

PRATTS BOTTOM VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Produced by the Pratts Bottom Residents Association
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

Diary Dates

November

Sunday 10th	Remembrance Sunday Service @10.30	All Souls
Friday 15th	All Souls Quiz 7pm	Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	Christmas Market 10am until 2pm	Village Hall

December

Sunday 1st	Lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Green & Carol Singing at 4.30 Christmas lunches start at the Bulls Head	
Saturday 7th	Concert with the Marsh Warblers	All Souls
Sunday 15th	Carols in the Bulls Head	
Sunday 22nd	Carols by candlelight	All Souls

Residents Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Pratts Bottom Residents Association was held on Friday 27th September at the Village Hall.

Matters arising from the last meeting: a tree in memory of Olive and Ernie Bowen had been planted in the Hookwood Road recreation ground and one to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee had been planted in the ground in front of the school. The speaker at the AGM was Jackie Baxter who is the Environmental Campaigns Officer at Bromley Council who spoke about the various "Friends" groups there are in the borough. It was an extremely interesting talk and we learned a lot about the support provided by the council. There are Snow Friends, Street Friends, Tree Friends, Park Friends to name a few.

We have 3 roads in Pratts Bottom who are involved in Snow Friends – The Hillside, Orchard Road and the Downs View Close, Ringwood Avenue and Runciman Close group. In view of the long term forecast for this winter there may be other roads who would wish to be involved. You need a co-ordinator for the road who will accept deliveries of bags of salt and snow shovels to be distributed to each household. If you are interested please get in touch with me so that I can put you in touch with the correct person at the council.

Those people who live in Rushmore Hill and Sevenoaks Road are on bus routes and have the road cleared in adverse weather conditions so do not have to be involved. We do also have a Friends of Pratts Bottom Common who meet on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10am in the car park of the Bulls Head to clear up litter etc. They would welcome some more support to keep the village looking tidy.

The local Police Sergeant was unable to attend the meeting but I had some information about changes in the way the borough is policed, which started in September. The Borough has been divided into four neighbourhood sections with an Inspector in charge. Inspector Paul Power is the Inspector with responsibility for Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Cray Valley East SNT, Cray Valley West SNT, Farnborough & Crofton SNT, Orpington SNT and Petts Wood & Knoll SNT.

Each ward will continue to have a named PC and PCSO who will not be removed from ward duties: the other officers on the team will work across wards.

There was no more information on the Fort Halstead development available although it had been suggested that it would be discussed in September /October. I will update you via the Newsletter when it is passed to me.

There are two recreation grounds in Pratts Bottom. One in Hookwood Road and the other in Broke Farm Drive. The one in Hookwood Road has had some new equipment which was put in without any local consultation which is not ideal. We have made our views on this situation made known to the relevant department in the council and hope that any future work will involve the local community.

Our local Councillors Julian Grainger and Russell Jackson attended the meeting. Samaris Huntington-Thresher sent her apologies.

The business part of the meeting finished with the election of the committee for the year 2013-2014. The whole committee were re-elected so the members are:

Penny Avann, Christine Bradford, Alan Dimpleby, Paul Embleton, Gwyneth Hudson, Alec Lauder, Liz Turnbull and Mel Turtell.

Christmas Hamper raffle and cards

We will be having a table at this event where we will have a raffle of a hamper of goodies for Christmas, Christmas cards and collecting subscriptions for the year from September 2013 until August 2014. We announced the cards in the last newsletter and some have been sold already from the limited printing so I hope there will be some left to sell!

Christmas Market

The Village Hall Christmas Market is on Saturday 23rd November from 10am until 2pm. The Womens Institute will be serving refreshments and there are lots of stall selling Christmas goods, cakes, jewellery cards, sweets, doggy delights and more.

Make a note in your diary you won't want to miss it.

Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society celebrates its Diamond Jubilee

The founders of our local amateur dramatic society back in 1953 would have been thrilled to know that the company would still be a thriving part of our village community some 60 years later. Indeed some of those early members are still active in the group, whilst others long associated with the company were in the audiences at their celebratory production in October.

