

Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 48th Year

September 2013
3 / 13

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's Annual General Meeting
will be held on**

Monday 2nd September at 8.15pm in the Community Centre

The Village Fete

I know many of you will have enjoyed the village fete over the last few years, however it has been left to two or three people to put in most, if not all, of the work organising it (for which many thanks). Not surprisingly, this has taken its toll and they have reached the point that they feel unable to continue. The result is that **there will be no village fete this year.**

It would be nice to think that we could find enough volunteers from around the village to organise a village fete for 2014, especially as the previous organisers have offered help and guidance if and when required.

Anyone prepared to be involved in such a project (whether on the committee or in some other role) please contact me via the Bean Residents Association.

Duncan Wood

Bean 2 Kids Club see page 17,

Allotment plots available see page 24,

Turnaround Programme See page 25.

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

**THE COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER 2013
BEAN'S TALK is FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER.**

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 June and July 2013 meetings.

Assistant Secretary's Report:

There had been 8 items of correspondence since the last meeting:-

- 3 - Beacon Drive / Drudgeon way - disputed land ownership,
- 2 - St Clements way - DBC consultation on three arm signalised junction,
- 1 - Ashwood Place - DBC consultation on parking,
- 1 - Bean Village / Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1 - Lower Thames Crossing - Department for Transport consultation

Police / Neighbourhood Watch (See page 26).

Community Bus. (See page 5 for trips)

Drivers are still urgently required.

The Press Officer

Peter Luker said that the road works at the Pepper Hill junction were now completed.

He will also write to Power Network regarding power cuts.

School parking.

Tracey Williams has written to Kent Highways Services about the school parking congestion.

Some of the land opposite the school is for sale, could it be used for parking?

Contact to be made to Laura Herbert (Head-teacher) to discuss the subject and seek advice.

The Parish Council

There was no one to report.

Beacon Wood Country Park (See page 20 -21).

The Royal Oak

Chris Pavey gave a talk on the proposed redevelopment of the Royal Oak site. The plans had now been **lodged with the planning Dept.** He showed plans for 6 x 3 Bedroom Cottage style houses set over three floors. Parking would be at the rear of the properties. The pond would be fenced off for safety, Fir trees would be removed to improve light for the other houses, but the narrow road would not be widened.

St Clements Way

The Planning application for the new three signalised junction at St Clement's way to serve 185 homes and the future garden centre, had been approved.

Cherwell Farm House - Farming occupancy Condition:

On 21st May 2013, DBC wrote to Mr S. Court, "The breach of the planning condition has been for in excess of 10 years and thus is deemed lawful"

Lower Thames Crossing

Our preferred option for the proposed new crossing was option C, East of Gravesend.

Other Village Issues and any other business mentioned were:

Highway Drainage Charged by both KCC and Thames Water? - Peter Luker to investigate.

Visibility on Beacon Drive Bend

The visibility on the bend in Beacon Drive was queried; conifers are growing taller and a new wall has been built

1 Annie Cottages. A planning application for extension to the front and rear has been submitted, DBC are considering the application, the RA has no objections in principle to a careful upgrade, but noted DBC's previous refusal to a scheme that affected parking.

Works may be planned to some properties on the west side of Southfleet Road.

The verges have been cut near Hope Cottages and the areas obscuring the Road signs.

Duncan Wood is to speak to the police reference the foreign lorry incident at Shellbank Lane/ High Street.

The Community Centre will be closed from Monday 22 July until Friday 16th August for work to insulate the three rear storage rooms. There will be **no RA Meeting in August.**

(Continued on page 4)

The Residents Association Annual General Meeting
Will be held at the Community Centre,
on Monday 2nd September 8.15 p.m.

With a guest speaker from Bluewater
Future Residents Association meeting dates are;

7th October, 4th November, and 2nd December.

The next Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 7th October.

The new Beacon

Installation of our new Beacon at the entrance to the second car park in Beacon Woods



Beware of Scams

It does not matter how careful you are you may be subjected to some form of scam or interference.

Recently, as some of you are aware the Beantalk e-mail was accessed and a scam generated which Indicated that I was stranded in Manilla after a robbery whilst on holiday and was seeking a short loan of a significant sum to get back home. Since I have been working on this edition of the Bean's Talk for some time this was obviously a scam. It did however raise the question of how far the site was compromised, and what to do about it. The first thing was to change the passwords, and hope no damage was done. However some e-mails have gone astray.

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The Health Lottery

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THE COMMUNITY BUS TRIPS

DATE	VENUE	Bus fare
14th & 15th September	Essex County Show Entrance extra	£ 5-00 Bus - 9.30
Friday 27th September	Canterbury Food Fayre	£9-00
Tuesday 22nd October	Polhill	£5-00
Tuesday 12th November	Lakeside	£5-00
Tuesday 3rd December	Canterbury	£9-00

A Chat with Tony Quilter our Neighbourhood Policeman

PC Tony Quilter has been covering Bean for four years and knows our area very well. He lives in Kent and before joining the Kent Police in 2004 worked for Royal Mail for a number of years. Tony believes that Bean is a very safe place to live with a good community spirit. Unfortunately crime does occur, and there are spates of offences which come in peaks and troughs but overall the crime rate is low.

