

# Newsletter

No. 33 Winter 2017



## Hextable Parish Council



*Dear Residents*

I'm looking forward to another good free village firework display in Hextable Park on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November provided by the Parish Council. The Remembrance service is on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. The winter bedding has been planted to make the centre of the village attractive for winter and the Christmas lights on the village green checked ready for switch on in a few weeks.

There have been a number of incorrect rumours in the village regarding future development so we have put a item on the parish website and printed copies in the Parish office for those not on the internet. This should clarify the present situation but rest assured if there is anything positive proposed at any time this will appear in a newsletter and all residents consulted.

*Regards,*

*Darren Kitchener*

Chairman

### **Firework Night Friday Nov 3rd**

### **Hextable Park 7.30pm start**

**(Top of Emerson Ave)**

**Gates Open at 7pm**

**Free Event - Collection for Local Charities**

**Please walk if possible to ease parking for residents**

The Parish Council would like to thank the ATC for their help on the night.

### **Remembrance Service Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov**

10.50 start Doors Open 10.30am

The Memorial Hall at Five Wents

*Everyone welcome*

**A short service to remember those who gave their lives from Hextable, Swanley Village and Swanley.**



### **New Choir** The Howard Venue Tuesdays 7.30pm

Everyone welcome £3 First visit free.

**A fun choir for all ages and voices**

**December will be Silver Bells, Silent Night and Santa Baby!**



## ENTER ONLINE CRIME AND INCIDENT REPORTING



[www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/](http://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/)

It is now possible to report crime and incidents online to the police .

Make sure you have (if available):

- the date and time of the crime/incident
- details of any stolen or damaged items (ie IMEI number for your mobile, vehicle registration)
- the contact details of any witnesses
- information about any evidence that could help an investigation

It isn't possible to upload attachments at the moment, this function will be introduced later. There are separate sections within the form for you to add the different information.

Once submitted, you'll receive a reference number and a copy of your report (if selected).

Fraud still needs to be reported on 0300 123 2040 or [www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud)

North Kent police Tel: 01622 690690 or Crime Stoppers is as always anonymous on 0800 555 111 available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.



### **IPAG Report from Hextable Resident Andy Lawrence**

*The Independent Police Advisory Group is a group of community volunteers who work with Kent Police to improve policing services across the county.*  
<https://ipag.kent.police.uk/>

I have put myself forward to IPAG to act as a single point of contact between them and Hextable. That doesn't in any way prevent anybody else chasing things but it does give a direct, if slow, route into the senior management for policing in our area.

I attended the IPAG meeting for the Sevenoaks area, the Key attendees were the District Commander, Chief Inspector Tony Dyer, Inspector Tim Stanley, PC Kim White from the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Team and a PCSO who is a specialist Youth Outreach Officer. The agenda consisted of a presentation on the Gypsy and Traveller culture similar to the training given to new Police Officer (this was very interesting) a presentation by CI Dyer on New Horizons the new Police Strategy for dealing with vulnerable persons and an area update.

I was able to discuss the burglaries in Hextable and the surrounding area. The police are actively investigating the burglaries. They have some forensic leads and have tracked down one of the vehicles that may have been used. As we suspected there have been two teams at work and the Police believe that they have come from out of the area. There should have been a process known as cocooning in which the Police leaflet the area and knock on doors in the immediate area of any burglary. The Chief Inspector will check the extent to which this has happened and will get back to me. If he doesn't I will be on to him.

There has been an increased police presence in Hextable. You may have spotted a marked police car parked up at various points in the village a couple of days ago. We have to understand the background to the Police action. Kent Police have lost £61.3 million of their budget in this financial year and the number of officers has been reduced by 640 despite this an additional 100 staff have been 'embedded' in local policing.

We are working on ways in which we might be able to use social media better to improve communication. That's going to take a little while but the attendees as a whole was keen to do more in this area and it is on the agenda for the next meeting in December.

To summarise, the police are doing their job as well as they can around the burglaries. I now have a direct link with senior Police managers. We've also succeeded in raising the temperature with the Police and the District Council's Community Safety team who had a stall outside the Post Office on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October to give advice.

