



Shadoxhurst Parish Council

Protecting the Woodland Gateway to the Countryside

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SHADOXHURST

Shadoxhurst Newsletter October 2020

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

Welcome to the October edition of 2020. We are still amongst various restrictions and these may be with us for some months. Lots of news, so a lack of pictures but also comes with the thought that we still can't get back to the way of life we would prefer. We must adapt and accept where things are.

As a community, with a reduction in face to face contact we need to find ways of holding us together. Many are now fed up with the continuing situation and restrictions, but we must carry on through the winter months. This will present some people with difficulties in terms of mental wellbeing.

We have no answers, but we need to find ways of staying in touch and keeping an eye on those we know might be vulnerable or lonely. We must retain a positive community spirit and support one another.

The closing date for information and inclusions for the December edition is **the 25th November**. If you would like any information included, please email it to David at amberherne@btinternet.com. We wish you all well and hope everyone continues to stay safe.

Parish Council Updates

There have been some changes to the Parish Council since the last Newsletter. Firstly, we welcome Alexandria Clapp to the PC who was co-opted to take the position vacated by Paul Emanuel. We look forward to working with Alexandria. She lives in Oak Close with her husband and young family.

In other news, at the Annual meeting, Martin Richmond Coggan and David Ledger have swapped places and Martin was elected as Chair with David elected as Vice Chair for this year.

If you wish to contact Martin, you can ring him on **01233 808707** or email him on martin.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

As we said in the last edition, there is money becoming available for improvements to our village. There is also much going on and the PC has set up some additional sub-groups to take this and other work on. Some of these are open to anyone in the village to join and be part of the decision making.

One is looking after the Village Hall, Pavilion and recreation field and we welcome anyone that can help in supporting the work of that group. Looking at short term and longer-term improvements that are needed and this is a good example of where others in the village can help share the load and have an input to shaping the future.

Current issues include the state of, and renewal of the play equipment at the rec, it will be cleaned and repainted in the short term. There will be work to improve the field's drainage which we hope will be done in November, weather permitting, as well as how we can best use the space available for multi-uses. We are also looking to fence off the play equipment area to exclude dogs.

Using the hall and pavilion safely are very much uppermost in our minds too. If you would like to have some input to the group, please let Stuart (who chairs the group) know your interest on

stuart.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

Another key Sub-Group is looking at fund raising and raising money to help the allocated money go much further. If you have any experience in applying for grant funding or would just like to assist with the work, there is much to do, please contact Martin as above.

Our Parish Council meetings continue to be held 'virtually' on Zoom and the next meeting will be on **Wednesday 14th October at 6.00pm**.

Anyone wishing to attend virtually will need to contact our Parish Clerk, Caroline well in advance (see page 2). The joining details will then be sent to you.

Booking the Hall and Pavilion

We have opened the village hall for the regular weekly users. Currently the Future Scholars have returned for three days a week. Also, the classes for Pilates, Lesley Munn's Dance Group and the Line Dancers have begun again. Each Group has submitted their strategy for keeping users safe and any necessary cleaning regime following use.

The Flower, Gardening and the Sewing Clubs had said they were not returning to their meetings until the new year. Both the Flower and Sewing Clubs had made that decision before the restrictions were recently increased, and they felt they did not want to put their members at risk.

The hall and pavilion are still not available for any one-off events. We have not yet allowed use of the kitchen for the existing users. We are well aware that people do want to use the facilities and of course there is a lack of income to consider. The cost of additional cleaning is a factor.

The hall kitchen roof was found to be leaking and this has now been repaired. The pavilion is not being used other than for toilets for the football club practice and fixtures and we are reviewing what needs to be done to keep this available for use in the future. It is suffering from a few problems.

If you want to plan ahead and would like to provisionally book the Village Hall for an event in 2021, then we ask you to go through the parish council web site see next item, alternatively, please email Caroline shadoxhurstvhp@gmail.com which is an email for hall and pavilion booking correspondence only.