One of the most consistent problems he encounters is vehicle crime where property is stolen from vehicles in Beacon Wood Country Park and the commuter car park. Bean Commuter Car Park is on occasion targeted because people park their vehicles for the day then commute to London on a coach. This gives the offenders a large timescale to commit the offences. The vast majority of the reported crime at this location relates to victims who live outside Bean. Vehicles parked in the car park at Beacon Wood Country Park, whilst the owners have been out walking their dogs, or visiting the park, have also been targeted by criminals. PC Quilter has given this advice, "please do not leave valuables on display in the vehicles. If you do need to keep items in the vehicle, lock them in the boot and out of sight. Please ensure that you close all the windows on the vehicle and ensure that the vehicle is locked". 'Hot spots' such as these (and others) which show up on the Police Predictive Database will be under surveillance from Kent police vehicles for fifteen minute periods during the duration of all shifts by uniformed patrols. The theory is that such quarter hour watches will assist reducing crime for the next two hours. This is a bit like walking the beat in the old days. Of course our cars on drives and the road at home also need to be locked securely with windows shut at all times.

Whenever there is an imminent threat of harm to people, or property, Tony advises residents to dial 999 immediately. If the threat has dissipated but still needs to be reported then we should dial 101.

PC Quilter described how we need to be on our guard at all times and be aware of two frequent crime scenarios. Firstly, is the one which most often happens in daylight hours. This is where we've left a door, or window, open or unlocked and so allowing an opportunist thief to 'pop in' and help themselves. This is a particular risk in the summer when we're all sitting in the garden. The second occurs mostly during the hours of darkness when criminals like to break in and steal anything readily available on their way to the primary target – our car keys. They can then use the car to get away with their loot!

We can help the police convict thieves whilst aiding recovery of our effects by ensuring that anything likely to be stolen is security marked. We also need to have a note of the serial numbers of all high value household and garden items and tools likely to be attractive to thieves. Tony will be pleased to advise all residents on procedures and security measures aimed at safeguarding their homes. PC Quilter is also keen to promote Neighbourhood Watch, so if any Bean residents would like further information please do not hesitate to contact him for details.

Tony's contact details are - phone on 07870 252 387 - and e-mail tony.quilter@kent.pnn.police.uk Do note that because he works shifts an immediate response may not always be possible.

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BEAN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The final stage of the insulation works for the building has been completed with the three rear storage rooms also now meeting today's standards for thermal performance. We were able to complete this work with the balance of the grant from Lafarge Tarmac, a grant for £1500 from Garfield Weston Foundation and from our own funds.

From the building's inception in the 60's as the Bean Youth Club the idea has always been to manage the facility for the community. Bean back in the 60's was poorly served by buses and even today unless you have a vehicle it's difficult without a time-constrained and convoluted journey to get to other facilities in the borough. We have kept this in mind with our ethos always to put the community first, our fees are kept to the minimum and are certainly very comparable with other local facilities, this is to ensure that as many groups as possible use the facility to deliver as wide a range of activities and services for our community here in Bean and to the wider community.

We know many users come from the surrounding villages and our close proximity to the A2 also draws users. We regularly have private party bookings from Greenhithe residents as well as from our own village. The upgraded building is certainly now a very popular venue.

Over the last 10-15 years the current management committee have worked extremely hard to improve the building to the standard we now have, a bright modern space for this community, but they have all served for many years and a new team is now needed.

With this in mind, in the last Bean's Talk we asked for new volunteers to come forward to learn the ropes. We would really like for this to happen and for the building to remain in the voluntary sector, run as a charity for this village. Unfortunately, no-one attended our AGM nor got in touch to express an interest, so we are asking again for the village to step forward and serve on the management committee.

The building is in a good place, financially sound, and now requires day to day management from a new team. To find out more please ring either 01474 708916 or 01474 703239 or come along to our meeting held on the third Monday of the month at the community centre at 7.30pm.

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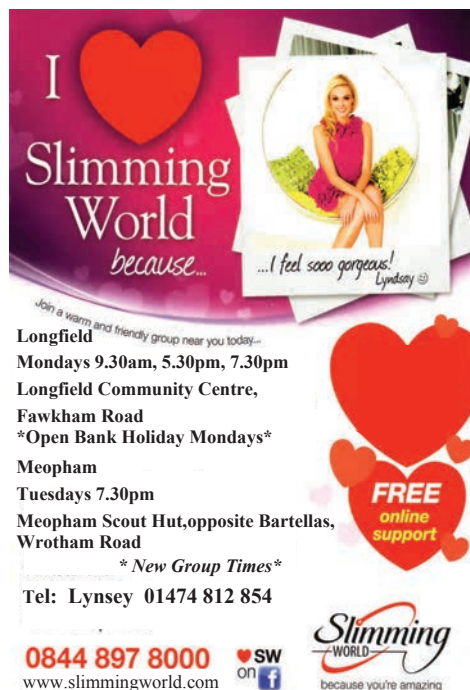
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St Nicholas at Bean



The extended cold wet and windy winter went on for a considerable time this year. It was not as we would have expected but it has produced some unbelievable results. The Woolies collection has exceeded our wildest dreams. The result is probably the best we have seen since our collections began. A very big THANK YOU to all who have made this possible. The Variety has been incredible. I am sure that the recipients will be some of the best dressed orphans in the very deprived countries of the Third World.

