



Newsletter

April 2016

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

Chairman: Alan Chapman
Executive Officer: Lucy Ruddy

Treasurer: Daphne Wyatt

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Extravaganza Saturday 11 June 2016

Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society will celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on Saturday 11th June 2016 with another Extravaganza on Nevill Green. As in past years the event will be held in two parts:-

Fayre between 12.00 noon to 4.30 pm, with displays, games, stalls, and refreshments. Priority will be given to local groups and clubs who wish to support the event by having a stall to raise funds for their own good causes. A form and further details will shortly appear on the Bonfire Society website at www.njbs.co.uk. Since the installation of the new play equipment on the green, space has been reduced, so there will be a limit on the number of pitches, these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

There will be entertainment throughout the afternoon including arena events, ladies' and men's Tug of War competitions between the bonfire societies for the bonfire cup, torch making competition and displays. Additionally, there will be the best of young local talent providing live music on the stage. This part of the extravaganza will be free entrance, although it is hoped all visitors will purchase a lucky programme to support the event.

Evening entertainment 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm

As in the past, the Society will have a stage for live music from several musicians, a headline band; there will be refreshments and a bar. At the end of the evening it is hoped to conclude the event with a small firework display to celebrate the Queen's birthday and another Olympic year. Tickets details will be announced later, see NJBS web site.

The society would like to bring fresh ideas to the event and welcome any ideas or suggestions. In terms of logistics, the society is keen to know of anyone with tents, tables and chairs, or with vehicles able to tow small trailers on the day. If any company, individual or group wishes to sponsor any part of the event, or donate prizes, we welcome such support.

Free tea for over 90's. NJBS will be celebrating the Queens 90th birthday by providing a free tea for all the Nevill residents who have reached the aged of 90 on or before 11th June. So far they have only heard of a handful of residents and are sure there are more. An incentive for all 89 year-olds to keep going!

If you want to be involved, are interested in having a stall, or can help in anyway please contact the Society through Peter Earl, 7 East Street, Lewes; tel 01273 472621 or email pgearl@tiscali.co.uk

Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society.

The Society's 49th bonfire celebrations will take place on Saturday 22nd October. Badge night, where new and existing members can join up, is to be on Saturday 10th September at St Marys Social Centre.

Report from Residents Association Meeting:

21 March 2016

Good Neighbours Scheme

It has been suggested that there may be a need for a Good Neighbour Scheme to be set up on Nevill to help vulnerable residents with day to day support. Gill Blackwell from the charity Action in Rural Sussex came to the meeting to explain how this works. She said that the scheme is formed by local volunteers to help people on an occasional or regular basis. They can do practical tasks, such as driving someone to hospital, helping with shopping, walking the dog, or befriending. Volunteers do not offer specialised care or play any role that should be left to professionals, or qualified services. Nor do they provide skilled tasks that would need a qualified tradesperson. The scheme mostly works through telephone contact. Coordinators receive calls for help and allocate tasks to appropriate volunteers. All the schemes' services are free, unless expenses such as petrol or parking have been incurred. Donations for running costs are usually welcome.

The aim is to help neighbours maintain a good quality of life, remain independent in their own homes, and reduce their reliance on statutory health and care support systems.

To set up a Good Neighbour scheme there needs to be group of like minded people to form a committee that can manage the formal procedures needed, such as preparing a constitution, choosing a coordinator, arranging a bank account, insurance, and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks etc.

Penny Ollosson is hoping to start one of these schemes on the estate, so if this sounds interesting to you either as a volunteer or client do contact her tel: 01273 478900, e-mail pollosson@tiscali.co.uk.

Report from the Trustees of St Mary's Social Centre

Yes, it is good news for St Mary's that the Lewes District Council's New Homes project to build 415 homes across the district has been scrapped. It was a disgrace that St Mary's and other sites were included in a list of probable development areas, and since 2012 the Trustees have been fighting hard to overturn this decision. We were always prepared to consider the LDC / developer Karis offer of a new community centre built alongside some new housing on the site, but were also concerned about the disruption this would have caused to existing use of the centre.

So what happens now? We understand that LDC are still looking to build new affordable housing in the district as required by the government, but we hope the selection of sites will be better surveyed than the fiasco that happened under the previous administration. We believe, because of the outcry and 4000 signature petition obtained by St Mary's, LDC will not be considering us as a potential housing development at the moment. However, in March 2022 when the lease expires, will LDC consider renewing it or will they have other plans? We

hope that support will be strong to keep a community facility at St Mary's and persuade them that this is important for our area.

We can see that there are three options.

1. Persuade LDC to sell the site to the Trustees. Preliminary enquiries have been made regarding a loan, but we need the District Council to come up with a valuation figure based on its current use.
2. Persuade LDC to devolve (transfer) the community centre to Lewes Town Council. We understand both councils are dragging their feet on other devolution sites which do not include St Mary's, so this option is not within the foreseeable future.
3. To continue to pressurise LDC to renew the lease in 2022. This is what we need to do if the other options are not forthcoming.

