

HORTON KIRBY & SOUTH DARENTH



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

PRIVATE GYPSY CARAVAN SITE

DISMISSED

The Appeal by the gypsy family living opposite the village hall has been turned down by the Planning Inspector after 5 days of public inquiry. The family has been given 12 months from 12 May 2009 to leave the site and restore it to its original condition. In the lengthy response the Inspector took into account fully the circumstances of the family including their human rights but found that they did not override the flooding issues and the great harm being done to the Green Belt. The Inspector concluded that the loss of openness and the considerable impact even this small scale development has is causing serious harm to the green belt and the open space between our 2 villages. On the subject of flooding she stated that the site is undefended from the River Darent which has a history of flooding. She added that caravans would be highly vulnerable and there would be a serious risk to the occupants as there would be no means of escape from the site since Horton Road is also in the flood zone.

The full response from the Inspector is available on

<http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/casesearch.asp>

Enter case number:- APP/G2245/C/08/2078930

STATION ROAD PARKING and DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Many of you have been surprised (and not a little cross) that only half of the promised yellow lines have been painted along Station Road. We have had many offers to go out there with a tin of paint and finish the job!

Sevenoaks District Council got on with their part of the work but unfortunately the lines in that part of the road that is in Dartford Borough did not get done. Many District, Borough, County and Parish councillors have

been on the case and been trying to find out what has (or rather has **not**) been happening.

However, county councillor Roger Gough reports that the traffic order for the second half is being raised and the lines should be in by 9 June. Let's hope this is the last time we have to report on this subject and that the danger that these parked cars are causing on a daily basis is a thing of the past.

POLICE NEWS

Safer Number Plate and Property Marking day—Local officers will be attending for window etching, crime prevention advice and number plate securing. This will take place outside the village hall for 4 hours and anyone is welcome. Date still to be confirmed, look out for advertising which will be put up in the village.

A number of residents have complained regarding **travellers washing their horses** in the stream in Franks Lane. The travellers are allowed to wash their horses in the stream if they do not use any washing material. PCSOs Rowbottom, Hearn and PC Relf do monitor this regularly. The environmental agency has taken samples of the water to test for any contamination. The results were negative.

A new initiative has begun where section officers link in with neighbourhood teams and assist when on 'down time'. Kenneth Hearne will assist out in Horton Kirby and South Darenth. This will also help to increase Kenneth's knowledge of the area and give him a opportunity to meet the residents.

Crime figures for the 3 villages for last 12 months:

All crime	327	down 11.1%
Anti-social behaviour	101	down 23%
Burglary	51	down 5.5%
Robbery	2	up 100%
Vehicle crime	101	down 7.3%
Violence against the person	20	down 23%

**All officers and PCSOs can be reached on the one email account
swanley.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk**

PARISH BURIAL GROUND

Many visitors to the Parish Council's burial ground will have seen the new noticeboard with details of the policy document intended to manage the ground and to keep it as safe as possible for all users. We would ask all those who tend graves to read the documents and to request a copy from the parish office if needed. It is also extremely helpful to the Parish Council if all next of kin and all who tend graves, keep the office updated with contact details. This ensures that actions necessary to be taken can be done with consultation.

It is particularly important that those with dangerous items on the grave are aware that these will be removed and disposed of. **Dangerous items include glass vases and other glass objects, broken containers, flints used as edging or at the edge of the grave, thin wire edgings and chippings used to cover graves that have no proper edging.** Please remove any such items you wish to keep before 31 July 2009.

You will also note from the policy document that the maximum area for each grave is 6ft 6in long by 2ft 6in wide. This has always been the case though some are considerably bigger. Please check any graves in your control and reduce the area if necessary.

The Parish Council has decided to deal with the rubbish area by levelling the mound as much as possible and re-seeding with grass. Hopefully this will stop the fly-tipping of garden waste which has been expensive to have removed. Visitors to graves are asked to take their rubbish away with them for home composting, recycling or disposal.

IF YOU SEE ANYONE DUMPING RUBBISH IN THE BURIAL GROUND, PLEASE TAKE AS MUCH DETAILS AS POSSIBLE AND INFORM THE PARISH CLERK

Following complaints about strimmed grass spoiling the look of headstones and grave plots, the Parish Council has decided to offer a new service whereby the grass cutter will clear individual plots after each cut. The cost is £25 per annum which represents a 50% reduction of the true cost. If you want to take up this offer, please call in to the parish office for a form.