**Editor's Note:** Thank you Andy for taking the time to attend Kent's IPAG and for the report.

Cllr Dee Morris has been invited to a one to one meeting with the new Chief Inspector, Tony Dyer, and as there is great concern regarding the increase in crime in the village recently she is only too pleased to attend. She has invited Andy to accompany her if he is free.

## SWANLEY LIGHT OPERA GROUP



## REURNS TO ITS MUSICAL ROOTS!

Swanley Light Opera Group are delighted to be performing the Tony Award nominated Broadway musical "Rock of Ages", at their NEW performing space, The Howard Venue, 39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, BR8 7LG, from Thursday 15th – Saturday 17th February 2018.

After several years away since the closure of their previous venue in Swanley, the group are excited to be able to perform at the recently established The Howard Venue, an excellent performing arts and community facility in the very heart of Hextable.

A brief synopsis of the show:

It's the tail end of the big, bad 1980s in Hollywood, and the party has been raging hard. Aqua Net, Lycra, lace and liquor flow freely at one of the Sunset Strips last legendary venues, a place where sex machine Stacey Jaxx takes the stage and scantily clad groupies line up to turn their fantasies into reality. Amidst the madness, aspiring rock star (and resident toilet cleaner) Drew longs to take the stage as the next big thing and longs for small-town girl Sherri, fresh off the bus from Kansas with stars in her eyes. But the rock and roll fairy-tale is about to end when German developers sweep into town with plans to turn the fabled Strip into just another capitalist strip mall. Can Drew, Sherri, and the gang save the strip and themselves before it's too late? Only the music of hit bands Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi, Whitesnake and more hold the answer.

**Tickets are available via the Box Office at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/SLOG](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/SLOG) (booking fee applies) or by calling 01474 706665.**

**"Early Bird Special" tickets from £14.00 (£13.00 concessions) until 31 December 2017.**

To follow us on Facebook, please visit Swanley Light Opera Group -SLOG, where all the details will be published.

**Parental guidance is recommended due to some adult content in the show.**

***An Amateur Production Presented by Special Arrangement with Samuel French Ltd***



## 593 Air Training Corps



593 Air Training Corps meet at their unit in the Parish Council complex on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm – 9.30pm.

Tel: 01322 615 038 (may only be answered on parade evenings)

Email: [593@aircadets.org](mailto:593@aircadets.org) Pilot Officer P Howes RAF VR(T)

Recruitment contact: Sergeant (ATC) R Smith

## KCC Election Results May 2017 for Swanley & Hextable

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>%</u>
Michael Horwood	Conservative	2411	65% <b>Elected</b>
Angela George	Labour	886	24%
John Owen Jones	Liberal Democrat	213	6%
Phil Levy	Green Party	118	3%
Clifford Le May	British National Party	94	3%

The turnout for the election was 25%

### Extra Dog Bins for KCC Fields

Kent County Councillor Michael Horwood has organised two dog-waste bins to be provided and erected within the KCC fields that were formerly the playing fields of Oasis School; one adjacent to the existing concrete waste bin and the other at the western end of the site. These new bins will be emptied regularly thereafter, in addition to the concrete waste bin.

Michael has also organised fencing repair work to the KCC ex school site and the hedge to be cut along Egerton Avenue part of the school site.



### Car Parking

The new car park that has been developed for the use of the parents of Hextable Primary School pupils on the grounds of the Broomhill Bank School (North), the old Furness school, has finally opened. There was a short delay in the opening due to incorrect signage being delivered that had to be returned and delay with road & bordering marking but the car park opened on 10th October and so far is being used to it's fullest extent, on inspection at the two school times the car park has been full.

This should go some way to relieving the disruption to the residents of St David's Road, Rowhill Road and other roads close to the school at these times. Whilst in the first few days there are still parents parking in the road, there has been a decrease in the parking in these roads, this together with ensuring the contractors from the numerous building sites are not causing parking problems the parking issues should start to ease.

A thank you to HPS for being proactive together with KCC and KCC Cllr Michael Horwood. Checks will be made over the coming weeks to ensure that any parking problem is dealt with in the appropriate manner.

Cllr Wayne Stoneham



### Beating the Bounds 2017

Thank you to Ken Grist who organised this year's Beating of the Village Bounds, the old English traditional walk round the boundary of the village.

