

stone parish news

Winter 2007
Issue 18

a quarterly newsletter from stone parish council



**Merry Xmas and a Happy New
Year to all of our residents
Stone Parish Council**

Job opportunity

Due to a number of new and exciting projects, Stone Parish Council requires a **Part-time Office Administrator**

This is a rare opportunity for an experienced Administrator to join the Council.

Our administrators play a key role in supporting the Council - helping us provide a better service to the parish of Stone.

You'll be a great communicator with strong MS Office skills, providing administrative assistance with a passion for delivering excellent customer service.

**NJC Spinal Pt 17 £16,217 pro-rata 16 hours per week negotiable
25 days + bank holidays pro-rata**

For an application form and job description, please call 01322 224246 or email

clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com

Closing date for applications: 2 January 2008

Christmas party

The new Twinkle Toes parent and toddler group will be celebrating their Christmas party on Wednesday 12th December at the Community Hall, Hayes Road.



Open to all parents or carers with children under 5, the party starts at 9.15am until 1pm. Activities will include making Christmas cards and decorations, singing and dancing and possibly some surprise visitors!

Note from the Clerk

Welcome to the Christmas edition.

It's nearly Christmas and this time of year always makes us more sentimental than normal as we hear stories of glee and enjoy heartwarming occasions.

In our last edition we appealed for residents to attend our Remembrance Day service to show that community spirit is still alive in Stone and we were certainly not disappointed.

With, in some cases, three generations of families present and veterans who, despite their frailty, were determined to stand to attention to pay their respects, it was a very humbling service which brought many of the community together.

Another story that has touched our heart is Mr & Mrs Moulton who have proven that if you are a committed couple you can endure anything life throws at you. They are a shining example for young married couples of today, who are sometimes lucky to celebrate 6 years of marriage let alone 60!

Send an email to clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com

*Jennie Thomas
Clerk to Council*

Contact us at the office:

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Council Offices
London Road
Stone, Kent
DA9 9DQ

t: 01322 224246

e: clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com

A Christmas gift

Christmas came early this year when the parish council were told we were successful in a bid for funding to replace the tables and chairs in the Community Hall.

£4000 has been awarded under the URBAN Community Chest programme which will enable the council to purchase brand new banqueting tables and chairs to allow more people to attend the various social groups that are held there.

A programme of events for the New Year will be proposed to take advantage of the increased capacity, in a bid to get more people involved in local activities.



urban
Urban Thomas Moulton Hall

A Diamond Couple



Daisy and Cyril Moulton

After requesting that residents send in their stories of celebration, we were delighted to hear from Cyril and Daisy Moulton, who will be following in the footsteps of her majesty The Queen and Prince Phillip, by celebrating their Diamond 60th wedding anniversary on 22nd December.

Daisy was born in Carlton Avenue, Stone, in 1928 and at six, moved to Myrtle Place, Stone. She moved out of Stone for a short period only to return to another house in Myrtle Place to the house that she still lives in today, representing nearly 50 years in the same road!

Daisy met Cyril on her holidays to Suffolk when she was 15 and he was 16. They got together but shortly after Cyril was posted away on service with the Royal Navy. The couple took advantage of a short return home by Cyril to get married in 1947 at St Mary's Church, Stone.

They were married by the same Reverend that had christened Daisy as a small child. Daisy had made her own wedding dress out of fabric that she had saved her rations to buy. Cyril looked extremely dapper on the day in his Royal Navy uniform.

Following the wedding, Cyril was posted away again and they claim to have only seen each other a handful of times in the first few years of married life.

This seems to have given Daisy time to practice her housekeeping skills as Cyril claims that she could not even boil an egg when he married her.

Despite Daisy claiming to be a naturally messy individual while Cyril with his Royal Navy background is extremely neat, the couple have obviously embraced their difference which has resulted in their strong marriage.

Time was spent with the couple reminiscing about olden-day Stone and changes in recent years. Remarkably, despite the increasing pollution from traffic and the toll tunnel, the couple maintain that the air is much cleaner now than in past years.

The Chairman of the council, Councillor Stephanie Thredgale presented the couple with a 'Diamond' rose bush and a bottle of champagne to celebrate their very noble occasion.

