

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

March 2020

Road Closure Notice

The Parish Council has been informed that Medway Council has granted a request to temporarily prohibit through traffic to Wood Street from 2nd to 13th March 2020. This is needed to enable essential work to be carried out by Southern Gas Network (SGN).

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours. There will be a diversion via May Street and Woodhurst Close. Letters have been posted to residents who live within the immediate area.

The Parish Council have asked Medway Council for reassurance that the GP surgery, located in Wood Street, will be accessible during the period of closure.

For more information, please call SGN's Customer Service team anytime on 0800 912 1700

Parish Council News in Brief

February was been another busy month for the Parish Councillors.

Highways Issues

The Parish Council now have a copy of the Safety Audit but are still unclear whether the plan changes at the pedestrian lights will mirror last year's 'fault' in the light sequencing. More details of the plans are being sought.

Consultations

The Lower Thames Crossing and the proposed Medway Ward Boundary Consultations are both running in March.

The Parish Council will hold an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday, 25th February to discuss the **Medway Ward Boundary Changes** they feel will best benefit the village, and agree a response to the first stage of the consultation that closes on Monday, March 2nd. The pros and cons of different options will be discussed but there is concern that one of the possible options may be to join the current Cuxton and Halling Ward with parts of what is currently Strood South Ward that might impact on our rural status. It would, however, allow us to have 2 Ward Councillors instead of one. The next phase of the consultation in June will contain clear proposals based on this first round of the consultation, and on which residents will once again be encouraged to comment.

The postponed December meeting between Medway Parish Councils and the Boundary Commission has finally been rescheduled for Thursday 27th February, just 3 days before the closing date for the consultation. Cuxton Parish Councillors will be attending so we have a more informed view of the issues.

The latest **Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) Consultation** has been advertised widely and Cuxton Parish Councillors will be attending the consultations at Shorne Woods Country Park (Sunday 8th March) and the Meadows Room, Cobham (Thursday 12th March). The Parish Council continue to work with Luddesdown and Cobham Parish Councils regarding our shared concerns over the potential for traffic from the LTC using the narrow country lanes through our villages as a short cut to the A228 and M20.

Use of Recreation Car Park

The Parish Council have agreed with Cuxton Academy of Schools that parents bringing their children to and from the school can use the recreation parking spaces to try and reduce the parking problems that arise at 'school run' times. The use of the recreation ground car park will be managed by the school and trialled in March before being reviewed. If any serious problems arise the trial will be ended earlier.

New Parish Council Website

At the February Cuxton Parish Council Meeting a new website provider was agreed and it is hoped to have a new Parish Council website up and running in the near future. The Parish Council apologise for the poor state of our current website and are pleased to be able to move this project forward.

Cllr Kay Hutchfield, Chair Cuxton Parish Council

Fallen Trees and Countryside Code



As you are aware, we are being battered by storms recently and your Cuxton Countryside Group volunteers have been busy clearing fallen trees (12 so far), which have blocked footpaths. We normally walk around Cuxton after such storms, and clear as we find obstructions. However, you can email us on "ccg.volunteers@hotmail.com" if we have missed one, as sometimes dead trees go down on their own accord, after our walks.

We act as volunteers, on behalf of both Cuxton Parish Council and Medway Council, to keep the access to footpaths open for you to enjoy our great countryside. Please, therefore, contact us first if you see any path obstructions, so we can judge whether the obstruction can be cleared by volunteers or if we need to seek the help of a chainsaw operator.

If you would like to join our volunteer group, we are active every 3rd weekend of the month (you can join the Saturday or Sunday morning group or both). Please contact Jan Batley on **01634 712157** for more information.

We thought it suitable, as Spring is fast approaching, to mention **The Country Code**, so you can appreciate our landscape and help to keep it accessible for all:-

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work. Guard against all risk of fire. Leave all gates as you find them. Keep all dogs under close control. Keep to public paths across farmland. Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls. Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone. Take your litter home. Help to keep the water clean. Protect wildlife, plants and trees. Take special care on country roads. Make no unnecessary noise.

Ian Gray, Chairman CCG

Cuxton Parish Council Grant Applications

The Parish Council continue to pursue grants from several sources. The first is to pay a consultant to complete research on the feasibility of installing air sourced heating and solar panels to provide sustainable energy for the Pavilion. If successful there will be an opportunity to apply for a grant to purchase and install the equipment required.