STREET LIGHTING

Last edition we reported that the Parish Council was considering upgrading some or all of its street lights in order to hand them (and the costs involved) over to KCC to maintain. Since then we have found out that this strategy is a non-starter because of the high specifications KCC require and the resulting huge sums of money involved. And even if we did all this upgrading there is no guarantee that they would be taken over, as KCC, like everyone else at the moment, is cutting budgets not expanding them.

The Parish Council is now looking to get best value out of its street lighting budget and has decided to replace existing lights that are beyond economic repair or need replacement with new low energy lights that will cost less to run and give better illumination. In addition, the Parish Council has surveyed all of the lights and it has been suggested that some are not effective and some are possibly not needed. Obviously, the Parish Council does not want to waste money on lighting that has little effect. It has therefore been decided that the fuses of some lights will be taken out to see whether they are missed. The following lights are involved:

- 8 lights along the A225 Dartford Road;
- 1 light in Saxon Place by The Lodge;
- 2 in Rays Hill;
- 3 in Mussenden Lane;
- 1 in Eglantine Lane facing onto the wasteland;
- 1 in Eglantine Lane at junction with Franks Lane.

Any comments on the lack of these street lights should be made in writing to the Parish Office.

On the subject of effectiveness, our plea in the last newsletter to landowners (or more particularly tree owners) to cut back branches that surround our lights had little effect. The situation is even worse now that the leaves are out and the branches are growing. We understand that KCC Highways Inspectors have powers to issue notices for cutting round trees and can get the work carried out and recharged to the landowner. We would much rather not have to go down this route and would ask again for co-operation from those involved to act for the good of all of the community.

Annual Parish Meeting 7 May 2009—Extract from Chairman's Report

Village Hall

The committee has more representatives from groups using the hall and now consists of five parish councillors and up to eight user representatives.

The bookings for the hall are down on previous years and it was decided to offer a reduction for August bookings and to reduce the charge for non-parishioners.

We have been advised that the roof repairs will need to be carried out within the next five to ten years and that the cost will exceed our original estimate. A decision was taken to increase the fund by £5000 per year over the next five years.

The caretaker resigned earlier this year and we are still seeking a replacement.

The extension to the Village Hall is making slow progress; the first draft drawing and cost estimate have been received and rejected on the grounds of design and cost. A further draft drawing and cost estimate has recently been received and awaits discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

Recreation and Open Spaces

The Trim Trail at **Heathside** has been installed and has been well received.

It was agreed to install two benches in the **Lower Paddock** at a cost of £302.

Dog Fouling on the **green at Shrubbery Road** is a problem and parishioners are reminded of the health risk to people using this open space. A new light, costing £600, has been installed on the green to improve safety at night. A new fence, costing £6,315, will be installed along the green at the boundary with the road. Our thanks to County Councillor Roger Gough for a grant of £2000 towards the cost.

The continuing problem of Fly Tipping onto the **Top Paddock** has been solved by the erection of a Green Palisade Fence at a cost of £2775.

Westminster Field has two new benches. Savings have been made in the cost of cleaning the toilets.

During the year, the **Burial Ground** was placed under the control of this committee and various problems have been resolved. One in particular was the amount of grass cutting falling over the graves and it was decided to increase the frequency of mowings per year.

This has meant an increase in maintenance costs and to offset these increases the charges for burials have been increased. Any excess income from this action will be placed into a reserve fund. Sometime in the future more provision for burials will have to be found by the Parish Council.

General

Fairview proposed closing Horton Road by the Fire Station for sixteen months. This is not acceptable and discussions to resolve the matter have taken place

There is a waiting list for **allotments** and the local farmer is to be approached to see if any more land is available to rent. At the same time, it was suggested that we might purchase the present allotments and further land if it was available.

The **funding of a PCSO** was discussed and it was decided not to continue paying 50% towards the cost of a PCSO. We were one of very few Parish Councils still part funding a PCSO. Subsequently PCSO Peter Hylands was transferred and we now have PCSO Rachel Rowbottom and PCSO Alan Hearn patrolling in our villages.

The contract for **Street Lighting** has been moved to PFL and a review of the lighting throughout the Parish is being undertaken. It was agreed to release £5000 from the savings made on the policing budget to improve the safety of Parishioners by improved street lighting. As a start, a new Mini Iridium light will be installed, at a cost of £487, at the junction of Devon Road and Holmsdale Road. It was also decided not to have 'All Night' lighting in the villages.

The Parish Council sponsored an arrangement at the **St Mary's Church Flower Festival**.

