

# NEWSLETTER

FROM THE WELL HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*September 2009*

## **PRODUCE SHOW**

This years Chelsfield, Well Hill and District Produce Show will be on Saturday 19th September in Chelsfield Village Hall. This is jointly organised by the Chelsfield Village Society and the Well Hill Residents' Association. It is fun to compete with friendly rivalry. Entries are accepted from 9:30 until 11:00 am. It only costs 20p per entry, so why not give it a try. Prize giving takes place at 3pm. The schedule of sections and the recipes you will need are included with this Newsletter.



## **WHRA Committee**

### **•Chairperson & Correspondence -**

**Nick Coulson** (01959 532885)

### **•Vice-chairman & Minutes Secretary**

**Jean Crossfield** (01959 534288)

### **•Treasurer -**

**Mike Peek** (01959 533339)

### **•Planning & Newsletter**

**Phil Hobson** ( 01959 534090)

### **•PACT Representative**

**Tony Barton** (01959 534723)

**Chris Courtney** (01959 535022)

**Mrs June Dean** (01959 534445)

**Terry Sparkes** (01689 823749)

**Gill Eldridge**

## **SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL** **COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT**

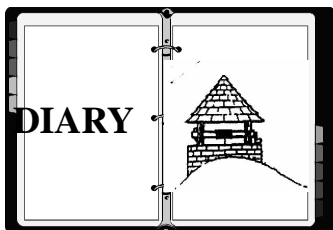
Improvements in public safety and tackling anti-social behaviour will take another step forward when Sevenoaks District's first ever joint Community Safety Unit officially opens on 3 September 2009.

The new unit, jointly run by Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Police, will be based in Sevenoaks District Council's Argyle Road offices.

It will enable a faster, more co-ordinated response to anti-social behaviour and other community safety concerns and will allow the partners to carry out more preventative work.

It also brings a number of other Council teams involved in community safety, including licensing and environmental health, in closer contact with the Police. Other partners, including Kent County Council, West Kent and Moat housing associations, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, the Probation Service and others will all benefit from closer contact, leading to an improved service for residents.

From now on residents can call just one number, 01732 227000, to report non-emergency community safety issues or receive advice on anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, graffiti, issues about licensed premises, abandoned vehicles, environmental nuisance and neighbourhood watch. Alternatively they can e-mail community-safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk.



# CHURCH SERVICES

**Wednesday 9th September - PACT meeting**  
(Partners and Community together) - Mission church 7pm

**Thursday 17th September - Local History Group** - Brass Crosby Room 10:15am

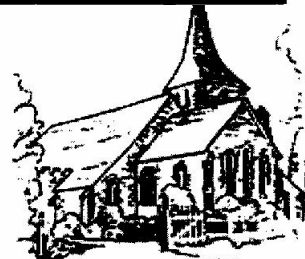
**Saturday 19th September - Produce Show** - Chelsfield Village Hall

**Sunday 20th September - Harvest** - a celebration of harvest at St Martins 6:30pm

**Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October - Philip Lane's Chelsfield Photo Show** - Chelsfield Village Hall.

**Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st November - Time and the Conways** - Chelsfield Village Hall

**Tuesday Nights at the Five Bells** - Quiz night



## ST MARTINS. CHELSEFIELD.

8.00am Holy Communion  
9.45am Family Eucharist (not 5th Sunday)  
11.00am Sung Eucharist (1,3rd,5th Sundays)  
11.00am Matins (2nd & 4th Sundays)  
6.30pm Evensong  
Rector of Chelsfield and Advisor in Pastoral Care & Counselling for the Diocese of Rochester is:  
Canon Leslie Virgo  
The Rectory  
Skibbs Lane  
Chelsfield  
BR6 7RH  
Tel: 01689 825749

