

HUGHENDEN NEWS

INCLUDING BRYANTS BOTTOM & CRYERS HILL



SPRING 2016

www.hughendenresidents.org

Price £2.50 - Free with Membership

Welcome from the Co-Chairs

Christmas came and went; lovely tree lights and carols thanks to all involved in what is now a village tradition. We heard an elderly man who used to be much into village affairs say "Aren't we lucky to have all this?" and that is true. As yet, no snow, but daffodils coming out in early February. Uplands: Internal conversions, with 1, 2, or 3 bedroom flats have been planned as promised. HVRA are not objecting but have made some comments, looking ahead to what could be a fair mix of singles, couples, downsizers, first time buyers and families; a chance for some to move into a beautiful location where adherence to the AONB restrictions and preservation of woodland and wild animal routes were and are promised. Thoughts of new additional traffic have been in discussions and that is the responsibility of Bucks County Council. We can press for a lowered speed limit in Four Ashes Road.

One new topic always generates more discussion; this time parking yet again on Cryers Hill.

The AfLPCharity, (Allotments for the Labouring Poor of Hughenden) now has a new community name, but cannot function yet as it is still delayed in the Courts with the Charity Commission. Nevertheless, it has caused a lot of correspondence from time to time.

Our King George V Field is now under the protection of Fields in Trust and one of their managers made a helpful visit to meet the Sports Initiative Committee. If you remember, the Sports Committee is formed from three constituent groups; The Village Hall, The Football Club and the HVRA. Together that is a very strong group campaigning for a large MUGA and more use of the field in all seasons so that some former sports can be re-introduced, e.g. cricket and tennis, whilst not impeding the future football improvement plans. MUGA plans have been to Pre-Planning and are now in the full Planning Stage. If that is passed we can go ahead for construction and more funding, including funds from the Village! Obviously we will still try for grants too.

We all think that there has been a huge learning curve while finding out the many facets of the Charity Status of the Village Hall and how Sport England works and many other things. The cross fertilisation of ideas and advice from various quarters has been very positive. Thank you to the Parish Council who awarded us a grant of £5720 to start us off. Thanks are due to Matt Hopkins for his input. His family had a lot to do with the original deeds, and to Michael Sole who tracked down many documents from the Village Hall Trustees which were requested by Sport England. The Treat which the HVRA gives to the Senior Citizens annually is changing this year. Rosemary Hewitt has organised it for the last 30 years but she has now hung up her apron. What a fantastic achievement all this time, with various teams. She is well and truly thanked even though she enjoyed doing it! Also Rosemary organises the Speed Watch and those results are quite illuminating. (Unlike our street lamps which only a couple of months ago had new light bulbs fitted at our request).

We are still lobbying for the repainting of the pedestrian crossing. We are on a long list with other areas.

We support The Chiltern Society, liaise with Neighbourhood Action Group, Neighbourhood Watch, the Village Shop, Village Hall, Parish Council and Hughenden Primary School. We donated £200 to the Bryants Bottom defibrillator appeal. We welcome new Road Rep. Paul Jenner for part of Valley Road. He has already been proactive there. Recently appointed new Parish Councillor Peter Gieler also attends our meeting and he is investigating a new and more challenging play area.

People care! In the process they generate many letters, emails, phone calls, meetings and websites. Much is on a.k.a. terms which get tied up with a sort of time warp; a paradox, maybe? The HVRA has an exemplary committee, a fantastic drive to improve situations, superb Road Representatives, experienced officers. And all are absolute stalwarts doing what they perceive is the right thing to do at the right time. The Village is superb too. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 17th May in the small hall when there will be a lot more to tell you. To all those working towards Village Day; good luck with plenty of sunshine.

Angus and Janet Idle ~ 01404 563673

Co Chairs, Hughenden Valley Residents Association.

People Before Us 5a

Sir Harold Hartley and Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree

Both these two eminent men signed the Covenant for the land to be used for the Village Hall and Covenant for the Field Conveyance. How strange that they were both appointed during World War I by David Lloyd George to the Ministry of Munitions; Seebohm Rowntree as Director of the Welfare Department, rightly chosen in 1915-18 for his impetus in the family chocolate and cocoa firm for improving working conditions in factories, bringing in pensions, better wages and five day weeks and the "Human Factor in Business". He was also a chemist. He died in High Wycombe in 1954. He appears in some village photographs.

Sir Harold Hartley served in both World Wars. His time at the Ministry of Munitions 1918-1919 just overlapped with Seebohm Rowntree but he was Controller of the Chemical Warfare Department. He was an amazing research chemist and biological scientist whose knowledge and experience covered several disciplines. He chaired at least 21 National Commissions, conferences, Executive Councils, Research and Advisory Boards.

These included chemistry, gas, oil, and chemical warfare, electricity in a big way, flight and railways. He was invited into The Royal Society, gained a Knighthood and war medals including the George Cross (and much more).

