



HORTON KIRBY & SOUTH DARENTH

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

2011 CALENDAR

HORTON KIRBY SCOUT GROUP'S Calendar for 2011 is on sale NOW at the Post Office and other outlets at £6 . This year each page shows old and new views of our two Villages. They make lovely Christmas presents as well as raising much needed funds for your Scout Group.

Fighting Cocks Wins Top Award at Pub 'Oscars'

Horton Kirby pub The Fighting Cocks has been crowned Best Tenanted or Leased Pub in the country at the Great British Pub Awards 2010, held on 9 September in London.

Collecting their trophy, Licensee Chris Maskery and wife Vanessa said, "Winning this Award is a fantastic endorsement of all the work we've put into the pub. We're thrilled to bits, and grateful for the support of our staff and customers who have helped us achieve this."

A £300,000 refurbishment included a new conservatory, kitchen , toilets and 'top to toe' redecoration. Their investment has been rewarded with new customers and an impressive 60% increase in sales over the last year.

Competition judge Peter Grieve of Enterprise Inns, said, "The Fighting Cocks stood out from the short-list of excellent pubs. It offers everything you look for in a great pub: quality food and drink, a welcoming atmosphere and high standards throughout."

Chris and Vanessa travelled to London's Hilton Park Lane Hotel for the glittering Awards ceremony which had Lenny Henry as guest presenter.

VILLAGE HALL NEEDS A NEW CARETAKER—AGAIN!

Our last caretaker, Mrs Adams has moved from the area so we are once again in need of a new caretaker. Please speak to the parish clerk for details. Job sharing could be a useful and workable possibility.

ROAD SAFETY ARTICLE NO.4

from Steve Horton, Road Safety Education Team, Kent Highway Services

What did the baked bean say to the elephant ... ?

So what have elephants and baked beans got to do with road safety?

Sometimes its easier to make a point using word-pictures than it is to just state facts – especially when the facts revolve around everyday objects that we are used to seeing in a certain way, leading us to taking them for granted. For instance The average weight of a car is around 1 to 1½ tonnes ... about the same as the average weight of a young elephant. If upset in the wild, elephants can charge around at about 25mph. Imagine the strength needed to stop such a force, and then imagine it were travelling even faster.

A car is made of metal, often steel. The typical thickness of this steel is 3mm – the same thickness of steel that makes up a baked bean can. If you were to hold up an empty baked bean can and squeeze it, you would probably put a significant dent into it – and you would have exerted nowhere near the same force as a young elephant hitting it at 25mph.

Modern cars do have additional safety features, like air bags and side impact bars, but these systems are there to make your crash more survivable, not injury free.

The reason why vehicles crash is because drivers take risks – although they don't see them as risks because driving is such an everyday thing for most of us; we believe we can handle it plus the added things we do – like driving a little faster than we should, using a mobile phone (hand-held OR hands-free), having a drink before driving, driving when we should be resting, chancing an overtake, changing a CD whilst driving, driving close behind someone else, etc.

Safe driving is about avoiding crashes ... sounds obvious, but because we think we are in a safe environment – a metal box, with safety features – we often think we are more secure than perhaps we really are. The safer you feel in any environment, the more likely you are to take risks.

Generally we all feel comfortable driving because we are in an environment we are used to – you've passed a test to 'prove' you can handle the

vehicle and maybe you've driven for many years without crashing. However, if you've experienced that 'how did I get here' or 'I don't remember passing that junction' feeling after a journey, you've probably been on auto-pilot, which could be one illustration of you feeling so comfortable in the vehicle that you're taking it for granted.

If this sounds familiar to you, feeling so comfortable that you don't really consider the potential for crashing, or that if there were a crash you would be fairly well protected; re-consider the image of the elephant (maybe in jogging shorts) running at you whilst you're sitting in a baked bean can and imagine just how safe you would feel then.

