

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER-SPRING

Badgers Mount Newsletter



It's Spring again and it is lovely to see all the flowers blooming in and around the village. We would like to share some updates and important information with you.

On Thursday 4 May 2023, District Council elections are taking place across the Sevenoaks District. Hopefully you would have all received your Polling Cards with details of your polling station or your postal or proxy vote arrangement by now.

There will not be an actual election for the Parish Council as only the five present Badgers Mount Parish Councillors were nominated, so the election is uncontested. The councillors are:

DUNLOP, Alistair John
GRINT, John Leslie Martin
LAKE, Simon Strickland
MCCARTNEY, Tracey Jane
PLUMB, Gordon Keith

A reminder that you have **2 votes** and need to bring Photographic Identification to vote on the day.

As you may be aware, the UK Government has launched a new Public Emergency Alerts system. This system gives the UK Government and emergency services the capability to send an alert directly to mobile phones when there is a risk to life. There was a national test of the new system on Sunday (23 April). During the test, you would have received a message on the home screen of their mobile phone, along with a sound and vibration for up to ten seconds.

As you may have heard the Parkland Enhancement Scheme on the Chevening Estate has got the grant of consent despite massive opposition from Parish Councils of Badgers Mount & Chevening & the surrounding Parishes. This will have impact on our Roads with increased HGV traffic. The Parish Council continues to work with the affected parties & the District Council to mitigate the downfalls.

On a more positive note, the various organisations in the village and volunteers have come together to schedule some exciting events to commemorate the Coronation, the details of which are in the last page of the newsletter. We would like to invite all residents of the Parish to come & celebrate the joyous occasion. All residents would have also received a little pack of wildflower seeds to commemorate the Coronation. Please use the no-mow May to plant these seeds in your gardens. Lets invite the bees to our village!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THUR 4TH MAY : DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

FRI 5TH MAY (1600 HRS) : CORONATION FLORAL CROWN WORKSHOP

SAT 6TH MAY (1700 HRS) : CORONATION TIME CAPSULE TO BE BURIED

SUN 7TH MAY (1100 HRS) : CORONATION CHILDRENS PARTY

SUN 7TH MAY (1900 HRS) : CORONATION BINGO, GAMES & DANCING

MON 8TH MAY (1100 HRS) : CORONATION YOUNG CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

THU 1ST JUNE (1930 HRS) : ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SAT 15TH JULY (1000 HRS): BULK FREIGHTER

1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH (1930 HRS): PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH (1930 HRS): RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH (2000 HRS): BADGERS SETT MEETING

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH (1400 HRS): WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH (1400 HRS) : WI KNIT & NATTER

EVERY THURSDAY (1030 HRS): COFFEE MORNINGS



Car Racing on local roads

Cllr Alistair Dunlop

Halstead Parish Council held a meeting in order to discuss car racing on local roads. Sgt Wells and Constable Lee, both from the Metropolitan Police, gave a presentation and answered questions on the car racing problem. This is a problem all across London, with its own specific culture and highly organised. Most groups are present on social media, with Instagram being the most used app. Around 150,000 followers are on the biggest 12 groups, but some of these may be on more than 1 group. Specific locations for a meet are sent out typically 1 hour or less before commencement, which makes it difficult to prepare or pre-plan Police responses. There may be several different groups in action at the same time in different parts of London, often at weekends but also during weekdays sometimes. Each group may use several locations during 1 night, starting with a chill and chat social meet perhaps around 7 or 8 pm, possibly followed by a road cruise along a particular route and often followed by racing and car stunts at a third location around 10 or 11 pm. Meets may have anywhere from 70 to 200 cars taking part, plus spectators. It is estimated that around 90% of the participants are only interested in the cars and not linked to other forms of crime. Most participants have licences and insurance, although they may not have informed their insurance companies of their particular interests. The Police are concentrating on the organisers, but need warrants in order to link e-mails to physical addresses. 'Public Nuisance' warrants need lots of public input over a significant period, including statements and details such as number plates, although these may be removed or covered during the racing. So far, there don't appear to have been any fatalities in the London area, although other parts of the country have suffered, primarily where out of control cars have hit spectators.

