

PRATTS BOTTOM VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Produced by the Pratts Bottom Residents Association
MARCH/APRIL 2013

Diary Dates

March

Sunday 10th Mothering Sunday Service
Saturday 23rd Morris dancing at the Bulls Head
Quiz at the Village Hall
Thursday 28th Planting a tree in memory
of Olive and Ernie Bowen
Meal at All Souls

April

Saturday 6th FOPBC 10am Bulls Head Car Park
Final Service at the URC 11.30
Thursday 25th
to Sat 27th “California Suite” PBDS – Village Hall

May

Saturday 11th Village Fete
Wednesday 15th Village Hall A.G.M.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The final service at the United Reformed Church will be held on Saturday 6 April 2013 at 11.30 a.m. to which all are invited. The Moderator of the Southern Synod Revd Nichola Furley-Smith will conduct the service. The Church Building opened in 1928 but in recent years it has not been possible to hold regular Services and the membership has dwindled. It is uncertain at this stage what will happen with the Building but it is hoped that this can be retained as a village asset
Tim Knowles.

Canon Penny Avann has added to this notice:

While we are sad that the United Reformed Church has had to take this decision, we will do all we can to make sure that the work its members has done will continue as part of the united Christian presence in the village.

I am grateful to Tim and Joyce Knowles, Jill and Rob Allan for all they have done to maintain the building and its activities over recent years. There will be an opportunity to celebrate all they, and others like Kath Wootton, Ernie and Olive Bowen, had done. Please join us for that occasion in April. - Penny Avann.

Residents Association

Our Chairman, Russell Winn, reluctantly decided that he must resign from the Association as he was having problems healthwise. We were very disappointed but wish to thank him for his input into the life of the village during his time as Chairman. He has kindly agreed to prepare the newsletter for printing for which I am very grateful. Please, therefore, send any information for the May/June Newsletter to me.

Pratts Bottom is on the fringes of London so we are not always aware of the changes that are about to take place. Some residents now have the Newshopper delivered which is of some help.

Policing

The Mayor of London's proposed Crime and Policing Plan will be published in April 2013 after a Public Consultation. It is too late to comment on the Plan but if you go the www.london.gov.uk you will be able to see the Draft Plan. The plan sets out the aid to reduce crime over the next four years. The draft for Bromley shows that there will be 54 additional police officers by 2015. At present there are 482. There will be an extra 62 police officers dedicated to the local safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Congestion Charge

There proposed changes to the congestion Charge. More information on tfl.gov.uk/ccyourviews or 08445449780 for a leaflet. One proposal is to remove the option to pay in shops and petrol stations. Another is to increase the penalty charge to £130.00.

Dartford Crossing

We have recently found that The Highways agency is proposing changes to the Dartford Crossing. The consultation period is closed but you can find further information at www.highways.gov.uk/consultation/dartford-charging-scheme-order-consultation and www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-18. As I understand you would have to pay in advance (or soon after) whenever you use the crossing or receive a penalty fine. There would be no option to pay at the toll booths as they would be removed.

Friends of Pratts Bottom

The snowdrops are out in the garden so time to prepare the village for spring. The Friends of Pratts Bottom Common would be pleased to see you on the 1st Saturday of the month, at 10 am in the car park of the Bulls Head to help tidy up parts of the village.

Olive and Ernie Bowen

Olive and Ernie Bowen were lifetime residents of Pratts Bottom. They were both pupils of the village school, as were their families and committed members of the United Reformed Church. A tree is to be planted in their memory, in the recreation ground, in Hookwood Road close to where they lived. This will take place at 10.00am on Thursday 28th March.

Lots of events in the village in the next few months so I hope you will support some or all of them.

Gwyneth Hudson - Chairman

ALL SOULS NEWS

GETTING READY FOR EASTER ...

