info@hextableparishcouncil.com 01322 668530

HEXTABLE PARISH COUNCIL
HPC
2008

NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2020



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Memorial Garden

Hextable has a sad history of sacrifice and loss during world wars...



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Hextable Park

You may have noticed the works going on with hextable park...



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Motor Show & Fun Day

Amazing attractions, and spectacular motors. 18th July, be there!



From the Chairman

Dear Residents,

Well, Christmas is but a memory, but it'll soon be Easter and the start of the better weather. We've all had to deal with some awful weather this winter, which resulted in one of the trees at St Peter's falling across Main Road! Well done to everyone who helped clear it away so quickly.

A number of councillors attended the recent ATC inspection and awards ceremony. It is always great to see the cadets recognised and awarded for all their achievements in the year. They should all be very proud.

Councillors have also attended a number of meetings regarding plans for a brand new leisure centre on the White Oak site. Although the parish council welcomes the regeneration of this aging facility, we are concerned that the proposals provide less space for some of the dry side facilities than they do now. Cllr Hudson has provided an update on this.

Work is underway to make improvements in Hextable Park. We are investing in the park to bring more opportunities make the site beneficial for the entire community to use. Read our update from Cllr Proudlove, and we look forward to your views on some of the improvements we have.

We are planning hard for the inaugural Hextable Motor Show and Family Fun Day in July, which we're all really excited about.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the tragedy that took place when a V2 rocket hit properties in Main Road during World War 2, resulting in ten residents losing their lives. We will be marking the anniversary by unveiling a blue plaque provided by Hextable Heritage Society on the site. We will also be dedicating a new area in the village, which will become a Memorial Garden. The unveiling and dedication ceremony will take place on 14th March, and all residents are invited to attend. For more details about the events being remembered, please see the article by Cllr Gaskin.

Our annual parish meeting will take place on Monday 27th April in the village hall, and we're looking forward to hearing about what some of our local groups have been doing over the past year. The meeting is open to all residents, and it is also your opportunity to ask questions on the work of the council. We look forward to seeing you there.

Darren Kitchener - Chairman

Talk to Darren

Tel: 01322 615847 or 07496 818558
chairman@hextableparishcouncil.com





Timber!

Storm Ciara, causes a tree to fall into the main road.

The Parish Council would like to thank the village residents who sprang into action when a large tree in front of St Peter's came down during Storm Ciara, blocking Main Road.

They were able to chop the tree up with chainsaws and move it out of the road, before the Council's groundsmen, together with some volunteers, cut it up further and cleared the footpath, which is actually the responsibility of Kent County Council. St Peter's will be finishing off the clear-up.



A great example of community spirit!



Drains

The recent storms mean that the drains have been severely tested, and we won't have seen the end of the rain yet! Please keep an eye on the drains near your property to make sure that they are clear, so that they work as well as possible if we have heavy rain.

If you notice any problems, please contact Kent County Council:
Telephone during working hours **03000 418181**
Telephone out of hours (emergency only) **03000 419191**
Online: **www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem**

Spotlight On

In each edition of the newsletter, we hope to showcase different groups or organisations within the village, for both children and adults, to highlight the diverse activities available to residents.

Hi Beckie! What is your organization called? *The People's Dance Company*

What is it all about and who is it for?
We offer various classes and services, but I'd like to focus on 'Fitness with Friends', which are our very popular dance-based fitness classes aimed at the mature and retired. Hextable has its very own class where our local and talented Amanda Hemmings provides a 45 minute fun-filled session followed by time for a nice hot cuppa and a chat.

Why should people come?
We welcome ladies and gentlemen of all ages and abilities as Amanda can tailor the class to individual needs, but we suggest the class is most suited to those aged 50+. Don't be put off by that very youthful number though; rest assured, we have keen movers well into their 90s across our many classes! 'Fitness with Friends' enables those attending to maintain and improve mobility along with encouraging the release of feel good endorphins for a healthy and happy life. It's a great way to make new friends too!

When and Where?
'Fitness with Friends' meets in St Peter's Church Hall every Thursday from 10:30am-12:00pm

Visit our Website:
www.thepeoplesdancecompany.co.uk for full details. We are also on Facebook and Instagram!

