

THE ROYAL OAK CHARITY COMMITTEE'S

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the Youth And Community Centre



Free for Bean Residents
Children of 4 to 10 years of age



On Saturday 5th December 12.30 to 3.30pm

DISCO - GAMES - FOOD - DRINK



To confirm your reservation for the child
to be eligible to attend,
please return this slip NO LATER than
Thursday 3rd December
to The Royal Oak or the Bean Post Office.

Child(s) Name(s)Age

.....Age:

Contact Telephone number

Telephone The Royal Oak on 01474 832 306
after 7.00pm, for more information.

Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 44th Year

December 2009
4 / 09

BEAN'S TALK

Issued free to every
Household in Bean.

Web site: beanvillage.org.uk

E-mail: beanra@waitrose.com

We welcome new residents to the village and to the Residents Association's quarterly News Letter. Please feel free to contribute your thoughts, ideas and comments.



**TO ALL OUR
READERS**



A selection of the contents of this edition:

December Community Bus trips



A chance to join in local walks,

Black Horse attractions,



A serious report by the Community Hall Committee,

Royal Oak festivities including Children's and Pensioner's Dinners,



Scouting activities,

Various scams to be aware of,



And of course our Advertisers on who we rely.

To contact the editor; e-mail: thebeanstalk@btinternet.com

Telephone 01474 704062

1 School Lane

Bean DA2 8AL.

Bill (editor)

**THE COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH BEAN'S TALK IS
TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY.**

Information from the monthly meetings of
The Bean Residents Association.

The following notes are updates from the October 2009 meeting.

It was reported that the broken gully in Beacon Drive has been repaired.

Kent County Council have carried out repairs to the road surfaces in Page Close, School Lane and Sandy Lane. Some were the result of subsidence following the laying of main drainage pipes and were dealt with by Cappagh the contractor for those works.

Dartford Council have bought the land by Ightham Cottages to enable the the rescue horses to remain there.

There have been no reports from the PCSO 's for several months. It was suggested that a letter be sent about their non-attendance.

Jill Mendham, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for NW Kent attended the October meeting. She mentioned that more people were needed to help with the Neighbourhood Watch as some roads in Bean were not covered. If anyone is interested in being a representative they should contact Colin Newmarsh at the Community Safety Unit at the Civic Centre on 01322 343434.

The Parish Council is to ask KCC about progress on more lighting for School Lane.

Other Village issues and any other business mentioned were:

Parish Council - Object to the Vision Homes appeal,

Cherwell Farm - No objection to conservatory extension but will keep an eye on business uses,

Neil Pearson-Coffey - commented on a survey of footpaths being carried out in and around Bean,

The traffic calming bollard outside the Post Office was removed on 19th October,

A tree in Ashwood Place overhangs the road and has caused a tractor to shed its load. Kent County Council have been contacted to deal with it.

Continued on page 3

DISCLAIMER: The Editor and Association Officers of the Bean Residents Association do not necessarily agree with all the views and advice expressed within this newsletter and whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy of the information cannot accept liability from erroneous information published herein.

This abridged report was supplied by the:

Dartford Detached Youth Work Team.

Since June we have plodded the streets of Bean on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening to establish contact with young people to inform them of the activities the youth service have to offer.

We conducted a survey of the activities in the area for young people aged 13 to 19. They all feel that not a lot happens for their age group, and would welcome a youth club once a week.

For the youths, transportation seems to be the biggest issue, especially at weekends when the services are reduced.

We have also been present, by the recreation ground, with the "Onestop Bus" which is a multi-faceted service comprising The Princes Trust, advice and information from Connexions, Ccard and Chlamydia testing - from the Primary Care Trust, Drugs awareness from KCA and activities from the Kent Youth Service.

Two young people have shown interest in being elected to the Dartford Youth Council to receive training in how to have their say and apply for funding towards youth activities.

Our aim is to link statutory services with young people wherever they live in Dartford and to engage them in meaningful, enjoyable and positive activities in their leisure time.

Wherever we can gain support to do so would be much appreciated.

Pauline Campbell, Detached Area Youth Worker, Fleetdown Library
01322 279 231.

Has anyone who has been approached by this organisation any comments or suggestions to make with regards to the organisation or aims of the service. (Ed)

* * *

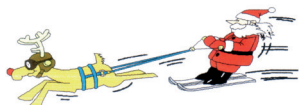
Don't forget the birds this winter.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has warned that bread fills up birds without giving them the nutrients they require.

