

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.
Dave Davies - Police Community Support Officer.
Community Warden.

Mobile 07870252526

Mobile 07969584192

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 2.30 pm.	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 7pm. 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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Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 45th Year

March 2010

1 / 10

BEAN'S TALK

Issued free to every Household in Bean.

Web site: www.beanvillage.org.uk

E-mail beanra@waitrose.com

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

A Police and Community Together (PACT) Meeting will be held in The Community Centre on Monday 1st March starting at 7.15 pm. followed by the Residents Association Monthly Meeting

Beacon Drive Closure 3rd - 5th March

Beacon Drive will be closed for 3 days for "Thin re-Surfacing" to remove all potholes, replace anti skid surfaces, the lining along the road and repairs to iron work.

It is not known at present whether the speed humps will be replaced. The Council will provide a leaflet indicating the limitations to individual access which should be of short duration.

A selection of the activities in the newsletter

Country Walking in the local area - page 6,

The Black Horse Easter Egg Hunt - page 8,

Royal Oak Charity Fun Day Easter Bank Holiday - page 11,

Karate in Bean - page 13,

The date of the Parish Fair - page 13,

A Quiz night in aid of the Village Hall - page 17,

The Royal Oak Charity Committee are looking for volunteers.

The Bus Committee are looking for volunteer drivers.

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 JUNE BEAN'S TALK IS TUESDAY 4th MAY.

Common abbreviations used in the newsletter

Cllr	Councillor	PACT	Police And Community Together
DBC	Dartford Borough Council	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
KCC	Kent County Council	RA	Residents Association.

Information from the monthly meetings of The Bean Residents Association.

The following notes are updates from the November, 2009 to February 2010 meetings.

Following the road works in Page Close / Sandy Lane the electricity company closed the road for 3 days to carry out further works.

Pauline Campbell, of Dartford Borough Council, dealing with activities for teenagers and adults in Dartford apologised for being unable to attend the meeting.

The Village Walking Group were active throughout the period.

A Bean resident had queried whether there was interest in the possibility of having cable TV installed in the village.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch:

PC Gemma Pawley explained that the attendance of Dave Davies and herself was not always possible due to leave arrangements. However there are 6 PCSOs for the area and one of them could stand in when required. (See page 19 for more of Gemma's report).

At the December meeting Dave Davies (PCSO) was unable to attend but sent the following report by e-mail:

*Over the Halloween period there were no calls to police,
One incident of egg throwing was dealt with and the parent would be visited,
The PACT meeting was poorly attended,
No anti-social behaviour reported,
Still trying to get Neighbourhood Watch set up in areas of Bean. Several packs have been sent out - awaiting replies. (See also page 19).*

The Bean Bus Committee are still looking for funds for a new bus.

The meeting agreed that we go back to DBC / KCC / Highways Agency re. The proposed "Short Term" measures to reduce congestion at Bean Interchange. (See also page 13).

Bean Residents Association have written to the Cllr. Jeremy Kite, the local KCC Member, to find out what KCC has done over the last 5 years about traffic and pollution problems at the Bean Interchange.

The repair work to the bus shelter at the recreation ground is in hand,

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.

If you have any particular area that would benefit from a litter pick please contact me and we may be able to tackle it, or contact the council where necessary.

The routine litter picks will take place, starting at 10 am.
and lasting approximately 1½ hours on:



Thursday 25th March
Meeting outside the Black Horse

Thursday 29th April
Meeting outside the School

Thursday 27th May
Meeting outside the Royal Oak.

**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.**

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

Would you like to advertise in the Beanstalk?

**The magazine is delivered to
all of the 650 houses in Bean
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September and December.**

**If so please contact The Editor
on 01474 704 062**

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c.cowley@tiscali.co.uk

Police have the registration number of the foreign lorry involved.

Re: the proposed 14 new houses in Beacon Drive / Drudgeon Way. The date for a site visit by the inspector has been confirmed as 10th February 2010. Vision Homes are seeking compensation as DBC had previously 'approved a similar application'.