Hi Mel! What is your organisation called? *4th Bromley Boys & 1st Hextable Girls Brigades*

What is it all about, and who is it for?
We run uniformed youth groups for children aged 4-18 years old, using a structured program of activities led by trained voluntary leaders.

Why should people come?
The Brigades provide a caring and safe place for children and gives them a chance to make new friends, develop their skills, achieve personal goals and take part in lots of exciting activities including indoor and outdoor camps. There are lots of opportunities to enjoy games, crafts, try new challenges, work on gaining badges and even to go on holiday.
This year we are celebrating 50 years of Boys Brigade and 40 years of Girls Brigade, which is a great achievement of which we are very proud.

When and where?
Both companies meet at Hextable Methodist Church, Main Road, Hextable.

Girls Brigades meet on a Monday evening; for more details contact Louise Sewell: 1stHextableGirlsBrigade@gmail.com

Boys Brigade meet on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings; for more details contact Ian Packham:
hextableboysbrigade@gmail.com

HEXTABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Localism Act (2011) allows local communities to influence the future development of their areas, by producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Provided that the Neighbourhood Plan is in line with national and local planning policy, Hextable residents will have the opportunity to vote on it in a referendum. As long as the Plan is approved by a majority of those who vote, it will be brought into force by Sevenoaks District Council. This means that the views of the village residents will be taken into account by planning officers when assessing planning applications.

A lot of work has already been done on the Plan, but there is still a long way to go to get it adopted by Sevenoaks District Council. This is where you come in!

The Hextable Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee is made up of a number of residents, including two parish councillors, and is producing the Plan on behalf of Hextable Parish Council. We are looking for up to five new members to join us. If you live or work in Hextable, have the interests of the entire Hextable community at heart, and are willing to donate time and effort to the project, we'd like to hear from you. Please write to the Parish Clerk info@hextableparishcouncil.com before 31st March to register your interest, briefly outlining why you would like to be involved, and what you believe you can bring to the group.

If you have expertise in sectors such as housing, education, health or transport, we would love you to get involved, but welcome anyone willing to help.



HEXTABLE MEMORIAL GARDEN



Hextable has a sad history of sacrifice and loss during both the first and second World Wars. We lost more than 20 men during World War 1, a significant proportion of the village population at the time.

During World War 2, the Home for Little Boys (now Broomhill Bank School) was badly damaged by incendiary bombs, and the staff and pupils were evacuated to Devon.

Then, on 2nd May 1944, a bomb landed on the Horticultural College in College Road, killing a 21 year old woman, Helen Armstrong, badly injuring another student, and destroying a large part of the college. It also badly damaged Hextable House.

There was further tragedy on 14th March 1945, when a V2 rocket landed on the site now occupied by the parade of shops including the barbers and the chemist, killing four children aged from 1 year to 17 years and six adults.
The victims were:

Marjorie Jean Carter, aged 17
David Charles Coomber, aged 12
Horace and Margaret Coomber (David's parents)
Brian Thomas Ludlow, aged 5
Peter John Ludlow, aged 1
Ellen Margaret Ludlow (Brian and Peter's mother)
Mary Ellen Mitchell (Ellen's mother)
John Albert and Violet Gladys Williams

It was a devastating loss, but miraculously John and Violet's 3 year old son, Brian, survived after being thrown out of his house by the blast, landing in a nursery next door.

Hextable Parish Council, in partnership with Hextable Heritage Society and St Paul's Church, will be holding an event 75 years to the day that the attack took place. We will be unveiling the first Blue Plaque in Hextable at the site where the V2 landed, and also dedicating a new area of open space in the village as 'Hextable Memorial Garden' in remembrance.

We will be marking this with a short but significant joint ceremony on Saturday 14th March. There will be civic guests as well as members of the family who remember the incident, and we would like to welcome residents to join in this event.

The blue plaque will be unveiled on the parade of shops at 11:00, followed by a short dedication ceremony at the site of a new open space at the bottom of the Broomhill Bank school field.
If you would like to be part of this event, the party will be assembling at St Peters

church from 10:00am for tea and coffee.

The images below show the properties before and after the rocket attack.



Cllr Lorraine Gaskin (with thanks to Hextable Heritage Society)

ATC Awards

On Tuesday 25th February, HPC Councillors attended the Annual Awards Inspection of 593 (Swanley) Squadron of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (based opposite the Heritage Centre in Hextable). The evening is designed to recognise the achievements of the young people that attend the Squadron, with Deputy Lord Lieutenant Peter Gilbert in attendance as Reviewing Officer.

