

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE WELL HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2005

TRAFALGAR CELEBRATIONS

The Nation unites in 2005 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and to remember the heroism of Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson and the gallant crews of his outnumbered fleet.

Beacons will blaze across the land, church bells will ring, and festivities will take place on farms, in homes, hotels, pubs, schools, and village, town, and city halls throughout the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands.

On Friday October 21st a beacon will be lit as part of the nationwide bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The beacon is being provided by Shoreham Parish Council and will be placed on the ridge near the crossroads of Rock Hill, Well Hill and Well Hill Lane. Watch the notice boards for further information or visit the website at <http://www.whra.org.uk/>.

Individuals, communities, youth groups, clubs, voluntary organisations, companies and groups of families and friends are being encouraged to organise Trafalgar Day lunches, dinners and parties on Friday 21st October (Trafalgar Day). For our part, we will be lighting a beacon at the top of the hill, which should be visible from central London, Kent and Essex, as part of the nationwide lighting of beacons in a synchronised celebration of Nelson's achievement. The first beacon in the chain will be lit in Portsmouth alongside Nelson's beloved flagship, HMS Victory, where the Royal Navy will be holding a special Trafalgar Night Dinner.

It would be useful for us to know what events you are planning for Friday 21st October so that they can be coordinated with our events.

We are being encouraged to use local produce over the Trafalgar weekend so now would be a good time to find local farm shops such as Hewitts on the Orpington by-pass and the Hop Shop on the road from Cockerhurst to Eynsford.

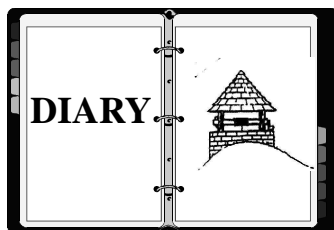
For the Bi Centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar in honour of Lord Horatio Nelson, the Residents' Association Committee have devised a Quiz concerning this momentous event in our maritime history. Many prizes will be awarded. Closing date is noon Wednesday 19th October. The winners will be announced at the beacon lighting event on Friday 21st October and listed in the Christmas newsletter. The Quiz and Rules can be found on the last page of this Newsletter.

PRODUCE SHOW

For the first time in recent years, there will not be a Produce Show this year. After Well Hill resident's success last year, this is somewhat disappointing. It is hoped that one can be organised in the Spring of 2006 to give resident's the opportunity to show what they can do! .

If you have small amount of time to spare and would be willing to help with the organisation please contact your local committee member.

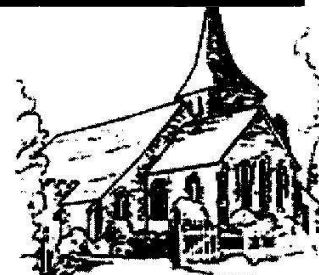
Website - visit the website at <http://www.whra.org.uk>



CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 25th September - Rushmore Equestrian Club will hold their autumn horse show starting 9.30am at Longlands Farm, Hawstead Lane.
Details kphillips@deloitte.co.uk

ST MARTINS CHELSFIELD



Friday 21st October - Trafalgar Celebrations—Beacon Lighting
Full details to follow, watch the noticeboards.

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:

Free Saturday Refuse Collection

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

Dates:- 2005 October 1st
 December 10th

Canon Leslie Virgo
The Rectory
Skibbs Lane
Chelsfield
BR6 7RH
Tel: 01689 825749



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 -**
Tony Barton (01959 ??????)



WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH

No Services in August

4th September, Morning Workshop led by a member of the congregation.
18th September, Harvest Festival
2nd October, Morning Worship led by a member of the congregation.
16th October, Holy Communion conducted by the Rector.
6th November, Morning Worship led by a member of the congregation.
13th November, Remembrance Sunday.
20th November, Holy Communion conducted by the Rector.

Gillian Vernon. (Pastoral Assistant)
Tel: 01689 874876

BROADBAND

Current status for the Knockholt exchange. Those connected to the Knockholt exchange have telephone numbers of 01959 53xxxx.

Broadband does work for Well Hill. However, there is an area fault that causes it to fail between sunset and sunrise. BT are working on the problem and an expert from BT's laboratories in Ipswich came in late July to pinpoint the cause of the problem. He believes that he has found the property that is causing the problem and has written to the owners.

Regardless of the ISP (Internet Service Provider), BT provides the ADSL link from your house to the exchange. BT then charges the ISP for this service. So, no matter which ISP you are using, the investigations by BT during April will help all ISPs to provide a reliable broadband service.

