

# **Horton Kirby and South Darent Parish Council Newsletter July 2019**



Parish Office, Horton Kirby and South Darent Village  
Hall,

Horton Road, South Darent, Kent, DA4 9AX

Parish Clerk: Heather Rohard

Assistant Parish Clerk: Lisa Bugler

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Join our group on Facebook

The office is open Monday and Friday

9.00am to 12.30pm

**Free Family Picnic and Fun Day  
SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019  
Westminster Field – gate opens at 1pm**

The Parish Council meet on the first Monday of each  
month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

All welcome to come along

[www.hksdparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.hksdparishcouncil.co.uk)

Newsletter edited by Dawn Mitchell, HKSD Parish Council



## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

**POLICE** - 999 (emergencies if life is in danger or crime is in progress)

101 (non-emergencies)

Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at:

[www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting](http://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting)

**Sevenoaks District Council** - 01732 227000

Fly tipping, street cleaning, dog fouling, parking issues, bottle banks, graffiti, planning applications, abandoned vehicles

**Dartford Borough Council** – 01322 343434

Fly tipping in Roman Villa Road (outside our boundary)

[www.dartford.gov.uk](http://www.dartford.gov.uk) for online reporting

**Kent Highways** - 03000 418181

(emergency out of hours 03000419191)

Anything that may cause accident or injury, Kent Highways on line reporting [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) - go to 'Roads and Transport' for roads, potholes, streetlights, pavements, drains, traffic lights and any other problems

**Environment Agency** - 03708 506 506

For any problems with the river, (although often issues are the responsibility of landowners either side of the river)

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)

**Citizens Advice – national helpline** - 0300 330 9001

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-west-kent/contact-us/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-west-kent/contact-us/)

**Thames Water report a leak** – 0800 714 614

**Devon Road Surgery** – 01322 862121

# Horton Kirby and South Darent

## Parish Council Chair Report

During the last twelve months, the Parish Council has tried, as always, to represent the people who live in or visit our two villages. Whether by having a say on new development, providing new facilities, improving existing ones or arranging community events.

If we take each one of these at a time, I will explain a little further.

The Parish Council has looked over and made representation to Sevenoaks Council on some 40 planning applications (less than the preceding year) but there are some very emotive and controversial sites included in this number. We have also commented on 4 sites in the local plan in our parish and the potential large development at Pedham Place..

Grant applications were successful and allowed us to install the adult gym equipment in Heathside and to provide temporary installations of silhouettes to remember those lost in battle on the centenary anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The old school building next door has been registered as a community asset, and potential future use discussions are on going with the buildings owners.

Much work has been done to enable power and light to be provided in Heathside and the imminent arrival of the much requested public toilets.

The Parish Council has also refurbished the toilets here in the Village Hall, refreshed the kitchen, and made the pavilion in Westminster Fields watertight by the provision of a new flat roof.

Although postponed due to the off-chance that the England football team could make the World Cup Final, the inflatables day in Westminster Field was enjoyed by those that attended. We were lucky with the weather for both our annual fireworks night and beacon lighting. But not quite so lucky with high winds reducing the activities we could provide at the recent St George's day fete.

As a Parish Council we are able to make financial grants to local charities and organisations that provide a service or benefit to local people. These include:

£1000 to Beams for a new safe space bed

£500 to Horton Kirby Cricket Club towards a new mower

£300 to the Bowls Club for new outdoor benches

And

£400 for St Mary's Church for new lighting to the bell tower.

The above achievements are only a small indication of the work undertaken by the Parish Council and I must now take time to thank those that make all of this possible.

Thanks first to Roger Gough of Kent County Council for the information and guidance from KCC (although we still don't have a chevron sign on the Franks Lane Bridge! Sorry Roger).

Congratulations to Phillip and Brian on their re-election to Sevenoaks District Council and obviously commiserations to those unsuccessful. The support given often helps bridge the gap between Parish and District. Unless it's the Westminster Field one.

Within the last 12 months, there has been a change in our office with Dawn Mcfall leaving for pastures new and Lisa taking her place. The Parish Council could not function without Heather and Lisa's help and guidance of which I'm sure all councillors are extremely grateful with Email inboxes are kept really busy!

Thanks must also be made to Keith who unlocks and locks the gates at Westminster Fields (amongst other tasks) on a daily basis.

Now turning to members of the Parish Council. You may have noticed a new boy in the midst with Tristan Ward joining to replace Colin who has now left. Indeed welcome, Tristan, and we look forward to working with you..

Although no longer a member of the Parish Council, no doubt we will all see Colin around and wish him well.

Lastly I must thank all of my fellow Parish Councillors for their many hundreds of voluntary hours. Be it attending committee or Parish meetings, phone calls or emails, attending events or, it has been even known for get togethers in local hostelrys. Without their enthusiasm and dedication, trying to make a difference to where we all live or visit would be a huge undertaking.

Thank you.

*Cllr Ian Blackamore, Chair-HKSD Parish Council*



# **Kent County Councillor Roger Gough's report to Horton Kirby and South Darenth Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2019**

I continue to serve as Member for the County Council Division of Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley, which runs from Swanley Village to Seal Chart. I also serve as Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, overseeing the Council's work with schools, Early Years, children's social services, youth services and much else.

In terms of Highways, we have had a less severe winter than in the previous year. We have also started, earlier than in previous years, the 'Find and Fix' or 'pothole blitz' campaign. Since just before Christmas, Sevenoaks District has seen some 3,358 potholes fixed, and 75,119 square metres of road patched, both ahead of the County average. The County Council is committing significant resource to highways maintenance for the coming financial year. As before, the best way to report a pothole or other highways problem is through the reporting tool on the KCC website.