The cadets gave presentations to their parents and VIPs, covering the core activities of the Air Cadets and giving an indication as to what they do, including flying, gliding, shooting, adventure training, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and sports, to name but a few. The cadets then had a uniform inspection before the overall awards for the evening, including Best Recruit, Most Improved and Best Cadet, were presented.

The Squadron has continued to grow over the past few years and now has 36 cadets on its books. With major successes including winning county-wide competitions, as well as having a Lord Lieutenants Cadet (Cadet Warrant Officer Thomas Longbon) and Kent's Cadet of the Year (Cadet Warrant Officer Charlotte Spells) - both of whom are Hextable residents, it is an excellent time to be a cadet at the Squadron. The Squadron's main achievement, however, is that young people who attend learn transferable life skills such as confidence, teamwork and leadership, which they use to become well-equipped, well-rounded people as best prepared as possible to tackle adulthood.

Should you know or be a young person between years 8 and 11 at School, please feel free pop down to the Squadron on a Tuesday or Thursday evening to discuss joining.









White Oak Leisure Centre Update

At a recent meeting of the Development Control Committee at Sevenoaks District Council, the plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Leisure Centre were given the go-ahead. It was long meeting and there were several speakers both for and against the current proposal. There were a great deal of questions of the officers and a lot of debate, but in the end it went through. The vote went 10 for and 6 against. It will now proceed through other committees and go to full Council meeting on 21st April.

Hextable Parish Council, whilst welcoming the provision of a new Leisure Centre has consistently expressed its concern at the reduction in size and capacity of the present proposal and the loss of the sports hall and dry side activities. We understand that Sevenoaks District Council is currently looking at alternative facilities locally, that may go some way towards mitigating this loss.

The Action group representing users of the current facility have, with professional help, drawn up alternative plans which have been put before Sevenoaks District Council. It is our hope that Sevenoaks will consider these options thoroughly. With the proposed housing growth in the northern end of the District, provision of adequate sports facilities for current and future generations is imperative for our continued health and wellbeing.

Cllr. Chrissy Hudson

Please take a look at the plans on www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/whiteoak and let us know what you think.





Hextable Park

You may have noticed the works going on within Hextable Park.

When we campaigned to become parish councillors, we stated within our manifesto that we would "make greater use of Hextable Park". Subsequently, the Council decided to hold the Hextable Motor Show and Family Fun Day. After this, some of the councillors undertook a review of the park. During the review we noted that much of the area had fallen into disrepair, with many of the areas overgrown and dilapidated. As a result, the Open Spaces Committee agreed to make improvements to the park and to investigate how the tennis courts could be made into an area more useful for the entire community. We've already completed a lot of work in the park, including:

• The bog garden – the water ceased running a long time ago and the area was overgrown and unwelcoming. Now the area has been cleared, and plans include making a pathway through the area, and increasing the planting to include shrubs and wildflowers;

• The viewing mound – self-seeded trees and shrubs have been removed so that the view from the mound is visible again. Years ago, there was a navigation board, and we'd like to replace this in the future;

• The pavilion – the Parish really needs a new one, but the cost of replacement is too high at present, so the external walls have been repaired and painted;

• We contacted the Woodland Trust, who have agreed to supply 240 hedgerow saplings to go along the perimeter fence to assist the wildlife. We will be planting these in November;

• The tennis courts – unfortunately, the condition of the fencing around the tennis courts meant that something needed to be done. We obtained quotes for replacing the fencing, but it was far too expensive, particularly as the courts have had minimal use by residents, and replacement would not have added value to the whole area. We have therefore removed the fencing and nets.

