



Shadoxhurst Parish Council

Protecting the Woodland Gateway to the Countryside

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SHADOXHURST

Shadoxhurst Newsletter April 2020

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

Welcome to the Spring edition of 2020. What a strange year already, and still only March. The World has changed since our last edition and we are in uncertain times from the virus that is affecting virtually every country. This will be a different edition too as all of our planned program of meetings and events are either cancelled or postponed.

We are doing our bit here in our corner of the World and we want to re-assure everyone that those fit and healthy can play a part in helping those unwell or perhaps self-isolating for a period just in case. This is likely to be the case for some weeks. Please see next item.

The closing date for information and inclusions for the June edition is **the 25th May**. If you would like something included, please email it to David at

amberherne@btinternet.com

Virus Precautions

This will be a challenging time for some weeks ahead and it is vital that we all help and look out for each other in the coming weeks and perhaps months.

There is no need to put any direct advice here, you can get it through the media as it changes daily and will quickly be out of date. Handwashing and distancing are the watchwords.

Importantly, we have established a Volunteer Network for the village. Here, we can locate those in need of help and assistance and find others who can provide that help.

We have established a contact point, so if you need some help whether from food collection to walking your dog, or just having someone to talk to, then please

initially make contact. We must look after each other in these times of concern and protect those who are most vulnerable.

If you would like to join the list, either to volunteer, or if needing some help, please email david.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com or you can ring our Clerk Caroline on 07729 734149 between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Please leave a message if she is not available to answer when you ring. She will ring you back.



Cancelled Events

As news worsened, events such as the litter picking event (21st March) were cancelled. The Village Forum, Sewing and Flower Clubs have cancelled coming meetings and events. Both the Quilt unveiling (4th April) and the Flower Club emerald anniversary (6th May) have been postponed to later in the year, but both will certainly happen, once safe to do so. The Mayor was due to attend both, and once the new dates are set, we are pleased to say both the in-coming Mayor Cllr John Link and the current Mayor Cllr Jenny Webb will attend.

Also, we will be postponing the VE Day event (8th May), perhaps when we finally hold it we can celebrate Victory over Virus Day when life brightens once again. At the

moment it is provisionally set to be on VJ Day on the 10th August.

While we wait for a light at the end of the tunnel, Spring is blooming and we can certainly enjoy that, so there are a few photos to brighten up this newsletter.

Sewing and Craft Club

Quilt Unveiling

The current crisis means that our unveiling has been postponed until later in the year. A date has not been set, but we are grateful to Simon Beaugie Picture Frames Ltd, who we know have already completed the framing. We will place the Quilt in the village hall later in the year and let you all know the changed date in due course.

Volunteer Network

A number of people have already stepped forward to help, and we are very grateful for their kind offers. If you need help, please do contact the Network and they will do their best to assist.

Countryside Trust

At the moment, there will be a fund raising Boot Fair on Saturday 4th July at the recreation ground. We hope that it will still be able to go ahead. If you would like to book a space, cars will be £10 and vans £15 please email Caroline on shadoxhurstvhp@gmail.com

To contact the Shadoxhurst Countryside Trust on any other matter please email

sheila.shadoxhursttrust2019@gmail.com

Sheila has been coordinating raising funding through pledges and she can email or post pledge forms to you.

You can also phone Sheila on 01233 733540 to find out more. The Trust still does not have charitable status, once it does, a bank account will be opened later in the year and then the pledges can be called in.

As the Charity becomes established and grows, you might wish to consider creating a legacy leaving some money to the Trust in your will.

Parish News

Byways and Footpaths

The Public Right of Way that runs along side Hornash House connecting Hornash Lane with Church Lane is now fortunately passable with care. This is good news as we need our off road walking routes so we can get exercise. However, with the considerable amount of rain so far this year, many are still very muddy, so please take care. Don't forget we do have the outdoor exercise equipment at the Rec.

