

WOLDINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

www.woldingham.com

NOVEMBER 2007

Parish Councillors:

Jill Meekings, *Chairman*
(email: jill@meekings.co.uk)

Bobby Johnson, *Vice chairman*

Michael Batterbury
Rodney Fuller
Jeff Jeffery
Sally Marks
Julie Moylan
Colin Packington
Bill Williams

Parish Clerk: Karen Newman
(email: parish.clerk@woldingham.com)

See *Woldingham Directory* for full contact details.

Other Useful Contacts:

Local District Councillor:
Richard Butcher (tel:652275)

Local County Councillor:
Sally Marks
(email: sally.marks@surreycc.gov.uk)

Police Community Support Officer: Clive Harris-Ross
(voicemail: 01483 482111 + 10595)
(email: harris-ross@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

CHAIRMAN'S GREETINGS

At this time of year, it is often easy to be reflective but I want to look forward. 2008 is a very important year for Woldingham as we have Parish Council elections in May. Most of our councillors have stood for 8 years, since our inception, and now feel it is time to hand over to other residents with possibly new ideas etc. First printed in the Sunday Times in 2002, I am enclosing a Jeremy Clarkson write up which is a humourous look at why real democratic power is at the parish pump. (Just replace Brown for Blair as you read!). We hope some of you will be motivated to respond and come along to 'New' Councillor drinks in the Church Room at 7.30 p.m. on 4 December where you can meet your present councillors and fire us with questions on what we do. Please RSVP to Karen on 371266.

Finally, on behalf of all councillors, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, successful and peaceful 2008.

J. Meekings

COME AND ENJOY!



**BY POPULAR REQUEST,
OUR CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS RETURN!**

**AT THE CRESCENT
ON FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER
AT 6PM**

Join us again to turn on our Woldingham Christmas lights followed by a short Carol Service. The shops will be open and we are again stocking up on mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate. The Salvation Army and Guides are booked to lead some hearty singing so do come along with your family, friends and neighbours to start our Christmas Celebrations in style! Everyone welcome.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS GO ELECTRONIC.....

Tandridge District Council recently had a well organised 'Planning Forum' designed to explain the National changes being introduced in the planning process. We attended and have set out below some of the new arrangements which are to be effected.

The Government requires that by the beginning of April 2008 all planning applications must be submitted electronically on a standardised National Application Form. Comments from interested parties must also be sent in electronically via e-mail or interactive web sites. From the end of September 2007, applications are being considered by TDC on a daily basis and, if valid, interested parties will be notified straight away. This replaces the old system of the weekly list - it is now a daily list. The response time for comments and objections is still 21 days for new build, extensions etc. and 14 days for agricultural and notification of demolitions. The Council is required to respond to an application within 8 weeks.

Charges have been introduced if planning advice is being sought. For the domestic householder no fee is required but developers, surveyors, Parish Councils etc. are now being charged £150.00 per hour for advice.

The overall Government initiative is for Councils to dispense with all 'paper work' and deal with everything electronically. Although this will undoubtedly save time for TDC it means that your Parish Council is now handling applications on a continuous basis. Documents will still be exhibited in the Village Hall as before but all comments must be sent to TDC via e-mail at comaps@tandridge.gov.uk and/or through the interactive system on a regular basis.

R. Johnson

LORRIES OFF RURAL DETOURS ("LORDS")

Following on from our last newsletter re the misdirection of traffic down unsuitable village roads by Satnav equipment, the problem appears not to be one that is only concerning our village. We were invited to attend the LORDS inaugural meeting formed by a number of Parishes in Surrey. This was well attended by a cross section of Surrey Parishes together with a number of District and County Councillors and two M.P.s from the County.

The meeting concluded by producing a mission statement aimed at reducing the detrimental impact of large Heavy Goods Vehicles on our

rural communities. The M.P.s present also undertook to take the matter up in Parliament. We will be supporting any initiative from this.

B. Williams

OUR MARDEN WOODS VOLUNTEERS

With the arrival of autumn, our volunteer group has met to recommence Hazel coppicing in Great Church wood. This will let in the light to improve the bluebells and encourage new ferns to grow. The volunteer group meets just once a month for 2 - 3 hours of varied work through the winter months. Many hands make light work and fresh volunteers would be most welcome. Please contact me on 653112 for more details.

C. Packington

NATURE IN WOLDINGHAM



photo by Judy Tapley

Popping up overnight on the Green, this beautiful fungus raised its head.

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

At a recent meeting, I was amazed to hear that only 1 in every 200 emergency calls to the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service were actually for a real fire.

There are far too many false alarms and we must all ensure that we do our bit to ensure safety in our homes. The local Fire Station at Godstone will come out to visit any home to give free advice on Fire Safety. Please phone 0800 085 0767 for further information. Sadly the very few deaths from fire occur in the very first few minutes of a fire starting - and usually before a Fire Crew can reasonably get there. It is therefore essential that smoke alarms are fitted and working in every home. Please check your alarm today.

