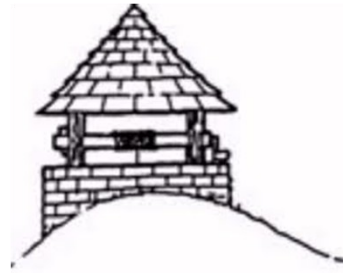


**WELL HILL
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION**



WHRA Newsletter

4th quarter 2014

Special points of interest:

- County Councilor Report
- Produce Show Results
- What's on!



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Hi all! Well its been a sunny and busy few months for us and we hope that you have all had a fun and enjoyable summer. After the AGM in April we had some changes to the committee. Jess Reid and Paul Highman left us due to moves and ever expanding schedules and also the ever wonderful and long standing WHRA member Jean Crossfield left as association secretary. They will all be missed and we are all a little lost without Jean to boss us about a bit! 😊

At the same time the lovely Joanne Green from Pump Lane joined us as secretary and she is doing a great job of organising us all already.

We have also had some new arrivals on the hill over the past few months, James and Elaine Griffiths welcomed the gorgeous baby Emily in April and Avi and David moved into Hilltop this summer so welcome to you all and welcome to any of you that we haven't yet met.

Now the nights are drawing in its sometimes quite easy to hibernate a little bit (guilty!!) but we do have a few Well Hill events going on that you should try to

come along too if you are free. We have organised a very informal social/get together to be held in The Five Bells pub in Chelsfield Village on Thursday the 11th of December from 8pm onwards. All are welcome and it will be a great opportunity to have a pre Christmas get together with us and your neighbours. We know December can be a busy time but it would be really lovely if you came along and if you would like to take advantage of the buffet on offer it is available at £8.50 a head, please just let Emma Sparkes know on 07512 399 841 in advance and you can pay on the evening.

The Residents Evening Carol Service on the 17th of December at the Well Hill Mission Church is another great chance to see some of your neighbours and there are always a few mince pies and a chat to be had after the service around the lovely traditional Christmas tree. There is also a family carol service on the 4th of January so bring the family along.

Pledges are still being collected in support of funds for the Planning Consultant in relation to the proposed

caravan site in Firmingers Lane. The cost worked out at an amount of £140.00 each. If you made a pledge and are yet to pay please post cheques to WHRA Chairman, Woodlands, Skeet Hill Lane, Orpington, BR5 4HB. Alternatively please contact Terry on 01689 823749. We will update you with confirmed details of the planning application as soon as we have full details.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on April the 15th 2015 from 7:30 at the Mission Church so please pop this date in your diaries. This is your opportunity to find out what is going on in your area and a chance to raise issues. We are also looking for new WHRA members so if you are interested in joining and supporting your community please notify our secretary Jo and we can arrange this for next April.

We hope you find this issue helpful and look forward to seeing you soon.

WHRA





“...additional drainage would be prohibitively expensive and quite possibly ineffective, it made sense to install channels on the Well Hill/ Pump Lane side...”

Report by County Councillor Roger Gough

Kent Highways undertook to tackle the problem of the potholes in Well Hill in May. However, the initial attempt to carry out a road closure for the section south of the junction with Firmingers Road met with hostility from some motorists and had to be delayed. However, the works were eventually carried out; the especially deep potholes in the section between Firmingers Road and Parkgate Road were filled in during June and the remaining section was completed in July.

Overall, KCC has been successful in securing funding for roads. In addition to the council itself allocating £3 million in its budget earlier this year for a ‘find and fix’ programme, central government awarded Kent £8.6 million from its Weather Repair Fund in March and £6.3 million from the Department for Transport’s pothole fund in June. Encouragingly, the latter fund was designed to reward efficient and innovative practice by local authorities; for both funds, Kent secured allocations above what our share of the population would suggest.

I mentioned in an earlier Newsletter that we would try to find ways to tackle the continuing problems on the Bromley-facing side of Rock Hill. Last year’s works to install a French drain at the top of the hill were successful in dealing with the problem in that immediate area. However, once the water gets beyond the intersection with Well Hill, it emerges from the so-called bubble gulley (which takes the water under Well Hill) to run down the rest of the hill, crossing to-

wards the former Rock and Fountain and confronting us with the prospect that, come winter, the familiar problem of a slippery surface on this steep hill will recur.

