



# LANGLEY PARISH NEWS

[www.langley-kent.org.uk](http://www.langley-kent.org.uk)

## Inside this issue

- Village Hall Secretary Required - P.2
- Rural Farmers' Market – Dates P.2
- Xmas Party Photos - P.2
- Open Letter from the Parish Council P.3
- Green garden sacks for sale – P.4
- Village Hall events – P.2
- Planter Helpers required – P.3

### Letter from David Burton, Chairman of the Parish Council



Dear Resident

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and Happy New Year.

I say peaceful because over the last few months the Village has seen an increase in anti-social behaviour and minor criminal damage. To name but a few incidents, the parish noticeboard at the Village Hall was demolished, the Village Hall verge notice-boards have both been demolished, the brand new chain-link fencing running along the back of the Playing Field has been cut open, the list goes on.....

*So what's being done?* Our Neighbourhood Policing Team, in the form of PC Steve Older and PCSO Richard Kirby, are firmly on the heels of the 'ring leaders' (incidentally we believe the 'ring leaders' are from outside the Village and lead the village children astray).

Without any firm evidence, there is very little the Police can do, however, they hope to issue acceptable behaviour contract agreements (ABAs), which is an intervention designed to engage the individual in recognising their behaviour and its negative effects on others, in order to stop the offending behaviour.

An ABA is a written agreement between an anti-social behaviour perpetrator and their local authority, Youth Inclusion Support Panel, landlord or the police. ABAs are usually used for young people but can also be used for adults. The ABA consists of a list of anti-social acts that the offender agrees not to continue and outlines the consequences if the contract is breached.

Contracts usually last for six months but can be renewed if both parties agree. ABAs are not legally binding, but can be cited in court as evidence in ASBO applications or in eviction or possession proceedings.

The Police are also undertaking home visits to meet and talk with the parents of the children whose name ~~crosses up frequently through local knowledge to discuss their behavior and more visits are planned.~~

*What can you do?* Neighbourhood Watch is a way in which communities can help themselves to stay safe and keep crime levels down. Groups of volunteers work in partnership with the police and the local council to help deal with local problems.



Contact:

Lorraine Hemphrey,  
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

At least thirteen residents in Green Lane have established their own Neighbourhood Watch system so if you would like to find out more about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for your road, call Lorraine Hemphrey on 0844 892 0119 or you can meet her in person at the next Rural Market on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February from 10am.

Please remember that you can meet with your Parish Clerk on the first Wednesday of every month from 9.30am and PCSO Richard Kirby will be attending the Rural Markets on the third Wednesday of every month from 10am at the Village Hall – both coincide with the Rural Market but the Committee Room is always available for any confidential advice.

The support we continue to receive from the Kent Police is much appreciated, please remember to pass on any local knowledge you may have to help stop a minority of offenders from spoiling our Parish.

All of the above criminal damage costs dearly in either pounds and pennies, volunteer time and motivation levels, which brings me nicely onto the subject of the Annual Precept.

It is the Parish Council's intention not to increase the Parish Precept for 2010/11. The Parish Councillors are aware that 'every penny counts' and intend to deliver the same level of service without having to increase the annual precept. For more information on the Parish Precept, please refer to Page 3

++ Stop Press ++



**It's snow fun to be stranded – please help**



++ Stop Press ++

The Parish Council is concerned that some of the older members of the Parish may be isolated during the episodes of cold weather we keep experiencing and would like to co-ordinate some support across the Parish. So, if you're mobile and able to lend a hand during the cold snap or if you are stuck and need some supplies please let the Parish Clerk know (details on the back page) and she will endeavour to co-ordinate some assistance.



## Village Hall Management Committee News

Contacts: Pat Sayers, Chair 862557  
Clare Hampson, Secretary 862894  
David Bennett, Treasurer/Booking Officer 861223

### Children's Christmas Party roundup .....

The Children's Christmas Party started at 2pm with approximately 40 village children attending, some with their parents, despite the snowy conditions outside. All were entertained by Reg-E-Mental with fun, magic tricks, balloon sculptures and lots more and the children all sat around him on the floor and had a great time.

