

Chestfield Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21 March 2016 at the Women's Institute Hall, Chestfield Road, Chestfield

Present: Parish Cllrs Steve Bailey (Chairman); Chris Brealy (Vice-Chairman); Tricia Chapman, Chris Ellis, Andrew Rabey, Neal Fowler, and Pat Gibson.
Guest speaker, David Fagg, Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance (for part of the meeting).
17 residents.

Welcome

Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Steve Bailey welcomed residents and visitors.

Apologies for absence.

Parish Cllr Paul Clayson (Family commitment); PCSO Jade Hoyle, residents Jean and Colin Major, Joan Saunders, Mick and Linda Clarke, Pat Simpson and ex-parish cllr Eileen Watkins.

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held Monday, 27 April 2015.

Copies of the Minutes of last year's electors' meeting were available on every chair. Resident David Mann and Parish Cllr Neal Fowler proposed and seconded that these were a true and accurate record of last year's annual meeting.

Queen's 90th Birthday celebration event 26 June 2016

Cllr Bailey explained that the parish council was leading on an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday / a second Fun Day for the village. This will be held on Sunday 26 June 2016 at the Chestfield Cricket Club, Grasmere Road. He urged residents to put the date in their diary.

He explained lots had been organised already. If anybody wants a stall or knows someone who wants a stall they should contact either him or the Clerk.

Unsung Hero

Cllr Bailey explained that the parish council had just introduced this recognition scheme and they hoped to encourage more nominations to be able to make it an annual award. He explained that residents John and Sonia Turner had been chosen to receive the award for 2016 for their services to the community. He presented them with an engraved vase. There was a round of applause.

John Turner explained he was not sure they deserved the award but they were very grateful to receive it. They did take a neighbour's dog out for 3 years every day (until it died) and continue today to walk around to collect rubbish. Mr Turner explained they moved from Maidstone to Chestfield three and a half years ago – Chestfield is a nice place, it just needs an occasional tidy up.

Report from Chestfield Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Steve Bailey

At this very meeting last year, we bade a very heartfelt farewell to Len Claisse who left the council after 16 years in service. Len was presented with an engraved vase to thank him. He is still very active as a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, and does pop up from time to time to keep us on our toes !!!!

In April, the residents of Fairlawn applied for us to provide planters for them to maintain and upkeep, as had been done very successfully with those tended by The Leas residents at the playpark. Little were we to know that we would experience even worse delivery problems than we had with the first lot ! Little did we know that this particular drama was to run and run – as you'll hear later. Sadly, too, in April, the youth club closed down due to lack of numbers and sustainability.

May saw the four yearly parish council elections, which were returned un-contested. Eight councillors were elected as unchallenged and there was one vacancy, that left by Len. I was honoured to be asked to be your Chairman for another year – a position that I am proud to hold. The planters for Fairlawn still hadn't turned up.

As you know, we are lucky to have a very active Speedwatch team in Chestfield, and we took receipt of our new all-singing, all-dancing speed gun in May – we even managed to recoup some of the monies spent by selling our old one to Blean parish council.

June was a fairly uneventful month, and was very much business as usual – although my vice chairman Chris continued in his war on fly tipping at Molehill Road. This can be a

thankless task, and due credit must go to Chris for his tenaciousness and patience in tackling this issue. The environment is something that we care for very much. The planters for Fairlawn still hadn't turned up.

In July, and with the impending Bodkin Farm inquiry looming, we looked at a damage limitation strategy to look at what would be best for the village should the original decision of refusal be reversed at Appeal. More of this later, but sadly the planters for Fairlawn still hadn't turned up.

Andy Rabey joined us in August to take up the vacant position on the parish council, and he has quickly become a very active member of the council and I would like to thank him for picking up the ball so quickly!

August also saw the opening of the public enquiry at the Guildhall. Due to work commitments I was unable to attend every day, although Amanda attended along with several residents from Maydowns Road, and recorded very comprehensive notes from the sessions. I did manage to attend on the final day of the enquiry where I was afforded the opportunity to make a short representation on behalf of the parish council. All relevant notes and documentation can still be viewed on the parish council website if required.