GreenVolt and Tally Ho Road

The company have been back in touch and are intending to consult with Ashford Borough Council in pre-application discussions. A planning application will follow in due course.

However, we are told that their plan to obtain additional land intended to be gifted to the village has fallen through. The Parish Council will consider the application and comment accordingly.

The Parish Council re-state their intention to keep this land as a significant green buffer to separate our village from Chilmington Green.

Booking the Hall and Pavilion

As you can imagine, we anticipate that the hall and pavilion use will diminish considerably. If you want to plan ahead and would like to book the Hall or Pavilion, then we ask you to either go through the web site at

www.shadoxhurstpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

alternatively, please email Caroline on shadoxhurstvhp@gmail.com

Parish Vacancy

We would like to thank Colin Carroll for his time and work on the Parish Council. He has done over 10 years with five or so back in the 1990's before moving to France for a period, and another five years having moved back into the village in 2012.

Colin and his wife Val have been pivotal in running the Coffee Club and looking after the plants and flowers in the planter boxes in the hall car park as well as running the Wine Circle and supporting all the village events. We are pleased that they are continuing with these.

Colin has decided to step down from the Parish. As a result, we now have a vacancy and we would like to co-opt a new Parish Councillor. If you would like to know more and wish to discuss it, please contact David Ledger on 733540 or email

david.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

If you simply wish to submit an application in writing, please send it to our Parish Clerk.

Contacting the Parish Council

Our Parish Clerk **Caroline Laming** only works a few hours on Tuesdays to Thursdays so is not always available. The best way to communicate with Caroline is to phone and leave a message if no answer, ring **07729 734149** or email:

shadoxhurst@parishcouncil.onmicrosoft.com

As there may be further need to get in touch in these difficult times, the Chairman's email is

david.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

Other PC Members have their addresses on the website. We are here for you all, so if you have a pressing problem you think we can assist, please do get in touch.



Please stay in touch...

There are now over 300 residents on the Shadoxhurst '**Next Door**', group which is part of a much wider community group involving all the other villages. <https://nextdoor.co.uk/neighborhood/feed/>

The "**Shadoxhurst, a Kent Village**" **Facebook Page** now has **1,034 members**. There is also a more recent "**Shadoxhurst Community**" **Facebook Page** with currently over **300 members** and growing. Join us if you can. There is an increasing need to stay in touch and village news can be really up to date on there.

1st Shadoxhurst Scout Group

"2020 started as a promising year for the group, with the Scout troop increasing their numbers. The Beavers and Cubs visited the designer outlet, to explore the 'Garden of Light' experience, and were able to see how different people view the sensory attraction in their own way. After a few circuits (just to be sure that we had seen everything), both sections went on a 'bear hunt' to, and yes you probably guessed it; Haribo! Both the Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a packet of sweets each donated by the store. We are the first scout group to have been offered this from the Ashford store, an accolade we are rather proud of! We also received a Golden Bear which we have in the hall.

Today it is quite a different story where we find ourselves in uncharted waters, and all face to face Scouting activities are suspended until further notice. Not deterred by this, the leadership teams are looking at ways in which we can still keep in contact and continue Scouting, but via the internet. Whilst some are weary of this, the concept has been welcomed by many of the parents and we are slowly moving forward.

To the future of 2020, well we have water sport days booked until October, camps that are being looked at on a daily basis and a possibility of a village event later in the year. But all is dependent on the current climate.

To finish with this month; both our Group Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Leader applied to the Woodland trust earlier in the year for some of the shrub packs that they were offering to organisations. Well, and I'm not sure how this happened, but we were both successful in our applications. This means that we have a lot of planting to do in October (one application was for 120 shrubs)! "

Please contact Simon via email for any information on our local Scout Group.

raven@1stshadoxhurstscoutgroup.uk

Chatterbox Coffee Club

The Coffee Club has stopped meeting as of the 17th March until further notice. We will notify everyone once a re-opening date is set.