Policing may be difficult as a Police car has to follow a suspected speeder for at least 0.2 miles before pulling the driver over, and people slow down when being followed by a marked car. Police resources for the whole London area are 4 Traffic cars a night, 1 from each of the major traffic garages in London. There are 2 holding compounds and specialist Police recovery lorries. These are fitted with a crane to remove immobilised cars and can each carry 2 normal cars, and are fully marked with blue lights and sirens, so can also be used to break up a meet or race. Other resources include Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems, local PCSOs and Special Constables but the main problem is split responsibilities and the short warning available of planned locations. Speed is an issue, but the main danger is racing and stunts such as 'doughnuts'. There were 33 arrests in 2022 and around 1900 formal warnings of one type or another. These penalties were served on organisers, participants and video bloggers – vloggers. 329 vehicles were Taken Off the Road for vehicle faults, often bald tyres as a result of performing stunts, and illegal exhaust systems – although these are difficult to assess because of unclear legal requirements. One Halstead resident told of being unable to drive across the roundabout one night and feeling worried when the nearby spectators began to take an interest in her car. However, they were friendly and helped her to cross the roundabout safely. The Police emphasised at the meeting that the vast majority of participants are not criminal 'biker gangs' but normal people, mostly young and of both sexes, who are interested in the cars and exploring their handling limits – a form of extreme sports and showing off. Halstead Parish Council will be circulating details of contact numbers and e-mail contacts. On a different topic, it was noted that the British Transport Police can be texted on 61016 if you feel unsafe on a train and they will meet the train at its next stop.

SLOGAN CONTEST

We have all seen County slogans across the country like Garden of England (Kent), The Creative County (Staffordshire), Shakespeare's County (Warwickshire), A Place where everyone Matters (Lancashire). If Badgers Mount was to have a slogan, what do you think it would be?

Great news! The Parish Council would like to announce a slogan contest for all residents of the Parish. Get your creative juices flowing and come up with a catchy and memorable slogan that represents your community. Exciting prizes to be won. Email your slogans to **badgersmountclerk@gmail.com**. Top entries will be shared at the Annual Parish meeting on June 1st & winners announced. Good luck!



Planning & the Green Belt

Cllr Gordon Plumb

There is often confusion between the Green Belt and Greenfield Land.

Green Belt is the name given to highly protected countryside and open space to control urban growth around existing built-up areas and has tight restrictions on development, whereas Greenfield land is space that has not been built on and most likely used for agriculture or as grassland. Greenfield land is not strongly protected unless it is within the Green Belt. The Green Belt serves five purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns;
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

New buildings are usually considered to be inappropriate development in the green belt. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that inappropriate development in the Green Belt is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in Very Special Circumstances. Inappropriate development in the Green Belt is harmful in principle, even if it is not visible from a public viewpoint.

There are some exceptions which are NOT considered Inappropriate Development in the green belt:

- buildings for agriculture or forestry;

- provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and for cemeteries, as long as it preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it;
- the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the original building, normally a maximum of 50% increase in external area;
- the replacement of a building provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces;
- limited infilling in villages, and limited affordable housing for local community needs under policies set out in the Local Plan;
- limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites (brownfield land), which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development.

The Government guidance on protecting green belt land states that the 'need for development space' for affordable housing is not a sound enough reason on its own to gain approval for construction.

An assessment must be carried out which considers:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Protected Sites
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Heritage Coast
- Heritage Assets
- National Parks
- Flood Risk

Within the Sevenoaks District Council area 93% is Green Belt with only the main residential areas excluded. In Badgers Mount, some of the residential area is Green Belt but most of the dwellings are not.

If the Broke Hill development application had been permitted it would have joined Halstead to Pratts Bottom, thus contravening the second of the five purposes of the Green Belt.

COUNCILLORS CLINIC

Badgers Mount Parish Council announce the launch of the **Councillors Clinic** every first Thursday of the month at 19:00 hours (half an hour prior to the start of the monthly Badgers Mount Parish Council meetings) These half an hour **one-to-one** meetings with your local Councillors are a great opportunity for you to discuss any concerns or feedback you have directly with your representatives. The Councillors Clinic will begin from the 6th of July. Please email badgersmountclerk@gmail.com if you'd like to book your slot



Emergency Sub-Committee

Cllr Alistair Dunlop

Following local discussion on social media about recent flooding and power losses, your Parish Council has recently set up a sub-committee to discuss possible local responses to various potential emergencies. We are a small Parish, so can't cover all possible hazards; for example, we can't afford standby power generators or a full-time – or even volunteer – fire and rescue team. Work so far has identified several mitigation measures which have general use across the community, and which are affordable in terms of funding and personnel needs. Examples are the provision of a defibrillator at the Memorial Hall and additional salt/grit bins for snow and ice conditions. We have arranged instruction in CPR, and are happy to lay on further training if required. We are also looking at acquiring sandbags and emergency marking tape to cordon off potential hazards. However, many hazards will require mutual help and assistance, as has been so well demonstrated during our recent flood and power loss events. This could be the loan of a gas barbeque or camping stove for cooking during a power cut (REMEMBER SAFETY – do NOT use indoors because of possible Carbon Monoxide poisoning). Other possibilities could be the loan of a chainsaw and winch to sort out a fallen tree, but these can also be very dangerous in inexperienced hands.