It advises leaving out tasty titbits such as grated cheese, left over jacket potatoes, breakfast cereals, and cake. Also acceptable are porridge oats, rice or scraps of pastry, anything but bread. Seed cake and fruit loaf or proprietary bird seeds are all recommended.

Why not make your own mixture of scraps to hang in the garden?

**THE ROYAL OAK CHARITY COMMITTEE'S
FATHER CHRISTMAS DELIVERY SERVICE**



***Would you like Father Christmas
to deliver a present
To someone special in the village
on Christmas Eve ?***

**If you take your parcel, wrapped and showing the name and
address to whom you would like it delivered**

**To The ROYAL OAK or the BEAN POST OFFICE
BEFORE**

Saturday 17th December



**The parcel will be delivered on Christmas Eve between
5pm and 9pm by Father Christmas and his helpers.**

***There is no charge for this service which comes with
the compliments of the Royal Oak Charity Committee.***

Tel: The Royal Oak on 01474 832 306 after 7pm for more information.

**THE ROYAL OAK CHARITY COMMITTEE'S
PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**WE ARE HAVING A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH
At the Royal Oak**

FREE TO ALL PENSIONERS 65 or OVER

**PICK UP AN APPLICATION FORM
FROM THE ROYAL OAK FOR DETAILS.**

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED - Numbers limited.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch:

(See pages 12,17,18, and 29 for other reports and information.)

The next Residents Association meeting will be on 7th December.

The meeting starts at 8.15pm in the Community Centre.

All Bean residents are invited to attend.

The meeting was reminded that all Bean residents are welcome to attend the Parish Council Meetings held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Bean Community Bus.

As some of you know the bus was inspected by VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Service Agency) Officers when in Canterbury recently, due to a small tear in the side wall rubber of a rear tyre. They issued a Seven Day Notice of Prohibition.

We have had the bus thoroughly inspected and any defects rectified. It was also due for MOT test and annual complete service. We would like to thank DAC for the prompt attention and very reasonable hours charged.

The tachograph, although not used by us, had to be re-calibrated for the first time in its life, we now know it should be done every two years.

Our usual MOT station could not test the bus due to its weight being above their licensed limit, so we had to book it into the Greenwich Council coach testing facility and could not use the bus for one weeks shopping trips. It passed the test OK.

The tyre? Now replaced with a new one. Can I thank Paul Stapley for coming out on his day off to change the wheel as the AA Service could not get the nuts undone.

Colin S

Apologies for the poor reproduction of photographs and some logos in the September Bean's Talk. The problem occurred in the final transfer to disk for printing and I was unable to rectify it in time. As a result the Lorry photograph and also the logos affected have been reconstructed.
(Ed.)

The BEAN COMMUNITY BUS

BEAN COMMUNITY BUS TRIPS SCHEDULE		
If you are interested in any of the trips below please contact Colin on 01474 832 793 as soon as possible to save being disappointed.		
Date	Venue	Bus Fare
Monday 30th November	Ashford (Tent City) Designer outlet Centre	£9
Tuesday 1st December	Chatham Dockyard Retail Outlet	£7
Tuesday 8th December	Polhill Garden Centre	£5
Tuesday 15th December	Canterbury	£10
Tuesday 22nd December	Polhill Garden Centre	£5
If you have any suggestions for trips, shopping, entertainment etc. in the New Year, or need to hire the bus for a private outing please contact Colin.		

Bean Community Bus Drivers Lunch.

Friday the 30th October saw a very good turn out at the Royal Oak for our drivers lunch. Colin, Alan and Neil came, but unfortunately Faye went to Scout Camp; never mind she had her reward later.

Graham and Karen and their chef put on a splendid three course meal, of our choosing, from a very varied menu. Well done the team it was appreciated by all of us and deserves a return visit next year for a repeat performance.

May I just thank you all for the lovely bouquet of flowers and the card.

I was completely bowled over. *Christine T.*

Accounts for the lunch

Monies Collected for the driver lunch	<u>£72-00</u>
Receipt for 3 drivers lunches	£30-00
Receipt for vase	£ 6-99
Receipt for flowers	£ 4-99
Monies left for the Bus fund	<u>£30-02</u>
Total	<u>£72-00</u>

The Bus Team is still in desperate need of drivers to cover day trips, weekends, evenings and the shopping trips in order to maintain and hopefully expand the service.

If you can help PLEASE contact Colin on 01474 832 793

SCAMS to be AWARE OF.

