

# STONE PARISH NEWS

Autumn 2009  
Issue 23

a quarterly newsletter from stone parish council

Stone Parish Council has successfully saved land in Stone going to auction after negotiating the purchase of a number of plots in the parish.

Land Securities, a significant local landowner, recently announced their decision to sell a number of sites in and around Stone in the Clive Emson auction, which took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

The lots included key buildings, such as Stone Castle and Ebbsfleet United football stadium in Northfleet, alongside areas of land, many with development potential.

Concerns over the future use of available land prompted the council into action and early talks resulted in the purchase of a pocket park, of around one acre, at Charles Street and amenity land at Stone Place Road (known locally as Horns Cross Garden) at £2,500 and £1 respectively.

Both pieces of land are used for recreational purposes by local residents and the council were keen to see this continue without threat of unwanted development.

The council were also very keen to secure a local site permitting the council to establish new allotments for the ever-increasing waiting list of prospective tenants keen to grow their own food.

Attention focused on an 8.23 acre site at Cotton Lane, which could have had a major impact on Stone Village as a prime site for development. Interest in the site was high and the council were keen to prevent further loss of green space with so much development already planned for the parish.

The site, which runs alongside the railway between Davanden Kennels and Orchard Terrace, offers amazing potential for community-garden-related activities, providing schools, local groups and residents with the opportunity of growing produce and undertaking environmental projects.

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## Pavilion Project delight as St Mary's gets funding boost



The Pavilion Project welcomed a major boost to its plans after St Mary's Under-fives preschool were successful in securing funding of £450,000 enabling the preschool to relocate and expand local provision.

The funding, secured through Sure Start's sustainability grant and administered by Kent County Council, will see St Mary's renovate and extend the existing council office block, which overlooks the children's playground at the recreation ground.

With a growing population, St Mary's will be able to take more numbers of children than ever before, with 50 new starters in September 2010 assured of fantastic new facilities.

The preschool children will also benefit from an improved outdoor space and the dedicated site will provide the preschool with the ability to extend their hours providing full day care in line with government guidelines.

The relocation of St Mary's will provide the preschool with a secure, tailor-made and child-friendly environment while the new pavilion will cater for local groups and social hirers.

In all, residents of Stone will see benefits of over £1m expenditure open their doors by next autumn.



**Council  
saves  
land  
from  
auction**

Continued from Pg 1

On Friday, the Clerk and Council members travelled to Maidstone to sign exchange papers after negotiating purchase of the site for a sum of £90,000. With interest rates currently so low, the council are confident that the purchase represents a sound investment of reserves and an excellent opportunity for the council to expand provision.

Chairman of the Council, Cllr Thurza Richards said,

“The council has used a portion of its reserves to bring this site under council ownership to enable it to be enjoyed by local residents. We will be working with bodies such as Groundwork UK and the North-West-Kent Countryside Partnership to establish the potential for a community garden project and are keen to also seek residents’ views and ideas.”



**Residents living close to Alamein Gardens can celebrate in the knowledge that Village Green Status has been awarded to the garden at the corner of Tollgate Road and London Road.**

### Alamein Garden awarded Village Green Status



Funding for a project will form part of the council’s budget for 2010/11 and is likely to be supplemented by bids to the Big Lottery and other environmental funding bodies.

The council is also due to publish a five-year strategy for 2010-2015 early next year outlining the areas of focus which will undoubtedly include a project at the new site at Cotton Lane as well as plans for the new sports pavilion at the recreation ground, which, subject to planning approval, should be complete by the end of 2010.

Initial groundwork at Cotton Lane is aimed to take place over the winter enabling allotments to be ready by spring.

Kent County Council’s Regulation Committee met on Friday 7th August 2009 at County Hall to consider the application, made by Stone Parish Council, to register the green.

The new status now provides a level of statutory protection ensuring that local people have a guaranteed right to use the land in perpetuity for informal recreational purposes.

This means that once the land is registered it cannot be removed from the formal Register of Town and Village Greens and must be kept free of development or other encroachments.

Six letters of support from local residents were sent to KCC stating that the land was popular as many residents live in flats with no garden and this was the only area of enclosed land where young children could play safely.

