

Pratts Bottom News



Welcome to this edition of the village newsletter. We hope you will come and be part of the community events planned.

Autumn is now in full swing as the leaves have started to drop and the clocks have been turned back. This must mean that Christmas is just around the corner and there are plenty of activities in the village to get you in the festive spirit.

Christmas Market on Saturday 26th November 10am . 2pm in the Village Hall.

Carols on Green and Tree Lighting on Sunday 4th December 4.30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Earlier in the year we said goodbye to Penny, who among other things, was the editor of this newsletter, so this has now been taken over by myself. The Residents Association produce the newsletter to keep you informed on what is taking place in the village. If there is anything you wish to add to future editions on activities, celebrations or needing to spread the word on something please do not hesitate to contact me.

Laura Dimbleby . Editor lauradimbleby@hotmail.com

PRATTS BOTTOM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The annual general meeting of the Pratts Bottom Residents Association was held on September 30th in the Village Hall. We were fortunate to have Karl Hardy from the Met Police Anti-terrorist squad as our guest speaker. He gave us a fascinating insight into all the work that goes on with all the agencies (including international ones) behind the scenes. It is very important that we know how to stay safe in these uncertain times.

The Confidential ANTI-TERRORIST HOT LINE IS 0800 789 321. Should you witness anything a bit strange on your travels don't be shy, give them a ring.

Phil and Dave our local constabulary were happy to report that we are still a very low crime area but residents must stay vigilant. Our Councillor Lydia reported on the new developments in Orpington Town Centre. As there were no pitchforks or flaming torches the meeting was peacefully concluded at 9.45 after a big thank-you to all the residents of the village who continue to keep our village such a great community.

Would you like to be part of the Residents Association? We are looking for new members to join us, we meet on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm in All Souls Church Hall. Just a couple of hours each month to keep abreast of village matters and new input is greatly received.

Liz Turnbull (Chairman)

SNOW FRIENDS – Peter Hudson writes

Winter is not far away and, with it, comes the possibility of occasional heavy snowfalls. Residents in side roads and, in particular, those living on hillsides in the village have had to face up to the fact in recent years that our local council will only clear main roads and bus routes should this snow settle heavily.

So, what do you do? The first thing to do now is find out which of your neighbours has volunteered to be a 'Snow Friend' There are several such volunteers scattered around our village. There doesn't seem to be one? Then why not volunteer yourself. Contact Bromley Council by phone and ask to speak to the Council officer in charge of Snow Friends and then volunteer - then ask for a supply of snow clearing equipment for yourself and your neighbours. Tell the officer how many houses you estimate will need your support.

Snow Friends who apply early enough (before the snowfall is upon us) are supplied with snow clearing shovels for each house on their 'patch'. They also get a bag of a mixture containing salt for each house. (Those who kept last year's mixture because it didn't snow can increase their stockpile) This mixture is no good for melting snow and ice. You get that material from those yellow bins on hillsides. This mixture is for sprinkling on the road after it has been cleared to prevent water re-freezing overnight and therefore help to prevent 'black ice'.

It will all arrive at your house. Then use your neighbours' older children to help you deliver it to your neighbours' homes!

And, who clears the snow? Well, the answer is becoming clear. It is done by you and your neighbours working together! We understand from those who have had a go at this in the past that a friendly team spirit develops. Coffee and something warm in someone's house is one outcome. The chance to drive down the road and get to work that afternoon is another.

The time to act is now. Find out who is your area representative. If you are new to the village, look in the shed and see if the last family left their orange shovel for you. No shovel and no ice mixture? Then chase up your Snow Friend and get more supplies ordered in November!!

THE MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY

It is all change at the top for the Society. We have new Chairman ,Paul Shallcross has replaced John Hickinbottom

and Neil Mcgraph has replaced Roger Allen in the role of Exhibition Manager.

The Society has had a successful few months, its layouts have been exhibited at Winchester, Woking and Dartford. Four new projects and a display are underway in addition we are preparing layouts for exhibition at our January 14th/15th show in the Village Hall so there has been plenty to interest all the members.

We are looking forward to greeting you at the January show. It is more a casual, friendly Pratts Bottom social occasion than a formal exhibition.

AMATEUR DRAMATICS

This year's Pantomime is 'Rumpelstiltskin'. Performances are on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January at 8pm and Saturday 28th January at 2.30pm and 8pm. Come and laugh at the antics of Gertie Gusset and friends and be amazed as straw is turned into gold before your very eyes!

Tickets are £8 and £6 for children 11 and under.

