

Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 47th Year

December 2012
4 / 12

BEAN'S TALK

Issued free to every
Household in Bean.

Web site: www.beanvillage.org.uk

E-mail beanra@waitrose.com

We welcome all new residents to the village and to the Residents Association's
Quarterly Newsletter.

Please feel free to contribute your thoughts, ideas and comments.

The next Residents Association Meeting

will be held on Monday 3rd December starting at 8.15 pm.

Lend Lease and Vectos Transport consultants will give a
presentation on the effects on Bean Interchange of the proposals
for a 20% expansion of Bluewater.

All residents are invited to attend.



The Residents Association

wish all our readers



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (Pages 4 and 25)

Christmas Quiz Evening Thursday 13th December

Salvation Army Band Carol Service Tuesday 18th December

MINI FAYRE in aid of the Community Bus funds

Saturday 15th December (see Page 6 for details)

KIDS CLUB returns see page 22 for details

DARENT VALLEY HOSPITAL

A FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

(see page 12 for details).

To contact the editor; e-mail: thebeanstalk@btinternet.com
Telephone 01474 704062 1 School Lane, Bean DA2 8AL.

THE COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH 2013

BEAN'S TALK is Friday 1st February

Common abbreviations used in the newsletter

Cllr.	Councillor	KCC	Kent County Council
DATPC	Dartford Association of Town and Parish Councils	KHS	Kent Highway Services
DBC	Dartford Borough Council	NPM	Neighbourhood Panel Meetings.
BPC	Bean Parish Council	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
		RA	Residents Association.

Information from the monthly meetings of **The Bean Residents Association.**

The following notes are from the September, October and November 2012 meetings. The notes from the Annual General Meeting are on page 5.

Assistant Secretary's Report:

There were 9 items of correspondence sent out since the September meeting and 17 items since the October meeting.

Care Navigation Services, gave a presentation on free and impartial support for various over 50's groups. (See page 18 for more information).

Beacon Drive / Drudgeon Way.

The 5th Appeal is with the Planning Inspectorate. Seventeen pages setting out our objections have been sent. After the written representations had been made, it was expected that there would be an Inspectors visit. Despite changes in design there are still problems with traffic, overlooking and landscaping. It was unanimously agreed to oppose the proposal for eight houses on the hillside. Vision Homes have asked the Inspector not to visit the site.

Subsequently the Inspectorate said there will be a visit and they have written to everyone that had invited them into their homes. The Residents Association could accompany the Inspector if the Applicant did not object. A decision is expected near Christmas. We may have problems with the new planning laws.

Neighbourhood Watch / Panel meeting (See page 25 for October report).

Web statistics for September 2012 showed 11 incidents:-

4 Sandy Lane Subway,	2 disorder and weapons,	1 Criminal damage,	1 Drugs,
3 Bean Lane,	1 anti-social behaviour,	2 Vehicle crime,	
1 Page close	vehicle crime,		
1 High Street	damage to a vehicle,		
1 Ightham Cottages	violent crime under investigation.		

Beacon Wood Country Park. (see page 15).

The Community Bus (see page 6)

Martin Nicholls said that the bus had passed its MOT with "flying colours"

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.

Shopping trips continue on Wednesday and Thursday but need more support for the Thursday shopping trips.

Pollution in the Hope and Ightham Cottages area.

The Press Officer, Peter Luker, Duncan Wood and Ashley met Gareth Johnson MP on 5th October about Air Quality in Bean. Replies to two parliamentary questions had been received. The suggestion for a footbridge alongside Bean Bridge to enable 4 traffic lanes on the bridge, was discounted by the highways Agency(26 October 2012).

It was agreed to point out to the MP that the answer that local authorities were responsible for air pollution was wrong. They were only responsible for monitoring air quality.

The Beans's Talk. The copy date for the March edition is Friday 1st February

Other Village Issues and any other business mentioned were:

Bluewater propose 20% expansion - the exhibition in Stone Pavilion did not detail which shops etc. would be there. They say *there will be no increase in traffic since people will already be there on the site*

Note: There will be a presentation at the Residents Association Meeting on 3rd December by Lend Lease and Vectos transport consultants on the effect on Bean Interchange of the proposal for a 20% expansion of Bluewater.

Eastern Quarry - The first 150 houses have been given the go-ahead and will be started at the Swanscombe end of the quarry. As part of the agreement the Highways Agency will develop details of major junction improvements at Bean and Ebbsfleet(26th October 2012).