The weather was good this year and the picture shows a few of the walkers taking a break.

*The date next year is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, so please save the date.*

### Pond in Hextable Gardens

Some of the £10,000 that was bequeathed to the Parish Council by an ex college student is to be spent on improving the pond. The pond is well used by children for pond dipping and for school visits so will be made shallower for safety but slightly wider with far more rock plants. It is hoped it will attract even more pond life.





## New Parish Councillors for the next Local Elections.

Four or five new councillors will be needed for the next local elections in about 18 months time due to the retirement of some of the long serving councillors. Please give some consideration to joining the council as Hextable needs local community minded people to come forward. The commitment is for four years with about 10 Council meetings a year plus committee meetings and work with residents and community groups. Unfortunately the positions are unpaid but any out of pocket expenses incurred will be paid. If you want to shadow a councillor for a month to see the time and commitment the role entails before committing to four years this can be arranged.

Sergeant Rob Smith, far right in the ATC picture (page 3), is a Hextable Parish Councillor and is enjoying the experience. The Parish Council benefits from having young councillors and it would be especially good if a few young people will volunteer to take on a local community role as a Parish Councillor.

### 477 Shoppers' Heaven Bus – Revised Timetable

477 Bluewater – Dartford - Darent Valley Hospital – Hextable – Swanley – Crockenhill - Orpington. The timetable for this bus is revised.

Buses continue to run between Bluewater and Orpington on Mondays to Saturdays, retaining a thirty-minute frequency timetable. The Monday to Saturday evening buses that terminate at or start from Swanley Rail Station will do so instead from ASDA and will not serve the station. Sunday buses will no longer run between Swanley, Crockenhill and Orpington but the frequency between Swanley and Bluewater will be doubled to give a bus service every thirty minutes for the main part of the day.



### Security – Visible Firearms Officers:

Due to the heightened alert reported in the previous newsletter we are told that you will see Kent's firearms officers out on patrol in key areas, including specific sites such as Bluewater. There will also be other random patrols in all areas in order to provide reassurance to residents. This armed police presence is not to alarm it is to reassure residents that the police are prepared.

### Illegal Raves

Parents please make sure you know where your children are and aren't in danger by going to unlicensed Raves. There have been a number of Illegal Raves across the district and you may have seen one in Swanley reported on BBC News recently where police had to break up more than 500 local young people who had entered commercial premises without the owner's permission and caused a lot of damage. Equipment was seized and 12 arrests were made. There are safety concerns at unlicensed events especially if the building has not been maintained. Hundreds of young people ran through the streets of Swanley in the early hours. Organisers target empty business units, and then via Social Media organise and publicise the raves. Kent Police have done a great job in attending and restricting incidents in the community.



The CSU is working with businesses to ask them to check and secure their property. Youth workers are also speaking to young people of the dangers of attending the raves.

The District Council, who license music events, urge parents to ensure their children are aware of the potential dangers of attending unlicensed events. Police have warned that they will not tolerate community disorder for safety concerns and ask that we stress the possible consequences of attending illegal events.

If you are aware of any events planned please call Police on 101.

## Emily Court, Barn End Lane.



The 40 flats in Emily Court were built by Sevenoaks District Council and Dartford Borough Council as a joint venture in 2009 and a number of retired Hextable residents have moved there over the years.

Unfortunately there was a fire in one of the flats one evening recently which resulted in a fatality and 6 displaced residents mainly as a result of smoke and water damage. Kent Fire Service reported that it was a well built and a well maintained building which behaved as it should have during a fire.

## 400 Firefighters needed

We have been asked to let our residents know that applicants to the London Fire Brigade are no longer required to live in a London Borough so recruitment opportunities maybe of interest to those living near to London Boroughs. A recruitment campaign started this month searching for 400 people to start their career as a firefighter and develop into other firefighting specialisms such as technical rescue, fire investigation and community prevention work as tackling fires is now a smaller part of a firefighter's role than ever before.



All recruits must be at least 17.5 years and a UK/EU citizen without work restrictions or be a permanent resident in UK, pass certain rigorous physical and job related tests as well as medical and eye examinations. London Fire Authority members also removed the requirement to have a driver's licence. Instead successful applicants will be expected to pass their LGV test within the first three years of employment.

