

Pratts Bottom

Newsletter

New Year 2022



Subscriptions from May 2021 – April 2022

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Mrs C Bradford (Treasurer) 11 Downs View Close, Pratts Bottom, BR6 7SU

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Editor

Laura Dimbleby

I wish all our readers a very **Happy and Healthy New Year** and hope that you finally got to enjoy the festive season, spending time with family and friends. I like to think we have all picked up a few positives from the last couple of years, one of them being the importance of having your family, friends, neighbours and community around you. Be it near or far they are an important part of our lives providing support and sharing in our happiness.

It was lovely to see the village come to life this Christmas with the return of the Christmas Market in the village hall where we enjoyed songs from the school choir. Festivities continued with Carols on the Green including the tradition of Mr Hudson getting us all involved to sing The 12 Day's of Christmas, may you sing your part loud and proud! All Souls held its Crib Service and Midnight Mass, albeit at a slightly different time, but what is this world if not a little different now. There were many other celebrations being held across the village including those at the pub and it was lovely to see so many houses decorated with lights making the village like quite a focal point.

We can now look forward to the upcoming year with plenty of events taking place within the village. The Village Hall being the focal point for many of these events including quiz nights and of course, one of the main events of the year the May Fete! We also have the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. How would you like to celebrate in your village with your neighbours?

**Regular updates and information can also be found on
our website www.prattsbottom.co.uk.**

Residents Association

Liz Turnbull - Chairman

After the relative silence of the 2020 lockdown which continued into the start of 2021 it is understandable that it was noticed by residents when the village started to reawaken. Personally, I have loved not having planes roaring overhead what seemed like every 5 minutes, but life goes on and we love to travel. 2021 saw people itching to get back out again after being cooped up for so long. Meeting up with friends and returning to leisure activities and

clubs, especially those that are held in the village.

People move here because we are fortunate enough to still have a school, preschool, village hall, church and not forgetting a local pub. As we have said before London is creeping closer which is why the Residents Association in conjunction with our local Councillors work hard to maintain the character of our Village, Pratts Bottom.

Broke Hill – Update

Following the decision of Sevenoaks Council to refuse permission for the development at Broke Hill, the developer, Quinn Estates, lodged an appeal. The arguments for and against the development were aired at a public inquiry before a Government Inspector in October/November last year. As well as a lot of technical evidence, a day was put aside for local representatives and interested parties to put forward their arguments. Nearly 20 people put their views to the Inspector, either in person or via Zoom.

The Resident's Association had previously objected to the planning application, primarily on the grounds of loss of open Green Belt, loss of habitat, impact of additional traffic and the impact on local facilities such as schools, GPs hospitals, social services etc. Alec Lauder spoke on our

behalf reiterating those concerns and these views were shared by one of our local Councillors, Mike Botting, who also spoke. The only speakers in favour of the development were the representatives from Sevenoaks Rugby Club and Sevenoaks Hockey Club, both of whom would benefit from new pitches if it goes ahead.

It is difficult to predict the outcome of the appeal, but it looks like it is going to boil down to the shortage of land for new housing in Sevenoaks District against the protection of Green Belt land. A decision is awaited and will be placed on the website when it becomes available, though that could be some time away.

Save the Date!

May Fete – Saturday 14th May

Fete Committee

As from 2023 we will need a new Chairman, although at present we have a lovely Chairlady! We will also need a scribe who will take the all important minutes. As time has caught up with these wonderful folks who have been doing a truly great job for the last 10 years+. So, I ask if you have been to any of the Village Fetes and would you be sad if they were no more? I am sure the charities that attend will be looking forward to getting back to joining our Village Fete again. Also for the traditional pageantry of the procession with the May Queens from the local area, and especially for your May Queen and her entourage. We lost our fete in 2020 and 2021 so please help to make the 2022 Village Fete a spectacular event so we will have more memories to look back on in year to come, covid permitting of course.

I wrote in the newsletter previously informing you that the age of the fete committee totalled 1000 years! We don't have 20+ people attending

our meetings, its usually about 12 and that has reduced over time due to illness and bereavement. All members who have kept the Village Fete going have definitely served their time and we owe them all a great deal of gratitude for all the years they have given to **Making the Fete Great!**

The Fete Committee also organises the Carols on the Green tree lighting which has raised hundreds of pounds for local charities over the years.

Women's Institute

Angela Sutherland - Chairman

Christmas may not have been all we would have wished for but as we have moved into the New Year and with spring just around the corner we must continue to hope for better times.