Width restrictions should be through the village as well at Shellbank Lane.

The Association Constitution - The change, agreed at the last AGM, from Members to Residents is now in effect.

School parking. It was suggested that we ask the School Head to attend a meeting about parking.

**There will be a Residents Association Meeting
at the Community Centre,
on Monday 7th January 2013 starting at 8.15 p.m.**

***The next Neighbourhood Panel Meeting
will be held on Monday 4th February. (To be confirmed)***

*If you have any items which may be of interest to the community,
information on the Clubs, Activities, and general information about the
village, please consider submitting it to the Bean's Talk.*

BEAN POST OFFICE

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Bean Primary School - Up & coming events

Christmas Quiz: Thursday 13th December.

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start.
Tickets £5.00 each,

Maximum team number is 8 people with a prize for the best dressed table!
Bring your own drinks and nibbles. All are welcome!

Salvation Army Carol Concert: Tuesday 18th December

Please call Bean School for further details on 01474 833225.
(See page 25)

Bean Residents Association - AGM September 2012.

Notes from the Chairman's Report

2011/2012 has been a busy year. The proposed Beacon Drive/Drudgeon Way development that we have consistently and successfully opposed is now going to its 5th Appeal, in writing, with the Secretary of State.

KCC say the Bean Interchange improvements can be deferred for 10 years.

Unless the rate of building in Eastern Quarry increases, the opening date is unlikely to be brought forward.

We have been applying pressure regarding the air quality at Ightham and Hope Cottages. Peter Luker has been tireless on this and is now trying to get the Press involved.

In October 2011 our former Honorary Secretary, Betty Martin, passed away. In February 2012 we suffered the sad loss of our then Chairman, Cllr Neil Pearson-Coffey, who has been really missed.

Two committee members have been attending the Bluewater Forum held every 2 months. For their ongoing incredibly hard work, we thank our Secretary, Linda; Assistant Secretary, Ashley; Treasurer, Irene; and Beanstalk Editor, Bill. We have found the quarterly PACT/Neighbourhood Panel Meetings very interesting. We also try to support the Community Bus which is vital transport for some of the villagers and a great social event for others.

Cllr. Dave Hammock keeps us up-to-date with regard to Dartford Borough Council matters of interest, as does Jan Becket for the Bean Parish Council.

We would also like to thank everybody who attends our meetings for your attendance, input, requests and enquiries and we hope we can continue trying to improve life in Bean for the next 12 months.

Secretary's Report.

Outgoing letters/e-mails sent numbered 69. (Listing can be supplied if required).

Treasurers Report. (details can be supplied if required).

The annual deficit was £182-67. Even though we have not made a profit this year, we are still in funds, but we must watch the balance carefully, as we could run into difficulty during the next financial year. The books were examined by John Perry (Auditor).

Press Officer Peter Luker mentioned the letter sent on 19th August to Dartford Messenger regarding Air Pollution in Dartford. He is also waiting for a reply from the ombudsman about poor Broadband speed in Bean.

Community Bus Colin Smith said that more support was required for the Bus.

The Country Park Volunteers are required to keep the Country Park tidy.

Election of the new Committee. The old committee was dissolved and 20 members were elected or re-elected.

THE BEAN COMMUNITY BUS

The Mini Fayre on Saturday 15th December

We are holding a Mini Fayre again this Christmas, in the Community Hall, on Saturday 5th December, from 2 pm to 5 pm. We are also selling Raffle Tickets which will be available from committee members and around the village. The draw will be held at the end of the Fayre.

We again have a fantastic hamper, cuddly toys bottles and lots of other prizes, so **please support us in our fundraising efforts as we build up our reserves towards the eventual replacement of the mini bus.**

Would you support a weekly shopping trip to ASDA?

Some people in the village are asking if we can do another shopping trip each week to ASDA. Since we get good numbers going to Morrisons we do not wish to change the Wednesday trip, but would like to accommodate an Asda trip as well.

Would someone in the village be prepared to drive a regular Asda trip? Alternatively should we discontinue the poorly supported Thursday Dartford / Gravesend trips and substitute an Asda run?

Your views please, in writing to Colin or left for me in the village shop or to Bill at 1 School Lane (e-Mail thebeanstalk@btinternet.com).

Colin Smith

A2/B255 Bean Interchange

An update from Highways Agency, Dorking, to Bean RA.

“The Highways Agency and the Department for Transport have agreed with KCC to refresh the business case and the design of improvements to Bean junction, and we will discuss the details of the scope and timing of work necessary with them”.