Following the entertainment the children were treated to a spread of sandwiches, pizza, sausage rolls, crisps, mince pies, biscuits, lots different cakes, finishing off with ice-cream – yum ! (all the food was donated by committee members and their families).

Next was fun and games including prizes with Father Christmas arriving at 3.30pm with a big cheer from all as he entered his grotto to give every child a present (which was purchased from a donation from the Parish Council - many thanks for their continued support).

The party finished at 5pm with everyone going home very happy and many conveyed their thanks to the Village Hall Management Committee for a very well organised party.

So 'thank you' to all our volunteer helpers who worked hard throughout the day, donated food, wrapped gifts, tidied up, etc. the list is endless but the effort is always appreciated ☺



### Vacancy - Village Hall Secretary

Do you have a couple of hours a week to volunteer your services to the Village Hall Management Committee as their new Secretary?

The position involves the timely production and distribution of Agendas, monthly minute taking and distribution for the monthly Committee Meetings. You will be working alongside the Chairman and Vice Chairman and full training can be provided, however, it would be an advantage if you are proficient with the use of Word, Excel, Powerpoint and e/mail.

Please send your letter and CV to Pay Sayers, 29 Dickens Close, Langley, Kent, ME17 1TB and you can contact her on the above telephone number if you have any questions or queries.

### Lost Property

There are so many items of lost property that they have all been placed in a green crate! There's water bottles, karate jackets and a child's jacket to name but a few !

Please call one of the above numbers to be reunited with your lost property or check out the box on your next visit

### Regular Village Hall Clubs and Activities

<b>Monday</b>	Ballet (Children) 4.15pm Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Over 60s Club – (alt. Tuesdays) Ballet (Adult) 5pm Belly Dancing 8pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Rural Market 10am(1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday's in the month) Ballet 5.45pm Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Mother & Toddler 1pm Karate – 6pm Morris Dancing 8pm Youth Bus (alt. Thursdays)
<b>Friday</b>	Mobile Library 12pm Martial Arts 6.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Ballet (Children) 9am
<b>Sunday</b>	Football

### DIARY DATES

**Rural Farmers' Markets**, held on the first and third Wednesday in the month 10am–1pm. The next Markets; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, **Quiz Night**, 7.30pm

For further information contact David Bennett

Dear Sir / Madam

## Allotment Provision – Langley Parish Council

Langley Parish Council is responsible for providing allotments available for use by all in the Parish. Currently, the Parish Council lease a small area of allotment land off the Sutton Road but demand for the allotment plots currently exceeds supply.

Therefore, I have been instructed by the Parish Councillors to write to all surrounding land owners in search of a suitable parcel of land that the Parish Council can consider purchasing or renting for allotment gardens.

If you have any such land available and would like to discuss this further with the Parish Council, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## 1957 TSB Account

The Clerk has recently discovered a dormant account with Lloyds TSB. It appears that a passbook account was opened in 1957 and last used on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1972 and the closing balance of £256.32 has recently been transferred to the Parish Council. If you can provide any further information on this account and perhaps the original intention for the money – please contact the Clerk. Thank you.

## So what is the Parish Precept?

It is a legal requirement of the Parish Council to determine the Parish Precept, in order to generate sufficient funds to pay for parish expenditure and maintain a reserve. Each year we all receive the 'council tax' demand from Maidstone Borough Council and included in the bill is the precept from your Parish Council.

Therefore, our precept pays for the running and administration of this parish; costs such as maintenance of parish-owned land and property, insurance, audit fees, and printing of the newsletter.

It also pays for the salary of our Parish Clerk who carries out a great deal of work in public and behind the scenes to keep our wheels running smoothly.

As always, any member of the Parish Council will be pleased to answer any questions on the precept or any other part of the Parish Council activities, or we would welcome you to our monthly meetings.

## Computer Training – Village Hall

Are you interested in attending computer training classes at the Village Hall? Training for any skill level can be provided if you let the Clerk know your requirements. So, if you need a confidence boost to navigate around your computer and the internet or are looking for more specific training, get in contact with the Clerk and register your interest.



