

## Contact Telephone List

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Pratts Bottom Primary School	Mr M Ringham	01959 532225
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Rev Canon Penny Avann	All Souls	01689 861742
Brenda Johnson	All Souls	01689 858840
Rob Allan	URC	01689 851548
Ernie Bowen	URC Bookings	01959 533143
WI	President	01689 813061
WI	Secretary	
PB Dramatic Soc.	Chairman	01689 853724
PBDS	Box Office	07599811516
Wednesday Badminton Club	Secretary	01689 857404
Tuesday Badminton Club	Secretary	01689 858313
Short Mat Bowls Club	Chairman	01689 851394
Brownies	Brown Owl	01959 533437
Model Railway Club	Secretary	01959 533070
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Residents Annual Subscription slip for September 2011 to August 2012.

I enclose £4.00 annual subscription.

Address

Signed

Date

Send to: Treasurer PBRA 11 Downs View Close Pratts Bottom, Orpington.  
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PRODUCED BY THE RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION

# PRATTS BOTTOM VILLAGE NEWS

NOV/DECEMBER 2011

A busy time ahead in the village as we prepare for the Christmas festivities. Lots of activities planned for everyone at the Village Hall, All Souls, the Bulls Head and the school. Look out for more information around the village. Enjoy them all.

The Season's greetings to everyone from the Residents Association. I would be very grateful to receive items/news of people or events for the next edition of the Newsletter. Please can I have your input by the middle of December for a January/February edition.

Gwyneth Hudson

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

Saturday 19th November

Christmas Market@Village Hall

Saturday 26th November

Vernon's Charity Night@Village Hall

December

Saturday 3rd December

All Souls Quiz Night@Village Hall

Wednesday 14th December

Carol Singing in the village

Sunday 18th December

Carols by Candlelight @All Souls

### Pratts Bottom Residents Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Residents Association was held on Friday 23rd September in the Village Hall at 8pm.

It was a pleasure to welcome thirty three residents to this year's AGM along with the three councillors and Jacqui Ward from the Safer

Neighbourhood Team.

The chairman took the opportunity to publicly thank Keith Bickers, who had been chairman of the association for many years, for all the work that he had done during that time. We wish Keith and Lynette many happy years in their new home by the sea.

Amongst the issues discussed in the chairman's report:

- The Snow Friends scheme introduced by the council to enable residents to be more responsible for their own roads if the expected snowy weather appears.
- Parking at Knockholt Station is being monitored by Sevenoaks council
- The appeal by Biggin Hill Airport Ltd to a variation of the lease during the Olympic Games

Thanks to:

- The Friends of Pratts Bottom Common
- The Fete Committee for their hard work in organising another successful fete
- The distributors of the Village News
- The local Councillors, Julian Grainger, Russell Jackson and Samaris Huntington-Thresher
- The committee members for their input and support this year.

The annual subscription has not increased for many years whilst the printing costs etc have increased. It was a unanimous decision to put the subscription up to £4 per household. (Payable now– see page 8)

The whole committee were elected for a further term.

In view of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year the chairman proposed planting a variegated acer to commemorate the occasion. In consultation with the council it was agreed a suitable place would be on the land in front of the school.

### Bonfires

This is the time of year for burning garden rubbish, particularly leaves. Please be thoughtful of your neighbours and try and have bonfires in the evening when they do not have a line of washing in their garden.

### Snowy weather

I have been asked to mention that parking cars up on the pavement in snowy conditions makes it very dangerous for people with pushchairs who have to walk in the road and in the path of the traffic on the icy roads.

### Congratulations to:

Dom Johnson and his team, representing Great Britain, who won the Gold Medal at the ISAF Team Racing World championship at the beginning of September in Schull, Ireland.

Richard Decker, who was a soloist at the recent Opera Nova concert, who won the title of Young Chorister of the Year which was broadcast on Sunday 6th November.

### Condolences to:

The family of Maurice Beadle who died at the beginning of November. Maurice was from one of the families who have lived in the village for several generations.

### All Souls

The All Souls Quiz is on Friday 3rd December in the Village Hall. More information from Brenda 858840.

13th November Remembrance Service @ 10.30pm

11th December is the Nativity and Gift service @ 10.30am

14th December is Carol Singing @ 7pm

18th December Carols by Candlelight @ 6.30pm

24th December Crib Service @ 4pm

24th December First Communion of Christmas @ 11pm

### Bulls Head

Vernon is organising a Charity Night of Show Songs, at the Village Hall, on Saturday 26th November. Tickets from Vernon 852553

Lots of other events planned for the next couple of months.

See the website for more details

[www.THEBULLSHEADPUB.NET](http://www.THEBULLSHEADPUB.NET)

### Welcome and Farewell

There seem to be more For Sale notices around the village so a very warm welcome to new residents and a sad farewell to those who are leaving for pastures new. We wish you well in your new homes and hope you take happy memories of your time in Pratts Bottom with you.

## Pratts Bottom Dramatic Society

The information you have all been waiting for..... when is the pantomime?

Well, it's Cinderella and it is on 26th –28th January 2012, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8pm and a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Ticket prices £8 all adults £6 children 11 years and under

Thursday all tickets are £6

The box office opens on 1st December 07599811516

We are a friendly dramatic group who need new members to tread the boards as well as help with set building, back stage or front of house. All welcome. Contact Debbie Smith 860792 or look at our website [www.prattsbottomdramaticsociety.co.uk](http://www.prattsbottomdramaticsociety.co.uk)

## Fete Committee Village Christmas Tree

The tree lights will be switched on, on SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER at 4.30pm. We hope that the May Queen Charlotte Dugard will be there to switch on the lights.

