

STORRINGTON NEWS

November 2009

Lighting Up Our Lives.

A very big thank you to CAREMARK, Pulborough, for sponsorship of our Christmas Tree Lights this year and many congratulations to Georgina Gilkes from Storrington First School (year 4) who designed the winning entry for this year's Childrens Christmas Light Competition. She will receive a framed copy of her artwork and a £25 book voucher. The cost of making Georgina's design into a decoration has also been donated by Caremark and it will be prominently displayed as part of the Storrington Decorations.

Thanks also go to YEOMANS, Nissan of Worthing for additional sponsorship of this year's Late Night Christmas Shopping Event on 3rd December.

A very Happy Christmas to all our readers.



It's Christmas and to celebrate the season of good cheer the Storrington Late Night Shopping event is taking place on Thursday 3rd December from 6pm onwards.

Shops will stay open late throughout the village and there will be fun and games for all the family.

Kick-off will be at Place Villerest, where the lights will be switched on at 6pm by our sponsors, CAREMARK.

Father Christmas will visit and there will be hot chestnuts, carol singers, fairground attractions, a festive market, sausages and burgers, silver band, face painting and much more, not forgetting the Fire Engine !!

Forge House, the Community Hub, 3, Church Street, will be open and you will have a chance to see what they provide for the local community and have a chance to talk to members of the Partnership Management team. Also, from 6pm, there will be a Sale of Tearcraft goods, handmade in developing countries together with Fairtrade and Tradecraft food and Christmas items.

Well Done Storrington & Sullington.

Acorn have reported back to us that their initial review of the new refuse and recycling collections has gone very well, with much greater use than expected of the new BLUE BIN.

This means more recycling and less landfill. Lets keep it up!!

Don't forget if you need any more information or help, contact the Acorn Plus link on the Horsham website www.horsham.gov.uk or phone 01403 739459

Parish Design Statement – Public Exhibition

The Parish Council would like to thank all those residents who visited the Library during week commencing 28th October and commented on the above draft document.

A Design Statement sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of all development within the village, based on its character and is produced incorporating the village community's knowledge. This unfortunately means that a lot of the comments, particularly regarding public toilets cannot be incorporated into such a document.

This said, some amendments will be made to the document which will then be forwarded to Horsham District Council for their comments and eventual adoption

Storrington & Sullington Community Partnership

Surprisingly, we still meet long-time residents of the village who either state that they have never heard of us, or have no idea what we do. That, in spite of frequent repetition, in this widely distributed Newsletter (which we initiated), or information on the village website (which we also started and run on behalf of the village). So, as Michelle in 'Allo 'Allo says... 'I shall say this only once' (again).

Active since mid 2002, a group of volunteers have been looking at a range of issues affecting the well-being and quality of life in our lovely village. After widespread consultation we published an Action Plan in late 2003, and since then have worked with the Parish Council, the District and County Councils and the Police on the most significant issues identified.

Together we have implemented safety improvements to the pavements and appearance of the High Street. We have implemented a parking control regime that has made it easier for visitors and shoppers to park,

though problems do remain due to the increasing numbers of houses and cars. We have a team of volunteers visiting and helping the Elderly and Housebound, and we could do with more volunteers. We have been working with the Horsham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Police and our PCSOs to reduce the problems of anti-social behaviour in the village, and at long last some headway is being made. A recently formed Environment Action Team is looking at a number of initiatives and possibly will start a Greening Campaign. We have significantly improved Communications in the village with the Newsletter and the much visited website. In the last 2 years we have established the successful Community Hub in Forge House, which is very busy with a range of activities involving all ages, and many different kinds of advice and information being given to the large numbers of visitors dropping in.

By common consent, the issue of greatest concern is the burden and impact on the quality of life in the village caused by the high level of traffic and the frequent excessive speeding along our roads. A Traffic Action Team has been ramping up the pressure for change and has produced an Action Plan. Several initiatives are underway, in one case on tackling speeding traffic. (See the separate article) Other initiatives will be reported on in due course, both in this newsletter and other local media and on the village website.

We have nearly 50 members and supporters of the Partnership, which is now a Company with charitable status. 20 members are currently actively involved in our work. A new young professional accountant has joined us to become our Company Treasurer, but we are still seeking a replacement Secretary. If you wish to take part in any of our activities, please contact Paul Mackie on 01903 745669 for a chat.

Storrington & Sullington Crime and Disorder Reduction Co-Ordinating Group.

This group has been in place for 12 months and was a response by Horsham District Council to the levels of anti social behaviour and criminal damage in the Storrington and Sullington area. In October 2008 the Chantry Ward had the third highest percentage of disorderly conduct in the Horsham District and the highest for criminal damage.

The SSCDRP was created in response to feedback from Storrington & Sullington Parish Council and the Community Partnership and led by Trevor Beadle from Horsham District Council.