I have continued to work with the Parish Council on Highways issues. The biggest Highways development of the year was the introduction of 40mph speed limits (in place of 60mph) on The A225 Dartford Road up to the boundary with Sutton at Hone. This was linked to similar changes taking place on the Farningham side, notably on parts of the A20. While there have been a number of matters that have required further work, notably regarding all the associated signage, overall I do believe this is a positive and welcome step.

About eighteen months ago we did install bollards outside Millen Court, and we are committed to install new bollards in the Bull Hill/ The Street area. The order for this has been raised some time ago, though our contractors have something of a backlog; it should nonetheless be delivered soon.

I did also make an effort to secure measures to address problems at the junction of Horton Road, Bull Hill and The Street, including a site meeting, but there was a difference of view between Parish Councillors and the officer from Kent Highways, and so far we do not have agreement.

I have sought to address the widespread concerns over bus routes serving the village, such as the ending of the West Kent number 2 service last summer and consequent greater reliance on the Arriva 414. As a County Council, we have quite a good dialogue with Arriva. However, it remains the case that most services are run on a commercial basis; they are neither commissioned nor subsidised by KCC. (This goes even for most buses serving schools, which is inevitably a big part of my post bag). The County Council does provide subsidy for some routes, albeit only about 3% of the total, and last summer launched its 'Big Conversation' on new forms of public transport support. Options considered include feeder services from more remote areas to the main bus network; a 'bookable bus' service; and a taxi-bus service. A number of pilot schemes will run in different parts of the County from the summer; this will include a pilot taxi-bus service running in part of the Darent Valley coming through Shoreham and Otford to Sevenoaks. There is currently no pilot affecting Horton Kirby and South Darenth, but if the pilot schemes are successful, there may be more possibilities in the future.

I mentioned that I have responsibility for Education, and on 1 March we had National Offer Day for secondary school places. We have overall continued to be successful County-wide in expanding capacity in our secondary schools to meet rising roll numbers. This year, just under 80% of families secured their first choice of school, and more than 95% secured one of their four choices. However, there are signs of growing pressures in the Sevenoaks area and surrounding villages, and some children have regrettably been 'allocated' (being offered a school for which they did not express a preference) a place quite some distance away, though I have seen less evidence of it further north in the District, such as Horton Kirby and South Darenth. It is to be hoped that in many cases this will be resolved through appeals and waiting lists; National Offer Day is the start, not the conclusion of the process. Recognition of this pressure lies behind the expansion of Trinity by 2 Forms of Entry (60 places per school year)

and the likelihood that there will be expansion at Knole too. The County Council also remains committed to securing a boys' grammar annex in Sevenoaks, though this is a complex task.

Similarly, mid-April saw National Offer Day for primary school places. Here we are able to deliver a very high level of parental preference, with over 97% of families securing one of their three preferences and over 89% getting their first preference. With the overall size of the cohort steady, there are in fact a number of surplus places across the County, including in Sevenoaks. In this context, it is encouraging that the village school had a healthier position in terms of preferences and places offered than was the case last year.

The County Council set its budget this year with an increase in council tax of 5% (the 3% maximum allowed without a referendum, plus a 2% 'precept' for social care). This comes along with some £45 million in savings. Over the last seven years the County Council has already made savings of more than £600 million. Pressures remain severe because of rising demand for social services in particular (both adults and children's), coupled with reductions in central government grant. The fate of Northamptonshire County Council, which is being broken up amid financial crisis, shows what can happen – and quickly – to an upper-tier authority which loses control of its financial position. Kent happily is not in that position, but the structural pressures remain severe.

*Kent County Councillor Roger Gough*



## **District Councillor's report Cllr Philip McGarvey – for April 2019**

Before anyone else asks, no, as a District Councillor I do not get a vote on Brexit. This current mess is not of our making.

No, it is down to us at SDC to keep emptying your bins every week – and we are one of very few Councils still doing weekly collections. A challenge to that will arise if the post-Brexit roads get clogged in getting our un-recyclables over to the incineration plant at Allington. (SDC does not send anything to landfill.) But SDC has a particularly good relationship with Kent Police and other agencies, so the rubbish will still get through. To be fair, it is more about having the experience and mechanisms in place ready to respond to situations quickly, rather than to plan for every eventuality at this stage.

You may recall how HK&SD Parish used to lose out over Bank Holidays – especially when 4 times out of 7, Christmases fell on a weekend or immediately after – HKSD bin collections were mostly on Mondays and so used to get postponed for an extra week or 8 days. But because the crews at SDC have agreed to go the extra mile – and do extra collections on Fridays and work on Saturdays after a Bank Holiday – no collections should be more than 1 day or maybe 2 days later after a Bank Holiday now. I hope you have noticed the difference. I take my hat off to the lads at Dunbri – but I keep my gloves on.

You will have seen from your Council Tax bill that SDC has kept its increase to 2.97% in 2019/20 (though the printed bill has rounded that to one decimal figure, so it shows as 3.0%) – but the SDC part of your bill is less than one eighth of the total (11.6%) - the lion's share of almost two thirds (65.0%) going to KCC.

Planning Applications and Enforcement issues continue to be problematic occasionally, and only last month I got the SDC Leader to acknowledge at a Cabinet meeting that the SDC Enforcement Team and Legal Team are under-resourced, and we do need to fix that.

SDC's Local Plan did indeed open several cans of worms. The big one was a speculative proposal by developers (so don't blame SDC!) to build 2,500 homes on the golf course at Pedham Place, Farningham. But because Kent Highways and Highways England have not made their responses – which will inevitably show that the roads and general infrastructure would not support 2,500 homes there - SDC has not yet received the technical



evidence to have them reject this proposal outright, so the site is still included in the Local Plan being submitted to The Inspectorate for his approval – but only as a “broad location for growth”. In other words, they like the site, but they don’t like the proposal. (Maybe it should become a farm for solar panels!)

