

Langley Parish Council

Summer 2011



FARMERS MARKETS

- We hope you like the new signage for Langley Farmer's Market! These fortnightly Wednesday markets, held in Langley's Village Hall Car Park and Village Hall from 9.30am until 1pm, are fast becoming a focal point of village life. Tea, filter coffee, freshly-made bacon sandwiches (£1.50) and locally produced pastries are available, so why not bring a friend, have a cuppa and do some shopping?

We now have new stallholders inside and outside the hall, including Filmers Bakery selling six varieties of freshly baked bread and some amazing cakes. Hot favourites include homemade sausage rolls, meat and potato pasties and huge iced buns – a treat for all the family, not to be missed!



Homemade jam, marmalade, pickles and relishes available from stallholder, Bubby Sue, (great quality, unbeatable prices) are quickly snapped up by devotees, as are the large packs of top quality bacon (better value than Morrisons!) cooked ham, turkey and fresh meat and game (including a whole prepared rabbit for just £2). Cheese buffs rave about Bubby Sue's wide selection of mouth-watering cheeses. Free-range eggs are also available.

Another popular character, farmer Paul who runs PJ's Farm Shop in Sutton Valence, prides himself on his crispy-fresh fruit and veg stall. Paul braves the elements in the Village Hall Car Park. Paul grows all his own seasonal produce on his sizeable acreage – a huge range from three kinds of broccoli to four varieties of squash, soft fruit, simply the best carrots and some beautiful flowers – all at reasonable prices!

Kentish crafts are gaining in popularity. Stallholder Helen sells handmade cards and selling costume jewellery. All are welcome, including children during the school holidays. We also serve refreshments – offering a place to catch up with friends and enjoy a coffee with a locally made cake or biscuit

We want to offer real food for local people, thereby reducing food miles and supporting the local economy. Our aim is to nurture a sustainable local food network that brings consumers and producers together, so everyone profits - including the environment! At the same time, we want to promote Kentish crafts and support local artists, who are welcome to use the opportunity to display their works or skills.

Obviously the market has to cover its costs, but I must stress, this is a 'not-for-profit' enterprise, run by volunteers. All we ask is a modest fee of £2 per table top from villagers; £5 from commercial producers and stallholders. Please help spread the word about Langley's Rural Farmers' Market – provided we all use it, we won't lose it!

If you're interested in joining us, please call the Clerk on 01622 842461. Stalls/table tops will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



News in brief ...

- **Biodegradable liners** for your food caddies are now available at the Farmers' Markets - £2 roll of 25.
- **White garden waste sacks** £3.25 roll of 5 - available at the Farmers' Markets.
- **Clerk's Office Hours** : Monday to Wednesday 9am to 3pm - answer phone available at all other times and the Clerk is available at the Farmers' Markets.
- **Farmers' Markets Dates**: Wednesday 17th August, 31st August, 14th September— 9.30am to 1.00pm—Langley Village Hall.
- **Youth Bus** - Due to staff shortages the Youth Bus is unable to visit Langley for the time being. Please contact the Parish Council with your views.
- **Saturday Bus Service 13** - From January 2012 there are plans to cut this service, however, the Number 12 bus service will still run.
- **Who Do I Report It Too?** - Seen a blocked road drain, broken street light, missing street or road signage? Call Nicola, your Parish Clerk on 842461 and she'll sort it!
- Did you see the item in the Downmail about **20mph zones**? What do you think?
- Do you use the **phone box** on the corner of Heath Road/Shepherds Way? Would you object to it being removed?
- MBC want your views on **traffic congestion in Maidstone** - please contact MBC on 01622 602463
www.maidstone.gov.uk/scrutiny
osc@maidstone.gov.uk

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Village Hall Contact Numbers:- Ray Cuthbert, Chair (07747 833832) David Bennett - Bookings/Treasurer



Village Hall of the Year 2011

We have entered the Action with Communities in Rural Kent "Village Hall of the Year" competition; it's not intended to reward the newest, largest or best equipped hall, but to find one which demonstrates the best approach to working with its community and is well managed.

