

Pratts Bottom News



Welcome to this edition of the village newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about the different events and activities which are taking place in the village. First there is a letter from Gill Dimbleby:

MESSAGE FROM CHARMWOOD

I hope you will allow me the liberty of contacting you in this way, as I needed to make sure everyone received our ' Thanks'.

Marc, Thomas, Laura and myself will never be able to thank you enough for all your kindness and overwhelming waves of love and affection we have experienced since 24th July, the day our world fell apart. It has been the worst of times, and, apart from the obvious, in a strange way - the best of times! We've received all kinds of messages, flowers, cards, goodies and gifts, cuppas and a chat and wine....plenty of wine [usually with Laura].We've laughed, we've cried, cuddled, and hugged. There's been a 'Tractor Trundle'; Service at the Crematorium - Service of Remembrance at the Village Hall. It seemed like the whole of Pratts Bottom came along with family, friends, work mates - old and new, some of them travelling quite a distance. [I was told about 300 people were there on the day], all taking the trouble to join us in saying a very fond ' Farewell' to Alan. For that I thank you all. I never realised he touched so many lives. To say Thank You just doesn't even come close to how grateful my family and I are, particularly on the day we said ' AuRevoir' to Alan. Grateful thanks also go to John Hickenbottom and Committee for the use of the Village Hall. I really must say a HUGE thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Hudson and Brenda and Lance Johnson for taking off our shoulders the mammoth task of the refreshments we had bought and left at the hall. Thank you to the ' Ladies of the Village ' for the cakes, puds, preparation and

laying out of the food and drink, all of which was Alan's favourite! Also thank you to the 'Gents of the Village' for their 'magic' with the tables and chairs in the hall after the Service of Remembrance. Thank you Jack for getting the photos on the screen and thank you Bryony for the music, you really did a grand job and helped to bring back so many happy memories. There is one lady who we really could not have been without - thank you Penny, you have been totally amazing throughout! For those of you who don't know there was a truly remarkable and extremely touching poem about Alan, written by Sue Short - it was genius, you really had captured the Alan that we knew and loved - thank you Sue it was most kind of you, we will treasure it always. Among the many people who have helped before, during and after, is Graham Westwood; thank you so very much for sorting out the donations; also for helping with the truly wonderful video, which included part of Alan's final journey back home to Charmwood, and the tractor Trundle. The video was the brainchild of Thomas and of Nick Abbott, one of his friends from school days. Thank you guys, it's something else I will treasure always. and yes, I do still watch it on YouTube!

We didn't have flowers at the funeral, instead we were collecting for 2 charities. The R.A.B.I. and Marie Curie. If anyone would still like to donate to either charity, just pop it in envelope and drop it in our letterbox, if you pay tax, just state 'Giftaid' on the envelope.

On the evening of the 19th August, the day we said 'Farewell' to Alan something TRULY magical happened. Continuing the 'Celebration' of Alan's life raising a glass or two at the Bulls Head, my family and I received the most wonderful gift. I know not who it came from, but our gratitude is immense. Thank you so very much 'Fortune Fairies'. So now, when Marc and Emma get married on the 17th December 2016, we will have been able to 'kit out' the whole family, which we probably wouldn't have been able to do, had it not been for the 'Fortune Fairies' working their 'magic'! Thank you whoever you are!!

There are some extra special people who I personally need to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to: my 3 wonderful children, Marc Thomas and Laura and their extended families. They have done so much for me and still continue to do so. I love you all very much and I know their Dad will be so very proud of them! I also hope everyone else will

continue, if you'd like, to carry on calling in for a ' cuppa' and a chat, or joining us as we raise yet another glass at the pub!!!

My final request, if you will permit me, is very personal. There have been a host of ' friendsqwho have already done and given much and we will never be able to repay their kindness, and as I mentioned before - Thank You just doesn't ' cut it'. But, if you can - and don't already do it, before Christmas could you please donate just 1 pint of blood - it may just SAVE a life. THANK YOU.

Don't walk behind me I may not lead.

Don't walk in front I may not follow

Just walk beside me and be my friend.

The folk of Pratts Bottom you have certainly done that. You are all totally AWESOME!!!! THANK YOU!!!

Gill Dimbleby

FROM THE TREASURER

The village financial year runs from September 2015-August 2016. It would help if you could pay your £4 subscription as soon as possible. We will be at the Christmas Market on 21st November, if you would like to pay it then. Thank you for your support over the years.

Christine Bradford

(The slip is on page 7)



PBADS

The next great event is the PANTOMIME : Hansel and Gretel (with a Great British Bake-off twist!)

21st and 22nd January at 8.00pm

23rd January: Matinee at 2.30pm and evening performance at 8.00pm

PRATTS BOTTOM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman, Liz Turnbull writes ...

The rugby fans of the village missed a very interesting talk on trading standards at the Residents Association AGM. Mr Rob Vale from LBB informed us of the many types of scams and bogus tradesmen, advising us not to answer the door to anyone unknown; never give personal details over the phone, and especially keep an eye out for elderly or vulnerable friends and neighbours. If you spot anything suspicious, then phone their rapid response team on **07903 852090**.