## Freemen of the Village 2017/18

Mavis Treen and Peter Bosworth were voted Freemen of the Village for their work in Hextable for over a decade.

They were active members of the Residents Association for many years and supported the parish greatly when it first started in 2008. They have continued to help over the years with delivering newsletters and litter picking – always with a smile.

They are an asset to the village and greatly appreciated. Thank you Mavis and Peter, this award is long overdue and very well deserved.



## Litter Picking!

Hextable Parish Council employs a litter picker to supplement the District Council's weekly litter picking but even so there is always a lot of litter



blowing round the village. So it was very good of residents to turnout to do a couple of litter picks since the last newsletter. Guy from

Sutton Athletic FC opened up to provide a very welcome cup of tea on one pick. *Thank you to the organisers.*



## Emerson Park – Rowhill Road Hextable



**Opening early 2018 Emerson Park is the perfect place for retirement.**

**Exceptional quality apartments... extensive on-site amenities... social activities and your own transport service... all fully-managed.**

Located in the heart of Hextable, Emerson Park redefines luxury retirement living in Kent.

A community of superior retirement apartments with access to exceptional private amenities and extensive resident services, Emerson Park offers so much more

than traditional retirement developments. There are one and two bedroom apartments to select from and a range of on-site amenities.

### **Explore luxury retirement living at Emerson Park**

The headlines are telling us that the population of the UK is set to age over the coming decades meaning that in 20 years' time those aged over 65 will make up nearly a quarter of the population. And as that age profile is moving inexorably upwards, the need for high quality homes designed with older generations in mind is growing. People are living longer and are healthier so they are looking to downsize to a more manageable property in which they can live independently for as long as they can – with the reassurance that luxury facilities, support and amenities are on hand.

The Cinnamon Care Collection is therefore delighted to announce the opening of Emerson Park – a development of 47 fully managed and exceptional quality retirement apartments for people over 55, with extensive on-site amenities, allocated parking and a dedicated transport service.

The one and two bedrooled apartments are finished and equipped to the highest luxury standards with stylish designer kitchens and bathrooms, high quality appliances and floor coverings, contemporary lighting and double glazing. To add to your peace of mind there is an audio-visual entry system from each apartment to the main entrance, plenty of outside lighting including passive infrared sensors and a 24-hour emergency call system to an on-site team should you need it.

All features are designed with ease of maintenance in mind but there will be plenty to stimulate the most active and socially engaged people. You can enjoy dining with friends in the Club Room, meet for a coffee (or glass of wine!) in the café bar or join in a variety of social activities inspired by the residents and organised by the Activities & Events Manager. Why not enjoy a movie in the cinema room, exercise in the state-of-the art gym or be pampered in the hair and beauty salon? There's also lots to do out and about with the private transport service offering trips to the supermarket, nearby Bluewater or local places of interest. Equally you may prefer sitting quietly in the peace of the landscaped grounds or one of the many cosy corners where you can enjoy a cup of coffee and a good book!

For those people who might welcome a little extra help, there are 5 spacious one-bedroom Service Plus Suites to provide exactly this. These are located with easy access to all the communal facilities and come with practical, non-intrusive support services including a delicious 3 course lunch, an hour a week of housekeeping and an on-site laundry service.

The Cinnamon Care Collection is a privately-owned company providing an exclusive group of luxury care homes and retirement properties in beautiful locations throughout the country. Emerson Park is the latest development which aims to help older people live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives through our commitment to combining luxurious surroundings with genuinely caring people in a warm and supportive atmosphere.

For full details of the one and two-bedroom luxury retirement apartments and amenities at Emerson Park, or to arrange an appointment, contact the Resident Service Advisers on Tel: 01233 224040

Web: [www.cinnamoncc.com/emersonpark](http://www.cinnamoncc.com/emersonpark)

Email: [emerson@cinnamoncc.com](mailto:emerson@cinnamoncc.com)

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## Green Belt

There seems to be some confusion regarding Green Belt (GB) in the village and the Parish Council is always happy to explain any issues if residents are unsure of information that is perceived as incorrect.



