



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE WELL HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

November 2004

PCSO - Police Community Support Officer

The Shoreham Parish PCSO completes his training and starts his duties on the 13th December. His name is Dave Birchall and he will be helping to make Well Hill and Cockerhurst a safer place. He will not be replacing PC Jackie Allen - she will continue to police our area as usual. Dave's duties are complementary to Jackie's and will include revitalising our neighbourhood watch in order to reduce crime in the area.

Messages can be left for Dave Birchall on 01732 370774.

Vote YES for a Well Hill Parish Council

In the Well Hill Questionnaire there was over 4:1 support for a new Well Hill Parish Council. For those in Shoreham Parish Council's area, that parish council will have sent a letter to all electors asking for their views. We do not need Shoreham Parish Council to support the views of residents, but it would help a great deal if they did support your views. Send back your YES votes as soon as possible. Make sure that Shoreham Parish Council are sent a clear message of your views.

Initially, we would expect the administration costs for a new parish council to be less than those suggested in the Parish Council's letter. Well Hill would not need so many meetings as Shoreham Parish Council needs. We would not have the recreation ground, bus shelters, street lights and other property to administer. We would not need to pay legal and professional fees for expensive boundary disputes.

How much we do would depend solely on us. We would not be subsidising other areas as we do now. We would only have to pay for things that are done in Well Hill. What could be fairer and more equitable than that?

Well Hill is a distinct community with little in common with other parts of Shoreham Parish which includes East Hill, Badgers Mount, Twitton and Shoreham Village. The Church moved

We(II Hill) are the Champions

Well Hill did exceptionally well this year bringing trophies back to the Hill. Carol Hickman carried off the top prize of the Knox Cunningham Cup and Rosemary Barrett captured the Well Hill Cup

Rosemary writes

"WE WON THE CUP"

On the morning of the 18th September at around 9:45 my sister Susan and I and two of her grandsons Nathon and Mathew and two of mine, Jack and Lewis set off for Chelsfield Village Hall with the car packed to the roof with produce from our garden and allotment. We were all taking part in the Produce Show held every year.

The children had made sock puppets. Jack had found wood in Lullingstone Park and whittled three lovely mushrooms. All four had made fairy cakes the night before. Can you imagine four boys in the kitchen with cake mix, each trying to measure out ingredients to a given recipe? Well

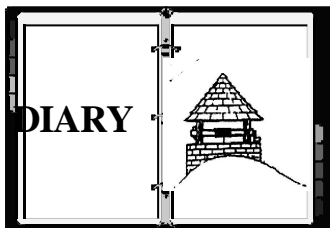
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued on page 5)



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





Residents' Carol
Service Tuesday 21st
December from 7:30pm
at the Mission Church



DECEMBER EVENTS

Thursday 9th - National Trust Carol Concert in St Martin of Tours Church 8pm

Sunday 12th Christmas Concert 3pm in St Martin of Tours Ticket £5 in aid of extension.

Monday 20th - Join Bill & Jean for Carols at the Kent Hounds from 8pm

Tuesday 21st - Residents Carol Service at the Mission Church from 7:30pm

Well Hill Mission Church

Sunday 5th - Family Service 9:45am

Sunday 19th - Family Carol Service 9:45am

Tuesday 21st - Residents Carol Service 7:30pm with Refreshments to follow

Friday 24th - Holy Communion 6:30pm

St Martin of Tours

Sunday 12th - Christmas concert 3:00pm

Sunday 19th - 9 Lessons & Carols 6:30pm

Wednesday 22nd - Carols around the Parish 7:30pm for 8pm

Friday 24th - Christingle 5:00pm

Friday 24th - Midnight Mass 11:45pm

Saturday 25th - Holy Communion 7:00 & 8:00am

Saturday 25th - Bring your Favourite Present 11:00am

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.