We've become so used to cars in our lives; they are very familiar to us, so much so that we may have forgotten just how much force and power they represent. In fact inside a vehicle you shouldn't think about how 'safe' you are, rather you should consider just how vulnerable you are.

So what did the baked bean say to the elephant? Nothing, silly, baked beans can't talk.

FREE TREES

The free trees scheme is operating once again this year sponsored by Network Rail and local councils. Up to 25 native trees are on offer to individuals and organisations. Apply by 31 October, and once successful, pick up your trees from Mead Crescent, Dartford. (they are very tiny to start with; less than 1 metre in length, so easily transported).

Get your application form by calling KCC on 08458 247 600 or downloading from www.kent.gov.uk—search for 'free trees.'

YOUTH CLUB

A youth club is held on Wednesday evenings in our village hall from 7.30pm. Cost 50p for Year 7 plus. The club is run by qualified and CRB-checked KCC youth workers who would be more than happy to see new faces at the club.

STREET LIGHTING

Many essential improvements have been made to the Parish Council's street lights this year costing a great deal of money but worthwhile when the benefits are noticed as the nights draw in. We still have problems in some locations from vegetation from trees on private land obscuring the lights. Even a few small branches can cut down the effectiveness of the light and once again we would ask that the lights are kept clear.. If you notice any lights that are obscured or are broken or on during the day, please report them to the parish office. If the light has a code starting with HK or SD please quote it. If the light has a 6 digit code starting with other letters, **please report direct to Kent Highways on 08458 247 800.**

HALL EXTENSION

The Parish Council is pleased to report that the money provided by Fairview New Homes for the village hall extension has now been received. It is some £14,000 less than the approximately £300,000 expected as the amount negotiated as part of the planning process was index linked but hopefully building costs will be less or the Parish Council will have to consider funding the shortfall.

The shell of the building and the general layout has been approved by the planning dept. Current and possible future users of the hall and extension are meeting to sort out the details of the facilities. If anyone has any thoughts on what should go in to the extension, please speak to the parish clerk or drop a line to the office (details on back page). Perhaps there are gaps in the things provided in the existing hall that could be filled by putting them in the extension? However, it must be borne in mind that the majority of the extension will be taken up by a room 32 ft x 24 ft plus kitchen, toilets and a small amount of storage for tables and chairs, etc so the Parish Council is not looking for ideas for the provision of major facilities nor, alas, substantial areas of storage for user groups.

POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

1. 999 in case of **emergency**
2. 01622 690690 for **non-urgent calls**
3. 01322 422502 for Farningham, **South Darenth and Horton Kirby Neighbourhood Team**. All unanswered messages automatically create an email and you will be contacted back within 24-hours even if your local officers are not available.
4. **01732 227000** for the **Community Safety Unit** for fly-tipping, graffiti, issues about licensed premises, abandoned vehicles, environmental and noise nuisance, crime reduction advice, Neighbourhood Watch and other community safety issues.

POLICE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

South Darenth & Horton Kirby Village Hall

5 Oct 18.00—19.00

23 Nov 15.00—16.00

21 Dec 18.00—19.00

Just turn up. Have your say and tell Kent Police what concerns you would like them to deal with

Parish Council Grants

Any local organisation wishing to apply for a grant must comply with the strict deadline of 30th November 2010.

Applications should be made by letter to the Council Office (see back page) providing details of the amount requested and the use to which the money would be put. In order for a grant to be considered organisations must include a copy of their most recent accounts.

KERBSIDE CHARITY APPEALS FOR DONATIONS

The Police County Watch Liaison Officer, Mick Wright reports that bags which have recently been distributed on behalf of Breakthrough Breast Cancer are bogus and the charity will not benefit in any way from donations of clothes. This might help you decide how to respond to these charity clothing collections which we get every so often. Whilst it is convenient to put items out on the kerbside, the best way to make sure your donations benefit the organisations concerned is to use a clothing bank or charity shop.