In this district there is land that is GB, Brown Field, Mixed GB and Brown Field and land inside towns and villages that is normal land. Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) are responsible for planning for the district and periodically they are required to do a GB Review, usually every 10 years or so. As part of the whole planning strategy, all GB land across our district is currently being evaluated to assess its effectiveness in meeting its objectives of GB land. This work takes a great deal of time to execute. It includes studying the GB, looking at aerial views and visiting sites across the district. The findings then go to a number of committees and public consultations before recommendations are made and finally the Review goes before an Inspector. The Parish Council plays no part in District Review decisions. Sevenoaks District Councillors support ward proposals to amend the GB line unless there are valid reasons against this. E.g. that the land is going to return to a green field and play a part in the objectives of GB or play a future part in the Green Belt landscape of the district.

Put simply, the criteria for assessing sites in the Green Belt is that should a site in GB be developed, concreted over and built upon and is unlikely to ever return to a green field, **but** is completely surrounded by GB it is not normally removed from the GB, and is then designated as a Brown Field site. This means it may be appropriately developed at some time subject to all the normal considerations of planning. This applies to a number of sites in the GB surrounding Hextable.

If a site in GB is built upon and concreted over and is unlikely to ever return to a green field **and** it is adjacent to a town or a village, in other words it has a border with existing development, then the GB line is normally adjusted to include the site into the town or village at the time of a GB district review. This doesn't change what is already on the site it just regularises the land designation which is normally just a formality to correctly record land.

The specific example of the removal of the Parish Complex, applied only to the buildings and car park, not the Gardens. The Parish Complex site was built upon and concreted over many years ago and bordered development in Crawfords and College Road. The initial papers regarding the review are dated 2010 with further papers dated 2012. Reports were written and district council committees considered the whole district giving particularly attention to developed sites joining on to towns and villages. Consultations were sent out to residents across the district and finally in 2013 the GB Review for the district of Sevenoaks was agreed. This went before an Inspector in 2014 and published in February 2015. This Review included the Parish Council complex. The decision to amend the GB line to include the complex into the village was made on the judgement that the complex was unlikely to ever return to a green field.

Often people misunderstand the status of GB land, believing it can never be developed, whereas it means that development has to be appropriate. So if a local authority, such as a Parish Council, has an identified need to develop its own land they *may* be allowed to do so whether the land is GB, Brown Field, mixed or normal land in the village subject to all the normal restrictions and considerations of a planning application. The redesignation of the complex has made no difference in the past few years to the use of the land and nothing has changed on the site.

Councillors have had a request from some residents for the Parish to apply to Sevenoaks at the next GB Review to consider returning the complex to GB. In order to demonstrate that this would be a correct judgement and one that could ultimately go before an Inspector the Parish Council would need to demonstrate that the complex would make a valid contribution to the objectives of GB in future. It would not be possible to do this without demolishing the buildings and car park to return it to green field as it does not make a contribution to GB as it stands.

If anyone is confused about this GB issue surrounding the Parish Complex, then the councillors are most willing to meet and explain this in more detail.

In conclusion, there are a number of future concerns looming. We all, councillors and residents alike, need to be working harmoniously together in the knowledge and understanding of the full facts to protect our village as much as possible.





## HAVE YOUR SAY

### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED 2018/19 BUDGET

To balance KCC's budget for 2018/19 we have to find an estimated £66m of savings in response to additional spending demands and reduced government grant. Our consultation includes plans for £56m of savings with a further £9m yet to be identified.

We would really welcome your comments on these plans as well as suggestions as to where you think savings can and should be made. Leader of Kent County Council Paul Carter said in a recent press interview that "the consequences for next year's budget are really very significant".

KCC plans to increase Council Tax by the amount permitted under the referendum principles, including the additional social care levy. The estimated increase for 2018-19 is 3.99% (£41.84 per year for a band C property.) This will increase KCC's share of the Council Tax bill for a band C property to £1,089.68 in 2018/19.

Since 2011-12 KCC has saved £589m in response to the financial challenge.

Please visit: [www.kent.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/budgetconsultation) to have your say on our proposals to fix the 2018/19 budget gap and tell us your priorities.

