

# Newsletter

No. 32 Spring/Summer 2017



# Hextable Parish Council



*Dear Residents*

I am pleased with the success of the Monday morning market in the village hall and this will be retained permanently as it is always good to support local residents with their products and produce.

I am looking forward to the May Community Party in Hextable Gardens and would like to thank Lizzie for organizing this event. More details are inside the newsletter and it is hoped that as many residents as possible support the party. The annual children's free Fun Day is confirmed for August in Hextable Gardens.

It is fantastic that The Howard Venue has proved so popular and so many residents are dancing, singing or keeping fit and this venue has become such a wonderful community facility.

Hextable Councillors are always keen to meet residents at our regular surgeries to hear your views or answer your questions, no appointment is necessary.

*Regards,*

*Darren Kitchener*

## £10,000 gift to Parish Council

The Parish Council received a solicitor's letter informing us that the Parish has been left £10,000 in the will of Betty Matson to be used towards the maintenance and improvement of Hextable Heritage Gardens. Betty was a former student at the Horticultural College who used to work in The Gardens and she remained very fond of them. The Council is always sad to hear occasionally of the death of former students but we are very grateful for this kind gift as the gardens are expensive to maintain.

The Gardens are formal gardens not a recreational ground so ball games are not allowed as there are some rare and delicate plants as well as seasonal floral displays which many residents greatly enjoy. There is a 9 acre recreational ground at the top of Emerson Avenue off Main Road where all ball games are encouraged and welcomed, this is also maintained by the Parish Council.



**Hextable Village Hall BR8 7LT**  
Every Monday 9.30am – 12

A variety of stalls include: Fruit & Veg, Butchery, Bakery, Clothes, Bags, Cards, Homeware and Gifts.  
Come along for tea and cake and shopping from local businesses.

[homeboutiqueshop@gmail.com](mailto:homeboutiqueshop@gmail.com)

## Taster Days at The Howard Venue in Egerton Avenue BR8 7LG:

The Howard Venue has become very popular and residents are being offered an assortment of Taster Sessions on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March. Call in to look at the flyers for the various classes and pick up a form to book a Taster Session – or book a class!

Jive & Cha Cha Cha, Toddler Tone, Choir, Boogie Bounce (Trampolines), Aerial Skills, Drama, Pilates, Basic Ballet, Dance Aerobics, Musicals, Yogas including Chair Based, Seated Movement, Gentle Contemporary, Miss Fitness, Jazz and Zumba Gold.

## Seat in Hextable Gardens

Prior to the Hextable Residents Association closing, the Management Committee of the association decided that the memory of members who have passed who contributed a great deal to the village should be commemorated. These members are Geoff Blaxall, Roger McInnes, Tony Austin and Margaret Neaves. After some discussion and on the suggestion of the Treasurer it was agreed that we purchase a bench that would be located in a suitable place in Hextable Gardens. The Parish Council approved our proposal so we obtained a three seat bench. After the fitting of a plaque and coating with preservative, the bench was fixed in position in the presence of family members of those who had been honoured. The plaque reads



PRESENTED BY THE HEXTABLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN MEMORY OF AND TRIBUTE TO  
PAST COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
GEOFF BLAXALL – ROGER MCINNES - TONY AUSTIN – MARGARET NEAVES.

The photograph shows Margaret McInnes, Roger Neaves and Margaret Austin.  
The seat is there for all to use and from which there is a lovely view of the gardens.

*Harry Chapman*

## MP visit to Hextable

The Rt. Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP the Member of Parliament for this area visited The Parents' Consortium in St David's Road on the 10<sup>th</sup> March. The organisation has been rebranded and the name has been changed to 'Beams' with the funding arrangements changed. We wish Beams luck for the future and offer them support for their reformed organisation.

The photo shows Sir Michael with Cllr Lesley Dyball who is the Chairman of the Trustees and Katrina Adams the Operations Director with Hextable Councillor Dee Morris.



## Hedge Cutting

The parish Council uses a local farmer to cut the Parish Council hedges in College Road along the edge of Hextable Gardens every year.

There were lots of complaints this year about overgrown KCC hedges as due to the financial cut backs the hedge cutting of the KCC fields were long over due. Kent County Councillor Michael Horwood took advantage of the road closure in College Road for pot hole work to arrange for the KCC hedges to be cut along the fields that used to be Oasis Academy. This has widened the road use considerably and looks much better.

Quite a few hedges belonging to private land owners have become very over grown and although the situation is greatly improved a number of private hedges still remain a problem. The Parish Council can arrange for this work to be done but the charge will have to be passed onto the landowners.