The Shadoxhurst Flower Club

It was 55 years ago on 6th May 1965 that Marion Hogg founded Shadoxhurst Flower Club. She was joined by Gaye Sim who is our current Secretary with Marion still an active member.

We are affiliated to NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranger Societies) and since its formation the club has gone from strength to strength with our membership increasing over the past few years. We now have 36 members with 5 of these joining last month! This is a great achievement for a small close-knit community and in many cases, we are larger and more proactive than other clubs in Kent.

We meet at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday in the month (except January) at Shadoxhurst Village Hall. Most months we have a demonstrator showing us how best to work with flowers and foliage creating 7 or 8 arrangements which are then raffled.

We also have 2 or 3 workshops and a garden visit during the year. You do not need to have any experience in flower arranging, just enjoy seeing flowers being arranged to their best advantage. Of course, if you would like to have a go we do have 2 or 3 workshops a year so that you can have a practice at arranging flowers and foliage. We also have a monthly competition if you wish to take part. Our membership is £20 per annum and £2 per visit. Visitors are £6 (£8 for Christmas and our Emerald anniversary demonstrations).

Our Emerald anniversary celebrations were to be on Wednesday 6th May at the hall welcoming the Mayor of Ashford and other special guests. However this has been postponed to the 5th August in the hope that things will be much improved. It will be at 7.30 and a buffet will be served.

If you would like to join us for our anniversary celebrations, please contact either our Chairman, Ann Prebble on 07989 586575 or e-mail her on ann.prebble@yahoo.com

Or contact our Secretary Gaye Sim on 01233 732212 for catering and seating purposes. You can contact either of us for any questions you may have.

Changes at the King's Head

We will soon be losing Ian and Julie from our local pub. The handover date is the 3rd June 2020, although as we go to press, there is no information about who will be taking over.

Ian and Julie took over the King's Head in October 2002, coming here from Edmonton Green. Ian has family locally being born and growing up in Ashford. Julie said that they have really loved being here, their children growing up in a rural village meant a lot. The children have all grown now and they see it as a time to move on. They have no direct plans at present and will be pleased to have a rest from being full on with running the business.

Julie wanted to say they have enjoyed living in Shadoxhurst and thank all the lovely people they have met over these years.

They will be greatly missed when they leave. The pub is a focal point of the village and they have been a popular Landlord and Landlady. We will miss Julie's fabulous floral displays each summer. There is a reminder from last year.

As we go to press, sadly the pub has had to close, although offering take-away meals. Not a good way to end 18 years of providing a first class service to us all.

I am sure that you will join us in thanking them both for all they have done to support the village and we wish them and their family well in their new ventures in times ahead.



Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Update

Latest data from the Police indicated that the number of reported incidents

stabilised at the end of 2019 – unfortunately not the decrease which one might expect based upon previous levels.

In the last quarter there were 6 incidents of burglary, 4 of criminal damage, 4 other thefts, 2 vehicle crimes and one drugs incident. As in previous months there is no single area of the village where these incidents take place so I'd ask all villagers to remain vigilant and report items as necessary (see options below).

There seems to be no let-up in "Scams" featuring across the country – please beware of approaches from people on your doorstep, by post, telephone or email. Many approaches aren't obviously trying to sell you anything but ultimately are trying to get personal information, in particular bank or credit card details.

If you are approached and feel unsure then please terminate the call or close the door then speak with a friend or relative. Genuine company representatives will expect you to be careful so don't feel obliged to carry on a conversation.

Remember concerns / observations of suspicious behaviour or information relevant to criminal activity can be either phoned through to the Police using 101, logged online via their website or anonymously via CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

Peter Webb 01233 732901
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Peter707R@Hotmail.com

Village Forum News

The Forum meeting in March was cancelled.

The Forum Members get various emails about news, issues and events in the village. It is free and is a good way of keeping up to date between newsletters.

To get on the mailing list please email: amberherne@btinternet.com

Please put 'Join Forum' in the subject heading so it can be easily spotted.

We need to keep the communications in place in the coming months. Once we have your details, we can stay in touch better and pass vital information on.