Trading Standards have become aware of unsolicited telephone calls reporting to be from the Abbey (bank). The number that calls is 08453 560024.

The calls are automated and state it is regarding security issues for visa fraud. The calls have stated the victims surname and initial, which makes it sound genuine, and may be repeated. They ask you to press a key to confirm identity and then request personal security information.

The Abbey have said that this is not connected with them.

If you receive a call do not respond. Never give out personal security information on the telephone. Hang up and disconnect the call.

If you need further advice, please call
Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Phishing emails from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are being reported to Kent Trading Standards. There are a number of different versions of the email, but they often tell the recipient that they need to claim a modest tax refund. The emails often make an effort to look as if they are genuine, using the HMRC logo.

Clicking on the links normally takes the recipient off to another web page which asks for personal information including credit / debit card numbers and security codes. The web page gives the impression that a card number is needed so that the refund can be put back on the card.

If you get one of these emails forward it to your Internet provider, most have a 'report spam' option. Then delete it.

Under no circumstances enter your personal information.
More information can be found on the HMRC website

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/security/index.h>

<http://www.hmrc.glov.uk/security/examples.htm>

If you need information on your rights as a consumer
call Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

Door step traders.

If a trader knocks on your door offering work on your house or garden do not agree straight away. Take your time to decide. There are few jobs that need doing straight away.

Ask friends and neighbours to recommend reliable traders, or visit
www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES and USEFUL NUMBERS.

Bean Village web site www.beanvillage.org.uk

E-mail address beanra@waitrose.com

Phone Numbers 01474 unless shown otherwise.

POLICE Maidstone 01622 690690

Gemma Pawley - Neighbourhood Police Officer.

Mobile 07870252526

Dave Davies - Police Community Support Officer.

Mobile 07969584192

Community Warden.

Mobile 07811271252

Community Warden (Control Centre)

☎ 01732 885712

Crime Stoppers

☎ 0800 555 111

Bean Youth and Community Centre

Hall Bookings

Tuesday 1.00 - 2.45pm.	Mother and Toddler	Betty Martin	☎ 706347
Wednesday 2.30pm.	Young at Heart	Carrie	☎ 700291
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.30pm.	Beavers	Betty Martin	☎ 706347
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.30pm.	Cubs	Adam Boucher	☎ 07931 733862
Wednesday 7.45 - 9.30pm.	Scouts	Faye Brown	☎ 07971 011928
Thursday 5.15 - 6.45pm.	Brownies	Neil Warburton	☎ 707382
Sunday 10.00 - 11.00am.	St. Nicholas at Bean,	Mrs. E. Barrett	☎ 703429
Mon - Fri 9.15 - 12.00 noon.	Play School	Don White	☎ 705430
		Allison Barrass	☎ 07771864937

Mobile Library

Black Horse	4.05 to 4.25pm.	The service is on a Monday at the
Beacon Drive (Lower end)	4.30 to 4.45pm.	stopping points and times shown.

Doctors

Dr. Somasegaram	Bean Surgery, High St. Bean.	☎ 707236
Dr. Langley	Beacon Drive, Bean	☎ 708672

Churches

St. Nicholas at Bean.	Bean Youth and Community Centre.	Sundays 10 am.
St. Nicholas at Southfleet	Rector is David Houston	☎ 833252
For special services - see the church notice board located at the front of the car park at the Youth and Community Centre.		

Bean Residents Association

Bean Residents Association meets on the First Monday of the month at 8.15pm. in the Bean Youth and Community Centre. All Bean residents are welcome to attend.

Bean Parish Council.

E-mail Beanpc@dsl.pipex.com

Bean Parish Council meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. in the Bean Youth and Community Centre. All Bean residents are welcome to attend. ☎ 832402

Oasis Counselling Centre ☎ 01322 294430

Free counselling for bereavement and help for those affected by suicide, pregnancy, crisis and post abortion, support for ex-offenders, advice and support for job-seekers, those affected by domestic violence, those in distress, befriending scheme, and parenting classes.

BEAN'S TALK Is published by the BEAN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Correspondence to The Secretary, Linda Collins, 26 Turner Road, Bean, DA2 8BA.