The parish council were

successful in securing the transfer of the green from KCC back in January 2007 in a bid to protect it as open space. Since then, a ‘Community Garden Project’ has been launched in a bid for local residents to get involved with the development and maintenance of the site.

Every Tuesday morning from 10.00 (weather permitting), local residents join Parish Council ground staff to prune, weed and make improvements to the garden, which has seen recent installations such as bins, benches, a notice board and an

insect garden.

Further plans to landscape the garden include new trees and shrubs, bat & bird boxes and raised beds to encourage the less agile to get involved. A regular meeting also takes place between those involved to discuss ideas.

Anyone is welcome to come along and join in the gardening fun!

For more details call **01322 224246**



**SIGN UP NOW TO RECEIVE EMAIL ALERTS ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS IN STONE**

1. Visit the council’s website at **[www.stoneparishcouncil.com](http://www.stoneparishcouncil.com)**
2. enter your email details to keep up to date with local info

## Note from the Chair

Well, what an exciting time!

We're still reeling a bit from the success of Stone Fete which was a major testament to the community spirit still alive in Stone.

Official figures put attendance at around 7,000 which equates to three-quarters of the parish population! The atmosphere on the day demonstrated that this type of event is a must to encourage the community to come together and have some fun. **Roll on 2010.**

I'm particularly pleased by events in the last few weeks that have given a major boost to the environmental needs of the parish; Alamein Gardens finally receives Village Status after an application was submitted by the council and then the council manages to secure ownership of other bits of land in the parish that will either allow the continuation or see the implementation of a number of environmental and recreational benefits for residents.

We would love to get your feedback and ideas regarding our activities, please sign up at the website to receive info from the council which will keep you completely up to date with developments.

*Cllr Thurza Richards  
Chairman*

## Stone Pit II update



Planning permission has recently been granted by Kent County Council to vary the approved restoration levels at Stone Pit II.

The site will now be filled up to the same level as the surrounding area.

The new restoration level will form the development platform for future development at the site and will allow the proposed housing development to be better integrated with the surrounding area and its community, benefiting both existing and new residents of the area.



**"Well done to everyone involved for making it such a good, affordable family day out."**  
**S Eastwood**

## 7,000 celebrate the return of Stone Fete

Around 7,000 people came together to celebrate the return of Stone Fete on 5 July 2009.

The event, billed as 'Beside the Seaside' saw hundreds of children building sand castles on the temporary beach, whilst parents lounged in deck chairs enjoying the music.

There was something for everyone with free funfair rides and an amazing line-up of main stage entertainment which

saw the crowd unite in song to hits by Michael Jackson, Take That, The Beached Boys and Rod Stewart tribute acts.

A stroll along the promenade provided a whole host of attractions, side stalls, activi-



ties and information provided by many local groups and associations, with much money raised for a number of local charities.

The main sponsor, Bluewater, took the opportunity to engage with local residents to compile a list of suggestions for the 'Naming of the Lakes' competition which will see all seven of Bluewaters lakes named by the local community. Children also flocked to the Bluewater stand to collect their voucher for a free candy floss or toffee apple.

Scores of entrants took part in the Bonny Baby and Dog show competitions while sports fans were wowed by Guinness-World-Record-holder Tommy Baker and cricket, boxing and football demonstrations.

By far the biggest triumph of the day was the atmosphere created by the crowd which demonstrated without a shadow of a doubt that community spirit is alive and kicking in Stone!

You are welcome to join us every last saturday of the month from 6-9pm for our Outreach Meeting & Friday Bible Study: 7.30pm - 10.00pm

For Further Information please Contact  
Pastor Beatrice Petty on  
01322 370633  
07951 140186

Alpha and Omega Christian Ministries  
Stone Hall Recreational Ground,  
London Road,  
Stone,  
Kent DA9 9DQ.