- 8th March Celebration Meal - on the theme of Schooldays - school dinners (but this will be very cordon bleu by comparison), entertainment and a silent auction Tickets £12.50 from Brenda Johnson.
- 10th March Special Service for Mothering Sunday at 10.30am - with families and singles in mind
- 28th March Come and experience a Jewish Passover at All Souls - meal at 7.00pm - please book a place with Penny (861742)
- 29th March Children's Good Friday event at 11.00am - 1.00pm - all children welcome (but pre booking is appreciated)
- 31st March Easter Celebrations at 9.00am and 10.30am - everyone welcome. For further information please phone Penny (861742)

Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society

After a very successful pantomime production of Treasure Island the next time they "tread the boards" will be "California Suite" by Neil Simon on 25th - 27th April. Its two comedy plays with a fish and chip supper. Tickets cost £12 from the Box Office on 01689 602837

Carole Spencer

Ravensbourne Morris Men at the Bulls Head

The group will be hosting a gathering of Morris, Sword and Clog dancers, know as an Ale, from across the South East on Saturday 23rd March from 12.30 - 16.30. Afterwards there will be traditional singing at the Bulls Head.

More info on www.ravensbourne.org

THE GREAT BRITISH FETE - 11 MAY 2013

A Grand Parade will start this year's Fete and joining the May Queens and their attendants will be as many children as possible, dressed as their favourite 'story book' characters, together with others representing groups such as the Amateur Dramatic Society, Martial Arts, etc. All those taking part should gather at the Broke Farm Recreation ground at 11 am ready for the procession along Rushmore Hill at 11.30, in time for the crowning of the new May Queen and opening of the Fete on the Village Green at 12 noon.

The Police will be escorting the Parade and Rushmore Hill will still have two-way traffic during the day, as in 2012. Householders who live on Rushmore Hill were really helpful last year and parked their own vehicles off road for the day. We hope you will be prepared to do so again in 2013. In order that the traffic can flow, cones will line the road and we must request stallholders and visitors not to park on Rushmore Hill anywhere between the A21 roundabout and the foot of the hill up to Knockholt (near the school) all day until the Fete closes. If anyone has any spare road cones, Peter Hudson (phone No. 01689 858583) will be happy to collect them. If it is dry (but only if it is dry) visitors will be able to park at the School.

Continuing the 'story book' character theme, there will be a Scarecrow Competition and the Scarecrow characters should be displayed around the Village, maybe in people's front gardens, or taken to the United Reform Church on the morning of 11 May. A prize will be awarded for the Village's 'Best Dressed House' and also for the 'Best Dressed Stall'.

We need stock for the ever popular Book Stall and this is an ideal opportunity for you to get rid of all those unwanted books which are cluttering up your shelves! Sally (phone No. 01689 889537) will be pleased to pick up these if you give her ring.

As always there is a lot to do 'on the day' so anyone volunteering to join the stewards would be most welcome. Please contact Peter Hudson.

Amongst the attractions of our Great British Fete will be the 'Fun Dog Show, Horsey Hopper Race and 'friendly' Tug o' War' between the Pratts and the Bottoms! You will have a chance to test your skill and luck on all the games, including Football, Shooting, Choosing a Cork, Turning Water into Wine and many more as well as great opportunities to browse and buy from the amazing craft and plant stalls. Don't forget to see what is on offer inside the Village Hall: the refreshments, gifts and cards to buy and a free treat for the children who will be able to drive Thomas and Friends around the Railway Society's miniature village.

To keep you going there will be a hog roast, burgers, lovely cakes and much more, so come along and have a fantastic day out! - Lesley Jones – Events Chair.

Peter and Gwyneth Hudson became the fourth couple in the village to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2012.

Condolences to the family of Bill Lacaille who died in February

PRATTS BOTTOM WOMENS INSTITUTE

The PBWI have so far managed to achieve our winter programme without the dreaded snow affecting it. The planning of our speakers is done well in advance and quite often arrangements have to be changed through no fault of our own, as did the November meeting. Nevertheless, we managed to bring forward John Yarrow, who was due to be our speaker in April. His anecdotes and stories about his exploits as a wedding photographer kept us all amused and reminded us all of the many things that can go wrong on the ‘big day’.

For our Christmas celebrations one of our members made a large Christmas Cake, enabling all our members to have a piece with their afternoon cup of tea. After our tea we had an entertaining talk from the Retail Manager of the Waitrose store in Green Street Green, who enlightened us with the histories of both John Lewis and Waitrose. He also explained about the green discs and the money they donate toward local charities. Well done Waitrose.

Our first meeting of the New Year was a social afternoon. We were delighted to welcome the Sidcup Caledonian Society Dancing Group, all the ladies were dressed in white and wearing varied tartan sashes. Some of our members also joined in with the dancing.

