



Shadoxhurst Parish Council

Protecting the Woodland Gateway to the Countryside

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY OF SHADOXHURST

Shadoxhurst Newsletter February 2021

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH

Welcome to the first edition of 2021. Perhaps the year has started much as 2020 ended, but there is hope ahead with the rolling out of the vaccinations in the coming months.

We still have to take precautions and stick to the routine of wearing masks, keeping our distance and the usual hand washing. It will take a while yet for this to end.

People are looking out for neighbours and friends which is all we can ask for.

The closing date for information and inclusions for the April edition is **the 25th March**. If you would like any information included, please email it to David at amberherne@btinternet.com.

Parish Council Updates

New Community and Sports Facilities

We want to let you know of exciting plans that the Parish Council is working on to deliver significantly upgraded Community and Sports facilities at the Recreation Field.

The existing village hall and pavilion in Shadoxhurst have served us well for many years but are coming to the end of their useful lives. The playing fields are unusable in the winter and the children's play area requires improvement. These facilities require significant investment.

We are currently scoping exciting plans to improve the facilities at the Recreation Field and build a new Community and Sports Hall. This will be a long-term project and we hope the community will get behind us and become involved. We therefore ask for your support.

We are very much in the planning stage at this time and anticipate the project being in two phases:

Phase 1: Improvement of sporting facilities:

- Redo the drainage on the whole field. This was last done c.40 years ago, and we have contracted to have this redone in the Spring 2021.
- Adjust the location of the two football pitches to optimise use of the ground.
- Build an all-weather multi-use games area ("MUGA") to support netball, basketball etc and/or a Tennis Court.
- Install new children's play equipment, relocated next to the adult gym equipment and fence to secure the play area and protect from dogs.
- Build new and accessible changing and showering facilities, (i.e. replace existing end of life pavilion) with a modular building that can be extended in phase 2 to include a Community / Sports Hall.

Phase 2: Community/Sports Hall:

- Build a new hall onto the changing rooms, potentially including:

Hall to be used for functions and some indoor sports, kitchen, meeting room, stage and licenced bar.

We are currently recruiting for a volunteer fundraiser/grant writer. If you are interested in fundraising or know someone who enjoys applying for grant applications and researching grant and funding availability, please get in touch.

This is a long term, ambitious and exciting project, which will result in vastly improved new facilities for the village. We are at an

early stage of the planning – please do share your thoughts and views.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Stuart Cass at

stuart.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

Booking the Hall and Pavilion

We hoped that we could give you more information about the re-opening of the hall, this is not possible as restrictions continue and we may not be able to open until after Easter at the beginning of April.

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

The website address is www.shadoxhurst.info

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 6.00pm on Wednesday 10th February. It will again be through the Zoom platform. All parishes are having to continue to meet through video links. The agenda will have the link, but please also contact Caroline if you would like the link sent direct, as below.

Contacting the Parish Council

Our Parish Clerk **Caroline Laming** only works 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** (daytime hours) or email:

shadoxhurst@parishcouncil.onmicrosoft.com

If you would like to talk to the Chairman, please contact Martin on **01233 808707**
martin.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

Planning Matters

Land at Farley Close ref 19/01679/AS

As you may have heard by now, the application for 22 houses at Farley Close was granted by the Planning Committee on the 21st January. There was a long debate but was finally granted by 8 votes to 6. Work will not start until the Section 106 legal agreement is drawn up for community contributions, and the mitigation to avoid increased pollution relating to the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve (mentioned in the last newsletter) is resolved.

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

With the rear of Brinklow Bungalow, some 20 new plans and information documents were submitted at the beginning of January and are on the ABC website.



There are still a number of unresolved issues and as we go to press, there will be another consultation to residents. This will give another 14 days for comments.

Flooding

The Boxing Day storm left a problem to Woodchurch Road residents who needed help from the Fire and Rescue Service to pump water out, and others in the village as the water rose and lay in gardens. The Wealden Clay is unremitting with a high water table and lots of rain.

We did previously mention training for Flood Wardens by the Kent Resilience Forum.

They have not confirmed an official date as yet for the next training session, although they are considering one possibly in February. Please keep an eye on their website if you are interested and they will post information on here: <https://www.kentprepared.org.uk/flood-wardens>

Hornash House

The application for six houses on the site were previously refused, an appeal was lodged, and evidence has been supplied to the Planning Inspector by the Parish Council and some villagers. The closing date has passed, and we await the decision.

Volunteering

As we said in our last edition, we still hold a list of local contacts able to give a hand, so if you do need some help with shopping, prescription collection or advice locally in the coming months, please do 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 are happy just to have a chat on the phone, if you would like a friendly phone conversation periodically, please let us know.