We will make a presentation on this topic at our Annual Parish Meeting. It would be very helpful if you could let us have your views and comments on this area – e-mail the Parish Clerk at badgersmountclerk@gmail.com or post a letter at Montclare on the Orpington By-Pass. Alternatively, talk to any of your councillors – Gordon runs the Thursday morning tea and coffee event, and Alistair still walks around the Parish occasionally (although now unfortunately dog-less).

Mobile Library

Cllr Gordon Plumb

The KCC mobile library visits the Memorial Hall car park on alternate Thursday mornings from 11.10 to 11.45. The van has a wide variety of books but if you want a particular book and it isn't on the van it can be ordered and hopefully it will be on the van at the next visit. Alternatively, you can order books on-line and they will be brought on the van. If you already have a KCC library card it can be used on the mobile library van. It is believed that KCC will be reviewing use of the mobile library service again in the near future. The last time they carried out a review of use approximately half of the stops in the county lost their service because the average was less than 2 people at each visit. It is believed that the standard will be higher this time, possibly 3 or more people at each visit. Please make use of this service. If it is not used, we will lose it!

House Names

Cllr Gordon Plumb

With over half the houses in Badgers Mount named and not numbered, it is essential that house names are clearly visible, not only for drivers delivering those parcels of goods you have bought on-line but also emergency services. Many are difficult to see during the day and impossible to see at night. Please think of the implications if you need an ambulance in the middle of the night and they can't find your house.

Badgers Sett

Zena Belton

There is a group of Badgers Mount ladies who meet on the fourth Thursday the month in the memorial hall from 8pm. We drink tea and coffee and occasionally wine! We would love more ladies to join us – you don't need to sign up just pop in and say hello. If you would like to come along you would get a warm welcome. We also have a walking bus so you get home safely! It's just like a coffee morning but it's in the evening and we have wine. Hope to see you at the next meeting – 27th April, 25th May, 22nd June etc

TIME CAPSULE

A **time capsule** is a great way to create memories for our little village to especially for our younger generations. The Badgers Mount Parish Council would like to gather various items that represent the current time such as artworks made by our younger residents, Community newsletters & small trinkets. We would like to encourage all our younger residents as well as our young at heart residents to either make an artwork or write a letter to their future self either about the village or the Coronation, sign it & date it. We will then bury the time capsule near the Millenium signpost (we could then dig it up 25 years later). All Residents are invited to participate in this on Saturday the 6th of May at 5pm near the Millenium signpost. We would like to invite the youngest member of the Parish to come and bury the Time Capsule. (If you think that your child is youngest in the village then please email badgersmountclerk@gmail.com with the name as well as age)



BMRA update

Arthur Evans

Towards the end of last year, a Wine Tasting event was held. This is a popular pastime. Carol Singing by children from St Katherine's Primary School, Knockholt entertained the residents of Nesbit House. At dusk the Christmas Decoration Lights were switched on by Olive Came. The BMPC supplied RBL Poppies along OBP and OLR (maybe the side roads could be included this year). Fairy Lights were added to the Village Gates and some bulbs were planted which we can now appreciate. Early in the year many residents were trained in the use of a Defibrillator. A Soup 'N Roll social event took place. After the Turkey/ Syria Earthquake, a Cake Bake Appeal was arranged to raise funds. This may become an annual event for BM to support a needy charity. The Woodlands Trust have heavily coppiced Hollows Wood which hasn't been done for over 30 years. This has included a landing stage for wood removal in Chelsfield Lane. It will take some time for regeneration growth but will be monitored. The Footpath SR 740 between Highland Road and Milton Avenue has been partially repaired by some local residents, with materials supplied by KCC PROW. It is hoped to complete this soon. A quiz night with a Fish & Chips supper was a recent great success. The friendship and neighbourliness were more important than knowing the answers to the questions. A successful Easter Egg Trail was enjoyed by some of our younger community members.