Bill Cook is the new Chair of the Parish Council. We were reminded that the Parish Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month.

An e-mail from Ken Follet, DBC drainage engineer, acknowledged our e-mail re the programme for transferring Private Drains to Drainage Authorities.

An RA letter to Dr. Howard Stoate sought clarification about necessary legislation and the transfer date. (See page 5 for update).

Correspondence was received from a Beacon Drive resident regarding vibrations to his house due to vehicles driving over speed humps on the road and mentioned that the road surface was breaking up. The Parish Council have been advised.

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

Planning matters:

Cherwell Farm - letter from DBC advising of a planning application for a change of conditions to allow more and heavier vehicles - letter sent from Residents Association to DBC setting out our objections.

A communication from a resident highlighting the problems caused by heavy vehicles using the farm was read out at the January meeting.

Attention of the Parish Council was drawn to a proposed bungalow annexe in the "Los Alamos" back garden. The application has been refused.

Other Village issues and any other business:

Mention was made of the clearing up of fallen acorns on the footpaths, The Parish Council - Neil Pearson-Coffey had completed a footpath survey, most are OK. Some undergrowth and trees need to be cut back. Some stiles are dangerous.

It was noted that a diversion of the footpath severed by the A2 was, at the request of the Bean R.A, being pursued by KCC with landowners. Bluewater were amenable to a link to their 'Parklands'. However due to problems in obtaining the necessary land KCC are actively seeking a solution and will report back to the committee.

A youth club is to start in the Hall for 11 to 15 year olds, Cllr Peter Luker had queried the police 'Stats' for Bean and Darenth and asked for a split in the figures.

A request for salt and bins for de-icing in the village particularly by the Royal Oak was raised.

Cllr Hammock was dealing with a complaint relating to tree in Aspen Close / Page Close which is too big for its location,
Cllr Luker is to report back re Air Quality near the A2,
Potholes in Beacon Drive, have been temporarily repaired prior to the resurfacing due in March. (See item on front page)
Further to the Bean - Tilbury link previously reported in the Bean's Talk, there had been Ministerial correspondence and a new crossing east of Gravesend was a preferred option. Bean RA would obtain an update.

Sally Weeks reported back from a forum given by DBC dealing mainly with issues on keeping warm and healthy during winter.
Colin Newmarch gave a presentation on the perils of fly-tipping and asked people to report to any incidents we come across to him, at the council.
Jeremy Kite said that Dartford High Street is to become the point of extreme renovation during the early part of 2010 and suggested that if the Dartford crossing is ever owned, run and maintained by completely private operators, then people living close to it and the approach roads might be able to bring a private prosecution against the owners because of the pollution.
Also present was an ex-Army person who is trying to reform the Dartford Branch of the British Legion. You do not need to be ex-service to become a member and during 2010 a lot of effort is being made to support our troops who are away fighting. There will also be special events to commemorate the 70th anniversaries of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain.

**The date for the next meeting of the Residents Association
will be on Monday 1st March.
The meeting will start at the end of the Police and Community
together (PACT) meeting
which starts at 7.15pm. in the Community Centre.
All Bean residents are invited to attend.**

Cold callers for rubbish removal...?

Some of you may be approached by people offering to take your waste away, whether you are at work or at home. Beware, they may be trading illegally and not licensed to carry waste and could fly tip your rubbish. If you're not satisfied that they are bona fide, we'd suggest you don't employ them. You can help us to identify these people by reporting their details to us immediately.

Call Kent County Council on 0845 345 0210

Further information about using a third party waste collector is available
online at www.cleankent.com

THE ROYAL OAK CHARITY COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting

AT THE ROYAL OAK

THURSDAY MARCH 25th at 8.30pm

1. Review of the past year
2. Financial Report
3. Election of Officers
4. Election of Committee
5. Future Events
6. New Members ?
7. Any Other Business



BEAN SCHOOL

THANK YOU

A very big thank you all the friends of the school who collected tokens from Sainsbury's. It enabled us to acquire a cooker for one of the classrooms, equipment for use in the garden currently under construction, and a "Fun" golf game.