The Most Popular Indoor Activity we were told by our guest speaker in February, Tim Moorey, who is a crossword compiler, is doing crosswords. Tim proved to be an enormous hit, giving us an insight into his proficiency and credentials and disclosing to us how his boyhood thirst for the English language, led him into a new career late in life. Divulging his various pseudonyms and telling us of the daily and monthly Red Tops and magazines that he compiles for. All our members enjoyed this meeting immensely.

PBWI is very proud that two of our members have had their skills recognised by the West Kent WI. Maxine Keeble, is now an official tutor, she will teach Dressmaking Skills and Techniques Workshop, whilst Marion Tibbs will teach jewellery making at a WI afternoon.

For the future we will be arranging the District Performing Arts show and our first dip into the footlights will be in June. So as they say PBWI, “Break a Leg”.

Any ladies who wish to join us and enjoy our monthly meetings will be made most welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month, starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm. Our March speaker will be Jim Buttress, who will talk about the Royal Parks. April is our members only Spring Lunch. Our AGM and Resolution meeting is to be held in May and we are going to run our Switch Clothing Sale again on this day. Finally, at June's meeting we are to learn about Churchill and Chartwell. All of the PBWI member's wish the Village Newsletter readers an enjoyable Easter.

Angela Sutherland PBWI Secretary

The Curious tale of the old and new tree in Pratts Bottom - Tim Knowles

On Rushmore Hill opposite the turning to Hookwood Road are several very large pine trees which are probably a hundred or more years old. In January, in the wee small hours the largest tree closest to Rushmore Hill fell for no apparent reason; it appeared to be healthy, was not covered in ivy and the night was cold but not windy. It fell, blocked Rushmore Hill for a few hours, pulled down telephone lines and electric wires, damaged the hedge around Hookwood Road Recreation ground and the top of the tree finished well into the Rec. No one was hurt fortunately, but underneath the densest part of the fallen tree was set into the grass a stone slab. So why was there a stone slab set in the grass? In 2010 when Olive Bowen died, a collection was taken towards restoring the historic organ in the United Reformed Church. The costs of restoration were substantial and in the summer of 2012 her husband Ernie agreed that it would be impractical to attempt to restore the organ. Ernie agreed that a suitable memorial to Olive would be a tree planted in the village. The soil of the village would not be suitable for an olive tree! Nearly 50 years ago there was a line of walnut trees above the village but they were cut down when the houses in Downs View were built and in recent memory there was a very large walnut tree on the corner of Ringwood Avenue in the garden of the Bulls Head. Ernie agreed that the memorial to Olive would be a walnut tree. Then in July 2012 Ernie Bowen died unexpectedly aged 95, so the members of the URC thought a tree would serve as a memorial to them both for their many years stalwart service to the Community.

In August 2012 a walnut tree was sourced from The Walnut Tree company at St Mary's Platt and their advice was to arrange to plant this in the late winter.

Permission was sought from Bromley Council to plant a tree initially on the Village Green but after discussion it was felt it would find a better home in the Hookwood Road Recreation ground. The Arboricultural Officer Julian Fowgies would arrange for contractors to plant and maintain the tree and it we agreed the sighting for the tree and that is *how the slab came to be in the grass*
If the pine tree had fallen later or the tree planted earlier the newest tree in the village would have had a very short life!!

The tree will be planted at 10.00a.m on Thursday 28th March
I hope many of you will be there - Thank You

PRATTS BOTTOM VILLAGE HALL

No spectacular announcements this time, all the regular activities continue. The coming months see a Quiz night with a Kenyan theme on 23rd March and in may another in aid of Harris Hospice care. Details of these and the next Dramatic Production in April will all be posted on the outside notice board at the hall. The Village Hall AGM has been booked for 15th May (7.30 for 8) – some way away I know but try and keep the date free to come along.
Colin Westwood.

100 Club Winners January Numbers 100, 80, 51, 6
100 Club Winners February Numbers 32, 22, 92, 69

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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

Gwyneth Hudson	Chair - Residents Association	01689 858583
Colin Westwood	Chairman – Village Hall	07502 280775
Booking Secretary	Village Hall Bookings (also on Website)	07502280775
Gwyneth Hudson	Editor - “Village News”	01689 858583
Mr. M Ringham	Pratts Bottom Primary School	01959 532225
Rev.Canon Penny Avann	All Souls Church	01689861742
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	07599 811516
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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