

STREET CRUIZER BUS

As the Street Cruiser proved to be so popular with our youngsters last year, the Parish Council has decided to make provision in its precept for 2017/18 to cover the costs of providing the service on a weekly basis throughout 2017. The Council will continue to ask the bus to come to Horsmonden each week on a Friday between 5pm and 7pm, as long as it stays well attended.

The bus is a travelling youth club for those aged 11 plus and has surround sound speakers, game consoles, a film area and even a nail bar. It provides light refreshments and entertainment under the supervision of KCC youth Services.

There will be weeks when the bus cannot attend due to staff holidays and potential travel difficulties in the event of severe weather and we will try and let everyone know in advance about these if we can, and publish dates on the websites and notice boards.

If you have any comments (good or bad) about the service please let the Clerk know.

TREES ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Council is now arranging for the eight large Lime trees on the green to be pollarded which takes place every four/five years. The pollarding of the limes involves removing all of the thin growth from the upper part of the trees, which can leave them looking a little bare for a while until the growth initiates again the following spring. It is a necessary procedure for keeping the trees healthy and of a manageable size.

The three young Lime trees which have been planted over the last two years are looking healthy and will be coming into bud as soon as the weather warms up. The Council regularly pays for expert advice on the trees which it owns on the Village Green and Fromandez Drive, to ensure that they remain safe and healthy and to try and prolong the life of each tree.

RUBBISH – THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN (3RD- 5TH MARCH 2017)

In line with the Great British Spring Clean 2017, the Council is trying to arrange another litter pick to get rid of all the litter before the vegetation starts to grow. Keep an eye on notice boards and the website to find out when this will take place and how you can help if you have time.

In previous years there has been a vast turn out with people of all ages coming to help and our village has been left looking great, so please get involved in any way you can. Clubs and societies are welcome to join in 'en masse' if they wish.

If you wish to offer your service or help in any way, please contact the clerk.

Talking of rubbish- there are three new litter bins shortly to be installed: one next to the parish shelter on the green, another outside the small pedestrian gate leading into the sports ground and another in the entrance to the footpath from the Goudhurst Road

(Opposite Orchard Way entrance) up to Lewes Health.

It is hoped that the provision of these bins will reduce the amount of litter found in and around these areas, and that dog walkers will also use the bins to deposit their dog poo bags.

The Council has made provision for the shelter on the green to be cleaned every quarter in the past, when the notice boards and benches are cleaned. However with effect from 2017 the shelter will be swept out and cleaned every month. Hopefully once the bin is installed there will be less litter and it will continue to be a pleasant place to sit.

SPEEDWATCH

The Parish Council wishes to thank Mr Drinkwater for coming forward and offering his services as coordinator to a village Speedwatch team.

The Council and Mr Drinkwater are now trying to get Speedwatch up and running again as soon as possible and training will be given to all volunteers, so no previous experience is necessary.

If you are able to offer to assist with Speedwatch in the village, please contact the clerk who will put you in contact with Mr Drinkwater and arrange your training. The more volunteers we have trained, the less time will be needed from each one!

The aims of Speedwatch are to :

- Reduce death and injury on the roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities
- Reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- Increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Please help if you can.

PUBLIC DEFIBRILLATORS

Just a reminder that we are lucky enough to have two public defibrillators in the village for emergency use. One is located outside the social club (Institute Building) at the top end of the Village Green, by the War memorial. The other is located at the Tennis Club on the outside, side wall of the Club house.

The following advice comes from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute:

Using an automated external defibrillator (AED) on a person who is having sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) may save the person's life.

The most common cause of SCA is an arrhythmia called ventricular fibrillation (v-fib). In v-fib, the ventricles (the heart's lower chambers) don't beat normally. Instead, they quiver very rapidly and irregularly.

Another arrhythmia that can lead to SCA is ventricular tachycardia. This is a fast, regular beating of the ventricles that may last for a few seconds or much longer.

In people who have either of these arrhythmias, an electric shock from an AED can restore the heart's normal rhythm (if done within minutes of the onset of SCA).

What Are the Signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest? *If someone is having SCA, you may see him or her suddenly collapse and lose consciousness. Or, you may find the person unconscious and unable to respond when you call or shake him or her.*

The person may not be breathing, or he or she may have an abnormal breathing pattern. If you check, you usually can't find a pulse. The person's skin also may become dark or blue from lack of oxygen. Also, the person may not move, or his or her movements may look like a seizure (spasms).

An AED can check the person's heart rhythm and determine whether an electric shock is needed to try to restore a normal rhythm

FORTH COMING MEETING DATES
Parish Council meeting – Monday 6th February
Planning Meeting –Tuesday 21st February

Parish Council meeting – Monday 6th March
Planning Meeting –Tuesday 21st March

The meeting schedule for 2017 will be posted on the Notice boards and Parish Council website

Please feel free to contact the clerk, as below.

Lucy Noakes (clerk) on (01892) 724989

Clerk to Horsmonden Parish Council

Telephone: 01892 724989

E-mail: clerk@horsmonden-pc.gov.uk

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Kent Highways services 03000 418181

Tunbridge wells Borough Council 01892 526121

Environment Agency 24 hour Flood line:08459881188

PCSO Jenkins - 079769584279

Non emergency Police line – 101

Emergencies only - 999

UK Power net works – Power cut -0800 31 63 105 on a landline or 0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a mobile