The opportunity to apply for a significant grant from the Football Foundation towards re-developing the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground into a more community focused facility, has taken another small step forward as we have passed the first stage of the grant application process.

Further grant opportunities are being explored to help pay for some replacement play equipment in the Cuxton children's playground and for landscaping the bike track once the redevelopment of the track is undertaken in the spring.

Voluntary Group Grant Applications

It is that time of year when voluntary groups based in Cuxton can apply to Cuxton Parish Council for a grant to assist their groups to meet their ambitions. Application forms can be accessed from the Parish Council website or directly from the Clerk by emailing her on cuxtonparish@btconnect.com.

It is important that applications include quotes for any building works, equipment etc. the grant will be used to pay for. Voluntary groups who received grants in 2019 will need to provide evidence of how the grant money was spent before any new grant application can be considered.

Grants applications need to be submitted by April 1st and successful applicants will be awarded their grants at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 23rd. 2020.

A Big Thank You must go to Ian Gray and his team from Cuxton Countryside Group for their excellent work at clearing blocked footpaths of fallen trees after the recent storms. They are all volunteers and so unpaid. If you pass them when out for a walk why not stop a while and lend a hand and discover what a great asset they are to our village

Come to see
'REMINISCE'
who will be playing music from the
'50s to the present day on Saturday
28th March
in Cuxton Church Hall at 7 30pm
in aid of Church funds.
Light refreshments available.

Obituary: Ray Maisey, 1939-2020

It is with regret that Cuxton Parish Council were informed that Ray Maisey died on Thursday 6th February after a long period of illness. Ray was the Ward Councillor for Cuxton and Halling Ward between 2003-2015.

Ray worked as a printer in Thanet and then South Africa before returning to the UK. In 1989 Ray married his second wife Buffy and lived in Kidbrooke. It was also the time when Ray became politically active and he stood as a candidate for the Kidbrooke ward of Greenwich Borough Council.



In 1997 Ray and Buffy moved to Cuxton. With his interest and experience in local government politics Ray and Buffy soon became involved with the local Conservative Association. In May 2003 he was elected as member of Medway Council for Cuxton and Halling Ward. During his 12 years in office, in addition to taking up the cases of countless local residents, he made substantial improvements to the village, he steered road traffic improvements through the Planning Department, starting with a pelican crossing at the junction of Bush Road and the A228, funded by a section 106 agreement with "Redrow Ltd". This was followed by a 40 mph speed limit with flashing warning signs. He also instigated the installation of a crash barrier next to the section of A228 adjoining the allotments, thus ending the ever-increasing number of vehicles that crashed through the chestnut fence into people's allotments.

Ray also donated a picnic bench in the children's playground using a special allowance available to all councillors. A Liberal member once said to Buffy that he admired Ray's dedication to Cuxton and Halling rather than making a name for himself in the Council chamber. From 2011-12 and 2014-15, Ray was elected deputy mayor of Medway and enthusiastically took on numerous official duties. In Cuxton these included officiating at the newly refurbished children's playground and at the commemoration of sixty years since the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952, held in St Michael Church, Cuxton.

Ray and Buffy also joined this their beloved church, when they moved to Cuxton. He established his own printing business, which remained trading until he was 79. Once retired he still took an interest in both church and parish council, quizzing Buffy when she returned from meetings. Ray served on Cuxton Parish Council for 6 years.

Cuxton Parish Council will remember Ray for his hard work on our behalf, his honesty and sincerity and for the support and advice he and Buffy gave to the Independent ACT candidates who now form Cuxton Parish Council. Ray's funeral will be held at 2pm on Monday March 2nd at St Michael and All Angels Church, Cuxton.

To learn more about Ray's early life and his love of music please access the Parish Council website.



The 10th Cuxton Big Lunch Sunday, June 14th



The first meeting of the Cuxton Big Lunch Working Group was held on Thursday 20th February and began the work of planning this year's Big Lunch. We have a group of councillors and residents eager to move this event forward, with a good balance of old hands and newcomers.

We have decided on a 'environmental theme' for the event with a focus on being kinder to our environment. We will be seeking support from Medway's new climate change team and their recycling team who helped us last year.

