

# Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter

February 2017



## A note from the editor

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017. In this edition, there is a very sincere thank you to the Village Hall committee for all their efforts in the community. Also, at the end of January there was also a service of Thanksgiving for all that has been achieved in the repair and restoration of All Saints' Church. This really reminded me that what makes somewhere great to live is the spirit and support in the community and taking care and pride in the environment.

In 2017, I hope everyone can join in and continue to make Graveney with Goodnestone a fantastic place to live.

Email: [graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com](mailto:graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07920 412 250

Chris Harding

## Forthcoming Services at All Saints Church

*All Services at All Saints' Church, unless stated*

5th February      **Candlemas**  
10:30am          Communion

12th February    **Third Sunday before Lent**  
10:30am          Morning Worship

19th February    **Second Sunday before Lent**  
10:30am          Communion

26th February    **Sunday before Lent**  
10:30am          Morning Worship

1st March          **Ash Wednesday**  
10:00am          at All Saints' Church; also  
20:00pm          St Barnabas, The Street, Boughton

Both of these services will be Imposition of Ashes and Communion marking the beginning of Lent

5th March          **First Sunday of Lent**  
10:30am          Communion

12th March        **Second Sunday of Lent**  
10:30am          Morning Worship

This Service will be followed by our Annual Parochial Council Meeting to which everyone who lives in this parish or is on our Electoral Roll is invited

## All Saints Church Contacts and Notices

VICAR: The Reverend Jean Burrows - 01227 751410

CURATE: The Reverend Paulette Stubbings – 07713 777487

### **All are welcome at our services**

If you or someone you knows, needs a member of the local clergy, wishes to book a Baptism or Wedding or would like transport to a church service or event, please contact:

The Reverend Gill Reed - 01795 534059

BELL RINGERS STILL NEEDED - Training is available if you are interested - please contact the above number

## Graveney School Update

7th February                      Safer Internet Day

10th February                     Break up for half term

20th February                    Return to school

Graveney Primary School are collecting the Sainsbury Vouchers -all vouchers welcome please.

For more information phone:

Sarah Dunkin

01795 532 005

[www.graveneyprimary.com](http://www.graveneyprimary.com)

## Parish Council News

### **Parish Council News - December**

The following is an edited summary of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attended by 5 councillors, the Clerk, Andrew Bowles and George Bobbin (Borough Councillors) and 2 members of the public.

#### **Matters Arising:**

A poster containing updated details for Parish Councillors was circulated and will be posted at the village notice board.

It is possible to trial new street lights for free. It was agreed to trial a lantern design outside of the village hall. It was also discussed the need to report the street light at the school end of the bridge as it is permanently on.

A quote for the new swing at the Village Hall of £795 has been received.

The Parish Council had received an initial response regarding hedge cutting from Kent County Council, where it may be a possibility to have one early cut and a second paid for by the parish.

#### **Maps:**

The Parish has an electronic subscription to OS maps but they cannot be viewed due to a lack of software. It was agreed that

the Footpath Warden would purchase the Explorer 149 OS map at an approximate cost of £8 and would be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

**Training:**

Training course for Councillors and the Clerk were discussed and a list of course for 2017 was requested.

The purchase of a laptop and software will be progressed and claimed from the Transparency Fund. A printer/scanner may also be necessary. The possibility of providing broadband through the fund for the village hall was considered.

**KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme:**

It was agreed to approach neighbouring parishes (Boughton-under-Blean, Hernhill and Dunkirk) and discuss the possibility of sharing a Volunteer Warden. It was also agreed to request more information and a visit from the KCC officer responsible for the scheme.

**NALC Dependent Carers' Survey:**

This is a survey by the National Association of Local Councils, to gauge views on whether Parish Councillors should be able to claim for Dependants' Carers' allowance when attending meetings. The survey was completed and it was agreed that the clerk would submit the PC's responses.

**Local Validation Checklist consultation:**

It was agreed to respond in support of the new Local Validation Checklist. This is a checklist relating to planning applications.

**Village Sign Update:**

The resident has not been able to provide a design to date. It was agreed to check that the manufacturers can do the design for no extra cost and ask Cllr Wilkinson's husband to do the specific design for the boat.

**Correspondence:**

Councillors were made aware of correspondence received.

**Finance:**

The Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation were provided to Councillors. A number of small payments were approved.

**Planning:**

There were no planning issues to be discussed or noted.

**Graveney & Goodnestone Trust:**

A meeting has been held and the bills and outstanding grants have been approved. More applications are awaited. New signs at the footpaths were suggested.