King's Head News

They are still doing various takeaway menus which are featured on the Facebook pages. This includes Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunch. They also continue with their delivery service for those unable to collect.

The pub has a webpage found at www.kingsheadshadoxhurst.co.uk/ and are also busy on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KingsHeadShadoxhurst.

Once again, we encourage villagers, friends and families to support the pub in the coming weeks and months. We are in such a difficult period and we hope that as a small business, the King's Head will survive and soon thrive. If you wish to ring to order food, please contact them on **01233 732243**.

Shadoxhurst Church

Rev Caroline said "We felt it was right to close the church to private prayer and Holy Communion services due to the nature of the new variant of the virus and will let you know when we will open again.

However, we are active online. You can either join in real time on Sundays, 9.45 for 10 am by emailing Rev Caroline at vicar@kandschurches.org.uk or see our YouTube channel 'Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst Churches' as they are uploaded afterwards.

Our church magazine 'Contact' has no edition for February/March, but we hope to produce one for April/May, subject to the pandemic and restrictions.

We wish every blessing of peace and comfort to residents at this time, which is probably the most difficult phase yet.

Revs Caroline and Bruce are available, should you wish a listening ear, support or prayer. Telephone 01233 629279."



1st Shadoxhurst Scout Group

The Scouts, The Cubs and The Beavers continue to meet regularly through video links. If you have family members that would be interested in joining, please email Simon raven@1stshadoxhurstscoutgroup.uk.

Speedwatch

Monitoring is still on hold. The Police camera vehicle has been seen operating in the village as people continue to speed through our village. Many of us feel it is disrespectful to those walking, both where there are pavements and where there are not. We ask all to respect the speed limit.

Once the team can resume, we will recruit further. Please contact Roger on 01233 733581 roger.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com

Green Farm Community Garden and Pop-up Coffee Shop

The increased restrictions mean the charity pop-up coffee shop has temporarily stopped. The shop however is still open **every Thursday between 10am and 12.30pm** so please pop along, for small amounts of freshly picked vegetables and selections of Green Farm produced meat. The entrance is in **Duck Lane**, signposted the **Community Garden**.

The Farm held a well attended fund raising Charity Christmas Market on Sunday 13th of December, including a visit from Santa.

Considering the restrictions, it was well attended, thank you to all visitors.

www.facebook.com/greenfarmcommunitygarden



Please stay in touch...

We need to continue to stay in touch. 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 group of neighbouring villages. nextdoor.co.uk/neighborhood_feed/

The "Shadoxhurst, a Kent Village" Facebook Page has now grown to **1,626 members**. "Shadoxhurst Community" Facebook Page currently has over **570 members**. Places to keep up to date.

Sewing Club

The Club continues to meet monthly on Zoom. If you would like to join and find out more, please email Sheila Ellis or ring her on 01233 733540 to find out details of the next meeting. sheilaellis2009@gmail.com

Shadoxhurst Flower Club

Meetings continue to be on hold. The Club has put together a full programme for the year and sent these out to Members, although they will not be able to meet properly for some time yet. They hope to meet as soon as allowed, to stay in touch, please contact either, Ann Prebble on 07989 586575 email ann.prebble@yahoo.com or contact Gaye Sim on 01233 732212.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Update

Reported crime in the village remains relatively low although with a number of

anti-social behaviour and public order offences being reported in different areas.

Many will no doubt have experienced unsolicited telephone calls, texts or emails from unknown numbers or individuals, advising that you owe money, your membership payment has failed or you face imprisonment. These are invariably Scams and have become an unwelcomed feature of the times.

As reported previously do not divulge any payment card details, do not press a button during the call (as this can transfer you to a premium rate service) – hang up and check with family, a friend or a neighbour if you are unsure as to what to do.

Other villages and areas of Ashford are reporting increases in registration plate and catalytic converter thefts from vehicles, thefts or attempts thereof from sheds, outbuilding or vans and thefts of dogs. Please be mindful of items left visible in vehicles, where you park (try to avoid out of the way dark areas unless on your own property) and the security of your outbuildings, fences and gates.

With many villagers now taking exercise in and around the village, if you witness something you consider suspicious then it should be reported to the Police via 101 or using the Website (Chat apparently is quicker and easier than using the phone). If you would prefer to remain anonymous then use CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> Please include details of any vehicles – make, model and colour, as well as registration plate details.

Call 999 if you feel threatened or in danger – see contact details below for ways to contact the Police in non-urgent situations. If you are unsure please ask a relative, friend or neighbour for help.

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

Village Forum

Meetings are currently on hold and Members continue to 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.



