



NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2019



Dear Resident,

Since the last HPC Newsletter, much has been going on in our community and I am pleased that we are able to share with you some of the activities that have been going on in this edition of the Newsletter

After another busy four years has passed, the current term of office for members of the Council ends in April. Elections on Thursday 2nd May will be held to elect 9 members of the Parish Council and 2 ward members to represent Sevenoaks District Council.

Darren Kitchener - Chairman

Annual **Free Fireworks**

On the **3rd November**, the Parish Council held our annual free annual fireworks display at Hextable Park. We were lucky with the weather,

and the event was attended by a record amount of people this year.

This year our display was set to the music of Disney - which we have received some positive feedback, particularly from the children

Although this is a **free family event**, the generosity shown by the visitors amounted to **£1000 being collected for local charities in our area.**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On **Monday 18th March**, we held the Annual Parish Meeting. We were pleased that this year's meeting was formally opened by Cllr Mrs Pat Bosley, Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council.

We are legally required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting between March and June. This meeting was not a council; it is a very important part of the overall council agenda. It is an opportunity for the community as a whole to share what it has been doing over the past year, but also an opportunity for all our members, groups and residents to speak and have their say on any particular issues. The Chairman of the Parish Council gave his annual report at the meeting, and those attending this year enjoyed hearing presentations from Simply Lizzie - Dance Group, Hextable Charity Run and Emersons Park Retirement Village.

THE HOWARD VENUE

This important community venue contributes to grow from strength to strength, and the numbers of people using this facility increasing. The Parish Council is pleased that the venue is now become a vital community asset, supporting many groups and activities.

The Parish Council has always supported this venue, and we are pleased that its retention has been included as a condition for development on that site in the Local Plan. HPC has made a strong representation to the Planning Inspectorate to include the provision of adequate car parking for the venue as part of the condition.



SEVENOAKS LOCAL PLAN

The Local Plan that Sevenoaks District Council has been working on for the past 2 years was recently sent to the Planning Inspectorate, after residents had commented on it. The Parish Council has worked very closely with Sevenoaks District Council and we have provided constant local updates as the plan has developed.

93% of the Sevenoaks District is Greenbelt, but there is an obligation from the government to provide additional housing between now and 2035 to contribute to the UK housing requirements.

To meet this need, every area is required to provide land that could be put forward for development and in Hextable we have had to contribute to this. We have communicated with residents throughout this process, and we are pleased that, although we will see 'our share' of development in Hextable, we are pleased that none of the green belt sites we were concerned about have been included in the plan.



Celebrity guests Len Goodman and Peter Sissons were among the VIPs presenting trophies at the Making It Happen, Community and Voluntary Awards 2019, which took place on 13th February.

St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks, played host to this year's awards which celebrated the District's unsung heroes, volunteers and community groups.

WELL DONE IAN!

It was good to see the long service of **Ian Packham** recognised at the recent Sevenoaks Community & Voluntary Awards evening. Ian has captained the **4th Bromley Boys Brigade (Hextable)** since the early 1990's and each week with his team teaches and inspires more than 50 of our local young people.

Ian was **nominated** by Chrissy Hudson, Chair of the local Churches Together Forum.



Centenary Armistice Commemorated

The village paid their respects to those who have fallen in service for their country at the annual Remembrance Service held at Five Wents hall.

The last event was particularly poignant as it marked the centenary of the armistice declaration. Along with many other local communities, the Parish Council erected the Silhouettes on the village green to mark this.



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AIR TRAINING CORPS (593 SQUADRON)

On Thursday 7th March, members of the Air Training Corps based in the Hextable complex, held their annual inspection parade and awards evening.

The evening exists to recognise the immense amount of effort that the cadets put in over the year, indeed the Chairman was impressed by the cadets time management skill as they balance the myriad of opportunity offered by the Air Cadets and their studies.

The cadets were impressive as they stood in front of the audience and spoke about each of the 13 core subjects of the Air Cadet syllabus and how the Cadet's from the Squadron have been exceptionally successful in each.

The Chairman of Hextable Parish Council was amongst the guests at the event, who heard first-hand from the cadets themselves about what exciting activities they had been involved in over the past year. Cadets spoke with confidence, clarity and diction; they explained what each activity helped them gain and it was exciting to see how well-rounded they have become through membership of the Squadron. Cllr Darren Kitchener, Chairman of HPC said:

"It is so impressive to witness such a level of achievement attained by the 593 Squadron, and to learn the wide variety of life-skills that are gained from being involved. I am pleased to see that the group has grown in numbers over the past few years of attending this event, and we must recognise that this is only made possible by supporting staff, parents and volunteers"

The variety on offer is amazing; cadets take part in activities ranging from flying & gliding to shooting, adventurous training & the Duke of Edinburgh Award to BTEC qualifications and first aid to name but a few. Whilst such an exciting array of

activity is enjoyable for the cadets, it was the life skills gained as a result that was most impressive.

They demonstrated that they excel in teamwork, diligence, communication and confidence, all of which help to make the young people from our village more attractive to both further education institutes and employers.

Interested in joining an exciting and active group?

If the activities sound of interest and your or your child/ward is between 12 (and in year 8) and 16, the Squadron meets on a Tuesday and Thursday evening between 7pm-9.30pm in their headquarters opposite the Heritage Building.

Feel free to pop down on either a Tuesday or Thursday evening and the Squadron staff would be delighted to show any interested parties around.

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THANK YOU!

As we come to the end of the latest four-year term of office, the Parish Council would like to thank all the councillors who have given many hours of their free time to serve for the residents of Hextable. The parish council looks forward to welcoming the new elected councillors from 3rd May.

Thank you to all our councillors: Cllr Rob Smith, Cllr Dee Morris, Cllr Darren Kitchener, Cllr Ken Varnham, Cllr Cliff Bower, Cllr Mark Fittock, Cllr Eric Leaver, Cllr Wayne Stoneham, Cllr Eileen Kattenhorn.

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Parish Clerk: Mrs Tracy Lane **Office Hours:** 9.30am - 1.30pm Weekdays

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