**Councillor Reports:**

No updates this month.

**Any Other Business:**

Off road bikes are being used in the field at Langdon Court Farm at weekends, causing a nuisance. It was agreed to write to the Rochester Bridge Trust and copy in the PCSO.

## **Parish Council News – January**

The following is an edited summary of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Attended by 7 councillors, the Clerk, George Bobbin (Borough Councillors) and a member of the public.

### **Matters Arising:**

Off road bikes are still a problem at Langdon Court Farm. A letter will be sent to the Rochester Bridge Trust and copy the PSCO on this issue as soon as possible.

### **Resignation of Cllr Jefferys and casual vacancy:**

Cllr Jefferys was thanked for her work as a counsellor. Casual Vacancy Notices were distributed for posting in the village. Electors have until 30th January to petition for an election. If no election is called, candidates are requested to submit their details to the clerk by 27th February.

### **Street lighting:**

Streetlights are waiting for an orange filter and for a specialist bracket adaptor to be made for the light in Goodnestone. The delay is due to the parts being non-standard. No costings have yet been received. This will be chased up by the Parish Council. Three lights along Sandbanks Lane (outside Plantation House, Vinson Close and the village hall) are not working, although this may be due to a power issue. This will be reported to Streetlights.

### **KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme:**

Due to the tight timescale and difficulty of contacting other parishes and the proposed budget for the coming year, it was agreed to not participate in the scheme, but to look at feedback from other parishes for future consideration.

**Laptop purchase and completion of Transparency Fund application:**

The laptop and software have been purchased and the Transparency Fund application for them and 2 staff hours a month was approved,. It was also agreed to claim for 5 staff hours set up costs.

**Telephone box:**

It was agreed to raise no objection to the removal of the telephone box by Murton Court.

**Maps:**

The Footpath Warden is able to obtain a set of definitive maps from the Ramblers' Association so no further purchase of software or maps is necessary.

**Village Sign Update:**

The manufacturer has confirmed that artwork is included in the price. Cllr Wilkinson's husband will do the design for the boat. Proofs will be sent to the Parish Council for review. There is no need for planning but there is a BT cable that needs to be considered.

**Correspondence:**

An update was provided on the Country Eye app that allows

members of the public to receive and report information about crime, suspicious behaviour and damage quickly.

An email was received about a damaged bus shelter.

The Great British Spring Clean is taking place 3rd-5th March.

A beacon lighting event is being organised for 11th November 2018 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I. The Parish Council will send details to the Freewheel pub.

### **Finance:**

The Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation were provided to Councillors. A number of small payments were approved.

The finance working party had met to consider the budget and presented it. The clerk's salary will be reviewed as per the contract. Office expenses are slightly higher due to ink costs. The lighting contract is slightly higher due to a new contractor. The £1000 replacement cost for new lanterns will be taken out of reserves. The training budget covers four courses. The audit cost is higher due to the new auditor. The cost of the village sign has been budgeted for but will come out of the restricted reserve account. The budget was agreed at £14,000 and the precept was agreed at £6118

### **Planning:**

There were no planning issues to be discussed or noted.

### **Graveney & Goodnestone Trust:**

Nothing to report.

**Councillor Reports:**

No updates this month.

**Any Other Business:**

It was raised that a number of road signs are leaning or broken. This will be reported.

The WI are hoping to renovate the sign at the north of the village and may apply to the trust and/or the parish council for funds. There is lots of rubbish in the verges and edges of the fields. It was agreed to put an article in the newsletter.

Poor lighting and the car park at the Four Horseshoes are still a problem. It was agreed to write and express concern over the safety of residents and the visual impact.

There has been no progress on the requested dog bin by the cycle path. The clerk will check on progress.

The bus shelter by Murton Place has been vandalised and the glass panels smashed. Cllr Stewart has cleared up and made it safe but there are now no glazed side panels. It was suggested that a local contractor be contacted to provide a quote for installing plywood panels as a replacement. Although covered by insurance, the work is likely to cost less than the excess.