A Kent Highways drainage specialist and I held a site meeting earlier in the summer. We agreed that, while installing additional drainage would be prohibitively expensive and quite possibly ineffective, it made sense to install channels on the Well Hill/ Pump Lane side to prevent the water from flowing across to the other side of the road. 70 metres of channel blocks will be laid from the gulley down the hill.

The works were originally planned for 26 August, but this had to be delayed, I understand because of other commitments on the part of the contractor. The works being rescheduled for 22 September.

If you wish to contact me, feel free to call me on 01959 525 109 or

Email roger.gough@kent.gov.uk

You can also follow what I am doing in the local area on my website

www.roger-gough.blogspot.co.uk

or follow me on Twitter @RogerGough2



The Rector writes...

The first time my wife Janet and I set foot in the little chapel at Well Hill was just over a year ago on the 9th September 2013. It was a cold, wet and thoroughly miserable day – and we were having a look round Chelsfield before attending for an interview panel to appoint the new Rector.

Little did we know as we looked round that day that we would six months later be celebrating our first Communion service at Well Hill. And though we were intrigued by the brief history of this ‘hop pickers’ chapel, we had no idea of the warmth of the welcome and worship we would share on our arrival. Gerry ‘boy’ and Vera attending to our every need reveal the devotion that they and others have for the church here.

It has been a real privilege to share in the life of Well Hill over our first six months in ministry here. They have been fairly eventful in the life of Well Hill with a Baptism and a Wedding (well almost – we had to do the legal bit at St Martin’s). It really is good to see the church building used for these family occasions, since Well Hill really does have a really homely family feel about

it. I do hope that we might see more of these – anyone who lives in Well Hill is entitled to celebrate their family events there – it is after all **your** church!

The Summer Music Concert and Strawberry tea was another great occasion. Wonderful entertainment from Julius and friends, and delicious tea and cakes (you certainly know the way to a rector’s heart!) - and with the better summer weather the wonderful panoramic view from the church grounds, a view that is quite breathtaking, was revealed in all its glory.

In recent weeks I have been trying to take a little more exercise and discovered some of the network of footpaths that cross the hill – these I hope will provide hours of enjoyment over the coming months.

My one regret is that in having a really busy Sunday schedule, I have not been able to spend as much time getting to know you as I had hoped. However I’m pleased to say that by making minor adjustments to the worship programme – I now

hope to be able to stay behind after communion services at Well Hill so we can chat over coffee and biscuits. Though most of my time is spent in Chelsfield, I am always available to anyone from Well Hill – and as you have gathered will drink tea with anybody. So if ever you need a chat – do please give me a call.

As I write this, I am looking forward to my first Well Hill Harvest Festival, and the busy Christmas programme – I do hope to see many of you at the events of these festive seasons.

Best wishes to you all.

Reverend John – your Rector.

“a Baptism and a Wedding... anyone who lives in Well Hill is entitled to celebrate their family events there”



Well Hill Mission Church - service times and dates

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| Sunday 26th October | Holy Communion | @ 9:45 |
| Sunday 9th November | Remembrance Sunday service led by Brian Kemp | @ 9:45 |
| Sunday 23rd November | Holy Communion | @ 9:45 |
| Sunday 30th November | Advent Sunday service led by Brian Kemp | @ 9:45 |
| Sunday 14th December | Family Carol Service led by Ken L'Anson | @ 9:45 |
| Wednesday 17th December | Residents Evening Carol Service led by the Rector | @19:45 |
| Sunday 21st December | Holy Communion | @9:45 |
| Sunday 4th January 2015 | Family Carol Service led by Brian Kemp | @9:45 |
| Sunday 25th January | Holy Communion led by the Rector | @9:45 |

Remembrance Sunday service collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Sunday Service 9:45am on the **second and fourth** Sundays or as announced. Holy Communion is celebrated by the Rector unless announced otherwise.

Details of Christmas Services at the parish church of St Martin of Tours can be found in the Parish Magazine

Rector: Revd John Tranter, The Rectory Skibbs Lane
Chelsfield BR6 7RH



In memoriam



Sadly a familiar face and life long Chelsfield resident Charles (Charlie) Whitehead passed away at the end of September. Charles's family have lived on and around Well Hill for many years and generations. Charles farmed the land locally for many years having his own farm and some of you may remember him as the official sleigh driver for THE Father Christmas on his traditional visit to Well Hill. Charles was a local character know by many and will be missed greatly.

“...bring your friends along for a browse and still be home in time for lunch!”

