



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the summer edition of 'Communicate', published to keep you informed about what is going on in your village. We're pleased to report lots of positive news this time, with many Parish Council activities aimed at making Pluckley an even more attractive place to live and work.

Although 'Communicate' is published every three months, there are other ways that you can keep abreast of Parish Council activities. Firstly, there is the web site (www.pluckley.net), secondly for more informal information you can find and 'like' [Pluckley Village](#) on Facebook. Thirdly, you can now 'follow' the Council on Twitter ([#pluckleycouncil](#)) where we hope to be 'tweeting' breaking news stories and items of interest. Finally, don't hesitate to contact me, or any of my fellow Councillors. *Chris Housman, Chairman*

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

As we go to press there is no news on the 'Solar Farm' where we are awaiting a site visit from the Government Planning Inspector. However, we have received news that a planning application to build more than 50 houses on the former brickworks site is likely to be submitted in the near future

In the approved 'Ashford Core Strategy', Pluckley is not earmarked for development beyond some small-scale infill and there should not be any development outside of the village confines – which the brickworks is way outside. Ashford's Local Plan clearly states that large-scale development will be focused on the Ashford growth area and at some other larger settlements. It also states that it will protect and where possible enhance the countryside for its landscape, heritage, nature conservation and recreational value.

However, late last year ABC put out a call for potential housing sites and the brickworks was put forward, which could be attractive to ABC as some of it is a 'brownfield' site. The PC will be seeking more information from the applicants as the situation develops, but its current position is to object to this development as ABC's current strategy, and our Parish Design Statement (part of our Parish Plan) are clear. This position was reinforced by the residents' meeting held in February where the consensus of opinion was that, whilst small-scale residential development of up to 5 units could be supported, such a major housing development on the brickworks site was not acceptable.



QE11 RECREATION GROUND

The multi-games area has now been resurfaced and new lines have been painted for tennis, netball and basketball. At the lower end of the field, a new double swing for older children is being installed adjacent to the existing play area. The frame is already there but the dry weather has prevented the laying of turf before the swings are installed.

The Pavilion is now available for hire for parties or picnics. With the adjacent field and playing equipment, it makes an ideal location for children's parties. If you are interested, contact Chris Warricker on 07547 052374.

VILLAGE HALL

Our revised plans to further improve the hall have now received planning approval. The revision moves the toilets into the new entrance foyer at the south end of the building. This would be tackled as a first stage and we are currently seeking the funding to be able to add this. The second stage, an extension of the kitchen and creation of a new lounge/bar, is more expensive and will be pursued later.

In the meantime, the kitchen has been refurbished and re-equipped. We are indebted to David Clements for his expertise and time in giving the kitchen its facelift (see Resident of the Year below), and to Clair Bell, our Ashford Councillor, for a grant to purchase the new crockery and cutlery.

The garden is looking particularly attractive at present and showing the benefit of the planting scheme that we had Madrona Nursery install last year.

PETANQUE

Mon dieu, zoot alors, we 'ave a **Petanque** Pitch on the Recreation Ground! Petanque is a thriving game in Kent and a number of aficionados have suggested a competition to get the game going in Pluckley this summer.

The proposed format is to have teams of 4 each with 2 Boules (no sniggering at the back there!) competing on a 'round robin' basis. Play will be organised on Tuesday evenings for conviviality but not limited to that night if teams wish to play at other times.

A copy of the Rules will be circulated to each team and it is expected that these will be interpreted French style (ie flexibly!). An essential feature will be settling all disputes afterwards in the nearby hostelry.

If you are interested, please whip up a team of 4, give it a name, and send details to me by email asap. If you want to play but can't get up a team, let me know and I will put teams together. When I know the numbers, I will sort out the format and get the games started.

A Bientot! Paul Ellard (paul.ellard@pluckley.net)

OIL PURCHASING SCHEME

After five years of running the joint oil purchasing scheme, Debbie Breach has handed this on to a larger syndicate. If you use domestic oil, and would like to take advantage of the competitive pricing the scheme offers, please contact Keith Anderson by emailing him at europa.113@btinternet.com.



WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY

Pluckley & Little Chart Remember

An ecumenical service to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War 100 years ago and to remember the 48 men who were associated with Pluckley and Little Chart and who made the ultimate sacrifice, will be held on Monday 4th August at 2:30pm in St Nicholas' Church, Pluckley.