“Refreshment of the business case will need to review the scheme objectives so that they reflect the current circumstances. Similarly refreshment of the design will need to take into account the revised objectives, so at this stage it is not possible to say whether and how the scheme might change from designs that you may have seen”.

“The Highways Agency stand ready to work with Dartford Borough Council in improving air quality at Bean but it is for Dartford to come forward with any proposals and your question should therefore be redirected to them. In general we would expect air quality to gradually improve as a result of older vehicles being scrapped and progressively replaced with newer less polluting ones”.

[13 Aug 2012]



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Before 12.00 noon Monday to Friday.***

BEAN YOUTH and COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please read this we do need your help!

DID YOU KNOW?

Bean Youth and Community Centre is totally run by a volunteer management committee made up residents from within Bean.

The provision of the Youth and Community Centre relies totally on the income of users, charity events and donations; it receives no direct funding from the Bean Parish Council, Dartford or Kent County Council.

The hall was originally built to provide a Youth Club to the village back in 1963 and has managed through the dedication of the long band of volunteers to remain a focal point of the village ever since.

The current management committee is looking to expand the number of committee members to not only improve the service we can offer the village but also to maintain the independent charity status of the hall. Remember the hall is a charity independent of any council involvement.

Can you Help? We are looking for village residents who can offer at least one Monday evening a month plus the occasional extra hour or so to help manage and maintain the hall. The current committee has worked very hard over the past few years to upgrade the hall to a warm welcoming place but continued development, maintenance and improvements are required to offer the Youth and Community Centre for hopefully the next 50 years.

Please contact Sharon (01474 704635) or come along to our monthly meetings held on the third Monday of each month at 7.30 in the hall

BEAN YOUTH and COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please support our regular users

Babies Adults & Toddlers in Bean

Bean Parish Council

Bean Residents Association

Dance Fever – Street Beat Classes

Jumping Beans Village Pre-School

La Jolie Ronde – Language Classes

Brownies

Cubs

Kids Club

Little Kickers

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Bean Youth and Community Centre Committee

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BEAN ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

‘This is the first of an occasional series of articles featuring organisations in the village. In this edition we focus on the **Bean Allotments Society**.

Many of you will have seen the allotment site next to the playground. The land has been used for growing vegetable, fruit and flowers at least since 1939 and maybe much earlier than this – probably going back to the First World War (1918’ish).

There are about 40 individual plots on the site, with each being nominally 10 square poles (rods or perches) or about 300 square yards. The archaic units of length and area are derived from the length of the whip used by a farm worker to urge on his oxen when ploughing a field. The plot area has arisen as an ideal size big enough to provide enough food for a family of two adults and two children, for a year.

Unlike earlier years we’ve had more water this year than we could handle. This has led to washed out seeds and unusually large early potatoes. Toward the end of the summer our old enemy, blight, attacked our potatoes and tomatoes. On the good side raspberries and runner beans were tasty and succulent. Shame we can’t eat weeds – they’ve grown very well – as usual. Even though the weather has been a bit odd we’ve all had a reasonable harvest of fruit and veggies which don’t take very long to get on a plate, or in the freezer

As you read this we will be harvesting the last vegetables of this year – cabbages, carrots and parsnips. Fruit bushes and trees will be trimmed and supported to withstand the winter gales. The soil is being dug and manured. Peas, broad beans and onions have been sown.

One of our lead gardeners, Jim Rowden, has again won prizes for his output at local horticultural shows. Well done Jim and thanks for continuing to keep us in order.

At present, we have a waiting list for plots. However, anyone interested in renting a plot, (beginner or old hand), should phone our secretary Elaine on 07831 885649 to add their name to the list. It’s good exercise and the fresh air is generally enjoyable and bracing. The annual rent is £1.60 per pole with a plot of five poles being a good starter size and introduction to the hobby.

Origin A N Old Geezer

18 October 2012

Winter Snow Clearance –

**If the weather is sufficiently bad and in the event of snow and Ice
Salt Grit will be available from the bag in the car park of the
Community Centre.**

**This can be taken for residents to use on the slippery Roads and
Pavements, please do not waste it.**

St Nicholas at Bean



Another year has almost disappeared – where did 2012 go to? There have been some sad moments during the last 12 months. The Village has, through age and illness, seen the passing of those who have lived in the community for many years. Christmas is a time when their absence from the family is particularly noted. Rest assured they will be rejoicing with the Lord where there is no more pain or suffering.

