

Hackington Parish Council Community

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 February 2022

Welcome to our first community newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of our community newsletter. Thank you for signing up. We have had a very good response to our invitation with almost 50 households interested in receiving the newsletter. We are hoping more residents will join in time. So please spread the word.

We aim to publish this newsletter bi-monthly hoping to bring you news, updates, interesting stories as well as show what we have been doing on your behalf. More importantly, we would like to hear from you. Do you have stories you would like to share with others? Would you like to contribute to any of the issues raised in this newsletter?

We would like to hear from you, so please send us your feedback on this issue and your contributions and helpful suggestions on newsletter@hackington-pc.gov.uk.

WHEN WILL THE PUB RE-OPEN?



We are all very keen to find out when the Tyler's Kiln pub will re-open. Many residents have been asking this question. Although we have heard from the landlord that he does plan to re-open, we don't know when it will be. In the meantime, we have applied for the pub to become a community asset, however, all this does (if accepted) is halt any future sale of the pub, giving the community six months to come up with a right to bid for the pub. We, as well as many residents, are concerned that we are missing (and may lose) this important village amenity, especially with the lack of a village shop (which the pub used to offer).

SPOTLIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

"We cannot stop climate change, but we can, and must, all do our bit to slow it down." (Monty Don)



How are we responding to the climate emergency?

DECLARE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will declare a climate emergency. According to the Local Government Association, over 300 councils have declared climate emergency to-date. Doing so recognises that climate change is happening and that the council needs to act on the causes and impacts of climate change.

SET UP A COMMUNITY LED ACTION GROUP

We would like to actively encourage the setting up of a community-led climate change action group which will meet regularly in order to evaluate local issues impacting climate change and come up with an action plan for the parish. We will actively support, encourage and promote the work of the group, including funding if required.

ASSESS COUNCIL'S ACTIONS

We will consider what actions can be undertaken at the Council level in terms of saving energy, minimising waste, etc. For example, climate change strategy could feed into our neighbourhood plan.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

We plan an effective communications campaign via traditional means and online media.

NETWORK

We will engage with relevant local and national networks on climate change and share examples of good practices.

TAKING SMALL STEPS, BUT THINKING OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

Finally, we recognise that change will not happen instantly and it may not be visible or felt immediately. Small, consistent, and well-focused steps in the right direction will lead to a cumulative

gain.

If you would like to be part of the climate change action group, please get in touch with us.

HIGHWAYS PLANNING



We are currently pursuing three priorities for improvements to the roads in the parish in consultation with community members who had been involved in developing the Highways Plan with Nigel Cronin when he was Chair of the HPC:

DROPPED KERBS

Installation of four dropped kerbs at the Hackington Road-Link Road junction in order to provide access for wheelchairs and prams across the junction. The request has been submitted to Kent County Council for consideration in the next financial year.

REPAINTING OF THE DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

Repainting of the double yellow lines on the right-hand side of Hackington Road opposite the pub (facing north) and possibly extending them northwards as far as house number 36. The purpose would be to avoid bottlenecks caused by parked cars on Hackington Road when buses stop to drop off passengers at the bus stops on either side of the road. Request to be submitted to Canterbury City Council for consideration in the next financial year.

TACKLING THE PROBLEM OF SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Action to address the perennial problem of speeding by motorists driving through the village from both north and south ends, especially at non-peak hours. Various strategies have been tried over the years without much success, including the installation of two-speed indicators. One ran on an expensive battery that needed replacing, and it was stolen soon after the device was installed! At our meeting on 13th January 2022, it was agreed that it would be useful to gather fresh data on the volume and speed of passing traffic through Tyler Hill through the temporary installation of wires across the road. This is something that we should be able to install without the need for external

funding, and the data would provide a new 'baseline' on which to develop appropriate speed calming strategies.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS



Four years ago, the university drew up a fifty-year development plan of the university-owned sites around Blean and Alcroft Grange. An online meeting took place recently with the university developers, a Canadian property developer team named Avison, and one of the Parish Councillors attended. Avison proposes to build two thousand new homes and a new primary school on land in Blean Parish north of Tyler Hill Road. Alcroft Grange is not included in these current plans. New access to all these houses through Blean village is proposed.

It was agreed that we would be opposed to the scale of the proposals and would present strong evidence to resist the whole proposals, based on the impact on the road system and conditions through Tyler Hill. The university is not offering the site to CCC for development and there are no plans for the university to sell the land, merely to develop it themselves. In terms of the local plan, (which is due for renewal this year, after the local election) Canterbury City Council will look at future

development sites around the district to see what is required and then go out to consultation.