The service will be followed by tea and refreshments and the opening of a small exhibition in the Dering Chapel explaining and illuminating the main events leading up to the outbreak of war; the personalities involved; and the conflict itself, but with emphasis on the Western Front.

Amongst other subjects, the exhibition will highlight plans for the conquest of most of Europe drawn up by Germany as early as 1905, the parts played by the Royal Navy and Air Force, conscription, the 'White Feather' campaign, propaganda, the vital part played by the Merchant Navy, the part played by women, medals, the German U-Boat campaign, Gallipoli, the sinking of *MV Lusitania*, America's entry into the war, and the statistics of the dead and wounded – human and animal. The exhibition will remain in the Dering Chapel until Remembrance Sunday.

Memorabilia and letters

It is hoped you will share any letters or items of interest relating to the war. If so, please bring them along on 4th August between 10am and 1:30pm. They will be guarded and labelled while in the church, but should be collected again by the owners that evening. Please telephone Alan Johnson (840547), James Rogers (840363), or Michael Wallis (840059) to let them know in advance what you might be bringing.

Please also give one of them a call if you would like a lift to and from the church, which will remain open until 7:30pm on 4th August for the benefit of those returning from work.

Pluckley Remount Depot

It may surprise you to hear that Pluckley played an important part in WW1. In the east of the village (at the end of Dowle Street) a facility was established early on in the war where horses were prepared for service on the Western Front. This 'Remount Depot' included an isolation hospital and the capacity to stable up to 1,000 horses.

A plan of the site will be on display in the section entitled 'Animals in WW1.' This section will also describe the part played by certain breeds of dog and by carrier pigeons.

The Church, Pluckley Parish Council, and the Royal British Legion invite the village to come together for the commemoration out of respect for those who served and fought in that dreadful conflict.

FLIES AND SMELLS

If you wish to report a problem with a fly infestation or any nasty environmental smells, please note that the new Parish Council contact is Carol Washer (840078) who has taken over from Helen Missing.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch are now working together to ensure that all information relating to crime (including warnings about bogus officials preying on vulnerable people) and community safety gets to all Pluckley residents quickly. However, we can only do this with YOUR help.

Reported incidents are immediately added to the Pluckley Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PluckleyNHW01>). We therefore urge you to 'like' this page so that you will be able to see details as soon as they are reported. It is also planned to set up a NHW 'Twitter' account, with a feed to the www.Pluckley.net website to see NHW reports.

Facebook and Twitter will therefore give you up to the minute news and reports, and also allow you to post information and get involved in ensuring that our village is safe. For those of you who don't use 'social media', a NHW email is sent out every 3 to 4 weeks with all the updates.

To ensure that information reaches as many people as possible as quickly as possible, we would like to have representatives from each street/area to collect email addresses and pass them on to the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, and to advise their neighbours of the Facebook and Twitter services. If you would be interested in helping, please contact the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator at NHW@pluckley.net or Tim O'Connor (Parish Councillor) at tim.oconnor@pluckley.net.

RESIDENT OF THE YEAR

To end on a positive note, several names were put forward to the Council for this annual award, and the Council was unanimous that the honour should go to David Clements. Dave has put in many hours at the Village Hall to improve it as a facility for the village. The kitchen refurbishment is just the latest in a series of improvements that he has made: apart from routine maintenance jobs, the new stage cupboard doors, the pelmets and the clock shelf are all the result of his skill and efforts, all given freely to the village. Amusingly too, it was Dave who made the 'Resident of the Year' plaque, to which his own name will now be added! He also receives a cheque for £100 for a good cause (or causes) of his choice.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Chris Housman (Chairman)	<i>chris.housman@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840139
Paul Ellard	<i>paul.ellard@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840349
Martin Newman	<i>martin.newman@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840231
Tim O'Connor	<i>tim.oconnor@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840843
Paul Smith	<i>paul.smith@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840037
Carol Washer	<i>carol.washer@pluckley.net</i>	01233 840078
Chris Warricker	<i>chris.warricker@pluckley.net</i>	01233 84
Clerk: Graham Smith	<i>clerk@pluckley.net</i>	01622 890596

The Parish Council meets in Pluckley Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month, except August. All residents are welcome to attend.

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