Why not wrap up warm, come and have a glass of mulled wine/soft drink and a mince pie and join in singing carols to start the festive season proper. We had a good turnout last year. Let's make it even bigger this year.

There will be a collection bucket for donations.

Our thanks to Dennis Morgan for watering the tree in the summer and keeping it looking tidy.

## May Fete

May 26th, when we shall be holding our annual Village Fete, seems a long way off in the distance. However, it is not too soon to ask for some help and advice from people who live in the village.

Does anyone know of a source of traffic cones we can borrow for the weekend to help with traffic management—preferably free of charge? We need a lot of them. Have you any at home?

Will you lend them to us next May? (or even donate them). Call me if you can help. Many thanks in advance.

Peter Hudson 858583

The Trafalgar Night dinner organised by the Residents Association, to raise funds for the Village Hall, saw 96 people sitting down to a three course meal prepared by Clare De Palma.

We welcomed Stewart Goshawk, from the City Bridge Trust, which gave the Village Hall Trustees the grant to enable them to have the toilet block completely refurbished. Stewart was accompanied by his wife Helen. Neil Hibberd, and his wife Eileen, from Solus Design, the surveyors were there also.

Before the meal was served Ernie Bowen cut the ribbon to officially open the new toilets. Some people did not hear Ernie's speech very clearly so I am reproducing it here.

“ Having been asked to take part in this special evening of our Village Hall life particularly around the subject I was assigned made me think (as one does occasionally)

Did you know that this year the Village Hall reaches it's 80th birthday?

I had just left school and remember well the excitement in the village when it was known we had arrived at the reality of our own Village Hall. Land had been given by Tommy Corham our local builder and, under his direction, a church building in Essex was to be transported and erected here. This main part of the hall is the original. Now 80 years later I am taking part in this very important ceremony.

These little rooms are very important to our daily life. Call them what you may, toilets, lavatory, WC, closet, little house where I spend a penny, loo, privy, khazi and the modern version; en suite.

There are various presentations all with mod cons and comfort, plus the right colour scheme etc, a warmed seat, gold handle, central heating. A far cry from the one at the bottom of our garden in my early days. One comes to my mind. It was a 40 gallon oil drum in the desert with just a bit of hessian round you and a life line back to your tent in a sandstorm, hoping a joker had not untied the rope from the tent peg.

Thank you for asking me to take part in this ceremony. I now have pleasure in cutting this ribbon to officially open the new toilets. May you all spend your pennies wisely and enjoy your visit. Happy Birthday, Pratts Bottom Village Hall.”

## Women's Institute

I write this as the autumn day temperatures are unseasonably high and the days are continuing to get progressively shorter, yet it is good to report that the Pratts Bottom Women's Institute continues to enjoy another successful year.

After a period of absence from the Village Hall whilst the renovations and improvements were carried out, we returned for our regular monthly meeting in October. We are, nevertheless, very grateful to the URC for allowing us to use their premises as our temporary home during the intervening months. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm. Any new members will be made very welcome.

As ever, our speakers continued to bring entertainment and up to date information. Indeed, in August we learnt the secrets and intricacies of the Bank of England, whilst in October our speaker was Marianne Martin, whose topic was entitled, "It's Good to Laugh". In November Romy McCabe reveals that "I married the Vicar", and at our Christmas meeting we have Peter Jones telling us about a "Career in Finger Prints".

Our September Annual Produce Show was a great success and attracted many entrants in all categories. We were pleased to welcome at our show the PBWI's District Adviser, Elizabeth Patterson, and, as a judge for a number of the various classes, Anne Hunter who is an official WI judge. She adjudicated in a number of classes, ranging from the baking of a Honey and Hazelnut Cake, to flower arranging and the growing of an unusual fruit or vegetable. Given the quality of the submissions and the number of entrants, it is easy to understand the challenges which this posed for Anne and we are most grateful to her for attending.

Our Lunch Club, which is held once a month, continues to attract increasing numbers. We enjoy a cross section of cuisines, and are always ready to try something different. In addition, throughout the year we have various outings. In September a number of our members and their partners went on a very illuminating and interesting, "Back Stage Tour

of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden."

For our first meeting of 2012 we will not have a speaker, but are holding a "Swish Event" (a clothing sale). This is where our members are asked to bring along any items of good quality clothing which they wish to sell. This is a first for PBWI, so please wish us luck and come along to support and see the WI in action.

Any ladies who wish to join us should contact our president, Shirley Pecover on 01689 813061.

Angela Sutherland Secretary PBWI

## Christmas Market

Why not come along to the Christmas market on Saturday 19th November from 10am until 1pm in the Village Hall. Have a cup of tea or coffee with your friends and neighbours and then have an opportunity to buy Christmas cards, presents and even biscuits for your dog. You might win the raffle as well!

The last remaining copies of Sue Short's book on Pratts Bottom will also be available.

All the money raised will be used to further improve the facilities at the Village Hall.

## 100 Club Winners

### September

1st Peter Garston No 24 2nd Jill & Rob Allan No 33  
3rd Richard Lambert No 37

### October

1st Barbara Ford No 74 2nd Natasha Lambert No 41  
3rd Chris Phillips No 59

A big thank you to everyone who bought numbers this year. If you have visited the hall and seen the new facilities I'm sure you will agree that the money raised is being used wisely and for the benefit of everyone. I will be sending out reminder notices for 2012 and it would be enormously helpful if I could have the money soon and bank it so that we are ready for the January draw.