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A thank you

The other drivers of the community bus and I would like to thank Christine Timbers for all the hard work that she has put into organising the various outings etc. over the last couple of years and also thank her for arranging the meals at The Black Horse and The Royal Oak for the drivers, Faye, Colin, Neil and myself as a thank you for our time. I hope we can find somebody to take over the role of organising outings in the future as Christine is giving up this job. We wish her well in whatever she does in the future. *Alan Weeks*

Country Walking

A group of villagers have got together and once a week, weather permitting, go for walks along our footpaths. Nothing is too arduous and the group decides where they want to go the following week. Apart from getting out and keeping fit, we still have some very beautiful countryside in Bean and our neighbouring parishes.

Anyone interested contact Neil on 01474 832115



Bean School

Salvation Army Carol Concert

**Bean Primary School would like to invite the
Residents of Bean to our annual Salvation Army Concert**

On

Tuesday 15th December at 7.00pm.

Bean School.

For the children, this year's Harvest Festival, was particularly special as Mrs Smith, our cleaner, retired after being associated with Bean School for over 50 years!

She will be greatly missed by everyone, but will pop into the school from time to time starting with a visit to talk about the war with year 6 to help them with their World War Two topic. A photographer from the Dartford Messenger was on hand to record Mrs Smith receiving presents and cards from the children.

On the 22nd of October, the head teacher, together with three previous heads, the staff, former colleagues and pupils, parents, and governors, were joined by members of her family, to wish Mrs Smith a happy retirement.

The occasion was celebrated with a tea party, the highlight being Mrs. Smith's thanks when presented with a garden bench on which she could sit under her "apple tree".

BEAN POST OFFICE

01474703485

'your local'

Miles.beanpo@btinternet.com

FRANK, ZAN AND ALL THE STAFF
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'Classic Mini' Mini Sport Adjusta Rides. Adjustable front suspension units. Brand new - boxed £40-00.

Mini Metro 1275cc Electronic Ignition Distributor, fits A4 engine. £20-00

Tony 01474 704062

Would you like to advertise in the Beanstalk?

The magazine is delivered to all of the 650 houses in Bean four times a year, in March, June, September and December.

Advertising prices are shown below.

If so please contact Colin on 01474 832793 or The editor .

Advertising Rates per issue
Or buy 4 get one free.

Full page £30-00

2/3 page £25-00

1/2 page £20-00

1/3 page £15-00

1/4 page £10-00

When replying to an
advert please mention
the Bean's Talk

BEAN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
Are held on the **FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH**
(Excluding Bank Holidays).

The meetings start at 8.15 pm.

In the Youth and Community Centre.

All residents of Bean are welcome to attend.

Check the notice board outside the Post Office
for notice of guest speakers.

Answers to your Christmas Quiz.

1	Charlie Chaplin	11	Donna and Blitzen
2	William 1st.	12	Capricorn
3	Humphry Bogart	13	Turkey
4	1952	14	1969
5	1957	15	Oliver Cromwell
6	Stone of Scone	16	Melkior
7	Irving Berlin	17	Postmen
8	A door knocker	18	Mikhail Gorbachev
9	Pantomime	19	Orbit the moon
10	The Night Before Christmas	20	Football

If you would like a quiz, crossword or other puzzle as a regular feature please let me know.

Feel free to Submit a Contribution or a suggestion.

Beast of Bluewater.

In February it was reported that a black leopard was seen on the snow covered field by the school. Sightings of a black leopard have been reported in the area for around 10 years.

Has any one seen this “Beast” in this year or had any such encounters?

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01474 704 291
07895 170 320

Jail for distracted drivers who kill.

Motorists who kill while avoidably distracted at the wheel will now face prison under new careless driving laws which are now in force.

Prior to the introduction of the new laws, the maximum sentence was merely a maximum £5000 fine and penalty points on driving licence.

Whiplash test.

A rear impact (whiplash) test will become an integral part of Euro NCAP's (European New Car Assessment Programme) new safety rating system when it is introduced in February of next year.

Have you considered joining the
Neighbourhood Watch
Scheme ?

If you have any particular area that would benefit from a litter pick please contact Bill on 01474 704062, and we may be able to tackle it, or make contact with the council.

The routine Litter Picks will take place, starting at 10 am.
and lasting up to 1½ hours on;



Thursday 28th January
Meeting outside the School,

Thursday 26th February
Meeting outside the Royal Oak,

Thursday 25th March
Meeting outside the Black Horse.

Jenson Button at Bluewater.

Jenson Button visited Bluewater after becoming the F1 World Champion Driver. He arrived about 11am after landing at Biggin Hill about 5 in the morning in team mate Rubens Barrichello's private jet.

Jenson gave a press conference and had TV interviews. There were several thousand spectators who came to see Jenson.