Following the appeal, where we learned that Canterbury City Council will only allow a local connection criteria to be applied to tenants of affordable housing on rural exception sites (Bodkin Farm would not have been classified as one), Chestfield parish council resolved to lobby Canterbury City Council to introduce a local connection criteria in new developments with a sizeable element of affordable housing. We felt that if a village is having to absorb development for the benefit of the district there should at least be an element of the affordable homes for its own local people.

We also held our first village fun day at the end of August, where we managed to raise just over £900 for local 'John Graham Trust'. We are already arranging our next one to be held on 26th June to coincide with Her Majesty's birthday celebrations. The planters for Fairlawn did not turn up!

September saw the 100th edition of the parish magazine. The magazine has proved a great communication tool for the village, and we invite contributions from all.

Sadly, Joe Hunter resigned from the council. I would like to put on record my thanks on behalf of the parish council for his efforts during his time with us. We were also advised that the Canterbury District Local Plan Inspector had instructed Canterbury City Council to find more land availability for housing. You will now all be aware that this now includes Grasmere Pasture.

Did the planters arrive in September? Well in short – NO – but we were told that they were now 'in the mould'...not totally reassured by this, we insisted on a photo from the manufacturers, or we would cancel the order.

October saw us setting our budget for 2016-2017 and planning for future projects. We continue behind the scenes to strive for environmental and highways improvements for the village. Whilst wheels sometimes turn slower than some people might like, we are tenacious if nothing else, and often don't take 'no' for an answer.

And oh, despite the summer being over, the Fairlawn planters arrived! The Clerk and resident Cathy Wegener therefore decided that rather than a summer display the contents would have a more Christmas type theme. They looked lovely.

In November the Clerk rang me one morning and asked if I was sitting down. She explained that the appeal for the Bodkin Farm development had been dismissed by the Inspector. The main reason given was the green gap designation and policies.

We were subsequently humbled by the number of thank you emails, cards and letters received.

But celebration was short lived as we heard that Grasmere Pasture was presented as a site for up to 300 dwellings and an area of commercial space. Whilst the site is not in the parish and by virtue of this we are not statutory consultees, the parish council uploaded an objection to the site being included in the draft Local Plan and an objection to a pre-application application subsequently lodged. We also gave advice to many residents of both Chestfield and Whitstable on how to do their own representations to Canterbury City Council.

December saw our usual Christmas activities, with the annual carol service and now-infamous Christmas lights competition. It is always a pleasure to be involved in both, and is something we look forward to each year.

We must be doing something right, as we received no less than four applicants for the vacancy created by Joe leaving. Due to this, both Eileen Watkins and Adrian Young took the unanimous decision to step down from the parish council so that we could bring in some new councillors. I would like to thank both Eileen and Adrian for their efforts and contribution during their time with us.

January saw a very successful 'thank you' buffet held at the Cricket Club for our village volunteers. We have magazine distributors, neighbourhood watch co-ordinators, speedwatch volunteers and others who help in varying capacities and we hold this small function to thank all of those that contribute in some small way in making our community like it is.

Due to the number of applicants for the vacant position, we decided to hold informal interviews with all candidates. All proved to be strong candidates in different ways, and we had a dilemma in which to choose. I would like to stress that we considered them all winners.

All households have received a Housing Needs Survey via the rural housing enabler. The parish council is trying to get informed evidence of any housing need in the village. The final report is awaited and will form part of our future focus.

At last week's parish council meeting, we co-opted two new councillors, Paul Clayson and Pat Gibson. We intend to co-opt Philip Lennard to the final vacancy at our April meeting. We are confident they will be useful and welcome additions to our team.

Our Clerk has been working up new short walks around the village. Look out for these being advertised in the near future. We hope you may be inspired to try them.

Remember that desire for local people to get priority over local rented affordable homes? Our Clerk has managed to get 19 of the district's 26 parish councils to also write to officers and councillors of Canterbury City Council in support of a new policy, and we have been advised that a report is going to Members in June for discussion.