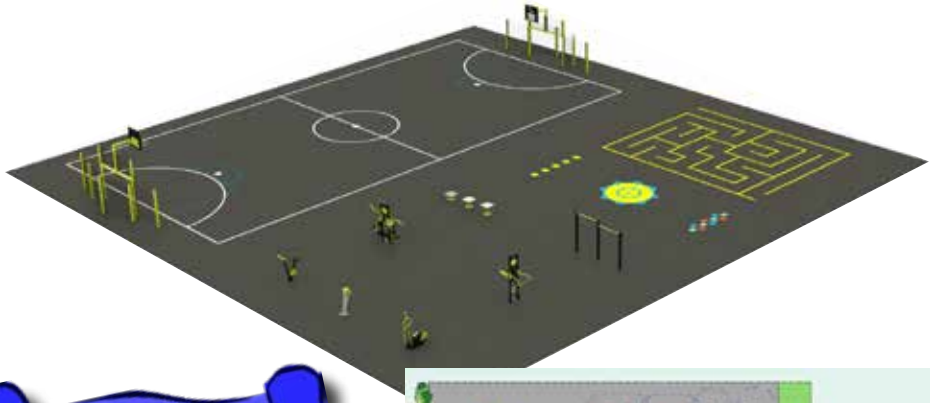
As another of our commitments was "enhancing our buildings, open spaces and facilities", the Open Spaces Committee, agreed to look at other options for using the space differently.

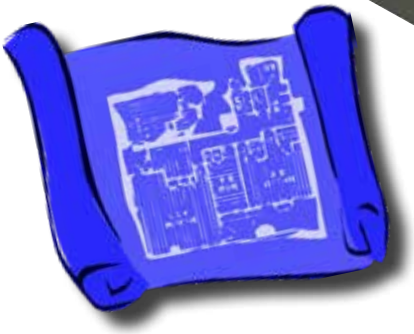


The fence next to the pathway outside the park has been replaced to close off the tennis court perimeter again. Our next steps are to find the equipment which will add value for the whole community. We have visited other parish council sites to see what equipment they have utilised, and found the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) to be very popular, along with outdoor gym equipment.

We are currently contacting suppliers with a view to obtaining suitable equipment for the space.

Look out for the chance to see some of the plans and comment on the ideas. In the meantime, here are a couple of examples:







Cllr Christine Proudlove



Get Your Tickets Online

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hextable-motor-show-and-family-fun-day-tickets-67699885179

Scan Here For Quick Link Access!

eventbrite

HOTLINE: 07818 727644 EMAIL: HEXTABLE.HUB@GMAIL.COM

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HERITAGE CENTRE, COLLEGE RD, BR8 7LT
ST PETERS CHURCH, COLLEGE RD, BR8 7RH
(PLUS SWANLEY PARK 2.50)
DISABLED PARKING AVAILABLE ON SITE

Hextable Motor Show - to keep up to date

HOTLINE: 07818 727644 EMAIL: HEXTABLE.HUB@GMAIL.COM

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

POPPY APPEAL 2020

Volunteers wanted

CAN YOU HELP?

We need volunteers to help with the collection during the Poppy Appeal 26th of October to the 8th of November

Please ring **07753 237 057**
If you can spare just a couple of hours

Your contribution to our appeal will help
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Meet Your Councillors



Darren Kitchener

120 Claremont Road
Hextable
BR8 7QT

Tel: 01322 615847
07496 818558
chairman@hextableparishcouncil.com



Wayne Stoneham

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BR8 7RT

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w.stoneham.ws@gmail.com



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Louise Young

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BR8 7SB

Tel: 01322 669868
Louisem.young3107@hotmail.com

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with the parish councillors, please feel free to come along to the Heritage Centre on the first Friday of each month (excluding August and January), between 6.30 and 7.30 pm.

We'll be pleased to talk to you about whatever is on your mind.



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Web: www.cinnamoncc.com/emersonpark

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Member of the PRE SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE

Hextable Village
PRE-SCHOOL

The Gallery, Hextable Heritage Gardens

Web: www.hextablevillagepreschool.org

Email: manager@hextablevillagepreschool.org

Tel: 01322 613 858

Open: Monday to Friday, 9am till 3pm for Children from 2 years old

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Spaces To Rent

Did you know that the parish council has a variety of spaces to rent?

The Heritage Centre will comfortably take 30 people, with use of tables and chairs if required.
Rates per hour (or part hour): non-residents £20, residents £15.

The Village Hall will take up to 75 people, and also has tables and chairs if required.
Rates per hour (or part hour): non-residents £25, residents £18.

The Community Room will take 10 people. You must confirm when booking if you require tables and chairs.
Rates per hour (or part hour): non-residents £12, residents £10.

All the spaces have access to kitchen and toilets.

Bookings can be made at the council office, during office hours, and are subject to availability.