Road visibility at the end of Sandbanks Lane is poor due to overgrowing ivy.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

## Village Notice

**There is currently a noticeable amount of litter in the verges and edges of fields through the villages. If this is on your land please take care to remove any rubbish.**

**Hopefully, the tidier the village the less likely people will feel comfortable littering.**

## Graveney Art Group

First and Third Monday of each month, 10:00am until 12:00 noon. Back at the Freewheel Pub, until further notice. Refreshments and good company. All for £4.00 per morning. If you wish to know more contact:

Val

07866 984 678

## A Message from your County Councillor

This will be the first report that you will receive from me in 2017. Although much that has happened politically in 2016 was to my satisfaction, the Brexit vote in particular and the change of Prime Minister for example, on a personal level I shall not be sad to see it's passing. Far too many close friends have departed, as well as many famous names and faces we grew up with.

I will start with a reminder. I still hope to see more local

organisations coming forward with requests for assistance from my Kent County Council member grant fund. The 'You Decide' event to award this year's money is due to be held at Teynham Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. I cannot believe all voluntary groups are awash with funds, so please contact either myself or Bill Ronan at KCC for an application form.

During this period I have attended Graveney Parish Council twice, the November and December meetings, Selling Parish Council and Dunkirk Parish Council in November and Teynham Parish Council in December. I've also chaired a Swale Borough Council cabinet meeting and attended two Full Council meetings at Swale.

Other meetings of particular interest include a meeting of all Kent Council Leaders, the Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration Board, Kent Flood Risk Committee, the Annual General Meeting of the Kent Association of Local (Parish) Councils, a meeting to discuss Kent County Council's plans for commissioning extra school capacity in Swale and the Annual General Meeting of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership of which I remain Vice Chairman.

I went to London for the RSPCA Annual Awards where Swale Borough Council's Dog Warden Service received a Gold Award for the second year running. I also took part in a meeting with the Minister of Transport Chris Grayling together with local business leaders to discuss highway and rail infrastructure problems in Swale and in wider Kent together with possible solutions. This meeting was setup by Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP, Gordon Henderson.

*Andrew Bowles*

## A Message from Helen Whately MP

I like January. That may sound odd, as January can be a pretty grim month; Christmas is over, the nights are long, the weather often vicious and spring still far off. But for me it's a chance to reset, start afresh, and work out how to make the most of the year ahead.

Last year was dominated by the upheaval of the EU referendum and a change of Prime Minister. The message came through to politicians loud and clear that many people want things to change. This year we must turn the referendum decision into action, and as we do so, we must understand and tackle the underlying frustrations. Else we risk going through a huge amount of turmoil to no good outcome.

Some people have been wondering why there's such a strong desire for change in the UK. If you look at the numbers Britain is doing well: the economy is growing and is now 8.1% bigger than it was before the recession. More people are in work than ever before, with 3 million more jobs than in since 2010. Society is getting fairer too with wealth more evenly distributed: disposable income for the poorest fifth of households rose by £700 last year, while it's fallen by £1000 for the richest households. Over a million more children are in good or outstanding schools (compared to 2010) and the NHS is treating more people than ever before.

But these figures overlook the people in the middle, between the richest and the poorest. Many people who are working long hours but struggling to make ends meet, living in inadequate housing but unable to afford a home of their own,

finding there's no option for their children but a mediocre school, perhaps struggling to get care for a relative who needs it, and most importantly, no prospect in sight of things getting better. It's a story I hear too often when talking to my constituents and in the letters and emails I receive.

So while I want to make life better for everyone, it's those people in the middle who need to be in the spotlight in 2017. The Prime Minister gets this. In her first major speech of the year Theresa May spoke of fighting everyday injustices and building a society where everyone shares in the benefits of economic growth. She committed to lead a Government that goes beyond providing a safety net for the poorest and most vulnerable, but actively steps in to make the system fairer for every income bracket.

I'm particularly pleased that she's chosen to make mental health care a defining issue for her Government. This is something I have been campaigning for as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mental Health and in my career before I became an MP. Theresa May is rightly putting children and young people at the centre of her ambitions. When I visit schools and colleges I often hear how let down young people feel. They tell me that there is misunderstanding and confusion about mental health, that there are long delays in getting treatment and when they do get help it's often inappropriate or inadequate. Life lived in part on social media seems to make things that much harder for young people now than when I was a teenager. Plans to train teachers to spot children who may be struggling and help schools work more closely with the NHS are very welcome. With Brexit still

dominating the political landscape, it's significant that the Prime Minister is not allowing it to crowd out other priorities.

That said, the Government will trigger Article 50 and set our withdrawal from the EU going in the spring. I'll be working to make sure we get the best deal for Kent – a deal that works for our industries, particularly farming which relies on seasonal migrant labour, for our universities, for people who voted to leave and for people who voted to remain. I'm also excited about the new opportunities that leaving the EU will bring us. As Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Department of International Trade I'm looking forward to assisting Ministers as they forge new deals and champion free trade across the world.

