

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

March 2024

D-Day Landings 80th Anniversary

This year, Cuxton residents can join thousands in formally marking the 80th anniversary of the landings on the five beaches in Normandy, France, which took place on 6th June 1944. Our community will commemorate this occasion with a beacon lighting ceremony on the evening of 6th June 2024. More details to follow.



Big Lunch – Save the date

This year's Big Lunch will be held on Sunday the 9th June, so save that date! Over the coming months, more details will follow, but in the meantime, if you would like a stall, have any enquiries or are available to help set-up on the day, do please let us know by emailing: clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk.

Cuxton Countryside Group News...

We were very busy before Christmas in making sure as many paths as possible were clear for your Christmas rambles through our fantastic countryside here on the North Downs. During the numerous storms we were able to clear any fallen trees fairly quickly (many thanks to walkers for letting us know through your photos to our email address ccg.volunteers@hotmail.com). However, lately both Isha and Jocelyn caused many problems with large mature trees being uprooted and falling onto footpaths and fencing, which took us 4 days in total to clear, with the help of our professional foresters - Qualitrees.

During the next few months, there is some Ash die-back clearance of trees together with clearing some areas of Six Acre Wood in preparation for new sapling plantings to encourage more biodiversity within. Please take note of any restrictions when signs are up for your safety when walking through Six Acre. We are also clearing much of the fallen small wooded timber from close to the path edges, so the ground flora can recover and flower. When we clear fallen timber, we only have time to leave the brushings by the side of the path, for later clearance. There may also be some hazel coppicing to regenerate the strength of the trees, as coppicing extends their life cycle significantly.

We are also starting survey work for birds, bats, wild mammals and butterflies, so if you would like to take part regularly, through identifying and feeding your findings to us, this will help us greatly with how we continue to manage Six Acre Wood.

Ian Gray



News from Ranscombe Farm Reserve

Many of you will be aware from the press coverage over the past decade of the problems caused by Ash Dieback across the UK. We first recorded the disease here at Ranscombe in 2013 and since then it has spread right across the reserve having a major impact. Hardly any new Ash trees appear at all now, and a large proportion of our more mature trees are seriously affected.

Along with the unfortunate loss of Ash trees and their habitat, Ash Dieback also poses a risk to safety. Infected trees contain large quantities of dead and decaying wood, which can cause branches or sections of tree to fall, or in some cases the whole tree to collapse at the base. If an area has been blocked off with felled trees and brash, and warning notices have been put up, it is because trees within that area might be unsafe.

It is of course not possible to make anywhere 100% safe all of the time, but along marked paths we try to make things as safe as they can reasonably be expected to be. We do this by undertaking regular safety surveys and carrying out any work to trees that is deemed necessary. But certain areas have a higher concentration of large mature Ash trees present, and as the impacts of the disease progresses then the likelihood of somebody being put at risk will only increase further with time. Undertaking work to the trees to make them safe would first of all be prohibitively expensive, but secondly detrimental to the ecology of the woodland, as standing dead wood is a valuable habitat in its own right.

Unfortunately, signage has on several occasions been removed, and barriers physically pulled apart or cut through in order to maintain access through these areas. This puts other visitors potentially at risk.

So please in the interests of your own safety and that of other visitors, if an area has been blocked off, avoid it.

If you would like any further information about the above or wish to get in touch more generally about Ranscombe, then please contact:
ranscombe@plantlife.org.uk.

Ben Sweeney, Plantlife



Malcom Curnow 30th October 1934-16th January 2024

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our friend and colleague, Malcolm.

Malcolm and his late wife and son had spent all their adult life in Cuxton and were a very strong part of the community. Malcolm was a Parish Councillor for many years and was responsible for monitoring planning applications concerning Cuxton. He always ensured that the needs and wishes of the residents was top priority.

Those of you who had cause to use the Church Hall would have seen the excellent job Malcolm did as caretaker and hirer. It was always a pleasure to find the hall 'spick and span' and always warm and welcoming in winter. Our thoughts are with his relatives and close friends.

30th Strood (Cuxton and Halling) Scout Group



Sat. 9th March

7.15pm for
7.30pm start

Teams of 8 people max.
£6 per head.

Please bring your own food and drinks.

To book your place, please contact Matthew on
01634 727424. Thank you for your support!

Dog Waste Bags

Over the last few months, there has been a sharp increase in the amount of dog waste bags being used from the dispensers around the village, but sadly still plenty of dog mess being left on paths. We would urge users to be mindful of this please and only take what you need, as the cost of providing this service is spiralling for the Parish Council, which is not fair to non-dog owners.



Thomas Stevens Charity

We are Cuxton's only charity and we are keen to continue using the valuable donations we receive to help those local parishioners, who are seeking help for fuel support during this winter.



Even though our title includes "charity", we firmly believe that we are here to help when necessary, and that there is no stigma attached to offering our help to any who feel our services will benefit them in the short term.