In the afternoon he gave rides in a Mercedes SL AMG to several celebrities and people who had won competitions in conjunction with Virgin Media.

He then signed autographs for the people in the crowd and had a question and answer session with visitors.

I was fortunate enough to meet Jenson during the day as I was a Marshal on the circuit laid out around the perimeter road at Bluewater. There were about 50 Marshals on duty in case of any trouble with the car. As you might know Marshals have to be present at all meetings where cars and public meet. At the end of the day Jenson came and spoke to the Marshals to thank us and tell how it felt to be World Champion.

It was certainly a day to remember.

Alan Weeks



Can anyone identify the date, person or location of this early photograph?

There have been suggestions that the location is somewhere in Bean.

The sign writing on the lorry is:

T. TAYLOR & SONS
HAULAGE CONTRACTORS & FRUIT GROWERS
BEAN DARTFORD KENT.

Any information will be published in a future edition of the Bean's Talk.

Highcross Road MOT Ltd

Class 1 & 2 Motorcycles
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Motorcycle & Car Bodyshop



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On production of this advert.



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**We also have a large selection of FORD KA's
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Chris 079- 863 40 719
c.cowley@tiscali.co.uk

MUSTARD SEED - RELIEF MISSION

Over 800 newly knitted woollen items were received in the Bean Youth and Community Centre on Saturday 5th September for forwarding to the Ukraine. The children, mainly living in the rural areas of the Ukraine, will once again, love receiving this warm clothing—jumpers, hats, gloves and scarves which this village has been sending out for the past three years. The families also welcome the colourful woollen blankets and this year also donated and included in the delivery were three Singer sewing machines looking for new homes, which I know will be well received.

Thank you once again all who knitted items for the very successful exhibition. This appeal is not advertised anywhere else other than in the Bean's Talk so you can see how brilliant the people and friends of this village are. We exhibit the items made for this appeal because all the donations, without exception, are too good a quality to just put in a bag and send off to Charity H.Q. We feel it is good to display the items beforehand—not only to encourage those who have always wanted to knit an item and never got around to it, but also for those knitters to enjoy other folks work. All this knitwear is individual and knitted by amateurs, but the quality is astounding and the exhibition is totally inspiring. All free and on our doorstep, with a cup of tea and cake thrown in—what more can you ask! So, if you wish to join in with this appeal for 2010 and donate a hand knitted gift to help a child survive the perishing winters of the Ukraine—then we will continue so long as people wish to knit for us. Unless notified to the contrary, through the pages of Bean's Talk, the next exhibition will be the first Saturday in September—September 4th—at 11am until 1pm. Grateful thanks are also extended to Matthew, Colin Smith's grandson, who always helps with the setting up of the tables and the heavy workload. (Good to sing the praises of the younger generation when we can.) Thanks also to Colin for the use of his van and for delivering the goods to Eastbourne for us. *Jenny*

For further information please contact Don White 01474 705430

St. Nicholas at Bean

Parish of St. Nicholas Southfleet

Church Services at the Youth & Community Centre

6th December 10.00am Toy Service

13th December 6.30pm Carol Service

You are welcome to our Regular Sunday Worship at 10.00am

We wish you a Blessed Christmas and happy New Year

Your Christmas Quiz from Peter,

	Question	your Answer
1	Which famous movie star died on 25th December 1977?	
2	Which King was crowned on Christmas Day?	
3	Who was born on Christmas Day 1899, given a middle name of DeForrest, and made his debut in the film The Petrified Forest in 1936?	
4	In which year did The Queen broadcast her first Christmas message?	
5	In which year was The Queen's speech first televised?	
6	On Christmas day in 1950 what was stolen from Westminster Abbey?	
7	Who wrote the song "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?	
8	On what did Marley's ghostly face first appear to Scrooge in Dickens' A Christmas Carol?	
9	Which word associated with Christmas, comes from a Greek word meaning we can act anything?	
10	Which popular poem did Clement Moore write for his six children in 1822?	
11	The names of which two reindeer mean 'Thunder' and 'Lightening'?	
12	If you were born on Christmas Day, what would be your Zodiac sign?	
13	In which country did the real St. Nicholas live?	
14	In what year was "Two little Boys" by Rolf Harris the Christmas number one?	
15	Who banned Christmas in England in 1647 and 1660?	
16	Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus?	
17	In Victorian England what people were called robins because of their red uniforms?	
18	Who resigned from their position of power on Christmas Day 1991?	
19	On Christmas Eve in 1968, three Americans became the first to do what?	
20	On Christmas day 1914, British and German soldiers famously called a temporary truce by playing which sport together?	