If last year is anything to go by, 2017 will bring twists, turns and unexpected challenges – I'm confident that we as a country are ready to take them on.

## **Helen Whately**

**MP for Faversham and Mid Kent**

I work for you. If you have a problem you think I can help you with, please contact me or visit me at one of my surgeries

House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

[www.helenwhately.org.uk](http://www.helenwhately.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7219 6472;

Email: [helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk)

### **Upcoming surgeries**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, Parkwood

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Bearsted

## Village Hall Events and Notices

### **Wednesday Club**

Meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, 2:00pm at the Village Hall. Tea, cake, bingo and chat. Subs 50 pence

#### **Contacts:**

Penny Foster	01795 538732
Trish Timms	07926 351628

Boot fairs will return in March. See you soon!

## **THANK YOU to THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

**VENUE:** The Village Hall at Graveney

**DATE & TIME:** 2pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**OCCASION:** the “Winter Warmer”.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS OUTSIDE:** bitterly cold and bleak, but inside ...

...the Village Hall was warm and inviting and resplendent with Christmas decorations. Two long tables had been dressed for the occasion with plates of delicious nibbles and sandwiches and completed with crackers (for pulling) and beautiful fresh flower centrepieces. Another table by the stage was laden with all manner of drinks just waiting to be served while another was sagging under the weight of the multitude of raffle prizes to be won. And on the stage, the entertainer was making final adjustments to his electronic sound equipment.

Penny, Trish and Elaine were at the door welcoming their guests.

And what a wonderful afternoon's fun and entertainment they had laid on for us all...

The hired entertainer Rich Phillips very quickly got us all clapping, foot tapping and singing for a full 3 hours (and even got some of us dancing). He had some great jokes as well. Ladies you've just got to hire him again!

Of course we had a few games of Bingo with political correctness only very slightly restricting the caller's comments!

Tea and coffee were served along with a selection of scrumptious cake to finish off the meal while we all spread our raffle tickets out in front of us in readiness for the draw. **Prizes galore** with lots of laughing and joking all round.

Then, before we knew it, it was time for home. Another (the best ever?) Winter Warmer was over.

**Now, events like this don't just happen** – they take a lot of planning, organising and hard work. Decorating the hall, setting up and laying out the tables, organising all the food, the drinks, the table flowers, the raffle prizes and hiring an entertainer. All we as residents have to do is turn up to this free (yes - free!!) event, enjoy ourselves and then go home. But of course the hall then has to be cleared up, table and chairs staked away, washing up done, floors swept and all rubbish removed. The people who do all this for us do more as well:

- they **also** run the Wednesday Club

- they **also** organise and run the Abbey School Boot Fairs several times each year to raise funds

- they **also** organise a day coach trip to the seaside each year

- they **also** organise a coach trip to a Christmas Panto.

And they do all this for us – the Graveney residents and they deserve our support.

So - **Penny, Trish, and Elaine** (and any other helpers or committee members whose names I may not know) – on behalf of the residents of Four Horseshoes Park and all other Graveney residents who had so much fun on that cold day in January... a most sincere **THANK YOU**

## Upcoming Events at the Woman's Institute

March 8th – Ben Lewis Cocktails

We meet in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors always very welcome to attend.

For further information contact:

Teresa Bowles on 07966 299648 or e-mail  
teresa.bowles22@btinternet.com

Or

Sue Wraight on 01227 751361

## A Thought for the Month

### **Give Lavishly! Live Abundantly!**

The more you give,  
The more you get,  
The more you laugh,  
The less you fret,  
The more you do unselfishly,  
The more you live abundantly,  
The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll always have to spare,  
The more you love,  
The more you'll find,  
That life is good,  
And Friends are kind,  
For only what we give away  
Enriches us from day to day.