We were also able to provide high visibility tabards for the children on the "Walking Bus".

Whenever there is a supermarket token offer for schools equipment, we are very aware that many of you, who do not have children at school, collect tokens. You send them in with neighbours children and we never get the opportunity to thank you in person.

Once again your support is very much appreciated.

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Village Sewer Problem

Yet again the sewer which serves the High Street side of the village overflowed in early January.

This has been an ongoing problem which in the past affected the end of Beacon Drive, where the sewers converge, resulting in sewage overflow in gardens and garages.

The original village sewer, is very old and is a small diameter pipe. However, 18 months ago Thames Water lined the sewer and created a new access point in the field opposite Hope Cottages.

Fortunately on this occasion the sewage flowed out into the field and not into people's homes, although this is still not ideal.

Can I ask all villagers to be aware that no sanitary products nor the now very popular disinfectant wipes should be flushed down the toilet. Even products marked as flushable have insufficient time to disintegrate before they flow into a larger sewer.

MTS who were called to deal with the problem reported that the cause was congealed fat and what they loosely call "rag" the polite term for the above.

The Transfer of Private Lateral Drains Letter of 7th July.

Excerpt from defra (Department for Environmental Food and Rural Affairs).

"the Government announced on 15 December 2008 that transfer of all private lateral drains (a lateral drain being that part of a drain which is outside of a property's curtilage) and sewers draining to the public sewerage system would take place from 2011. Subject to approval by Parliament of regulations to effect transfer (which will determine the full extent of assets covered) the proposed transfer applies to all private sewers and lateral drains that drain into the public network."

"The exact scope and timing of transfer will be set out in regulations that are required to implement the transfer. The regulations will be subject to consultation this winter prior to being presented to Parliament for approval. Until approved we cannot say with any certainty what the timing of transfer will be."

Curtilage is land, enclosure, garden etc. attached to a house.

For more information see

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/industry/sewers/existing/index.htm

The BEAN COMMUNITY BUS

As I write this, sitting in the car park at Polhill Garden Centre , where there are 15 passengers inside shopping, I wonder if the reason we got so few people to go to Dartford yesterday is because we are here today.

Our planned trip to Chatham Retail Outlet is getting quite a few bookings now and we are looking forward to **your suggestions** for further trips.

We plan to go to Brighton and Southend when the warmer weather arrives and just want your provisional bookings and possible dates to go.

Our secretary has applied for grants towards a replacement mini-bus that will be allowed to go into the London "Low Emission Zone" and we hope to hear if we are successful soon.

Please let me know your views on shopping trips and also days out.
Colin 01474 832 793

You will notice that there is no listing in this edition for bus trips, the reason being that few people seem to venture out on day trips at this time of the year, and the fact that people do not necessarily want to go to the prearranged venues, therefore for a trial period **you say where you would like to go** and if sufficient number of passengers agree the trips can be arranged.

We stress that the routine shopping trips to Morrisons and Dartford continue as usual.

This vacancy is open to both male and female drivers
The Bus Team is still in desperate need of part time drivers to cover day trips, weekends, evenings and the shopping trips in order to maintain and hopefully expand the service.
If you are aged between 25 and 70 all that is required is a clean standard driving licence, and a little spare time.
The bus may look big but it is no harder to drive than a car and training will be given to familiarise you with handling procedures.
Why not give it a try you will meet some nice people.
If you can help PLEASE contact Colin on 01474 832 793

Now the weather is improving consider 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

REPORT from Gemma Pawley our PC at the January RA meeting.

High Visibility Patrols are being carried out in all areas of Bean with no problems.

Parking in School Lane remains a problem at the start and end of school times. Traffic management have visited School Lane , viewed the problems and come up with a plan, but will need the backing of the Parish Council. The bus was often delayed in School Lane at the start and end of school. Options were an alternative route or re timing.