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St. Martin's has been part of the village of Chelsfield for over a thousand years. Today Baptisms, Marriages, Confirmations and Funerals continue to mark the passage of village life. Sharing with the Village in both Church and Village fetes brings us together well. The Five Bells is a regular haunt for our Bell Rings and Choir - who are always ready to welcome new members. I am always available for help and assistance, both as Rector and Psychotherapist. Our normal Sunday Services are 8am Holy communion 9.45am Family Service. 11 am (1st & 3rd) Sung Eucharist, (2nd and 4th) Matins, 6.30 pm evensong.  
*Canon Leslie Virgo*  
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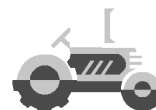
## WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH



09.45am Morning Prayers (1st Sunday)  
09.45am Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)  
Pastoral Assistant: Gillian Vernon 01689 874876

## **HARVEST 20th September**

A celebration of Harvest at 6.30pm at St Martins.



People are invited to bring pictures of Village Harvest or examples of their own work to the church and to suggest hymns or readings - to either Leslie Virgo at 825749, or Anne Mead at 826349.

## **Letter From Nick Coulson, Chairman of the WHRA**

We all I think love Well Hill, and this little corner of Kent, but living so close to the capital, in a county that was once known as the Garden of England, though these days it has become the Gateway to Europe, with all its infrastructure and transport links. I am afraid it could now be known as England's Industrial Park. The pressures that surround us are immense. Those of you who fought the M25 when it came through must be only too aware of this. Our farming industry, in particular in Kent where vast industrial farming is ill suited has suffered. Kent, known for its soft fruit farming has been under attack for many years. This year I read a report that plum growers are leaving fruit to rot on the ground as they cannot find a market against cheaper imports. One of the major supermarkets which is always banging on about its local produce and environmental credentials reassured us all by stating that 35% of its plums were locally grown. Well give them a medal, that is big of them. I suppose that stating that 65% of our plums are sourced abroad doesn't sound quite so good does it. Anyway I digress.

What all this means essentially is that land that so much trouble is made to protect and maintain as it has been for years no longer has a purpose. Landowners are under great pressure on the one hand to maintain the countryside for us and future generations to enjoy and on the other to support their families. What therefore, I ask, is the price of a Victoria plum?

Living so close to a major conurbation, there is one certain way out for the desperate and the unscrupulous. WASTE. Waste is big business, and the more controlled it becomes in its disposal the higher the reward for cheating the system becomes.

However thankfully the laws and regulations pertaining to waste disposal are strict and are enforced with vigour. The regulations are numerous, but the basic rule of thumb is this, nothing can be brought on to a site of any kind and this includes soil in any quantity from elsewhere unless an exemption waste management license has been applied for. The source of the waste must ensure it is being disposed of appropriately and the hauler must ensure that parties at either end have the appropriate paperwork. That includes you the home owner. It's no good allowing a builder, or other contractor to cart away waste. You must be seen to have taken due care to ensure that it is being disposed of legally. If it is traced back to you in a case such as fly tipping you could find yourself fined. To give you an idea, farmers have been prosecuted for importing rubble to surface tracks and to fill in 'holes' for the purpose of land reclamation. Sites utilising hardcore or 'inert waste' legally have been prosecuted when that waste was found to include wood, metal and other such material.

Also waste produced on site is considered 'stored' waste and this also is subject to a raft of regulations. You cannot demolish a building and just use the waste to resurface a track for example without informing the Environment Agency.

Unfortunately the credit crunch has seen land values drop and it has become harder to make the land pay. We should be vigilant in our area that landowners do not give in to the temptation to make some hard cash by a little bit of waste disposal and we should all do our bit to ensure that we are not unwittingly contributing to it.

If you do suspect that someone is receiving waste and depositing it on their land, or would like some advice on your own waste disposal, you should immediately call the Environment Agency on 0800 807 060. These guys are good, they are probably the one Government Agency that works for us without giving the impression that it exists for its own purpose. They will put you through to your area man and he will deal with it and trust me they will. They are the Sweeny of the waste world. The other Agency to call is Sevenoaks Council Environment Protection Team on 01732 227 000 or Email [environment.protection@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:environment.protection@sevenoaks.gov.uk).