An action plan was created with a number of objectives such as a reduction in criminal damage, an increase in the availability of youth provision and a number of sub groups were formed to focus on specific areas of the action plan.

Saxon Weald led on an initiative to create a Community Charter. This was an agreement between the local service providers and the residents of Saxon Weald. Each Service provider committed to a base level of service provision and guidance was distributed for who to contact and what to expect.

A number of youth activities were introduced to the village and close communication between local PCSOs and the youth providers assisted the Horsham District Council Community Safety Team when interacting with the main persons of interest.

The Parish Council has provided some superb facilities this year after consultation with the local youngsters consisting of a youth shelter and play area at Sullington and a ball playing area at Ravenscroft.

Policing response in the winter months was increased at the peak times for disorder by the use of some overtime money. A PC and PCSO were placed on high visibility foot patrol in and around the areas most at threat of disorderly behaviour. Saxon Weald provided a house for the local PCSOs to centre their patrols from, and Forge House provided accommodation for Thursday Police surgeries. Increasing the visibility of Police in the village.

October 2009 figures show a 66% reduction in criminal damage and a 33% reduction in disorderly behaviour calls to the police over the last 12 months. This reduction is the result of the strong partnership working by all agencies and residents of Storrington and Sullington. Overall crime has also reduced over the 12 month period.

The activity demonstrated by this process has led to real results and an improvement in the quality of life for residents of Storrington and Sullington. What is important now is the continued effort to keep the parish safe and crime levels low.

You can see your local officers' Blogs on the Sussex Police website on this link, just click on the map of your area.

http://www.sussex.police.uk/neighbourhood_policing/district.aspx

Mobile Waste / Recycling Site Dates.

The "Gobbler" will be in the Car Park on the following dates:

December 2009	13 th
January 2010	17 th & 31 st
February 2010	14 th & 28 th
March 2010	14 th & 28 th

A Dream Come True.

The Chairman of Horsham District Council, Cllr. Keith Wilkins officially opened the extension of the Riverside Walk at the end of October. It had always been an aspiration that the Riverside Walk by the side of the River Stor, completed in 1991, would one day be extended from Spierbridge Road along to Hormare. Well, 18 years later, thanks to The Storrington Conservation Society and the Council this has now been achieved. There are now stretches of boardwork above the boggy sections and many new bridges on this delightful walk, winding through the woodland by the river.

Allotments.

If you are a resident of Storrington & Sullington and are interested in having an allotment at Ravenscroft, please telephone the Parish Council on 01903 746547.

Green Is Go!

Another first for Storrington & Sullington with the opening of Abbey Court, the largest funded project of its type in the South East of England, at Ravenscroft on the site of the old Abbey House.

Twelve 2,3 & 4 bedroom Eco-family houses bursting with the latest "Green" technology.

The picture shows Ray Dawe, deputy leader of Horsham District Council and Chairman of Storrington & Sullington Parish Council, officially opening the project, together with Ian Phillips and Adrian Buffery of Greenoak Housing Association (the company who developed Abbey Court) and Councillor Chris Mason.

These houses have been built to a very high specification in order to reduce energy use, pollution and fuel bills; reduce water use and associated costs; reduce waste and maintenance. Key to the project is built-in, long term, sustainability.

Storrington Tackles Traffic Speeding.

Storrington's Traffic Action Team, working for the Parish Council and the Community Partnership, has learnt of a number of positive steps being put into place by West Sussex Police over the next few months to combat speeding in the village.

New blue signs announcing "Unmarked Police motor cycles patrolling" developed after research in Scotland have been installed along the A283 east of Washington, and on the A272, east and west of Buck Barn crossroads, and will also appear west of Storrington along the B2139 shortly.

After concerns expressed about speeding on the main access roads in and out of Storrington, the Police have assessed and agreed 4 enforcement sites from which officers will regularly use speed guns to enforce the limit. Look out for the speed guns, they are already in action – **Kill your Speed!**

The use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are to be revamped, and new volunteers are being trained to use these. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, you can contact Carol Boniface, or Tom Guiney, our PCSOs on 0845 6070999 ext. 22095 and ext 28240 respectively to join the team and receive training. A new campaign using new-style posters and logo is under consideration, and the Action Team has now established a regular dialogue with the Police, via the Neighbourhood Policing Team and its Panel.

Since our Police have stepped up their speed enforcement in Storrington, current evidence shows that of those drivers found to be speeding in the Storrington area, a significant proportion are indeed local residents.

The moral here is that as local people, we have a responsibility to "Back off", observe the speed limit, and make the commitment to support the improvement of driver behaviour.

Beekeeping Beginners Day. The Wisborough Green Division of the West Sussex Beekeepers Association are holding a Beekeeping Beginners Day on Sat Feb 20th 2010 at Pulborough Village Hall.