Chelsfield Toddler Group

There is a wonderful local toddler playgroup held every Tuesday during term time. The group is held in the Brass Crosby Room at the back of St Martin of Tours Church.

The friendly sessions run from 10:30-12pm and there are lots of great toys for little ones, a craft room with ever changing craft ideas, a feeding

and reading space and plenty of juice, tea and biscuits to keep everyone happy. There is also an interactive singing session at the end of the group.

The admission fee is £1 and this goes towards the costs of crafts and refreshments. Donations of squash and biscuits are

also gladly appreciated.

If you have little ones yet to start school do pop along its well worth the visit.



Christmas Fair

There will be a Christmas Fair held in Chelsfield Village Hall on Saturday the 29th of November from 9:30am-12pm. This fair was also held last year and as usual there promises to be plenty of different types of stalls again and I am sure an opportunity

to get some Christmas gifts. There will be refreshments and a great chance to meet some of the local residents. Bring your friends along for a browse and still be home in time for lunch! Proceeds from the fair are in aid of the village hall. If you

are interested in having a table at a cost of £6 please contact Anne on 01689 826349.



Hedge Cutting and Freighter Refuse Lorry

David Gunn will be **cutting hedges** on the hill with his tractor and hedgecutter during November. If your roadside hedge needs cutting and you would like to arrange this, please contact him to discuss a booking on 07831224631.

The **freighter refuse lorry** will be visiting us again in the old car park area of the Kent Hounds by the recycling bins on Saturday the 17th of January. If you have large items to dispose of please make use of this service on the day.

Further details on refuse collections or reporting flytipping or vandalism can be found on the Sevenoaks Council Website at

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Leo The Cat

In July a well known Well Hill feline face Leo the Cat was hit by a car and sadly as a result was put to sleep.

LEO really was "the neighbourhood cat" a lovely big ginger cat that seemed to visit everyone at one time or another and people were very kind and looked

out for him.

He belonged to Jenny and Dave Revis at first, then adopted us some years ago at Prospect Cottage after Jenny and Dave moved and he did not want to move.

Thank you to every-

one who responded every time we thought we had lost him.

Many thanks
Carol and David
Hickman



Produce Show

The annual Chelsfield and Well Hill Produce Show was held in Chelsfield Village Hall this September and this year we were also joined by our new Rector John Tranter and his wife Janet. Entries were down this year, hopefully next year we



can help and encourage lots of new entrants to come and join the already great event. The trophies were awarded as follows;

Knox Cunningham Cup: Rosemary Barrett and Susan Down

Well Hill Cup: Lyn Stone

QEII Golden Jubilee Plate: Ron Mor-

ton
Triss and John Cotenden Flower Trophy: Susan Down

Allotments Cup:

Susan Down

Wine Club Tankard:

Andy Roberts

Country Fare Cup:

Lyn Stone

Childrens Cup: Alex

Nikodem

Tom Castleton

Rose Bowl: Rose-

wood Farm

Ken Pickering Best

in Show: Ruth Cox

Well done to all that entered.

Well Hill Oil Club

Well Hill are members of the Oil club an independent organisation whose aim is simple – reduce the cost on our wallets and the environment as much as possible. Plus membership is free!

The Oil-Club has been

running for 4 years and manage over 2.5 million litres of orders per month for members. They are an internet only organisation in the effort to keep costs low.

The savings you can achieve vary depending

on the time of the year you place your order and how often you order.

Check out the website @ www.oil-club.co.uk or search for Well Hill Oil Club using your internet search engine.

Well Hill residents the Wisdom family own and run Wisdom Estates an Independent, family-run Estate Agents who have a real passion for selling homes. They believe in fairness and honesty, and these are the fundamental values on which they base their business.

Based in Spital Street, Dartford, Wisdom Estates cover all areas of the South East. Their marketing of properties has ranged from Dartford to Orpington, Sidcup, West Kingsdown, Gravesend, Croydon, even Mitcham and Forest Hill (due to personal recommendations).

They are very proud of their growing reputation, which is due to the commitment of giving excellent Customer Service, and they believe that this is what has led to many customers leaving exceptionally good feedback on their website.

Wisdom Estates regularly support local charities and organisations, and this community involvement recently led to a meeting with Cheryl Ferguson (best known for her role as Heather Trott from BBC's Eastenders). She visited their offices to thank them for being the first business to sponsor a child at her School of Creative Arts. The visit led to Wisdom Estates offering to host a small fun-day, which would enable more dis-advantaged chil-

dren to attend Cheryl's School.