It was decided to celebrate **St George's Day** this year and on Saturday 25th April, the nearest Saturday to the 23rd, all groups in the two villages were invited to attend the day. Due to great demand, a marquee was also provided at the rear of the Village Hall. Hundreds of people came on the day and it was a great success. Discussions will take place to consider making it an annual event.

The Rail Action Group decided to ask everyone for their ideas and suggestions on using the surplus funds, which have been held by the Parish Council for some years. The Rail Action Group has reached a decision on the disposal of these funds and the Rail Action Group has formally been wound up.

At a special meeting of the Parish Council, on Wednesday 15th April it was decided to **move all monies held at the Bank of Ireland** to Nat West in Dartford. This has been done.

Finally, I would say that this report only outlines the main actions and decisions of your Parish Council. There are many other items that are dealt with on a daily basis. Many councillors spend many hours of their time on Parish Council business and on behalf of the Parishioners, I thank them.

Thank you, Peter Bradley, Chairman

Parish Council Grants Awarded 2008/9

Horton Kirby School	£100	Royal British Legion	£300
1st Horton Kirby Scouts	£400	Volunteer Centre	£200
Ellenor Lions Hospice	£600	Age Concern	£250
Kenward Trust	£100	1 st Horton Kirby Brownies	£100

Parish Council Finances

Each year the Council sets a budget for what it wants to spend money on and based on this, requests an amount of money (the Precept) from Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) which is then recovered through the Council Tax paid by residents in this Parish. For 2009/10 the budget is as follows:

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Administration	37,173	Village Hall rents	25,000
Village Hall	27,293	Bank Interest	3,500
Street Lighting	14,250	Policing/safety	8,880
Westminster Field	5,676	Sale of green/clear sacks	1,300
Heathside	3,357	Pavilion charges	1,036
Paddocks	3,315	Allotment rents	622
Public Conveniences	3,720	Miscellaneous	50
Burial Ground	2,875		
Children play areas	2,784		
Grants	2,540		
Other open spaces	1,720		
Clear/Green sacks	1,100		
Church Burial ground	955		
Pavilion	910		
St Georges Day	1,000		
Allotments	300	Precept from SDC	80,000
Total Expenditure	117,848	Total Income	113,508

The difference of £4,340 between income and expenditure will be funded from reserves. Currently reserves stand at £106,000 with £39,900 specifically held for future Village Hall roof repairs and £57,000 for future building and amenity land projects. Some of this is likely to be required for the planned village hall extension.

Trading Standards and Police Warnings

Many warnings are received alerting people to the latest scams and crimes from unwanted doorstep callers to emails and phone calls trying to get personal information. If anyone would like to receive these, just send your email address to the parish office (hksdpc@tiscali.co.uk) and we can pass them on.

Swanley Local Volunteer Centre

www.swanleyvolunteers.com

Who are we and what do we do..... You will be surprised at the different ways that a Volunteer Centre can help and advise the residents of your community. We not only recruit, train and place people wanting to volunteer, we network with other organisations throughout Kent that enable us to help you and local clubs by either finding suitable volunteers or guiding you through paperwork, up to date policies and training.

Our additional schemes are running support services for the elderly:-

Transport Scheme - This is a personal door to door service. Our volunteer driver will pick you up from your home, take you to your Hospital/ Doctor/Clinic appointment – wait for you – and then take you home again. This service has a small charge of 40p per mile and £1 administration charge that you pay to the driver. All you need to do is phone us to register and make sure that you give us at least three /four days notice before your appointment.

Befriending Scheme - This is a one to one befriending service in your own home. One of our Befrienders will visit for up to two hours per week, for a chat and a cup of tea. **This service is free** and very rewarding for both client and befriender, making new friends without leaving your own home. Most of our referrals come to us from Social Services but if you know of anyone who would benefit by this service then let us know.

Contact either Pauline or Della on 01322 669292 or 0845 241 2180 we will always try to help. Email info@swanleyvolunteers.com

Also please contact the Centre if you wish to volunteer as a driver or befriender. Petrol and other travel costs are reimbursed

Get Creative

Free sessions for any local residents over 55 with **Wild Wing Arts** in the communal lounge of Montgomery Road flats. **Every Friday from 5 June for 10 weeks. 2 – 3.30pm.**

Explore ideas and try crafts, story telling, play reading, script writing, acting, photography and more. No experience or skills necessary!!

Promoted by West Kent, Xtra and KCC. **Please call Heather Brightwell on 01732 749487 to confirm your place**

The Village Hall

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH VILLAGE HALL IS YOUR VILLAGE HALL.