Black Horse Pub and Restaurant

High Street Bean, Dartford, DA2 8AS

Tel: 01474 702 486

Pete and Sarah

*Wishing all our Customers a very
Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year*

Home cooked food served Tuesday to Sunday 12 till 8pm.

Late night Restaurant Thursdays to Saturday till 9.30pm.

Monday to Thursday 3 course meal £15.95

Daily Specials Game available in season

Christmas Menu and Bookings taken now

4 Course Christmas Menu £29.99

3 Course Christmas Menu £24.99

ENTERTAINMENT EVERY WEEKEND
LIVE MUSIC, KARAOKE, DISCO, SINGERS

CHRISTMAS OPENING:

CHRISTMAS EVE 11 till 11pm

CHRISTMAS DAY 12 till 2.30 SHARP

BOXING DAY 12 till 3.00 and 7 till 11pm

NEW YEARS EVE 11 till 5.00, 7 till 1.00am

Admission by Ticket only £10-00 inc Buffet

DISCO, KARAOKE, LIVE BAND



ESPN

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Full service £80 + parts + VAT on all vehicles

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Free local collection and delivery service

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01474 833249



01474 833674



Betty Martin

In 1989 the new parish of Bean was created out of the parish of Stone and so a new parish council was formed.

In May 1995 Betty Martin was elected to Bean Parish Council and has remained a councillor continuously until October 2009 when she tendered her resignation due to increasingly poor health.

At the time when Betty joined the parish council it was the smallest in Kent, having only five members which meant she personally ensured councillors made every effort to attend meetings so that a quorum could be formed.

Betty had already been Chairman of Stone parish council when that council encompassed Bean so when she was elected Chairman of Bean in May 1998 she knew just what she was taking on. She became 'Madam Chairman' - she detested being called "The Chair" - and led the council with energy and enthusiasm. As Chairman she has kept the Council non-political and truly independent - even when it was increased to seven members.

She has represented us at many Borough and County events - going as far as the Houses of Parliament on one occasion. No parish event went unattended by her and all invitations to functions and meetings at Dartford Borough Council and in the neighbouring parishes were accepted - a full report being made at the next parish council meeting.

Her experience and wisdom has led Bean parish council through many difficult and diverse situations, sometimes sitting far into the night before a satisfactory decision could be made.

She has consistently worked in complete liaison with the Parish Clerk and has always been supportive when a new Clerk was trying to settle in.

Betty's resignation was reluctantly accepted in October. The Council has asked, and Betty has agreed to act as Consultant to the Council. We can't afford to lose her knowledge and experience.

So we say to Betty Martin - Thank you very much for your services to Bean and the Community.

*Jan Becket
Sally Weeks*

A MESSAGE FROM BEAN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE

Those of you who have recently tried to book the Community Centre for an evening private function will be aware that we are no longer taking bookings for private events finishing after 8pm. Unfortunately an evening booking, which was accepted in good faith, resulted in intolerable disruption to the neighbours of the Centre along the High Street and complete disregard and abuse of the facility. Sadly it seems that some members of society, on this occasion not villagers, have lost all their morals and respect for their surroundings.

We, the Committee, felt that we were not prepared to risk damage to the building which might result in it not being available for its regular users which serve this village and especially our young people nor should the hall's neighbours have to put up with increasing bad behaviour. We are aware that this has already caused problems for people who had planned to book the hall for forthcoming celebrations that in all probability would have been normal family events causing no problem but you will appreciate that it is difficult in such circumstances to draw a line.

We have also been lax in increasing our hourly charge and deposit in line with other local halls. We have now increased the hourly charge for private hire to £20 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours hire and a £100 deposit. Please be aware that a £100 deposit would not cover the cost of repair or replacement of much of the equipment in the hall should it be damaged and many halls currently ask for more. We hope that people will still continue to use the hall during the times available, to appreciate the hard work which goes into keeping the facility running and maintained and to look forward with us to seeing continuing improvements to bring our Community Centre up to today's standards.

Thank you to those who replied to the survey in the last Bean's Talk. We received 26 from this source and then direct canvassed some of our regular users as we were aware that the youth groups in particular attract children from surrounding villages and from further a field, notably Plumstead and Rochester for the Streetdance group. We appreciate you taking on board what we are trying to achieve and would particularly like to thank those individuals who added their own suggestions.