Because the Local Plan and the entire process remains fluid, additional planning proposals can still be submitted after the consultation closed in September 2018 – and indeed 4 have been already, but more could follow. These late additions have not enjoyed the benefit of scrutiny as did the sites in the 2018 consultation, and they will therefore be judged accordingly. Don’t forget that none of these sites are “Planning Applications”, and if the Inspectorate approves the principle(s) of the Local Plan as a package or in bits, those sites would still have to individually submit Planning Applications in the normal way.

We have been very fortunate this past year to have had Cllr Mrs Pat Bosley (West Kingsdown) as SDC Chairman, as she has really thrown herself into the charity-work side of the role, and meeting lots of organisations, groups and charities. It will be a hard act for Cllr John Edwards-Winsor (Otford) to follow!

I am pleased to report that we are back to full strength after Brian Carroll was elected to SDC in the second seat here, back in August. Unfortunately pressure of work – in fact, pressure of promotion – meant that Ingrid Chetram no longer had time to attend to council work, and I was holding the fort for a while. So she had to step down, and up popped Brian.

In conclusion, I thank our Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks for their superb contributions to the Council and to the villages again – and I wish any of them stepping down in May a happy retirement - and my thanks for their support and patience with me. And I thank our supportive residents too.

*Cllr Philip McGarvey 4/19*



# Certificates presented to Volunteers

Special thanks go to local volunteers who attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May to collect their Certificates of Appreciation. Local Volunteering Heroes included this year:

Tracy Burch (100 year wood and river days), Jayne Harrison (river days), Mia Dare (river days) , Ken Hattley, John Woodhead , Janet Fitzpatrick (all for caring for the river in their area and river days), , Donna Holpin (for over 6 months support to Ray) , Louise Potter, Jacob Hare, Lynn Hill (all for attending bulb planting events). They have all gone the extra mile in helping our local environment or others in need. A really big 'thank you' to every one of you.

Ashley Dring collected his 'Individual Community Champion' Making it Happen Award from Sevenoaks District

Council - the Parish Council had nominated him for all the volunteering he has done over the years • Firefighting at Horton Kirby Fire station • Scouts events • Lions Santa sleigh run, • Community firework events • Beacon Lighting last year for the Battle is Over celebration. The Chairman said 'You have been a steadfast helper over many years. We wanted to let you know how much all your hard work is appreciated.



## **Report from the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee**

Plans are underway now to install toilet facilities at Heathside after the costs and company were agreed at the last Parish meeting. We hope that these will be installed in time for the summer holidays.

I am pleased to confirm that we were successful with our funding application for a drinking fountain from the Metropolitan Drinking and Cattle Trough Association, this has already been purchased on our behalf and will be installed at Heathside at the same time as the toilet installation. We have now signed the documents that will complete the transfer of land from Sevenoaks District Council to the Parish Council in respect of the amenity land at Montgomery Road, Shrubbery Road, East Hill, Glebe Place and Saxon Place. Shrubbery Road was recently submitted on the “call for sites”, so the transfer will safeguard the future for these areas. We will be consulting with neighbours on how best to manage and look after these areas.

Finally, all of our allotment plots have now been filled, so if you would like to be placed on the waiting list, then please contact the Parish Office via the website <http://www.hksdparishcouncil.co.uk>

**James Stewart – ROS Chairman**

## **NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALLS**

Since the last newsletter there have been several maintenance projects completed in the Village Hall. The kitchen has been refurbished – the old floor covering that had become warped by water damage has been replaced, the cupboards have been painted inside and out and new handles have been fitted to both the cupboards and the drawers. The cooker was deep cleaned in April and the tables were thoroughly cleaned. The new crockery and teapots have arrived and the damaged chairs have been replaced. During the February half-term the toilets were refurbished and over the Easter holiday the stage curtains were steam cleaned and the back of the stage repainted black (thanks to the Valley Players for paying for the paint). In March the minor repairs to the Jubilee Hall patio and garden area were completed as were the small plumbing jobs in the Jubilee Hall kitchen and toilets in May. The hanging baskets outside the Village Hall will be replanted with summer bedding in June.

Both halls continue to be popular venues for events and two new regular hirers started in April.

**Terry Moyle - Halls Chairman**

## SOUTH DARENTH FOOTBALL CLUB



Upcoming tournament. There is a youth football tournament at South Darenth Heathside on Saturday 13th July. Please come along and support our local kids

Refreshments available all day

We are looking for year 3 boys/girls to strengthen our squad please call Rod on 07969125128

Many thanks Mick Burroughs SDFC



We will be creating and maintaining scalloped areas in the wood to encourage the colonisation of ground plants and wildflowers to increase biodiversity. This task will be taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and we welcome anyone who would like to join our NWKCP volunteers for the day. If anyone would like to find out more please email Steph at [Stephanie.Johnson@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Johnson@kent.gov.uk)

# Darent Valley Lions

# Grand Fete

**SATURDAY  
6TH JULY 2019**

**HEATHSIDE  
SOUTH DARENTH  
DA4 9AX  
12 NOON ~ 4.30PM**

***100 Classic Vehicles***

**Beer Tent   Reptiles   Kango Jumps**

**Dippy Duck Puppets**

**Phase 5 Steel Band**

**Xtreme Falconry Birds of Prey**

**Teas   Face Painting   Pick-a-Pot**

**Tombola   Raffles   Craft Stalls**

**Dog Show**

**Assault Course & Giant Slide**

**Round-a-Bout   BBQ   Bottle Stall**

**Children's Games   Archery**

**Entry £3 - Children £1**

**Contact - Barbara Bradley 01322 862005**

# **Free Family Picnic and Inflatable Fun Day**

**SUNDAY 1st September 2019  
Westminster Field  
Gate opens at 1pm**

**Free event hosted by the Horton Kirby  
and South Darenth Parish Council**

**Bring the whole family to Westminster  
Field to finish the summer in style**

**There will be refreshments to buy  
including a bar and BBQ**

**'Children only' and separate 'Adult only'  
inflatable fun area!**



# Report from Darent River Preservation Society



**Malcolm Dunn – DRIPS**

## **Major homes plan could put Darent under pressure**

Plans to build thousands more homes in and around North West Kent could pose a threat to the River Darent and its catchment.