There are vacancies for Friday and Saturday evenings in 2009
Book a party for that special event, Big "O" Birthday
or Fundraising Do.

It has a large stage, a separate bar room and a roomy kitchen
Saturday night from 5 pm to midnight costs £136
Friday evenings are £16 per hour.

The hall is fully licensed.

It is also an excellent venue for children's parties.

**10% DISCOUNT WITH THIS PAGE FOR ALL
NEW WEEKEND BOOKINGS**

And tell all your friends about our lovely village hall

South Darenth Village Church Ben & Gwen 01322 862443

11am service each Sunday

Harvest Supper 6pm Saturday 26th September

Harvest Service 11am Sunday 27th September

Last year we were able to send 82 boxes with 'Love in a Box'

We look forward to your continued support. Leaflets for this year are available from Gwen on 862443 or the Parish Office. Please return all boxes by 25th October. Thank you.

ST GEORGE'S FUN DAY 25th April 2009

What a success!!

Many thanks to everyone who attended this day at the Village Hall. We have had a very good response from all who exhibited and visited on the day. This will be an annual event. If anyone has any ideas how the day could be improved or any comments, or indeed if you would like to be part of the day next year, please contact the organiser Councillor Dawn Mitchell 07910 312710 or email dawn.alan@talktalk.net

The Abacus Furniture Project

The Abacus Furniture Project collects donated furniture and other household items free of charge (including recycled paints, small electrical items and white goods) and then sells them at a very competitive price from its warehouse in Greatness Lane, Sevenoaks. All profits are ploughed back into community projects. **We are open Monday to Friday 09.30 to 16.00. We can be contacted on 01732 743365.**

ROCOCO DANCE ACADEMY SUMMER WORKSHOP

3rd August - 7th August 2009

The 4th Rococo Dance Academy Summer Workshop will be held at the Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall. The week will conclude with a public show for parents and family and friends on Friday 7th. Each day will begin at 10.00am and finish at 3.20pm (doors will open at 9.45am). The cost of the week is £65.00 per child and will consist of a full timetable of dance, musical theatre and arts and crafts. **Anyone of primary school age (or due to start school in September) is encouraged to attend** and have a week of fun even if they have no dance experience. To book a place or for further information, please contact Mrs Claire Hawkins, Principal 07800 876304 or 01622 881395 email claire_dance@hotmail.co.uk

HORTON KIRBY SCHOOL FETE 20th June 2009

The day starts at 12 noon

This annual event always proves popular with families. There are many stalls including crafts, refreshments, bouncy castles, lucky jar tombola, gym display, dancing display to name but a few. . See you there!

If you would like to advertise in the fete programme
please contact Dawn Mitchell 07910 312710
email: dawn.alan@talktalk.net for details.

SPEED

an article by Steve Horton, Kent Highways Road Safety Education Team Leader

“Every road user is an expert on ‘road safety’; whether it’s because you are a regular driver or rider, whether you are normally a passenger or whether you are a pedestrian. It’s not ‘rocket science’ to figure out what you should do to make yourself and others a little safer on the roads and yet the choices you make will frequently place you, and those you value, in danger.

“One specific choice all drivers and riders make regularly is the speed at which they travel. Sometimes it is appropriate to drive at the speed limit – and sometimes it is quite inappropriate to drive even that fast. Imagine passing a school in August, early on a fine summer morning. 30mph may be quite safe. However, now imagine passing the same school on a wet and grey December afternoon at 3.15pm. 30mph would be totally inappropriate. Speeding, in a ‘road safety’ sense, isn’t just breaking the speed limit; it’s as much about choosing the right speed for the location and current road conditions.

“Government research says that around 1 in 3 of all crashes has speed as the main causation factor – predominantly ‘over the limit’ speed. However, the simple fact is “if you crash it’s because you couldn’t stop in time and if you cannot stop in time, you are travelling too fast”, so by my reckoning all crashes involve some form of inappropriate speed; even if this is below the limit.

“Speed and its role in determining whether the person you hit is killed, seriously injured or ‘just’ shaken up should not be underestimated. The faster you hit, the more damage you will do, but even this doesn’t sufficiently address the issue of speed, why people do it and what the implications may be.

“Over the next editions of your Parish newsletter I hope to outline a range of issues related to driving speed, to provide you with an insight into how speed contributes to between 250 (1 in 3) and 750 (all) deaths and serious injuries in Kent per year”.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, DEVON ROAD

Meets every third Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm.

