



Newsletter

April 2015

<http://nevillresidentsassociation.weebly.com/>

Chairman: Alan Chapman
Executive Officer: Lucy Ruddy

Treasurer: Daphne Wyatt

Minutes Secretary: Vicki Trenhaile

Editor: Carole Kirby

Garden Trail 2015

The Garden Trail will take place on Sunday 5 July. So far eight people have offered their gardens, but Vicki Trenhaile needs at least another four to make the occasion viable. She has one garden that will offer teas, but a second one would be a great help. In addition there will be a Scarecrow Trail and competition. Entrants will display their scarecrow in their front gardens. This will allow people who do not want to show their garden to be involved, and to give children a chance to take part. Exact details of the competition will be available in May.

So, if you have a much loved and well cared for garden (does not have to be immaculate) and would like to support local charities, *please contact Vicki: vickitrenhaile@fastmail.fm or telephone 01273 475521*

Residents Association Meeting: 16 March 2015

Gordon Bull, the retiring co-ordinator of Lewes Town & Rural Neighbourhood Watch Association, gave a talk to the meeting about the organisation. Nevill has several groups on the estate, but it was generally felt that more representatives should be recruited so the whole estate could be covered. At the moment, there are two groups in Highdown Road, two in Hawkenbury Way, two in South Way, one in Nevill Crescent, and one in Middle Way.

An average NW group consists of twenty houses. The group co-ordinator has to complete a consent form for data protection purposes, and another consenting to a security check. Then, their role is to link the group with the police, who pass on six bi-monthly newsletters about criminal activity in the area. These can be circulated by e-mail or print. Successful groups encourage people to look out for each other, and strengthen the community.

If you are interested in joining, or starting a NW group contact the new district co-ordinator Chris Burt - 01273 471731 e-mail burt.cj@gmail.com.

Policing on Nevill

PCSO Sally-Ann Reed attended the meeting representing PCSO Julie McNirlan. She said that because of reorganizational changes there would be no further recruitment or replacements of PCSOs. The continual problem with horse riders was raised with her, but PCSO Reed said that without evidence they could not proceed. The issue of antisocial parking, like parking on double yellow lines or the pavement, was also discussed. This, we were told should be reported to the Parking Shop 01273 477105 and they should look into it.

The residents association is preparing some polite notices to put on cars that are violating traffic laws. These will be included with the next newsletter and available in the newsagents.

St Mary's Social Centre

As there has still been no news about the future of the social centre, its committee is determined to keep the centre's activities in the public eye, through regular reports in the Sussex Express and the Parish Pump. They are also trying to find out how much the building would cost to buy.

Community Orchard Project

There has been a very welcome community initiative in Hawkenbury Way, which NRA is supporting with a £200 grant. Gaynor Hartnell has started a small community orchard, on land along the prison side of The Gallops. She circulated her neighbours in Hawkenbury Way and The Gallops, and met with enthusiasm. She approached the council and has taken expert advice. The plan is for seventeen trees to be planted, both nut and fruit trees, under-planted with bulbs. The first three trees were planted on 26 February and we look forward to some blossom next year. Meanwhile blue tits are exploring the newly installed bird boxes.

Gaynor would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in getting involved, as the trees will need care and attention, or anyone who would like to talk to her about starting something similar in another part of the estate. *Ring her on 01273 472468 or e-mail gaynor1965@talktalk.net*

TOLD (Tenants of Lewes District Council)

Sarah Neels is the new Tenants' representative for the association. As she is a committee member of TOLD, she is able to put forward the needs of council tenants on the estate. If you want to make her aware of any problems, *please contact her on 01273 470074 or email sarahneels@yahoo.com.*

Environmental Budget

Please complete the attached survey so the association can identify the things Nevill residents feel would most benefit our community. This information will be used to help our bid for funding from the next Lewes District Council Housing Department Environmental Budget. Suggestions made so far are better lighting at the shops on Highdown Road and bike-racks on Nevill Green.

Neighbourhood Plan

There will be a three day event for consulting the public on the progress of the neighbourhood plan, to allow local people to express their views on proposed building development. The housing shortage is a serious issue for everyone.

This will be on 30 June and 1 & 2 July, all day and evening in the Town Hall. Look out for the advance notices to confirm dates and times.

Carina Morrissey is the NRA representative on the steering committee, and is seeking someone to help her with the work involved. If you can help, please contact her: carina.m@talktalk.net.

A letter to the Editor

Q. When is a Spanish bluebell like a grey Squirrel?

A. When is it eliminating native bluebells like the greys did to the red Squirrel.

Spanish bluebells are pretty enough, spread easily and grow without care, which is why they are increasingly everywhere. There are many in gardens on Nevill estate. You could say they are a blessing. Native bluebells are a much truer blue, and only like well established woodland, where in Spring they provide one of the wonders of the natural world. If you have not seen it, try Arlington Bluebell trail this April, a carpet of heavenly colour with a cloud of fragrance at their peak.

The Problem

All would be fine if the interlopers stayed put in gardens. However they spread easily. In our area alone they are migrating up the Offham road and I have seen them in the verges of the lane to

Barcombe well into the countryside. The pollen travels on the wind and muscles in on the native bluebells it finds, mates with them and so quickly takes over.

The Solution

If you can bear to, pull out your Spanish bluebell plants. They are a pale blue, have no fragrance and very yellow stamens. As we are so near spring, pull them out after they have flowered if you can't bear to do it before. They will poke back up in coming years but it is easy to break off the foliage as you walk by.

REPLACEMENT suggestions (slug proof)

Forget-me-nots. Much more vivid blue, flower in the same season, seed themselves and look after themselves. Seeds should be scattered in May-June, or ask friends and neighbours, who have them already, for plantlets and they will spread themselves.

Tulips – long period of spring colour and foliage but in November remember to put bulbs in (plant deeper if problems with squirrels)

Snakes Head Fritillaries – plant bulbs and they will spread and care for themselves.

Native daffodils – again look after themselves.

For shady places- *Periwinkle* looks after itself and is evergreen and has very pretty blue flowers.

Ramsons – attractive white flowers, garlicky leaves that can be made into pesto.

Very easy maintenance. - *wood anemones.*

You can buy true native bluebells from a supplier, but really they only like deciduous tree cover. And will be contaminated by any nearby Spanish ones.

If anyone wants to remove their Spanish bluebells, but needs advice, come up to community allotments on the motor road path on Wednesday mornings and ask for Sarah or Carina.

From Carina

The Next NRA Meeting - AGM

The Nevill Residents Association was formed to give a voice to all residents of the estate, whether tenants of LDC or private owners. If you have any concerns about your area, or ideas for improvement, come to the AGM

The meeting will be held on:

Monday 18 May 2015

All meetings take place in St Mary's Church Hall, at 8 pm.

Contact numbers:

Alan Chapman - 01273 483501

Daphne Wyatt - 01273 475966

Lucy Ruddy - 01273 486389