A new 2,500 – home town is among the 79 possible sites put forward under the Sevenoaks Local Plan.

Residents in Hartley and its surroundings are extremely concerned and have voiced their opposition to the plans which would seriously affect them. Much of the area is narrow country roads as you know.

Reports indicate that the Government wants the Sevenoaks Region to build up to 13,900 homes in total over the next 20 years.

DRiPS has pledged to monitor developments in order to help minimise any possible impact on the river and its ecology.

### **Aquifers**

“That equals an extra 5,225,000 litres of water required every day”, says Stuart Merrylees chairman of DRiPS. “Over 5 million - an enormous amount”.

“If that amount was withdrawn from our aquifers without regard for the consequences, then before long there will be no River Darent, or River Cray either”.

Stuart continues. “Government, Ofwat and Thames Water have to provide us with solutions – For example, more reservoirs – or our environment will change for ever”.

The Darent River Preservation Society is now working closely with the South East River Trust, Environment Agency, North West Kent Countryside Partnership, local Angling Clubs and Thames Water.

Together we will continue to take a keen interest in any emerging plans or proposals.

Malcolm Dunn

Darent River Preservation Society





We would like to share with everyone in the village the results of our recent Parent and Children surveys. You will see by the results below that we are still a good school and the parents and children back this up with these results. There are, of course, always things that we will still look to improve and develop within school. In the full survey report we answer all of the queries/questions raised by parents and also look to the future and how we hope to develop further still. School is a partnership between parents, all staff at the school and the community and we look forwards in working with you all to continue to make our school a great place to be!

If you would like a copy of the full survey report please stop by the school and one will be made available for you.

### **Parent Survey**

		Total % in Agreement
1	My child is happy at this school.	97%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	100%
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	99% rising to 100% with 'don't knows'
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	100%
5	My child is well taught at this school.	100%
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	75%
7	This school makes sure the pupils are well behaved	88% rising to 95% with 'don't knows'

8	The school deals effectively with bullying.	72% rising to 97% with 'don't knows'
9	This school is well led and managed.	95%
10	The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	92.5% rising to 98.5% with 'don't knows'
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	91%
12	My child can tell me about the challenges they get in their learning.	95%
13	The school promotes equality and celebrates diversity.	92%
14	I would recommend this school to another parent.	100% inc. 'don't knows' (4%)

- 100% of children feel happy at this school either sometimes or all of the time.
- 100% of children feel safe at this school either sometimes or all of the time.
- 99% have good friends at this school.
- 99% believe other children behave well in their class and school.
- 99% feel that their teacher's give them work that challenges them.
- 100% feel that they are making progress at this school.
- 98% feel that the teachers are fair at this school.
- 98% feel that the teachers help them do their best.
- 98% feel that the teachers make sure they understand things.
- 98% feel lessons are interesting and fun.
- 98% feel they are trusted to do things on their own.
- 98% feel they learn a lot in lessons.
- 92% enjoy playtimes and lunchtimes.
- 92% enjoy the clubs run in the school.
- 92% feel that any bullying issues are dealt with well and that there are people to talk to if they are worried.

As you can see the children are very positive about their school, what we do and how we support them.

Thank you all for helping to make our school the **fantastic school** that it is! If we continue to work together we will continue going from strength to strength!

The Horton Kirby CE Primary Team

## **Horton Kirby Cricket Club**

For more information, please contact our club secretary, Graham Bull, on 07803 806726.

To keep up to date with events at our club, follow us on Twitter @hortonkirbycc or on Facebook 'Horton Kirby'. All of our fixtures for each of our teams this year will be published on [www.hortonkirby.play-cricket.com](http://www.hortonkirby.play-cricket.com).



We look forward to seeing you at the club to enjoy a drink from the bar, whilst watching the cricket in the summer sun!

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## **HASARA**

**(Hawley & Sutton Active Retirement Association)**

Are you over 55, would you like to meet new friends, take part in new activities? HASARA your local active retirement association now has a few vacancies. We meet on the second Thursday every month in Sutton at Hone. We do the following activities: Short Mat Bowls, Petanque, Games, Arts & Crafts, Keep Fit, Drama, Walks, Lunches, Outings, Badminton and Theatre Trips.

**For more information please contact  
Jim 01322 221736 or Carol 01322 864791**

## **St Mary the Virgin, Horton Kirby DA4 9BN**



**Vicar: Revd. Emma Young 01322 227153**  
**revd.emma.young@hotmail.co.uk**

**Churchwarden: Anne Williams 01322 862551**

St Mary's, Horton Kirby (DA4 9BN) is part of the Darent Valley Benefice: three church buildings but one church family and one vicar. The other churches in the benefice are St Margaret's Darenth, on Darenth Hill (DA2 7QY) and St John's, Sutton-at-Hone, on Church Road (DA4 9EX). All are welcome at our services, which take place across our three church buildings. We would like to invite you especially to the following events this summer:

### **Dates for your diary:**

Saturday 22nd June 2pm St Mary's Summer Fete Court Lodge, Horton Kirby

Saturday 13th July 2pm Messy Church Sutton Court, Sutton at Hone

Saturday 14th Sept 2pm Messy Church Sutton Court, Sutton at Hone

Saturday 14th Sept 10am-6pm 'Ride and Stride' sponsored bike ride and walk in aid of the Friends of Kent Churches. Why not join in and raise funds for churches in Kent including St Mary's

