



# Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.17

Autumn 2019

## COMMUNITY LITTER PICK – COME AND JOIN US!



Come and join the litter pick on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Meet outside the Windmill at 10am and collect your high visibility jacket, rubbish bags/holders and

pickers. We would ask all parishioners to take more responsibility with their litter. Don't drop it in the first place and if possible, take a bag with you to collect rubbish etc whilst out and about. A big thank you to all those residents who do take their litter home and especially to those who regularly carry out litter picks in the parish. Your efforts have been noted!

## Public Consultation about the proposed changes to urgent care services in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley

A new Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) is being proposed at either Gravesham Community Hospital or Darent Valley Hospital by Autumn 2020. Both proposed options will bring together the existing urgent care services provided by the Minor Injuries Unit at Gravesham Community Hospital and the White Horse walk-in centre at Fleet Health Campus under one roof. There is a 12 week public consultation from 12 August to 4 November 2019. You can find further information on how to have your say at [www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.dartfordgraveshamswanleyccg.nhs.uk).

## Public Meeting In Meopham On the proposed changes to local NHS urgent care services

The Parish Council has organised a meeting for you to find out more about the above proposed changes. This will be on:

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 8.15pm  
at Meopham Village Hall**

Dr Sarah MacDermott, GP at Meopham Medical Centre and Chairman of the Clinical Commissioning Group, is to speak on the proposed changes.

## Lower Thames Crossing

Highways England have now published an update on their latest plans and the responses that they received during the ten week statutory consultation held at the end of 2018. Please visit <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/lower-thames-crossing-project-update-summer-2019/> for further details.

## What have we been doing in the Parish?

**Picnic on the Green:-** Thank you to everyone who came along to the recent Picnic on the Green and helped make it such a great success. It was the fourth year we have held the Picnic and it was the best yet! We were blessed with good weather which meant that lots of people came with their picnics and enjoyed

music from Dr Jazz and the children enjoyed our magician Mr Muddles and other entertainment. The WI sold out of lovely homemade cakes, Meopham Colts sold out of burgers and the Pimms Bar did well. Many thanks to everyone who ran a stall or helped in any way on the day. Proceeds from the raffle have been donated to Meopham Windmill Trust.

We are already discussing next year's event so if you have any ideas about what you would like to see at this annual community event please let us know.

**Tree Survey:-** These are now carried out every two years on parish council land. Following the last one in November 2018, we carried out an extensive program of tree maintenance work earlier this year. The next tree survey is due in November 2020.



**Vegetation cuts:-** This has been organised for vegetation surrounding the perimeter at Judson's Recreation ground and on Culverstone Green plus removing some small trees that have recently come down on various greens in the parish.

**Routine Maintenance Work:-** Our Service Contractor is currently working on a maintenance program of furniture on our greens including the notice board on Meopham Green and some of the benches here. He also continues to litter pick Judson's recreation ground five days a week and to sweep out and tidy the bus shelters fortnightly.

**New Parish Guide for Meopham:-** Members of council have been working on the new parish guide over the last few months. This will be delivered to every household in Meopham shortly.

**Issues in the Parish:-** We are continuing to report issues in the parish to the appropriate agencies. We have reported an issue to KCC Public Rights of Way on part of footpath NS285 for work to the surface here following the torrential rain back in June. We have been informed

that the work will be going out to tender. We continue to report any fly-tipping information we receive and have recently reported fly-tipping in Copthall Road and Whitehill Road which resulted in the rubbish being removed quickly.

**Parking and Traffic Issues:-** The council is continuing liaising with KCC Highways and the Gravesham Parking Enforcement team regarding issues in the parish. Currently we are looking into parking issues, speeding, road surfacing issues around Meopham Green, speed restriction signs in Melliker Lane and speeding in Norwood Lane as well as the usual vegetation cut back, pot holes and salt bin damage in the parish.

**Speed Watch Volunteers:-** Speeding on the A227 is an ongoing issue that is reported to the council so we are looking into the possibility of setting up Speed Watch in the parish.

<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>  
This scheme requires volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the parish office.

**Judson's Recreation Ground:-** We are renewing signage on the gates to the fenced in play area and are looking into installing a new piece of play equipment here. We are also looking to repair the vandalised spring rocker which is currently going through our insurance company as a claim.

**Pitfield Green Public Toilets:-** These continue to be open 7 days a week and are opened and cleaned by a parish council contractor. We had an extensive invisible leak underground at the toilets and the repair had to be carried out under the council's insurance back in the spring. We are now looking into installing an automatically flush system for the men's urinals which will help to save on water. We would like to thank all the volunteers who maintained the rose garden here in front of the building during the summer months.

**New Defibrillator in the Parish:-** The council have been successful in securing grant funding from Gravesham Borough

Council for a new defibrillator and cabinet for the parish. Following talks with BT we have been looking into purchasing the old telephone kiosk box at the station for £1 to house this. BT will be carrying out the repairs to box and we are now waiting for BT to carry out a consultation so they can remove the telephone and allow the council to adopt the kiosk.

**Police Matters:-**

We have liaised with the police regarding the many silver canisters found in the parish, particularly at Judson’s recreation ground, School Close Car Park and Meopham Green. The police will continue to patrol these areas plus other areas in the parish. If you do find any canisters, then please contact the parish council to give us details of the location or attend one of the police surgeries to report.