I am proud to be Chairman although I am just one of a team of hard working councillors.

*Steve Bailey, Chairman, Chestfield Parish Council
2015-2016*

There was a round of applause.

Cllr Brealy commented that Cllr Bailey puts his heart in to this role and that the parish council is also very lucky to have such an able and fantastic Clerk – she was praised by the Inspector at the Bodkin Farm Appeal. There followed another round of applause.

Guest Speaker, David Fagg, from Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance

David thanked the Chairman for the invitation to give tonight's presentation. He explained there are 2,500 calls for an ambulance in Kent alone, every day. From the call monitoring, triage assess whether to send an air ambulance to an incident. A helicopter can be scrambled within four minutes.

What does the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance bring to the scene?

- Skilled medics
- A & E at the scene
- Early intervention – the sooner help is given the better the recovery outcomes
- Transport of patients is much faster by air
- Easy access with a helicopter

How do they make a difference?

- Anaesthetic for example for brain swelling

- A combination of three drugs stops the brain swelling (and means patients have no memory until they get to hospital)
- A breathing tube passed in to the windpipe past the larynx at the scene
- The helicopter carries four units of O negative blood (this can be given to any patient)
- The Air Ambulance get their blood from the William Harvey Hospital. Blood has a four-day life span. The Air Ambulance keep it for 3 days at 2-6 degree centigrade temperatures – if it is not used it goes back to the William Harvey for use on surgeries on the fourth day.
- Blood will not be given to anyone with “No Blood” or “Do Not Resuscitate” on either wrist.
- The Air Ambulance carry plasma – this is dried blood – it can be given to control bleeding/internal bleeding.

Why do they do it? Louis' story:

Louis, a three-year old, was playing hide and seek at Grandma's, and pulled a wardrobe on himself. Louis was unconscious. Paramedics had to stabilise him and airlift him to Kings Hospital. Ten days later, Louis went home.

David explained that a helicopter has two critical care paramedics and one pilot during the day and two pilots at night (for better night vision and navigation). A critical care paramedic can give stronger drugs and make more decisions than a normal paramedic.

David also explained that local residents have raised money for a helipad to be installed and working at the Kings Hospital site by September this year.

The Kent Surrey Sussex Area:

- There are 4-5 call outs a day and four each night – each call out costs £2,700.
- The Air Ambulance saves lives, they are a registered Charity needing to raise £6.7m every year.
- Last year, the Chancellor approved Kent County Council releasing £1.5m for a new helicopter, which is currently being kitted out. This will come on board at Redhill in the next couple of months. The benefit is, that it is bigger and actually allows the patient to be worked on inside it (unlike the other types).
- The Air Ambulance is hoping to move from Marden and Redhill to Paddock Wood as a single base.

Cllr Bailey thanked David for the presentation. There was a round of applause. Cllr Bailey had the pleasure of handing a cheque to David in the sum of £100 as a donation. He also explained that proceeds from the Queen's birthday event/Fun Day on the 26 June 2016, would also raise more funds for the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance.

Report from Kent County Cllr, Cllr Mike Harrison

KCC Cllr Harrison explained that it had been a year ago when he was voted to be the Chairman of KCC. He said the year has been a joy but also a tremendous work load. His new PA has told him this makes him the Number One elected Member of the County. He explained he had been at a budget meeting that afternoon. Budgets are of course a constant focus. KCC are already looking at the budget for 2017-2018.

Cllr Harrison stressed that there isn't a planning application yet for Grasmere Pasture. He commented that George Reeves owns a ransom strip by owning the road called Reeves Way – an access road which will be needed for traffic to cross from Reeves Way in to the development site.

Cllr Harrison reminded the parish council of funding from his Local Boards pot and if the parish wanted any funding to ask.

He commented that two weeks ago, at home with his wife, he received a visitor – an old friend with a request to open the new Sainsburys store in Whitstable High Street, which he did.

Cllr Harrison explained that in the next round of KCC elections, no KCC Cllr can sit on a select committee, so lay people are to be sought at the next election.

He explained he would not be standing again.