Saturday 21st Sept 2.30pm Farningham Old Boys' service this annual service will take place at 2.30 pm followed by tea at Southdowns. All are welcome to attend

Sunday 10th November 10.30am Remembrance Sunday

# **St Mary the Virgin Horton Kirby**



## **Sunday Services**

Sunday services across the Darent Valley Benefice follow the pattern:

1st Sunday of the month St Mary's 10.00am Family Communion

2nd Sunday of the month St Margaret's 10.00am Family Communion

3rd Sunday of the month St John's 10.00am Family Communion

4th Sunday of the month venue rotates 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP 1662) 10.00am Family Praise

5th Sunday of the month venue rotates 10.00am Café Communion\*

The venues for 4th and 5th Sundays will be advertised on our website [www.darentvalleybenefice.org.uk](http://www.darentvalleybenefice.org.uk) and on our Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/darentvalleybenefice](http://www.facebook.com/darentvalleybenefice) as well as on a notice near the main gate of all three churches.

There are sometimes variations in the regular pattern of venues and services due to seasonal celebrations or maintenance work on church buildings, so it is always a good idea to check before setting off, especially if you are an infrequent worshipper.

\*Café Communion is a Communion service especially designed to be easy to come to if you are new to church, or are bringing children along.

## **St Mary the Virgin Horton Kirby**



### **Messy Church: creativity, story-telling and worship for all ages**

We meet on the second Saturday in the month at Sutton Court, Main Road, Sutton-at-Hone from 2pm to 4pm (except August). All are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. We learn together about God by being creative, spending time together, hearing stories and sharing food together. The charge per child is £2.00 which includes a light tea. For further information please find us at [www.facebook.com/MessyChurchMJM](https://www.facebook.com/MessyChurchMJM) or contact the vicar.

### **St Mary's cream teas**

Cream teas will once again be served in church on Sunday afternoons throughout July and August, from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm in St Mary's. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of St Mary's.

### **Tea or coffee, cake and a chat**

St Mary's is open on Tuesday afternoon in term time offering you tea, coffee, cake and somewhere to chat together with friends or come to relax in the church's beautiful space. The church is open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. There is no charge but you can put a donation in the green jar if you wish which will go towards the upkeep of the church.

### **Christenings/Baptisms**

To talk about a christening/baptism please come along to a Sunday morning service and make yourself known to the vicar over coffee after the service.

### **Weddings**

To make enquiries about a wedding in any church of the benefice, please contact the vicar (details above)

## St Mary the Virgin Horton Kirby



### Churchyard

We all value our beautiful villages and St Mary's Parochial Church Council members are keeping a close eye on the churchyard. Periodically dead flowers or plants may be removed in order to keep our churchyard looking at its best. If you wish to find out more about the Diocese of Rochester Churchyard Regulations details can be found here:

<http://www.rochester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1428486156.pdf>

**For information:** St Mary's has plans of the Gardens of Remembrance and the old churchyard. Many local people and people from across the world visit us each year to find out more about their family's history or to have a loved one laid to rest in the churchyard. If the grave is in the new churchyard close to the school then the Parish Council Office will be able to identify where the grave is.

### Your support of St Mary's

Thank you to all those who supported or participated in the worship, talks, teas and concerts. Your support helps to keep the church open and to keep the church building in a state of good repair.

**Would you like to make a regular offering in support of the church?** If you would like to make a regular weekly/monthly donation towards the upkeep of the church please contact the churchwarden for information on how to do this. If you have any ideas for regular fundraising or are part of a group which might like to use the church in return for a regular donation please contact the churchwarden to discuss your ideas in the first instance.

You can help raise funds for 'St Mary's Church Fabric Appeal' by visiting: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarysfabric/> and registering through the "Donation Reminder". Click on the logo on your toolbar every time you shop on the internet and give to St Mary's without spending a penny more!

**Vicar: Revd. Emma Young 01322 227153**

[revd.emma.young@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revd.emma.young@hotmail.co.uk)

**Churchwarden: Anne Williams 01322 862551**



The Valley Players was started in 1949 but the origins are rather lost in the mists of time. As far as we know they were based at the old Sutton-at-Hone Village Hall and when that hall was rebuilt in 1978, Valley Players made a donation of £50. From 1949 to 1951 a series of one act plays were presented although we have no record of which plays these were, but we know that in 1952 “Easy Money” was the first multi-act play performed. That year there was just the one play but commencing in 1953 most years saw a Spring and an Autumn production. During May 1979 rehearsals were at the Fleetdown Community Centre, presumably while the rebuilding was going on. Around 1980, because there was no stage at Sutton-at-Hone Village Hall, Valley Players moved to Horton Kirby & South Darenth Village Hall. An item in the accounts for that year was £3 for the hire of a lorry, possibly to transport the props to the new hall. Between November 1977 and March 1987 Sutton Court was used for rehearsals for reasons of cost.

The group always donated money to the Cancer Research Campaign and raised many thousands of pounds over the years, receiving certificates of thanks from the local representative of the charity.

Around 1996 Valley Players joined forces with the Women’s Institute who produced the Village Pantomime each year and we have gradually taken over this production on behalf of the WI. In fact, since 2015 this has been our only annual production due to a reduction in the number of members and rising costs of producing plays but we hope to revive the production of plays in the near future. We are a friendly group (yes, I know, they ALL say that but we really are) and it really is fun to do. You don’t have to “tread the boards” if you don’t want to. There is always room for back stage folks, making props and scenery, making teas on performance nights, prompting during performances, and we usually find time for a relaxing drink at a local hostelry afterwards, not to mention a meal out a couple of times a year.

We generally meet on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at 8pm from September onwards at the Jubilee Hall or Village Hall, so if you fancy yourself as a thespian, do get in touch with the Parish Office to check when we are next meeting.