Concert in the garden of 85 Devon Road on **Sunday 28 June at 3.30 pm** (please bring your own chairs). Tea and cakes on sale. Tickets £5 in advance, £7.50 on the day. All proceeds to refurbishment of the legion hall.

Sat 4 July Bobby V – guitarist and singer of 50s and 60s music. 7.30pm in the legion hall. Tickets £3.

Contact Christine Page 864776 for both events

HALL TO LET

**MOST AFTERNOONS AND WEEKENDS. ALSO
MONDAY EVENINGS.**

Very reasonable rates. Ring Judy on 01322 862564

FLYTIPPING - CLEAN KENT CAMPAIGN – www.cleankent.com

Kent County Council have a dedicated flytipping enforcement team within the Clean Kent Campaign which provides support to the 12 district and borough councils and coordinate activity within the county. They specialise in incidences of multiple items of rubbish or hotspots where flytipping is a recurring problem.

If you witness flytipping in progress please phone the police on 999 to report the details, otherwise to report a major problem phone 0845 345 0201 or email cleankent@kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks District Council will continue to deal with low scale tipping and reports should be made to them on 01732 227000.

PLEASE REPORT INCIDENTS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN TO THE PARISH COUNCIL UNLESS THE TIPPING IS ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND.

REMINDER—bottles dumped next to full recycling modules do not get picked up for recycling but are treated the same as flytipping and go to landfill. So please keep your bottles until you can put them in a container.

Free Musical for Older People

The **over 60s** are being given a unique opportunity to see the "Trickster" musical performance on **Tuesday 22nd September** at 10.30am at the Alexandra Suite in Swanley Town Council Offices.

Sevenoaks District Council is providing **FREE transport** from a range of pickup points.

This energetic live story-telling performance is back by popular demand and aims **to raise awareness of distraction burglary and dishonest doorstep traders** without raising the fear of crime. The story is performed by professional actors who use familiar music and humour to take the audience back to times of war to unite them against bogus callers.

The 'Trickster' musical is an ideal way of making residents more aware of how to deal with doorstep callers. The aim is to reach as many people as possible and give them the confidence to say **No!**

Places must be reserved in advance, book early to avoid disappointment! To reserve a seat or for further information please contact Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

GWALIA CONCERT SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2009 (30th Anniversary)

Another great afternoon with about 100 people enjoying the concert with the sunshine streaming through the windows of St Mary's church. As a result, donations of £100 were made to the church and to the Ty Fan hospice in Wales. Many thanks for the support. Pete Flewin

WRITE A NEW POEM

for the NOVEMBER TWO MINUTE SILENCE

New poems for this ceremony held outside the Village Hall in November are still wanted. Send any suggestions to the Parish Council Office at any time.

Women's Institute

Gill Tripp 01322 863476

Since the last Newsletter, Spring may well have sprung and Easter has been celebrated in the traditional manner – with a W.I. Easter Bonnet competition, of course, with many and varied entries ranging from the beautiful to the batty, all in the spirit of genial competition – or not. The winning entry proved that, given the imagination and ability, you *can* make something spectacular from hydrangea heads!!

Those of you who came down to the Village Hall for the St. George's Day celebrations will have encountered some of our members dressed as Morris Ladies, complete with hankies and bells, who manned (personed) the W.I. information and craft table. We now realise we could have made our millions by selling our items to those who were interested in buying, but all our bits had come from good homes and were going back to them.

By the time you get this, we will have had our Resolutions Meeting in May – the “business” end of W.I., when discussions involved the demise of the honey bee and the serious repercussions of that. For a little light relief, we made scarecrows after the style of a Blue Peter make.

Competitive, of course, with magnificent prizes and good fun.

The annual and very popular W.I. weekend away will also have taken place, with a coachload of keen holidaymakers going off to Torquay to enjoy warm, West Country hospitality in beautiful surroundings.

Our June meeting brings “Midsummer Madness” (as opposed to Midsommer Murders) and in July we will be given the opportunity to learn Flower Arranging from one of our own, Chris, who is undeniably an expert. Hopefully she is also blessed with unmitigated patience.

We look forward to our Summer Buffet in August, to which guests are always welcome and can enjoy good food and excellent entertainment, and in September we welcome back the Bexleyheath Photographic Society, with another of their Audio Visual Shows. Always a great evening and one worth trying if you haven't been to W.I. before and would like to come.

If you *are* thinking about giving us a whirl and would like a bit more information – or the guarantee that someone will happily meet you at the door and guide you in – phone Gill, our Chair, on 863476, or e-mail Lynn on Hillywi@yahoo.co.uk before the 3rd Thursday each month.