We must encourage residents to report nuisance youths and anti-social behaviour.

Neighbourhood Watch needs to be set up in as many areas as possible.

Gemma invited questions.

It was pointed out that a PACT meeting coinciding with the Bean RA meeting on Monday 1st March would start at 7.15pm. It was agreed that the normal Residents Meeting would follow straight on and not wait until 8.15. Posters will be distributed nearer the date.

A member asked why a person who had his car stolen and abandoned on farmland had not been warned of a £300 charge for recovery. Gemma said that it was normal practise for the police finding a stolen car to have it towed to a safe place. Usually this cost is recovered from the insurer.

It was mentioned that some drivers were driving vehicles on narrow roads, particularly Sandy Lane, without consideration for pedestrians. Gemma reminded the meeting that if anyone had anything to report they should contact Dave Davies or herself using the numbers in the Bean's Talk.

PCSO Dave Davies Report

Two vehicles without valid tax were ticketed, one being given a seven day order placed on it for its removal.

Two Anti-Social behaviour problems with youths, one taken home and the parents informed, the other being dealt with by the police.

Contact Dave Davies on 07969 584 192

If you are one of the people who asked for a **Neighbourhood Watch** application form and have not yet returned it please do so as soon as possible, or alternatively if you are interested in forming a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please apply for a form.

Contact Jill Mendham on 01474 366 360 or Dave Davies.

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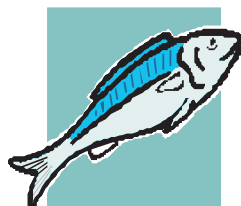
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A REMINDER

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

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Friday Kids eat for £1- 00

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EASTER SUNDAY 4th APRIL

Easter Egg Hunt 2 pm

Easter Bonnet Competition, Prize for the winner

Magician 4 pm

Karaoke / Disco with Martin 7 - 11pm

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BEAN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in gaining funding for the planned refurbishment works on the Community Centre. This enabled us to proceed promptly with the first stage of the work to insulate the whole of the loft and roof void spaces so we hope users will find the hall less draughty. Work to refurbish the inside of the hall including more insulation is planned for the coming months.

The Kids and Youth Club have received a grant from '02 Its Your Community' for a new pool table. This was a long overdue replacement as their previous one had been donated years ago and had been refurbished several times.

We have a new regular hirer at the Centre; James Mathieson of the British Henshin Ryu Association who is offering Karate lessons for both children and adults. These take place on a Saturday morning. Full details of times and fees can be found on his website <http://www.henshinryu.com/>

Please continue to support us when renewing insurances and booking holidays by using Easy Fundraising. Please visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/beancc> and select Bean Community Centre, this is basically free money which goes towards improving the Community Centre. All the details and instructions are on the Community Centre website <http://www.beancommunitycentre.co.uk/> and there are lots of instructions on the Easy Fundraising site.

QUIZ NIGHT

BEAN VILLAGE HALL

HIGH STREET BEAN

SATURDAY 13th MARCH 2010

START AT 8PM

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LETTERS or E-MAILS to THE EDITOR

Emergency cover?

Further to the request for a list of any artisans who live in the village who would be prepared to be called out on weekends to cover emergency work, I have not received any replies to the enquiry. (Ed).

If anyone would be interested please let me know.

Cable TV in the village.

I have only had two replies to this enquiry.

It seems unlikely that cable would be brought into the village for the small number of residents who are on the net, and also there is little chance of the existing system being up rated in the foreseeable future.

Various alternatives are being looked at including the BT Broadband Accelerator and re-siting the hub, although some professionals say there is little that can be done in this area. We will report back on our efforts at a later date.

If there is anyone out there who can advise improvements please make contact. (Ed).

Although at this time of the year there is not a lot happening could I ask all of you to try and contribute something to the newsletter at some time?