At 1st Horton Kirby Scout Group we were very proud to see not one but seven Scouts awarded their highest achievement award of the section, their Chief Scout Gold Award. These badges take a lot of commitment, team work and enthusiasm to achieve. The Scouts must obtain nine challenge badges all of which take a number of weeks and involve many tasks or activities to complete for each one. One includes an expedition camp which is organised and carried out with the very minimum of adult supervision, a big achievement in itself. These seven Scouts have all worked so hard over the past three and a half years and have developed into an excellent team of Scouts. A very well done to Adam Hoare, Archie Steer, Corona Grant, Jack Hinchey, Katie Tremain, Lucas Savill and Riley Harman, who will all now be moving on to our Explorer Scout section for more challenges and adventures, and of course, fun!

# **Horton Kirby & South Darenth WI**

The WI for the two villages meets at the Village Hall on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm. We are a lively and varied group of ladies with many interests. There is the opportunity of to attend two “try it” meetings before you join and the annual subscription of £42.00 is pro rata for those joining later in the year.

Coming up we have meetings on;

June – Amazing Places on your doorstep – Christophe Bull

July – Owletts NT -Camilla Baker

August – An Evening of Songs & Laughter – Carol Ann Wells

September – A Craft evening – Committee organised

October – RNLI – Ian Smith

November – 4 puddings without a cooker with a Christmas Twist –  
Julia Davies

December – Christmas Buffet, Quizzes & Games - Committee

In addition to the monthly meetings we have two book groups (one afternoon and one evening), a walking group, a craft group, a knit and natter group, coffee mornings, lunches, holidays and outings (mystery trip in July, visit to Stone House in Lewisham in October and Christmas market trip in November). There is the opportunity to go to events organised by the Swanley Group of WI's (Tea parties, Speakers, Walks, Beetle Drive, Treasure Hunt, Bat & Trap, Darts, etc) as well as Federation Events in Kent ( Walking Netball, Enamelling Workshop, Visit to Brogdale, Water Colour Workshop, Paper Bead Workshop and many more!). Most of our ladies car share so there is no need to worry if you do not drive.

We are a noisy, friendly bunch and new members and ideas are always welcome. We try to have a broad selection to hopefully appeal to all, why not come along and give us a try any lady 18 or over is most welcome.

Contact Pauline Rowley on 07771 598968 or  
email [HortonKirbySouthDarenth@wkfwi.org.uk](mailto:HortonKirbySouthDarenth@wkfwi.org.uk) for more details

# **Villagers' Gardening Club**

## ***Programme 2019***

15 <sup>th</sup> July	Sue Shaw - Jungle Trails
19th August	Members Garden – Forge House – 6pm
8th September	Outing - Wisley
16th September	Melanie Gibson-Barton – Morris Dancers
21st October	Jim Buttress – Royal Parks
18th November	Chris Stewart – The Earthworm
16th December - Social	Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall 8pm	

### ***New Members & Visitors Always Welcome***

Do you have a garden, large or small?  
A patio with a pot or two? A window box?  
Would you enjoy listening to interesting speakers  
on a wide range of garden-related topics?  
Taking part in “growing” competitions  
Visiting local nurseries and members' gardens?

### ***We have a full programme of Lectures, Visits and Social Events***

Annual Subscription £25 per Calendar Year  
£12.50 per 6 months July - December  
Visitors £3.50 per visit

*For further details contact Peter Bradley on 01322 862005*



## **The Southern Golden Retriever Society**

held its Annual Fun Day at Horton Kirby and South Darenth Village Hall and Heathside Field on Sunday 26th May. This is second year that this event has been held at this venue and once again we had a record year!

Last year the Society raised £2450 – and this year that increased to an amazing

£3236. A further £600 was also taken on stalls run by the charities we were supporting, Medical Detection Dogs and Southern Golden Retriever Rescue.

The number of people attending was visibly higher and there were Golden Retrievers everywhere with friends from other breeds! What was lovely to see was that despite the number of dogs in the area there was hardly any barking and no scuffles!! A sign of contented happy dogs!

And they did have a lot of fun. The 'Have a Go' activities were on the go all day, and the Fun Classes were well supported, especially the new ones we introduced for breeds other than Goldens. Once again many local residents attended and my thanks to them for their support on the day.

As last year, one of the star stalls was the one selling plants. A very big thank you goes to local resident Pat Ashley and her friends from the Southdown Retirement Village and HASARA, the Active Retirement Club. Between them they must have commandeered every greenhouse in the area to produce so many plants for sale on the day! They raised over £500 which, I hope, made all their efforts seem worthwhile.

Southern Golden Retriever Rescue put on their Parade of Rescue Dogs which always brings a tear to the eye when you hear their stories of how they finally reached a loving home. And the displays on the Rescue Stalls clearly put over the hard work and dedication of the Rescue Team in rescuing and rehoming Golden Retrievers.

After the Rescue Parade, the SGRS Display Team took to the ring. Most of the sixteen handlers were involved with activities around the field right up to the last moment and, having gathered their dogs and had a two minute warm up, they and their dogs put on a paw perfect display!! The finale of the day was the four heats and Final of the Golden Steeplechase. There was plenty of excitement as jockeys Winnie, Piglet, Eeyore and Tigger rode their Golden charges to the line. In the Final, Cider, the winner for the past two years, was finally beaten by a

whisker by our new Champion, Pippa – who will no doubt return to go for the ‘Double’ next year.

Once again our thanks go to the Horton Kirby Bowls Club members for allowing us to use most of their car parking area for our visitors.

Without this space there just would not be enough in the area to get our visitors onto Heathside so easily.

And finally, a big thank you to Heather and Lisa, the Horton Kirby Village Hall staff, who were very helpful in ensuring that the use of the Jubilee and Village Halls met our requirements. It certainly did and we hope everything falls into place again to allow us to come back again in 2020.

