



Harvel Herald

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of your local newsletter!!

To begin, we would like to say a big thank you to all of you who have taken the time to let us know your thoughts on the Harvel Herald and for the positive feedback you gave! It's certainly good to know that so many of you have welcomed this idea as a way of keeping in touch with what's going on. Although we will publish each new copy on the Harvel website as planned, it has been suggested that delivery of paper copies to each household would be welcomed and probably the most popular and effective way of keeping everyone informed of what's going on. Therefore, it has been agreed that will continue to deliver to the village and make copies available at the Farm Shop and Amazon & Tiger. In order to help us achieve this with ease, we would welcome any help with distribution, if only to your immediate neighbours. Please contact Lin Carey on 01474 812782 if you able to assist. Even a little help with delivery will be most welcome.

Millwood have now completed all work on the Calor factory site and each of the houses are now occupied. We welcome all the residents of Hart Lane and hope they will enjoy living in the village and become part of the community!

In order not to miss out on anything, we have some important dates for your diary. Be sure to make a note of these now, so you don't miss out or get double booked!

Saturday 6th June - The Harvel 5

This event is organised by the Harvel Hash House Harriers and is an extremely Popular event, attracting very many visitors to the village. As usual, there will be road closures for part of the afternoon, so please be aware of this and help us by being patient. If you are interested in entering the 5 mile run, or if you have any queries about anything, please contact Kevin on H5@Harvel5.com or telephone (work) 020-8299-8423

Saturday 4th July - The Harvel Fete.

This is a very important date in the village calendar, as it is the perfect opportunity for everyone to come together for an afternoon and to contribute to our largest fundraising event of the year. As you can imagine, we rely on many people to help bring this event together and your help is invaluable. **Please** get in touch with any committee member if you can lend a hand in any way, even if only for a short time during the morning to help set up on the village green. If you can help please let us know. Setting up begins at 9.00am and, as an incentive, tea, coffee and egg/bacon sandwiches will be gratuitously handed out to helpers! New ideas and suggestions are very welcome, so too are advance offers of cake making etc. The plant stall is a major attraction and if anyone can grow or donate plants they will be gratefully received.

The Children's fun run is a major attraction at the Harvel Fete. It is organised and sponsored by the Harvel Hash House Harriers. They donate all the race proceeds to the Harvel Fete and cover the cost of the race numbers, medals, trophies etc. There are two age ranges, one to age 10 and the second ages 11 – 14. The first race for those 10 and under was 420 metres. Last year this was won by Sean Wild from Meopham. The second race for the 11 – 14 years old was 840 metres. Last year this was won by James Carslaw from Harvel. Full race result can be found at www.Harvelh3.org

Be prepared...like last year, we will be doing a door-to-door collection the week beforehand, asking for contributions of good saleable items for bric-a-brac, jars, tins, bottles and raffle prize donations. Don't just leave it to someone else....The success of the Fete depends on us all!

Saturday 25th July - The Barn Dance

This is a classic evening of traditional barn dancing with the “Pugwash” musicians there to play for us and to call the instructions, step-by-step. Food is included in the price of the tickets and you can either bring your own drinks or purchase from a small selection of refreshments on the night. Our thanks to the Jones family, as always, for allowing us to host the event at the farm.

We have to remember this is a working farm, so our space is strictly limited. Therefore Harvel residents will have first priority to tickets which will be available from committee members (details on back page) 2 -3 weeks beforehand.

Village Hall War Memorial Plaque

Visitors to the village hall might have noticed that the war memorial plaque has been cleaned and moved to a new position with its own lighting. There are the names of eight men honoured on this memorial and to many residents they are possibly just names. They are; from 1914 -18

William Bennett Frederick Charles Bowmer Alfred Buggs Ernest Burnett

Sydney Charles Christmas Ernest Johnson William Roots

and from 1939 – 45 Kenneth Fairbrass

What has been proposed is that, as part of the village archive, (see separate feature) not just their names but other facts about them be recorded ie where they lived, their occupation, their families and descendents etc. before these details are lost forever. If you have any knowledge of, or connection to these men please get in touch so that they can be remembered not just as names but as the people that they were.