## FUN DAY at Hextable Gardens

The Parish Council has been able to secure a free Children's Fun Day again this year organised by VAWest Kent. This will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 10am – 2pm .

No need to book just turn up and enjoy the day.

Refreshments in the village Hall.

## Keyed Cars!

A number of cars in College Road and Bower Road have been scratched. If anyone has any information please contact the police as this is criminal damage and a serious and upsetting matter.



## Fish & Chip/Take Away Shop in Hextable?

As there are empty shops in the village the Parish Council has been asked to clarify the situation regarding a fish & Chip shop or a Take Away and we are very happy to do so.

Hextable Parish Council was created in 2008 and there has never been an application for a fish & chip shop or a take away of any kind in Hextable in all that time. So the Parish has never made any comment. Sevenoaks District Council is the authority for planning applications with the Parish Council only a consultee.

If there is an application for a take away at any time in the future residents can comment direct to the District Council and the Parish Council always support the residents' views.



The Communications Team at Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) are an NHS organisation dealing with mental health. Single Point of Access service means that anyone needing mental health support can contact this service on 0300 222 0123. This Listen Up campaign is aimed at everyone, staff, patients and communities. If you know of a group that would benefit from contact please get in touch to book a talk and questions session. <https://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/> or <https://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/about-us/connected.htm>. Phone: 01622 724121 Email: [communications@kmpt.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@kmpt.nhs.uk)

## Diary Dates

### Hextable & Swanley Village W.I.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May:**

Open Air Sale at the Corner Site, this is the crazy paved area in front of church with the flower beds.

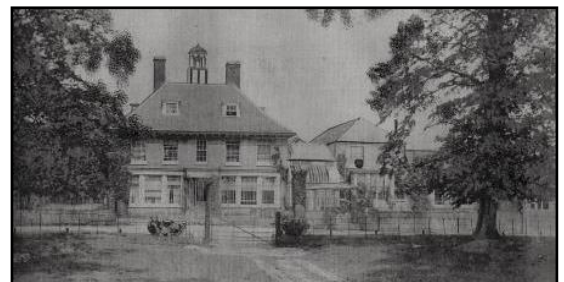
This is a fund raising event so please support.



## Heritage Open Day. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Hextable Heritage Society based at the Heritage Centre are participating in National Heritage Open Day 2017 and will be opening the centre on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 10am – 4pm. So come along and have a look at all the old village photographs. [www.hextable-heritage.co.uk](http://www.hextable-heritage.co.uk)

The photograph on the right shows Hextable House at the end of The Avenue of Limes. The house was badly bombed in the war and later demolished. More details on the parish and Heritage Society websites nearer the time.



## Beating The Bounds 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.

The village tradition of walking the bounds of the village each year to check our boundary is also on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Rain or shine the walk starts at 10.30am from the Heritage Centre and is approximately 4 miles. Children and dogs are very welcome. There is a short cut for the less hardy walkers. Please make a note or watch the website as the next newsletter is not until October.

## Hextable Village Pre-School & Dog Aid Day 3<sup>rd</sup> June & 8<sup>th</sup> July

Hextable Pre-School and Dog Aid are having a joint event in Hextable Gardens on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 10am – 2pm. Dog Aid will have a Strawberry & Cream Tea in the hall and the Pre-School will have activities in the Gardens. Watch the notice board for more details.



The Pre-school is also having another Table Top sale on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 9-12 in the Village Hall, £10 per table.



## S.M.I.L.E.S.

### Services Maintaining Independent Living and Elderly Support

#### Volunteer Drivers

A door-to-door car service is provided by a team of volunteers for residents who find it difficult to use public transport because of age, frailty, illness, disability or location.

Passengers pay a Registration Fee annually, and then a per-journey administration fee plus the volunteer's mileage cost. Local drivers regularly take clients to medical appointments, to Parkinson's exercise classes and Falls Prevention classes. If you can spare just a small amount of your time, have use of your own car we would like to see you. Mileage expenses are paid direct to you.

Full details are available to passengers and drivers

please call 01322 294 600.



#### Gardeners Needed



A service where volunteer gardeners bring life back into your neglected garden and make it a thing of beauty and a joy to sit in once again.

You pay £6 per hour for a maximum of 2 hours per visit.

Any travel expenses are also reimbursed to the volunteer.

General maintenance and up-keep are the priority; no large, heavy duties but a one day blitz is offered to get the volunteers started.