BUS SERVICE



WE NEED A RELIABLE BUS SERVICE

We have written again to the office of MP Rosie Duffield regarding the unsatisfactory provision of bus service for Tyler Hill residents, during the lengthy road closure last summer. This was in response to her first email to them (which they had simply forwarded to Stagecoach) and the unsatisfactory reply from Stagecoach. We were subsequently advised (by the office of MP Rosie Duffield) that UK Power Networks were responsible for the road closure, and there were several communication errors prior to the road closure. This meant that short notice was given for the road closure, however, this contradicts the fact that Tyler Hill residents received plenty of notice regarding this closure.

CONSULTATION WITH STAGECOACH

Stagecoach Manager had reiterated to the MP's office that a shuttle bus could not be agreed upon between themselves and UK Power Networks. He had also reported that Link Road was too narrow

for a bus service, which again contradicts services previously provided by Stagecoach (on Link Road) during previous road closures. He could not guarantee that this problem would not happen again. The bus stop on Link Road is in fact still there and historically during road closures, buses would pass via Calais Hill into Link road. It was suggested taking a photograph of the Link road bus stop as evidence. We would like Stagecoach to put it in writing to us, stating that they cannot provide a service when the main road through Tyler Hill is closed in the future. We will be writing to Stagecoach to invite them to a meeting with the councillors to look at the route and discuss the provision of service.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



BLEAN WOODS RE-WETTING PROJECT

You may have heard of projects being carried out across the Blean throughout the last ten months. These projects fall under the title of 'Climate Change resilience for Blean woods and Seasalter Levels' but you may also hear it called 'Re-wetting the Blean'. When it comes to Climate Change in the UK, Kent is on the front line. Changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures mean that many habitats are at risk, including the wildlife that lives there. Together with Kent Wildlife Trust and Canterbury City Council, the RSPB has embarked on an ambitious landscape-scale project to restore habitats and boost biodiversity in the local landscape. The Blean Woods re-wetting project will deliver hydrological infrastructure, seeking to reduce the loss of water and create better, wetter habitats for woodland specialist breeding birds and invertebrates. The project will also include community volunteering to increase local engagement with the development of the site, a bog

restoration project, and the introduction of grazing as a management tool.

Although our project is in the final few months of its delivery, we are always keen for new volunteers to join us. There are still plenty of dams to be built across the Blean complex of woodlands and everyone is welcome to come along (just bring some wellies!). There is more about this exciting project [here](#). Any questions about the project, events, volunteering, or just a general inquiry - contact Brad Andrews on Bradley.Andrews@rspb.org.uk.

TYLER HILL MEADOW LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

The Management Committee is seeking enthusiasts who would like to help by being surveyors of various aspects of the Reserve. We have surveyors of flowers, trees, the pond, and butterflies. And we are seeking surveyors of the following: amphibians, small mammals, birds, and reptiles, all of which have been observed in the Reserve. Also grasses. If you would like to help, please contact Ray Evison on 01227-471743 or email: ray.evison@hackington-pc.gov.uk.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED



[Japanese knotweed](#) is one of the four most invasive non-native plant species in the UK.

Somehow it has found its way to the corner of Summer Lane and Hackington Road. As you can see from the picture above, it has been fenced off to prevent it from spreading. The site was inspected and treated on the 4th November 2021. However, it could not be inspected during the winter months when dormant but an inspection will be carried out in the growing season. This site will be treated every year for active growth to ensure it is controlled within the Highway. **It should be left undisturbed!**

If you spot Japanese knotweed on your property, you must stop it from spreading further. According to the government's guidance: 'you do not legally have to remove Japanese knotweed from your land, but you could be prosecuted for causing it to spread in the wild and causing a nuisance.'

PARISH WONDERS



WHAT BROUGHT PARISH COUNCIL INTO BEING?

How did we get here? In the 1890s the Government of the day thought that local communities should have more say in the running of their affairs. So, in 1894 Civil Parish and Town Councils were created with pretty well the same boundaries as the existing church or ecclesiastical boundaries.

Thus, Hackington Civil Parish covered all the areas of the present St Stephen's ward of the City Council plus nearly all of the present Hackington Parish area. It was a huge area, in the main a rural, wooded and pastured area. It stretched from the River Stour in the south to the Radfall in Chestfield in the north and from Mayton Farm in the east to No 9 Link Road in the west (more of that next time).

