

# CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton February 2023

## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLS EVENT THANK YOU



Cuxton Parish Councillors would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols event on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and for your kind donations, which this year will be sent to the Heart of Kent Hospice. We will let you know the total amount raised in the March newsletter as four tins, are still open for collecting donations in various parts of the village, until the end of January.

The event would not be possible without the support of volunteers who put the lights on the tree and set up the event. As usual the Wheel of Cuxton volunteers led by Gordon Chitty put the lights on the tree and took the tree down in January. Thank you also to Richard Hutchfield and Robin Bourner for their help in setting up and to all those who helped clear up at the end of the evening. The local stall holders did a wonderful job in bringing their beautiful craft items for sale. This year a special thanks to the Parish Clerk who found a company who would install the tree for us, saving volunteers much

work and James Nuttall who brought along a platform lift that made dressing the tree so much easier. Thank you also to Matthew Wells for finding the time in a busy schedule, to put up the gazebo for the tableaux.

This year an informal group of residents led the carol singing. Sincere thanks to them and to the pianist Karen Newby for contributing to a successful event. Thanks to Joanna from the Co-op who arranged the donation of the mince pies and apple juice and lastly but not least to Judy and her library ladies for allowing us to use the library for this event.

## MAY 2023 LOCAL ELECTIONS

At the local elections in May, registered voters will be required to provide evidence of their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper. As a result all voters will have to bring their photo driving licence or passport with them to the polling station if they wish to vote.

If you do not have a photo driving licence or passport you can apply for a *voter authority certificate of identification* by going to the following website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

If you do not have internet access and need help please contact the Electoral Services Team at Medway Council via their switchboard on (01634) 333333.

## CUXTON COUNTRYSIDE GROUP

We hope you enjoyed all your Cuxton walking experiences over Christmas, as we spent much of our volunteer time making sure all the designated paths were mainly free of obstructions and encroaching vegetation. Fortunately, we carried out these clearances just before the snow came down!

Recently, we have had to contend with more fallen trees, plus the continuing issues with ash-dieback in Six Acre Wood. If you discover any footpath related issues, please email us (preferably with a location/photo of the issue) on: [ccg.volunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:ccg.volunteers@hotmail.com).

Also, we are always happy to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer with us, so do email us.

## VINEYARD PLANNING INQUIRY

The planning inquiry into the appeal against Medway Council's refusal of planning for the development of a visitor centre, café, restaurant and processing plant in Bush Valley, Upper Bush is scheduled to start on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023. A venue for the inquiry has yet to be identified, but it will be held in Medway.

The inquiry will be open to the public and details of how you can participate will be circulated once available. This will be an important opportunity for the community to make its' voice heard.

Cuxton Parish Council and the campaign group, Cuxton Against the Winery currently remain involved in the inquiry.

If you wish to receive updates on the progress and how to contribute to the debate please send your contact details to the Parish Clerk at: [clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

## LOWER THAMES CROSSING

The Parish Council would like to form a steering group to look at making representations in respect of the plans for the Lower Thames Crossing. It would welcome support from any residents in the village who would be keen to help.

If you would be interested, please contact the Clerk on: [clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk).

## CUXTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

We have just finished our renewal processes for our plot holders, and still have a short waiting list, but welcome any others for some outdoor activities with us as a part of your Green Gym fitness regime. There are often reasons why we sometimes have spare plots, so your wait may not be too long.

At present, there is one raised bed available. Please contact the Parish Clerk via email on: [clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk) if you are interested or would like to join the waiting list.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH GROUP

We designed and had printed a Christmas card and delivered it to every household in Cuxton, including boat holders in Cuxton and Port Medway marinas and most of Halling parish.

We provided a living tableau in costume of the nativity scene at the village tree lighting and carol singing event as a reminder that Christmas is not all about tinsel and bright lights.

We raised £225 at the Millennium Big Lunch for the relief of Ukrainian refugees.

We raised £140 for Medway food bank at a small coffee morning and clearance event. This also benefitted numerous other charities by further distribution of clearance items.

We meet in the home of one of our members in Cuxton a few times a year. We would be pleased to welcome Christians of any denomination to join our small committee. Please contact Buffy Maisey on 07778 305 651.

## THOMAS STEVENS CHARITY

As trustees of Cuxton's only charity, we are always open to requests for financial help in these worrying times. All your communications with us are totally confidential and we aim to satisfy your immediate needs as promptly as possible.