**David Wimsett**

**SGRS Fun Day Organiser**



## **PILATES CLASSES**

**Jubilee Hall – South Darenth**

**Fridays – 9:30am**

**Pilates helps to improve flexibility, strength, posture, and core stability. The classes are suitable for women and men and beginners are welcome**

**For more information or to book at place:**

**Sue McClinton – Level 3 Matwork Pilates Instructor  
07505 364161 | [smeclinton66@gmail.com](mailto:smeclinton66@gmail.com)**



If you are recently retired or need some gentle exercise why not give short mat bowling a try. Join us at South Darenth Short Mat Bowling Club, Village Hall, Horton Road, South Darenth, on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 1.45-4.00pm.



We are always looking for new members. For the first two sessions you are invited to try your hand free of charge and also enjoy a cup of tea and a friendly chat.

Just drop in at the village hall on a Wednesday afternoon (1.45-4pm). Bowls are available but you will need *soft shoes with no heels or patterned tread*.

**For further information contact:**

**Mel Simmons on  
01322 865409**

# HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



**Further information from Terry Moyle (Chairman)**  
**07939581572 or [terrymoyle74@gmail.com](mailto:terrymoyle74@gmail.com) (New email address)**

The Local History Society's project this year is to produce a book in conjunction with the Parish Council to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the council. This book will be a supplement to the publication that came out 25 years ago celebrating the Centenary of the Parish Council. The idea is to have a book of photographs with memories – photographs showing “Then” and “Now”. The project is being co-ordinated by John Woodhead who would be grateful to receive both photographs and memories. The work is already under-way and publication is expected later this year (hopefully, November/early December)

- Meetings held in the Jubilee Hall, Horton Road starting at 8pm
- All visitors welcome (£2 admission)
- Annual membership - £7 (individual) or £10 for a couple
- Refreshments served after the meeting (tea/coffee/biscuits)
- Raffle at each meeting – 4/5 prizes

Publications available from the Parish Office and Sutton at Hone Library

Sinking the Link (South Darenth's fight against the Tunnel Rail Link)	£5
Images of Horton Kirby Paper Mills	£5
Memories of Horton Kirby Schools	£2
Farningham Road Station	£5
Never Such Innocence (Sutton at Hone and Hawley in the Great War)	£4
Our Peace was won by the Men Who Fell (Horton Kirby & South Darenth in the Great War)	Members £5 Non-members £6
Walking Tour of Horton Kirby & South Darenth	£1

## 2019 Speakers

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
8 July	Wilf Lower	Lost Empires – the last days of Music Hall
9 Sept	Members evening	To be arranged
11 Nov	AGM and short walk	Wine and Cheese party

## 2020 Speakers

13 Jan	Steve Hookins	Doing Our Bit (Second World War)
9 March	Christoph Bull	Dartford Rural Rides
18 May	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Murder, Madness, Mayhem – The Belgian Royal Family
13 July	Keith Whitworth	Up the Junction (Old Swanley) part 2
14 Sept	Ann Knief	Leeds Castle
9 Nov	AGM	

# Flying the flag for the community

Celebrations were in full swing at The Bull Horton Kirby where landlord and landlady Danny and Katy Goldsbrough presented Revd. Emma Young with the new St George's Diocese flag which will be proudly flown at St Mary's church Horton Kirby.

The continued maintenance and upkeep of our much loved local



church takes a lot of hard work, dedication and funds. With many churches' relying on grants, donations and legacy gifting to maintain their upkeep. So when the flag at St Mary's needed replacing, it was yet another cost to add to the growing

maintenance list. However, The Bull pub in Horton Kirby made it their mission to help raise the funds, following conversations with St Mary's resident bell ringers, who meet in The Bull every Thursday evening after practice for a quick tipple. The Bull pub raised over £500 which covered the cost of the flag along with all the fixtures and fittings.

The new flag was presented to Revd. Emma Young alongside the resident bell ringers, with all the locals congratulating The Bull's fantastic fundraising achievements.





# **HORTON KIRBY BOWLS CLUB**



## **OUR NEW SEASON STARTS IN APRIL 2019**

We welcome both new and experienced Bowlers to one of the most successful Bowling Clubs in Kent. All types of membership are available and tuition is provided free of charge to new bowlers both male and female.

The environment we provide is ideal for those who wish to play the game competitively or as a very pleasant pastime.

We have several Club matches each week against other Clubs for both men and women and have internal competitions as well.

There is a lot going on for bowlers of all ages and standard. Young bowlers are very welcome. If you are interested in finding out about joining, please contact us by telephone, email or by visiting the Club when it opens.

Bowls is not only a sport, you can have a varied and active social life at the Club. It is the ideal sport for meeting new people, socialising and meeting new challenges head on.

In the first instance, please call 01322 866031 or email: [hkbccenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:hkbccenquiries@gmail.com). Alternatively, please call in when we re-open.





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*making friends, helping people*

## **Thursday Friends**

British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth, DA4 9AB

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month – 8pm

We are a friendly group that enjoys chat, games, talks, quizzes, music evenings and outings and would love you to come and join us

No need to book, but if we know you are coming we can look out for and welcome you

Cost: £2 including refreshments, Oddfellows members free

For further information please contact Jane 01322 663706  
[jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk)

In South Darenth and beyond the Oddfellows help our members get more enjoyment out of life, see our website for full details [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)



At Baby Sensory, you and your baby will experience a wonderful variety of magical sensory activities every week. Each one has been lovingly created to support your baby's sensory development from birth through their first year of life. You are welcome to join our classes at any time, even mid-term.

You can expect everything from gentle baby massage, amazing light shows and Baby Signing, right through to parachutes, bubbles, water play and even baby Olympics, trips in to the Jungle and beach parties with many more adventures to discover. Every class leader is a trained specialist in Baby Development, and will pass gems of developmental information on to you each week about why each activity is so brilliant for your baby's development. We also share lots of ideas and fun to try at home too!