For the Jubilee performance they chose to present songs, sketches, dramatic pieces, music and dances from many of their past successes. The delighted audiences loved every minute of it and went away reflecting on the enormous range of talents on view. This is a talented group of people prepared to put a professional touch to everything an amateur company is brave enough to tackle. We are fortunate to have them.

Don't miss the next traditional pantomime in January 2014. It will be as brilliant as ever – traditional slapstick, comedy and fun put together with one aim in view – to entertain the audience and send them home happy.

School Days – Pratts Bottom Village School

Thank you so much to everybody who gave their green tokens when shopping at Waitrose. We have now received a cheque for over £200 and we will be using this to purchase playground equipment for the children to use.

The term has been busy once again and even an outbreak of Chicken Pox in the school has not deterred the children from working really hard. Our twelve new children have made a great start to their first year at Pratts Bottom and are enjoying each day in school. I know that we are going to see them develop more fully as the year progresses.

I would like to pass my congratulations on to four of children who took part in a sunflower competition over the summer holidays. The competition which was organised by the Kentwood Centre and Coolings was run in a number of Bromley Schools. The children had to grow sunflowers and then keep a diary of how they progressed. There were also other activities that they had to complete such as looking at Van Gogh's Sunflowers and writing stories. Three girls from Year 5, Emily

Savage, Zoe McDonald and Lorena Kabashi won the school prizes and were given art materials and plants to grow. Sean Galvin went one step further and won the overall prize, which was a mountain bike donated by Halfords.

We ended the half term with our Harvest Assembly at All Souls Church which was well attended by parents. Sapphire class led the assembly and looked at food with emphasis on the Food Bank based in Orpington. They asked the school for donations to give the Food Bank and the parents responded magnificently. The food will be sorted by the children when we return after half term and delivered to the Food Bank by members of then school council

ALL SOULS NEWS

This is the season to be busy! We are getting ready for some significant happenings over the next few weeks – full details will be in the Christmas newsletter but here is a taster of things to come:

10 th November	10.30am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	parade service
15 th	7.00pm	QUIZ NIGHT	in the Village Hall

In December we celebrate Christmas in all kinds of ways ...

1 st	4.30pm	CAROLS ON THE GREEN
7 th	9.30am	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB
	7.00pm	CONCERT with the MARSH WARBLERS
8 th	10.30am	NATIVITY AND GIFT SERVICE
15 th	7.00pm	CAROLS IN THE BULLS HEAD
22 nd	6.30pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
24 th	4.00pm	CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB
24 th	11.00pm	FIRST COMMUNION of CHRISTMAS
25 th	10.30am	CHRISTMAS PRAISE

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of these events.
Best wishes *Penny*

The Village Hall

The new committee have settled down and what were once novelty organisational activities are becoming much more routine. Having said that, the Booking Secretaries have had to deal with a very wide range of enquiries.

After a six year long association The Shining Stars pre-school ended their hire of the hall on October 25th. The opportunity will be taken to completely refurbish the kitchen and carry out some other minor redecoration to the main hall. It will mean that some of the facilities will be a bit makeshift during the work. Once completed the new facility will increase the hall's attraction to all hirers.

The replacement of the PBDS time expired "Portacabin" is also planned for the near future. A more appealing structure will take its place.

There are plenty of events at the hall to look forward to, please give all of them your support.

All Souls Quiz Night on November 15th.

The Christmas Market on November 23rd

Model Railway Show on January 11th & 12th

The Grand Panto in mid-January followed by a super table sale in February also a series of craft fairs are scheduled throughout 2014 and there will be more events to come. And if you are planning a family occasion why not make your village hall your hall of first choice? John Hickenbottom.

The Model Railway Society

It's a strange thing but with so much going on at the Society very few of us have the time to do any actual model making. Major demands on our time are the upgrade and construction of the layouts also model rail show organisation and participation.

Teams from the society have been recently involved in exhibitions in Worthing, Winchester, the Netherlands, Swanley, Petts Wood, Beconsfield, Uckfield, York; the running of the Worms Hill and Bredgar Railway and last but not least, the SNCF and G Scale mini-shows in our village hall. Coming up are exhibitions in France, the

NEC, Broadstairs and our annual show in the village hall. Of course Pratts Bottom gets a mention at all the venues.

