

Pratts Bottom

Newsletter

March 2018



As the spring flowers are appearing around the village, I hope they are bringing some much-needed colour and renewal into our lives. As we continue to make plans for the coming year there are plenty of activities taking place over the next few months including the May Fete! These and others can be found in this edition of the Newsletter, the What's on & When guide and most importantly the website www.prattsbottom.co.uk. Don't forget to use the website to keep up to date on all that has happened and is happening in the village.

Editor – Laura Dimbleby

Village Shared AGM

Village Hall Trustees and Residents Association

Wednesday 16th May 2018

The Village Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm

Residents Association – Liz Turnbull

At a recent meeting we questioned the need of the Residents Association and if the village still needs such an organisation, considering there are many others. However, it feels that we do a lot more than may be realised. The Subscription covers costs throughout the year including the meeting venue. As well as our presence at local events and to be part of the Residents Federation which keeps us abreast of events in neighbouring villages and other RA groups within the Bromley Borough. We also keep in touch with Parish Councils in the local villages in Kent as we are on the border. We all meet once a month and discuss the well being of the village and most importantly planning applications, not only in the village with extension but also developments in the surrounding areas.

Land adjacent to Knockholt Station.

The owners have applied for open storage, commercial parking and erection of gatekeeper's accommodation, ie haulage yard.

This is inappropriate use of designated green belt land and we have written to the council with our concerns.

Broke Hill Golf Club.

Broke Hill closed at the end of last year and has been sold to Quinn Estates, a development company. The site is entirely in Sevenoaks District and is designated as Green Belt. Sevenoaks Council are in the process of reviewing their Local Plan and Quinn Estates have put the site forward as a potential site for development, to include around 800 homes,

commercial floorspace, public open space, a secondary school and community facilities. Sevenoaks Council are currently considering whether the site should be removed from the Green Belt to accommodate this.

The next stage will be for the Council to consult on their draft Local Plan, which may or may not

include Broke Hill as a potential development site. The consultation is expected to be in Summer 2018 and at that stage, the Resident's Association will be in a better position to form a view on the proposals. In the meantime, the Association has been in contact with the Council and with Quinn Estates and will be monitoring progress with the proposals.

The Association's AGM will be on the 16th May in the Village Hall and an update on Broke Hill will be provided. It will also be an opportunity for residents to express their views on the future of Broke Hill. Quinn Estates have produced a brochure outlining their ideas and that is available on the Pratts Bottom Community Website www.prattsbottom.co.uk

Village Hall – John Hickinbottom

All the regular activities featured in 'What's On & When' have been well supported over the past months with the exception of the Monday evening Indoor Bowls session which does need a few more members. Both players with some experience and beginners would be very welcome. If you would like to spend an enjoyable evening bowling please contact Alan Rowe at ajrowe9@yahoo.co.uk.

The special events such as the Quiz Nights, Christmas Market, Carols, Photo Fair, the Model Railway Show and talks and the Panto were all very well attended. The hall has been hired for hosting many a children's party and a variety of family events including for the first time – A Christmas Day Dinner.

The Village Hall is a much-used venue and its successful day – to – day running is due to the hard work put in by our Booking Secretaries, Jenny Riley and Sharon Hynes and our Treasurer, Sally Dibben, who are all volunteers. We must now reduce their workload and at the same time make it easier for prospective hirers to book the hall. Also, the Secretaries increasingly come up against the 'No cheque book' situation.

Accordingly I have initiated a project to put some procedures on-line. This is only in its early stages but we think we will be able to announce its launch in the next Newsletter.

There are a number of new events and old favourites planned for the next few months are in the new edition of the 'What's on & When'

Womens Institute – Lesley Sharman

First of all, a belated Happy New Year to all in Pratts Bottom!! 2017 was an eventful year for Pratts Bottom W.I. Our monthly meetings were enjoyed by all and our ventures with The Village Hall, which included the at the end of the year the Christmas Market, which was as always a very happy and successful occasion. The W.I had a very festive Christmas Lunch together, held at BR6 in Orpington. Our meal was delicious and the service first class, it is an eatery which we

would recommend and is definitely worth a visit. Our pre-Christmas meeting was once again very festive and included our members being entertained by the musicians "Vintage Cru", it was a truly jolly occasion and great fun. The New Year is now into March and we are looking forward to enjoying an extra Thursday quizzing, ect . We look forward to another exceptional year for Pratts Bottom W.I., to which new members are always very welcome.

Dramatics Society – Joyce Gosnell

Thanks to everyone who came to either watch or help out with our latest pantomime 'Little Shop of Horrors'. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves, we certainly had a fun time. I think it was one of our most successful yet.

We are now looking for next year's script, 2019!! If you would like to take part or help out in some way please contact me. It is always our

aim to involve as many young people as possible, especially those who live in the village. Please come along next year and give it a try.

In the meantime, we will be performing a play in May and entering the Bromley Festival. It is quite modern and has a rather unexpected twist or two along with some very humorous moments.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Going Green</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">23rd/24th/25th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Village Hall @ 8pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Box Office 01689 602837 tickets £8.00</p>

Model Railway – Ravi Savur

The Orpington and District Model Railway Society held their annual exhibition over the weekend of 13th and 14th January. To accommodate more exhibits and visitors the Club House next to the Village Hall was used for the Society's second-hand model shop and a marquee behind the hall protected a garden railway with live steam locomotives. There was a wider variety of exhibits compared to previous years and sophisticated modelling including vehicles on roads and a compact layout that fitted in a coconut. Several layouts were built by members of the society either at the club house or at home.