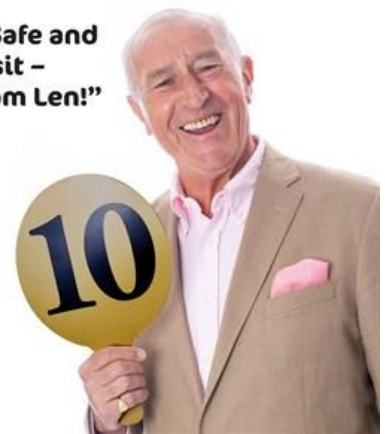
Police Surgery: Your new local PCSO is Rob Meader. He will be holding regular parish surgeries with the first ones on:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 16:30 – 17:30 Judson’s Rec**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Nov 10:00 – 11:00 Camer Park Café**

Vigo has a recycling point at Erskine Road which accepts glass, textiles, shoes and books as well as Trosley Country Park which accepts glass only.

**Get a Ten from Len!!**

**“I’ve had my Safe and Well home visit – it gets a 10 from Len!”**

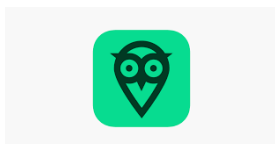


Picture courtesy of Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Did you know you can get a visit from the Kent and Fire Rescue Service? This service offers friendly advice to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, helps you to make your own escape plan and have a **FREE** Smoke Alarm fitted if you have a long- term health condition, are over 70, are a family with young children or are expectant parents. To book a visit either call 0800 923 7000 or search KFRS Safe and Well.

**Country Eye App**

Country Eye is an Information Reporting App for people living and working in rural Kent. The new app is being promoted by Kent Police and it allows people to report suspicious behavior, incidents, fly tipping and other crimes by uploading photos and capturing your exact GPS location. For information visit <https://countryeye.co.uk/>



**Recycling Points**

There is one recycling point in Meopham located at Camer Park, Camer Park Road which accepts glass, textiles and shoes.

**What is going on in the Parish?**

**Pop- Up Café – Harvel Village Hall**  
 Come and get together with old friends and new. Have a free cuppa (donations welcome) and a delicious slice of cake, everyone welcome, 10.30am to 12.30pm  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Community Café at St Johns Centre**  
 Please drop in for a chat and a cup of tea/coffee, Fridays from 2pm

**Building Blocks at St John’s Centre (term time only)**  
**Monday 9.30am – 11.30am**  
 Babies, toddlers and pre-school children with parents/carers welcome.  
 Contact Ann (01474 813960) for more information.

## R.N.L.I.'s Autumn Event

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at**

The Cricket Pavilion, Meopham Green  
Come for Christmas Cards, calendars and other gifts, home-made food and preserves for sale and light lunches served from Midday. Entrance £1 including coffee.

## Fun In The Dark

Kent Fire & Rescue Service are running a Fun In The Dark campaign for children. Spot the pumpkins and win a prize. The nearest Fire Station holding this event is Ash-cum Ridley on **24<sup>th</sup> October 2019**.

## Meopham Players Presents

"A Letter From the General"

Meopham Village Hall 8pm

Dates for your diary

24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Box Office: 0844 288 9708

[www.meophamplayers.co.uk](http://www.meophamplayers.co.uk)

[mp.bookingoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mp.bookingoffice@gmail.com)

## Remembrance



A service will be held at Meopham War Memorial, Meopham Green, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019, starting at 3pm

## The Friends of Meopham Parish Church

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Saturday the 16th November 2019 commencing at 10.00am until 1.00pm**

At the St John's Centre, Wrotham Road, Meopham DA13 0AA (next to St John the Baptist Parish Church)



## Carols On The Green

Carol singing and the turning on of the Christmas tree lights is on Meopham Green on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 8pm**

## Your Parish Council Members

### **Hook Green & Nurstead Ward**

Sue Gofton, Michael Mulheran

Jo McTavish and John Ogden

(Vice Chairman)

### **Camer & Meopham Green Ward**

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman),

Barbara Wade, Steve Innes and

Gordon Madgwick

### **Culverstone & Harvel Ward**

Max Bramer, Dawn Bramer,

Pat Luxford and Andy Rose

### **Parish Office Staff**

Sarah Eggesden (Clerk)

Nicki Jerram and Jo Barker (Clerical Assistants)

## Ways to contact us

- At the windmill 9am-12 noon Monday to Thursday
- Telephone - 01474 813779
- E-mail at [clerk@meopham.org](mailto:clerk@meopham.org)
- [www.meopham.org](http://www.meopham.org)
- Facebook 'Meopham Parish Council'
- Twitter @meophamPC

Parish Council meetings are due to take place at 7.30pm in the Windmill unless otherwise stated:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>29/10/19</b> | Full Council Meeting*                  |
| <b>12/11/19</b> | Environment and Amenities Committee    |
| <b>19/11/19</b> | Planning Applications Committee        |
| <b>26/11/19</b> | Administration and Resources Committee |
| <b>10/12/19</b> | Full Council Meeting*                  |
| <b>17/12/19</b> | Planning Applications Committee        |

\*Cricket Pavilion, Meopham Green