#### Kent County Council

### Funding secured for SuperHERO service tackling homelessness

Sevenoaks District Council has secured £94,500 in Trailblazer funding to help tackle homelessness in the District. This will help to expand and develop the Council's Housing, Energy and Retraining Options (HERO) service to a 'SuperHERO' service.



The current HERO service has received national recognition for its work, helping 1,500 people in the last seven years, giving residents a range of advice on issues such as housing problems, debt or mortgage support and further education and employment options. The extra support will run until March 2019 and enable the Council to recruit an extra member of staff to assist those with physical and learning disabilities, young parents and those on low incomes.

In addition, the Council will be able to work with GP surgeries to reach more vulnerable clients threatened with homelessness, provide links to health and wellbeing intervention programmes and train volunteers to become 'SuperHERO Champions' to provide mentoring and guidance to other families.

Developing to a SuperHERO service will enable SDC to deliver an additional 2,250 of targeted advice sessions to train volunteers, and use community outreach venues to offer housing advice, employment, debt and crisis support sessions in targeted rural and isolated communities for those most in need. The funding will also allow SDC to work closer with GPs and provide services such as a maternity package covering benefits, housing and debt service to vulnerable parents including those on low income, teenagers and people fleeing domestic violence.

Sevenoaks District Council was the only Council in Kent to receive funding from the Trailblazer pot, and this is a huge step forwards in helping them continue to support vulnerable people in our district.



#### Relate

Relate is a local charity that specialises in improving people's relationships. This includes a whole range of relationships for couples and family counselling in Sevenoaks district. 80% of the couples and families report an improvement in their relationships and stay together.

The remainder separate in an amicable way that includes thinking about the impact on the children. Building strong resilient relationships is fantastic for the wider community. Strong families support each other through the hurdles in life, everything from illness, redundancy, mental illnesses and loss of a family member.

Relate is self-funded so generally have to charge for their services. One session costs £50 to deliver. 6 sessions can change people's lives. If a child is self-harming suicidal or anorexic they will often need 12-20 sessions.

The appointments contact details are 01892 529927 [appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:appointments@westmidkent.eclipse.co.uk)

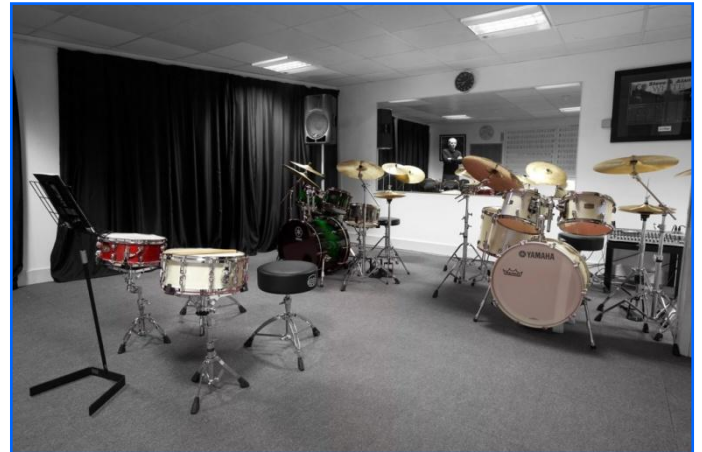
<http://www.relatewestmidkent.org.uk/>



# THE HOWARD VENUE

The Howard Venue has been open for a year now and is a busy venue with fitness, dancing, orchestra, choir, art, boogie bounce (mini trampolines), yoga, writing group, pilates, aerial skills, Boxercise, Slimmers World, church, craft, social events and much more.

This month saw the opening of the exciting new Drumming School run by Hextable resident, Danny Rose, professional drummer with 'The Real Thing'. Yamaha and The Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent, Matthew Scott, gave grants towards the drumming studio for the setting up costs and some of the expensive equipment as a contribution to youth in the area.



Thankfully the studio is sound proof!  
Please ring Danny for more info: 07730 396831.



Tiny Tekkers, toddler football is another new session, it offers young children a positive introduction to sport by teaching football skills in a friendly, pressure-free environment. It's a perfect way to start an enthusiasm for sport that will stay with them for life – and it's fun.