Children were kept entertained with the society's Little Totston layout that they were able to operate themselves, complete with giraffe that ducks down to avoid a station footbridge and an operating crane. Many

children also joined the tree-making workshop that had some fifty participants over the 2 days.

The exhibition had its largest number of visitors ever, many staying to sample some delicious homemade cakes donated by club members and their families, as well as more substantial food prepared and served by volunteers. Some of the feedback by visitors said: "Brilliant, very interesting and entertaining", "Loved the last one so bought the grandson as it was so friendly".

The society welcomes new members and has talks open to guests and friends. While the society is only open to those over 18, youngsters accompanied by a parent or guardian are welcome to join the next 6 week modelling course (1 evening a week) due to start in spring.



All Souls Church – Brenda Johnson/Rev Ruth

The refurbishment of All Souls took place during January. The trees and shrubs have had a short back and sides which have opened up the grounds and the interior of the Church has been completely repainted. It is well worth seeing...come and see!

Dear Friends

March 2018

When I was curate I used to take Home Communion to an elderly lady who lived in the parish where I served, in a cottage overlooking the sea with her family for many years. She eventually was left to live alone as

they grew up and left home. We would share the most interesting conversations. I loved visiting her and I was always late home for tea! We were/are close friends. She always seemed positive and yet her life has been full of many challenges and sadness.

This reminds me of a prayer that was once found in the bible of another lady who silently and courageously suffered depression and physical pain yet to others always gave peace, smiles and time to others who visited her.... this is the prayer..

O God...Help us to bring happiness and peace to others, even when our own hearts are in turmoil. Save us from spreading grief and sorrow, depression and despair. May we never sell our courage to buy sympathy. May we never sell another's good name to buy pity for ourselves.

Show us that it is more enriching to show courage than to receive sympathy, even when no-one suspects that there is anything to be courageous about. O Lord deliver us from yielding to melancholy moods that depress others; from the sullenness of temper that drives the sunshine from other faces; from the refusal to do battle with gloom and by the refusal to make life harder for others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen. (Dr Leslie Weatherhead 1893 – 1976)

Also let us remind ourselves that spring is here and I would like to thank those who with unstinting care place flowers in Al Souls church so regularly. There is a short break during Lent but already I know there are those who are thinking of ways to make this church beautiful for the rest of the year! Also, to thank all those who keep the church grounds and buildings tidy whatever the weather. Whilst we are thanking people – what about those who keep the church clean, those who repair and fix, those who serve on various committees. Wendy and Jack who keep our music going. Those of you who each Sunday morning whatever the weather and challenges are found faithfully sitting in the pew preparing to worship God.

Keep watch for various church happenings on the church noticeboard.
'The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you his peace' (numbers 6:14-16) God Bless

Rev Ruth

Fete Committee – Lesley Jones

Saturday 12th May is the date set for this years Fete and preparations are already underway. 'Craze Hazy' the super Punch and Judy entertainer, the bouncy castle, the live music, the model railway, games and refreshments have all been booked.

Together with the many stalls and games run by local organisations and the football shooting, Pot of Gold with its fabulous prizes, Trap the Rat, Hoopla, Game of Thrones and Book Stall. We have a couple of new exciting events to be enjoyed by all. It promises to be a great day!

We have a few spaces on the green so if you would like to have a stall please contact Brenda Johnson

**HEL
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As always, there is only so much we can do beforehand and the actual day will be very busy. If you can spare an hour to help on the day please let me know.

Your Say

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Rob Allen of Rushmore Hill who passed away earlier in the year.

If you have news you want to share, email me and let the village know!

lauradimbleby@hotmail.com

Had a great time at the new Come Along Social Afternoon in the Village Hall. A must if you enjoy a game and a cuppa

Below is an extract from one of Chelsea's Football Programme paying tribute to Claire Rafferty who lived in the village and whose mum is part of and still lives in the village

'Claire Rafferty is celebrating 10 years of service for Chelsea Ladies. She started off when the Ladies programme received nothing like the support it does now from the football club and she's had to go through a lot of lows – including two potentially career-ending knee injuries-before experiencing plenty of highs. Raff is one of the last players standing from that era and that is

testament to her character and her ability on the football field. She's won major honours here, played in the Champions League, helped her country finish third in the World Cup and appeared at an Olympic Games. And a lot of it was done while also worked as an analyst for a major bank! She's had a wonderful career so far and, at 28 there is, plenty more to come'

Contact List

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www.prattsbottom.co.uk

Village Hall Chairman - John Hickenbottom

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Booking Secretary

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Womens Institute Chairman - Lesley Sharman

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Pratts Bottom Dramatics Society Chairman - Joyce Gosnell

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Fete Committee Chairman - Lesley Jones

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The Bulls Head Pub Pub Manager – Clare Jones

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Police (SNT)

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Councillors

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PRATTS BOTTOM

VILLAGE

FETE

SATURDAY

12th MAY

11.30am - 4pm

