



**Produced by the Pratts Bottom Residents Association
JULY/AUGUST 2013**

Diary Dates

All Souls Church - On 13th July Strawberry Teas will be served from 2.30 pm, plus a Farmers' Market.

Residents Association

You have probably noticed those huge unusual looking trucks that were around the village and surrounding areas last month. Some residents were given explanations – the rest of us just wondered what was happening! Tesla Exploration International Ltd were commissioned by Northdown Energy Ltd. (an offshoot of a Texan company) to undertake geophysical surveying along 7 individual routes in the SE area of Bromley and Sevenoaks (NW Kent). They were searching for trapped natural gas deposits held in underground shale which could be fracked. I didn't know what fracking was so, in case there are others like me..... fracking is drilling into the ground, injecting high pressure water and chemicals in order to shatter shale rock and release trapped natural gas. Apparently the country's shale gas reserves are far bigger than thought. Lancashire is the area that has been explored so far. It's a question of watch this space.

Orpington Fire Station

Orpington Fire station is more than 50 years old and will be replaced with a purpose built community station on the same site in Avalon Road. The new station will be able to house two fire engines and allow for training in new procedures.

My only personal concern (my Dad was a fireman in the City in the Blitz) is that it is being built under a Private Finance Initiative, as was the Princess Royal University Hospital, which means that the 'Selected Bidder' is working in Partnership to deliver the project to design and build the new station and maintain it for 25 years.

If you are interested in finding out more go to the London Fire Brigade web site related links where you will see the Station Design Pack for Orpington.

'Up my street'

There is a wonderful web site on which you can report any problems in your area relating to lighting, pavements etc. I reported a faulty street light and was amazed to find that it was repaired the next day.

Garden Waste Scheme

The Council have introduced a scheme to collect garden waste fortnightly from March to November and monthly from December to March. It costs £60.00 a year and a bin is provided but at a cost of £5.00 a month it's probably cheaper than using your car to drive to the tip. For more information call 020 8313 4557 or e-mail www.bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections

Donation

Our grateful thanks to the Fete Committee who have, once again, donated the cost of the Village Newsletter for May/June (when information about the May Fete is included in the distribution).

Looking ahead

Dare I mention the word Christmas in July? Last year we were asked by many people for Pratts Bottom Christmas cards. I have managed to persuade Alan Wheeler to paint another picture so we will have some cards this year. They will be smaller than earlier cards as postage costs relate to the size of the envelopes.

Open Gardens

Halstead had an 'Open Gardens Day' recently which was great as it was the opportunity to see how others plan their gardens and the hard work that goes into keeping them looking good. It has been suggested that there are a lot of lovely gardens in Pratts Bottom. If you think it's a good idea to have a PB Open Garden Day then give me a call on 858583.

Village activities

Badminton

Are there any Badminton playing ladies in Pratts Bottom who would like to join our small group? If so please come along to the Village Hall any Tuesday afternoon, from one o'clock onwards. We look forward to meeting you.

Dancing

If you can remember dancing a quickstep, a waltz etc. as they do on 'Strictly Come Dancing', or even if you would like to learn how to do them and learn some Latin American dances too, then go to the Village Hall on a Tuesday evening at 8.30pm where Keith Allen will welcome you.

100 Club Winners

June Numbers 54, 22, 3 & 23

July Numbers 68, 73, 62 & 57

Our condolences:

to the family of Alan Coveney who died recently. He will be missed in the village community.

Gwyneth Hudson - Chairman

ALL SOULS NEWS

We are all set for summer and trying to compensate for the lack of seasonable weather!

On 13th July, Strawberry Teas will be served from 2.30 pm, plus a Farmers' Market.

August is traditionally the time for Holiday Club and this year is no exception.

'Space Academy' is for children between 4 and 10 years old. It will be held from the 13th- 18th August. There are just one or two places left. Booking forms from Penny (861742 or pennyavann@btinternet.com).

Harvest is on the horizon and we are celebrating that on the 22nd September with a service at 10.30am. Our focus for giving will be shoe boxes for children in Kosovo and Romania.

We hope and pray that you have a good summer.

Penny Avann

VILLAGE FETE 2013

A typically English Fete with typically English weather!

The splendid May Queen procession, which included children dressed as story book characters and members of the Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society, was accompanied by the excellent marching band of the Westerham Sea Cadets.