As has been the custom for a good many years now we shall be collecting gifts of **toys** (wrapping paper separate) at our Service on **Sunday 2nd December**, St. Nicholas Day.

This past year we have collected 'Woollies' and also 'Shoe Boxes' for the Mustard Seed Charity, and 'Plastic Milk bottle tops' (with a 2 or 4 in the triangle) for Prostate Cancer. A very big **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed to these worthy causes. We will be continuing to work on behalf of these charities during the coming year and ask for your help once again.

CAROL SERVICE

Traditional Favourite Carols

SUNDAY 16TH December at 6.30pm

Come and join us at the Bean Youth & Community Centre

The Rector and the Bean Fellowship wish you all
a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year
YOUR Church meets every Sunday at 10.00am
All are Welcome

Don White

DARENT VALLEY HOSPITAL A FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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The Friends of Beacon Wood,

Winter approaches and the car park is now closing at 4pm. Some of the paths are very muddy and we are trying to find workable solutions, with no money and just a handful of volunteers. The gullies designed to take rainfall to the lake are sadly neglected and no longer do their job efficiently, and some of the steps are in urgent need of restoration.

Those of you using the woods on a regular basis already know this, perhaps some of you have stopped using the woods because of this.

The Friends of Beacon Wood are working to protect and restore the environment, which according to The Woodland Trust, is of significant importance to the county.

We need any help you can offer, fundraising, tools, time, donations, and expertise. Please contact us either via the Parish Council or ring 01474 833539 and speak to Diane or Les

Our next fundraiser is a "Dogs Christmas party" to be held in the Wood on the 8th of December including a fun agility course, Santa Paws, and doggie photo, and raffle, all for £5 ticket in advance. The mince pie and mulled wine, or hot dog (not the canine variety!) at affordable prices will be there plus much more.

Look out for the posters. Please support us.

Thanks Diane and Les.

Babies, Adults & Toddlers, BAT in Bean

Meet other mums, dads, grandparents & carers and make new friends over a cup of tea.

Our 2nd session will be on Friday **7th December**
between 1.30 - 3pm for

'Christmas is coming' at the Youth Centre.

The cost is £1 per family, which includes the refreshments.

Support and advice will be available
from the Health Visiting Service
during the session.



For more information please telephone 01474 705356 or
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No 11 E.C. Powder Cottages The Houses on the Hill Part 6

In 1891 Thomas Hart occupied the house. He was 29, a stationary engine driver born in Stone, with his wife Annie 30 of Pimlico, and their daughters Hilda, 6, born in Clapham and Avis, 4, born in Stone. Thomas and Annie Amy Whittmee had married in London during 1884. By 1901 the family had moved to St Mary's Lodge, Stone, where Thomas was now a mechanical engineer. Annie Hart died at that house in 1932 and is buried at Stone Cemetery. Thomas was laid to rest beside her in 1942, but he was then living at 141 Brent Lane Dartford. Neither daughter married. Hilda died in 1974 and Avis in 1982, and they are buried together in the plot next to their parents.

1901 and William Plascott and his family were at No 11. William was then 55, a widower, living with his unmarried daughter Millicent and their lodger John Webb, but they must have been in the house by 1899 as his wife Elizabeth Ann Plascott labourer's wife, aged 57 of 11 EC Cottages Bean was buried at Stone Cemetery in 1899. Following their progress round the country from the time of the marriage of William Plascott and Elizabeth Ann Basford in 1868 in the Spalding area, William was a police officer until 1899 when his wife was buried and he was described as a labourer, and again as a labourer in the powder factory in the 1901 census. They had three children, Millicent, Norris and Julia. Norris was a lodger at No 6 EC Cottages in 1891 in the household of John Carver. By 1894 he had married Alfreda Thatcher in Hackney, and by 1901 he and his wife and their three young children were living in Coopers Road, Northfleet. Julia had married James Owen in 1899 and in 1901 was living in Maidenhead.

William was buried with his wife at Stone Cemetery in 1913 from No. 11, to be followed in 1915 by his unmarried daughter Millicent who was still living in Bean at that time.

Part 8 will be in the March 2013 edition.

Care Navigator is a new service in West Kent offering free impartial advice to people aged over 50.

It can help anyone experiencing change in their lives and requiring additional support to remain independent in their own home or needing information about local services.

How the service works

The local Care Navigator arranges to meet with you usually in your own home to discuss your needs and wishes, in a confidential and non-judgmental manner.