*Helen Steiner Rice*

### ♥ ♠ Mini-Bridge ♣ ♦

Every Thursday, 2pm – 4pm at The Freewheel. If you've ever played any form of whist (trumps) before or if you just like playing cards you'll pick the game up very easily. We are a small very friendly group – why not join us? If you want to know more you can just turn up on the day or contact me: [Peter 01795 531 851](tel:01795531851) or [peterppe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterppe@hotmail.co.uk)



## **ABBEY UKULELE CLUBS**



Meet as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY** each mth

**THE AVIATOR**

**Queensborough Road**

**Isle of Sheppey**

**7.30 – 9.30pm**

**Graveney Village Hall,**

**Sandbanks Lane**

**WEDNESDAYS** 2pm – 4pm

fortnightly

&

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAYS –**

**7pm – 9pm**



**ALSO**

Uke Get-together at William Gibbs Court, Orchard  
Place, Faversham – every Thursday 1pm – 2.30pm

Beginners & players all welcome

For more information please contact

**JANET & KEITH 01795 530854**



[janetipavne47@gmail.com](mailto:janetipavne47@gmail.com)

<http://janetipavne.wix.com/abbeyukeplayers>

## Christmas Crossword Answers

### Across

- 1) Christmas Tree (6) Spruce
- 3) Famous snowman (6) Frosty
- 4) Birthplace of Jesus (9) Bethlehem
- 5) French Christmas (4) Noel
- 6) Crib (6) Manger
- 7) Pull Santa's sleigh (8) Reindeer
- 8) Garland (6) Wreath
- 9) Evergreen plant (3) Ivy

### Down

- 2) Musician (5) Piper
- 3) Faverolles (6,4) French hens
- 6) Hung at Christmas (9) Mistletoe
- 10) Weeks before Christmas (6) Advent
- 11) Birth (8) Nativity
- 12) Festive snack (5,3) Mince pie
- 13) Aromatic resin (5) Myrrh
- 14) Pull with a bang (7) Cracker

## Gardeners' Tips

There's been some heavy frost lately, so here are some tips on what can be done when damage has occurred.

If no more frost is expected, prune out damaged growth, cutting to an undamaged sideshoot or bud. After pruning, apply a top dressing of a general-purpose fertiliser. Frost may lift newly-planted shrubs out of the ground, so check and re-firm the ground around them. Finally, don't give up! Many plants can be surprisingly resilient and may well rejuvenate from dormant buds at or below soil level.

### **Toby Dangerfield**

#### **Plumbing And Heating**

Gas registered

Boiler changes, cylinder changes, power flushes,

Large leaks, small leaks. Gas pipe changes.

All small jobs

Contact number: 01795539781

Mobile: 07810351079

## Neighbourhood Watch

Please be safe:

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLOCKED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR WINDOWS OPEN WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE OUTBUILDINGS UNLOCKED

DO NOT LEAVE TOOLS OR MACHINERY IN PLAIN SIGHT

REPORT ALL INSTANCES TO THE POLICE

Use 999 if it is urgent or 101 if it is after the fact

After you have reported it to the police, notify

Neighbourhood Watch - Mr. Kevin Castle

Contact: 07749 736669 - kevincastle@btinternet.com

# SCOTT KENDALL PHOTOGRAPHY

[WWW.SCOTTKENDALLPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK](http://WWW.SCOTTKENDALLPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK)

**SPECIALISING IN  
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY**

07733245380

[SCOTTKENDALLPHOTO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCOTTKENDALLPHOTO@GMAIL.COM)



## Contacts of Local Representatives

### **Parish Councillors:**

Clare Boggia, details to be updated.

Teresa Bowles 07966 299 648

### **Faversham without Ward**

Catherine Wilkinson 01795 591 731

### **Goodnestone Ward**

Roger Mitchell (Vice-Chairman) 01795 532 372

### **Graveney Ward**

Alan Stewart (Chairman) 01795 533 205

Lesley Lound 07933 350 999

### **Clerk to the Council:**

Bex Ratchford clerkggpc@gmail.com

### **Parish Website:**

[www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/](http://www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/)

### **Borough and County Councillor:**

Andrew Bowles 01227 752 840

### **Borough Councillor:**

George Bobbin 01227 751 388

### **MP:**

Helen Whately 0207 219 6472

## Village Notice Boards

We now have two sets of keys for the village notice boards. If you wish to put up a notice please contact:

Carol Mitchell 01795 532 372

Penny Foster 01795 538 732

## Articles for this Newsletter

For any comments, corrections and contributions please email: [graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com](mailto:graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com)

Please ensure all submissions are made by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to ensure inclusion in the following months' edition.

Please also get in contact if you would also like to receive a pdf of the newsletter via email every month. Versions of current and prior editions are available on the Parish website:

[www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/](http://www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/)

If you are missing a copy, please email, alternatively spare copies are available at All Saints Church, The Freewheel Pub and Mallards Farm Shop.

Adverts are welcome at a cost of £2 per half page. Please get in contact via the above email or on 07920 412 250, to discuss placing an ad.