The sun shone as the reigning May Queen, Charlotte Sewell, crowned this year's Queen, Ellise McDonald. Ellise declared the fete open and Jo Johnson MP judged the scarecrow competition, choosing a traditional "working" model.

So much to enjoy, the Punch and Judy shows, the bouncy castle, browsing the many stalls run by local charities and organisations and selling all kinds of interesting stuff, testing skills on the hoopla, football game, shooting game etc., with the added bonus of winning fabulous prizes! People were trying their luck on the various tombolas and "changing water to wine" and the more energetic took part in the "Horsey Hopper" races. The Orpington Gymnasts and the Village School Martial Arts team gave super displays and the ever popular "Fun Dog Show" was judged by Foal Farm, the local animal sanctuary.

Heavy rain showers sent people scurrying for shelter in the Village Hall, where they were entertained by Chris and his great ukulele band and "fed and watered" by the W.I. Others kept dry in the Bull's Head and enjoyed Vernon's delicious hog roast. Once the rain stopped our stalwart crowd reappeared and continued to make the most of the day. Unfortunately, the ground had become too slippery to risk the "tug of war", but the Fete ended on a high with the Lucky Programme draw and the raffle with so many wonderful prizes!

A great big thank you to all who helped to make the Fete so enjoyable, to the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and, of course, thanks to everyone for coming along and braving the weather. With the proceeds from the raffle and programme sales, we were able to make donations to the Village Hall Fund, the Residents Association and St John Ambulance.

Thanks again, and please put in your diary the date for next year's fete – 17th May 2014. As always, we could do with some more help, both on the day and during the year – if you are interested please ring me on 01689 854204.

Lesley Jones - Chair of the Fete Committee.

PRATTS BOTTOM VILLAGE HALL

From late May a new ten-strong Trustee team under my Chairmanship has taken on the management of the Village Hall. Key members of the team are Claire Perrott (01689 852534) and Jenny Riley(01959 533873) who are the joint Booking Secretaries and Sally Dibben (01689 889537) who is the new Treasurer . Peter Wolstenholme (07944189486) is now the Hall Caretaker.

The new team pay very strong tribute to the immense contribution that my predecessor, Colin Westwood, made in terms of personal initiative and time towards the two-year-long modernisation programme of the Hall. In this, Val, who steered

the various fund raising schemes to success, supported him. Residents are in their debt for long lasting benefits that both of them have brought to the village. The Trustees now face a challenging year ahead. The imminent departure of the 'Shining Stars' pre-school will create the need to attract new hirers and the specialist structural work required to the kitchen area will cause some disruption and not inconsiderable cost. But the teamwork has already started. All the booking and accounting procedures are being up-dated and a new web site will soon be in place. Fund raising pleasures are on the horizon and, last but not least as far as the ladies are concerned, a long overdue replacement cooker is being installed. So, some of the ways that things have been done in the past may change and might yet take a while to settle down. Please go on supporting the activities, and join in if you don't already do so. Any major problems.... give me a call or send an email. The team will sort it out.

John Hickinbottom.

PRATTS BOTTOM SCHOOL DAYS

The school has been very busy over the last few weeks and the children have taken part in a number of sporting activities with the other small schools. The children in Year Five and Year Six took part in the Netball Tournament and Cricket tournament and came third in both competitions. The children played really well and were a real credit to the school. Our children in Year Three and Year Four took part in a rounders tournament and came fourth though they played really well.

Last Friday saw the school host an art exhibition for all the parents as this was the culmination of our Art Week. The theme of the week was Pablo Picasso and the children completed different art work each afternoon in the style of Picasso. It was a great success and the children really enjoyed the different activities that took place throughout the week such as making clay pots, collage and contributing to a mural in the school hall.

A big thank you to everybody who posted any waste electrical equipment into the pink skip that was in the Bulls Head car park. We are still awaiting the results but the last time I checked the school was currently in first place and in line to win a £500 prize

For all those people who use Waitrose, the school will be part of their community project over the next few weeks and I would ask that you post your green token in the box in the store to support the school.



The School painted in the style of Pablo Picasso

Matthew Ringham – Head Teacher

PRATTS BOTTOM WOMENS INSTITUTE

My apologies to all, but my favourite topic this year, the weather, sticks its head just above the hats and umbrellas once again. Despite the cold and wet spring the doughty members of the Pratts Bottom Women’s Institute (PBWI) have continued to venture out for all of our meetings. Well done to all of them.