The Purple Place Tabletop Sale

On Saturday 23rd October at 11am, a group of local mums will be holding an event at Horton Kirby & South Darenth Village Hall in order to raise funds for the local branch of the charity, SANDS.

SANDS is an organisation which offers support to families who have lost a baby either during pregnancy or after birth.

The event will focus primarily around the sale of good quality babies & children's products, as well as a number of locally-run businesses including toys, clothing, gifts, baby slings and jewellery. Attractions will include a raffle, a pamper area and photography sittings. When parents have finished their shopping, they can make use of the specially-designated coffee and cake area to put their feet up and have a chat.

One of the mums involved in the organising is Marie Donn, whose son, Joe, was stillborn in 2009.

Says Marie:

“Since Joe died my family and I have received a lot of support from SANDS, which is why I am delighted that this event is taking place. SANDS is hugely supportive of members going through their own difficult journeys to fulfil their dreams of parenting. We couldn't have come this far without my local SANDS group to support us.”

People wanting to find out more about the event can look on its Facebook page under Purple Place Tabletop Sale or can email the organisers on kentsandssale@gmail.com.

The Village Hall

There are a few vacancies for Friday and Saturday evenings in 2010. What about a Seasonal Party? **The following dates are still available: 5, 6 and 13 November; & 3, 4 and 17 December**

Saturday night from 5 pm to midnight costs £136

Friday evenings are £16 per hour.

The hall is fully licensed.

It is also excellent for children's parties.

Call the parish office (see back page for details) to book

VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

The car park at the village hall is private property to be used by those hiring the hall only. A request that local groups meeting at the hall for coach trips be allowed to leave vehicles in the car park has been agreed if the hall is not in use, so organisers please check with the Parish Office to see whether parking is possible before using the hall grounds.

Parish Council Burial Ground

All visitors to the grounds are asked to take all rubbish away with them and not leave it dumped there. It is sad that some people continue to pile their rubbish around the sign, feeling that someone else should clear their rubbish away for them.

TWO MINUTE SILENCE

This ceremony held outside the Village Hall on 11 November at 11 am is being organised by the local British Legion committee. All are welcome.

Newsletter Deliverers

The Parish Council wishes to thank all the volunteers who deliver this newsletter 3 times per year. Deputies are always needed to cover absences **so if you can help please contact Carol in the village hall office - see back page for contact details**

Work continues to be carried out on the maintenance of the church as specified in the Quinquennial Report. A survey of the churchyard trees has shown that some are diseased and need to be felled. Thankfully our organist John Williams is back to good health and playing the organ. Continued thanks to the bell ringers and members of the Horton Kirby Village Society for the upkeep of the churchyard and also to the Beavers for their contribution.

Forthcoming services:

Sat 23 Oct Gift Day. The church will be open from 10 am to 6 pm.

Refreshments will be available.

Sun 14 Nov Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.30 am

Sat 20 Nov CHRISTMAS BAZAAR in the Village Hall from 2 pm. **Riverside Kindergarten Pre-School will be singing at 2.30 pm.**

Thurs 25 Nov Bereavement Service at 8 pm to remember our loved ones.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun 28 Nov Advent Gift Day. Please bring your gifts for women and children at a Women's Refuge.

Fri 24 Dec Nativity and Christingle at Southdowns Church at 5 pm.

Fri 24 Dec Midnight Mass at St Mary's at 11.30 pm. All welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

Sat 25 Dec Christmas Day Family Service from 11 to 11.45 am.

Sun 26 Dec Feast of Stephen a short service at 10 am.