Come and take part in the Hextable Spring Clean on Saturday 21st March

Let's keep Hextable looking lovely!

Newsletter Space Available

If you would like to contribute an article to the Parish Newsletter, please submit it to Cllr Louise Young (louise.young@hextableparishcouncil.com) or the Parish Clerk prior to the next Communications Committee meeting for approval. (Please see the Parish noticeboard for dates.) This newsletter is for the benefit of the entire community, and we would love organisations and individuals from within the community to be involved.

YOUR ARTICLE HERE

Contact the Parish Clerk for rates



Newsletter Deliveries

This newsletter has been delivered to you by one of your councillors, or a member of council staff. If you would like to help deliver newsletters in the future, please contact the Parish Clerk. All help is gratefully received!

Dates To Remember

[cut out and keep page]



Sat, 14 Mar 10.00am	**Blue Plaque unveiling and Hextable Memorial Garden dedication ceremony**	
Mon, 16 Mar 7.30pm	**Parish Council Meeting**	**Hextable Heritage Centre**
Sat, 21 Mar 10.00am	**Litterpick**	**Hextable Gardens Carpark**
Fri, 3 Apr	**Meet your councillors**	**Hextable Heritage Centre**
Thu, 9 Apr (Maundy Thursday)	**6pm Family bring & share meal** **7.30pm service with communion celebration**	**St. Peter's Hextable** **St Peter's**
Fri, 10 Apr (Good Friday)	**9am Service** **9.45am Walk of witness from** **10.30am Service with communion, with drinks & hot-cross buns prior!** **2pm Meditations at the cross,**	**St. Paul's Swanley Village** **St. Paul's to St. Peter's** **St. Peter's Hextable** **St. Paul's Swanley Village**
Sun, 12 Apr (Easter Day)	**8.30am Communion** **10.30 Easter Day celebration with all age provision** **6.30pm Joyful Easter Praise service**	**St. Paul's Swanley Village** **St. Peter's** **St. Paul's Swanley Village**
Mon, 27 Apr 7.00pm	**Annual Parish Meeting**	**Hextable Village Hall**
Fri, 1 May 6.30pm	**Meet Your Councillors**	**Hextable Heritage Centre**
Sun, 10 May	**6.30pm Community VE Celebration Service** **Refreshments at 6pm; all are welcome**	**St. Peter's Hextable**
Mon, 18 May 7.30pm	**Parish Council Meeting**	**Hextable Heritage Centre**
Fri, 5 Jun 6.30pm	**Meet Your Councillors**	**Hextable Heritage Centre**
Mon 22 Jun 7.30pm	**Parish Council Meeting**	**Hextable Heritage Centre**

Please note that dates of Council meetings may be subject to change
Please check Parish noticeboards!

Hextable Parish Council, College Road, Hextable, BR8 7LT | Tel: 01322 668 530
Parish Clerk: Mrs Tracy Lane **Office Hours:** 9.30am - 1.00pm Weekdays
Email: info@hextableparishcouncil.com | **Website:** hextableparishcouncil.com

Tel: 01322 668530
Web: www.hextableparishcouncil.com

Allotments

Annual fireworks display

Bus stops

Emptying HPC-owned bins/dog waste bins

Grass cutting (some on behalf of KCC)

Litter picking

Maintaining HPC-owned buildings

Maintaining the Avenue of Limes

Maintaining HPC-owned open spaces

Senior trips scheme

Tree inspections

Tel: 01732 227000
Web: www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Building regulation
Collecting council tax
Development control (i.e. planning)
Dog warden services
Electoral Services
Emptying SDC-owned bins (i.e. the bins in the streets)
Fly tipping
Housing the homeless
Leisure provision
Licensing (e.g. pubs, taxis, etc)
Maintaining SDC-owned open spaces
Managing local CCTV
Occupational health
Parking enforcement
Refuse collection
Street cleaning

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Web: www.kent.gov.uk

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Adult social care
Business waste
Country parks
Disabled services
Flooding and drainage
Highways (e.g. roads/pavements/verges)
Household waste recycling
Libraries
Maintaining KCC-owned open spaces
Public footpath management
Road safety
Roadworks
School and adult education provision
School buses and school meals
Senior bus passes
Special educational needs services
Street lighting and street furniture (e.g. traffic lights)
Trading standards
Waste collection and recycling