Because we are working closely with BT on this problem, it would help us to help everyone in the area if we had a better picture of who is having problems with broadband and, equally important, who is getting a problem free service. If you have internet access please complete our questionnaire at the bottom of the web page:

<http://www.whra.org.uk/broadband.htm>

We also need information from residents connected to the Otford exchange (01959 52xxxx), Swanley (01322) and Orpington (01689). Regardless of your exchange, please fill in our questionnaire so that we know what areas are problem free and which areas we will need to campaign for.

BEST WISHES

For a speedy recovery to Fred Weadon who is in hospital.

NEW ARRIVALS

2 chicks to the peacocks

WARM WELCOME TO THE HILL

Deranta: Cecil, Jenny and Paris Dwight
Hunters Moon: Baba and Chris Whitley

POLICING

A success for our local PCSO who recently collared youths creating graffiti on the motorway bridge.

There has been a recent theft of a horsebox in the West Kent rural area, as well as a theft from a garage and two field gates in Well Hill itself. Your Community Officer, Jon Wilkinson and PCSO, Dave Birchall, ask that you keep vulnerable items secure, be aware of, and report fly tipping & suspicious vehicles.

The PCSO has a stock of timers and panic alarms that may be of use to residents. He carries them in his car so feel free to stop him and ask for them.

LOCAL ATTRACTION OPENS

Lullingstone Castle - The UK's first ever 'World Garden of Plants', set within a two acre walled garden in the grounds of Lullingstone Castle, will take visitors to the countries these plants originated from. Tom Hart-Dyke, the creator of the 'World Garden of Plants' says that "the best time to see it will be Spring 2006". More details at <http://www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk/>

LOCAL BUSINESSES

We are starting to produce a list of local businesses and services. To be included send an e-mail to editor2005@whra.org.uk

The following list is not necessarily endorsed by the Well Hill Residents' Association. If you find that a particular company gives a good or bad service please let us know.

Window Cleaner - C&P GIRLING

Tel 01322 448536, Fax 01322 403748

Woodyholme Nursery - Rock Hill - Local Growing Nursery

Tel 01959 534685

Ironing Service - Free Collections and Delivery

Tel 07940 288 437 or 020 8850 0343 (eve)

POLICING OF WELL HILL

Below is an extract taken from a letter received in June by the chairman of the Residents' Association from Michael Fallon MP (Sevenoaks).

“I thought that you might like to know that the policing of Well Hill was one of the issues that I raised yesterday at my regular meeting with the West Kent Area Commander, Supt. Jerry Price.

During the recent election, I had a number of constituents in Well Hill complaining that they felt that the area was under-patrolled and that calls to the police communications centre were ineffectively handled. Well Hill is, as you know, sited at the corner of three police areas, West Kent, North Kent and the Met, but I have stressed to Supt. Price that this should be no excuse for inadequate policing: if anything, it should mean that there is more coverage not less.

The overall responsibility lies firmly with West Kent. Supt. Price has promised to keep a close eye on the way in which the area is being covered over the next six months. I should be very interested in any feedback that your Association can provide before my next meeting with him in the autumn.”

If anyone has any comments they would like to be passed on, please let Chris know.

(cc2005@whra.org.uk).

KENT DOWNS RURAL ADVICE SERVICE

A Pilot Project to provide advice to Kent Downs Farmers and Landowners.

The Kent Downs Rural Advice Service is a pilot project providing free support to farmers and land owners who are seeking to make a change to their land management or business.

This free service is initially restricted to within, or straddling the boundary, of the Kent Down's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and in some cases may be extended to land adjacent to the AONB. (Boundary information: www.kent.gov.uk/klis or Gill Bell AONB Unit Tel. 01303 815170)

The Kent Downs Rural Advice co-ordinator will arrange for the farmer or landowner to be visited and helped by specialists with planning, environmental and business expertise.

The advisors will provide recommendations in consultation with the landowner and the Co-ordinator will then bring these together in an Action Plan to help take the proposal(s) forward.

This is a simple and practical approach to provide timely advice for landowners which will help lead to diversification changes that are financially viable, environmentally sound and acceptable in planning terms.

Where can I Get further information about the service? Contact Jenny Bate the Co-ordinator at Kent Downs AONB Unit West Barn, Penstock Hall Farm, Canterbury Road, East Brabourne, Ashford, Kent. TN25 5LL.

