

Kennington News



SUMMER 2009 Published by Kennington Community Forum

THREE NEW NHS DENTISTS

THE new NHS dental surgery at the Post Office in Faversham Road was due to open on 1 August.

Initially there will be one dentist but two more will join when the first-floor tenants move out and extra surgeries are added.

The practice, Chopra and Associates of Sittingbourne, will be

open six days a week. New patients were able to register from 23 July.

The surgery and Post Office will have separate entrances. Parking arrangements remain the same although the practice is hoping to provide additional parking space.

The company sent out 45,000 flyers to homes in the district.

Yvonne says goodbye

MORE than 100 parishioners gave the Rev Yvonne Murphy a rousing send-off at Phoenix Community School.

Kennington's very popular vicar has left after five years to become vicar in the High Wycombe team ministry, and head chaplain to High Wycombe Shopping Centre.

Farewell gifts included a tapestry of the Tree of Life and a cheque which will be used to buy pots of flowers and books. A spirited version of Goodbye

Dolly Grey, was sung with new words written especially for the occasion!

The Rev Yvonne preached at St Mary's for the last time on 5 July then, with her husband Brendon, joined the Friends of St Mary's on their coach outing to New Romney.

After a ride on the miniature railway they had tea at the Secret Garden, Mersham le Hatch, then went to Great

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



Off to pastures new . . . the Rev Yvonne and Hunny

Red Arrows help Fayre to raise record £8,700

KENNINGTON Summer Fayre exceeded all expectations attracting nearly 2,000 visitors and raising £8,700.

The appearance of the Red Arrows was a huge success.

"We did more trade in the hour before and after their fly-past than during any other time," said one stall-holder.

Takings by charities and support organisations were 20 per cent higher than any previous year.

Philip Sims, the Fayre Chairman, said: "We had stalls from 31 local organisations and built on the ideas developed from last year's very successful Fayre.

"The Committee are extremely pleased with the outcome."



The climbing wall supplied by Kingswood Ltd attracted a continuous queue. "I believe we only disappointed a handful of youngsters when we had to close," said Cherie Morgan, Development Manager for the Kingswood Grosvenor Hall site.

"We recorded 159 climbers on the day and their ages ranged from four to over 60. We're certainly looking forward to being a part of next year's Fayre."

The arena events included the A.T.C.

Band, a Tae Kwon Do display, and the choir and dancers of Downs View Infants' School.

Using the top part of the Recreation Ground for car parking, was welcomed by visitors, stallholders and residents of the roads adjacent to Ulley Road.

"Our marshalling of the cars in and out of the field was much simplified by the Police marking out the entrance with 'No Waiting' cones," said Mr A Baker, one of the parking managers.

SWINE FLU PRECAUTIONS

As cases of swine flu are diagnosed in Kennington Dr James Sharp of New Hayesbrook surgery tells residents: "We have been preparing carefully to support you." SEE PAGE TWO

New roof soon for Memorial Shelter

TWELVE months of intensive fundraising has culminated in the Forum achieving the target needed to start restoration of the Memorial Shelter.

An initial grant from Kent County Council's Small Capital Community fund kick-started the fundraising process, and the award of a substantial grant by English Heritage in February marked a significant milestone.

Further generous donations have been received from all sectors of the local community – from companies including Coty and Premier Foods, through organisations such as the Territorial Army, to the many private contributions of all sizes that have helped us to achieve our goal of £9,500 for this phase.

The Forum's display of information about

SPONSOR A SHINGLE AND HELP TO SAVE THE MEMORIAL SHELTER

Print the name you would like to appear on each certificate. This can be an individual, a family or an organisation.

CERTIFICATE 1
 CERTIFICATE 2.....
 CERTIFICATE 3.....
 CERTIFICATE 4.....

Send this form, together with payment of £10 per certificate, to:
 Kennington Community Forum,
 Memorial Shelter Project, 47 Broadhurst Drive, Kennington Ashford TN24 9RQ.
 Please make cheques payable to Kennington Community Forum
 memorialshelter@aol.com 07896 688359

CHRIS MORLEY reports on his campaign to restore the Kennington War Memorial Shelter

the project at the Kennington Fayre sparked much interest, and saw the successful launch of our "Sponsor A Shingle" campaign. This raised over £120 on the day, and to date more than forty shingles have been sponsored.