New look Website

We have taken the opportunity to change and upgrade the website. New rules for public websites meant that they had to be more accessible to smart phone users and importantly, for those with sight problems improving layout, colour, font and audible readability needs. We have changed the provider and are in the process of reviewing and updating the information. We hope that people will be happy with the changes and that it will be the go-to place for up to date information, as well as holding archive material of Parish Council meetings and policy documents. The address is www.shadoxhurst.info

Contacting the Parish Council

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

Our Parish Clerk **Caroline Laming** only works a few hours on Wednesdays and 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

Planning Matters

This would not be a Shadoxhurst Newsletter without mentioning something on planning. The first news is that the application for 12 houses at Little Criol Barn, Bethersden Road has been withdrawn. This in part was due to the problems with access and also the mature trees that were on the site hindering the layout and likelihood to overshadow some of the houses.

Land north of Farley Close ref 19/01679/AS

The Farley Close application is likely to come to the 11th November Planning Committee. The Planning Officer has indicated that he is minded to recommend approval, but that was the case last time and the ABC Members on the Planning Committee overturned the Officer's recommendation. It then went to Appeal.

The meeting will be on video link as there are no physical ABC meetings yet, and it can be viewed through the ABC web site where you can watch the discussion. There are, in the Parish Council's opinion still matters that are unresolved including surface water disposal. Adding houses here will add to the amount of water to run to the ditches already under stress when we have intense rain. This is at the lowest

part of the village, and has kept the Parish Council Utilities Sub-Group very busy in talking to KCC and ABC to obtain much needed improvements overall, to this site, and this one too...

Land rear of Brinklow Bungalow, Woodchurch Road ref 19/00806/AS

The Brinklow Bungalow application may be also decided at the November meeting. To stay in touch with news of both applications as the next newsletter is December, please join the Village Forum (see page 3 for contact). We will put news of the meeting on the website too, with details of key any planning applications. There are still a large number of issues to overcome with this application.

Hornash House

Late news, the owner has put an application in to demolish and build a new house. See 20/01222/AS and 20/01224/AS on the ABC planning portal. If you wish to comment, the ABC website address is on page 4. Residents have started up a petition on Change.org with over 200 signed as we go to print. See the Village Facebook page for the link.

Volunteering

Once again, we have restrictions as the Covid cases currently continue to rise. We have no idea what lies ahead and whether a more stringent lockdown will return. Many of the options for volunteering and requesting help have long been stood down. We however still have our own local contact points and I am sure many, if not most of our volunteers would be happy to help again if things become more difficult.

If you do need some help with shopping, prescription collection, advice locally in the coming months, please contact our Parish Clerk Caroline on **07729 734149**. You may need to leave a message, but these will always be picked up. Some of our volunteers were happy just to have a chat on the phone, if you would like a friendly phone conversation periodically, please let us know.

Yet More King's Head News

The last edition saw us welcome Tony and Fred to the village. Although on a temporary short-term lease, they decided to not continue with the business.

Now we can give a warm welcome to Lance Culver to our village. He took over recently and is keen to get the pub established. He originally hales from New Zealand but has run village pubs in Wiltshire over the last 20 years. He enjoys

good food and life and promises to source the food locally and cook it fresh.

The pub has a webpage found at www.kingsheadshadoxhurst.co.uk/ and are also busy on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KingsHeadShadoxhurst>. They now do evening Take-Away meals 6pm-9pm Tuesday to Saturday.

The current restrictions are having an effect, but they simply amend what they do. The monthly Sunday Quizzes will return, and the back room is available for small meetings.

Lance plans to have a varied Christmas menu through December and be open Christmas Day for lunch. We encourage villagers, friends and families to support the pub in the coming months. We are in such a difficult period and we hope that as a small business, the King's Head will both survive and soon thrive.

We take this opportunity to wish Lance and the Team well and we hope that the pub will again be the go-to place for good food and drink. If you wish to book a table, please contact them on 01233 732243.

Shadoxhurst Church

Saint's Peter and Paul Church Shadoxhurst remains open each day for private prayer. Sunday services will resume with Holy Communions at the new, later time of 8.30 am in October, with services on **Sunday 4th and 18th October and 1st & 15th November**. It is hoped this may make them more accessible to villagers.

1st Shadoxhurst Scout Group

We are continuing to meet virtually on-line and we are growing in numbers with four new members joining after the summer holiday.