Chestfield is changing with the boundary commission changes and will no longer be joined with Whitstable but rather linked to Blean.

A type 23 frigate is coming in to Dover this year and will be open to the public.

Cllr Harrison concluded his report with the news that the Kent and Medway Police Crime Commissioner is standing down. There are two new candidates for an election in May.

There was a round of applause and Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Harrison.

City Councillor Jenny Samper

There was no report from Cllr Samper but the Clerk reminded everyone that her East Kent Housing meetings often clash with Chestfield's meetings.

Report from Chestfield Cricket Club

Chairman Paul Gibson gave his report to the meeting as follows :

Established in 1947, Kent League and Kent Village League, Canterbury Junior District Leagues and cups competitions.

250 Members in all.

The Junior section is 160 strong, running 8 junior sides and kwik cricketers.

There are 9 qualified coaches, producing at present 25 District selected players and 5 County Squad players.

We have sustained a steady increase to this level over the last 8 years and it appears to be growing still.

In 2010 we attained the ECB Clubmark award for Safe and Effective Development of young players.

We are fortunate that we own the club and grounds. I would say a club on the up in a fabulous setting and community. We provide a venue for schools' competitions, district junior cup finals and charity matches. Our venue and organisation is admired by many other clubs. However, as we have grown and sustained this level, it is time to develop a long term plan of improvements to take the club forward to cope with this demand. Buildings and equipment are now getting tatty and seen better days.

The first two years will concentrate on replacing heavy machinery and nets facilities to be fit for purpose for ten years plus. Through some grants and sponsorship and a majority of club fundraising.

Feasibility study and plans are being drawn up to extend and refurbish the Clubhouse for two years' time.

Aiming to increase our standards for safeguarding children, the disabled and female cricketers. Also to increase the venue capability for a sustainable off season building.

I wish to establish further links with the community in providing a suitable place for local groups to use.

The local police will be using the pavilion for surgeries this year and I am keen to offer the facility to ourselves on a regular basis for your needs.

In my view we will need support for the improvement projects from grants, stakeholders and sponsors admittedly, but the longevity of the product will serve the members of the community for many years to come.

Cllr Bailey thanked Paul Gibson for his report.

Report from St Joseph's Church, Father Kevin St Aubyn

Life at St. Joseph's church has carried on its steady way this last year. The ecumenical Christmas Carol Service outside the church and led by the Revd. David Vannerley and myself was once again well supported and the hospitality afterwards at the Womens' Institute hall much appreciated.

The death of Mr Pat Moyne, a long-standing parishioner, occurred on 21 December 2015 and Pat's funeral Mass took place at St. Joseph's on Tuesday 12 January 2016, the first such Mass for many years.

Local residents may occasionally see numbers of Indian parishioners at St. Joseph's church on a Sunday morning. They are Catholics of the Syro-Malabar rite and have Mass on each third Sunday of the month, their own Priest coming down from London. They have kindly undertaken to redecorate the church porch and was welcomed.

The Church is registered for weddings too, although the last one was about 25 years ago.

The green in front of the Church is left uncut deliberately as there are special wild orchids there, and the land is allowed to go fallow to let them seed.

(Father) Kevin St. Aubyn, Parish Priest

Cllr Bailey thanked Father Kevin for his report.

Report from Chestfield Rotary Club (President Wendy Tetley and Secretary David Mann)

The year has been very productive, with a number of new initiatives introduced, increasing the funds we have raised, whilst still having a great time. The Chestfield fun day at the Rugby Club in August was an exciting new venture and we were happy to support it with our lawn games and stocks - luckily the weather was good for soaking friends and team mates! Our efforts contributed £59 to the John Graham Trust. We were there at the Summer Regatta with our stocks and although we did not raise a lot of money, we attracted the interest of some locals who wanted to know more about Rotary. I am delighted to say that 2 have now become members.