Nearest Train Station: Greenhithe  
Buses: 490, 480, Fastrack & 472

Venue:  
Stone Hall, Recreation Ground,  
Hayes Road, off Carlton avenue, off  
London Road, Stone.Kent DA99DQ

## Alpha & Omega Christian Ministries

"Praying To Get Results"



**You are welcome to Alpha & Omega Christian Ministries,  
We have recently moved to Stone Recreational Hall due to growth  
and the great works being done in the Community through God.**

## We Invite You to Our Services

Fellowship:

Join Us Every Sunday Morning  
at the above venue at  
10:00am - 12:30pm

Weekdays:

Friday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting  
7:30pm - 10:00pm  
Buses: 490, 480, fastrack & 472

And the last saturday of every Month for our Outreach Meeting



## County Council Corner

As your newly elected Kent County Councillor, I would like to say a big thank you to all those electors who voted for me in the June elections. It is a privilege to represent the whole of Stone Ward at County Hall and I intend to carry out my responsibilities to the best of my ability over the next four years.

Although it has only been a few months since I was elected, I have been really busy campaigning on behalf of Stone on a number of issues such as liaising with Kent Highways Services on behalf of residents to help solve the flooding problem on London Road. Work is ongoing, but does seem to be progressing in the right direction; and supporting Stone Parish Council's successful application for Village Green status at Alamein Gardens.

It was great to meet some of you at the Stone Parish Fete in July which was a fantastic event, and I am looking forward to attending next year as I am sure you are too.

I hope to be reporting on some exciting new ventures by KCC in the next newsletter, and to meeting some of you at future Stone Parish Council meetings. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me on any issue you may have.

Contact Cllr Cole on:

T: 01732 123 456

E: penny.cole@kent.gov.uk



Following disappointing progress of plans for a wildlife park at Stone Pit 1, the council are excited to hear that a new scheme, for an alternative site in Stone, aims to deliver a similar host of environmental benefits for residents.

Stone Pits 9 and 9a were recently acquired by Quarry and Landfill Restoration LLP with the primary aim of contributing to the regeneration and enhancement of Stone. Through discussion with the Parish Council and residents of Stone, they wish to restore the site for the future benefit of the area and to address current environmental issues that have arisen as a result of historic minerals excavation and landfill.

The landowner and members of their consultant team will be presenting initial ideas for the future of Stone Pits 9 and 9a at Stone Parish Council's meeting on 14th October 2009 at the Community Hall on Hayes Road.

At this meeting there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and

provide comments. We urge you to attend this meeting and make the most of this unique opportunity to provide your thoughts on the future of this valued green space within the Parish.

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

### We will remember them



The Parish Council will be organising a special Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8 November.

With contributions from local ministers, the British Legion and local uniformed groups, the afternoon will give residents an opportunity to remember those that lost their lives fighting for this country.

A parade will commence at 2.45 with the service and wreath-laying following at 3pm at the War Memorial in the Recreation Ground.

The service will be followed by refreshments at the Community Hall at Hayes Road.

We hope that many residents will come along to the service, not only to pay their respects but to demonstrate that community spirit is still alive and well in Stone.



### Contact your Councillor

Cllr Thurza Richards  
Chairman  
01322 383717

Cllr John Burrell  
Vice-Chair  
01322 370408

Cllr Stephanie Thredgale  
01322 221623

Cllr Sheila East  
01322 384677

Cllr Susan Martin  
01322 272996

Cllr Joyce Wise  
01322 226890

Cllr Rosa Sweetland  
01322 226522

Cllr Anthony Martin  
01322 272996

Cllr Ivor Jones  
Cllr Dulcie Jones  
01322 383361

Cllr Sidney Ahamefula  
01322 280076

Cllr Nancy Wightman  
01322 223586

**LITTLE HIPPOS**

Little Hippos is an out of school club with fun packed activities including **Indoor & out door games, arts and crafts, dressing up and drama, dancing, computer and board games, face painting, stories, cookery** and a wide variety of other activities in a child friendly and **secure environment**

Opening times for sessions are Monday to Friday  
 Before School 7.00 am to 9.00 am  
 After School 3.00 pm to 6.30pm  
 Holiday Play Scheme 8.30 am to 6.30 pm (except Bank Holidays)

Mob: 07939 521 440

Knockhall Primary School, Eynsford Road, Greenhithe, Kent, DA9 9RF  
 Stone St Mary Cricket Pavilion, Hayes Road, Stone, Kent, DA9 9DS  
 The Discovery Centre Swanscombe, Southfleet Road, Kent, DA10 0BZ

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