In November we will take delivery of the shrubs and hedgerows that we secured earlier in the year from the woodland trust. Nearer the time if any of the villagers would like to assist in the planting, then we will be more than happy to welcome them. Social distancing, and government guidelines, will be adhered to. We currently have a few spaces in Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections, and are one of the few groups in the district with vacancies. We would welcome more young people from the village.

We are also looking to hold a private Remembrance Service online and we would like to thank the church for their continuing support in these events.

Yours in scouting, Simon.

raven@1stshadoxhurstscoutgroup.uk

Speedwatch

Speeding traffic is still a major concern. Since mid-June the Team, supported by the Police at times, have reported over 3,000 speeding vehicles. That is 200+ per week. We need to slow the traffic in the village down to ensure the village is safe for cyclists, horse riding and pedestrians of all ages, also safer crossing the road at bus stops. It also means a drop in noise from traffic at 40 reduced down to 30 mph.

We still need a larger group of people to provide wider coverage of locations, days and times. Please contact Roger on 01233 733581 or you can email him at roger.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

Please stay in touch...

There is a need for us all to continue to stay in touch, whether just to have a chat, and there are a few people who just need some contact periodically, and we have a list of those who are happy to just be on the end of the phone when needed.

Community contact points which are not monitored by SPC include the following: Many residents are on the Shadoxhurst 'Next Door' group which is part of a wider community group of neighbouring villages. https://nextdoor.co.uk/neighborhood_feed/

The "Shadoxhurst, a Kent Village" Facebook Page has now grown to **1,405 members**. With the more recent "Shadoxhurst Community" Facebook Page with currently over **500 members**. There is an increasing need to stay in touch and village news can be up to date there.

Shadoxhurst Flower Club

To find out about their next meeting, please contact either, Ann Prebble on 07989 586575 email ann.prebble@yahoo.com or contact Gaye Sim on 01233 732212.

Wine Circle

The group meets periodically and recently held a meeting with all the rules adhered to at one of the member's garden complete with a barbeque. There is no plan yet for another date but see the Village Contacts details for Colin's number to stay in touch.

Chatterbox Coffee Club

Colin and Val have recently held a couple open 'Coffee Club' picnics on the recreation field with regulars. But in view of the current restrictions, they have decided to suspend the club for six months.

Green Farm Community Garden and Pop-up Coffee Shop

The Green Farm Community Garden continues to run their **pop-up coffee shop** every Thursday between 10am and 12.30pm so please pop along, for Coffee and Cake and meet your friends.

There is plenty of space for social gathering while practicing social distancing in their large open-sided barn which will be used for the winter period.

Small amounts of freshly picked vegetables are for sale along with pre-orders for greens and salad leaves (see www.facebook.com/greenfarmcommunitygarden), as well as selections of Green Farm meat. Diary note:

They will be holding Christmas Fair on Sunday 29th November.

The entrance is in **Duck Lane**, signposted the **Community Garden**.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Update

Reported crime remains low but continues to run at an annualised level higher than 2019 although July 2020 was down compared to July 2019. Antisocial behaviour increased in the month although was confined primarily to one area of the village. Burglary and theft levels remain low likely due to the increased number of people being at home due to the lockdown restrictions.

For those that visit the village Facebook or Nextdoor website pages you will have seen a number of posts with details of scams which are circulating. For those that don't use the internet you may have had phone calls purporting to be from various people (e.g. HMRC, BT, the Police etc.) claiming that you owe money and they need payment card details. DO NOT provide any card details as no genuine caller would ask for such details. There have been instances where the caller has asked individuals to withdraw cash from their bank accounts to help identify bank staff fraud and for the cash to then be collected by a Courier company for analysis – do not get tricked by such an attempt.

Doorstep callers are another area where people may try to get you to pay for unnecessary property repairs or distract you while an accomplice steals items from your property. Ensure any caller is genuine by seeing identification and check with their company to make sure they are due at your property – **do not let them in if you are not sure.**

Don't be embarrassed to say 'No' or ask them to leave. Call 999 if you feel threatened or in danger. Call the police non-emergency number 101, if you're not in immediate danger but want to report an incident. Please speak with friends or neighbours to discuss any incidents which made you feel uncomfortable – they may have experienced the same.