The Care Navigators will look into the issues you have discussed and help you find the best way forward, offering you some options, where appropriate. We can support you to make contact with other professional organisations and agencies.

We can offer information and advice on a range of issues including

- Adaptations and Equipment to help you in your home
- Care service provision
- Housing options
- Help with your Benefit entitlements
- Planning your support
- Transport
- Social Activities

If you would like to find out more about this service, or would like to talk to us about how we can help phone 01322 294524 or
Email carenavigator@vawk.org.uk

The Care Navigator project is delivered by Voluntary Action within Kent, in partnership with Carers First.

Jenny Wilder

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The Free of charge book loan /
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books received covering a wide
range of fact and Fiction
paperbacks suitable for both
Ladies and Gentlemen

To succeed this scheme needs
support, so bring your read books
along to

No1 School Lane, Bean
and exchange them, or
alternatively collect a book
to start you off.

Bean Village.

I moved to this lovely village 5½ years ago and was immediately struck by the friendliness and openness of the people compared to the suburbia of Welling where I knew my immediate neighbours but no-one else. When I went alone into a pub in Welling I would sit by myself and would not talk to anybody. Here someone would always speak to me.

In due course I started attending the Bean Residents Association meetings where I was pleased to find friendship among people that cared deeply about the village and worked hard to maintain and improve what we all love about living here.

I became vice-chairman of the RA when the vacancy arose and was then upgraded to chairman due to the sad loss of the then chairman Neil Pearson-Coffey. It was an honour that I truly appreciate but I really wish that more people would attend our monthly residents meetings (8.15pm on the first Monday of the month, except bank holidays, at the Community Centre and put in their pennyworth as well as sending anything that interests, or frustrates, them to our quarterly newsletter "The Bean's Talk".

Duncan Wood

BEAN YOUTH and COMMUNITY CENTRE

Kids Club has restarted in the **Village Hall**, sessions shall be held once a month on Friday evenings

Kids club is open to all children school years 2 to 6

7.00 till 9.00pm at £2 per session

Current dates for next year

January – Friday 11th February – Friday 8th March – Friday 8th

April – Friday 19th May – Friday 17th June – Friday 14th

July – Friday 12th

Contact – Sharon (07932 658126) or come along on the dates above

Taken from papers written by a class of 8 year olds.

Grandparents don't do anything except be there when we go to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They show us and talk to us about colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on the cracks. They don't say "hurry up".

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie our shoes.

Inglish Around the World!

If you do not think that a language barrier can make for some really gross misunderstandings, here are some classic examples of actual signs seen around the world:

Cocktail lounge, Norway:

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

At a Budapest zoo:

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY.

Doctors office, Rome:

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hotel, Acapulco:

THE MANAGER HAS PERSONALLY PASSED ALL THE WATER SERVED HERE.

Information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner, Japan:

COOLES AND HEATES: IF YOU WANT CONDITION OF WARM AIR IN YOUR ROOM, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF.

Car rental brochure, Tokyo:

WHEN PASSENGER OF FOOT HEAVE IN SIGHT, TOOTLE THE HORN. TRUMPET HIM MELODIOUSLY AT FIRST, BUT F HE STILL OBSTACLES YOUR PASSAGE THEN TOOTLE HIM WITH VIGOUR.

Sign in men's rest room in Japan:

TO STOP LEAK TURN COCK TO THE RIGHT

What are the capital cities? Answers on page 30

1	United Arab Emirates	11	Zimbabwe	21	Slovakia	31	Slovenia
2	Ethiopia	12	Switzerland	22	Sudan	32	Lebanon
3	Jordan	13	Uganda	23	Serbia	33	Kenya
4	Turkey	14	Romania	24	Cuba	34	Ukraine
5	Croatia	15	Morocco	25	South Africa	35	Hungary
6	Albania	16	Saudi Arabia	26	Syria	36	Canada
7	Bulgaria	17	Peru	27	Chile	37	Bangladesh
8	Latvia	18	Peoples Republic of China	28	Republic of Macedonia	38	Napal
9	Montenegro	19	Venezuela	29	Colombia	39	Eritrea
10	Ecuador	20	Pakistan	30	Cambodia	40	Afghanistan

Monopoly - Not just a game!

You'll never look at the game the same way again.

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape...

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW 'on-the-lam' could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks - they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass,
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together and
3. 1 useful amount of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set -- by means of a tiny red dot, cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony. *It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!*

Notes from the Neighbourhood Panel Meeting of 1st October.