In September, the charity Golf Day went ahead despite the awful weather. Albeit soggy, our players and sponsors ensured that it was a great event and we raised money for Team Jo Epilepsy, a Herne Bay based charity which is raising money for epilepsy diagnosis at home. I was privileged to present dictionaries to the children at Swalecliffe Primary School; each one individually inscribed. The Headmaster was grateful for the donation as it relieved pressure on his budget. We have agreed a commitment for the next 2 years to enable the school to plan for the use of freed up funds.

In November we held our annual quiz night at All Saints Hall in Whitstable

This is always well attended and we raised a tidy sum of more than £800.

Our Christmas collection around Chestfield is always a popular event for members of our club, with much competition for the role of Father Christmas! We increased the number of roads we visited this year and we generally received a warm welcome from the local residents who generously donated food and money which was given to the ladies at the Wyn Ellis Trust and Catching Lives in Canterbury. The joy on the children's faces as the sleigh travels up their road is a wonderful sight - Santa really does visit Chestfield!

In February we held our first Race Night at Herne Bay Junior School. What a fantastic event! We raised £1200 for the benefit of charities throughout the year and we all had a great time betting on our horses.

At Rotary we are presented with many worthy causes and several really captured our hearts and efforts. In particular, we were pleased to be able to contribute to the fundraising for a local child who has severe epilepsy and required a special bed and we are now supporting the local Table Tennis club, the Chestfield Warriors, who are doing so much positive work with local stroke victims.

There's always so much going on at Chestfield Rotary Club, we relish the opportunity to work within our local community and are constantly looking for ways to work together. I'm enjoying my year as President and I know Nick Robinson, our incoming President in July, has plenty of new ideas and will continue to drive Chestfield Rotary Club forward.

Cllr Bailey thanked Wendy for her report.

Report from Canterbury and District Neighbourhood Watch (Neil Fowler, Vice Chairman of CDNW)

There is no doubt that the face of public service has evolved considerably since 2008.

Financial provision is not what it was and inevitably staffing levels, in all services, have been cut to achieve required budgetary reductions. Through it all, however, volunteers have soldiered on, and none more so than the small Neighbourhood Watch team at Herne Bay police station responsible for production of the daily messages sent to the 170 scheme coordinators across the Canterbury district. Throughout the year they have despatched 257 crime reports and warnings to our Chestfield NHW schemes. They have coped admirably with changes to systems and support staffing during that period - and resolutely prepare for more of the same for as far as they can see into the future. Certainly these challenging times haven't made life easier for NHW, but neither have they deflated enthusiasm. This year we

have seen 6 schemes close across the Canterbury area but 5 new ones have opened, 2 more have been extended and there are several new enquiries in the pipeline. Chestfield accounted for 3 of those new schemes in: Cherry Orchard, Share and Coulter Rd and Old Fold / Slades Close. This has added 64 more households to those covered in the village, the total of which now stands at 995 across 31 roads. But there is still more to do, a topic covered at our annual local group meeting attended by 11 of our 20 coordinators. Despite the sterling efforts of Cathy Wegener in delivering flyers to households in the village there are still 20 roads that do not have benefit from NHW. And only 4 of our schemes have deputies to ensure future continuity. We all have busy lives, so getting time to consider new commitments, no matter how compelling or beneficial, is hard. Opportunities to engage with the community are also limited, which is why it was so useful for NHW to have had the opportunity to contribute to the first Chestfield Village Fun Day held last August - as a result of which the new Share and Coulter Rd scheme came about. And we look forward to joining forces again in June this year when the next event is planned.

Although, according to Home Office figures, there were 103 recorded offences in Chestfield during the last year, only 24 of these directly targeted residents (or trades people working for them) through theft or burglary. Many of the others involved shoplifting or antisocial behaviour (which includes a myriad of offences ranging from fly-tipping to workplace disputes). More alarmingly though, the number of reported scams and attacks involving fraud or deception is rising exponentially nationwide - and Chestfield is not immune, with at least 5 local residents falling victim to scammers within recent months - and they are just the ones that we know about. Work to tackle this growing problem is being coordinated by a dedicated City of London Police Unit, an eminent speaker from which headlined the Canterbury & District NHW Association Conference just two weeks ago. Safeguarding communities from internet based risk and cyber-attack, which emanate from countries across the globe, is a hard nut to crack. The best methods of defence include education of safe practice and communication of new risks or emerging threats - which, together with promulgation of more traditional forms of security advice, remain core objectives of NHW.