<http://www.kentdowns.org.uk>

Tel. 01303 815170

email:jenny.bate@kentdowns.org.uk /

Fax. 01303 815179

VOTE OF THANKS

Thanks go to Carol who has maintained the flowers by the notice board by the Well Hill triangle.

REPLACING WINDOWS?

Since 2002 anyone who installs replacement windows or doors now has to comply with thermal performance standards imposed through the building regulations in order to meet increasingly stringent national and global energy saving targets.

When the time comes to sell your property, your purchaser's surveyors will ask for evidence that any replacement glazing installed after April 2002 complies with the new Building Regulations and you may need a certificate from the local authority saying that the installation has approval under the Building Regulations or a self-certification document from the contractor under the FENSA (Fenestration Self-Assessment) scheme.

The scheme allows installation companies that meet the criteria to self-certify their work when it complies with the Building Regulations. FENSA appointed inspectors approve samples of the work of every installer to ensure standards are maintained and certificates will be issued to householders confirming compliance.

Any installation done by anyone that is not registered to self-certify needs Building Regulations Approval from the Council. It should be noted that the property owner, not the contractor, is ultimately responsible for ensuring the work complies with the Building Regulations.

Before any window is removed, the property should be surveyed to check that the window's are not load bearing, the main thing to examine is whether or not there is a lintel above the window. This could take the form of a brick arch, a concrete, steel beam, or timber beam, all of which carry the wall or roof above. If there is no lintel professional advice should be sought and the application should include details of how the loads above the window will be supported.

Some properties with bay windows have been constructed with the bay having a load bearing role; this should be assessed by a professional prior to works commencing as if removal is carried out incorrectly structural damage may result.

If the property is listed, within the curtilage of a Listed Building, or subject to an Article 4 direction then planning permission and/or Listed Building Consent may be needed from the Planning Division before a window is replaced. In such instances and in conservation areas, the appropriateness of the new window in terms of materials, external finish and glazing bar profiles is likely to be a key consideration; traditional materials and detailing should be retained wherever possible.

HELP PRESERVE OUR NATURAL HISTORY

A few years ago gardeners started planting imported Spanish bluebell bulbs, and now these Spanish flowers are taking over! The Spanish variety will grow almost anywhere, and many of them have got into the British countryside where they are breeding with our own native species and producing a hybrid.

The Spanish variety has blue bell-shaped flowers, but that's where the similarity ends. Our native bluebells have a delicate scent, while the Spanish variety has hardly any. Our native bluebells have rich blue coloured blooms on just one side of a blue stem, while the Spanish bluebell is larger and straighter with pale coloured flowers on all sides.

Conservationists are working to stop the spread of the Spanish variety in Britain and help save our own native bluebells from extinction.

TRAFALGAR QUIZ

Name: **2005 Subscriptions** (ring one)
Address: - enclosed
E-mail: - previously paid
- enclosed with other quiz entry
- not due, OAP.

Summary of rules:

- only households that have paid the subscription (£5) can win a prize (OAPs - who are eligible for free membership - should mark their entry as "OAP member")
- maximum of 3 entries per household
- only one prize can be won per household
- committee members and families cannot take part
- the committee's decision (no matter how wrong) is final

1. How many ships did Nelson have under his command at the start of manoeuvres at the battle of Trafalgar?
2. Approximately how many ships of later years carried the same names of some of Nelson's ships of the line?
3. What nationalities were Nelson's adversaries?
4. Who was the Captain of HMS Victory?
5. Before Trafalgar, how long had there been peace in England?
6. What caused Napoleon to plan an invasion of England?
7. Where did the French fleet make port after leaving Europe and where did they sail from?
8. In what year was the conflict fought?
9. How many ships did the French Admiral have at his command?
10. Where were the French squadrons of ships based?
11. What was the French Admiral's name?
12. 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?
13. Who did Nelson join prior to the main battle at Cadiz and what tactic did he then carry out?
14. What was the name of Nelson's wife?
15. Where was Nelson shot in his body?
16. Where did Emma Hamilton die and in what year?
17. What pension did Emma Hamilton and Nelson's daughter get after his death?
18. What were Nelson's last words?
19. What time of day did Lord Horatio Nelson die?
20. What was Nelson's daughter's name?
21. What was the name of the English ship that saw and then signalled to Nelson that the French fleet was leaving Cadiz?
22. What date did the battle of Trafalgar take place?
23. Who was Nelson's secretary on board HMS Victory?
24. Who was in charge of the Marines on board HMS Victory?
25. What was a smasher that the Bosun was in charge of?