Sunflower seeds have been delivered to all properties soon. Are your fingers green or is that your gloves?

Badgers Institute

Mount

Women's

Karen Lagarde

Thank goodness that Spring has finally sprung! We have been very busy since my last report. We had a super Christmas party, everybody brought a contribution to the food table and we were entertained by Miss Vintage who sang both festive and favourite songs.

In January we had a 'left overs' meeting – in reality nobody really had any Christmas left overs, but we enjoyed a good quiz and a good catch up with each other.

Our February speaker was local poet Christine Pope who kept us entertained with a selection of her poems on a variety of subjects. They were very witty and amusing and we had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Sadly our March meeting was cancelled due to the snow, but we would have listened to Jean Surrey revealing to us the secret contents of 19th century boxes. We will rebook Jean in due course.

In April our speaker was Chris Stewart who gave us his presentation on The Flower Villages of The Alsace and Lorraine. We shall be holding our AGM at our May meeting. I know that all our members are looking forward to their own Coronation celebrations and I am sure that a good time will be had by all.

As I have previously mentioned, apart from the May and December meetings, guests are welcome to join us for a very small fee towards the cost of the speaker and the delicious tea and cakes that follow - 2pm every second Wednesday of the month in Badgers Mount Memorial Hall.

We have booked a variety of speakers for the coming 12 months, do look out for the posters around the Mount and of course on the Badgers Mount website and this publication.

SIGN UP

To sign up for the Parish Council newsletter, please visit the website

<http://badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk> or send an email to badgersmountclerk@gmail.com and provide your email address to be added to the mailing list. This will allow you to receive regular updates and stay informed about the latest news and events in your local community.



Badgers Mount



Coronation Celebrations

A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS & VOLUNTEERS HAVE COME TOGETHER TO CREATE AN EXCITING CORONATION EVENT FOR ALL AGES TO ENJOY DURING THE CORONATION WEEKEND. WE HOPE TO SEE AS MANY OF YOU THERE AS POSSIBLE

Date/Time	Price	Details
Friday 5th May 4pm to 6 pm	£10 adults £ 5 children	<p>Floral Crown Workshop For adults & children under supervision (suitable 11+ years but younger children ok if supervised by their parents) Please book and pay by May 1st 2023 on BMRA shop http://bmrashop.square.site Places are limited to 12 adults & 15 children, so please book ASAP Please bring your own foliage & scissors/secateurs, Fresh flowers and other materials will be provided Last date to sign up is 1st of May <i>[further details from Maureen at email Maureen.evansmaev@btinternet.com]</i></p>
Saturday 6th May 5 pm	Free	Badgers Mount Time Capsule to be buried near the Millenium sign
Sunday 7th May 11 am to 1 pm	Free	Badgers Mount " Crown Trail " starting from Johnson's Avenue leading to the Memorial Hall followed by a Children's Party at the hall. There will be loads of activities and an Entertainer. You could bring a picnic lunch to finish off the morning <i>[further details from Zena at email socialevents.bmra@gmail.com]</i> No need to sign up, just turn up.
Sunday 7th May 7pm till late	£5	Bingo, Games, Music & Dancing to celebrate the Coronation. Welcome Processco and Ploughman's platter included in the entry price. Please book your space on http://bmrashop.square.site Beer available in the Bar
Monday 8th May 11 am to 1230 pm	Free	Young children's outdoor activities out side the Badgers Mount Memorial Hall Creating a Fairy Garden & Bird Houses from recycled materials Its a free event but please do sign up on the BMRA shop http://bmrashop.square.site , so that we have an idea about numbers

A vote of thanks to our sponsors of the Children's party-**London Furniture Company & LCM Construction Agents**
London Road Furniture is a family run furniture store based conveniently at the top of Polhill on the A224. With over 45 years of experience, they offer an eclectic mix of home furnishings which includes sofas, tables, cabinets, pictures and accessories to help inspire and create your perfect interior. Their large, characterful showroom, spread over three floors and 5000 sq ft, offers a relaxed, hassle-free shopping experience, with friendly staff on hand to help.
LCM Construction Agents have years of experience in the construction industry from initial planning and drawings, through to the complete build. Also experienced in refurbishment, property maintenance for care homes and residential, solar heating and landscaping. We would also like to thank **Polhill Garden Centre** for sponsoring the wildflower seeds. We are very grateful to them for their continued support in providing plants for the village planters.