in the sky.

All these stars are visible if there are no lights nearby - so, on New Years Eve why not turn off all outdoor lights around 11pm and spend ten minutes looking at the celestial beauty - the longer you look, and your eyes get accustomed to the dark, the more stars appear.

Mars will be the bright star in the lower part of the western sky and Saturn will be the bright star a little over half way up the sky to the south east.

West Hill Morris Men

The West Hill Morris have a long connection with Well Hill. They regularly danced at the Kent Hounds before it closed. On Trafalgar Day, they entertained us and if you liked the music why not buy a CD. West Hill Morris are proud to say that they are among the Artists on a new compilation double CD -*The Magic of Morris*

The CD was assembled from historic, recent and new recordings under the watchful eye of Steve Adamson, for Talking Elephant Records. Artists include some of the best known artists in the folk world.

The artists are: Albion Morris Men, Ashley Hutchings, Black Pig Border Morris, Chris Leslie, Crucible, Cry Havoc, Fr Kenneth Loveless MBE, Grand Union Morris Men, Jake Walker, James Melville, Jim Catterall, Jockey Morris Men, Morris On Band, Moulton

The CD costs £15 in the shops or £12 from West Hill Morris - send an e-mail to squire@westhillmorris.org.uk stating number of CD's required. They will respond to confirm availability and postage. Please send your cheque, payable to "West Hill Morris", to the address given in the reply.

Each year West Hill Morris choose a charity or school to dance for....this year it's Ellenor Hospice at Home in Orpington.

Well Hill Parish Council

The 2003 Well Hill Questionnaire indicated strong support for Well Hill being a separate parish council rather than being part of Shoreham Parish Council.

The committee have almost completed their submission to the relevant authority. One of the main criteria will be how much Well Hill has a separate identity to the rest of the parish. It is clear that residents of Well Hill do have a unique identity. We also seem to be more self reliant than other areas of Shoreham Parish and our focus tends more to Chelsfield Village with its village hall and recreation ground than to Shoreham Village.

Visit <http://www.whra.org.uk>

Alfred (FRED) William Weedens 1920-2005

Fred was born in Toronto, Canada on 18th October 1920 the youngest of four children. Sadly his mother died two weeks after he was born. His father Bertie came back to England with the four children, sailing on the Empress of Britain from Canada to Liverpool on 14th January 1921. The children were fostered out to members of the family and Fred went to the Smith family at Park Gate who lived in two houses which are still there today. Harry Smith, a farmer, and his wife Elisabeth welcomed Fred into their home together with their two sons, Harry Jnr, Gordon and daughters, Lily and Gertrude.

As time went by and young Fred grew up and Lily and Gordon left home and married. Fred joined the family farmers and his interest in farming continued until Fred retired in 1984. Miriam also married but sadly her husband George was killed in a train accident in October 1934. This so saddened Miriam that she never married again. She decided to 'adopt' Fred and over the next few years they became very close - they were good for each other.

As time went by Fred used to go with Gordon on their usual weekly delivery trips to various greengrocers locally and also as far as Penge and Crystal Palace. It was whilst on these trips he met and subsequently married Joan (who sadly died on 31st August last year aged 84). They married at Chelsfield Church on 7th January 1942 and celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2002. They were extremely proud when they received The Queen's letter of congratulation for this wonderful achievement.

During the war, as farming was a reserved occupation, Fred wasn't called up for military service but served in E Company of the 20th Sevenoaks Battalion of the Home Guard which looked after the Well Hill area. Many of the other local farmers served with Fred. A number of bombs fell on Well Hill, one very near Well Hill House and one at the Bottom of the Hill on the Way to Cockerhurst.

After the war it took some time for things to get back to some form of normality so Joan and Fred used to arrange coach trips to either the coast or to London theatres. They were a great success with Joan and Fred's enthusiasm and everyone used to join in the sing songs on the coach. With the eventual development of TV, there was no need for these trips but they did a good job at the time.