The Society supports village events so we look forward to meeting you at the Christmas Market.

In the New Year we will be starting new layout projects to be worked on during Tuesday afternoon sessions. Details are not yet finalised but if you think you would like to be involved please contact me. Don't worry if you are a beginner.

John Hickinbottom.

The Bulls Head

The new diary for The Bulls Head is out with a host of activities for the next couple of months, including the Christmas menu which will be served in the newly decorated dining room. Andy, the chef, has returned after a few years away, and has devised a new menu which sounds delicious.

Pratt's Bottom Women's Institute (PBWI)

The PBWI have had another busy summer, starting in July with an extremely pleasant visit to Shoreham Village. A large number of members set out from our village hall for the short drive. With their comfortable walking shoes on and a cream tea to look forward to at the end, all enjoyed the pleasant sunshine. Our cream tea, which was prepared for us by Shoreham WI had been arranged by one of our members Barbara Patterson, her choice of venue proved to be an excellent decision. This was Shoreham's first venture in undertaking this task, they now advertise in the WI Magazine to supply other WI's with cream teas and walks. They have us to thank.

Our August speaker was Bob Ogley talking about his 'Life as a Local Newspaper Reporter'. Bob is always made very welcome at PBWI, with his wide knowledge of local issues and events. He recounted how the Great Storm in October 1987 had started him on his present vocation and told us that had the storm not happened he would not have had the life he has enjoyed subsequently.

The Produce Show in September is always a highlight in PBWI's calendar, it is very well supported and this year was no exception. Exhibits ranged from carrot cupcakes, traditional jams and marmalades and flower arrangements. The fun item, which is an unusual shaped fruit or vegetable, attracts much attention. The judge

has to sample all the entrants which are food based. I would be hopeless for this task as I would sample too big a piece, all those lovely cakes, very tasty. Yes, you did read that correctly and I can supply a copy of the carrot cupcakes recipe (for a small fee)!!! Our handicraft category this year, which was to produce a piece of embroidery or cross stitch, was won by Barbara Jacobs. Well done.

Sue Hollins, our October speaker is also a WI Federation Adviser, we do hope she was impressed with our meeting. Her talk was on ‘My Life as a Couture Dressmaker’, no not mine, hers. Her intention when she embarked upon her career was to work for the ten most famous fashion houses in London and she presented a very interesting insight into the fashion industry in the 1960’s. Promotion in this work she said was very difficult to come by and was usually only achieved when people left or retired. We are to get a new Adviser this Christmas, do hope Sue puts in a good word for us. Ladies, if you are reading this article and enjoy hearing about the speakers at PBWI do not hesitate to come and share in our two hours of listening to the speaker’s interesting lives and anecdotes.

The West Kent WI Federation also arranges regular outings and events. One such recent trip which you could have undertaken was along the River Thames and around Hampton Court. At our last meeting two members gave a brief and amusing account of their day. This is an example of the excursions on offer.

The first Thursday in the month is the day, 2.00pm until 4.00pm is the time, so if you would like a cup of tea and a biscuit do not hesitate to come along and join us. I think you will feel quite at home and recognise many a face. Remember, the winter is approaching fast, do not sit at home but get out to Pratt’s Bottom Women’s Institute. The WI motto is ‘Inspiring Women’, so come along and inspire us!!
Angela Sutherland PBWI Secretary

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Annual Subscription Renewal
Pratts Bottom Residents Association Annual Subscription Slip
For September 2013 to August 2014

Name.....
Address.....

I enclose £4.00 Annual Subscription Fee

Signed.....

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

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Joyce Knowles	United Reformed Church	01689 858375
President	Women’s Institute	01689 813061
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Chairman	Short Mat Bowls Club	01689 851394
Brown Owl	Brownies	01959 533437
Secretary	Model Railway Club	01959 533070
The Landlord	The Bulls Head	01689 852553
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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	
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