Our local police were pleased to inform us that Pratts Bottom continues to have a very low crime rate, and our councillor, Keith Onslow is willing to help with local issues, as is Lydia Buttinger. Our thanks go to all of them for their time and support.

The Association is looking for new committee members, so if you feel as passionately about the village as we do and can spare a couple of hours a month, please contact myself or one of our members.



ALL SOULS CHURCH

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, but first we have a special service for Remembrance Sunday (8th November) at 10.30am. Other events include **Carols on the Green** at 4.30pm on the 29th November and **Carols by Candlelight** on the 20th December, with the **family special** on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm and the **First Communion of Christmas** at 11.00pm. There is also a

special morning club for children from 10.00am on the 5th December. Don't forget to book your places for our annual **QUIZ NIGHT**, 4th December in the Village Hall (tickets from Brenda 01689 858840).

Did you manage to get to church last week?

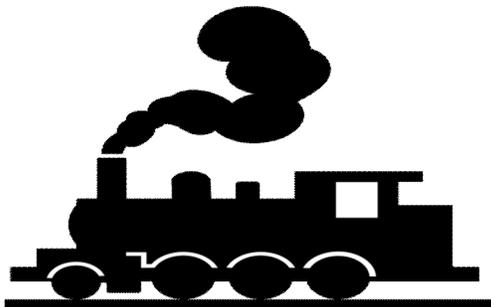
May be because of holidays, ill health or other circumstances, you didn't make it. Don't worry . our sermons and talks are now recorded, which means you can listen in the comfort of your own home! They are available to either download or as a phone app:

All Souls Sermons www.soundcloud.com/allsoulssermons

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ☺



DON'T FORGET THE CHRISTMAS MARKET on 21st November in the Village Hall from 10.00am . 2.00pm



THE RAILWAY SOCIETY

The next Model Railway Show (always a great start to the year) is on the 10th-11th January 2016.

It's a great way to spend a morning or afternoon . there are new layouts every year.



POLICE MATTERS ...

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team (Phillip Bradley and Dave Lilleywhite) are always happy to help wherever they can. Dial 999 for emergencies or to report a crime use Crime Stoppers 0800555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

But if you would like to talk through other issues with them they can be contacted on 020 8721 2605.

If you would like to be part of the speed awareness initiative, please contact PC Bradley.

PILATES TIME

Wednesdays in the Village Hall: 9:35-10.35am & 10.45-11.45am. Next courses are from 4th November 2015 and 6th January 2016. Pregnancy Pilates, Post Natal Pilates and further classes also held in Chelsfield.

To book, please contact: www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk; bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com or 07415 638546



VILLAGE EXHIBITION

The village came together for a great day on the 3rd October . the centrepiece was the vast amount of information amassed by Sue Short, a real labour of love. Our thanks go to Sue for the amazing amount of work she put into the project. Sue and Russell are shortly moving to Cornwall, but leave a great legacy behind.

It was good to be able to browse information from other societies, to study the punishment book from school(!) and to discover the latest railway society layouts or buy goodies from the All Souls FarmersqMarket.

Well done everyone for a great event.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2015-2016

I enclose my village subscription of £4

(cheques made payable to the Pratts Bottom Residents' Association)

Name

ADDRESS

.....

Please send to: Mrs C. Bradford, 11 Downsview Close, Pratts Bottom.

PRATTS BOTTOM CONTACT LIST

John Hickinbottom	Chairman-Village Hall	01959 533070
Bookings	Village Hall	01959 533873/01689 852534
Canon Penny Avann	Vicar & Editor of Newsq	01689 861742
Mrs Debz Smith	P B Primary School	01959 532225
Mrs Brenda Johnson	All Souls Church	01689 858840
Mrs Liz Turnbull	ResidentsqCommittee	01959 533165

President	Women's Institute	01689813061
Chairman	PB Dramatic Society	01689 853724
Box Office	PB Dramatic Society	01689 602837
Secretary	Tuesday Badminton Club	tuesdayclub2014@gmail.com
Secretary	Wednesday Badminton	01689 856 366
Chairman	Short Mat Bowls Club	01689 851394
Brown Owl	PB Brownies	01959 533437
Secretary	Model Railway Club	01959 533070
The Landlord	The Bulls Head	01689 852553

Councillors:

Lydia Buttinger Lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk
Keith Onslow Keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk
Samaris Huntington-Thresher Samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Websites:

Pratts Bottom Village Website www.prattsbottom.co.uk
All Souls Church www.SMASCH.org.uk
Pratts Bottom Village School www.prattsbottom.bromley.sch.uk
Pratts Bottom Village Hall www.pbvh.co.uk
The Bulls Head www.thebullsheadpub.net
Police (SNT) 07920 233857 / 020 8721 260
Chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@metpolice.uk