Gardening Club

Unfortunately, in line with the most recent guidance, the club meetings are now on hold.

Looking forwards, if you'd like to meet people with an interest in gardening, in an informal group, where the aim is to help each other with identifying plants/pest/ways of doing something, then please drop me an email and I will let you know when meetings recommence.

We will look to meet on a Monday, in Shadoxhurst pavilion on the recreation field, approximately every 6 weeks. A meeting subscription is a nominal £1 to cover expenses.

Peter Webb Peter707R@Hotmail.com or 01233 732901

Ashford Courtside Football Club

Ashford Courtside Football Club have not been able to play on the village Rec since November due to the very wet conditions. Now that the virus has taken hold, all grassroots football has been cancelled indefinitely. It will resume once the threat of the virus has gone.

If you know anyone who would be interested to play in any of the teams, please contact the Club secretary Vanessa Grimmond email: grimmond105@gmail.com

They have a website and Facebook page if you want to find out more <https://www.afccourtside.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/AshfordCourtsideFC/>

For more information please contact ... Vanessa (Secretary) on 07526431687 or Tim (Chair) on 07970820018.

Speedwatch

Roger is recovering steadily and plans to set up the monitoring again when the coronavirus allows a bit more freedom.

If you value the safety of villagers then please help by becoming a Speedwatch member – we need a larger group of people to provide wider coverage of locations, days and times. Please contact

Roger on 01233 733581 or email him at hillsmorton@sky.com

It's not onerous if there are enough people to share the load – whilst it won't stop people speeding immediately, it will get the message across that the village is serious about speeding and those who persist will eventually fall foul of the Police.



Ashford Borough Update

Ashford Borough Council is carrying on providing services, but as you can imagine, continuing is very dependent on a healthy workforce. Whilst some are working from home, decisions are being made in the best interest of everyone, and in line with government guidelines. These change daily, so all we can say is keep an eye on the news and websites if you have that availability.

We are aware that many do not have access to the internet, so telephone contact will be vital. The main ABC number is 01233 331111 and you should try and contact through that route.

The ABC website is at <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/> please check regularly for information and updates.

The contact points for our two Borough Ward Councilors are: George 01233 732791 and David 01233 733540

george.sparks@ashford.gov.uk
david.ledger@ashford.gov.uk

There was a recent by-election in the Park Farm North ward in Kingsnorth and Trish Cornish was elected to serve that ward. She is now the 12th Ashford Independent Councilor on the Borough Council. The ruling Conservative majority is now four.

All meetings and committees have been cancelled, but there is a need to ensure the regulatory work is carried out.

Village Contacts

1st Shadoxhurst Scouts, Cubs and Beavers Simon 07704 789155
Ark Drama 2000 Lis 732901
Courtside Football Club Vanessa 07526 431687
Fete Team Peter 732901
Flower Club Gaye 732212
Future Scholars Sarah 07821 143249
Gardening Club Peter 732901
History Club Carol 732084
Lesley Munn Dance Academy Lesley 01634 234168
Line Dancing Kate 733015
Neighbourhood Watch Peter 732901
Pilates Alex 861456
Poetry and Expression Ian 732084
Sewing and Craft Club Sheila 733540
Speedwatch Roger 733581
Weekend Walking Jim 07788 245022
WI Mandy Spencer 501774
Wine & Home Brew Club Colin 732784

Refugee Family

We had been advised that in the coming months, Ashford Borough Council will be locating a refugee family to Shadoxhurst. They will have furnished accommodation as a basic minimum and will likely be re-located from war-torn Syria. We hope that we can all help to make them feel welcome and Shadoxhurst is a place where they can find peace in our village. Unfortunately, due to the virus, the relocation process has been put on hold for time being. We hope to bring more news in June.

Dates for your Diary

It is very strange that this edition does not carry any dates for future events. We can only hope that our June edition will bring better news and life can get back to some form of normality.

Please stay very safe and keep well.