Please note that a representative of the Maidstone Housing Trust will be attending the Rural Market on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

If you are unable to attend one of the Rural Markets please note the following contact details:-

Kelly Jordan, Property Advisor

Maidstone Housing Trust

Whatman House

St Leonard's Road

Allington

Maidstone

Kent ME16 0LS

T: 01622 212600

E: [kellyjordan@maidstonehousing.org.uk](mailto:kellyjordan@maidstonehousing.org.uk)

## Another new Parish Councillor !

I am very pleased to welcome Andy Weaver who was co-opted to the position of Parish Councillor at our January meeting. This brings the Parish Council to its full complement of nine Members. David Burton, Chairman



## Village Planters



Two of the village planters located on the Village Green and the Crown & Horseshoes are kindly looked after by local volunteers, but the planters located near, St Mary's Church, Village Hall, Pear Tree Cottages and Ulcombe Crossroads are without any dedicated help.

Are you able to volunteer any spare time to look after one of the planters? If so, please contact the Parish Clerk on 842461 who will be very pleased to hear from you.

## Freighter Visits

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010

11.30 – 12.15 – Shepherds Way

12.30 – 13.00 – Grasslands Cul-de-Sac

[http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/recycling\\_rubbish\\_and\\_waste/weekend\\_freighter\\_service.aspx](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/recycling_rubbish_and_waste/weekend_freighter_service.aspx)

## Fault Reporting

### Maidstone Borough Council

Fly-tipping, Abandoned Vehicles, Dog Fouling, Street Cleaning – 01622 602162 or via their website [www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk)

### Kent County Council

Potholes, street lights, blocked drains, vegetation and other road issues 08458 247800 or via their website [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

## Community Services

Green Garden Sacks – now available from the monthly Parish Clinics - £2.50 a roll.

Newsletter Reader Service – call the Parish Clerk for assistance.

This Newsletter is available in large print if required – contact the Parish Clerk

Copies of Meeting Minutes are available to view from the Parish Clerk or they can be viewed on the parish website as follows:

[www.langley-kent.org.uk](http://www.langley-kent.org.uk)

Kent Police contacts:

PC Steve Older and PCSO Richard Kirby



01622 604392

E m a i l :  
[maidstonerural.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:maidstonerural.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk)

General:

Citizens Advice Bureau – 01622 752420

Trading Standards – 08454 040506

Fire Safety – 01622 774126

Maidstone Housing Trust – 0800 9232700

Kent Crime Stoppers – 0800 555 111

## Contacts

Nicola Dawkins, Parish Clerk  
10 Warmlake Cottage, Chartway Street,  
Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3JA

or e/mail [parishclerk@langley-kent.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@langley-kent.org.uk)



01622 842461

### Parish Councillors:

David Burton, Chairman	01622 862595
Ray Cuthbert, Councillor	01622 863417
Tony Haylor, Councillor	01622 861189
Sue Knowles, Vice Chair	01622 861618
Janet Palmese, Councillor	01622 842305
Hans Reichert, Councillor	<a href="mailto:hans@hdr-online.com">hans@hdr-online.com</a>
Cheryl Taylor-Maggio, Councillor	01622 862962
John Tucker, Councillor	01622 861356
Andy Weaver, Councillor	01622 888415

### Borough Councillor:

Paulina Stockell 01622 842508  
[paulinastockell@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:paulinastockell@maidstone.gov.uk)

### County Councillor:

Eric Hotson 01580 892312

## Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meet on the **third** Tuesday of every month (except August) at 7.30pm, Langley Village Hall. Interim meetings are held should any planning applications arise which, due to MBC timescales, cannot be held over to the following meeting. The agenda will be displayed on the Parish notice boards and the website and members of the public are welcome to attend.

## Parish Clinics for the Residents

The Clerk is available on the first Wednesday of every month from 9.30 to 11.30am in the Committee Room at the Village Hall. Free tea and coffee available. Come and speak to your Clerk to raise any concerns, ideas, projects or suggestions you may have.

You can now purchase the MBC green garden sacks at these clinics.