S. Marks

CAR PARKING AT THE STATION

With the revised charges in the TDC car park, we have seen an increase in 'free' parking on both Church Road and the main Woldingham Road. This has produced many residents' complaints. We assure residents

that we have arranged a meeting with TDC parking officials, and the Police, and will be striving to make these areas safer for our village.

We are also aware of the non-rural yellow lines in the station vicinity - these are to be re-painted in the future. J. Meekings

OUR LOWER SPEED RESTRICTIONS

At the beginning of the year, Surrey Highways informed us that the proposals for reduced speed limits in Woldingham had been approved and would go for public advertisement and operation later this year. Funding had been made available to facilitate this. They even forwarded us documentation to show where every new sign and even repeaters would go. We are disappointed to now hear that the project is being delayed to early next year, more than

likely to the new financial year 2008/09.

We would like to remind the village that this initiative follows hard work by village residents led by Jeff Jeffery who proposed the restrictions and pushed for the whole scheme to be adopted. When this Parish Council was first formed in 2000 most of us who were willing to seek election discussed and agreed that if we were elected we would be non-political in our operation. We would only act for the good of the village. This has always been the case, so any suggestion that this was a 'political' project should be firmly discounted.

We welcome the speed reductions **whenever** they finally arrive! This will mean that we need more volunteers to carry out our Community Speedwatch. If you are interested, and motivated to keep cars below these limits, please contact PCSO Clive.

J. Jeffery

OUR ROADS

Overgrown hedges are making some of our roads a driving hazard. Many have now spread over verges and force traffic to drive well away from the road edge creating a danger. Pedestrians also have no option but to walk on the road when cars approach. Please help by trimming your hedges appropriately and regularly. If you look into the hedge, you will see the original cut width of the hedge. The cure may seem drastic and look dreadful at first but new growth will soon remedy this. If nothing is done, we will be losing more wing mirrors and maybe serious damage to our cars and walkers.

Also, SCC has advised that if you are on a private street and not maintaining it adequately, then they can come to fill in your pot holes and will charge you! This applies as SCC does have a responsibility to ensure public rights of way are kept open. We have a particular road where this is currently an issue so talk to your neighbours, get work done and ensure your roads are pot-hole free.

R. Fuller



photo courtesy of Woldingham Magazine



LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

We are pleased that Alan Simmons of Lunghurst Road has kindly offered to help us with the monitoring and reporting of low flying commercial aircraft over Woldingham into Biggin Hill. Any resident who is equally concerned about such incidents can also make a report giving date, time, direction, a description of the aircraft, together with their name, address and postcode. They should then receive a written report of the incident from BHA. All reports should be made to the Comments Line on 01959 578580.

These incident reports assist the action group "Flightpath" in their close monitoring of BHA activities which appear to be trying to expand their use of the airport beyond the terms of the lease with the London Borough of Bromley.

M. Batterbury

DID YOU GET THIS YEAR'S MUST HAVE ITEM...?



photo courtesy of Woldingham Magazine

Reusable, ethically produced and carbon neutral. Our bags for a better world – just right to replace the plastic bags from the shop. We have a few left at £1.50 each. Call Jill on 652024 for yours now!

UNWANTED GOODS

Some useful websites for those of you who have items you no longer require. Of course Tandridge District Council will collect large items from your

home – but will charge you for it. If you use Furnistore – see below – they will not only pick them up from you without charge but you will know that others will also benefit from them.

www.furnistore.co.uk
Furnistore (a local charity set up to help people facing hardship and real need) will collect certain items from our area. They then pass them on to those in need OR sell them at a reasonable cost in order to support their giving. Items (eg: white goods, furniture etc) must be clean, in good condition and with relevant fire labels. Phone: 08450 544089

www.surreywaste.info is also very useful with a link to a 'Swap It Surrey' website.

There is also an excellent book published by Surrey County Council with details of just about everything you might want to dispose of and how you can do it in an environmentally friendly way. This can also be downloaded. Look up www.surrey.gov.uk and then click on **environment** and then **recycling**.

S. Marks

LOCAL EVENT

This Christmas keep the memory of your loved one alive by sponsoring one of our lights. Your local Lights to Remember event is being held on 9th December at 4 pm at St Johns The Evangelist Church, Clareville Road, Caterham.

To sponsor a light and make a dedication please call 01883 832648.

From Marie Curie Caterham

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday December 4th New Councillors' Drinks (7.30 p.m.)

Friday December 14th (6 p.m.) Christmas celebrations

2008

April 26th Litter Pick, Village Green 9.45 a.m.

Oct 25th Litter Pick, Village Green 9.45 a.m.

Parish Council meetings:

Jan 25th*

Feb 28th

Mar 27th*

Apr 24th

May 29th*

*preceded by Community Police Action Group (7pm)