



Chevening Parish Council

18 March 2024

Dear Parishioners

Another year has flown by since I last wrote to you!

Once again we held what I'm sure you all agree was a hugely successful event to commemorate the Coronation. Instead of a street party, last year it was a "picnic in the park" held on the Recreation Ground and we plan to hold it as an Annual event, simply to get together and enjoy living in Chevening Parish. This year it will be on Sunday 30th June from 12 noon and is completely free.

Our Annual Assembly this year is on Monday 22nd April at 7.30pm in the Church Hall on Homedean Road in Chipstead. I hope as many of you will join us there as possible. By then we will also have had the first sight of the draft Local Plan and the sites the District Council are considering, which is something that I know a large number of you have been very engaged with already.

We will have our Sevenoaks District and Kent County Councillors present at the Annual Assembly, so please come along and see them and your Parish Councillors with any questions you may have

Please take a moment to read my Annual Report on the following pages which highlights some of the many different issues your Parish Council deal with during the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention the sad passing of Jean Westacott who has been a resident all her life, her husband John was Parish Council Chairman and Jean, for many years and up until her death, was Chair of the Lucy, Countess of Stanhope Trust, which I know many young people in the Parish benefitted from its patronage under her leadership

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on 22nd April, but please do not hesitate to get in touch via the website if you need us

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Nigel Williams
Chairman

In a year of change we warmly welcomed two new Parish Councillors James London and Jane Nielsen who were co-opted onto the Parish Council follow the uncontested elections in May where we were left with 2 vacancies. Both Jane and James are very familiar faces to the Parish Council, Jane having previously served on the Council and James who was our District Councillor for many years.

We also welcomed our two new District Councillors Sandra Robinson and Michelle Alger, both of whom although representing Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge at the District Council live firmly in the middle of our Parish

Communication

Chevening News. In the spirit of returning familiar “faces” we congratulate and thank the team responsible for getting the Chevening Mailer back up and running. It is now a quarterly publication and the team can be contacted on cheveningnews@gmail.com

Chevening Mailer. The Parish Council is very keen to resurrect the “Chevening Mailer” which was an email publication started as a result of the Parish Plan in 2015 and run very capably by the late Mick Ryan. The Council would use it to distribute Parish notices, road closures, information from the District Council and details of any local “events” etc. It would not be a medium for business advertising. If you would like to start receiving the Mailer, please use the contact form on the website to ask to subscribe – you can of course unsubscribe at any time. As it gets up and running we will welcome feedback as to how to improve it, but the Mailer will not be an instrument where email correspondence is shared.

Planning

Local Plan 2040. As you will be aware SDC are putting together their Local Plan 2040. Included within the Local Plan are prospectively 2 sites of Green Belt and AONB in the Parish which have been offered up by their respective landowners for housing. These are opposite the Rivermere Care Home in Chipstead (behind the Church Hall and through to the allotments) and behind Bessels Way/Larkfield Road (the land between Back Lane and the A21). Even if these sites prove to be unworkable there is a possibility of other sites being put forward over the coming months so please keep an eye out on the website (or subscribe to the Mailer!) to get further information

Chevening Parkland

As you will know the Parkland Scheme was passed by the Planning Inspector to go ahead. Since then we have had confirmation that there are incredibly rare and protected aquatic creatures close downstream to the proposed development. We have been pressing both KCC Ecology and SDC Planning to ensure there is consideration given in any plans to protect those as any contamination or changes to the pH balance to the water as a result of imported soil could wipe them out.

The Estate has created a Liaison Group (one Councillor and one Chevening Parishioner sit on that committee) which is designed to hear any issues/problems raised as a result of the scheme.

At the present time there has only been removal of hedgerows at the place where the lorries will enter the weighbridge and then cross onto the site which has been undertaken before the nesting season commences

Roads and Transport

New bus shelter & Buses The Parish Council is delighted to have installed a new bus shelter at Chipstead Corner. I hope you agree it is a very good looking construction and was made locally (by a company in Bough Beech) and installed by them.

Cllr Williams from SDC has been working with KCC to try and get a crossing installed at Bessels Green. The location of the crossing appears to be a technical issue in terms of it’s proximity to the Green and the bus stop.

