



**PRATTS BOTTOM VILLAGE  
NEWSLETTER**

**Produced by the Pratts Bottom Residents Association  
SUMMER 2014**

**A wealth of activities are coming up that are listed on the back page plus some for next year so get out your diaries as you won't want to miss them.**

**Station Car Park.**

**The car park at Orpington station is to be expanded on a £1.9m project. Work will start soon to provide a further 142 spaces and is expected to be finished by December. This will, of course, cause some disruption in the short term but will be of great benefit in the long term.**

**The Village Christmas tree.**

**Contrary to some rumours the tree was not vandalised but the top was blown down by the wind and had to be removed. It will be pruned etc in September by the Parks Department but it is unlikely that it will recover the shape that it was. It is a particular variety called Picea Ormorika that would keep growing from the base and therefore usually remain a pleasing shape. The wind decided otherwise!**

**Residents Association**

**There are some changes afoot on the Residents Committee front. A key date for your diary is 26<sup>th</sup> September and the AGM in the village hall. The focus of our meeting will be on Orpington first and the new town centre development. Keynote speaker is Frank Levett, Chairman of OrpingtonFirst. It will also be an opportunity to meet and hear from our new councillors, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and to have your say as we put forward proposals for a new way of working.**

**There are some key issues around, not least the possible traveller sites at Fort Halstead and the development of the site at Knockholt Station. If you care about the village, please come and be part of the meeting and have your say.**

**We look forward to seeing you.**

**Penny Avann**

## Village Fete

The cloudy skies were good as the 17<sup>th</sup> of May was hot enough without the sunshine.

It was surprising how many stalls and games we managed to get onto our small village green this year and they provided plenty to do and see for all the very welcome people who came along to join in the fun. There was still space for the arena, where we watched a Maypole dance, some skilful gymnastics, a display of martial arts, the horsey hopper race and fun dog show. There were extra stalls in the village hall too, and those visiting were treated to a great performance by Chris Bodle and his fellow ukelele players as well as the delicious refreshments provided by the members of the Womens Institute.

The sharp-eyed amongst you may have spotted a couple of famous faces too – Jo Johnson, our local MP and the village's very own football star, Claire Rafferty, who has played for England and currently plays for Chelsea.

Thanks to all those who helped make the fete a success, including the generous sponsors who not only enabled us to offer a wide range of great prizes for the raffle and games but also helped us to provide entertainments including the Punch & Judy shows, bouncy castle, old fashioned organ etc. Thanks also to Peter (Cone) Hudson for keeping the roads clear and safe and to the members of the Model Railway Society for their many hours of hard work.

As always I use this space to ask for volunteers for next year's fete which is to be held on 16th May 2015. Come on-surprise me and offer an hour of your time on the day or get involved beforehand (01689 854204 or [lesleynigel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lesleynigel@yahoo.co.uk) If not, just come along on the day and enjoy yourselves!

Lesley Jones.      Chair of the Fete Committee

## All Souls

Over two hundred people gathered on the village green for a party for Pentecost Sunday. Why that day? Well Pentecost is the day we celebrate the birthday of the Church, and this year, along with many other churches, we had a larger celebration

than usual. A picnic on the green was followed by games, face painting, crafts and rounders accompanied by the St Mary's worship band. Friends from Cudham and Downe kept us well supplied with light refreshments and the event concluded with a short service led by the Green St Green Baptist Church worship group finishing with a huge birthday cake, baked and decorated by Laura Dimpleby and cut by Jill Allan.

The next big event is Shipshapes holiday club in August (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) There are still a few places if you have any school aged children who would like to come.

## **WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

Looking ahead to the autumn – apart from Harvest on 28<sup>th</sup> September, we are planning a village-wide event for Remembrance Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> November) in the village hall. Please keep the date free. There will be an Act of Remembrance and service, an exhibition and a programme of events throughout the day, including a football match on the green.

If you have anything relating to the First World War that you can lend us for the exhibition, please let me know. Thank you.

**Penny Avann**

**Our condolences to:**

**The Westwood family on the loss of their daughter Julia.**

**The family of Phyllis Carter who was from one of the 'old' village families.**

**Simon & Debbie Kirby on the loss of their mother Margaret.**

**All of them will be missed by others in the village as well as their families.**

## Village Hall News

Following the major projects undertaken in 2011/2012 under Colin Westwood's stewardship, the Committee are now carrying out a significant refurbishment of the kitchen, literally from the ground up. A completely new floor structure has been necessary, new kitchen units will be fitted, some parts of the electric circuitry have been upgraded and new windows to improve ventilation and a replacement emergency door will be installed. The old storage cupboards will be replaced with custom-made units with improved air flow designed to prevent the build up of damp conditions. In addition to the cooker purchased earlier, the kitchen will have a 9cu.ft larder fridge and a multi-function microwave oven. The new, completely redecorated kitchen will be far more pleasant to work in and be very attractive to potential hirers. It is our aim for residents and other users to be able to enjoy the benefits of our first class community asset. Get your booking in now.

