



Harvel Herald

Welcome to the Autumn 2009 edition of your local newsletter!

As September came to a close, the long hard days of combining in the fields of Harvel were completed and the hay bales duly rolled and stored in readiness for the winter months which lie ahead. The continuous fair weather helped enormously with the harvesting this year, but I think we all agree that the recent rain has been very welcome, but we still need more. Looking back, we have, on the whole, been very fortunate with good weather this summer and hope you enjoyed the holiday season!

Good weather is always a bonus for special occasions, which it has been for all of our main village events this year. The first of these was the **Harvel 5** held traditionally on the 1st Saturday of June. This is now the largest attended 5 mile race in the country and this year had a record number of over 600 participants, bringing many visitors to our village, putting **Harvel** well and truly on the map! The Harvel Hash House Harriers work enormously hard to make this event such a success for which they are to be congratulated. Not only is the entire event self financing, but charity donations are made from the proceeds.

In July the **annual fete** was held on the Village Green which saw some new attractions as well as some tried and trusted stalls from the past. It was good to see our former postie Barry and his wife there, who came along to visit and who kindly offered to help by selling raffle tickets. The W.I. did a fantastic job of selling many home made cakes and running the tea tent. The beer tent too was well equipped to keep us refreshed and the 'boys' slaved over a hot BBQ serving bangers produced by our very own Farm Shop! The flower stall once again offered a wide choice of plants for sale and so many more of you contributed to the setting up, running of stalls and clearing away afterwards. Although not mentioned individually, each and every one of you did a marvellous job in contributing to the enormous success of the afternoon. A grand total of **£2,200** was raised.

Just a couple of weeks later, the ever popular **Barn Dance** was held and the maximum number of tickets were sold in no time. "Pugwash" were there again to provide the music and talk us through the dance routines, but inevitably there were a few folk who managed to loose their partners during the sequences! Many thanks of course to the Jones family for allowing us the use of their barn and for providing and cooking an excellent selection of their succulent meats.

Other events took place during the year in the village which were not directly organised by the Village Hall Committee, but nonetheless well worth knowing about. If you have any information that you would like to share about such events, please let us know in order that these may be

included in our next newsletter. For example Open Gardens, fund raising/coffee mornings etc. Remember, the more people know what's going on and where, the better. Call Lin Carey on 01474 812782.

The Farm Shop - celebrated its first anniversary of opening on October 10th! After several years of planning and getting it up and running, the shop has gone from strength to strength, offering a wonderful selection of home produced meats, pies, cakes, desserts, jams and chutneys. Ice creams, drinks, cheeses, eggs and bread are also available for sale, the emphasis on keeping the produce from as local a source as possible. The Little Barn (across the car park) is where you will find Cheryl selling her flowers and a wide choice of fruit & vegetables. There is also a selection of greetings cards and gifts, including notelets depicting pictures of Harvel! These were produced from the winners at last year's fete photographic competition. Christmas cards of Harvel will soon be available too. The shop is open on Fridays 10 am to 6 pm and Saturdays 10am to 5 pm.

Road maintenance

In our previous issue, we gave contact details of how to report potholes and damage to our roads and lanes. Since then, some work has been carried out, but I'm sure you are aware that there is still more in need of attention. Please therefore make a note of any damage you see whilst out and about and report these before they get any worse. You can contact **Kent Highway Services** by telephoning **08458 247 247** or by visiting www.kent.gov.uk Coincidentally, an article about keeping Kent's roads in good repair was published in the recent Around Kent publication, delivered to every home in the county.

Village Archives

After getting advice from local experts in this field, it is now time to call a meeting of anyone interested in preserving the History of Harvel. We are trying to collect photos, written documents and memories plus any other items to create an archive of life in the village and changes over the years. A lot of interest has been expressed in the idea and we have obtained some funding from the council to cover copying costs etc. We then intend to put everything online for reference and keep originals and artefacts in the Gravesend archive. We will welcome individuals interested in researching their house, a particular period such as the wars, or in mapping local field names perhaps. We are not going to be experts, just interested in exploring our immediate locality and recording and preserving what is still here. I have already received some fascinating memories from Richard Stoner on growing up in Harvel during the war with barrage balloons tethered in the field next door! Come along and find out more.

The meeting will be at **8pm on Tuesday November 17th** in the Village Hall. Do ring me if you have anything of interest to share, or ideas to offer! **Mandie Jones 01474 813183**

Forthcoming events:

Christmas Party

In response to a number of suggestions last year from villagers, we are holding an informal party this year instead of a more formal dinner. This will be held on **Friday 18th December** from **7.30pm** onwards (last one out turns off the lights and closes the door!). Mulled wine and mince pies will be provided and there will be no charge. However, please feel free to bring other food and drink if you wish. We would like to invite anyone of a musical bent to bring their instrument so that we can have a concert/sing-song/jam session, depending on who turns up. We do not know exact numbers, but it would be useful to have some idea who is coming. Please therefore give any of the committee members a call nearer the time to let us know if you are able to come and join us!

Santa Run:

This year the Harvel Hash House Harriers will be doing their Charity Santa Run on **Sunday 20th December**. Club members together with their families, friends (and dogs) will be running or cycling from the Amazon & Tiger, visiting several pubs in the local area then back to the Ammy. Their aim is to collect donations from anyone they meet en route and to donate all proceeds to a nominated charity. If you are interested in joining the mass (and mad) Santa brigade, please feel free to come along. Finer details will be available nearer the time. Just visit their website www.harvelh3.org or look for information on the chalk board outside the Amazon & Tiger. **Stop press** – Harvel Hash House Harriers, to date, have three members with places in next year's London Marathon. Good luck to them – we wish them well.

Useful Information:

The Amazon & Tiger - Mick & Ang serve evening meals Friday & Saturday 7.00pm - 9.00 pm. Bar snacks available at lunch time from Wednesday - Sunday. Traditional Sunday Roast available from 12.00 to 3.30pm

The Farm Shop - Stephen & Joanne are open on Friday 10.00am - 6.00 pm & Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Mobile Library - This visits the village, outside the hall each Thursday from 12.15 - 12.45pm

Community Bus - operates a service to/from Gravesend on Tuesday & Friday. Details from Colin Durham 01474 813451

W. I. - meet in the village hall the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Contact June Burkitt on 01474 816837

HHHH (running club). meet on Tuesdays at 7.00pm & Sunday mornings. Visit www.harvelh3.org Please contact Craig Murphy 01474 812263

THIC (share club) meets last Thursday of the month in the Amazon & Tiger restaurant. Enquiries re. membership etc. please contact Craig Murphy 01474 812263

Dog Training Class - in the village hall, Saturdays 10.30 - 12.30 Jill & Mark 01732 820455

Vigo Rugby Club - visit their website – www.vigorfc.net

Cricket Club - visit their website - www.harvel.play-cricket.co/home

Harvel Village Hall Committee

Chairman - June Burkitt, 7 St. Francis Road. Tel 01474 816837

Secretary - Mandie Jones, Swanswood Farm, Harvel Road. Tel 01474 813183

Treasurer - Ian Carey, 4, St. Francis Road. Tel 01474 812782

Shaun Phyll - 2, St. Francis Road. Tel 01474 813469

Rachael Clark - Leywood Farm, Leywood Road. Tel 01474 815486

Lin Carey - 4, St. Francis Road. Tel 01474 812782

Ronnie Gawler - Barncote, Harvel Lane. Tel 01474 812150

Residents' Association

Chairman - Bob Hinde, Old Pond Farm, Dean Lane. Tel 01474 813432