I must start with some news, our Treasurer of some years, Elaine Elston sadly passed away late summer. She served in this post since 2016 and worked diligently, performing her duties in an outstanding manner. Our thoughts are with Elaine's family at this time.

The pandemic has brought into focus many things which, in the past, we have taken for granted. Whereas once we could all sit near each other and interact, now that we have returned to the village hall for our monthly

meetings, we have to keep safe distancing, wear masks in the kitchen area and take all other necessary precautions. Indeed, when our meetings end all ladies spray clean their seats before stacking them away.

In other ways, however PBWI has returned to its normal routine. In August we began our speakers with a favourite talk about 'Red Cross Quilts', which kept all member enthralled. Hearing the history of their conception in Canada during the Second World War was most interesting. If you should come across one of these quilts, they are like gold dust. The September meeting was our Annual Produce Show, always attended with enthusiasm and expectation. From a backed loaf,

wonky beans or three mixed dahlias, all eager to see who are the winners of the mixed schedule. October's speaker unfortunately was unable to attend, but all was not lost. A long-standing member, Janice Coveney, displayed magnificent outfits she was presented with whilst attending a wedding in Pakistan. November was a talk on Special Operations Executive WW2. Gilly Harlcrow spoke about the memoirs of her late father Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Henry van Maurik OBE. Compelling listening. Our last meeting of the year was our Christmas/Birthday celebrations. This is when we all put on our thinking caps and enjoy a festive quiz.

In June 2022 PBWI are holding a Polhill WI group meeting, when our guest speaker will share the history and activities of the Metropolitan Police Dog Training School.

Ladies, if you would like to join us, we would love to see you. Other aspects of PBWI you can enjoy are, the art group, quilting group, lunch club and now PBWI have added a book club. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, 2pm – 4pm. Come and sample one of our meetings free of charge. If you are interested in any aspects of our WI please contact our mailbox
prattsbottom@wkwfi.org.uk

Village Hall

Management Team

Hello residents of our beautiful village.

Recent research has shown that the Village Hall has provided a wide range of appropriate activities for the residents of our village for well over 100 years. With the present building itself dating back just ninety of them. So there has been a long tradition of being the centre of the village activities, from Playschool, WI, Dramatic and Railway Societies, PTA and Dances, Bowls and many more. However, 'anno domini' catches

up with us all, and now there is an urgent need for some new young blood on the committee to lead us into the future, making further improvements to the village hall and to keep it running smoothly. Naturally you will need to know more about what is involved. There are a variety of tasks in frequency and in time, but it is all friendly enjoyable and rewarding, plus it is a real opportunity to be involved in your community, which is half the enjoyment of living in a village.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in life in Pratts Bottom, then do contact Gwyneth Hudson on 01689 858583 for more information. She looks forward to hearing from you.

All Souls Church

Rev Susan

As we have all experienced the last couple of years have been somewhat challenging as we have learned to live with the pandemic and associated regulations.

It was wonderful therefore this Christmas we were able to meet more freely and celebrate together. The lighting of the village Christmas tree was a great community event. It was lovely to also be able to welcome Years 5&6 of the school back into church for their Christmas performance and of course it was amazing to be able to hold the Christmas services once more. Though unfortunately with one of the clergy out of action due to a close covid contact it was necessary to cancel the Christmas Day service.

At All Souls we are looking forward to remaining open as we begin to plan for Lent and Easter. All are welcome to come along but please do check the noticeboard and website (www.smasch.org) regularly as everything remains subject to change at late notice due to the pandemic.

With prayers and best wishes for 2022

Brenda Johnson

As with the rest of the Village, All Souls is hoping to come out of hibernation and put on a couple of events in the Village Hall in the spring, fingers crossed.

Saturday 26th March

Quiz Night at 7pm for 7.30pm

Tables of 6 only with Mr Hudson's well thought out and do-able quiz questions.

Contact Brenda on 07763 781 696 to book your table

Saturday 7th May

Bumper Jumble Sale at 9am

Please bring along contributions to the Village Hall at 6pm on Friday 6th May, but do also come down on the Saturday as we have accumulated some amazing treasures over the last 2 years. Better than a boot fair and much cheaper!

Saturday 14th May

May Fete

There will be the usual All Souls presence at the fete with the Prayer Tree, Hook a Duck, Cuddly Toy Tombola and of course, the ever-popular Water into Wine stall.

Something you want to spread the word about?

Email me

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