

Pluckley Parish Council

Autumn 2002

Newsletter

Golden Jubilee

The celebrations on 3 June were a tremendous success from the moment the recreation ground took on a patriotic red, white, and blue theme until the final revellers made their way home after the evening festivities in The Street.

The limited edition Pluckley Golden Jubilee Mugs unfortunately were not ready in June, but arrived some four weeks later. Approximately 170 have been presented to children under 16 years living in the village. The rest are on sale in the post office for £6.50 each. At the time of going to print there are around 90 left. Once these are sold, the parish council will be able to finalise the accounts and any money left from paying for the mugs, trees, and seat will be divided between the Dering Organ Fund and the village hall.

Another Fête?

As the income from the Jubilee Fête amounted to approximately £1,900, parish council chairman, Janet Gwillim, imbibed with enthusiasm, is arranging another fête during June 2004 (Egerton has one next year). This one will be an 'all-out' fund-raiser for a village amenity.

The preliminary meeting is on Wednesday 2 October, 8pm in the village hall, but volunteers needn't wait until then – contact Janet now!

Good neighbour scheme for Pluckley?

Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire from **The Mid & South East Kent Council for Voluntary Service**. Please do take time to fill it out and take it up to Pluckley Post Office.

Speed kills!

Yes, we've all heard that phrase, time and time again. The parish council has requested, time and time again, for an extension to the speed limits in the village. Now is the time to act! Ashford Borough Council is conducting a Speed Management Review in Pluckley during the week commencing 18 November.

The parish council will be holding the public meeting on Monday 21 October, in the village hall at 8pm, for everyone to air their views on extending the current 30mph speed limit through the village. Andy Corcoran from Ashford Borough Council will be available to answer questions.

Parish Platforms

This is a new initiative to enhance rural railway stations. The parish council have had meetings with the organising body, and now the ball is in your court. What do you want to do about the station? An initial tidy-up is needed, and how about some tubs? Perhaps some businesses or clubs might like to take on a particular area? A meeting has been arranged for Saturday 26 October, 10am, in the waiting room at Pluckley Station.

Contact Eileen English with your ideas.

Volunteers needed

The Kent Association for the Blind is seeking volunteer befrienders who could visit a visually impaired person in their own homes to have a chat and a cup of tea, or perhaps read the newspaper or letters. The time spent on visits is entirely up to the volunteer and as little as one hour per month is very much appreciated.

Drivers with cars are also needed to take visually impaired people to training groups and meetings. Contact Mary Wady, the Volunteer Services Organiser on 01622 691357.

Safety in the countryside

Public Rights of Way – the rules

Users may:

- Pass and re-pass on a Public Right of Way;
- Stop to look at the view, take a photograph, sit down to rest and so on;
- Take a pram, pushchair, wheelchair, but expect to encounter stiles on footpaths;
- Take a dog, preferably on a lead, but always under close control;
- Take a short route around an illegal obstruction;
- Remove an illegal obstacle sufficiently to get past.

Users may not:

- Roam over land at will, deviating from the line of the Right of Way unless it is to pass an obstruction;
- Use a vehicle on a byway if it is not registered, taxed and insured, or to drive recklessly, carelessly or without consideration;
- Use a Right of Way for any purpose other than as a right of passage;
- Set up tables, chairs and picnic equipment;
- Cause any unnecessary damage;
- Peddle recklessly on bridleways;
- Scrum fruit.

Your rights:

- Lack of use has no effect on the legal existence of a right of way;
- You must leave land to which you have no legal right of access if asked to do so by the owner or his representative;
- A Right of Way should be wide enough for two walkers to pass in comfort. A Bridleway should allow two horses to pass each other comfortably. The Definitive Map however, may specify the width of a path in certain circumstances;
- Cyclists and horse riders must not use footpaths (except with permission of the landowner);
- Cyclists must give way to riders and walkers on bridleways;
- When walking or riding in groups, please travel in single file where necessary, (for example through crops), and do not spread out beyond the width of the path.

The parish council are concerned by the number of people who are walking parts of the Toll Ride. This is dangerous! The ride is over private property and horse riders pay an annual subscription to be able to ride safely off-road where there is no risk of meeting walkers and their dogs. There are plenty of footpaths, the majority of which are easily accessible and well marked, so there is no need for anyone to trespass on to the toll ride.

It has also come to the attention of the parish council that there are a few youngsters who are riding motorcycles along both footpaths, bridlepaths, and the toll ride – again to the possible danger of walkers and the children riding the motorcycles.

Children must be made aware of the areas where it is permissible for them to ride motorbikes and to be shown where the footpaths, etc. are. Walkers must keep dogs on leads at all times.

A Footpath is a public right of way on foot only.