1st HORTON KIRBY SCOUT GROUP

Our **Cub Scouts** did a tremendous job recently on one of their litter picks, clearing Westminster Field they collected five bags of litter from the picnic area alone.

Seven of our **Scouts** attended a patrol leaders course with other scouts from Swanley District camping for two nights at West Kingsdown. All enjoyed the experience and many new friends were made.

Our **Beaver Scouts** earned money doing 'good turns' before the Easter break and collected £111 which they voted to donate to the RSPCA.

At our **Annual General Meeting** in May, Cub Scouts Stephen Turner, Adam Youseman and Lewis Gunyon received the Chief Scout Silver Award which is the highest award a Cub Scout can earn and Beaver Scouts Rachel Willson, Ben Johnson, Samuel Jones, Daisy Saunders, James Bayford, Aston Weekes, Aaron West, Louie Mumford, Mia Dare and Jamie Crawley were presented with the Chief Scout Bronze Award which again is the highest award a Beaver Scout can earn.

We are outdoors during the summer, camping, pioneering, hiking, visiting the new police station in Ebbsfleet, the Environmental Centre in Horton Kirby, our own campsite in Farningham woods where we will be tracking, fire lighting and building shelters before going to summer camp in August. We are again looking for **photographs for our 2010 Calendar** where we are matching the old with the new. So if you have any old photographs or have taken any new photographs recently we would love to hear from you as soon as possible. Please telephone Barbara Bradley on 01322 862005 or send them over by email to bradleyforgelane@btopenworld.com. Many thanks. If you wish to put your child on our waiting list please contact the above number. We are always looking for adult help - you will be made very welcome.

DARENT VALLEY LIONS CLUB

We have had a busy winter providing our senior citizens with tea and entertainment and we now look forward to taking them out on a summer outing. Our special needs family enjoyed the holiday we provide working with Norfolk Broads Lions. Because of the generous donations we received over Christmas from our Father Christmas street collection and our

Christmas hampers in our local pubs, we have been able to help our local Rainbows with new equipment - Sutton Court with their pop in parlour - we have sent over £9000 to the EllenorLions Hospice, 121 Carers Club for young carers.

We are working with our nine local schools with our 'Praise of Young People' scheme where we recognise young people who have done well in their school overcoming difficulties in their lives.

Our **SUMMER FETE is on SATURDAY 18TH JULY** at Heathside behind the Village Hall from 12 noon until 4.30pm - we have a Jazz Band - Reptiles - Birds of Prey - Punch & Judy - Line dancers - Bouncy House and slide - Bubble Machine - Face painter - roundabout and many other stalls.

The proceeds go to the EllenorLions Hospice and our local charities fund.

We have an **OPEN GARDEN on SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST** at Forge House, Forge Lane, Horton Kirby from 2pm. Cream teas, Pimms, bookstall, plants for sale. All proceeds to the EllenorLions Hospice.

New members always welcome. We meet at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Peter Bradley 01322 862005

SOUTH DARENTH & HORTON KIRBY ACTION GROUP

The Action Group was formed in 1988 to protect the community against the proposals for a Channel Tunnel rail link through the villages and in the last newsletter it requested proposals for the disposal of remaining funds prior to the winding up of the group. Thank you to all those who wrote in with suggestions. The Committee has now met, considered all proposals and agreed disposal of funds to the following organisations:-

Farningham Road Action Group (expenses repaid)	£132
Horton Kirby Village Society (PA equipment for the Fete etc)	£614
Royal British Legion (refurbishment of Legion Hall toilets etc)	£2000
Sutton at Hone Scouts (scout hut extension)	£2000
Horton Kirby Scouts (scout hut repairs)	£2000
HK & SD Parish Council (projector for the youth)	£1000
HK & SD Parish Council (play equipment at Heathside)	£2000
HK & SD History Society (to fund various projects)	£1000
1 st Sutton at Hone Rainbows (for equipment)	£568

HORTON KIRBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Village Fayre
Westminster Field
Saturday 13th June 1.00pm to 5.15pm

1.00 brass band, 1.30 dog show, please bring your dog, many categories, 2.15 magician, 3.15 birds of prey, 4.15 races for all
Plus all the usual attractions

Garden Safari, Friday 3rd July starting at 7.00pm

4 local gardens open

Please ring Kerry Pitcher for details on 01322 864451

Walk from Westminster Field 16th August 11am

Quiz 21st August 8pm Village Hall

Mid Year Meeting 18th September 8pm Village Hall

Old Rope String Band

Saturday 26th September 8pm

South Darenth Village Hall

4 talented musicians playing acoustic music from various traditions around the world with exuberant theatrics, boundless energy, side splitting comedy and gorgeous music

Keep the date free - tickets will be available from

Ken Allart on 07789 878942 or Graham Edwards on 01322 862478

Barn Dance

Friday 3rd October, 8pm Village Hall,

tickets will be available from Graham Edwards on 01322 862478

1st Horton Kirby Guides

Re-started last September. They meet on Wednesday evenings in the scout hut. Contact Liz on 01322 866969 for details.