The other thing we can all do, is seek out that British Apple or that Victoria Plum. If your supermarket has little British produce ask why not, or try another. Mrs Coulson once bought some French apples, I made her go back and change them. Admittedly I have paid for that act of insurrection many times over, but I feel it is a smaller price than those men of Waterloo and Trafalgar paid to protect England's green and pleasant land and if you like to see an English Orchard and care about the landscape around you, then look after its custodians, don't just give them the bill, help them pay it.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION**

Register to vote in the next Parliamentary General Election Residents of the District can expect to receive some important documents in the coming weeks. From 1 September voter registration forms are being sent to households throughout the area by Sevenoaks District Council. Details can once more be confirmed online or by using the popular freephone service.

Additionally for the first time, residents whose details remain the same can use the new text registration service, and text their unique reference number to confirm no change of details.

All of these methods save bringing or sending the forms back to the Council. A simple help sheet that explains how to use all of these services and answers the most frequently asked questions, is enclosed with the registration form.

Anyone who doesn't want to lose their vote in the forthcoming election should not delay in responding to the form, whether by phone, online, text or by posting the voter registration form back to the Council Offices. Only those people whose names are on the electoral register will be able to vote at the forthcoming Parliamentary General Election.

Households that have not received a form by late September, or have any questions about completing the form can e-mail [elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:elreg@sevenoaks.gov.uk) or phone the help lines on 01732 227188 or 01732 227243.

For further information please contact: Steve Mandaluff on 01732 227162 or e-mail [steven.mandaluff@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:steven.mandaluff@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

## **ACTIVITIES FOR OUR YOUNG VILLAGERS**

Young people can get their skates on for BMX and skateboard coaching! Young people can get involved in an exciting one off project next month when skateboarding and BMX coaching comes to the District.

The eight weeks of coaching is exclusively for 11 to 14 year olds and will be delivered by professionals from Skaterham Indoor Skate park at Swanley and Sevenoaks skate parks. The 90 minute coaching sessions will be held weekly, starting on Saturday 19 September, and are available for just £8 for all eight weeks (they must be booked and paid for in advance). Limited places are available and will be issued on a first come first served basis.

Skateboard and BMX coaching is suitable for most

abilities from complete beginner to intermediate and gives young people the chance to learn skills from the professionals in a safe, and fun way.

To book a place, or for further information, please contact Sevenoaks District Council by calling 01732 227000. Alternatively visit [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/youngpeople](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/youngpeople)

Young people can 'Jump-in' again, again and again! The exclusive and successful Jump-in pool parties for eight to 14 year olds are back! Young people from the District can party with a difference, when the popular event returns on the following dates, from 6pm to 8pm:

Saturday 19 September at White Oak Leisure Centre

Saturday 17 October at Sevenoaks Leisure Centre

Saturday 5 December at Edenbridge Leisure Centre

Saturday 19 December at White Oak Leisure Centre

The parties will feature DJ Ignition playing all the latest tunes and plenty of cool, fun stuff to play with in the pool. The Sencio café will be open with special offers and parents/guardians are welcome to stay.

Tickets cost just £5 and are available from the Leisure Centres either on the night or at least two weeks in advance. However places are limited and following the success of the last events, it is advised to buy tickets early.

For more information on the event call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000 or visit [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/health](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/health)

## **CASTLE FARM**

At Castle Farm, the lavender and wheat are all safely harvested, dried and stored and they are already cultivating the fields. The hop season is underway and they are already being asked for items for harvest festival displays of wheat sheaves and wheatstooks.

The FRESH HOP BINES are full and green and smelling wonderful. They will be available from now until mid September. It's always better to get them early in the season if possible. DRIED HOP BINES will be ready from 1st September. There's a heavy crop of APPLES ripening in the orchard and they will be starting the PICK YOUR OWN as soon as they are ready in early September. Please check the website for the starting date and opening times. The Hop Shop is open every day 10am to 5pm - including Bank Holidays.

The Hop Shop, Castle Farm, Shoreham,  
Tel: 01959 523219, [www.hopshop.co.uk](http://www.hopshop.co.uk)