The Parish Council has asked KCC to also look at whether it would be more appropriate to have a crossing near Chipstead Corner instead as this is where many young people cross to get the school buses

20 mph extension KCC has held a consultation to extend the 20mph zone from Chipstead Lane to the end of Witches and Bullfinch Lanes and from Chevening Road Chipstead up to the motorway

bridge (past the school). These changes have been requested by the Parish Council since the 20mph zone was introduced so we are delighted with this proposal.

Chevening Housing Needs Survey

On behalf of SDC a parish wide survey is taking place in June to ascertain if there are shortfalls in affordable housing provision within the parish. The survey will also seek to identify the needs of older residents seeking to downsize/move to more suitable housing for their needs, of any tenure. The survey will be online with paper copies available for those who need it (you will receive a written notification of the survey in the post. Please do complete it

Social Events

Dragon Boat Festival Congratulations to our Vice Chair and his team who successfully and brilliantly organised the Dragon Boat Festival last August Bank Holiday, which had been an Annual event and is now back on everyone's social calendar. All proceeds go to Charity (the Cheshire Home and Wealden Sailability) so it is a fantastic event to support in terms of getting a team together or cheering from the banks and buying lots of raffle tickets.

Parish Picnic Following the success of the Coronation "picnic in the park" we are holding a annual picnic (with music) from lunchtime. This year it will be on 30th June. Please come along, bring your picnics – no charge, no tickets – just come and enjoy.

80th Anniversary of D-Day On 6th June at 9.15pm beacons will be lit all around the Country (& in France) to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. We will be lighting ours on Chipstead Green

Family Fun Day Our Fun Day in 2023 was sadly rain affected but the 100 or so people who attended benefited from short queues for the face painting and those who made it to lunchtime when the weather had brightened up got to play on the bouncy castle. This year's fun day will be on Friday 23rd August from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. The Pavilion is open for teas coffees and toilets!

Remembrance Sunday As this year sees the 80th anniversary of D-Day I encourage as many of you as possible to set aside 20 minutes at noon on 10th November to pay respects to those Parishioners who lost their lives during both World Wars and the Korean War.

Light up a Life Our Annual start to Christmas is our Carol Service around the Christmas Tree at Chipstead Green, where we remember those we have lost in the past few years and have a collection for Hospice in the Weald. Please join us and representatives from our 3 places of Worship, St Botolph's Chevening, Bessels Green Baptist Church and Sevenoaks Unitarians

Next year will be the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ day – so our "picnic in the park" next year will be in celebration and commemoration of the end of WWII

And finally, congratulations to the Residents of Chesterfield Drive and Stanhope Way who have donated to provide a defibrillator and cabinet in Chesterfield Drive

Dates for the Diary

Annual Assembly	22 nd April 7.30 pm	Church Hall
80 th Anniversary of D-Day	6 th June 9.15p.m.	Beacon lit on Chipstead Green
Church Picnic	9 th June 12 noon	Chipstead Recreation Ground
Parish Picnic	30 th June 12 noon	Chipstead Recreation Ground
Family Fun Day	23 rd August 10.30 am	Chipstead Recreation Ground
Dragon Boat Festival	26 th August All day	Chipstead Lake
Remembrance Sunday	10 th November 12 noon	War Memorial Homedean Rd
Light Up a Life	2 nd December 7pm	Chipstead Green

Lucy Stanhope's Charity

Registered Charity number 307746



This long-established local Charity is able to offer modest grants to young people under the age of 25 who are resident in the civil parish of Chevening, and who may appreciate some financial assistance towards the cost of their education or with furthering their ambitions.

An application form may be obtained from the Secretary to the Charity's Trustees:

29 Westerham Road,
Bessels Green,
Sevenoaks,
TN13 2PX
Or via email to lclaweavers@gmail.com

Completed applications should be with the Secretary by the end of May, and applicants will be interviewed during June.

CHEVENING NEWS READ ALL ABOUT IT

A lot has happened in the parish over the past year and the Chevening News - back in business since August 2023 - is proud to have been circulating coverage, opinion and humour stimulated by our community in the three issues it has published to date. If you're interested in advertising (£40 per small advert per year; £80 per large advert per year); contributing or subscribing (£2.50 an issue; £8 for the year), then please contact the editorial team on cheveningnews@gmail.com with your contact details and someone will be in touch