WHRA Committee

Chairperson & Correspondence -

Chris Courtney (01959 535022)

Vice-chairman & Planning-

Phil Hobson (01959 534090)

Minutes Secretary -

Mike Sharp (01959 533600)

Treasurer -

Mike Peek (01959 533339)

•Neighbourhood Watch -

Mrs.June Dean (01959 534445)

Social Secretary -

Mario Decelis (01959 533239)

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

Rector of Chelsfield and Advisor in Pastoral Care & Counseling for the Diocese of Rochester is:

Canon Leslie Virgo

The Rectory

Skibbs Lane

Chelsfield

BR6 7RH

Tel: 01689 825749



WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH

09.45am Morning Prayers (1st Sunday)

09.45am Holy Communion (3rd Sunday)

Pastoral Assistant: Gillian Vernon 01689 874876

Normal Refuse Collection

Tuesday 28th NO COLLECTION

Thursday 30th will be collected as normal

Tuesday 4th will be collected Wednesday 5th January

Thursday 6th will be collected Friday 7th January

All other collections are as normal but 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

Free Saturday Refuse Collection

Kent Hounds Well Hill 12:15 to 1 o'clock

Saturday - 15th January

Visit www.whra.org.uk for up-to-date information

Chelsfield Housemartins

The Chelsfield Housemartins would welcome more people from Well Hill even if you do own a car. It is possible to live in Well Hill without transport and still get out and about with the help and support of the Housemartins.

The Housemartins meet every Monday throughout the year in Chelsfield Village Hall. The group was started for people who are unable to get out without help with transport or possibly an arm to lean on. Drivers are all volunteers. There are about forty members as well as the helpers and drivers. They have a different activity each week. The first week of the month they have lunch in the hall and the second and fourth weeks they meet from 2 - 4pm and have either entertainment, quizzes, games and in the summer outings to gardens and picnics etc. The third week of the month they visit a pub or restaurant for lunch.

The Housemartins celebrated their 10th birthday this year and went on the London Eye which was very memorable. During the summer they went to Maidstone and had a boat trip on the river Medway. The Housemartins are a very friendly group and have lots of fun. They would be delighted to welcome some people from Well Hill. If you would like to join or just need a few more details, contact

Anne Mead 01689 826349

Community Mini Bus

There is a Mini Bus available for use of the community. It is 15 Seater + Driver. Any use for the benefit of the community will be considered—including a group trip to a pub!

Contact Anne Mead 01689 826349 for further details.

Join the Evening WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There are two Chelsfield WI groups one meeting in the afternoon and the other in the evenings. Chelsfield Evening WI extends a warm welcome to any ladies who would like to join this friendly supportive group. There are

no age limits!

Meetings are held in Chelsfield Village Hall on the third Tuesday of every month at 8pm

For more information telephone 01689 821592 or just go along to their interesting talks, events and activities.

You will NOT need to be proficient in jam making, flower arrangement, embroidery, party games or choral singing – nor will you be expected to remove your clothes.

Crime in WELL HILL

Some recent crimes in the area

- Between 1/11/04 and 2/11/04 - garage broken into in Cockerhurst Road strimmer and chainsaw stolen
- 3/11/04 - quad bike stolen from Shacklands Road during the day
- 11/11/04 - vehicle stolen from Rock Hill overnight - recovered locally. Window smashed to gain entry.
- Between 15/11/04 and 16/11/04 - garage broken into at another property in Cockerhurst Rd. Attempted theft of another quad bike.

If you have any information that may help, contact PC Jackie Allen or PSCO David Birchall on 01732 370774. PC Jackie Allen is also available to visit anyone who feels they may benefit from some crime prevention advice.

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 next Police surgery will be on Monday 10th January at the Kent Hounds.

Contact Numbers

Do you have a problem with a possible breach of the law or planning consent? Contact the following in confidence.

Breach of Planning Consent - 01732 227369
(Sevenoaks) 020 8461 7730 (Bromley)
Bonfires and Noise Nuisance - 01732 227278
(Sevenoaks) 020 8313 4830 (Bromley)
Abandoned Vehicles - 01959 563444
(Sevenoaks) 020 8313 4557 (Bromley)
Fly Tipping - 01959 563444 (Sevenoaks) 020
8313 4860 (Bromley)
Dog Fouling - 01732 227416/227346
(Sevenoaks)

There is more information on our website at <http://www.whra.org.uk/phone.htm> including e-mail addresses of those that enforce or investigate complaints.

The Law on dog fouling

We have been asked about this and the situation is that you could be given a £50 fixed penalty ticket by the Council or taken to a Magistrates' Court and fined up to £1,000 if you fail to clear up after your dog has fouled in a public place. A dog must wear a collar and tag in a public place. The minimum information on the tag required by law is the name and address of the owner.