Neal Fowler,
Vice Chairman of C&DNHWA
01227 639257 or neal.fowler@talktalk.net

Cllr Bailey thanked Cllr Fowler for his report and there was a round of applause.

Chestfield with Swalecliffe Women's Institute – President Pauline Joseph Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for your invitation to participate in this meeting.

I'm Pauline Joseph, President of Swalecliffe with Chestfield WI. Our membership totals 67. Our Committee, comprising ten fellow members and myself, are elected to conduct the monthly business of the WI and ensure our hall is well maintained, safe and fit for use by all. This requires a lot of time, effort and fundraising by the Committee and our members. Besides the costs of heating, lighting, insurance, general repairs and maintenance for the hall, we must ensure all the necessary certificates covering health, safety and legal aspects are in place whilst working within the parameters set by the Charities Commission.

To meet maintenance costs our hall is let for various events including parties, a dance group, and two leading weight loss organisations. Further revenues are raised by staging social gatherings which our members pay to attend. Last year's events included a French Coffee Morning, a 12 by 12 Challenge, an Italian Lunch, a Beetle Drive, and a VE Day Celebratory Tea. In August, members had a busy time at the hall producing jars of chutney, jam and pickles to sell at our Halloween Fair. Future events include a Spring Lunch with Flower Arranging demo, a Queen's Birthday Tea and our Harvest Fair, which is open to the general public.

2015 being the WI's Centenary year, we found ourselves even more busy than usual. Amongst other things we produced a booklet of '100 Handy Hints' to present to each member, performed various things 100 times and knit 100 squares which were made

into blankets and sent to the British Humanitarian Society. One of our lucky members was chosen to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Due to the increased demands on our time we were disappointed to be unable to participate in the Chestfield Village Fun Day. We did, however, support Chestfield History Society by selling some of their 2016 calendars.

Our monthly meetings consist of an hour reporting and discussing WI business, then a break for refreshments and socialising followed by an hour's presentation by a guest Speaker with members posing any questions they may have afterwards. Speakers have included local historians, RSPB, a hypnotherapist, volunteers working in various capacities at Canterbury Cathedral, and a member of the National Coastwatch. We look forward to next month's talk entitled 'My Grandmother was a Spy'. Meetings are well attended and we have various active groups run by and for our members. These generally meet once a week and include Scrabble, Dressmaking, Keep Fit, Craft, Table Tennis, an Art Group and a Walking Group. Some members have expressed an interest in forming a Darts Team.

Our Craft Group are kept busy knitting items for the British Humanitarian Society and the premature baby unit.

We each receive a monthly copy of East Kent News informing us of all events organised by East Kent Federation and what's happening in other East Kent WI branches. We support these events as much as we can and also support Denman College, the Women's Institute's own college in Oxfordshire, which offers a range of day and residential courses in cookery, various crafts and lifestyle whilst promoting friendship. It is well attended by both members and non-members from around the country.

WI members also receive a copy of WI Life, the official monthly magazine of the National Federation of Women's institutes. This keeps us abreast of what is happening within the WI nationally and of the various campaigns and resolutions we are involved with. Resolutions of recent years have been Organ Donation, Employment of More Midwives and the Decline of Our High Streets and Town Centres. This year two resolutions will be put forward: 'Avoid Food Waste, Address Food Poverty' and 'Appropriate Care in Hospitals for People with Dementia'.

Last June our Centenary Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall was attended by 5,100 members including HM The Queen, President of Sandringham WI, HRH The Princess Royal, a long standing associate of NFWI, and HRH the Countess of Wessex, a member of Bagshot WI. In addition, thousands of members across the country tuned in to the live broadcast of the proceedings. Afterwards the Queen sparked laughter when she struggled to cut through the tough icing of a celebration fruit cake!

Our WI meets here from 2.00 until 4.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month except August. New members are very welcome so if you are interested please come along. If you would like further information you may contact our Secretary, Joan Saunders, on 01227 793210.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration.

