

STONE PARISH NEWS

a quarterly newsletter from stone parish council

March 2009
Issue 22



New Pavilion plans underway

Residents in Stone will see the parish council undertake its biggest project ever following approval of the council budget for 2009/10.

Plans are underway for the council to construct a new £1/2m sports pavilion at the recreation ground to replace the current ailing structure, present since the late 1950's.

Proposals for the new pavilion are at an early stage but aim to deliver new sports and social facilities and improved facilities for the local under 5's pre-school St Mary's, who currently occupy the pavilion during the week.

The council are in discussion with St Mary's preschool about various options for new facilities and the preschool are also submitting an application for capital funding to Kent County Council to hopefully support the plans further.

Stone Cricket Club, established since 1888, also use the pavilion during the cricket season but due to the deteriorating facility, has struggled in recent years to recruit new members.

Nigel Southam of Stone Cricket Club said,

"This is fantastic news for the club. The new facility will hopefully help raise the profile of the cricket club and encourage new members to join. We would love to expand the club to include junior teams which would really benefit local children. The new pavilion will be an excellent base to further develop these ideas."

STONE PARISH COUNCIL
presents
PARISH TOUR
2009

At a venue near you soon
Please come and tell us about issues affecting your ward

Weds 11th March	Baptist Church Hillhouse Road
Weds 8th April	Community Hall Hayes Road
Weds 10th June	Gateway Primary School Milestone Road
Weds 8th July	St Mary's Church Hall Stone Place Road
Weds 9th Sept	Stone Castle Sanderling Way

Meetings begin at 7pm
Free refreshments served from 6.30pm
Telephone: 01322 224246 for more details

www.stoneparishcouncil.com/parishtour.htm



Please recycle this newsletter

aiming to put the spirit back into the community of Stone...

Note from the Chair

We are now officially on tour!

We have 'hit the road' in the hope that you will be more keen to attend an event focusing solely on your ward and its priorities.

It is really important that we find out what the local issues are if the council is to act in the best interests of the residents. We rely on information from local people to provide us with a true picture of the parish and determine how we can help the parish develop and prosper.

We aim to demonstrate how we intend to continue this work by producing a five-year strategy that will set out the council's priorities for 2010-2015.

We are very excited that plans are finally underway to construct a new pavilion which will be a huge benefit for local residents. Lots of discussion is still taking place to determine the scheme and more details will feature in the next edition.

Finally, the Annual Parish meeting is for you, the residents. Please take this opportunity to find out about plans for the parish and the activities the council will be undertaking in the next year.

See you there!

Cllr Stephanie Thredgle, Chairman

Stone Parish Council
Council Offices
Recreation Ground
London Road
Stone, Kent
DA9 9DQ

t: 01322 224246
e: clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com

Annual meeting for residents

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th April at the Community Hall, Hayes Road. All residents are invited to come along and find out about some exciting new projects for the local area, as well as a roundup of the year's activities.

Mr Bob Fidock from Berbank Homes will be in attendance to update residents on the plans for residential development at St. James Pit. A representative of Bluewater will also be present to give an overview of the various community activities that will carry on through 2009 to celebrate Bluewater's 10th Anniversary.

PC John Kilvington and KCC Community Warden Christine Bates will both be on hand to address any neighbourhood policing issues and advise what is already being done to combat local crime.

Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm and the meeting will start at 7pm.

Parish tour hits the road

The council embarked on the first of its 'Parish Tour' meetings in March which aims to bring the council to the people. In a bid to encourage participation by residents in the local democratic process, the council has scheduled a number of meetings to take place in each ward.

A dedicated slot on the agenda will give residents the opportunity to bring issues of local concern to members' attention and the council are committed to addressing these where possible. The council hopes to amass a wealth of knowledge about local issues that will form the basis of a five-year strategy to be produced for 2010-2015 outlining where the council will focus its resources.

Please come along and ensure your views are heard. Dates on front cover.

Council buys 'green machine'

The council is poised to become 'Mega-environmentally-friendly' after the purchase of a carbon-emission free vehicle for use at council parks and gardens.



With a tiny 500cc engine, the new Aixam Mega Van offers real environmental benefits for the parish and demonstrates that the council truly cares for the local environment.

Chairman of the Council Cllr Stephanie Thredgle said,

"It is essential that we set a good example to residents regarding our carbon footprint. The new van is an excellent way of reducing emissions and will help to make us a more green council."

The council will soon consider adoption of a new environmental policy containing measures such as using recycled paper, sourcing local and sustainably-sourced products, and energy management.

Come Dancing

Ballroom dancing is now being held in the Community Hall on various Friday nights.

Aimed at all levels, the night is a great opportunity to meet other people and learn new dancing skills.



Places are limited so booking is necessary. £5 per session

Contact Liz on 01322 385928 for more details



Stone Fete returns

Plans are now underway for the return of the annual Stone fete on Sunday 5th July. With a number of activities already confirmed, residents can look forward to a real treat of old favourites, such as the dog show, Bonny Baby and Miss Stone, as well as some exciting new entries.

A main stage will feature an exciting line-up to keep the crowds entertained, while kids will have a fantastic range of side shows, inflatables and fairground rides to keep them occupied.

92% of residents said they wanted to see the return of an annual Stone fun day
survey results 2008

The day will be based around a seaside theme which wouldn't be complete without traditional features such as bingo, Punch & Judy, fresh seafood and pony rides.