Call 01322 272 476 or email [volunteer@nwkvollunteers.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@nwkvollunteers.org.uk)



Swanley & North Downs Lions Club

# Bluebell Walk

Sunday, 7th May 2017  
in support of

*ellenor* caring for adults and children with life limiting conditions - and for their families

A six mile walk through the countryside around Stansted, Kent - with a FREE ploughman's lunch at the finish  
Starts and finishes at Stansted Village Hall  
Start any time between 10.00am and 11.30am.



For further information and sponsor forms  
Ring Colin on 01474 569735  
Email: [tcolindudley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tcolindudley@blueyonder.co.uk)

#### 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Hextable & Swanley Village W.I. celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this March, so Congratulations!

To celebrate this event the Parish Council are planting the flower bed on the village green in a W.I. design so look out for this special village flower display this summer.



#### New Yoga Class

The Heritage Centre College Road, Hextable

δφγηφκ

7.30pm - 9pm

£8 per session or £42 for 6 weeks

Bring your mat & blanket.

Enjoy a fun & challenging Yoga practice

With relaxation at the end

Beginners welcome

Contact me for further details,

Helen 01322 631598 - 0777 347 8008



#### 3K, 5K or 10K?

#### Run, Walk or Push!

10am Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
at Knole Park, Sevenoaks.

Help raise money for  
Dementia Services

Register at

Call 01732 227000 for a form

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/runwalkpush](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/runwalkpush)





## Bollards!

Kent County Councillor Michael Horwood, shortly after he was elected at the By-election last October, was keen to improve the railings that are outside the post office. Michael has organised smart black Doric column bollards to be installed and paid for out of his Highways fund for the area. At the time of going to print the work is about to start so we hope to soon have a much improved look to the centre of the village. Michael has also organised some pot hole repairs but these are ongoing around the village as funds allow.

## Car Fire

In December Main Road was closed when a driver was injured after a car caught fire opposite the chemists. A Ford Ka was burnt out. The fire started at 8.45am and Kent Fire Brigade sent one engine to the blaze. The fire was doused by 9.30am.

A spokeswoman said there had been one casualty after the fire, and that paramedics from SE Coast Ambulance Service and Kent Police attended.



A spokesman from Kent Police said no serious injuries were reported and they were making enquiries into the incident.



## Formal Opening of The Howard Venue by The Rt. Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP



In October Sir Michael came to formally open The Howard Venue in Egerton Avenue with some very kind words of praise and encouragement. He spent an hour having a look round and meeting the dancers, orchestra, the choir and visited some of the many fitness classes.

The Howard Venue has become a busy and buzzing venue in the village used by all ages for so many different things.

Have a look at the website to see the various activities on offer. The centre is now a Not-for-Profit organisation and a registered charity run

by a group of residents. This new facility in the village was originally given a Tenancy at Will by KCC to occupy the building and then offered a 2 year lease. However, because the venue has been such a success KCC has now offered a 5 year contract to sign! So The Howard Venue is here to stay and we hope residents enjoy this wonderful asset.

Sir Michael was accompanied by Kent County Councillor Michael Horwood who joined the choir for a couple of songs and some fun and laughter. Residents were given tours of the building and councillors from both Hextable and Swanley also attended. If any resident would like a tour of the facilities they would be very welcome to phone 01322 618618. Please see the front cover for Taster Sessions. [www.thehowardvenue.co.uk](http://www.thehowardvenue.co.uk)

## Grant Awarded to The Howard Venue

The Howard Venue has just heard they have been awarded a £5,000 grant from Kent County Councillor Michael Horwood's members fund towards improving facilities for residents at The Howard Venue. This grant is greatly appreciated and will be well spent.







### **Oasis School Site & Development in the village**

Oasis school closed last year and residents have asked the Parish Council what is planned.

This large and important site in the village site is owned by Kent County Council. The Parish is informed that part of the school site in Egerton Avenue will be developed for housing. However, we are pleased to say the Green Belt fields will remain.



Unfortunately the school could not attract enough students to keep a secondary school open in the village and after careful consideration at the department for education at Kent County Council last year the site transferred from Education to Property. There is not a planning application at the moment.

The Parish Council do not know anymore than that and we don't have any information yet regarding the other sites that were under consideration in the village but as we hear any news we will keep residents informed.

## Sevenoaks District Council wins Council of the Year 2017

At a London ceremony, hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald, Sevenoaks District Council was named council of the year at the 2017 Local Government Chronicle Awards (LGC). It won for achieving financial self-sufficiency, changing cultures and “doing things differently”. The council has so far purchased a petrol station, office space, convenience store and a former Working Men’s Club and car park, and is currently developing its own hotel. This new source of income comes at a time when the council will no longer receive any direct government funding.