The Mayor of Dartford, and his wife, attended the fun-day and other members of the local community came forward with offers of support, one of which was a fantastic 'Elvis' singer and impersonator.

Cheryl Ferguson was also absolutely delighted with the fact that the event raised around £1500 to help dis-advantaged children attend future courses at her school.

Wisdom Estates have been invited to a personal meeting with The Mayor and are currently in the process of forging a partnership with the local Hospice. They are extending their growing Sponsorship Scheme to both the Hospice and The Mayor of Dartford's Charity appeal.

They would also like to extend this sponsorship scheme to organisations in this area. The scheme offers a donation of £100, upon Completion of Sale, to any organisation who advertises the scheme via posters and/or website links. The Vendor simply has to stipulate who they would like the donation to be made payable to when requesting a Free Valuation.

If anyone would like de-

tails of the Sponsorship Scheme please contact the Financial Director, Diane Wisdom via her e-mail; info@wisdom-estates.co.uk

Wisdom Estates hope that, by raising awareness of the service they have to offer, they will be given the opportunity to market properties in their local area. As residents of Well Hill, the Directors have exceptionally good knowledge of this area, as well as all surrounding areas including; Chelsfield, Orpington, Sevenoaks, Eynsford and Shoreham.

With 1% Sole Agency Selling Fees, Exceptional Customer Service, links to all the Major Property Portals (including Rightmove, Zoopla & Prime Location), and their own bespoke website, they are committed to becoming Independent market leaders within the field of Estate Agents.

So, if you are thinking of moving and would like an outstanding and traditional personal service, without paying unnecessarily high selling fees, please call:

Wisdom Estates and make 'Your Wisest Move' today.

01322 272 144
 dartford@ [wisdom-estates.co.uk](mailto:info@wisdom-estates.co.uk)
www.wisdomestates.co.uk



Dates at a glance....

Saturday 29th November — Christmas fair in Chelsfield Village Hall. All kinds of stalls and sales from 9:30-12 so pop down for a mince pie and some local Christmas Shopping!!

Hedgecutting during November — Please contact David Gunn on 07831 224 631

WHRA and Friends Christmas social. Thursday 11th December 8pm @ the 5 Bells, Chelsfield Village

St Martins **Toddler Group** meets every Tuesday 10:30-12 during term time in the Brass Crosby room.

Don't forget to join us **at the Mission Church for the Advent services.** The Carol services are really special and we are so lucky to have such a beautiful church for us to come together. It would be great to see you and you are always very welcome

Well Hill Residents Association AGM —Wednesday April the 15th 2015 7:30pm @ Well Hill Mission Church

Current Committee Members

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| Terry Sparkes | Chairman | 01689 823749 | terrsparkes@hotmail.co.uk |
| Joanne Green | Secretary | 07801 855568 | jogreen1972@hotmail.co.uk |
| Jill Eldridge | Treasurer | 01959 533971 | je2009@whra.org.uk |
| Emma Sparkes | Editor | 01689 828081 | emmasparkes@hotmail.co.uk |
| Nick Coulson | | | nc2009@whra.org.uk |
| Ashley Heming | | | ashleyheming@aol.com |
| Tony Barton | | | tb2009@whra.org.uk |
| James Griffiths | Shoreham Parish Councilor | | j.k.griffiths@hotmail.co.uk |

It has been a little while since the last newsletter and I hope this issue with its extra pages gives you plenty of useful and interesting information and ideas of things to do. There have been several changes to the committee during 2014, we have sadly lost (we still know where they live!) some long standing committee members and welcomed new and I believe 2015 will bring more changes and adjustments. The committee have some great ideas for the future and we are looking forward to getting some new things out to you all in the new year.

If you are interested in joining the committee and sharing your time and your expertise please come along to the Annual General Meeting in April where you will be made most welcome.

In the meantime if you have any unanswered questions about living on the Hill or are yet to make your £5 annual subscription fee, please feel free to contact one of your committee members who will be more than happy to assist, and if we don't know the answer to your questions I am sure between us we know someone who can!!!

*Seasons greetings , Happy New Year
and wishing you all a wonderful
2015 x*



For more information and details of events and services, in and around Well Hill please go to:

[Www.whra.org.uk](http://www.whra.org.uk)

www.whra.org.uk

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, please email the Editor @ emmasparkes@hotmail.co.uk