We have started to apply for funding for the planned refurbishment works on the hall next summer. Ever mindful of costs we have not included any quotes for painting and decorating once the work is done. We're hoping the village will rally to our support and help us with this when the time comes. In fact if there is anyone who can offer their help on one of our occasional working party days we would be really pleased to hear from them or even volunteer in

your own time when the hall is free and the walls could do with a quick emulsion to freshen them up.

Please continue to support us through Easy Fundraising, if you're booking a holiday or renewing insurances and plenty more, just click through the Easy Fundraising site, full details on the website www.beancommunitycentre.co.uk.

As usual we are always looking for new Committee members with a sense of community spirit. There is no obligation just come along to a meeting and see what you think.

Please contact the Secretary, Lynn Garnham on 01474 704180 or come along to one of our meetings which are held on the third Monday of the month.

Crime Reporting.

At the Residents Association Annual General Meeting Cllr. Dave Hammock could not stress strongly enough the need to obtain a crime number every time a crime is committed against you - even if it is something like theft of plants from your front garden. He said the less these petty crimes are reported - hence no crime numbers - then the lower the crime rate attributed to Bean which means, in some cases, complete lack of police response as their attentions are drawn to the high crime rate areas. Whilst we don't want Bean to become a 'black spot' we do need to keep on top of these annoying happenings.

Communities Secretary John Denham chose the Bridge development to launch the North Kent Multi-Area Agreements (MAA).

MAA's give groups of councils new powers to collaboratively devise their own plans and spend money to tackle pressing issues in their area.

He emphasised key targets for the Kent Region including:

- Deliver 58,000 new jobs and 52,000 new homes by 2026,
- Roll-out Bus Rapid Transit systems based on the Fastrack model in Medway and Swale,
- Increase by 14% the number of people with 5 GCSE's A* to C by 2014,
- Secure the infrastructure needed for development at Ebbsfleet Valley, Including **upgrading the A2 Bean Junction** and links between Bluewater and Eastern Quarry,
- Narrow the gap between North Kent and the South East of the number of People qualified to degree level and above (NVQ4+), and
- Cut Carbon emissions by more than 16.7% compared to 2005.

Kent Thameside News.

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Please consider making a contribution to the March Bean's Talk.
It needs more input of information from the various groups which are
active in village and also other items which may be of interest to others.

LADIES BEWARE!

A woman visited the toilet in John Lewis at Bluewater and hung her hand bag on the back of the toilet door. As she carried on about her business, a hand suddenly appeared over the top of the stall and grabbed her bag, clean off the hook.

She immediately reported the incident to the head of security, who in turn informed the manager of the store.

A couple of days later she had a call from the head of security to say her bag had been found but her purse was empty, so she arranged a convenient time to meet the manager and collect her things.

On arriving at John Lewis the manager was not expecting her and neither was the head of security. No one from the store had actually called her as the bag had still not been found.

When the lady got home she found her house had been burgled with no sign of forced entry. The police believe the robbers had used her driving licence for the address and the keys to let themselves in.

This is real - it isn't just a scare mongering story. Many will be shocked at how complex bag snatching crime has become.

Please be extra vigilant ladies, and gents with their man bags, there are a lot of desperate criminals out there. *West Kent WI News October 2009.*

A Warning from the police.

Beware of paper on your back window of your vehicle - a new way to do car jacking.

You get into your vehicle and start the engine, on looking in your mirror you notice a piece of paper stuck to the rear window. When you get out to go and remove the paper and reach the back of the car the Car-jacker appears out of nowhere, jumps into your car and drives off. If your handbag or case is in the vehicle the carjacker has your home address, keys, and money.

PLEASE BE AWARE THIS SCHEME IS BEING USED NOW!!

If you see paper attached to the rear window drive off and remove it later.

From "Kent Active" newsletter of Kent Active Retirement Association.

LETTERS or E-MAILS to THE EDITOR

I have lived in Bean for around 5 years and currently have Sky TV. As their prices went up recently I was prompted to contact Virgin whose packages do appear a bit cheaper but unfortunately they have not put any cables in Bean.

As a whole community I was wondering if we could do something about this and get lines put down. Perhaps a petition if villagers are interested.

A Concerned Bean Resident.

Are there any feelings on the above, if you have any views please contact the editor or Residents Association Secretary. (Ed.)

Emergency cover?

Would it be possible to establish a list, to be included in the Bean's Talk, of any artisans who live in the village who would be prepared to be called out on weekends to cover emergency work only?