Weddings

Joanne Kingaby and David George 12 June 2010

Gina Wink and John Elmer 19 June 2010

Reese Sansom and Robert Ludlow 24 July 2010

Emma Taylor and Peter Bell 20 August 2010

Emma Clark and Douglas Ring 11 Sept 2010

Baptisms

Katie Williams 3 June 2010
Emily Wakefield 20 June 2010
Maddison James 20 June 2010
John Elmer 17 June 2010
Holly Bowden 18 July 2010
Jimmy Chiverton 18 July 2010
Archie Goodman 21 July 2010
Peroni Grant 21 July 2010
Izabella Cranmer 15 August 2010
Rebecca Mason 15 August 2010
Emma Clark 9 Sept 2010
Charlotte Homer 19 Sept 2010
Pheobie Mills Sargeant 19 Sept 2010
Frazer Beeley 19 Sept 2010
Terrance Weekes 19 Sept 2010

Funerals

14 Sept 2010 Francis Reynolds 81 years

Ashes Laid to Rest

25 July 2010 Eileen Perrin 91 years

In Memory

Ian Anderson 17.2.50 – 15.5.2010

SLIPPERY PAVEMENTS

Wet leaves on the pavements can make things very dangerous. Please report areas in need of clearing direct to Sevenoaks District Council on
01732 227000

SOUTH DARENTH SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

The club is looking for new members to play Wednesday afternoons (1.45-4pm) and Sunday evenings (5.45-8pm).

This indoor sport is suitable for all ages, either to play competitively or just socially.

Contact Brian Lelliott – 01322 864884 for more details.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, DEVON ROAD

Meets every third Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm.

Your local Legion branch is keen to welcome you to one or all of its forthcoming events – there is something for everyone!

Call Christine Page 864776 for details

COMPLETELY REFURBISHED

HALL TO LET

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

Very reasonable rates. Ring Judy on 01322 862564

Villagers' Gardening Club

George Piller 862721

We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. We have an interesting speaker each meeting. Visitors are most welcome. If you require further information please telephone 862721 or 864431

THE VILLAGE PANTOMIME

Our next Pantomime – Aladdin – will take place at the Village Hall on the 3rd, 4th and 5th February 2011. For tickets please telephone Brenda and Norman on 01322 662487. Fun for all the Family. If you would like to be part of the pantomime either acting or painting the scenery please telephone Barbara Bradley on 01322 862005

The New Monday Club Toddler Group

Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall Mondays 1.45—3.15 pm
Term time only in line with Horton Kirby Primary School dates
Refreshments, crafts, activities and equipment for 0—5 year olds
Please join us—all welcome Contact Debby 862180

Swanley Volunteer Centre Appeals for Volunteer Drivers

Swanley Volunteer Centre is launching an appeal for volunteer drivers to join its over-stretched team of volunteers who take elderly and disabled people to medical appointments. Its dedicated team of drivers is currently working at full capacity but demand for the service continues to grow as poor transport links and the high cost of taxis make it increasingly difficult for elderly people to get to their appointments.

Drivers are paid 40p/mile to cover their petrol costs and can pick their hours to suit them. If you are a car driver with your own vehicle and you are interested in helping, please contact the volunteer centre on 01322 669292, email info@swanleyvolunteers.com or come and see us in our office in Swanley Library and Information Centre. Office hours are Monday – Thursday: 9.30am – 3 pm, Friday 9.30am – 1pm.



Recent Planning Decisions

SE/10/00582/FUL 66 East Hill
Second Storey to side and rear
extension REFUSED

SE/10/00882/DETAIL Horton
Kirby Paper Mills Site
Barriers GRANTED

SE/10/01191/FUL
63 School Lane
Proposed front dormer window
GRANTED

SE/10/01208/FUL
Village Hall Horton Road
Erection of 4 x 3 m standing
canopy and retractable awning
GRANTED

SE/10/01790/FUL
The Red Barn, Stack Road
Conversion of barn to mixed residen-
tial and business use REFUSED

SE/10/01807/FUL
66 East Hill
Erection of second storey to side and
rear REFUSED

SE/10/02019/FUL
48 School Lane
Erection of single storey rear, side
and front extensions and creation of
hardstanding to front. REFUSED