This victory is the latest in a number of recent

successes for the council after winning the finance and overall winner categories at the Guardian Public Service Awards in November, as well as two other awards last year. To win such a prestigious award is a very proud moment for the Council representing the hard work and difficult decisions the council has had to make. The council was up against some excellent London boroughs, county and city councils from across the country.

One of the judge’s said, “Sevenoaks Council is a radical, hugely impressive organisational development showing entrepreneurship with civic purpose.”

### KCC Election Hustings



The Kent County Council elections are on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This is a very important election every 4 years as each area only has one councillor and KCC deal with Highways, Education and Adult Social Services.

Churches Together have organised a Hustings event at St Peter’s Church for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm – 9pm where residents can hear from all the candidates and ask them questions.

It is very good of St Peter’s Church to organise this event as it is helpful to residents to be able to meet and hear the candidates speak and answer questions before the day comes to vote.

Everyone very welcome.

### Village Litter Pick.

Andy Lawrence is organising a letter pick round the village.  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am – 12.30pm. Meet outside McColls.  
All equipment supplied but please bring your own gloves.  
Thank you Andy for organising this Village Litter Pick.





**YOUR LOCAL  
HEXTABLE FLORIST**

**PAULA**

**FLORIST**

**07774 132795**

[paulaflorist@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulaflorist@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/paulaflorist](http://www.facebook.com/paulaflorist)

  
**Greenbox**  
SELF STORAGE



Call free 0800 9700 994

Call in College Road, Hextable, BR8 7LT  
or visit [www.greenbox-storage.co.uk](http://www.greenbox-storage.co.uk)

**Secure household, trade & business storage**

# New Choir

Whether you are a soprano, bass or have no idea but just love to sing, come along for an hour of melody and harmony. All ages and abilities welcome!



For more information:

Contact Victoria

[Victoria@thehowardvenue.co.uk](mailto:Victoria@thehowardvenue.co.uk)

07958 504692

**Tuesdays 7.30pm-8.30pm**

First session free! £3 per session

**The Howard Venue**

(formerly South East Dance Centre)

39 Egerton Avenue HEXTABLE BR8 7LG

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

**Hextable Kindergarten**

**In the Heart of the Community**

Pre School for children aged 2 ¼ to 5 years

Morning Sessions 9.15 - 12.15  
Some afternoon sessions available

St. Peter's Church, College Road, Hextable Kent. BR87RH  
Telephone: 01322 662320 [office@stph.org.uk](mailto:office@stph.org.uk)

## Hextable Village Pre-School

**07720 920 308**

[hexpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hexpreschool@hotmail.co.uk)



**The Gallery  
Hextable Heritage Gardens**

*Playing, Learning, Growing*

### Contact Details

#### Hextable Councillors

Cllr Darren Kitchener, Chairman

Tel: 01322 615847

[darren.kitchener@bbrail.com](mailto:darren.kitchener@bbrail.com)

Cllr Dee Morris, Deputy Chairman

Tel: 01322 669030

[deemorris79@hotmail.com](mailto:deemorris79@hotmail.com)

Cllr Ken Varnham

Tel: 01322 409544

[cldr.varnham@ntlworld.com](mailto:cldr.varnham@ntlworld.com)

Cllr Cliff Bower

Tel: 01322 665479

[cliffordbower@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cliffordbower@hotmail.co.uk)

Cllr Eric Leaver

Tel: 01322 660528

[ericleaver99@gmail.com](mailto:ericleaver99@gmail.com)

Cllr Mark Fittock

Tel: 01322 665026

[fittock75@gmail.com](mailto:fittock75@gmail.com)

Cllr Eileen Kattenhorn

Tel: 01322 409625

[eileenhextable@hotmail.com](mailto:eileenhextable@hotmail.com)

Cllr Rob Smith

Tel: 07979 262427

[robert\\_13@live.co.uk](mailto:robert_13@live.co.uk)

Cllr Wayne Stoneham

Tel: 07971 152515

[w.stoneham.ws@gmail.com](mailto:w.stoneham.ws@gmail.com)

*Parish and District Councillors' Surgery is held at the Parish Offices, dates are put on the website and the notice board outside the post office, no appointment required.*

Sevenoaks District Councillors: Cllr Dee Morris

[cldr.morris@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.morris@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Tel: 01322 669030

Cllr Darren Kitchener

[cldr.kitchener@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.kitchener@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Tel: 01322 615847

Kent County Councillor:

Cllr Michael Horwood

[Michael.horwood@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.horwood@kent.gov.uk)

07815483891

Please phone for an appointment.

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.