Please do not suffer in silence if you feel we can help you overcome any issues which are worrying you. Either email us on: [thomasstevenscharity@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasstevenscharity@hotmail.com) or phone Ian Gray on 01634 716334.



## FLOWER ARRANGERS NEEDED

Illness has created a shortage of flower arrangers to prepare flowers for services for St Michael and All Angels Church, Cuxton. Volunteers are needed 3-4 times a year to ensure this service can continue.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Merrilyn on (01634) 714026 for further information.



## PROPOSED PAVILION RE-DEVELOPMENT

The Parish Council is currently forming steering groups to help with all aspects of the proposed pavilion re-development. If you are interested in helping then please contact the Clerk on: [clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

## HELP WANTED

Due to the retirement of a longstanding volunteer, St Michael's Church is in urgent need of a new Church Hall Bookings Clerk. There are a number of regular bookings which require minimal management and there are no adult parties or other late night events. We are moving over to enquiries by email (with a designated address) rather than telephone bookings.

If you have time available and would like to help your local community, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please call Matthew on 01634 727424 or email: [mandjvwells@gmail.com](mailto:mandjvwells@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss it further.

## POTHoles IN VILLAGE

Due to the recent cold weather, several potholes have appeared around the village. Many have been reported to Medway Council by residents and/or the Parish Council. As Highways falls under Medway Council's remit, please continue to report issues with roads and pavements to Medway Council.

There is currently an e-petition to re-surface James Road, which can be found at: <https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx>

## LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS WITHIN VILLAGE

There are four defibrillators located within the village and for reference they are situated at the following locations:

**Cuxton Social Club** – on wall outside

**Cuxton Academy of Schools** – inside school building near Reception, only available during school opening hours

**Church Hall** – on wall outside

**Cuxton Railway Station** – by ticket machine on Platform 1, Strood-bound side



# WHAT'S ON IN CUXTON

## Cuxton Social Club

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** Trading Places. Rock music through the ages, in the Club Hall.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** Raise the Roof Fund. Club classics and disco, in the Club Hall.

## White Hart

**Coming in March, St Patrick's night celebrations.**

Celebrating Irish music live. Details to follow in next month's newsletter

**White Hart** [www.whitehartcuxton.co.uk](http://www.whitehartcuxton.co.uk) Tel: 01634 789969

**Golden River Chinese** Tel: 01634 296888 (Collection service only)

**Cuxton Social Club** Tel: 01634 71808

To advertise an event or group on the Cuxton Parish Facebook, Twitter or Instagram page please contact the Clerk by emailing: [clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

## Useful Contacts

Medway Council has a website that deals with a variety of problems including; dogs, fly-tipping, roads, street lighting and a range of other issues.

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200176/report\\_a\\_problem](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200176/report_a_problem)

**Cuxton Recycling Centre:** To book a slot go onto the Medway Council site and select a date and time. **NO booking, NO entry.**

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/tipbooking>

## Cuxton Library

Open Tuesday 9am to 1pm, Thursday & Friday 2pm to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm (no lunch closure).

Public computers are available for one hour sessions for library members. There is a charge of £3 per half hour for guest sessions.

White and blue recycling bags are available for collection during opening hours.

Email: [cuxton.library@medway.gov.uk](mailto:cuxton.library@medway.gov.uk)

Tel: 01634 337799

**Doctor out of hours:** 111

**Police:** 101 for non urgent matters

**Public defibrillators:** Boxes on the walls of the Social Club and Church Hall

## Cuxton Parish Councillors

Kay Hutchfield (Chairman) [chairman@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

Tracy Thorley [tracy@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:tracy@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

Martin Burley [martin@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:martin@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

Julie Porter [julie@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:julie@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

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Hilary Savage [hilary@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:hilary@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

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Sarah Wilson [sarah@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:sarah@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

Julie Jensen [julianne@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:julianne@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

John Vye [john@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:john@cuxtonpc.org.uk)

**1 vacancy**

**Ward Cllr:** Matt Fearn [matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk](mailto:matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk) 07739 706432

**Parish Clerk:** [clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk) 01634 730951

**The Parish Office:** The Pavilion, Cuxton Recreation Ground, Bush Road, Cuxton ME2 1EZ

Website: [www.cuxtonpc.org.uk](http://www.cuxtonpc.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CuxtonParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CuxtonParishCouncil)

## Academy of Cuxton Schools

### Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February (inset day)



Articles to be submitted by 15th of each month. No publication in August or January. Unless otherwise attributed, the content of this newsletter is developed by the editor. 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.