PC Quilter provided the latest crime figures for Bean:-

Theft from motor vehicles - 4 at the Commuter car park, 2 at Beacon Wood Country Park and 1 at Page close, and 1 attempted theft at the Commuter Car Park.

Criminal Damage - 1 car damaged in the High Street, 1 lorry load damaged in Watling Street, vehicle tyres slashed in Beacon Drive and a garage door lock super glued in School Lane.

Parking remains a problem in School Lane and DBC enforcement teams are trialling ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras. Due to its unpopularity the cameras will be restricted to the school area on safety issues.

Speed checking is being reintroduced in the village, Special Constables are being trained to carry out the checks.

Concerns were raised about motor caravans parking partly on the pavement and also reducing visibility. Action can only be taken if it forced pedestrians, or mobility scooters, out into the road.

Report crimes by phone on 101 or where crimes are in progress or in an emergency dial 999.

Salvation Army Band



Christmas Carols at

Bean Primary School

**Tuesday 18th December 2012
at 7.00pm**

Ticket Prices: - Adults - £2.50 Children – Free

Tickets on sale at Bean School & Bean Post Office
Refreshments available

Have a safe and happy Christmas

Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is urging residents to stay safe this Christmas and ensure that the festive season doesn't end in tragedy.

Head of Community Safety Stuart Skilton said: "In all the excitement of Christmas it's easy to overlook potential fire hazards in the home. Many of the things we enjoy during this festive period, such as the fairy lights, candles, wrapping paper and decorations can all be fire hazards when proper care is not taken".

"Christmas can be a distracting time too, with a greater risk of leaving cooking unattended, and with many enjoying a Christmas tippie (or two), so make sure this doesn't lead to disaster."

- **Ensure you have a working smoke alarm installed on all levels of your home.** Test your smoke alarms weekly and never remove batteries to power presents!
- **Never leave cooking unattended** - stand by your pan - and avoid cooking after drinking. The majority of fires start in the kitchen.
- **Never leave candles unattended.** Keep decorations, cards and wrapping paper away from candles, fires, lights and heaters.
- **Ensure you switch off fairy lights** and unplug them before you go to bed, or leave the house. Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598).
- **Always use an RCD (residual current device)** on outdoor electrical equipment (a safety device that can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault).
- **Don't overload sockets** – ensure there's only one plug per socket and always turn off plugs when they are not in use.
- **Make sure cigarettes are extinguished** properly and never smoke in bed.
- **Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.**
- **Plan and practice your fire escape route** making sure your family and visitors staying for the festive period know what to do in an emergency.
- **Check on older relatives and neighbours this Christmas**, as they are at greater risk from fire.
- And finally, **in the event of fire: get out, stay out and call 999.**

Kent Fire and Rescue Service offers free fire safety advice. If needed, it's community safety team can arrange a free home safety visit, which takes about 30 minutes and includes, if needed, the fitting of free smoke alarms.

For further information contact KFRS on 0800 923 7000 or visit www.3breaths.info.

Please note: All our staff carry identification to prove they work for Kent Fire and Rescue Service and will be more than happy to wait at the door if any resident feels they need to check they are genuine employees.

New developments in Kent Thameside

This brief guide describes what's happening in one of the largest regeneration areas in Europe.

1. The Bridge

Situated next to the QE11 Bridge and close to the River Thames, the Bridge is the first of the major regeneration projects underway in Thames Gateway. The Bridge integrates offices and industrial space with 1,300 new homes and facilities such as a local shopping area, hotel, Learning and Community Campus. The entire development is set within 80 acres of open space. Different areas are linked by footpaths, cycle ways and the award-winning Fastrack public transport system.

2. Station Road, Greenhithe

This development near to ASDA is a 1.47 hectare site, by Fairview Homes, commenced in 2009. The permission was granted on Appeal. It consists of 211 apartments (1,2 and 3 bedrooms) of which 64 are affordable housing. There is provision for community space and two retail units facing ASDA square.

3. Waterstone Park

This 16 hectare site, being developed by Countryside Properties, commenced in the early 2000s. There is permission for 649 dwellings, providing a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, and 1 and 2 bed apartments of which 166 are affordable housing.

The development is now nearing completion.

4. Bluewater

Over 27 million guests visit Bluewater each year. Last year a new exhibition area called 'Glow' was opened. A hotel is currently being built to serve this centre. Consultation is taking place on a 20% expansion of Bluewater to be in the West Village. The initial Planning Application will be in Outline.

