



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE WELL HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

GET CURRENT ALERTS

April 2011

Although the newsletter can let you know what is happening locally, we would encourage residents to join our secure e-mailing list in order to find out about events and crime in our area in a very timely manner.

In the last three months we have sent out around 20 emails of which more than five related to criminal activity in, or close to our area. Each email is individually sent so there is no way anyone else will see your email address (unlike the Police and Local Authorities who regularly put everyone's email address in the email!). To get added to the Well Hill Residents' Association's email list either go to <http://www.whra.org.uk/emallist.htm> and follow the instructions, send a request to ph2005@whra.org.uk or phone Phil on 01959 534090. No matter which method you use, your email address will be held securely and will not be passed to any third parties.

WELL HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at

The Lodge

Lullingstone Park

At

7:30 pm

On

Tuesday

19th April 2011

Please come to the Well Hill Residents' Association AGM on Tuesday 19th April.

There will be a talk by Police Chief Inspector Futers and an opportunity to ask questions. It is expected that representatives from the Parish, District and County Councils will be present to answer questions.

Agenda for AGM

Talk by Police Chief Inspector Futers
Presentation by James Lloyd-Jones from
Heritage Energy on solar energy
Apologies for absence
Approval of Minutes of AGM held on
27th April 2010
Matters arising from Minutes
Chairman's Report
Treasurer's Report
Election of Committee
Election of Officers
Any Other Business

Nomination Form:

We hereby nominate:

For election as:

Of the association at the 2011 Annual
General Meeting.

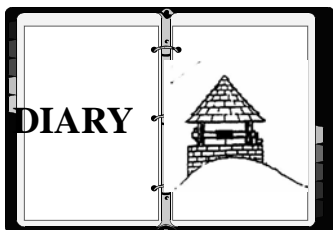
Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Date:

Nomination forms must be handed to Nick Coulson, by noon on Monday 18th April 2011

Website - visit the website <http://www.whra.org.uk>



CHURCH SERVICES

Saturday 16th April—Freighter at The Kent Hounds Car Park 11:15 –12:00.

Tuesday 19th April—WHRA Annual General Meeting at The Lodge. Starts at 7:30pm.

Friday 22nd April -Monday 2nd May - Beer Festival at The Five Bells - Chelsfield

Sunday 24th April—Easter Sunday at St Martin of Tours, Chelsfield.

Wednesday 27th April - Shoreham Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 7:30 pm.

Monday 2nd May—Shoreham Duck Race 2:00pm

Sunday 8th May—Bluebell Walk—at Cudham to raise money for Harris Hospice Care.

Saturday 14th May– Bring & Buy Plant Sale 10-2pm Parkgate House

Sunday 15th May– Lullingstone Plant Fair 11-5pm Lullingstone Castle

Saturday 22nd May- Shoreham Village Fete 12-6pm on the School field

Saturday 11th June - St Martins Fete 12-4:30pm Chelsfield Village Hall and Rectory Garden

Saturday 25th –Sunday 26th June - Medieval weekend 11-5.00pm Lullingstone Castle

Saturday 2nd–Sunday 3rd July - Lavender Festival 10-5:00pm Hop Shop

Saturday 9th July - Chelsfield Village Fair 12-4:30pm Chelsfield Village Hall

Saturday 9th–Sunday 10th July - Lavender Festival 10-5:00pm Hop Shop

Sunday 10th July - Musical Concert 2:45pm Well Hill Mission Church

ST MARTINS. CHELSFIELD.



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

WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH



09.45am Morning Prayers (1st Sunday)
09.45am Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)

Freighter Collection

The next visit from the freighter will be Saturday 16th April

Bank Holidays - 22nd, 25th, 29th April, 2nd and 30th May - Refuse Collection

Collections during these weeks will be one day later than usual.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jenny and David on the birth of their daughter Charlotte in December.



SAD PASSING

Former resident and committee member, Gerry Costa, has sadly passed away. He and Vicki moved from Well Hill to Walmer several years ago.

DON'T FORGET WHRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 7:30pm on 19th April at The Lodge (formerly the Red Deer), Lullingstone Park.

CROCKENHILL TREE SURVEY

For residents in the Crockenhill parish part of Well Hill, Susan Pitman is hoping to undertake the 4th Crockenhill Tree Survey. The first was in 1981 and has been repeated at ten yearly intervals. The survey is undertaken with the approval of Crockenhill parish council. The cooperation of residents and landowners would be most welcome in order to make the survey as complete a record of trees in the parish as possible, and in order to record changes that have occurred in the 30 year period since the first survey.