All enquiries have always been confidential, and we are willing to help out in many situations. Please feel free to approach us, if some financial support for fuel payments etc will lessen the financial load you bear. We do not want anyone to feel they have to "grin and bear it", when we are aware times are hard at the moment. Either email us at: thomasstevenscharity@hotmail.com, or phone Ian Gray on 01634 716334 to arrange a visit.

For those who would like to make any donations, our Barclays Bank details are "THOMAS STEVENS CHARITY, Account number 60842133 and Sort code is 20-54-11" We would like to thank both the Golden River Chinese and the Cuxton Auto Services for their continuing generosity in supporting our cause.

Cuxton Parish Council Grants

Each year Cuxton Parish Council award grants to qualifying village organisations to assist with their projects.

To find out if your organisation / project qualifies, or to apply for a grant, please visit our website for terms.

Go to: www.cuxtonpc.org.uk Closing date: 20th March 2024

Station Planters given a boost

Friends of Cuxton Station have been busy renewing the planters on the platforms for the spring. These will bring some much-appreciated colour. They look great!



This month Cuxton Parish Councillors...

- Set the village precept for this year making no increase for residents for the 3rd running. The precept is one part of residents' council tax bill, so overall this may still increase but the Parish Council aspect will not for this year.
- Held a well-attended Traffic Management group in Cuxton Library, where residents and local business owners shared their thoughts on road and traffic issues for A228 and Bush Road. Then followed-up with a meeting with a Medway Council representative to discuss how to make road safety improvements.
- Started planning the annual parish assembly – thanks to Cuxton Social Club for providing their hall for this community event, free of charge.



**Could you
volunteer 20
minutes a month?**

We are seeking a new voluntary distributor for this newsletter to houses on Sundridge Hill. If you can help, please contact the clerk on 01634 730951 or email: clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2024

A BRAND NEW 2 YEAR old room

NURSERY AT

The Academy of Cuxton Schools for children born between September 2021 and August 2022

The Academy of Cuxton Schools are proud to announce the opening of their brand new 2 Year old room in September 2024. This wonderful new learning environment will ensure your child has the best possible start to their education journey!

Set in the heart of the Cuxton community, with fantastic facilities, we offer a unique experience for your little one and a nurturing ethos.

Community
At the heart of our community

Adventure
Little people, big ideas

Resilience
Growing resilience through early experience

Excellence
Excellence through exploration

OPEN DAYS
29th November at 9.30am
5th December at 9.30am
9th January at 1.30pm
24th January at 9.30am

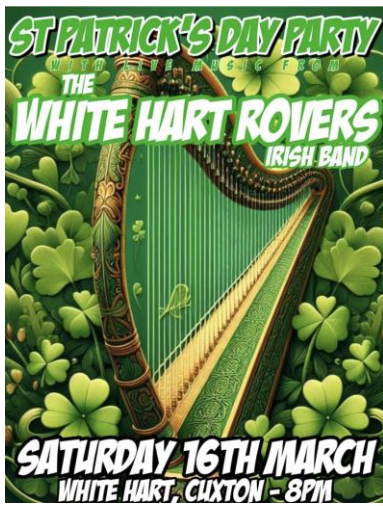
To register your interest please scan the QR Code or click the link

I'M INTERESTED

For further information please see the school website: <https://www.cuxtonschools.co.uk/admissions-nursery/>

THE ACADEMY OF CUXTON SCHOOLS
1000 South Lane, Cuxton, Kent ME10 1TJ

The Academy of Cuxton Schools is part of
The Primary First Trust



What's On in March

The White Hart

Tel: 01634 789969

16th March – St Patrick's Day

8pm Live Band playing traditional and contemporary Irish Music & Irish Menu

29th March

Island Brothers - Live Reggae Music

Halling Gardening Society

Tel: 01634 240480

18th March - 7.30pm – Jubilee Hall

'Demonstration: Tips on how to show vegetables and Flowers at Shows'



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

Tel: 01634 337799

Medway Council Portal

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

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>

Medway Council Traffic Enforcement Hotline: 07718 130962

Doctor out of hours: 111

Police: 101 for non urgent matters

Public defibrillators: Boxes on the walls of the Social Club, Church Hall, School and Cuxton Railway Station

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Gerald Chalker (Chairman)

ged@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Matt Nightingale (Vice-Chairman)

matt@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Julie Porter

julie@cuxtonpc.org.uk

Simon White

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Sarah Wilson

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John Manning

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Tracy Thorley

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Ward Councillors:

Matt Fearn matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk 07739 706432

Phil Filmer phil.filmer@medway.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk

01634 730951 / 07483 349613

The Parish Office: The Pavilion, Cuxton Recreation Ground, Bush Road, Cuxton ME2 1EZ Website: www.cuxtonpc.org.uk

Academy of Cuxton Schools

Spring Term 3 2024

Wednesday 3rd January –

Friday 9th February

Spring term 4 2024

Tuesday 20th February-

Thursday 28th March

To submit copy or to advertise an event in this newsletter, please contact the parish clerk by emailing: clerk@cuxtonpc.org.uk



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.