A Bridleway is a public right of way on foot, on horseback, or on a pedal cycle. Although motor vehicles are excluded from footpaths and bridleways, there may be additional landowner or other private rights of access with vehicles.

A Byway, Open to All Traffic (BOAT), is a public right of way for vehicles and all other kinds of traffic, but which because of its nature is used mainly as a footpath or bridleway. There are only a couple of byways in Pluckley.

Food, farming, and tourism

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP (Green Party) will be speaking on this subject at the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Imperial College, Wye on Thursday 17 October, at 7:30pm. Anyone who is interested is welcome.

Village Hall

Work at the hall is ongoing. There are now wall lights on dimmer switches for those events wanting a more mellow atmosphere than the fluorescent lights give off. At the same time the meters have been upgraded and now take only £1 coins. They are easier to manage too – two meters power the heating and the switches are still on the fuse board, the other meter is for everything else and the only switches anyone needs to use are with the plug sockets, etc.

The next stage is to replace the emergency exit doors and install a disabled ramp, fence off the garden and field, and to give the outside a coat of paint before winter sets in. Estimates have been requested for replacing the windows and painting the inside of the hall. A conservative figure for this work is around £10,000. The only way that the parish council can consider putting this work in hand is if grants can be obtained, as the alternative would be to increase the parish precept to an unacceptable level.

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Your Parish Councillors and other Contacts:

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| <i>Janet Gwillim (Chairman)</i> | 840203 |
| <i>Trevor Oliver (Deputy Chairman)</i> | 820516 |
| <i>Paul Cornwell</i> | 840394 |
| <i>Simon Crookston (Neighbourhood Watch)</i> | 840000 |
| <i>Rosemary Davies</i> | 840398 |
| <i>Eileen English</i> | 840276 |
| <i>Jackie Grebby (also Clerk)</i> | 840575 |
| <i>Bruce MacDonald</i> | 840089 |
| <i>Ann Murray</i> | 840166 |
| Borough Councillor: <i>Eileen English</i> | 840276 |
| County Councillor: <i>Richard King</i> | 756592 |
| Member of Parliament: <i>Damian Green</i> . | 820911 |

Tear the section below off and leave at Pluckley Post Office – Thank you

What do you want from your village hall?

If grants are obtained and these remedial works go ahead, then the next stage is to consider where to go from here. Here's a short list of questions the parish council needs to answer before continuing – tear off and leave in the box at Pluckley Post Office

- 1: How do you think the hall should develop as a community centre? _____
- 2: Should the council continue to spend money in keeping what is there in working order, or should they take a larger view? _____
- 3: Does the hall need to be extended? _____
- 4: A larger committee/second room? _____
- 5: A room dedicated to keep-fit/aerobics/yoga? _____
- 6: What about a computer technology centre? _____
- 7: Or a heritage centre – somewhere to store all the historical information (photos, letters, etc.) that residents have accumulated over the years? _____

The ideas are endless – but without a consensus of local opinion the council cannot progress beyond what has already been done.

Recycling

As many will have noticed, the aluminium can bank has now gone from the village hall car park. During the time it was there, the parish never received any credits from its use. The final straw was when someone dumped a large television set in it, together with the box that the new one came in! The weekly refuse collectors will take away all sorts of rubbish – including televisions if they are not too large. If you have anything that will not fit on the regular dustcart, then call Ashford Borough Council's refuse department (01233 330331) and arrange a personal collection. These tend to be on a Friday and are, generally, free.

There is a new waste paper recycling skip. The old, open bins are gradually being replaced with these new ones, which need emptying, on average, every six weeks.

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The parish council was asked if they wished to consider the new 'blue box' scheme that allows residents to sort their recyclable materials and leave for doorstep collection. The council felt that, since this scheme is only available within built-up areas of villages and the bins at the village hall would be taken away, thereby removing the financial benefit to the community of up to £1,000 per year, the scheme was not suitable for this village.

Tear the section below off and leave at Pluckley Post Office – Thank you

Local Needs Housing

Ashford Borough Council is currently reviewing local housing schemes in villages and parishes within the borough and ask if Pluckley's housing need is increasing. The parish council does not have a record of those seeking affordable accommodation in the area.

In 1999, when the village appraisal was carried out, just 6.7% of those who answered the questionnaire were currently seeking alternative accommodation. On the other hand, over a quarter of those answering the question: what kind of accommodation, if any, they thought was needed in the village felt that restricted sale to local people was important.

So, asking the same question again: *Is there any need for more accommodation of the following types in Pluckley?*

- 1: Private rented _____
- 2: Local authority/housing association rented _____
- 3: Owner occupied _____
- 4: Shared ownership (part owner/part rented) _____
- 5: Sheltered housing _____
- 6: Restricted sale to local people _____
- 7: Low cost sale _____
- 8: There is no need for any of these _____