WIN A JOINT OF BEEF

Castle Farm is supporting the Great British Beef Week by inviting locals to submit their best beef recipe. Send your recipe to sales@hopshop.co.uk before 15th April. The winner will receive a joint of Castle Farm reared beef (for shop collection only) in time for St Georges Day (April 23rd).

REDMANS LANE CAR PARK IS

OPEN

The Redmans Lane car park, which has been closed for years due to fly tipping problems, is being unlocked during the day but locked at night. This car park gives an alternative way in to Lullingstone Park and is about a 15 minute stroll from the visitors centre. If fly tipping becomes a problem Kent County Council will review the situation and may close it again.

PLANT SALE

A bring and buy plant sale is being held on Saturday 14th May 10:00 to 14:00 at Parkgate House next to Lullingstone Park Golf Course. Do you have something that can be dug up and brought, ie. from a division from an herbaceous plant for example? The proceeds are in aid of The Friends of St. Botolph Church, Lullingstone.

SHOREHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting is 27th April. The meeting will be held in Shoreham Village Hall commencing 7.30pm. All are welcome.

SUBSCRIPTION

Please support your association by paying £5 for this year. Having subscriptions makes it easier for us to obtain grants from organisations like Shoreham Parish Council and also pays for the administration such as newsletters.

If possible, please come to the AGM and pay your subscription there. Otherwise, please send a cheque for £5 made payable to Well Hill Residents' Association or give cash to your nearest committee member.

ICE

Please take 10 seconds to enter one contact into your mobile...ICE...In Case of Emergency. The emergency services/first aiders are trained to look for this contact, if something happens you would want your next of kin with you asap.



WHRA Committee

- Chairperson & Correspondence -
Nick Coulson (01959 532885)
- Vice-chairman & Minutes Secretary -
Jean Crossfield (01959 534288)
- Treasurer -
Mike Peek (01959 533339)
- Neighbourhood Watch & PACT-
Tony Barton (01959 534723)
Mike Sharp (01959 533600)
Terry Sparkes (01689 823749)
Chris Courtney (01959 535022)
Jill Eldridge (01959 533971)

Website - visit the website <http://www.whra.org.uk>

BROADBAND

Do not change your broadband supplier until this summer. If you do, you may be locked into a 12-18 month contract and would, therefore, miss out on considering the fast broadband scheduled to arrive in Well Hill this summer. This broadband will be faster than anything BT, TalkTalk etc offer and we expect the prices to be competitive.

The reason most of us have slow broadband, or none at all, is the distance from the exchange to our homes. Broadband speed, on the telephone copper wires, is highly dependant on the distance a home is from the exchange. So, rather than move to a home closer to an exchange, the new provider will be building the equivalent of a new telephone exchange near Hewitts roundabout. This halves the distance the broadband signal has to travel which can result in a 10-fold increase in broadband speed.

When the equipment is in place there will be leaflets sent to all households to let them know of the broadband service. In the meanwhile, for the latest information, go to <http://www.crockenhillbroadband.com/> or subscribe to the WHRA emailing list.

MUSICAL CONCERT

Well Hill Mission church will be holding their now annual Musical Concert on Sunday 10th July prompt at 2.45 pm

The concert will be under the leadership of Mr Julius Bannister and is assisted by a very talented group of young ladies giving a varied range of music for everyone's taste. Weather permitting it will be held in the lovely church gardens. The tickets are priced at £6 and includes a cream tea. All profits will go towards church funding.

Please contact the following for tickets:
Carol and Chris Courtney 01959 535022
Wendy and Norman McDonnell 01959 534310
Julia and Terry Sparkes 01689 823749
Vera and Gerry Walker 01689 606738

Around 80 people attended last year so book early to save disappointment.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

I have continued to look into ways in which we can deal with the flow of water down Rock Hill and the consequence that the road freezes quickly in cold weather, making it difficult and dangerous. Kent Highways have long been of the view that it is pointless to try to tackle the springs - they are very likely to move, eliminating the effect of any works done. Over the winter I brought one of our drainage experts to visit on site, and proposals have been worked up to establish the cost of putting in extra drains at the top of the hill. We will put in a bid for funding; in the current financial climate, there will inevitably be a lot of competition for funds, so nothing can be guaranteed, but we will push hard to try to secure it.