Our new term started on the 2nd May with our AGM and Resolution Meeting. The elected Resolution choice by WIs nationally was, ‘Saving the High Street’. At PBWI the matter proved to be a lively topic and was the subject of heated debate, well heated as far as the WI is concerned!!

Once again PBWI undertook to provide the light refreshments at the Village Fete. Even the overcast and generally dismal weather did not dampen the villager’s enthusiasm for our bacon rolls and we were kept extremely busy. I know that my pet subject is the weather but I remain confident, if not hopeful, that one year the sun will return.

PBWI have two members who have represented us in Art and Craft for the Kent Federation. Maxine Keeble demonstrated a Dress Making Course for two days, whilst Marion Tibbs taught jewellery making to another Kent WI Federation group in West Wickham. Some of our members attended a Goldwork Day at Badgers Mount, being taught an unusual embroidery skill with gold wire. Did they need security on the way home, I ask?

The Spring Lunch was, once again, enjoyed by all members, with a raffle and a music nostalgia quiz and our speaker in June gave a talk on Churchill and

Chartwell. With the new programme due out soon we all look forward to next season's speakers and some interesting and entertaining topics.

On the 12th June PBWI put on a Performing Arts event for the Polhill District WI Group, where we were entertained by 'Velvet Harmony', a local Ladies Barber Shop Group. Once again our catering force provided a tasty Ploughman's Supper. The evening proved to be very popular with all of us being given a chance to join in.

PBWI once again showed their support for the West Kent Federation with one of our members selected to take part in the Federation's Fashion Show and three others demonstrating their flower arranging skills at the 95th Federation Anniversary Celebration at 'The Friars' in Aylesford. Well done to all of those ladies.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Village Hall, from 2pm to 4pm. Do come and join us and, if you have a particular skill, please come and share it, or simply just come along. Or, like myself, attend a day course and add a new craft to your CV. You, too, can be part of the PBWI team.

Our petition and subsequent letter to the Canadian High Commissioner concerning the closure of Orpington Hospital proved to be extremely effective. The communication representative from King's College Hospital was aware and complimentary of our efforts which has helped to give Orpington Hospital a reprieve, but for how long we do not know.

Many thanks to all those WIs who signed the petition and supported the campaign. PBWI hopes that all have a lovely warm summer and may the sun shine on you.

Angela Sutherland PBWI Secretary

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Annual Subscription Renewal

**Pratts Bottom Residents Association Annual Subscription Slip
For September 2012 to August 2013**

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose £4.00 Annual Subscription Fee

Signed.....

**Send to : Treasurer , PBRA, 11 DOWNS VIEW CLOSE,
PRATTS BOTTOM KENT BR6 7SU**

CONTACT LIST

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Gwyneth Hudson	Editor - “Village News”	01689 858583
Mr. M Ringham	Pratts Bottom Primary School	01959 532225
Rev.Canon Penny Avann	All Souls Church	01689 861742
Brenda Johnson	All Souls Church	01689 858840
Joyce Knowles	United Reformed Church	01689 858375
President	Women’s Institute	01689 813061
Chairman	Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society	01689 853724
Box Office	Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society	01689 602837
Secretary	Tuesday Badminton Club	01689 858313
Secretary	Wednesday Badminton Club	01689 857404
Chairman	Short Mat Bowls Club	01689 851394
Brown Owl	Brownies	01959 533437
Secretary	Model Railway Club	01959 533070
Vernon Leese	Landlord – The Bulls Head	01689 852553
Julian Grainger	Councillor – Bromley Council	01689 889392/ 0208 464 3333
Samaris Huntington-Thresher	Councillor - Bromley Council	0208 464 3333
Russell Jackson	Councillor - Bromley Council	0208 464 3333
Police -	Safer Neighbourhood Team	07920 233857/ 0208 721 2605
Pratts Bottom Village Website	www.prattsbottom.co.uk	
Pratts Bottom Village Hall Website	www.pbvh.co.uk	
Pratts Bottom Primary School Website	www.prattsbottom.bromley.sch.uk	
The Bulls Head Public House Website	www.thebullsheadpub.net	
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