Fred had purchased a couple of pieces of land on Well Hill for growing various items of produce such as beans. He seemed to grow the best beans in the district. Apparently during one of Fred's spells in hospital his comments about the runner beans on his plate weren't very complementary. He gradually developed his own delivery round and also obtained produce from local farmers. He really made a success of his smallholding, Fred being the grower but Joan also doing most of the book work - they were a great team. Many are sure that the success was due to Fred's great personality and friendliness with everyone he met.

Fred loved sport, particularly football and cricket and often went to watch Kent play, especially their successful side during the 1970's. But most of all he supported Crystal Palace for 60 years, through all their good and bad times - he was a loyal supporter and this culminated in going to Wembley in 1990 for the F A Cup Final between Crystal Palace and Manchester United. Although a 3-3 draw that day, Palace subsequently lost the replay.

Fred's health took a turn for the worse some 20 years ago around the time of his retirement when he had three heart bypasses. He was very proud of his scars down his legs so he has had a 20 year bonus. Over the past year or so - well before Joan died - his health had deteriorated but Fred - like Joan - was a tough cookie and always rallied round. He had spent some time in and out of hospital and always looked forward to coming home to Well Hill. He was a driver of longstanding having taken his test before the war and was driving until earlier this year.

Fred enjoyed life to the full - even on his last day in September. The day started with Fred reading his Sunday Paper. In the early afternoon his son Trevor took Fred out in the car ending up at Chelsfield Village to watch the cricket. He chatted to various folk. He really enjoyed his afternoon. Fred then went back home with Trevor to enjoy his Sunday dinner with the family. He then watched the live celebrations of the 50th ITV programmes. At about 9.25pm Trevor said that he would take Fred home to watch the final 50th anniversary broadcast at home. It was as Fred was getting ready to go that he collapsed and died. How thankful we can be for Fred having had such a good and happy life—right up to the very last minute. Indeed what a truly fantastic cricket season - what a way to go - practically laughing - Which is how we all remember Fred.

Trafalgar Quiz Answers

How many ships did Nelson have under his command at the start of manoeuvres at the battle of Trafalgar?

Thirty-three

Approximately how many ships of later years carried the same names of some of Nelsons ships of the line?

Seventeen

What nationalities were Nelsons adversaries?

The French and Spanish

Who was the Captain of HMS Victory?

Thomas Masterman Hardy

Before Trafalgar how long had there been peace in England?

Fourteen Months

What caused Napoleon to plan an invasion against England?

To stop the Royal Navy blockading the French ports and thus destroying the French trade

Where did the French fleet make port after leaving Europe and where did they sail from?

Martinique and Cadiz

In what year was the conflict fought?

1805

How many ships did the French Admiral have at his command?

Approximately Forty

Where were the French squadrons of ships based?

Brest, Ferrol, Tulon, Rochefort

What was the French Admirals name?

Admiral Villeneuve

Given political correctness of today in 2005, what names were given to the French and English forces in this year's re-enactment in the Solent?

Red and Blue Forces

Who did Nelson join prior to the main battle at Cadiz and what tactic did he the carry out?

He joined Captain Calder and then leaving Calder's frigates, Nelson cruised offshore out of sight, approximately fifty sea miles away with the remainder of his fleet.

What was the name of Nelsons wife?

Francis (or Fanny for short)

Where was Nelson shot in his body?

In his shoulder

Where did Emma Hamilton die and in what year?

Calais in 1815

What pension did Emma Hamilton and Nelson's daughter get after his death?

Nothing

What were Nelsons last words?

Thank God I have done my duty

What time of day did Lord Horatio Nelson die?

16:30 (4-30 pm)

What was Nelsons daughter's name?

Horatia

What was the name of the English ship that saw and then signalled to Nelson that the French fleet leaving Cadiz?

Sirius

What date did the battle of Trafalgar take place?

21st October 1805.

Who was Nelsons secretary on board HMS Victory?

John Scott

Who was in charge of the Marines on board HMS Victory?

Captain of Marines Charles Adair

What was a smasher that the Bosun was in charge of?

A 68-pound Carronade

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