A great deal of additional information about the memorial has now come to light. Mrs Rosemary Plommer, whose father Mr Walter Howard chaired the original Kennington Memorial Committee, provided invaluable detail and documents from the initial project.

In turn, these led to the County Archive at Maidstone where minutes of the Ashford UDC were found highlighting discussion on the siting and design of the memorial. Ashford Borough Council's Planning team then helped us to locate the original planning applications to develop the site – dating from 1949 and 1950, these are still on file in the Civic Centre.

From these we now know the details of the agreed design – for example, the specification of the original roof shingles – and the project will use this information to ensure that the restoration is faithful to the original plans.

The Forum is now obtaining final approvals from English Heritage and Ashford BC, and completing negotiations with our contractors. We hope these will be concluded in the next few weeks and that, 59 years after the Memorial Shelter's initial dedication, it will be graced with a new roof in the autumn.



FUN AND GAMES ALL THE WAY

A SUMMER of fun has been lined up at Towers School. Activities during the holiday include creative art, film, cookery and archery. Among free activities are fishing, gardening, first-aid and football.

There will be trips to Chessington World of Adventure, Port Lympne Zoo, the Saatchi Gallery in London and Gillingham Ice Rink.

Charlton Athletic football events and games make up the Summer Slam, to be held on 10 and 14 August. For more details contact Marie Boniface, Community Youth Tutor, on 07774 554207.

All activities require parental consent forms. Some activities require booking and are on a first come, first served, basis.

STUDENTS WILL VISIT ORPHANAGE

TWO students from Towers Sixth Form Centre are taking part in a cultural visit to Uganda.

Danielle Sillett and Rachel Newland have been chosen for their academic achievements and their willingness to take on additional school responsibilities. During the three-week trip they will spend time in an orphanage helping children understand different cultures.

Swine flu: We are ready to support you

SWINE FLU has fortunately proved to be mostly a mild illness despite the more dramatic newspaper and television presentations of it. Typical symptoms include a temperature and a cough together with tiredness and for some, a runny nose, joint aches and a headache. It can be treated at home by taking simple painkillers, resting and drinking plenty of fluids. Some individuals with chronic long term medical problems or the very young or elderly are more at risk of complications.

By Dr James F. Sharp
 Clinical Lead, North Ashford
 Influenza Consortium

So what should you do if you develop symptoms?

You should ring the Swine Flu information line on 0800 1513513 or visit the website www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu to see if you really have flu

before ringing your doctor's surgery. There is treatment available should you need it and you should stay at home unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

You can protect others from catching it by staying at home until you are completely recovered, using tissues (to cover your nose and mouth when you cough and

sneeze) and putting them in the bin and washing your hands carefully.

We expect that a vaccination will be available in the autumn with priority given to the young and elderly and those with chronic medical conditions.

Meanwhile we have been preparing carefully to support you. We would encourage you to visit the website address above for more valuable information.

The right time to phone your doctor: Back Page

□ Almost 260 patients a month are failing to keep appointments booked at New Hayesbank surgery. This puts added pressure on the appointment system and means there is less availability for other patients. Please contact the practice if you are unable to keep your appointment.

FORUM REPORTS ON THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

It's looking good at Bockhanger

THE community project at Bockhanger has received funding of £16,790, Kennington Forum chairman Pat Bishop told the annual meeting at Towers School.

The kickwall is now in place. The maze and old wall have been removed and turfed. Soon the hedging will be planted and planters have been ordered.

A bench will be put in and the area in front of goal will have a grass mat put down later in the year.

The police community support officers raised £5,615. Out of this the Forum has bought fencing for the outside area for the play group in the hall and given a donation to the Braethorpe amenities fund. The rest will be put towards the Bockhanger square project.

□ **The Forum's** Planning sub-group has inspected applications for the area and objected where necessary.

Concerns have enabled some alterations to be made to the 75-bed care home proposed for the original site of the Phoenix School in Bybrook Road. There was one section that would have been let out but it is now to be exclusively for the elderly and dementia sufferers.

□ **The incident** of a burnt-out vehicle in Towers View was discussed. It was suggested that a mobile CCTV could be deployed in the area.