We have also been asked about noisy dogs. With the number of dogs in our area there will be the occasional barking. If this is persistent it can turn into a nuisance. Noise nuisance caused by a dog barking could result in the Council taking action against the dog owner. There are many reasons why a dog barks. Sevenoaks District Council's Dog Wardens (01732 227416 or 01732 227346) can help those who have noisy dogs and those who suffer from noisy dogs.

Fireworks

Fireworks are fun, so much so that we are using them for more occasions than bonfire night. To clarify the recent law:

It is not permitted to:

- be in possession of adult fireworks (all fireworks except party poppers and sparklers, etc.) in a public place by anyone under the age of 18

- possess category 4 fireworks (professional display fireworks) by anyone other than a fireworks professional.
- The creation of a curfew on firework use - between 11 pm and 7 am (in line with the Noise Act 1996), with the exception of the following nights where the curfew will begin at different times:
 - November 5th - 12 midnight
 - New Years Eve - 1 am
 - Chinese New Year - 1 am
 - Diwali night - 1 am

From April 2004, the offence of letting fireworks off in the street (under section 80 of the Explosives Act 1875) is also punishable by a fixed penalty notice - attracting the upper tier of £80.

From 11 October 2004, police will also have the power to issue fixed penalty notices to those under the age of 18 caught possessing fireworks in a public place or those breaching the 11 pm curfew time. Again, the offence attracts the upper tier of £80.

If you are having spectacular fireworks at New Year, why not share the experience and let us all know by posting a notice on the notice boards around the area.

Kent Hounds

Join Bill & Jean for Carols at the Kent Hounds Monday 20th December from 8pm.

Christmas menu available from 6th to 23rd December. Phone 01959 534288 for bookings.

Although the Kent Hounds has been granted planning permission to convert it to a dwelling, Bill and Jean are still open for business as usual and will continue as a pub for the foreseeable future.

Rock and Fountain

Traditional Christmas menu available from, 1st to 24th December.

Father Christmas is expected to visit the Rock and Fountain one Sunday afternoon before Christmas. Contact Alan or Angela on 01959 534335 for details.

Area of Outstanding Beauty

"Nowhere in the world will you find a landscape more ravishing than this. It's ours, to look at and to cherish for the rest of our lives. I would die for it."

So spoke Sir Winston Churchill, as acted by Albert Finney in the BBC drama *The Gathering Storm*, from his balcony at Chartwell House on the Kent Downs Greensand ridge. The script captures the deep love that Churchill felt for the beauty of the countryside around his home, and the inspiration he derived from this fine English landscape. This countryside - the Kent Downs - has been designated for 35 years as a nationally important landscape, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Within it is some of the finest landscape that England has to offer.

For the first time since their designation, the AONBs of England and Wales now have legal means - through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 - to set in place clear policies and action for the conservation, positive management and enhancement of these protected landscapes over the next five years and beyond.

Most of us live in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Beauty. Although it is similar in stature to a national park, it does not even have boundary markers. It is not even marked on Ordnance Survey maps! So where is it? The boundary goes down Daltons Road, then follows a public footpath and meets Pump Lane near to Doctors Wood Lodge. It continues down Pump Lane until it reaches Rock Hill when it heads towards the Bo-Peep via Jubilee Road and Hollybush Lane.

What does an AONB mean? Until recently, AONB existed but not much was done with them. But now, they have new powers and local government has a duty to protect and enhance the AONB. This is going to mean even more restrictive policies in regard to planning matters.

With this newsletter is a copy of the AONB newspaper *The Orchid*. It highlights some of the grants that are available for

converting old farm building into offices or small scale industrial units; tuning chalk grassland into grazing land; planting hedgerows; orchard restoration; and many many more (see page 10 of *The Orchid*)

For more information visit <http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/>

Canon Leslie Virgo, Rector of Well Hill and Chelsfield extends a welcome to all new arrivals to our community at Well Hill. He invites all who 'live on the Hill' to the Mission Church services. He asks people to get in touch with him on 01689 825749 for any personal matter or about Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals.

Links with the Past

Past and present residents of Chelsfield are often reunited at a get-together inspired by a book written by Derek Sheffield and published in 1993.

This Forgotten Place charted Derek's years living in Chelsfield and has brought together many of the people who lived there at the same time. Although Derek died in 2000 his legacy lives on at the Maypole Club, which meets occasionally to reminisce and share memorabilia.