This highly regarded course has been designed to suit those who have no experience of beekeeping, but would like to investigate this absorbing hobby that is fast growing in popularity. It is also suitable for those who have some experience, and may have kept bees for some time.

Amongst the subjects covered will be how to start, information sources, teaching facilities, siting beehives, equipment required, what bees collect, the bees' life cycle, and much, much, more. Contact Roger Patterson 01403 790 637, 07976 306 492, roger-patterson@btconnect.com for details, or Gordon Allan 01798 343470, petworthgordon@btopenworld.com to book.

Drop In Base for Discussions with Police.

The ability to discuss issues with local Police via a weekly drop in at Forge House has now been running for almost a year. The service has been very well received. The sessions, which run **every Thursday morning from 10.00 till 12.00** have resulted in a huge range of civil (eg. parking issues) or Police related issues being dealt with by the police or passed on to a partner agency.

The issue of Police presence within the village has not been brought to our attention within this forum and we are committed to providing the right presence at the right time and in the right places and we will continue to do so. All incidents should be reported to us in order to give the right level of service within our policing pledge. We will do as much as we can to reassure the public and to remind them that Horsham South is still the safest place statistically to live in Sussex.

Our contact details are

PCSO Carol Boniface 0845 6070999 x 22095

carol.boniface@sussex.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Tom Guiney 0845 6070999 x 28240

tom.guiney@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Storrington & District Museum

Monday 14th December. Lecture "Christmas Entertainment" by Chris Hare. A light-hearted Christmas entertainment arranged by our well known authority on Sussex. Including a festive glass of wine and mince pies. Christmas Gift Stall.

Monday, 11th January. Lecture "Sawbones, Quacks or Inventive Medicine" by Tony and Lizzie Gilks of Timespan. A talk looking at the fascinating picture of how medicine was practised - using replica instruments.

Monday 8th February. Lecture "The Sussex Resistance" by Stewart Angell. An illustrated talk on top-secret wartime unit which planned to sabotage and disrupt German forces if ever they managed to invade.

Monday 8th March. AGM and Members' Evening with a talk about writing for children by Jill Atkins, the Museum's Education Secretary.



Christmas Tree Myth

Nimrod, the grandson of Noah's son Ham, promoted nature worship in ancient Sumeria and Babylon.

Myth links the Christmas Tree to Nimrod who was "cut down" like a tree by his uncle. The tree stump, as well as the new evergreen tree sprouting out from the seed or stump, have become a symbol of his supposed resurrection as a deity.



The Original Father Christmas ?

Woden was the god of magic and healing and he rode across the sky on Sleipnir, his eight-legged horse. At midwinter, Woden came to earth and down the smoke-hole in the form of Father Christmas to dispense goodwill, peace and presents. Christians stole this myth when they turned a 4th century Turkish bishop called Nicholas into a saint. Subsequently, the Americans corrupted his name into 'Santa Claus'.

The Christmas Stocking.

St. Nicholas, the Patron Saint of Children, is the cornerstone of the Santa Claus tradition. He was born in Patara, Asia Minor and was said to have



travelled to Egypt and other places as well. He befriended children and visited their homes leaving gifts. He did this late at night, so he would remain anonymous. The feast of little Christmas is celebrated on December 6th and in some countries, that day is "Christmas Day." The legend of the Christmas stocking is also linked with St. Nicholas. The story goes as such: a poor man had no money to give his three daughters for their wedding. The girls left their stockings by the fire to dry and St. Nicholas dropped three bags of gold in their stockings. Children all over the world hang stockings by the fireplace, in hopes that St. Nicholas or Santa Claus might stop by.



The Christmas Tree.

Perhaps the second biggest phenomena of the holiday season is the Christmas tree. This tradition dates back to the days of the Egyptians, Romans, and Druids. On the shortest day of December, the Egyptians would bring green palms into their homes. This was to symbolize life's triumph over death. The Romans would also adorn their house with evergreens during Saturnalia. This was a festival in honour of their god of agriculture, Saturnus. The Druids decorated an oak tree with golden apples. Approaching more modern times, in the 16th Century, the first Christmas tree (as we know it) came into existence. In Strasbourg, Germany, the evergreen trees were decorated with colored paper, fruits, and sweets.

Christmas Specials

The Sandgate Singers will be performing a Christmas Carol Concert at 7.30pm on Friday 11th December at the Priory off Monastery Lane.

The Storrington Horticultural Society will be holding their Christmas Buffet at 7.00 for 7.30pm on Friday 18th December (tickets in advance).

The Sandgate Conservation Society will be holding a Christmas Social Event, including a "Who Dunit" entertainment, glass of wine and a mince pie on Friday 18th December at 7.30pm in Sullington Parish Hall