You can get lots more information on our classes, or book and pay for sessions online at <https://www.babysensory.com/dartford-gravesend/>

Classes cost £41 for a 6 week term. Please pre-book your space.

Classes run in the South Darenth Jubilee Hall every Wednesday at:

10am for babies from 6 to 13 months

11.10am for babies from birth to 6 months

12.30pm for babies from 2 to 13 months

Take a look at our classes by searching for Baby Sensory North West Kent on facebook or clicking this link: <https://www.facebook.com/BabySensoryGravesend/>

For more info on classes please drop us a line at [nwKent@babysensory.co.uk](mailto:nwKent@babysensory.co.uk)

# YOGA CLASS



**A Revitalising & Relaxing Yoga Class  
Jubilee Hall, Horton Road  
South Darenth, Kent  
DA4 9AX**

**Tuesday 10.30am – 11.45am  
Drop in class - pay as you go - £6 per class  
Bring a blanket for the relaxation you can borrow a mat  
until you get one of your own.**

**Contact details:  
northkentyoga@gmail.com  
www.redbridgeyoga.co.uk**

# FALCONS TABLE TENNIS CLUB



**We are looking for players of all abilities to join the club for league table tennis matches.**

***Why not come along and give it a try?***

Some of the many benefits of table tennis:

- Improve hand-eye coordination
- Improve reflexes
- Burn calories
- Improve balance
- Stimulate your brain and keep your brain sharp
- Exercise that is easy on the joints
- Develop mental acuity
- Offers a social outlet: meals, drinks & outings
- Cardiovascular workouts

*When:*

**Wednesday evenings,  
match night**

*Where:*

**The Village Hall, Horton Kirby**

*Contact by email:*

**Chris Mitchell  
cdm359@btinternet.com**

**Mike Tyler  
ticat Tyler@btinternet.com**

# On Your Feet

Medical Pedicure Service

Transform your feet from Woe To Wow!

You won't believe the results from just  
one treatment



Treats all common foot concerns like:

Rough skin • Fungal nail infections •  
Cracked heels • Hard skin • Athlete's foot

Non invasive treatment suitable  
for all feet even diabetics

**Julia Hopwood - BABTAC**

**For appointments please call 07815961911**



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# Recent Planning Decisions

SE/19/00124/HOUSE 16 New Road, S Darenth	Single storey rear extension with skylight	GRANTED
SE/19/00474/FUL Holmesdale Works Holmesdale Road South Darenth DA4 9JP	Demolition of existing light industrial premises and construction of seven dwellings comprising of 5 no. three bedroom houses plus 2 no. two bedroom houses with associated access and parking	AWAITING DECISION
SE/19/00604/HOUSE 21 Churchill Road, HK	First floor side/rear/front extensions and garage conversion	GRANTED
SE/19/00887/FUL Land South East of 104 East Hill, South Darenth	Demolition of existing garage and the erection of a proposed new 4 bedroom chalet bungalow with off street parking	AWAITING DECISION
SE/19/00883/HOUSE 12 Rashleigh Way Horton Kirby DA4 9DJ	Demolition of existing garage and porch. Erection of a single storey side extension and internal alterations, new porch and crossover	AWAITING DECISION
SE/19/11961/LDCEX 1-3 The Black Barn Gills Road South Darenth DA4 9LE	To establish it was lawful not to comply with condition 1 (notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987) no unit shall be occupied by the same person for a period longer than 6 weeks. The same person shall occupy no unit within a period of three months of vacating the accommodation of 08/02858/FUL	AWAITING DECISION
SE/19/01049/FUL Franks Hall, Franks Lane Horton Kirby DA4 9JJ	Proposed restoration and conversion of the Gallery to create a new dwelling. Erection of a single storey extension	AWAITING DECISION
SE/18/03708/FUL Former South Darenth Fire Station, New Road, South Darenth DA4 9AT	Redevelopment of the former Horton Kirby Fire Station to construct a three storey building to accommodate 5 x one bed apartments and 4 x two bed apartments, with ancillary access and bin storage	REFUSED
SE/19/00156/LBCALT Stable Cottage, Eglantine Farm, DA4 9JL	External and internal works carried out to property 1996/7	GRANTED
SE/19/00408/PAC Land NW of Canada Farm Road, South Darenth	Prior notification for a change of use from agricultural use to dwelling house and associated operational development. This application is made under Class Q of Town and Country Planning Order 2015	REFUSED
SE/19/00208/FUL Hobbs Pharmacy Holmesdale Road South Darenth	Shop front and shutter	GRANTED

# Parish Council Information

Parish Council Meetings held on the first Monday of every month in the Village Hall

## **Parish Councillors**

Chair: Ian Blackamore - 01322 864024

Vice Chair: Peter Rushbrook – [cllrprcr@hotmail.com](mailto:cllrprcr@hotmail.com)

Roger House - 01322 862724

Dawn Mitchell - 07910 312710

Terry Moyle - 07939 581572

Christine Page - 01322 864776

Mike Stead – 07985 938323

James Stewart – 07805 063821

Tristan Ward – [tristanward@btinternet.com](mailto:tristanward@btinternet.com)

## **District Councillors**

Philip McGarvey

Tel: 07803 121830

Email: [cllr.mcgarvey@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mcgarvey@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Brian Carroll

Tel: 07968391247

Email: [cllr.carroll@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carroll@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

## **County Councillor**

Roger Gough

Tel: 01959 525109

Email: [roger.gough@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.gough@kent.gov.uk)

## **Member of Parliament**

Michael Fallon

Tel: 0207 219 6482

Email: [michael.fallon.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michael.fallon.mp@parliament.uk)