The option of doing nothing is not an option.

The Trustees are in discussion with the Supporters Club on refurbishing both the hall and club which has been delayed for over three years due to the uncertainty of proceedings. We aim to make St Mary's an attractive venue for Club members and Hall users alike and when we have a fair decision on the future, our aim is to keep the community centre alive for generations to come.

Possible Pedestrian Crossing on Nevill Road

Councillor Ruth O' Keffe, Alan Chapman, NRA chairman, Ben Overton, a Nevill resident, met the ESCC Highways Safety Officer to discuss the possibility of a pedestrian crossing on Nevill Road, because poor visibility and traffic speed made it hazardous for pedestrians to cross the road. The conclusion was that a traffic island may help, but it would cost £15,000 - £20,000, and have to be paid for by the residents association, although match funding may be available.

Crime

PCSO Julie McNirlan would like to hear from anyone who has information about past arson attacks in Highdown Road, as she cannot find anything on record. Also, if you know anything about an attempted arson of a motorhome in Highdown Road in the early hours of 30 December 2015 contact the police quoting crime number CAD 1473 112016. Ring 01273 470101, or call 101. Alternatively contact a member of NRA committee.

On 11 November 2015 there was a break in South Way. The owners of the property were not in at the time and antiques and jewellery were stolen. On the same day a shed in South Way was broken into but nothing was taken. There was also a spate of similar break-ins in Houndean Rise. Home owners are asked to be vigilant and contact 101 if they wish to report anything suspicious. *In an emergency ring 999.*

Environmental Budget

Following concern by residents over the lack of shade on Nevill Green, an application was made by the Tenants' Representative to the environmental budget for 5 trees and 2 benches, to create patches of shade and accessible seating. We are pleased to announce that the bid was successful, and it is hoped that they will be installed by the summer holidays. *Further information on the planting, or location of the benches, contact our Tenant Rep, Sarah Neels 01273 473 474.*

Tesco award for play and exercise equipment

Nevill Residents Association has been awarded £8,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help scheme – funded by the 5p carrier bag charge. The funds will pay for improvements to Nevill Green,

including 'trim trail' equipment such as monkey bars and balance beams designed to appeal to all ages. The trail will complement the newly refurbished playground equipment and will be installed around the southern edge of the Green, leaving space for the annual sports day and other events on the green. Draft drawings of the trim trail will be available soon for comment. These will be displayed by the Green and on the Nevill Residents Association Facebook page - www.facebook.com/NevillResidentsAssociation.

Collection of Food Waste.

Concern had been raised at the January NRA meeting that food waste was being mixed with the general rubbish. This seemed to be still happening in certain areas. If residents spot a failure to recycle food waste properly they should contact District Councillor Tony Rowell - tony.rowell@greenparty.org.uk, who said he would look into the problem. To encourage more recycling the collection may be increased to once a week and household and food waste reduced to fortnightly.

Race Horses

Residents should be aware that race horses are using the twitten linking the Motor Road with Highdown Road. There have been confrontations between pedestrians and riders, with verbal abuse from the latter. The senior traffic officer said there was no suitable location for a barrier, but signage clarifying that the footpath was not for horses may help.

Nevill Folk

Calling all folk enthusiasts! Time to dust-off whatever it is you play and come and enjoy some traditional folk tunes with others from the Nevill and beyond! This new relaxed and inclusive gathering has just started. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 8pm - 10pm in St. Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road, Nevill. There's no charge, but contributions to costs will be welcome. Next three meetings: 13th April, 11th May and 8th June. Call Matthew on 486126 or visit www.meetup.com/nevill-folk for further details.

Promoting Ladies Football

Lewes Football club has formed a 'Girls Football Academy Programme' with Brighton and Hove's Newman's College, offering a two year programme of full-time education, where girls aged 16-19 can combine football coaching with academic studies. Applications are being taken for September 2016 enquires: newmancollege@cncs.co.uk.

The next home game for the Ladies first XI is on Sunday 17th April against C&K Basildon in the FA Women's Premier League. Kick-off is 2pm at the Dripping Pan, Mountfield Road, Lewes. Admission is £3 for adults and under 16's go free. Bar and snack hatch open from 1.30pm. Entry includes free match day programme, covered seating areas. Children are most welcome to all games at the Dripping Pan. Lewes FC is a family- friendly club. There are no more home games scheduled this season. *More info at <http://www.lewesfc.com/ladies/>*

The Next NRA Meeting – AGM

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 AGM will be held on: Monday 16 May 2016 in St Mary's Church Hall, at 8pm.

Contact numbers:

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