CHARITY'S £500,000

□ **KENNINGTON Parochial Charity** has nearly £500,000 following the sale of the almshouses in The Street. Their remit is relief of the poor of the parish. One of the trustees, councillor John Kemp, will be invited to give a presentation to the Forum.

□ **PLANS** to develop Grosvenor Hall as a multi-million pound educational activity centre have been approved by Ashford Borough Council.

Kingswood Educational Activity Centres say their proposals for the former police training college will create 150 jobs and provide some of the UK's best outdoor educational facilities. The 50-acre site is due to open next March.

Forum chairman Pat Boorman said: "As land south of the area could be developed for housing we will press for access to be via Trinity Road."

□ **Chris Morley** was congratulated for raising most of the money need for the Memorial Shelter repairs.

□ **The Forum's** application for a Town Green at Beechholme Drive will be decided very soon. The delay was caused by the county council election.

□ **It is hoped** to obtain a Sports England grant to improve the pavilion on The Ridge.

□ **Any ideas** to improve facilities for the elderly of the area would be welcome.

□ **Following** the success of the War Memorial Shelter restoration appeal it is hoped to obtain funding to renovate the pump house in Upper Vicarage Road.

□ **The chairman** thanked Peter Newson, who has produced several Newsletters, and hard-working Forum secretary Sandra Dunn, who is also the Kennington contact for the *Kentish Express*.

□ **The Forum's** bank balance is £4,035.

□ **Pat Boorman** was re-elected chair. Other officers: vice-chair Phil Sims; secretary Sandra Dunn; treasurer Chris Woolgar; core group: David Chandler, Bill Clark, Chris Morley and Sue White.

Ramble will help Scouts get their HQ

THE 1st Kennington Scouts have raised almost a third of the £330,000 needed for a new HQ which they hope will be ready for their centenary in 2011.

"We have an approved design and a favourable tender but rapid progress with the appeal is vital," said the Rev Canon Roger Martin, the group's new fund-raising chairman.

"We will be concentrating on one or two special events and applying for grants."

The Scouts' appeal will be the main beneficiary of the Rotary Club of Ashford's sponsored Ramble/Run on 6 September. More details at www.rotary1120.org/ashfordrotaryramble.

Application forms are available from Tony Newport, 45 Rylands Road, Kennington, TN24 9LJ.

Canon Martin said: "It is our intention to go ahead with the new headquarters even if it means taking out a Scout Headquarters loan to make up any shortfall."

Donations to the fund can be made online at www.justgiving.com/kenningtonscouts

SCHOOL REPAIRED FOR NEW TERM

ESSENTIAL repair work to Kennington Junior School should be finished in time for the autumn term.

New windows, doors and gutters have been fitted to the main building. There are also new toilets and a covered walk-way. Wooden floors in the pre-fabricated classrooms have been replaced.

The school has been asked to contribute £50,000 towards the cost of the £225,000 repairs.

Modernisation of the school has not been possible due to increasing costs and withdrawal of funding.

WORK STARTS ON NORTHGATE SITE

Work has started to clear the former Northgate Garage site in Faversham Road ready for redevelopment.

Fourteen residential units within three apartment blocks will be built. The original application for 32 flats was rejected by Ashford Borough Council. The site has been derelict for several years.

Vicar says farewell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Chart Church where the Rev Yvonne conducted Evensong.

In her last message from the Vicarage she said: "During my time here I have taken 100 weddings, baptised 240 children and conducted almost 200 funerals. What a privilege it has been for me to share in those momentous occasions.

"I have met some lovely and wonderful people.

"We have achieved so much, the re-

ordering of the back of the Church, the porch gate, the Garden of Remembrance and the marvellous lighting project.

"I am very proud to have been involved with the building project at St Mary's Community Centre.

"The people of Kennington have accompanied us on the most frightening and painful journey of Brendon's illness. It has been an emotional roller-coaster and we are so glad that we were not alone but had friends who supported us with prayer and encouragement."

Visiting clergy will take services at St Mary's until a new vicar is appointed.