Born in 1890, he died in 1978. For some years he lived at Boss Lane Farm. He too signed the Covenant for the Village Hall for the Village to have a meeting place and was instrumental that the village had a recreation field. *Eric Gill from Piggots and other local residents whose signatures were just as important also enabled us to have the facilities that we are privileged to enjoy.*

Janet Idle ~ Sources local and loosely from the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

People Before Us 5b

On a lighter note, did you ever see the Hughenden Happy Gang in action? They evolved from the WI, with husbands and friends joining them in

1979. They kept audiences amused and almost instantly found themselves in great demand.

They became very popular and also charged no fee. They mainly entertained elderly audiences who needed cheering up. They took their light hearted shows to day centres, community centres, Over 60's clubs, Hard of Hearing, blind or challenged audiences. They always enjoyed themselves, changing costumes in any available laundry room, corridor, church or uncurtained stage. Hughenden Valley certainly saw them and joined in their songs with an accompanist at the piano, if it worked. They did 400 performances all over South Bucks and always went on the Village Day floats.

The Happy Gang kept going until at least 1992. Several present residents will remember having parents in the Happy Gang- genuine fun, much quick thinking on stage and many favourite songs,

Below is a favourite photo belonging to Jill Graves's mother, Jessie. Another leading light was Judy Biggs. Hugh Steel and well known local families also took to the stage. Some members aspired to be more serious thespians. Pity that there are no Video or cine recordings;-or are there? Thank you Judy and Jill for bringing it to show us.

Janet Idle with help from the Happy Gang





Senior Citizens

Your Hughenden Valley
Residents Association

Treat

A fabulous afternoon
Tea and Entertainment
Saturday 18th June 2016
4pm to 6:30pm at the
Village Hall

Road Reps will be giving you
your tickets and information
Soon

A one-off this year!

Christmas Bazaar

As we all await the possibility of a cold snap, our village hall has seen a number of “winter-warming” events that have attracted many villagers and their families to the village hall. The annual Christmas Bazaar held on Saturday 28 November was attended by a bumper crowd viewing the stalls which included traditional tombola and cake stalls as well as local



crafts and gift ideas. Sunday 6 December saw the children enjoying the pantomime “The Beauty Sleeping” by The Masque Players, which was sponsored by the Village Hall Committee. This was immediately followed by the switching on of the Christmas tree

lights ceremony and the popular carol concert featuring the choirs from Hughenden Primary School and the community shop volunteers. To complete Christmas events, the annual Dinner & Dance was held on Saturday 19 December when a packed hall of villagers dressed in their gowns and dinner suits, enjoyed an excellent Christmas meal followed by dancing to the sounds of local band, The Wedge.



The Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 7 December when all of the existing officers were re-elected to their posts for the coming year. Investment in the hall was a major topic and news of a project to replace all of the guttering and drainpipes was announced by the chair. In addition, a new set of stage lighting had been acquired (used for the first time for the pantomime). Following the conclusion of the meeting, the audience were treated to a fascinating and humorous talk by Dr. Anthony Gallagher from Hughenden Valley Surgery concerning the fate of being recognised outside of the confines of his surgery. 2016 sees the return of our bi-annual Village Day which is scheduled for Saturday 16 July 2016. The planning committee has started work on the event so keep an eye on developments via the Facebook Page, on the web at www.hughendenresidents.org, and our new website www.hughendenvillagehall.co.uk.

Following the success of the Christmas Panto, the Hughenden Valley Drama Group (HVDG) will be reforming having disbanded many years ago. If you are interested in joining the Drama Group, please inform our Secretary by email on secretary@hughendenvillagehall.co.uk. If you are not sure about treading the boards, we will still require volunteers to help with scenery, costumes, sound and lighting. So please get in touch. Watch the website for our meeting dates.

Michael Sole – Chairman, Village Hall Committee
chairman@hughendenvillagehall.co.uk

Rubbish

I walk around the Village a lot and notice that there is always a lot of rubbish around. We live in such a beautiful area and the amount of rubbish does look so awful. I try and pick the rubbish up on Tuesdays, but by the next week there is as much again. Could everyone in the Village just pick up the rubbish outside their house - it would make such a difference. It would be even better if people did not drop rubbish in the first place. It would be lovely to have our Village looking more beautiful, especially as I believe there is a big clean up for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Christine Powell Christine_powell_cba@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council Update – Focus on Youth

For a couple of years we have tried to find ways of providing entertainment, enjoyment and engagement with young people in the Hughenden area. We know that most, if they are able to, go into the Wycombe area for events but could we possibly provide something locally, perhaps even provided and led by young people that means that there is choice of these sorts of things on our very own doorstep?

There are options through National Citizen Service (NCS) see details at the bottom of this article and a number of other organisations but it would be good to find some 12-18yr olds who would like to get together to work out what events and items we might organise locally.

In the recent Parish Plan the area of events for young people in the parish was an issue and I think it's only through their engagement with this that a suitable programme can be drawn up.

Last year the Village Hall were good enough to pay for the Youth Bus to come during the Summer Holidays – it's working out whether this is the type of thing that people want and will support that will be important. There are thoughts of using some local land to host a live music party, not to rival Penn Fest etc. But to be more about locally written acoustic music and performance etc.

Simon Kearey, Parish Councillor
simonkearey@gmail.com 07956 183262

NCS helps young people build skills for work and life while taking on new challenges, meeting new friends and contributing to their community. It is an opportunity for them to:

- Meet some amazing people
- Get out of your comfort zone
- Have something to talk about
- Do something you have never done before
- Make new connections
- Make your application stand out
- Have a laugh
- Get an awesome CV
- Make a difference

Melanie Turner, Programme Officer Children's Partnerships,
Children's Social Care and Learning
email: meturner@buckscc.gov.uk Mobile: 07721 922522