The Box Office number is: 01689 602837

The Box Office will open on 1st December.

THE VILLAGE HALL

The success and the facilities of our hall have not gone unnoticed and others have come to ask how we manage things. We let them know that we start from the premise that the hall is there to be enjoyed and we endeavour to provide for a wide range of activities and celebrations for residents and local people to participate in. The Women's Institute regularly have speakers on a broad spectrum of subjects and the Model Railway Society have talks to which residents are invited. There are three coming up.

A recent addition to the hall facilities has been the installation of a commercial dishwasher which has already proved its worth to

hall users. It takes all of two minutes to complete a wash cycle. Ideal for sessions that have considerable attendance. Don't forget to check-out the hall for your next family event.

In the latest edition of WHAT'S ON & WHEN YOU will find details of events and activities at the hall but there are two additional sessions that were organised as the leaflet went to press:

At 9.30 to 11.00 am on the Tuesdays 1st and 8th November there will be MINDFULNESS sessions which include techniques for the meditation and relaxing exercises to benefit your complete wellbeing. If you do want to put your mind at rest contact Debbie on 0785 4046383 for further information.

On Friday 25th November. between 12 o' clock and 2pm the Dovetail2 Club are holding "Cathy's Christmas Stall " in the Village Hall. A variety of gifts and other goodies will be on sale.

Doveail2 is a charity club run by the disabled for the disabled that meets here on Fridays .and your support will be very much appreciated. Proceeds will go toward meeting the cost of the transport that enables the club members to enjoy the hall's facilities and location.

John Hickinbottom

PILATES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Wednesdays - Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. & Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. classes

Next courses from 4th January & 22nd February 2017.

Seven week course - £56.

Pregnancy Pilates, Post Natal Pilates & further classes also held in Chelsfield.

For further information, availability & bookings, please contact:

www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk

bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com

07415 638 546



ALL SOULS CHURCH

The Parish of Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom takes great pleasure in announcing the appointment of the Reverend Ruth Murfitt as Associate Vicar with effect from early November.

Ruth comes to us from a parish in Cornwall along with her husband, John. They have lived in Cornwall for some ten years but are very familiar with this part of Kent. They will be living in Ringwood Avenue, but Ruth's duties will be across the whole parish.

Ruth will be licensed by the Archdeacon in a service at 7.30pm on November 7th at St Mary's and she will then be preaching at the Remembrance Parade Service at All Souls on November 13th.

Other All Souls service dates for your diary are:

10.30am	11 th December	Gift Service and Parade
6.30pm	18 th December	Carols by Candlelight
4.00pm	24 th December	Crib Service
11.00pm	24 th December	Midnight Communion
10.30am	25 th December	Christmas Praise

Social Events:

December 2nd Friday: 7.00 for 7.30, Village Hall. AS Quiz Night. Peter Hudson and his team are again prepared to test our intelligence and trivia knowledge. Make up a table of 8 or take pot luck, but don't miss this annual light-hearted evening. Bring nibbles and drinks, but there will be seasonal interval snacks! Tickets £7.50 from 01689 858840

Pop-In: We meet every Thursday except Bank Holidays, in The Bulls Head at 10.30 for coffee and biscuits or perhaps a treat

from Chef! It's an opportunity for a chat and catch up with old friends and make some new ones. £1.50 covers the cost of refreshments.

PRATTS BOTTOM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As our late summer is about to come to an end it is time to keep villagers informed about our future autumn and winter events.

At the annual Produce Show in September our members displayed once again their skills in baking, crafts and flower arranging. The WI have their own college in Oxfordshire which is called Denman. Residential and day courses are available at Denman enabling members to learn new skills no matter what age you are.

PBWI members are very much looking forward to our November meeting where our speaker will be Catherine Southon, an eminent antiques expert who features on many television programmes. She is to talk about her work and some members will have the chance to have a valuation on their treasures.

December's meeting is a social event, a Christmas cake made by one of our members, carol singing and entertainment, brings our last meeting of 2016 to a joyous close.

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall, from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. I and our committee look forward to greeting any new ladies who would wish to come and sample a PBWI meeting.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Angela Sutherland (President)
ang.sutherland@btinternet.com

PRATTS BOTTOM CONTACT LIST

John Hickenbottom	Chairman-Village Hall	01959 533070
Bookings	Village Hall	01959 533873/01689 852534
Ruth Murfitt	All Souls Church	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	Womenq 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 2605 Chelsfield.PrattsBottom.snt@metpolice.uk