

Hackington Parish Council Community

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 15 July 2023

THE PERILS OF HEDGE CUTTING FOR NESTING WILD BIRDS



Image credit: RSPB

One of our residents recently highlighted hedge cutting by a farmer alongside their road. Of course, this action can be useful if the hedge is obscuring sight lines or roadside signage but it can be harmful to wildlife and the balance of interests can be tricky.

It is an offence to take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird when it is in use or being built. Although this does not normally apply to garden hedges, the [RSPB advice for householders](#) is to avoid cutting your hedge during the bird breeding season – which is typically from the end of March to August. If your hedge really needs to be cut in this period – for example if there are safety considerations or the hedge is partially blocking a pavement – it is essential to check for nests before cutting. If there is a nest, leave a 'buffer zone' around the nest to minimise the risk to the nesting birds.

Cllr John Lavery, Conservation

SPEEDING TRAFFIC ON HACKINGTON ROAD



At the July Parish Council meeting, some residents expressed concern about the speed of traffic through the village on Hackington Road, a concern which is shared by the Parish Councillors and probably by everyone in the village.

As readers will know we commissioned Kent Highways to conduct a speed survey, known as an ATC (Automated Traffic Count) on Hackington Road last year. The ATC measured the average speeds of vehicles crossing wires laid across the road at two places and the results showed that at both points, average speeds were within a so-called 'acceptable' margin above the speed limit, 32 mph being the highest average. This means that without new data to show that average speeds have increased since the survey was conducted to a figure approaching 35 mph, our proposals for traffic calming measures

such as speed cushions (as have been installed on the hill below Giles Lane), lack the required evidence to support them and it is consequently difficult to make a case to KCC for them. We hope, however, that the implementation of the 30 mph speed limit on Canterbury Hill will have a calming effect on average speeds on Hackington Road.

The Parish Council has also been in discussion with Kent Highways about a proposal to install a pedestrian crossing between the Tyler Kiln pub and the bus stop. However, this proposal has also been turned down by Kent Highways on the grounds that "there isn't the footfall". Apparently, given the volume of traffic on the road, as measured in the ATC survey, there would need to be "at least 78 pedestrians crossing the road in each direction, every hour for the four busiest hours" in order to "reach the threshold" needed to justify a pedestrian crossing. This is frustrating as it seems to be a virtually impossible threshold to reach. Furthermore, their view was that without sufficient footfall, putting in a controlled crossing "could decrease safety".

Finally, we discussed the alternative of a "raised table in the road". Although this might, by reducing traffic speeds at that point, assist pedestrians indirectly, Kent Highways felt that the proposal would probably receive objections from nearby residents and bus operators. Nevertheless, in the absence of a pedestrian crossing, we feel it is worth following up on this proposal.

Cllr Richard Cullen, Highways

CPR/DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING



As you probably know, the Parish Council looks after a defibrillator which is mounted on the wall of the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall. It is serviced regularly and our clerk gets monthly updates on its operation.

At the last Parish Council meeting one of the residents suggested that we facilitate CPR/defibrillator training which we can set up as part of our maintenance package. We are trying to gauge the level of interest from the residents. The training is free but the capacity is limited to 12 people, so participation will be on the basis of first come first served. The training is likely to take place on a Sunday morning in either November or December. If you would be interested in taking part, please email ania.bobrowicz@hackington-pc.gov.uk.

IT DEVICE RECYCLING SCHEME



A device recycling scheme has been launched for residents, businesses and charities to dispose of unwanted IT equipment. The scheme aims to refurbish the devices and make them usable to those who have no access to such devices. More on this scheme [here](#).

Cllr Ania Bobrowicz, Climate Change Action Group

ALAN JOHN BICKER OBITUARY



In Loving Memory of Alan John Bicker 1945-2023

Alan, a long-time resident of Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, sadly died at home on 18th July 2023. He was a devoted Dad, Grandfather, and Friend to many. A man of the land, a scholar, and a playwright. He loved the soil beneath his feet and the books that filled his shelves. Alan had a colourful, well travelled

life and [lectured in Anthropology](#) for many years at Kent University. His vision for a better world and his efforts to make it a reality will always inspire. He will be much missed.

TYLER HILL MEMORIAL HALL ACTIVITIES



Blean, Hackington, and Tyler Hill Society Meetings and Events

Events will resume in September.

Gardeners' Club Meetings and Events

The next Gardeners' Club event will be on **Wednesday, 16th August 2023 at 6:30pm**. Gardeners will meet at the Memorial Hall to visit 3 local gardens and finish for a drink in the Tylers Kiln. All welcome.

Monthly Coffee Club at the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall

The monthly coffee club will meet again on **Wednesday, 9th August 2023, at 2:30pm**. Entry £1.

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

Bowles Society: Every Thursday evening at 7pm

Canterbury Photographic Society: First Wednesday of the month 6.45-10pm

Gardeners' Club: Third Wednesday of the month: 7.30-9.30pm

Kendo: Mondays 7-8.30pm

Rock Choir: Mondays 10-11:30am

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

Tippy Toes: Thursdays 10-11.30am

Yoga: Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm; Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am (Chair yoga); Fridays 9.30-10.30am

Zumba Gold: Fridays 11-11:50am

Please note that all Tyler Hill Memorial Hall activities are run by the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall committee, not the Hackington Parish Council. Therefore for any inquiries, please contact tylerhillmemorialhall@gmail.com.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday,**
7th September at 7:30 pm in the Tyler Hill Memorial Hall.
All residents are welcome.

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