Judging takes place in two rounds, short listing will be carried out by Rural Kent project officers in July / August with short visits and talks to hall representatives.

The overall winner and runner up will be announced in October and Action with Communities in Rural Kent Conference.

The winning hall will receive £500 and a trophy.



We are also going to register for Level 1 Hallmark Award with Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

The scheme was launched by ACRE in 2007. It promotes the delivery of effective and well-managed village halls through a quality standards scheme which is backed up by a system of peer visitors. The trained peer visitors use a system of checklists to identify performance and provide an external validation of achievement.

Hallmark accreditation has several benefits:-

- Provides funders and other organisations interested in village halls with a benchmark for a well managed hall.
- Gives hall volunteers confidence that they are running the hall in the correct way
- It tells hirers that the hall is a well run venue,



CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VILLAGE HALL

This is the recent criminal damage seen at the Village Hall. It is believed that youths are climbing onto the roof to retrieve footballs and in the process they are damaging the down pipes, fascia boards and much more. Please can we send a clear message to these offenders and report them immediately to Kent Police on 690690 and report this unacceptable continued damage to the hall. To date, we've spent at least £500 repairing damage. Images from the CCTV have already been passed to the Police to assist with their investigations.



Ripped safety surfacing in the play area.

**FREE Computer Classes
Ray Cuthbert**

We now have our own 6 laptops thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and Cllr Eric Hotson. We now have enough equipment to train local people using the "Myguide" training programme which covers everything from the very basics to using the web, digital photography, email, etc. If you have your own laptop, please feel free to bring it along.



Courses are held on every other Wednesday in conjunction with the Farmers' Markets and class starts at 10am-12pm.

A £2 donation will be requested to help with the hall running costs. If you're interested in coming along call Ray on 07747 833832. We'll help you get online !!

Summer Fete

Come and join us for a great family afternoon 1pm to 5pm.

Attractions include:-

- Stalls
- Arena Entertainment
- Refreshments
- Ice Cream
- Licenced Bar
- Raffle
- and Family Fun Fair



Want to book a stall for £10? Call 861223.



**Footpaths & Public Rights of Way
Jackie Cassin**



Langley is very fortunate to be criss-crossed by a number of public footpaths. These paths are hundreds of years old and they represent a legacy from our ancestors. They are protected in law as a path on which the public have a legal right to pass. Many of us use these paths to walk our dogs or to enjoy walking in the countryside without the annoyance of cars and lorries. Some people use them as a short cut to work and a few children use them as a safe and quick path to the centre of Langley to catch buses to school.

Langley's paths travel through a rich variety of landscapes from orchards, strawberry fields, woodland, hay fields and Langley Loch. On every walk for the keen observer there is something new to see – grass snakes,

many species of birds including a pair of buzzards that hover early in the morning looking for their breakfast. I have never seen a deer, but have heard reports of them; however I have seen the skull of one.

Generally our paths require relatively little maintenance and the continual tread of our feet keep them clear. However, recently walkers have experienced some difficulties as our needs clash with the needs of farmers/landowners, whose land we walk through. The felling of many large apple trees in the orchard adjacent to the recreation ground was problematic to walkers who did not know where to walk safely amongst the scattered trunks, branches and churned up paths. This has now been cleared and the paths reinstated. More recently two fields were ploughed over and the footpaths completely disappeared.

Walkers had no choice but to give up or take a completely different route. This matter is in hand and no doubt will soon be resolved. Thankfully our Langley farmers do take our worries about the footpaths seriously and do their best to address our concerns.

Perhaps we should do our best to help them. There have been several incidents of wilful destruction on local farms – young trees broken down, tree stakes removed and more.

Please phone the police if you see anything suspicious and remember farms are not suitable places for children to be playing on their own.

If you haven't discovered Langley's footpaths, then enjoy a free day out this summer in our own village.