5. Ebbsfleet Valley (Eastern Quarry)

This is the largest single development in Kent Thameside. Ebbsfleet Valley will become a totally new community with primary schools, community centres, Country Park, sports centre, shops and a secondary school. The land formation, drainage, lining of the lake, Fastrack route and roads were completed in 2009. Following Dartford Borough Council's & KCC's recently agreed reduction in Land Securities, Kent Thameside Highways Contribution, from £40m to £24.7m, Land Securities have selected a house builder to develop the first 150 homes for the first phase (Castle Hill Village). The first homes should be delivered at the beginning of 2014 and are likely to be predominantly family houses. It is hoped to secure Growing Places Funding for road improvements to Southfleet Road (Swanscombe) at the A2 Ebbsfleet junction alongside the first 150 homes.

(continued)

New developments in Kent Thameside

Continued from page 27

6 Ingress Park

This was formerly the site of the Merchant Naval College and Empire Paper Mill. It is a 27 hectare site that has been developed as a mixed use community by Crest. Development commenced around 2000/2001 There is permission for 1,569 dwellings, providing a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments. Some 220 will be affordable housing.

Fastrack has been provided through the site and will eventually link with London Road/Manor Way. There is planning permission for a local centre at the eastern end of the site for retail, office, and a pub/restaurant. There is also planning permission for a community centre to serve the development, providing a hall, rooms and kitchen. It incorporates a number of listed buildings and features: Ingress Abbey, The Stable Block and follies in the grounds; all are Grade II listed. These have been restored as part of the development. The Tudor mound has been retained as a feature, with a piece of public art that tops the mound and is open for the public to walk to.

7 Ebbsfleet International Station

Trains leave regularly from this station to the continent. Using the Euro tunnel and high speed railway lines, means that you can be in Paris in just 2 hours and 5 minutes from Ebbsfleet. The domestic line provides trains to Stratford (Olympic village) in just over 10 minutes and St Pancras in less than 20 minutes. Land Securities agent, CBRE, is establishing expressions interest from partners and end users for the development around the International Station. There are plans to develop some business, retail, and hotels around this area in the future. The existing car park may be moved underground so that the ground can be developed above as a centre of Commerce.

8 Springhead Park

This is the first part of the Ebbsfleet Valley development to be constructed and has reached 250 completions. When this is finished there will be around 1,000 homes, some shops and North Kent Community Church will have a community centre and place of worship there by the end of 2014. At Christmas, members of local churches visit each new home with the gift of a candle and an invitation to a carol service.

Countryside Properties are shortly starting on phase 2.

There is a planning application with Gravesham to convert Springhead Quarter to wholly residential, within the parameters of the existing planning consent. Commercial floor space would be relocated from Springhead to Northfleet Rise (closer to the station) and residential moved the other way. This could reinforce the case for a primary school at Springhead Park (more houses improves the viability of the school from KCC perspective) whilst making employment closer to the international station more conducive achieving commercial occupiers.

[Article based on papers prepared for Bluewater Community Forum, tour of development sites on 27th September 2012]

CLEARING SNOW AND ICE FROM PAVEMENTS AND PUBLIC SPACES

This guide is designed to help you to act in a neighbourly way by safely clearing snow and ice from pavements and public spaces.

Will I be held liable if someone falls on a path I have cleared?

There is no law preventing you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

It is very unlikely that you would face any legal liability, as long as you are careful, and use common sense to ensure that you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

What can I do to help clear snow and ice from pavements and public spaces?

Practical advice from highway engineers is given below. This is not a comprehensive list.

- Start early: it is much easier to remove fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it.
- **Do not use hot water.** This will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- Be a good neighbour: some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths leading to their property or indeed the footway fronting their property. Snowfall and cold weather pose particular difficulties for them gaining access to and from their property or walking to the shops.
- If shovelling snow, consider where you are going to put it, so that it does not block peoples paths, or block drainage channels. This could shift the problem elsewhere.
- Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then you can shovel the snow from the centre to the sides.
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help to prevent any ice forming. Table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it. A few grams (a tablespoon) for each square metre you clear should work. The salt found in salting bins will be needed for keeping roads clear. Particular care and attention should be given to steps and steep gradients to ensure snow and ice is removed. You might need to apply additional salt to these areas to stop it refreezing overnight.
- Use the sun to your advantage. Removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight.