Cllr Bailey thanked Mrs Joseph for her report and there was a round of applause.

Report from Chestfield Warriors Table Tennis Club 2015/2016 season report

Linda and John Wickings had sent their apologies to the meeting but provided a report as follows:

We continue with our Wednesday afternoon sessions with the **South Eastern Stroke Association** where we provide post stroke rehabilitation sessions to a group of 10 or so of their members, on a Wednesday plus a weekly 1-2-1 Thursday session. We provide 10 Hours every month. It is so rewarding to see the continuing change that Table Tennis has made to this group. Brian after 18 months managed to do a back hand serve for the very first time.

We are also affiliated to **Young Kent** where we provide sessions for children with disabilities and learning difficulties. Playing Table Tennis at our club has proved to help children to overcome their disabilities, and difficulties with Autism and speech problems and many other hidden problems they have.

Our Junior sessions on Saturday mornings are still growing with an average of 20 juniors attending every session, aged from 8yrs to 16yrs old, they are local youth from our area and local schools, with a few travelling from other nearby towns. We have a group of our top juniors training with the Kent squad.

Membership

Our club membership has grown over the year – we now have over 150 members.

Our Senior Saturday practice sessions are very popular and we average 15-20 players attending, we have players coming from other clubs in the area to join in with the sessions as well.

Ladies only session

Social sessions for Ladies only, which we run on Friday mornings 10.20am-12.30pm; gentle keep fit while enjoying playing table tennis – we have spaces for more ladies to join us.

Local league

Our club has grown to be the biggest club in the south east. This year we entered 21 Chestfield Warriors teams into our local league; these teams being a mixture of senior and juniors playing together. We also have 3 other clubs that use our venue as their home venue, so this year we have a total of 29 teams playing league matches here. Our Club also hosts the Senior Kent league which is played on Sundays. To follow our club teams in the league visit www.canterburytt.co.uk

Schools

We are also providing table tennis in local schools; we run satellite table tennis clubs at the Community College Whitstable, Queen Elizabeth in Faversham and in Sittingbourne The Sittingbourne Community College and Fulston Manor, with an attendance of 20 plus juniors in each session. This adds up to 120 plus juniors being involved in sport weekly. This is going to lead on to inter-school competitions and juniors joining local clubs.

Table Tennis at the club

We have been at our new venue for 18 Months now and in that time we have had 9500 people playing Table Tennis. This is both social and league playing standard. 3 of our members gained their Level 1 UKCC Coaching Certificates, this will give our club a total of 2 UKCC level 2 coaches and 6 UKCC level 1 coaches.

We are now a registered Table Tennis England Premier Club and working towards gaining Club Mark Accreditation and becoming a CASC.

Canterbury Local Tournament 2016

Division 3 and Division 4 Singles titles this year were won by 2 of our 11 year old Juniors.

Junior Competition – Sunday 10 April 2016 – we are hosting the C&DTTA Junior closed competition; the first junior event for many years, with the finals night to be Friday 15 April 2016 from 7pm – all are welcome to come and watch.

Coaching / Playing – We provide group/family and individual sessions. Or if you just fancy a game, come along to the Club where you will be made welcome.

International – In May our Club is hosting and playing a friendly match with a team from Ricany in the Czech Republic.

Lottery club

We have 110 members in our Lottery club and will have paid out **£2150-00** this year in winnings. If you would like to help to support our Club and be in with a chance to win £150 per month, contact John or Linda - We still have spaces available for new members to join.

Funding – We are actively seeking sponsorship and funding to allow the purchase of a defibrillator and to be able to provide new club kit.

Chestfield Warriors Table Tennis Club is committed to continued growth, bringing Table Tennis to our local Community.

Linda Wickings, Club Secretary www.warriorstt.net [facebook.com/chestfield.warriors](https://www.facebook.com/chestfield.warriors)

Chestfield History Society

Cllr Ellis read the secretary, Mrs Pat Simpson's report to the meeting as follows:

The Chestfield History Society has continued to meet monthly. At the moment we meet in one another's homes while the numbers are manageable to be able to do this.