SE/10/02064/AGRNOT
2 Beeches Farm Cottages
Erection of second agricultural
building. GRANTED

DARENT VALLEY LIONS CLUB

Many thanks to all who supported our Summer Fete and Open Garden. Over £3,000 was made at the Fete for the EllenorLions Hospices and our Charity Fund and over £1,800 was raised at the Open Garden event in August for the EllenorLions Hospices. Lovely weather and enjoyable events. The members of the Lions Club are again helping Father Christmas with his Sleigh Runs around the Villages during the week of Monday 13th to Friday 17th December. Please give him a warm welcome when he knocks on your door.

Our next Race Night is planned for Saturday 5th March at the Horton Kirby and South Darent Village Hall from 7.30pm. A hot supper will be served. We organised a coach of our senior citizens to visit Hailsham Lions for tea and entertainment. We had a lovely drive through the Sussex and Kent countryside and a warm welcome from Hailsham Lions.

We were happy to visit seven of our local schools to present the Lion's Special Achievement Award to pupils who have met their goals while overcoming difficulties in their lives. Our members wish them well in their future life.

We have regular meetings in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm. If you are interested in hearing more about our activities, please come along to any of our meetings. Peter Bradley 01322 862005.

Royal British Legion Ladies Section Jean Payne 860061

Meetings commence 7-30pm every second Wednesday in the month.

October 13th Francine Payne talks on Old Dartford Hospitals
November 10th AGM followed by cheese and wine.
December 8th Christmas party. Everyone Welcome

New Road - Road Closure

Kent Highways informs us that New Road will be closed for 2 days on 1 and 2 December for resurfacing. Any problems call Raj Rajalingam on 01622 666183 quoting YS/1130/TJ

HORTON KIRBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

All are welcome to the following events:

8th October: **Barn Dance** in the Village Hall starting at 8.00pm. Tickets are £8.00 (under 12s £4.00). Call Richard 862806; David 863205; Peter 864054 to book or for more information.

22nd October: **Quiz** in aid of St. Mary's Church in the Village Hall starting at 8.00pm; £3.00 per person with teams of up to seven people. Call David 863205 or Stephen 862782 to book a table (essential).

12th November: **Miracle on 34th Street** - a warm funny story of an old man who insists he is actually Santa Claus. Come and see Santa's Grotto and newly fallen snow in the Village Hall starting at 7.30, tickets £8 or £5 for under 12s. Call Richard 862806; Stephen 862782 or David 863205 to book or for more information.

Carol Singing at The Fighting Cocks on 22nd December from 7.30pm

Local History Society

Keith Saunderson 862056

The Society meets six times a year in Horton Kirby Village Hall, and visitors and new members are always welcome. Our publications are available at all our meetings as well as refreshments.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 8th November at 8pm, when we will hold our AGM (which usually lasts for about 10 minutes) followed by Colin Coe giving us a talk on Kent Village Signs and Inn Signs.

Our list of Speakers for 2011 is as follows:

Jan 10th Peter Shearan – The Lure of Family History

Mar 14th D H Williams – Hever Castle

May 9th Andrew McElwee – Behind the scenes with the National Trust

July 11th This will be our Members Evening – more details next year

Sept 12th Neil Arnold – Mystery Animals of Kent

Nov 14th AGM followed by Anne Carter – Ceremonial London

Subscriptions were due in September - £5 per individual and £8 per couple.

To contact us, you can email sarahvlewis@yahoo.com or write to

Keith Saunderson, Secretary, Appledore, Ray's Hill, Horton Kirby DA4 9DB

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
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: Michael Fallon

Email: fallonm@parliament.uk **Phone:** 0207 219 6482

Post: Michael Fallon MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

POLICE CONTACT NUMBERS

**PC Chris Relf & PCSOs Tim Darling & Toby Hawkins
should be contacted on**

01322 422502

For other contact numbers see page 5