- If there is no salt available, then a little sand or ash is a reasonable substitute. It will not have the same de-icing properties as salt but should offer grip under foot.

Where can I find out more information about what I can do in an emergency?

The Preparing for Emergencies web pages on DirectGov contain useful information on how you can prepare for the impacts of all emergencies. The pages can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/preparingforemergencies

Why is the Government publishing this information?

During the severe winter in 2009/10, many people across the country worked very hard to keep our transport network open. This included many members of the public who cleared pavements and public spaces around their homes. Some people, however, were deterred from taking action to clear pavements and other public spaces because they feared that they might be sued.

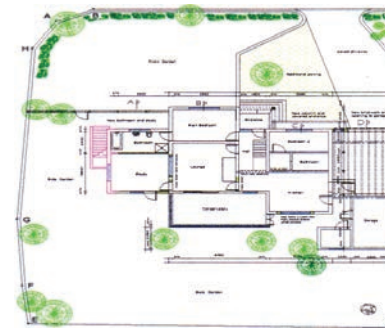
An independent review of the transport sector's response to the severe weather of 2009/10 recommended that the Department for Transport should publish this note on good practice for members of the public in clearing snow and ice from footways and other public spaces. The Local Government Association published a report on behalf of Councils which reached the same conclusion. The Government is committed, as a key part of the Big Society agenda, to remove the barriers which may unnecessarily prevent people from helping themselves and those around them.

Answers to "What are the Capital Cities."							
1	Abu Dhabi	11	Harare	21	Bratislava	31	Ljubuana
2	Addis Ababa	12	Berne	22	Khartoum	32	Beirut
3	Amman	13	Kampala	23	Belgrade	33	Nairobi
4	Ankara	14	Bucharest	24	Havana	34	Kiev
5	Zagreb	15	Rabat	25	Pretoria	35	Budapest
6	Tirane	16	Riyadh	26	Damascus	36	Ottawa
7	Sofia	17	Lima	27	Santiago	37	Dhaka
8	Riga	18	Beijing	28	Skopje	38	Kathmandu
9	Podgorica	19	Caracas	29	Bogotá	39	Asmara
10	Quito	20	Islamabad	30	Phnom Penh	40	Kabul

House Plans, Planning Permission And Building Prices - Local

(FREE QUOTES) - since 1982 – happy to help

We have lived in Greenhithe and Bean for the past 10yrs
Chris Cowley Mob: 079-86340719 c.cowley@tiscali.co.uk
Tel: 01322-384388 References and work to view locally



Would you like to advertise in the Beanstalk?

The magazine is delivered to
all of the 654 houses in Bean
four times a year, in March, June,
September and December.

If so please contact The Editor
on 01474 704 062

**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 Bean Community Centre.**

All residents of Bean are welcome to attend.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES and USEFUL NUMBERS.

The Bean Village web site and e-mail address are on the front cover.

Phone Numbers 01474 unless shown otherwise.

POLICE 999

Non emergency calls to Maidstone 101

Neighbourhood Police Officer - Tony Quilter

New Number 07870 252 387

Community Warden.

Mobile 07811 271252

Community Warden Kim Hill

(Control Centre)



01732 885712

Crime Stoppers



800 555 111

Hall Bookings

Tuesday 4.00 - 7.30pm.

Dance fever

Elaine Coombs



703239

Tuesday 8.15 - 9.05pm.

ZUMBA Fitness

Jo Regan



07927 196307

Wednesday 2.30 pm.

Young at Heart

Jess



07746 082182

Wednesday 5.00 - 6.00pm.

Beavers

Contact the committee

Wednesday 6.00 - 7.30pm.

Cubs

Neil Warburton



707382

Wednesday 7.45 - 9.30pm.

Scouts

Neil Warburton



707382

Thursday 5.15 - 6.45pm.

Brownies

Jannette Williams



01322 381661

Sunday 10.00 - 11.00am.

St. Nicholas Church, Don White



705430

For special services - see the church notice board located at the front of the car park at the Community Centre.

Mon - Fri 9.15 - 12.00 noon. Play School

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

Church St. Nicholas Southfleet Serving Bean, Betsham, New Barn and Southfleet.

The Rector is The Rev David Houston



833252

Bean Residents Association

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

Bean Parish Council.

E-mail Beanparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Bean Parish Council meet on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. in the

Bean Community Centre. All Bean residents are welcome to attend.



832999

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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Printed by Darenth Print & Design Ltd.

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