Riverside Preschool Kindergarten Accredited, est 1967

KENT QUALITY FULL AWARD

Riverside pre-school had a very enjoyable day at the St Georges Day Celebrations, it was so nice to see so many people, some of whom came to Riverside many years ago. A big thank you must go to all the parents that gave us so many fantastic tombola prizes and of course to Mrs Hollands and Mrs Gristey who sat all afternoon turning the children's faces into butterflies, tigers and flowers. I know they enjoyed the cakes made by Mrs Gristey when their faces were painted.

This year will be our 42nd year. Latest news about the group - we are fortunate to have a very large outside area for the children to play and at present we are bidding for funding to have the area laid with a special surface to incorporate a garden for the children to grow flowers and vegetables. We also have plans to have a cover so that the children can play outside in all weathers. This should be completed during the Summer months.

Our visit to the Environmental Centre in School Lane with 22 children attending school in September was a great success, with pond dipping and a mini beast hunt. The main attraction were the newts and the huge number of tadpoles the children caught in their nets. Thanks to Tammy for her help.

A large group of children will be going to Nepicar Farm in June after which our plan is to work on a farm topic. Also planned is our Teddy Bears picnic and Sports Day in early July.

If you would like to join us, please feel free to give us a call
Manager - Mrs Cecilia Reynolds - 07968019759

KERBSIDE CLOTHING COLLECTIONS

We are still getting these leaflets looking like charity appeals but which are actually businesses wanting to make money from your donations. If you want to give your unwanted clothes to a good cause, don't forget the Salvation Army Clothes Bank is at the village hall. It is an easy matter to drop off a small bag as you are passing.

Good Tip: Don't fill a black sack with your donations as it is not easy to get it in the module; several smaller bags are much better.

St Mary's Church Horton Kirby

Nancy White 01322 865298

The Easter Services were well attended, on Good Friday the Cross was carried from St John's in Sutton at Hone to St Mary's. Thanks go to all who contributed to the Easter Lilies as well as our regular 'flower ladies'. The blossom has been exceptional this year and our continued thanks go to HK Village Society for their work in keeping the Churchyard well tended.

The **Summer Fete** will be held on **27th June**, contact Nancy for details.

Wanted—a calligraphist who would be prepared to update the Baptismal Roll in the Church

Baptisms

Tili-ane Boni Demirxhio 8-3-09 Adam Pape 15-3-09

Marriage Blessing Gwen and Ben Dawes 14-2-09

Wedding

Adam Kaye Kamenetzky and Elizabeth Eve Webb-Wilson 28-2-09

Funeral Miracle Francis Forester 11-2-09

Ashes Laid to Rest

Edward Newnham, 80 6-4-09 Thomas Ludlow, 79 26-4-09

Memorial Service Dorothy Tripp 25-2-09

Horton Kirby Environmental Education Centre Wildlife Area Development

Many of you may know that the Centre in School Lane gives children from the village and West Kent, outdoor education experiences around the locality and by the river Darent from Westminster to Franks Bridge. The old school also has a wildlife area of about an acre which has a range of land and water habitats. Gary Cliffe, the Centre Manager, needs volunteers who could give some time to help manage the environment.

In addition to the wildlife area Gary would like to show the visiting pupils live animals which could be kept in the Centre building, for example, bees in an enclosed beehive, a wormery, or butterfly pupae. However they need to be closely looked after. There may be a keen bee keeper in the area!

**If anyone is interested in helping Gary please email him at:
hkeec@kent.gov.uk or ring him on 01322 863302**

RECENT PLANNING DECISIONS

SE/08/03031/FUL

1 Millen Court, The Street
Replacement of windows and doors
GRANTED

SE/07/00443/DETAIL

Horton Kirby Paper Mills
Details pursuant to condition 12
(windows and doors) SE/05/02000/FUL
APPROVED UNCONDITIONALLY

SE/08/02888/FUL

Fighting Cocks, The Street
Erection of new kitchen and dining and
conservatory function room GRANTED

SE/08/02949/FUL

Oakview Stud Farm, Lombard Street
Change of use from garage to MOT sta-
tion GRANTED

SE/08/03143 & 03146

West Wing Reynolds Place
Single storey extension GRANTED

SE/09/00240/FUL

Horton Kirby Paper Mill
Extension of time for temporary access
via Millstone Mews GRANTED

SE/09/209

Horton Kirby Primary School
Erection of external PE store
GRANTED

SE/09/00538/FUL & LBCALT

Kirby Hall The Street
Application no longer valid.