We congratulate the couple on their fine achievement.

Email your stories of celebration or achievement to :
clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com

Long Service

The Council would like to congratulate Alison Strevens, Community Hall Caretaker on achieving 10 years service with the Council.



Sunday 11th November saw over 200 people attend the Remembrance Day service at the Recreation Ground making it Stone's finest Memorial service for many years.

After assembling at the Council offices, a parade consisting of local Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows was led in procession by the Mayor of Dartford Cllr Sheila East and dignitaries from Dartford Borough Council, Stone Parish Council, Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council and the Royal British Legion down to the War Memorial whilst the brass band, Blooming Brass, played a medley of war-time favourites to create a nostalgic but fun atmosphere.

Reverend Kenneth Clark led the order of service with contributions from Baptist Minister Paul Winchester and the local groups assisted by dipping their standard bearers to signal the start of a minutes silence following the 'Last Post'.

By the time the crowd joined in song for the National Anthem it was evident that the service had touched all that had attended and was a reminder of the importance of not forgetting what some have endured during many wars.

The parade then made its way back to the top of the recreation ground for a final parade inspection by the Mayor before being formally dismissed. All were then eager to get to the Community Hall where refreshments, courtesy of **ASDA**, mince pies and even a little tipple of sherry were waiting to warm the cockles while the conversation flowed.

After such an evocative afternoon, it wasn't long before stories of Stone during the war and memories of times gone by were buzzing around the hall.

The day was a perfect example of local people coming together and enjoying each other's company. It would be nice to think that this is the start of many community occasions that re-invigorate the spirit of the parish.

Mental Health Unit update

Cubfield, developers of the proposed mental health unit at Brent Way, recently met with local groups, the Gateway Primary school and council members to reveal final plans for the Tylers site at Brent Way.

In a bid to demonstrate the need for the unit and potential benefits to both local mental health patients and the wider community, Cubfield have commissioned a consultation paper, with help from mental health experts, to try to dispel some of the myths surrounding caring for mental health patients and to ease some of the concerns that local residents have.

The developers are keen to show the experience they have in this field and a further background paper outlines the work that they currently do in the Dartford and Gravesham area. Both documents are available to read on our website.

A comment box on our website also enables visitors to the site to put any questions or concerns to Cubfield directly and shortly we will publish a list of recently asked questions with Cubfield's reply.

Whilst we can't guarantee that all questions will be published, we will ensure that those published represent views of both supporters and opposers.

Visit www.stoneparishcouncil.com/tylers.htm



This stunning image of St Mary's church in the snow was sent in by Lynda Thorp of Stone. It is the perfect accompaniment to our Christmas edition. Can you do better? Email your photos to clerk@stoneparishcouncil.com



The Council has seen the amount of complaints regarding dog fouling increase in the last couple of months.

Not only are some dog walkers not cleaning up after their pooches sufficiently but they are also not being vigilant about where they let their dogs go and increasingly dog poo is found outside the pavilion which, during the week, is used for the under 5's pre-school.

The Council are now forced to issue a reminder to all dog owners in the parish that failure not to clean up after their dog is an offence with a penalty of up to £1000. Anyone seen not complying will be issued with an initial warning before legal action is taken. We hope this reminder will encourage dog owners

to consider the implications of leaving the mess, which can in some cases cause infections and even blindness to children.

The Council has just taken receipt of thousands of 'doggie poo bags' and is urging any dog owners in need to call in to the Council offices where we will issue them free of charge.

A new team of dog poo detectives will report offenders to the Council for observation and persistent offenders will be banned from parish council grounds.

Useful telephone numbers

Stone Parish Council	01322 224246
Dartford Borough Council	01322 343434
PC John Kilvington, Beat Officer Stone	01322 283125
Community Warden Christine Bates	07813 712804
Kent Police	01622 690690
Graffiti removal	01322 343290
Dog Bags	01322 343086
Street lighting	01474 544054

Contact your Councillor

Cllr Stephanie Thredgale
Chairman
01322 221623

Cllr Thurza Richards
Vice-Chair
01322 383717

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 John Burrell
01322 370408

Cllr Suzette Reeves
01322 224246