BOUNDARY MARKINGS

Actually, you can see some of the original boundary markings to this day. One of them is situated outside one of the properties on Hackington Road. It has a large BLEAN visible on it indicating that you are facing Blean Parish. On the other side, but not visible, is a large letter H. The majority of the parish at the time it was created was devoted either to cattle farming, grain farming, hop farming, or the coppicing of chestnut trees. **Can you find where it is?**

(Wat Tyler)

WHO ARE UNCLI AND ANTI ON THE VILLAGE GREEN?



By Wat Tyler

'Prompted by scarecrows in Blean, I thought I would make one for Tyler Hill. I decided to display him on June 15 2019 on the anniversary of Wat Tyler's death in 1381. He was soon followed by Mollie Mae, a display manikin beautifully dressed in a black evening gown, a shawl, and blue hair. She was accompanied by a boy child, Max, then Millie, a girl in a doll's pram, and their dog Minnie. (I think these were donated by a family from Tankerton). Initially, Wat was a standard scarecrow, with stuffed clothing, at the cost of £12 from Oxfam.

Since then they have all morphed into a wire net frame, stuffed with waste cling film, gleaned from Lidl's! This makes them permanent figures and easier to be dressed. I attempt to dress the family in seasonal garb like the bubble wrap in 2020 (they were in their own bubble) and waste plastic in

2021, this with a note to COP22. I doll them up for Easter with flowery hats and then sandals and colourful umbrella material in the summer. I take them home in November for a good wash and brush up but also as they could be very vulnerable around Bonfire night.'

In July 2020 Kent Online featured a story about our people on the bench. It seems that the opinions in the parish are [divided](#).

VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES



Blean Hackington and Tyler Hill Society Meetings and Events

On **Monday 21st March at 7.30pm** there will be a talk entitled '**Wildlife Crime**' by guest speaker Dr David Roberts of the Durrell Institute at the University of Kent. Free to members/small charge to non-members. Refreshments and discussion afterwards.

Monthly Coffee Club at the Memorial Hall

Coffee club was cancelled in January due to Covid concerns, but it is hoped to resume on **Wednesday 2nd February 11am – 1pm**.

Gardeners' Club

Due to Covid concerns, Gardeners' Club will not meet during January or February 2022, but will

resume on Wed 16th March 2022 7.30 – 9.30pm.

Quiz Night at the Memorial Hall

This annual fundraiser in aid of the memorial hall was due to take place on Saturday 8th January, but has been postponed until either **Saturday 19th or Saturday 26th March** – the new date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

All bookings will automatically be rolled over to the new date, but if you haven't already booked a table – or would like to take part – please phone Jen on 01227 471322 or email nbtaylor@btopenworld.com.

Up to eight team members per table; Cost: £6 per head

Bring your own food, drink and glasses. Raffle for prizes on the night!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Villagers, their friends and families are warmly welcomed to join in a picnic and party at the Memorial Hall and recreation ground taking place over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend of June 3-5th 2022.

Further details to be announced soon.

Tyler Hill Gardeners' Society Flower Show and Produce Competition

After cancellations in 2020 and 2021, we are delighted to see this popular annual event return on Saturday 16th July 2022!

Regular Clubs running at the hall (please see notice board outside the hall for contact details):

Rock Choir: Mondays 9am-12pm

Kendo: Mondays 7-8.30pm

Yoga: Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm; Fridays 9.30-10.30am

Thai Chi: Mondays 5.30-6.30pm; Wednesdays 5-6pm; Sundays 2-3.30pm

Little Bubbles Messy Play: Tuesdays 9.30am-1pm

Tippy Toes: Thursdays 10-11.30am

Canterbury Photographic Society: Meets monthly – first Wednesday of the month 6.45-10pm

Gardeners' Club: Third Wednesday of the month 7.30-9.30pm (from March 2022)

FLOWER, PRODUCE, AND CRAFT SHOW - 17th JULY



This is our Village Show, a time for demonstrating the wealth of skills within Tyler Hill and surrounding area. It's not the Chelsea Flower Show ...it's all **Just For Fun!**

Join in with the traditional village event by entering a cake, photo, plant maybe your homegrown herbs. Full details will be found on the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall website from mid-April.

In the meantime plan your veggies, infuse your gin, practise your banana loaf, knit, crochet, paint and snap some photos! Updates will be on the Tyler Hill Community Group on Facebook.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on **17th March**, at **19:30** in the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall. This will be preceded by the Parish Assembly at 19:00.

All residents are welcome.

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Hackington Parish Council