The latest meeting at Chelsfield Village Hall brought together around 40 people, some who had not seen each other for years. Organiser and villager Clare Hogben, 69, said: "It was a wonderful day. It takes you a few minutes to recognise people and then suddenly it comes to you."

Anyone who has lived in Chelsfield or Maypole or has any memorabilia can call Clare Hogben on 01689 833263.

(Continued from page 1)

the Well Hill Mission Church from Shoreham Parish to Chelsfield Parish nearly 70 years ago. Less than two years ago the boundary commission split Well Hill off from Shoreham Parish and moved it to Crockenhill for District Council elections. Your committee believe that a separate Well Hill Parish Council is in the best interests of the Well Hill area, in both the short and longer term.

Matthew McDonnell

Matthew and his family moved into Well Hill in February 1987, just before his 15th birthday. He was a student at Ravens Wood Boys School and soon had a Saturday job helping in the Kent Hounds, which he loved.

He enjoyed all sports that had an element of danger and soon developed an interest in motorbikes and cars. He had been a club swimmer and was the youngest member of a local sub-aqua club. When he left school he was apprenticed to British Telecom and later worked for security company being one of the electricians who installed the first electronic "eye" at Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club centre court.

At 23 he decided he needed to see more of the world and left for Australia. He found employment immediately and loved the life. He made a huge number of friends and travelled extensively. He continued with the water sports - surfing and wind surfing, and added skiing and snowboarding as well as a parachute jump to his list of activities.

He came home two years ago to learn more about the building trade from his father. His only regret was leaving his 12 month old son, whom he adored. He continued to travel and was planning to return to Australia after his sister's wedding next year.

Matthew will be remembered for his huge smile, his affectionate nature and his optimistic enthusiasm for life.

Canon Leslie Virgo conducted a beautifully uplifting funeral service at St. Martins. The church was completely filled with relatives and friends. Matthew's family have been overwhelmed by their kind messages of condolence and their generous contributions to an educational fund for his son, Zachary.

The flowers given by the Residents are truly beautiful, thank you.

Crockenhill Parish Council...

would like to see more people at their meeting. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of

(Continued from page 1)

to say it was chaos is putting it mildly. Several weeks ago they had found large Roman snails in Lullingstone Park (empty of course) brought them home, washed them then painted and decorated them. Has anyone else found snails in the park - they are much bigger than garden snails. Two of the boys, Mathew and Jack, decided on the morning of the show to arrange flowers in a yoghurt pot, so hurriedly rushed around the garden picking flowers.

Susan and I had entered the Garden Vegetable Class, also home grown fruit, vase of garden flowers, vase of bought flowers, longest runner bean, 3 runner beans, 5 Potatoes, 5 Cherry Tomatoes, 5 big tomatoes, 3 Carrots, 3 Onions, 5 Shallots, largest apple and a picture of your Favourite Pet, a floating Pansy Head, Jar of Blackberry Jelly and a single Dahlia Head plus a craft item.

When we arrived at the Village Hall it was very chaotic trying to arrange everyone's things to look their best and of course to catch the judges eye, but we did it and came away feeling pleased with ourselves.

At 2:30 we were back at the hall, the four boys couldn't wait to find out how they had done. Well I won't tell you who won what, but suffice to say between us all we won 11 firsts, 10 seconds and 9 thirds.

Susan won the Allotment Cup for highest overall Vegetables points and jointly we won the Well Hill Cup.

It's such a pity more people, especially those on Well Hill, didn't take part as I'm sure lots of you have flowers or Veg you could have entered. Our little community needs things like this to keep it alive.

In our recent newsletter a little piece on the bottom said "come along and show what you can do. Lets bring the trophy back to Well Hill" Well we have! Lets hope next year someone else on Well Hill can do it."

Rosemary Barrett.

each month from 7:30pm with public questions at approximately 9pm. Go along and let them know your views. You can access Crockenhill Parish Council on <http://www.crockenhillpc.org.uk>

There are also two Village Association events early in the New Year. Jan 22nd Quiz and Feb 19th Olde Tyme Music Hall. Both being held in Village Hall but details yet to be finalised. Last time Olde Tyme Music Hall a sell out and there is already have a waiting list for tickets! Tickets from parish office - telephone 01322 614674.