Local groups and associations will be on hand to promote parish activities and encourage residents to join a club and get involved.

The event's main sponsor is Bluewater who are also scheduling a number of community events this year to celebrate their 10th year.

Bluewater's Head of Marketing David Wilkinson said, "Bluewater is delighted to be able to support the Stone Parish Fete in our 10th anniversary year, and we hope that the event is a great success."

The day promises to be fun-packed with something for everybody. Put the date in your diary now.

Full details of fete activities will feature in a special double-page pull-out in the next issue - don't miss it!



£1 per week for Council services

Residents are assured a good return for their money following approval of the new council budget for 2009/10 which charges residents just £1 per week for services.

The new parish rate of £52.03 per year is up £1.53 compared to last year's rate of £50.50 but will result in new and continued benefits for residents.

The new Pavilion will be a significant community asset with the aim of supporting the development and expansion of user groups to meet the demands of the increasing population and improving facilities.

Among other benefits, such as continued free hall hire for uniformed groups and support for youth worker activities, the council are also resurrecting the historic Stone fete which has not taken place for nearly a decade.

Cllr Tony Martin, Chair of the Finance Committee said, "The budget this year was very tough and we had to make savings in many areas to support our plans. The council are faced with the need to replace a deteriorating pavilion at a time when finances are tight for everyone.

We are very conscious of not over-burdening taxpayers in times of recession and, given the projects we are undertaking, feel that this budget represents enormous value for local residents."

NEW YOGA CLASSES IN STONE

Breathe deep, take the challenge, change your life

8pm-9pm Beginners class
9pm-10pm Power yoga

Thursdays at
The Community Hall
Hayes Road, DA9 9DS

For more info contact
Tammy at

yogawithtammy@aol.com
or mobile 07932 730 255



IN BRIEF



Quiz Night

A quiz night successfully raised £180 for local

charity, Rainbow Lodge respite care home which looks after chronically-ill children.

The evening, hosted by Chair of the Council Stephanie Thredgle, was a fun-packed evening enjoyed by many local residents.

The picture quiz section proved particularly difficult as the answers were nowhere to be found so as promised, here are those answers you've been waiting for.....

1st row: Brad Pitt, Dianne Weist, Jack Nicholson, Madonna, Kim Basinger, Charlton Heston, Don Johnson, Harrison Ford.

2nd row: Clint Eastwood, Jessica Lange, Wesley Snipes, Sylvester Stallone, Julia Roberts, Kirk Douglas, Marilyn Monroe, Bruce Willis.

3rd row: Cindy Crawford, Elvis Presley, Sharon Stone, John Belushi, Oprah Winfrey, William Baldwin, Kevin Costner, Michelle Pfeiffer.

4th row: Steven Seagal, Demi Moore, Geena Davis, Arnold Schwarzenegger



Why not beat the credit crunch by growing your own vegetables?

Stone Parish Council has 47 allotment plots available for rent at Kirby Road in Stone.

With tenancies renewed annually each April, now is the time to put your name on the waiting list to be considered for a plot.

The tenants are a thriving community who hold quarterly meetings to discuss allotment life.

For further information and a current price guide please email: ellenmote@stoneparishcouncil.com

Stone Sport

Football:



We would like to congratulate **Welsh Tavern FC** who have made it to the cup final for the second year running.

They are due to play the final against Cray-side Rangers on Sunday 19th April at VCD sports ground in Crayford.

With kick-off at 10.30, why not go and show your support for our local team.

Cricket:



Stone Cricket Club are hoping to rejoin the cricket league but need to recruit new members to make this possible. With big plans for a new sports pavilion by the end of the year, now has never been a better time to join.

Annual membership costs £20 and each game is only £6, which includes refreshments afterwards.

For more information about joining please call Nigel Southam on 01227 833519 or email: nigel@agomez.co.uk

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

PC John Kilvington	
Beat Officer Stone	01322 283125
Community Warden	
Christine Bates	07813 712804
Kent Police	01622 690690
Stone Parish Council	01322 224246
Dartford Borough Council	01322 343434
Graffiti removal	01322 343290
Street lighting & Highways	08458 247800
Citizens Advice	01322 224686
Samaritans	02083 011010
Darent Valley Hospital	01322 428100



Contact your Councillor

Clr Stephanie Thredgle
Chairman
01322 221623

Clr Thurza Richards
Vice-Chair
01322 383717

Clr Sheila East
01322 384677

Clr Susan Martin
01322 272996

Clr Joyce Wise
01322 226890

Clr Rosa Sweetland
01322 226522

Clr Anthony Martin
01322 272996

Clr Ivor Jones
Clr Dulcie Jones
01322 383361

Clr Sidney Ahamfula
01322 280076

Clr John Burrell
01322 370408

Clr Nancy Wightman
01322 322322

If you have any unwanted toys, books or puzzles that are in good condition please donate them to the Twinkle Toes playgroup.

Twinkle Toes

Parent & Toddler group

Every Wednesday
at the
Community Hall, Hayes Road, Stone

9.15am - 12.45pm

Free for all so please come along!

www.stoneparishcouncil.com

www.stoneparishcouncil.com

33% of residents have visited the council's website with 85% rating it as good or very good. *survey results 2008*