We listened to your requests in the survey so there is a New Pilates classes starting this autumn in the village hall on Wednesdays from 9.35-10.35am. First session on 5<sup>th</sup> November last one on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

For more information and bookings please contact: Bethany Lucas 07415 638546

John Hickinbottom

### 100 club winners

April: 16, 92, 82, 79

May 57, 82, 8, 4

June: 29, 75, 82, 27

## Charming Craft Fair

Following on from the success of our Spring Craft Fair our second fair will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Do come along and see some of the things made by talented people. More information in the leaflet with this Newsletter.

## Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society

Those of you who didn't see the last production "Murdered to Death" missed a treat. It was entered for the Bromley Theatre Guild Festival and won runner up for the Best Costumes and Emma Wickenden was runner up for the Best Performance by an Actress under 21 years for her part as Dorothy. Craig Coston won Best Performance by an actor in a Minor Role part as Constable Thompkins and Chris Spencer won Best Performance for an Actor in a supporting role for his part as Colonel Craddock. We are very proud of them.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September we are having a Quiz night. The tickets will cost £10 to include a fish & chips supper and music from our local group 'BR6'

Our October 2014 production will be 2 one act plays with a supper in the interval. Our pantomime in January will be "Puss in Boots."

## Model Railway Society

We currently have eight layouts, two of which are very large, either under development or being upgraded. A new team is being formed to build an '00' layout which is to be started shortly. The Society now holds five meetings a week at various times of the afternoon and evening on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. So there is plenty going on. We are working towards exhibiting in Beckenham, Swanley and the NEC Birmingham later this year but with no trips to Europe planned so far. Friday is our general club night, which is the ideal time for you to come along to the clubhouse next to the hall if you feel like possibly joining an active, friendly group in the village.

John Hickinbottom

## Womens Institute

This is my first report of the WI year. At the AGM in May the annual NFWI's yearly Resolution 'Increasing Organ Donation' was debated strongly and raised many aspects. The new President and secretary were voted into position for the next three years. Our outgoing President, Shirley Pecover is now Polhill District Secretary.

Joyce Cashmore, accompanied by her labrador Indie, was the speaker at our June meeting when she told us about the 'Pets for Therapy' charity which brings immense pleasure to a great many people of all ages and needs. July found us going in search of orchids in High Elms Country Park. We were delighted to find some and afterwards enjoyed a tasty cream tea.

This year PBWI hosted the annual Public Affairs and International meeting. We were fortunate to have the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, Kevin Hurley as our speaker. Firstly he spoke of his time in Iraq as a Major in the Territorial Army as a chemical weapons inspector and secondly as a senior police officer on secondment to the Home Office. A large audience were enthralled by entertained by his anecdotes.

The August meeting is a talk in an Olympic Odyssey and September is the Annual Produce Show.

We meet at the village hall on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm. We will be pleased to welcome you.

Angela Sutherland

### Changing times

It's the time of year for young people to be looking forward to starting school, changing school or waiting for results that will decide their immediate future. Our thoughts and good wishes are with them all.

Some houses have been sold and will be having new owners. We welcome them to the village and wish those leaving every happiness in their new homes.

### Don't tell the Bride

In September a local resident, Ellie Potter, will be featuring on this programme which promises to be quite exciting. If you are familiar with the programme you will know that the bridegroom arranges everything to do with the wedding without consulting the bride. A brave man indeed.

## CONTACT LIST

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Booking Secretaries	Village Hall Bookings	01959 533873
		01689 852534
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
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	
	tuesdayclub2014@gmail.com	
Secretary	Wednesday Badminton Club	01689 857404
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
Samaris Huntington-Thresher	Councillor - Bromley Council	0208 464 3333
Police -	Safer Neighbourhood Team	07920 233857/ 0208 721 2605
Pratts Bottom Village Website	<a href="http://www.prattsbottom.co.uk">www.prattsbottom.co.uk</a>	
Pratts Bottom Village Hall Website	<a href="http://www.pbvh.co.uk">www.pbvh.co.uk</a>	
Pratts Bottom Primary School Website	<a href="http://www.prattsbottom.bromley.sch.uk">www.prattsbottom.bromley.sch.uk</a>	
The Bulls Head Public House Website	<a href="http://www.thebullsheadpub.net">www.thebullsheadpub.net</a>	
Samaris Huntington-Thresher Email	<a href="mailto:samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk">samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk</a>	
Police – Safer Neighbourhood Team Email	<a href="mailto:chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@metpolice.uk">chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@metpolice.uk</a>	
Pratts Bottom Residents Association Email	<a href="mailto:residents@prattsbottom.co.uk">residents@prattsbottom.co.uk</a>	

## DIARY DATES

### August

**5th-8th**

**Holiday club at All Souls**

### September:

**Saturday 13th**

**Craft Fair at the Village Hall**

**Friday 18th**

**Dramatic Society Quiz**

**Friday 26th**

**Residents Association AGM**

**Sunday 28th**

**Harvest Festival All Souls**

### October

**Dramatic Society plays**

### November

**Sunday 9th**

**Remembrance event**

**Saturday 29th**

**Christmas Market Village Hall**

**Sunday 30th**

**Lights on the Christmas tree**

### December

**Friday 12th**

**All Souls Quiz Village Hall**

### January 2015

**Pantomime**

### May 2015

**May Fete Saturday 16th**