Phil Smith is neighbourhood officer for Kennington. To speak to him about any concerns that you may have call him on 07772 226133. If he is off duty leave a message and he will contact you



Selina Lawrence is neighbourhood officer for Eureka Park, Bockhanger, the Trinity Road areas and Kennington. If you have an issue which you think needs attention call her on 07772 226098

Speeding drivers face crackdown

SPEED checks will be carried out in several Kennington roads over the next few months. The Speed Indicator device set up in Faversham Road earlier this year will return in September and random checks will be carried out by community support officers.

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour at Bybrook shops has been significantly reduced since the concrete maze was removed, Pc Phil Smith told the Kennington Forum annual meeting. There were concerns that youths were now congregating in a road nearby. Pc Smith said: "We have been working with the residents to try and find a solution. The interventions made by us, as well as other actions, appear to have resolved the problem."

GRAFFITI is still a problem and some suspected offenders have been questioned. A police camera has been installed following



Kent Police

complaints about a rise in graffiti tags on fences along Bockhanger Lane. Community officers are encouraging residents to call them when an incident occurs. Graffiti has decreased in the last two months because of extra police patrols and the deployment of the Hawkeye CCTV van.

DETECTIVES are investigating thefts from garages and sheds in the area. Police are offering basic prevention advice while out on their beats. Anyone who is a victim is urged to contact police and report any suspicious activities. As a preventative measure cycle marking days are being arranged.

CALLS to police about anti-social behaviour have been cut by 20 per cent in the last year. Anti-social behaviour covers many incidents, from drunken disturbances to animals on the loose. To ensure the trend continues police need the support of the community. Pc Smith said: "We need you to tell us what the priorities should be and take an active part in solving the perceived problem in your neighbourhood."

TRADING STANDARD officers are investigating the matter of private cars displayed for sale outside a house on Canterbury Road.

MENACE OF THE MINI MOTORBIKES

FOUR mini-motorbikes have been confiscated after being ridden, with more than one passenger, no helmets, and at high speed through front gardens in Guernsey Way, Kennington

In another incident community police officers stopped two young people on a silver mini-motorbike in Cemetery Lane.

The bike was seized for destruction and the rider was given a Section 59 Order, forbidding him to ride one.

Safer homes

MANY people can have their homes secured against burglaries and it won't cost a penny.

Trained fitters will install security equipment, change locks on doors and windows and fit smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors.

The Help the Aged scheme is free if you are over 60 and your savings and assets (not including your home) do not exceed £25,000.

Call the Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01233 896126

☐ Kent Fire and Rescue service carry out free fire safety checks and fit smoke alarms. Call 0800 923 7000

YOUR BIG CONCERNS

PRIORITIES identified at a Partners and Community Together (PACT) meeting:

- Dealing with parking problems outside Kennington Junior School at the start and end of the school day
- Adopting measures to reduce speeding in Faversham Road
- Stopping drivers speeding and not using lights at night at The Ridge
- Reducing litter levels

PATIENTS registered at New Hayesbank surgery can contact doctors during their phone-ins by calling 01233 629000 at the following times:

- Dr Rashid 9:45-10:00 (every weekday)
- Dr Slater 10:00-10:10 (Weds & Fri)
- Dr Sharp 10:00-10:15 (Mon, Wed & Thur)
- Dr Stanley 10:15-10:30 (every Weekday)
- Dr Powell 10:30-10:45 (Mon, Tues, Wed & Thur)
- Dr Diu 10:45-11:00 (every weekday)
- Dr Ruaux 11:00-11:15 (Mon, Tue & Fri)
- Dr Lloyd-Smith 11:15-11:30 (Tues, Wed & Thurs)
- Dr Buckenham 11:45-12:00 (Mon, Thur & Fri)

These dates are subject to change if the doctor is duty doctor or on leave. The phone-in's are an ideal way to discuss test results or seek advice from your usual doctor.

The right time to call your doctor



Kennington News is published by Kennington Community Forum. Please email contributions to the editor Robin Britcher, at robinbritcher@hotmail.com.

The Forum was set up to represent the needs and aspirations of the community. It works with other groups to take any action needed. The Forum has its own web site at www.kenningtoncf.kentparishes.gov.uk Anyone who lives in Kennington will be very welcome at the Forum's meetings, held on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) at St Mary's Church Hall, Kennington, starting at 7pm.

NEXT MEETINGS: 28 JULY, 25 AUGUST