

# **NEWSLETTER**

**December 2012, no 20**

## **FOLKESTONE RACECOURSE**

Following our well-argued objections and appearance at the Government enquiry into the proposal to include 820 houses at the racecourse in the Shepway Development Plan for the next decade and more, the proposal was finally withdrawn by the District Council. The threat of being swamped by a major housing estate no longer exists.

Before this was announced, Northern Racing cancelled its programme of races for 2013. This is disappointing; it may be the prelude to applications for smaller numbers of houses – outside the District Plan – although the need for expensive infrastructure (especially roads and sewage) will remain. We have been given assurances that the site will be secured against intruders and will be properly maintained.

It has recently been announced that a major event will take place on the racecourse in July 2013 when the War and Peace show (held over the past 25 years in north Kent) will take place here. This will involve many historic military vehicles and armaments and many thousands of visitors. There will be 'enactments'!

The potential for disturbance from traffic and noise is considerable but we are pleased that the racecourse will be used, and are looking for ways to reduce the problems (eg by seeking alternative access routes to the site).

## **COUNCIL TAX**

A year ago, with careful budgeting we cut £1200 from our precept for 2012-13. This resulted in a saving of about £6 per dwelling over the year. We were pleased to do this because of the economic climate but it was a cut too far, and to maintain the financial health of the Parish Council we now have to ask SDC to return our precept for 2013-14 to last year's level. When council tax demands are received in the spring they will show a large percentage increase in the parish portion of the overall sum: this is merely a return to the 2010-11 figure.

## **FOOTPATH**

Following concerns about the overgrowth of the footpath up to and over the Farmers' Bridge, the Parish Council asked for help from the Community Payback scheme who have done an excellent job.

## **REMEMBRANCE**



*Fifty parishioners gathered at the War Memorial in bright sunshine on Remembrance Sunday to observe the national Minute's Silence and to share in the memory of the sacrifice and the courage of war. Wreaths were laid by the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.*



*The memorials include the names of eighteen residents who gave their lives in the two World Wars.*

## **WEATHER**

Recent heavy rain has drained away successfully in Stanford North: it appears that the work done to maintain the banks of the East Stour has been effective. The story for Westenhanger is not so happy. The run-off from the Hillside Farm field is not being carried away by the ditch so that it runs all over the road, causing misery and, when it freezes, danger. At the racecourse entrance, a blocked drain (badly positioned, anyway, causes flooding all across the road. Repeated requests by the Clerk for help from Kent Highways have produced some action but no permanent cure.

In the event of heavy snow, Stone Street on both sides of the parish will be cleared by snowploughs from Pent Farm on behalf of KCC.

**ROAD SALT** for use on the roads and public footpaths is available at both ends of the railway bridge in Stanford South (in yellow bins) and by the bridge in Church Lane (in a large sack). We are asked to point out that this is for use by residents in public areas ONLY.

## The Police Community Service Officers write...

For those of you visiting and may have long journeys please make sure that your car washer bottles are full and any necessities that you may need.

With everybody doing extra Christmas shopping, comes extra card board boxes and paper, and that's before the 25<sup>th</sup>, please do not leave on display outside what you've either bought or received for Christmas. This will show opportunist thieves the best places to target, also with the receiving of presents the most natural thing to do is to place them under the tree, but again with open curtains and dazzling lights this may also be tempting. Once the festive season has gone make sure that you know the dates for the refuse collections in your area and put it all out at the very last minute, so as not to attract any unwanted attention to your property.

With us out shopping in our local areas, please make sure that all wallets and purses are secure and that bags are safely zipped up, also when in a supermarket do not leave your trolley unattended whilst looking at the shelves, still be aware of where your bag is , distraction can be the most easiest and natural way to lose your belongings .



PCSO  
Debbie Bishop



PCSO  
Gavin Dodswell



PCSO  
Patrick Wise

**The above is an extract from the latest monthly report which the CPSOs write. These include advice on safety and protection and are displayed on our Notice Boards .**

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### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

East Kent is about to introduce a system that links information about current crime from all the Neighbourhood Watch schemes so that warnings about criminal activity, suspicious persons and descriptions can be widely circulated electronically.

Stanford contact .... Ken Hull

Westenhanger contact .... Martin de Wolf

**DOG FOULING .... We draw attention to the very severe penalties for allowing dogs to foul public places. Warnings have been displayed, SDC agents do patrol and fines have been enforced.**

The Village Hall Committee tell us they are still trying to find a new site, while also seeking ways of making the old hall usable.

**A decision on the first of the Sellindge wind turbines is expected from SDC on Dec 11.**

## BROADBAND

The joint committee from Lympne and Stanford which has obtained financial support from KCC got very close to signing a contract for the delivery of high speed broadband to the parishes. This was interrupted by legal problems at national level. These were resolved a few weeks ago and we believed that work would begin on a fibre-optic system by Easter. We have just had the following from the KCC officer responsible, George Chandler:

*"It is one step forward and three steps back. It seems that "a wireless operator" has claimed that they could meet the requirements of the tender and that they would consider a judicial challenge if not considered. KCC has given them until 9th January 2013 to provide evidence that they could meet the requirements (which we had set jointly). If they fail to meet the deadline, the process could resume its ponderous way, if they make a case, KCC could not afford to ignore it.... in which case the entire selection process would have to be re-run! Without wishing to pre-judge any decision, it seems madness ..... " !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

## CHRISTMAS

As part of Christmas goodwill, how good it would be if we all joined in giving opportunities such as the Food Bank initiatives run by many supermarkets.

### Church Events

Carols at The Drum	14 December 7.00pm
Blessing of the Crib	24 December 5.00pm
'Midnight' Service	24 December 11.30pm

*The Parish Council hopes that all the residents of the Parish of Stanford may enjoy a very happy time at Christmas and through the coming year.*

**Ken Bultitude, Chair**



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