Steve Knowles & Beryl Charlton are very pleased to report that the residents of Langley kindly donated £575.38p to Christian Aid this year and adding £49.70p in gift aid gives a grand total of **£625.08p** (last year's total being £541.96p).

Overweight/Oversized Vehicles

On the 8th June, Kent Police tackled overweight and oversized vehicles from using narrow country roads in areas such as East Farleigh Bridge, Teston Bridge, Penfold Hill and Leeds - five vehicles were issued with £30 fines. The vehicles were re-directed and asked not to use that route in the future.

I am **Chris Lomax**, the KCC Support Warden who will be covering your Parish. I am attached to the Community Safety Unit (CSU) based in Maidstone, this is a new role for me as I was previously worked solely in Staplehurst.



I work closely with Police and other agencies where I provide information and deal with issues such as low-level crime and anti-social behaviour. I will help to raise community awareness of any problems such as bogus callers, rogue traders and tackle this activity in the area. I also work on environmental issues such as fly tipping, graffiti and vandalism.

I aim to engage with young people in order to tackle youth related issues such as crime and ASB, and support any youth projects that are in Langley. I have already spent some time in Langley, both during the day and evening so I hope my presence has been noted among some of you.

I work flexible hours between 7.30am to 10pm Monday to Sunday so I am available to address any problems in those times.

I am contactable via the Parish Council, or via the CSU on 07773397131.

Introducing PC Marc Pennicott

My name is Marc Pennicott and I am the new Police Officer covering Langley. I bring with me 12 years experience and have spent the last five years as the Neighbourhood Officer for Staplehurst & Marden. I understand the differences in Policing the rural community compared to the town and aim to use the skills I have previously developed to ensure that your issues are dealt with effectively. Working with Police Community Support Officer Richard Kirby, our goal is to make sure that Langley is a safe place to live and work in. We will be completing articles for each newsletter so that you are up to date with what is going on in the community and you can contact me on 01622 604392 if you wish to discuss any Policing matter. Regards Marc.



Contact the Parish Council



Langley Parish Council Nicola Dawkins, Parish Clerk
c/o The Village Hall 01622 842461
Horseshoes Lane parishclerk@langley-kent.org.uk
Langley www.langley-kent.org.uk
Kent

Here are the current members of your Parish Council:-

David Burton, Chairman
Sue Knowles, Vice Chair
Tony Haylor, Councillor
John Tucker, Councillor
Paul Maggio, Councillor
Jackie Cassin, Councillor
Cheryl Taylor-Maggio, Councillor
Andy Weaver, Councillor
Janet Palmese, Councillor

Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday 20th September
Tuesday 18th October

7.30pm –Village Hall



"I'm very interested in protecting the environment and am looking forward to working with the Parish Council to protect and preserve our rural village. You might see me at the Farmers' Market or walking my two chow-chows around the village." Jackie Cassin.



"I'm a retired head teacher who now teaches in Gravesend. I joined the Parish Council because I'm committed to maintaining the rural identity of Langley." Paul Maggio.

New faces on the Parish Council - Jackie Cassin and Paul Maggio.

Parish Council Information



The Parish Council meet on the third Tuesday of every month (except August), 7.30pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Extraordinary meetings are held should any planning applications or other urgent matters which cannot be held over to the following full Council meeting. The agenda will be displayed on the Parish Notice Boards and the website - members of public are welcome to attend these meetings.

The **Parish Clerk** is available to meet with on the following dates from **9.30am till 1pm - 31st August, 14th and 28th September** at the Village Hall.

This newsletter is available in large print if required and there is a newsletter reader service available.

Saturday 20th August—2pm to 5pm

Come and enjoy a strawberry tea and sale in aid of
The Heart of Kent Hospice at
Langley Village Hall.



Stalls will include bric-a-brac, knitted goods, soft toys, books, jigsaws and a tombola.

Admission FREE—just pay for what you eat and drink. Enquiries to Norma & David Bennett on 01622 861223.

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