THV has chair based dance, yoga and fitness classes for those less mobile – so no excuses!

The choir has proved very popular with both men and women and also new this month is Adult Ballet on points so if you learnt ballet when young come along and join in a class to rekindle those dancing days.

*The venue is now a friendly not-for-profit local community run building so pop in and have a look round.*

There is always something new starting for all ages from tots to over 90's so check out the calendar on our website or pop in to browse through our leaflets to see what you may like to try out.



Egerton Avenue, Hextable, BR8 7LG  
01322 618618  
Registered Charity Number: 1167877

office@thehowardvenue.co.uk  
[www.thehowardvenue.co.uk](http://www.thehowardvenue.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/thehowardvenue](https://www.facebook.com/thehowardvenue)  
[twitter.com/thehowardvenue](https://twitter.com/thehowardvenue)

## Grenfell Towers Fire Collection – Thank you

Thank you Lizzie and friends for organising a collection of clothes, children's toys, toiletries etc as soon as news broke of the fire at Grenfell Towers. The Howard Venue was full to bursting within hours. The van came to take everything away within a day. There wasn't room in the van for everything and there was already enough clothes donated but they were very grateful for the toiletries, push chairs, toys, blankets etc. The clothes were taken to a local charity shop. People came from far and wide to donate so well done to everyone who helped.

## Happy Halloween – Stay safe and be Considerate

We hope you all have a good Halloween but please remember if someone is displaying a 'no trick or treat' sign, please respect their wishes and don't knock at their door. If you have elderly neighbours, friends or family, make sure they know they don't have to open the door to anyone they don't know or aren't expecting, to help them feel safe.

Never let young children go trick or treating on their own and make sure they only visit people known to your family. Make sure teenagers understand not to frighten people or use flour or eggs. Advise young trick or treaters to stay in a group and never go into the home of someone they don't know.





## New Citizens Advice Bureau Open

A new Citizens Advice Bureau has opened, situated in the heart of Swanley shopping centre between Wilko and Specsavers. Trained advisers are available at a drop-in service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm. Clients can call the Advice line for advice or to make an appointment, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 3pm on 0300 330 9001.

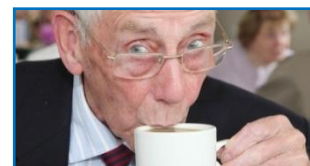
## SCAM

Several people in the village have reported concerns regarding phone calls purporting to be from HMRC about a serious legal matter and, as the call progressed, asked for bank account details. This is a scam but some of our vulnerable parishioners might be taken in by the phone call so please make them aware. A warning has been put on the notice board and the website as well as warnings on social media.



## Contact the Elderly

I am developing a monthly group to enable older people to have a regular monthly Sunday afternoon outing. The older guests in our groups are all over 75, many are in their 80's and 90's; they all live alone often without family nearby and many of them find it difficult to get out on their own.



Volunteer drivers collect the older people and together they visit a volunteer host's home for tea and an informal social afternoon with a different host each month, after which the drivers take them safely home. The older people really look forward to this and for many the outings are a real lifeline. The simple concept of a cup of tea and some conversation helps the guests to feel part of their community again, make new friends and gives them something to look forward to.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions; or there is more information on [www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

**Alison Minney** Development Officer. Telephone 020 8150 3154 or [alison.minney@contact-the-elderly.org.uk](mailto:alison.minney@contact-the-elderly.org.uk)

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Join us on Facebook](#) [Follow us on LinkedIn](#)

### Contact Details

#### Hextable Councillors

Cllr Darren Kitchener, Chairman	Tel: 01322 615847	<a href="mailto:darren.kitchener@bbrail.com">darren.kitchener@bbrail.com</a>
Cllr Dee Morris, Deputy Chairman	Tel: 01322 669030	<a href="mailto:deemorris79@hotmail.com">deemorris79@hotmail.com</a>
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Kent County Councillor: Cllr Michael Horwood [Michael.horwood@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.horwood@kent.gov.uk) 07815483891

Member of Parliament: The Rt. Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP [fallonm@parliament.uk](mailto:fallonm@parliament.uk) Tel: 0207 219 6482  
 Sir Michael has a monthly surgery, please phone for an appointment.

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