Cycling will also be a focus for our event as we hope to have the revamped cycle track up and running by then. We are also hoping that a team of bronze medal winning Bike Polo experts will come along to show how the game is played and offer the opportunity to *would-be* bike polo players to have a go. The local PCSOs have also agreed to come along and offer free bike security marking during the day.

The produce and craft show is being developed to allow more local artists and crafters to display their work alongside those entering the usual competition. This will provide an opportunity to showcase hidden village talent.

The music is being organised and local bands and singers contacted. There are also rumours of a rock choir attending! The usual stalls will be there with hopefully some new additions. Beer tent, burgers, sausages, vegan food, cakes and ice cream guaranteed.

As plans are confirmed more details will be published. In the meantime keep Sunday 14th June in your diary.

What's On In Cuxton

Friday, 6th March	Cuxton Social Club—The Twangdaddies, Members Bar, free to members, signed in guests £1
Every Thursday	Cuxton Social Club—Paul's Pool Nite, free play on the pool table from 8pm. All welcome. Guests £1 and must be signed in.
Friday, 6th March	The White Hart. The Kix classic Punk, New Wave & Ska
Tuesday, 17th March	The White Hart—St Patrick's night. A celebration of live Irish music with the White Hart Rovers.
Saturday 21st March	Quiz Night in the Scout Hall, 7.30 p.m. start, teams of 8, Ploughman's Supper provided, bring your own drinks
Friday, 17th April	The White Hart—Tall Trees Upbeat Pop & Rock
Thursday 23rd April	Annual Parish Meeting in the Social Club Hall, 7.30 start, all welcome
Sunday, 14th June	Date for your diaries. Cuxton Big Lunch in the recreation ground.

Term Dates: Academy of Cuxton Schools

Spring Term: Monday 24rd February to Friday 3rd April

Holiday: Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April

Return to school: Monday 20th April

Summer term: Monday 20th April to Friday 22nd May

Friday, 8th May: Bank Holiday & VE Day

Cuxton Library's opening hours

Tuesday 9 am to 1pm.

Thursday 2 pm to 6pm

Friday 2pm to 6pm

Saturday 10am. to 4pm.

Closed: Monday, Wednesday and Sunday

Report Fly Tipping

Medway Council on **01634 333 333**,

Gravesham Council **01474 337 000**

Parking & Abandoned Vehicles

Contact 07508 846937 to discuss general or specific parking and abandoned vehicles enquiries

Graffiti

The council will remove graffiti for free (even on private property) as long as the owner of the property signs an indemnity form. Contact the Parish Office for more information

Stray dogs

Report to Medway Council on 01634 333 333 and follow on Facebook @Medway Council Stray Dog Service.

CUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

S E R V I N G O U R C O M M U N I T Y

Next meeting:

7.30pm, on Thursday, 12th March 2020 at Cuxton Library, Cuxton, all welcome

All Welcome.

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Chairman:

Kay Hutchfield: 07762 772134

kayhut@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairman

Tracy Thorley 07884 343832

tracy.thorley@hotmail.com

Martin Burley 07777644401

Natalie Jackson 07503 167385

Elizabeth Maisey: 01634 727126

Edwina Morrell 01634 716352

Julie Porter: 07903 780989

Pat Reynolds 07884202270

Hilary Savage 01634 723027

Simon White 07919014909

Jakob Seger 07765077198

Ward Councillor

Matt Fearn: 07739 706432

matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: June Nicholson

Assistant Clerk: Josie Griffiths

Telephone: 01634 730951

Email: cuxtonparish@btconnect.com

Email for newsletter items:

newslettercuxtonparish@btconnect.com

The Parish Office:

The Pavilion, Cuxton Recreation Ground, Bush Road, Cuxton, ME2 1EZ

Parish Office Opening Hours:

Mon & Wed 0930am-1230pm or by appointment

Doctor out of hours: 111

Police: 101 for non urgent crime or to talk to local police.

Public Defibrillator sited on the wall of Cuxton Social Club

Co-editors: Cllr Hutchfield & Josie Griffiths, Assistant Parish Clerk. Articles to be submitted by 15th each month. No publication in August or January. Unless otherwise attributed, the content of this newsletter is developed by the editors. Views contained are not necessarily those of the Parish Council. Every effort is made to check the accuracy of items produced and submitted. The Parish Council and newsletter editors accept no liability for other contributions, which remain the copyright of the contributors.