For those with property with open boundaries to fields then help to protect yourself from Rural Crime by:-

- Secure gates with good quality chains and padlocks that are more difficult to open.
- Make sure your animals are chipped or tagged to make them identifiable in case they escape.
- Use capped or inverted hinges on field gates to prevent easy removal.
- Regularly check gates and boundaries for signs of tampering

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

There will a virtual meeting at **6.00pm Monday 12th October through 'Zoom'**. As there is no prospect of a physical meeting in the near future, it is important to keep the initiative buoyant. Since Ann stepped down as Chair, momentum has been lost. The Forum needs to find a new Chair who can take the Forum forward. We see the Forum as a vital ingredient of our community, we seek to find ways to help and ensure continued communications throughout the village.

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 and get the details of the forthcoming meeting 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.

History Club

Carol and Ian Procter started the History Club a while ago and a good number of people interested in the village history research met monthly. The Club has not been able to meet for some time for a number of reasons.

However, they are now moving away very soon, and we all wish them well and a very happy life. Both Carol and Ian have contributed much to the village, the Parish Council and the Forum for many years, so we take this opportunity to say a big public thank you to them both.

There is now a need to find a new leader for the Club. If we can get the Club active and into some internet based research work and also hold virtual meetings for those that can through the winter months. This will be one of the topics for the **Forum meeting on the 12th October.**

Gardening Club

Unfortunately, in line with the most recent Government guidance, the club meetings continue 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, approximately every 6 weeks. A meeting subscription is a nominal £1 to cover expenses. Peter Webb (01233 732901) or Peter707R@Hotmail.com

Mobile Library

The Library returned on its rounds in September for monthly only visits. There is a 'select and collect' arrangement so there is no need to enter. Please see their website www.kent.gov.uk/libs for all the details or please call **03000 41 31 31** ask to be put through to the base library and then to speak to the 'Select and Collect' team and they can go through the process with you. The van will be here on **Wednesday 21st October and 18th November at 15.25-15.55 at Lonefield.**

Road Closure: Woodchurch Road

A closure is planned from Monday 26 October 2020, with the estimated completion by 30 October 2020.

Woodchurch Road will be closed in the general vicinity of the property 'Longway', near the junction with **Tally Ho Road**. The alternative route for through traffic is via

Bethersden Road, Criol Lane, Magpie Hall Road and Tally Ho Road.

Local access to the remainder of Woodchurch Road continues from a western direction up to where the road is actually closed.

Originally this was scheduled in early October, then we pointed out there would be problems with the school buses, so UK Power Networks have moved it to half term.

Ashford Courtside Football Club

Ashford Courtside teams are happy to be back training and playing fixtures at our home ground in Shadoxhurst with new Covid-19 measures in place. We have an NHS track and trace system in place for all spectators to scan in with after downloading the NHS app and our QR code will be displayed at all training sessions and fixtures. Both of our teams play on a Saturday morning in the Ashford and District Youth League.

Our U12's team have started off well this season with some new signings, winning 3 out of 4 fixtures. The 3 wins were all at home. The Team is below.



Our U8's are also back with their league starting a few weeks later for them. They continue to improve and have fun whilst playing Football. See photo below.



We would like to thank Shadoxhurst Parish Council and the Villagers for their ongoing support. If you know anyone who would be interested to play in either of the teams, please contact the Club secretary Vanessa Grimmond on grimmond105@gmail.com

If you want to find out more, visit <https://www.afccourtside.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/AshfordCourtsideFC/>

For more information please contact ...
Vanessa (Secretary) on 07526 431687
Or Tim (Chair) on 07970 820018.

Village Contacts

All Local Numbers are area code 01233

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

Ashford Borough Update

ABC applied for a project to plant trees at the forthcoming Discovery Park on Chilmington Green through the Woodland Trust and were successful and will be given 6,666 trees. The proposed Park extends from the Chilmington Green Road beside Long Length and across to the top of Singleton Hill. ABC aim to have the park for multi-uses including sports pitches, play areas, parking and leisure space. There are no firm plans yet, but it will be handy for our village and is part of the growing South Ashford Garden Community.

The main ABC telephone number is 01233 331111 and you should try and contact ABC 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 Ashford Borough Ward Councilors are: George 01233 732791 and David 01233 733540

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