History Club

It was great to recommence the village history club via zoom in January and our **next virtual meeting will be on Monday 22nd February** - if you are interested in joining us please email me at Egw2@hotmail.co.uk

Those present decided that one of our first projects would be supporting the Sewing club's village map quilt by researching the listed buildings in the village. To this end we will be writing to those residents of the buildings to see if they have any information on their house, any past photographs etc. If you own any of these properties, you will receive a letter from me on parish council headed paper at some point during February (just so you know this isn't a scam when you get the letter!) - in the meantime if you have any information on your property please feel free to email it to me on the above-mentioned email address.

Additionally, if any resident has any articles, photographs etc of past village life that they are able to send electronically to me, again please send to

Egw2@hotmail.co.uk. Lis Webb

Gardening Club

In line with the most recent Government guidance, the face to face 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 or ways of doing something, then please do

drop me an email and I will let you know when our meetings recommence.

Would you be interested in getting together via an online "Zoom" meeting? Let me know if this would be of interest – I'd look for time / day to be flexible but suggest a Monday at 7.30pm as a start point.

Peter Webb Peter707R@Hotmail.com or 01233 732901

Mobile Library

The Library has returned to its bimonthly rounds. There is a 'select and collect' arrangement so there is no need to enter. Please see their website www.kent.gov.uk/libraries for all the details.

Or please call **03000 41 31 31** ask to be put through to the Ashford 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 next on Wednesday 10th and 24th February and 10th and 24th March at 15.25-15.55 at Lonefield.

Ashford Courtside Football Club

The Covid lockdown in December has stopped football being played by the Club. It is likely to be April before they can resume. This coupled with the flooding in the rec, meant there have been no games since November. With the season ending in May, the Club is unsure when any practice can begin again.

If you know anyone who would be interested to play in either of the teams when play resumes, please contact the Club secretary Vanessa on grimmond105@gmail.com Or ring her on 07526 431687.

Or you can find out more at www.afccourtside.co.uk/ and www.facebook.com/AshfordCourtsideFC/

Poonett and Farley Charity

The Charity has its origins in the 17th Century from two separate legacies when both helped to give money to the poor of the village. At some point in history the two charities were combined.

It is recognised that in the 21st Century, life is very different. The Trustees now give two bursaries per year up to a maximum

of £250 each. The recipient must live in the Parish of Shadoxhurst and have a specific use / need for the bursary, to allow them to do something, buy something or go somewhere that without the bursary would not be achievable.

Examples might include helping:

- towards a young person's travel to visit universities prior to making a choice.
- to pay for a young person to attend a vocational course.
- to purchase tools to enable someone to start an apprenticeship.
- towards a retired person travelling to visit an elderly relative.
- to purchase a disability aid that otherwise would not be supplied through the usual channels.

These are concentrating on the young and the more senior members of our community. If you wish to apply, please contact David Ledger at david.shadoxhurstpc@gmail.com or 01233 733540, who will provide more details. Applications need to be in writing and received by 1st March 2021.

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 Lis 732901
Lesley Munn Dance Academy Lesley 01634 234168
Line Dancing Kate 733015
Neighbourhood Watch Peter 732901
Pilates Alex 861456
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

A Five Year Vision & Strategy setting out how the three major combined developments in the south of Ashford will come together, has been adopted by

Ashford Borough Council. The Strategy received major endorsements by partners including private developers and the Chilmington Management Organisation, ensuring a commitment to achieving the Vision for the South of Ashford Garden Community (SAGC).

This strategy represents the aspirations of local residents, local organisations and key partners who are looking to ensure that these developments come forward with quality in mind, where infrastructure is planned and delivered in tandem with new homes, as the community grows.

Many of those involved in shaping the Vision & Strategy continue to participate in bi-monthly meetings known as the Community Stakeholder Group. All residents broadly in the South of Ashford area, especially those in the Parishes of Great Chart with Singleton, Kingsnorth Green and Shadoxhurst are encouraged to attend. More details can be found on the Ashford Borough Council website at the following link:

<https://www.ashford.gov.uk/planning-and-development/major-developments/south-of-ashford-garden-community/our-garden-village-local-people-shaping-the-south-of-ashford-garden-community/>

The ABC telephone number is 01233 331111 and you should try and contact ABC through that route if needed.

ABC's website is at www.ashford.gov.uk/ please check regularly for 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

Kingsnorth Surgery

For those of you that are registered with the surgery, there is a new outline planning application for up to 15 dwellings, a medical centre and pharmacy, associated landscaping and infrastructure on Land south east of Ashford Road, Kingsnorth.

Plans are on the ABC portal with number **21/00126/AS** if you want to comment. Dr Kelly and the Team need to move to purpose built premises as their lease on the present surgery building will one day run out. This is step one of their future proofing journey.