There are many activities in progress throughout the year and I am sure that there are villagers who would be interested in what is going on and possibly wish to join in.

Are the groups memberships full, are you looking for new members or are you happy as you are. Do you run competitions, darts, hockey, football golf, fishing etc. etc.

Please remember that the village Residents Association depends on the income from the Bean's Talk and if there is nothing interesting, or any response, it will become an advertising media only.

Please drop us a line occasionally so that we know there is someone out there.

**THE COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE BEAN'S TALK IS
TUESDAY 4th MAY, so you have a few weeks to consider whether
you can make a contribution to the Bean's Talk.**

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THE ROYAL OAK CHARITY COMMITTEE

APRIL 5TH

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

AT THE ROYAL OAK at 2.00pm

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A Kent Trading Standards Warning.

Kent Trading Standards have received reports concerning a company offering free benefits advice. Although the advice is free there is a cost to this service. If consumers contact the company then they will visit the consumer in their home and fill out forms on their behalf, with regards to any benefits they may be entitled to.

The company work on the basis that they will take 45% of any back pay monies due to the consumer. This means consumers could end up paying the company considerable sums of money out of benefits that were due to them. The operation of these businesses is legal, but we wish to remind Kent Residents that the same advice is available for free from other agencies such as Citizen's Advice.

Kent Trading Standards is advising consumers to be wary of giving out any personal information over the telephone and to take their time to find out about free advice before agreeing to the service any business offers.

If you have been approached by the company you can also report the matter to
Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06.

Trading Standards operate a Buy With Confidence scheme so if you are thinking of having work done to your property visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 to find a trader who has been vetted by Trading Standards.

THE ROYAL OAK

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Games Room

Bookings now being taken for
MOTHERS DAY SPECIAL DINNER
On Sunday 14th March from 12 to 4pm.
Book now to save disappointment

New Bat and Trap and Darts Team
required for the Summer
Please Contact Karen

Darts every Monday Night

Bingo every Tuesday at 8pm.

Real Ales, Lagers, Porters and Fine Spirits

WHAT IS ON AT THE OAK?

Entertainment most weekends
Karaoke - Disco
Ring for details

See page 11 for Children's Easter Novelty and Fun Races.

The ANNUAL PARISH FAIR

The Parish Council will again be organising a Fair this year. It will take place on Sunday 12th September starting at 12 o'clock. We have already started booking stalls and if anyone is interested in running a stall of **your own** we would be happy to hear from **you**. If you have a spare hour or two to help on the day we would be grateful! If you know of a charity that would like to come along or if you have an overwhelming desire to offer a raffle prize don't hesitate to call us. You can contact Councillor Alison Sakellariou on 01474 707206 or e mail the clerk at BeanPC@dsl.pipex.com

Bean Interchange.

Letter of 29th May2009 from The Highways Agency

The options for Bean are very much at a preliminary state with the Highways Agency and DBC. As seen by the Residents Association in March 2008.

The Regional Transport Board has prioritised funding (2014 onwards) for an improvement scheme at Bean and options for the junction are under consideration. Public Consultation could be carried out in 2010 and would involve local residents.

In the meantime it is for KCC as highways authority to deal with the traffic situation management for all roads around Bean except the A2.

Henshin Ryu Karate

☎ 07972807624

Henshin Ryu Karate have recently opened a Saturday morning school of Karate for children and adults at the Bean Community Centre. All are welcome to train or just watch, and there is no need to book in advance, just go along and see if it appeals to you.

The practice of karate tones the body, develops coordination, quickens reflexes and builds stamina through a classical form of training designed to slowly build the self defence skills, fitness and self-confidence.

For more details visit www.henshinryu.com or pop in on a Saturday morning, the sessions start at 10am.

FOR SALE

Classic Mini 2 off 6X10 8 spoke Weller Wheels require painting, £15.

Mini front Adjuster Rides adjustable suspension units - brand new in the box £40. Fits all classic shape Mini's. (01474 704062)