This request was submitted by a lady who has recently moved to the village and experienced great difficulty to get assistance when her washing machine failed. The machine was finally repaired "some weeks later".

If anyone is willing to be called out for emergencies of this nature could they please supply details of the service and costing etc. to the editor?

Dear editor,

Could I use your letters page to warn people about a Will writing service that touts for custom in The Priory Centre, Dartford?

I had to get advice from Trading Standards as I was grossly overcharged and am trying to get a lot of money back.

The salesman takes pride in telling you that he is a Christian, but what he said in our house about the person he was going to next, did not tally with Christian ways. He uses the word "legal" a lot and tells you how a solicitor is not good for Will writing.

I now have to pay a well established solicitor to write two new wills, quite quickly, because if I die suddenly it seems the "Legal" company can claim all they want from my estate, before my grandchildren get their shares.

Concerned Bean.

(See page 29 For more information on scams. Ed).



North Kent Police Station visit (October 2009)

Cub Scouts and Older Beavers enjoyed an educational tour of the new police station in Northfleet this week. Our tour guides PCSO Dave and PC Geordie were very informative and had fun showing us around the state of the art complex. Some of the Cubs & Beavers were given the opportunity to sit in a police car and set the lights going while others got a chance to try out the riot shields and the mobile cell at the rear of the riot van. We all enjoyed a talk from one of the Detectives in the briefing room before being transported through an air lock to the main cells. Whilst there the children had the chance to sit (or lie down) in cells and also found out about a very special cell with a special toilet for trapping goods that the criminals have swallowed (ask your Cub or Beaver). After the tour PCSO Dave allowed the children to try on his stab vest while PC Geordie gave everyone a high-viz goodie bag. After half term the children will have a chance to try finger printing.

If you or your child is interested in joining the Scout Movement then please feel free to visit Bean Youth Club on Wednesday evenings 6 til 7.30 pm for Beavers & Cubs or 7.45 til 9.30pm for Scouts.



Yellow Moon is a cash back scheme for the group.

By being members of Yellow Moon we can earn up to **25% cash back** on all purchases made by parents and supporters.

Within the catalogue you will find Christmas arts & gifts, craft ideas, educational toys, gifts, gizmos and gadgets. And what's more for every purchase made *before 31st December 2009*, Bean Scout Group will be entered into a Prize Draw to **WIN** an extra **£1000 cash**.

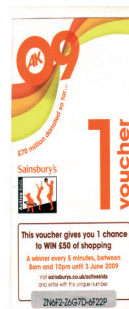
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It is very simple and the products come direct to you. Just browse the **online catalogue** (www.yellowmoonuk.org) and when you are ready to complete your purchase just quote our unique source code **(SBE10827)**. Then twice a year Yellow Moon sends us a cash back cheque.

So far this scheme has raised in excess of **£50**.

Continued on page 17.

Beavers / Cubs / Scouts / - Continued.



We have been members of the Sainsburys Active Kids voucher scheme since 2007 and have had some wonderful support from people associated with the group and even avid supporters within the village, helping us raise in Excess of 12000 vouchers overall. In 2007 we were able to purchase a variety of indoor play equipment for the Beavers, in 2008 we had collected enough vouchers to get some map reading & orienteering equipment for Cubs and Scouts and in 2009 your support enabled us to get two 4-man tents.

The scheme will restart in 2010 and we hope it will be bigger and better than previous years. So please help us by collecting those vouchers whenever you shop or fill your vehicle up at the petrol stations (you can even ask if they have extra's).

Incase of Emergency (ICE).

A Vodafone survey found that more than 75% of people carry no details of who they would like contacted in emergency.

In conjunction with East Anglian Ambulance NHS Trust they developed ICE.

The scheme encourages people to store details of the person to be contacted in emergency by inserting the word ICE in front of the persons name in their mobile phone's phonebook.

This makes it easier for the emergency services to identify who they should call. Several numbers can be identified by ICE 1, ICE 2 etc.

How to make your community more secure

By being a good neighbour and keeping an eye out for anything Suspicious. Here are some of the things you should report:

- Strangers knocking on front doors or peering through windows and then disappearing around the back, or loitering suspiciously,
- Strangers hanging around schools, playing fields etc. and approaching children,
- Open windows where the owners are out or away on holiday,
- Strangers trying car doors,
- Anything that you believe is suspicious.

Contact: Community Warden 01732 885 712. Police 01622 690 690.