In addition to my role as local County Councillor, I'm a member of the KCC Cabinet, and among my responsibilities is our programme for supporting 'community broadband' initiatives. I am very pleased that we've been able to put £46,500 into a scheme to benefit Crockenhill, Well Hill, Parkgate and Cockerhurst. As you will probably know, Phil Hobson has worked hard with Crockenhill Parish Council on the details of the project.

The supplier is Call Flow Solutions, a company based in West Peckham. Call Flow will be launching a website at the beginning of April giving further information.

For the County Council as a whole, we recently approved our budget. Because of national financial pressures leading to a reduction in central government grants, we have had to make savings of £95 million this year, a very big sum - and we will have to make further big savings over the next three years. We have done this as much as possible by improving the efficiency of our organisation rather than cutting front line services, with quite a lot of success, though there will be some areas where we have to make difficult decisions.

Please feel free to contact me at any time about Kent County Council services; I can be reached on 01959-525109 or roger.gough@kent.gov.uk

CRIME IN WELL HILL

There have been a number of incidents in the Well Hill area in recent months including some thefts and attempted thefts.

A lot of suspicious vehicles have been seen in the area recently, especially white flat bed tippers. If residents see any suspicious vehicles or any which they deem as parked up in an unusual place, please alert the local officers with a vehicle registration and day, date, time that they saw the vehicle.

If you would like a regular update on crime for the area email DC Brian Smith on 10949@kent.pnn.police.uk and he will add you to his update group. You will then receive updates on anything relevant including crime reduction advice etc.

POLICE NOTICE

There have been several thefts of heating oil from villages close to Well Hill. Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and the Police have always noticed an increase in this type of crime whenever the price of crude oil rises. A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pump inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil. This makes oil a more attractive proposition for the thief and they are now actively targeting fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties.

The thief may be using the oil for their own central heating or selling it on at a handsome profit. These tanks can contain many thousands of pounds worth of oil and it therefore makes good sense to take a few precautions to protect them. Gloucestershire Police have produced a leaflet to give a few ideas about what can be done to

make life more difficult for the thief. This can be downloaded from the internet at <http://www.wknwa.org/OilTheft.pdf>.

PLANNING APPEAL DISMISSED

The development proposed was a "change of use to residential including the stationing of two mobile homes and four touring caravans for an extended gypsy family (one of the touring caravans to be for residential use). Retention of hardstanding and cesspool."

The appeal was dismissed and the appellants given 9 months to comply with the enforcement order. The unamended enforcement order can be found at http://www.whra.org.uk/archives/2010_enforcement_notice.htm and was slightly amended by the appeal decision notice at http://www.whra.org.uk/planning_refusals/09_02251.pdf.

SEASONAL RECIPE

HONEY and POPPYSEED CAKE with honey and elderflower drizzle.

170g clear Castle Farm Honey
140g butter
85g light muscovado sugar
2 eggs, beaten
200g self-raising flour, sieved
20g poppy seeds

Warm the honey, butter, sugar and 1 tbsp water in a large pan until melted. Remove from heat, and mix in eggs, poppy seeds and flour. Spoon into a lined 18cm cake tin. Bake for 40 - 45 mins until springy to touch.

For the drizzle, put the juice of 2 lemons and 150ml elderflower cordial in a pan, bring to the boil and add 4 tbsp honey. Keep boiling for 4 - 5 mins.

Spike holes in the cake (still in its tin) and spoon the syrup over. Leave to cool and then turn out of tin.

(from The Hop Shop <http://www.hopshop.co.uk>)

Thoughts on Well Hill.

There is so much to say about Well Hill that a book could be written. Of course it already has, by Sheffield. I was so enchanted by his book "This Forgotten Place," (found by chance in a Sussex village post office and left unread for years) that I turned off the motorway on an impulse at seeing the name "Chelsfield" while travelling from Cheltenham back to Sussex several years ago.

I found Well Hill and "the Pearl of Great Price" its little church, with the bonus of finding inside Tina who was busily cleaning. The sense of welcome was strong. Wordsworth's lines "Those little unremembered acts of kindness Which are the best part of a good man's life" seem to resonant with the ethos of Well Hill Mission Church, (although it could never be "unremembered", "unforgettable" yes!). It is "little", it is full of "acts of kindness", it has known many good people through its years in the woodland glade.