We are grateful to the Parish Council for their active support and financial help with our first project, the production of a calendar for 2016 featuring local scenes and objects, with short articles about the history behind them. We propose to produce another one for 2017 and have already enough visual material and background information. We sold 200 copies of the 2016 publication with the help of local organisations, including the WI, the Golf Club and Maydowns Road Association. We intend to advertise more widely next year as we believe many potential purchasers were unaware of the publication, but we were very pleased with the response and interest of local people and hope this will become an annual production.

In addition to the 2017 calendar we are currently researching and collecting material for our next project, inspired by Chestfield Tales, the book published by Chestfield Society. It will be a History. We are gathering quotations for an initial print run of 100 copies of a publication of pictures and text. We expect the cost of the book will be about £10 and it to be available early next year.

We are also collecting a growing number of items for our archive which already has a collection of over 150 historical postcards and photographs, local large-scale maps dating back to the 18th century, newspaper cuttings dating back to before the 1st world war, 10 audio recorded interviews, and ephemera. We are grateful to the many people who have offered items for our collection, which are all being catalogued and will eventually be copied for access electronically to be viewed by other interested parties, and would like to take this opportunity to appeal to anyone who has interesting photos, cards or documents which may be of local historical significance to allow us sight and with permission of course, to take copies. We promise we will take care of anything entrusted to us and intend to build a useable and permanent archive of material available to anyone with a genuine interest in local history.

We welcome anyone who wishes to join us at our monthly meetings, membership is free and we would especially welcome any young people who might be interested in local history or help with projects. Meeting dates and venues will be announced monthly on our website that can be found by googling Chestfield History.

We thank the Parish Council for the opportunity to present this report and for their continued support.

Report from Village Correspondent (Deborah Johnson)

I am Deborah Johnson and I write the "Roundabout Column" for Chestfield and Swalecliffe, for the local Whitstable Gazette part of the Kentish Messenger Group. I have been doing this for over ten years.

This service is provided free by the paper it is weekly. Its aim is to inform the community of activities within their own area and for groups and activities to publicise their events and hopefully get support. Anyone can send me information and if there is a local connection I will put in the report that I send in each week. I can't always guarantee that it will be published, but as the information is not usually contentious there isn't a problem. I only receive information regular from the local church, Parish Council, St Johns Church and the Scout Group, the rest of the information I get I have to search for on websites which is odd as this is a chance for free publicity and sometimes the story is picked up by the paper to do a bigger piece on. So if you have a local event, meeting or activity that you would like the community to know about then please let me know. The earlier you let me know about it the better, but I need at least ten days' notice.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Deborah

Cllr Bailey thanked Deborah for her report and there was a round of applause.

Maydowns Road Residents Association

Resident Mike Poole explained he was attending to give a report on behalf of Mick Clarke the road association's Chairman.

He explained it had been a busy year, in particular, the appeal at the Guildhall into the application for development of Bodkin Farm.

The residents association's main role is to keep the road in good repair. They agreed at the AGM to charge each household £55 per year.

The gas company have replaced the gas main along the road this year.

The road association plan to install a bench halfway along the road this year – residents have contributed to this.

Two of the road's trees have died but been replaced.

The committee are looking at reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.

The Sunflowers and Scarecrows annual event was a success and judged by Amanda, the Clerk. They intend to run it again this year.

They have laid on social events and barbeques for residents too.

Adult cycle training

Cllr Rabey explained that KCC have now started delivery of free adult cycle training at Whitstable Rugby club.

There was a session held on Saturday 19 March 2016, but there are no further sessions booked for March at present.

KCC plan to arrange further sessions for April onwards, but are awaiting final funding decisions before they can confirm numbers and whether the sessions will continue to be free of charge. (although any future charge will be minimal)

Visit the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk, and search Cycle Training. This will provide all of the latest information, including dates of future courses.

Future dates will be communicated to the Clerk to advertise in the magazine and on the parish noticeboards.

Cllr Bailey thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.15pm for light refreshments.