Memories of Harvel

We are starting a Village Archive of memorabilia about Harvel and its residents before too much information is lost.

If you would like to contribute, these thoughts may prompt your memory. We would also appreciate copies of any photos of people, places or events from the past, or newspaper

cuttings etc. Please give any materials to a HVH committee member, or Swanswood Farm, 01474 813183.

What do you know about the history of your house and its past inhabitants?

What changes have you noticed since you came? Can you give a detailed account of any event? e.g. the storm, being snowed in, the war, transport, shops.

Do you have strong memories of a past resident?

Thank you for letting us share your memories so that we can build up a full picture of our unique and historic village.

The Harvel House Farm Shop

Harvel House Farm Shop continues to delight Harvel residents and visitors alike. I have tried all sorts of things not previously tasted in perhaps 40 years!...pigeon, rabbit, beef olives....as well as some wonderful joints of lamb and beef and pork.

Many of us were somewhat surprised to walk into the shop and find our "proprietor, butcher and jovial host" with his feet up! No, not snatching a quick nap but suffering from a very nasty injury to important bits of his foot and leg; result, "stay off your feet Mr. Jones" but Stephen hobbled on. Get well soon.

Joanna continues to urge us to return the crocs; I did hear that two dishes managed to squirrel away (inadvertently) on to a flight to Australia....and back. Perhaps we shall be tasting Upside Down Pudding Cake next.

Thank you to Stephen, Joanna and all their team for really great local service.

In case you are not aware, fruit and vegetables and flowers will be available from May.

Road maintenance

I'm sure you must have noticed that after the heavy snowfalls and frosts of last winter, the state of our roads have deteriorated considerably. Some of the potholes which have appeared, are big enough to inflict damage to our vehicles' tyres, or cause us personal accident/injury during the hours of darkness if we don't notice them. You are urged to contact **Kent Highway Services** to report such damage in and around the village. The more complaints made, the more we can impress the necessity for repairs to be carried out forthwith. Please either telephone **08458 247 800** or go to their website on www.kent.gov.uk/highways, giving details of the locations near you that need their urgent attention.

If you have any issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Residents Association, relating to traffic and planning matters, the Village Green and Pond, then please contact **Bob Hind** tel: **01474 812432**. The Residents Association liaise with Meopham Parish Council and Gravesham Borough Council regarding these matters

Harvel Women's Institute

Harvel WI is a varied, lively mix of friendly women. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when there is usually a speaker followed by supper. There are also a range of other activities, most of which are held in members' homes. There is a craft group that meets every Monday and produces an amazing assortment of beautiful articles. Members have also recently made clothes for new-born babies at the request of a local neo-natal unit and beanies for soldiers in Iraq and Afganistan. The book club meets monthly and the discussion is always wide-ranging and interesting. Last year we formed a drama group which put on a pantomime after our Christmas meal. I'm

not sure what the audience made of it, but the cast had a great time getting ready for it! There is a line dancing evening held most months and meals at local pubs every quarter. We also go to the theatre and to the cinema. And all this before you include the Area events – from quiz to whist competitions and cookery demonstrations. Then there is the Garden Trail we organise in the summer and the cake stalls that we supply at the Harvel 5 and the Harvel Fete. Our membership is limited to 35 and we are full at the moment, but we always welcome guests to our monthly meetings. Do Come!

Harvel Hash House Harriers

This year we had eight entrants, ranging in age from 19 to 59, in the London Marathon, all of whom successfully completed the course and raised some £8000 for various charities. A huge THANK YOU to all of our sponsors, supporters and well-wishers.

Harvel Village Hall Committee

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

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

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

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

Rachael Clark, Leywood Farm Tel 01474-815486

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

Ronnie Gawler, Barn Cote, Harvel Lane.

Village Hall Lettings – Contact June Burkitt – 01474 816836

Residents Association Chairman – Bob Hinde Tel 01474-813432

Please check the Village Hall notice board or contact any of the committee if you require details of the following:-

Mobile Library, Community Bus Service, Harvel Hash House Harriers running club, W.I., dog training classes, The Harvel Investment Club, Harvel Cricket Club, Vigo Rugby Club.