The powerful spirit of fellowship and human kindness springing from this tiny church call to mind the parable of the mustard seed which, although small, grows into the largest tree.

That revolutionary idea based on the Christian belief that love is stronger than hate, Light is stronger than darkness and life is stronger than death is a cosmic message which little places like Well Hill, (and I like to think there are other "Well Hills" scattered throughout this land) send out to the surrounding area. Are they not desperately needed to-day in an age gone mad with violence, aggression brutality and ego-centric materialism?

Thank God, their existence can be felt at times as an influence still on this country which for example, gave more than any other to the tsunami appeal and which has spread its Christian message of humanity throughout the world in the past. There is a thirst for inspiration to-day, among the young, politicians and indeed, all of us; not finding it, the young may go astray. Little churches like Well Hill can inspire as they witness, in their small, but magnificent, way to the Christian message that God is love and where there is kindness and human warmth, "surely God is in this place".

ANON.



The Mission Church was almost filled to capacity for Canon Leslie Virgo's last Christmas Carol Service. He said that he felt like a butterfly in his colourful clerical cloak. More photographs are on the website.

http://www.whra.org.uk/archives/2010_canon_leslie_virgo.htm

© 2011 ***Our Roman Heritage near Well Hill and beyond.***

Lullingstone

In Well Hill we as residents are so lucky that we live so close among two of the most outstanding Roman villa survivals in Britain, Lullingstone set in the attractive surroundings of the Darent Valley in Kent, the villa was begun in about AD 100, and developed to suit the tastes and beliefs of successive wealthy owners, reaching its peak of luxury in the mid-4th century. If you visit today you can still view the spectacular mosaics and rare wall paintings, a once heated bath-suite and a 'house-church'. A specially commissioned light show brings the villa to life, and galleries display Lullingstone's fascinating collection of Roman artefacts. Children will love trying on the Roman costumes and playing traditional board games from the period. This making a great day out for the family.

Lullingstone Roman Villa, in the idyllic Darent valley, was built in about AD 100 and occupied for more than 300 years by a succession of rich owners, possibly even a future Roman Emperor. The discovery of a fourth-century house-church, unique in Britain, makes it one of the most important Roman sites in the country. The guidebook contains a full tour and history of the site, beautifully illustrated with photographs of the spectacular mosaics, wall-paintings and other exciting finds. A series of reconstructive drawings evokes the villa and its households over three centuries.

At about the time of Carausius's death a more important threat to Roman authority was emerging. Roman Emperors had always been worshipped as gods. Other religious beliefs were permitted as long as they did not conflict with belief in the Emperor. In the Cult Room of Lullingstone is one of the most outstanding Roman remains in Britain, these Emperor cen-

tred beliefs were duly followed. It is clear that water spirits of the nearby river Darent were also worshipped at Lullingstone, little pictures representing them survive in the Cult Room. It is also clear that these watery little spirits weren't a threat to any mighty Roman leaders. But around 300AD Christianity was becoming increasingly popular, and as Christians believed in a single god their belief did indeed threaten the Emperor cult. Efforts to stamp out the religion were unsuccessful. The Roman Emperors did not learn the lessons of later European rulers, who got round the problem of leaders clearly not being gods by claiming that they were appointed by God. Roman Emperors still wanted to be actual gods, an idea whose time seemed to have passed.



The Cult Room at Lullingstone Roman Villa

By 380AD the Cult Room at Lullingstone had been converted to a Christian chapel, although there is evidence that people played it safe and worshipped the old gods as well. You might say this change reflects the breakdown of the Roman Empire, already beginning to decline at this time.

A few miles away is the Crofton Roman Villa at Orpington here the house was occupied from about AD 140 to 400 and this was the centre of a farming estate of about 500 acres. Nearby would have been farm buildings, surrounded by fields, meadows and woods. The house was altered several times during its 260 years of occupation and at its largest probably had at least 20 rooms. This is always a worthwhile visit for the family as well and the remains of ten rooms can be seen today, now within a modern cover building.

Two rooms contain the remains of their opus signinum (concrete) floors, and three have evidence of tessellated (tiled) floors. Details of the under-floor central heating (hypocaust) can be seen, which features both channelled and pillared systems.

To be continued next time. (If you cannot wait for the next newsletter, the whole article can be found at http://www.whra.org.uk/archives/2010_romans.pdf)