SE/08/03187/FUL

82 School Lane
Retrospective rear ground floor open
shelter attached to property REFUSED

SE/09/00122/FUL

Horton Wood, west of School Lane
Resubmission for retention of change of
use to outdoor pursuits activities
REFUSED

SE/09/00174/FUL

Land north of gas valve compound,
School Lane
Change of use to above ground
installation GRANTED

COMPOSTING

We hear that the subsidy on compost bins, managed by KCC and supported by Defra, is due to end in September. If you have been thinking of getting one but haven't got round to it yet, don't delay any longer! Go to http://www.recyclenow.com/home_composting/buy_a_bin/scheme_authorities/kent_county.html

Alternatively, bins are very easily knocked up using slatted wooden sides (pallets are useful here) to create a cube of roughly 1 metre. Put it on soil so that liquids drain in to the soil. If anyone needs any advice on the very satisfying art of composting, please call in to the office during opening hours.

Waste Services and Recycling

MISSED A DELIVERY OF REFUSE SACKS? PLEASE CALL SDC ON 01732 227000 DIRECT TO REPORT IT. The parish office can supply 4 black and 2 clear sacks to callers each week. Next street delivery of rolls of sacks should be on 19 October.

Garden Waste Sacks - Environmentally friendly paper sacks are available for the garden waste kerbside collection. They take a surprisingly large amount of garden waste. Collections are on same weekday as your black sack collection but fortnightly from week beginning 8th June. Sacks can be bought at 50p each or £5.50 per pack of 12 in the parish office.

Recycle your shoes, clothes and linens - Modules at Village Hall

USEFUL NUMBERS

Pedham Place Household Waste Depot	01322 660806
Kent CC Waste and Recycling Hotline	0845 345 0210
Sevenoaks DC Waste and Recycling	01732 227000
Abandoned cars and own car removal (£14) SDC	01732 227000
Street Lights (Coopers Close, The Grange, Holmesdale Hill, Montgomery, Paddock, Towers Wood, Shrubbery	KCC 08458 247 800
Street Lights—other than above - report to Parish Council	01322 865193
Pest Control	01732 227000

Highways—potholes, fly tipping, pavement problems **08458 247 800**
Please report direct rather than to the Parish Council

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) **01732 227000**

All of the following come under the control of SDC and the call centre is usually very helpful and knowledgeable:

Street Cleaning, High Hedges, Dog Issues, Derelict Property, Dangerous Structures, Nuisance Bonfires, Intruder Alarms, Abandoned Vehicles
Bottle Banks / Recycling Issues., Parking Issues, Noise, Graffiti.

FREE SATURDAY REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

This SDC service has now been discontinued

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

Contact the Parish Clerk, Carol Allart at
Parish Council Office (Open Mon-Fri. 9.30am—11.30am)
Telephone 01322 865193
Email hksdpc@tiscali.co.uk
Correspondence Village Hall, Horton Rd, South Darenth, DA4 9AX

**Council Meetings held Monthly at 7.30pm on 1st Monday in
the Village Hall**

Parish Councillors

Peter Bradley, Chairman (862005)
Bob Valentine, ViceChair (862659)
Rita Eagles (862414)
Dawn Mitchell (07910 312710)
Michael Oram (07710 219828)
Christine Page (864776)
Julia Stevenson (863625)
Gill Tripp (863476)
Eric Wilson (07718 734928)

District Councillors

Stephen Arnold
Tel: 01732 452758
Mobile: 07515 852448
cldr.arnold@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Philip McGarvey
Tel: 01322 862870
Mobile: 07803 121830
cldr.mcgarvey@sevenoaks.gov.uk

County Councillor Roger Gough 01959 525109
roger.gough@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament: Dr Howard Stoate, 01322 225200
Fax 01322 225299, www.howardstoate.com email: hstoate@hotmail.com

POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

PC Chris Relf 07807 340035
Community Support Officers Rachel Rowbottom 07972 004449
Alan Hearn 07772 225965
To report a crime: 01322 422502