Caring for others is a very important part of our Mission here at our Fellowship in Bean. Shoe boxes can be brought to the Hall from 9.30am to 11.30am on Sundays until 6th October. If you have been unable to fill a box items to help fill a box are also welcome.

Your used or new postcards also form a means of income for Mission Aviation Fellowship, (£16,000.00 to date). Plastic milk bottle tops with a 2 or 4 in a triangle, (on the underneath of the cap) which have been recycled have raised over £10,000.00 for Prostrate cancer. Used postage stamps help the finances of the RNLI. Any of these items can be dropped off any Sunday morning.

Our caring programme also covers those who are sick at home or in hospital and also those who are bereaved. If you know of anybody who needs prayer or a visit do not hesitate to get in touch either by calling in on a Sunday or by telephone(705430). Everyone is included in our prayers at the Sunday service.

I am afraid that this sounds very much like an official statement. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Songs of Praise had to be moved to the 8th September at 3.00pm. Come and join us for a good sing and enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink afterwards.

We pray that many will find the time to join us, if not regularly, at 10.00am on any Sunday morning for worship and fellowship. Tea and coffee afterwards and time for a chat.

God Bless you all

Don White



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The whole process is simple, all you have to do is give British Gas a call and if you are eligible, they will book in a survey at a time convenient to you. Their survey is completely free and is just to make sure that your home can benefit from any additional insulation. They will then arrange a time to undertake the work, which will be completed in half a day with little fuss or mess.

There is no catch, you don't have to take out a contract, take up any British Gas products or services or even be a British Gas customer to take advantage! **To be eligible you either have to live in a specific area or be in receipt of age related, disability or unemployment benefits.** British gas will check your eligibility when you phone them; calls are free.

So what are you waiting for? We're expecting demand to be high so give them a call right now free on 0800 980 9037.

If you need any help contacting British Gas or require further information please contact Action with Communities in Rural Kent on 01303 813790

Action with Communities in Rural Kent

THE BOOK LOAN / EXCHANGE SCHEME.

I am sorry to say that the book exchange scheme did not do as well as expected - There were few people taking books.

I would thank the **many** people who very kindly donated so many wonderful books, the readers who did not come to take books, missed a large selection to choose from.

The books will be donated to the hospital and various charities, there being no Parish Fair this year.

It seems that Kindle and Ipads have won

Mary

No 14 E.C. Powder Cottages (Part 10 of the Houses on The Hill)

John Austin and his family lived at No. 14 over the 1891/1901 period. John was born about 1860 in Horton Kirby; his wife Mary, 57, was born in Kennington Surrey; his children were born in either Fawkham or Southfleet. John was an agricultural labourer in Fawkham and then Southfleet, but was a general labourer when he reached Bean.

The couple had at least ten children. His children were Emily Elizabeth, Mary Ann, William John, Thomas, Ellen Selena, Minnie Florence, Charlotte Gertrude, Fanny Gertrude, and Mabel Lizzie. The little cottage must have been quite full. John Austin and Mary Willmoat had married at Horton Kirby in 1859. The Austin's were in this area for several generations

Mary was buried in 1912 at Stone Cemetery, having died in hospital. John was buried 1919 at Stone Cemetery, his address being given as 1 Stone Wood Cottages, Stone Wood, Stone.

All their children married and had several children each, providing the Austin's with a great number of grandchildren. Mabel, the youngest emigrated to Canada with her family, the others living in and around Bean.

Since writing my first articles on The Houses on the Hill, the 1911 census has been made available, allowing us to see who was living in the houses in 1911. The most interesting information given on the 1911 census was that the authorities wanted to know how many years a couple had been married, how many children the woman had, and how many had lived and died. It can make very sad reading.

June C.

AT THE 1911 CENSUS Arthur William Carver, aged 37, a labourer in the EC Powder factory, was living with his wife Mary Ann Hurst at Number 14 Arthur was the brother of Mary Dann, and the son of Mary Carver. He and Mary Ann Hurst were married on 6th April 1901 at Stone Church, and had three children at that time, all of whom survived childhood: Albert William aged 9; Edward Arthur, aged 5 and Wilfred George aged 3.

Both Edward and Wilfred married and had daughters, but both died very young, as did Wilfred's eight month old baby girl, and all within a month of each other and their mother. That must have been a very sad household in the early 1930's.

I will include the 1911 census updates on the remaining articles, No15 to 19 and then Include the nos 1 to 13 updates separately to follow (Ed)



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Bean 2 kidS Club



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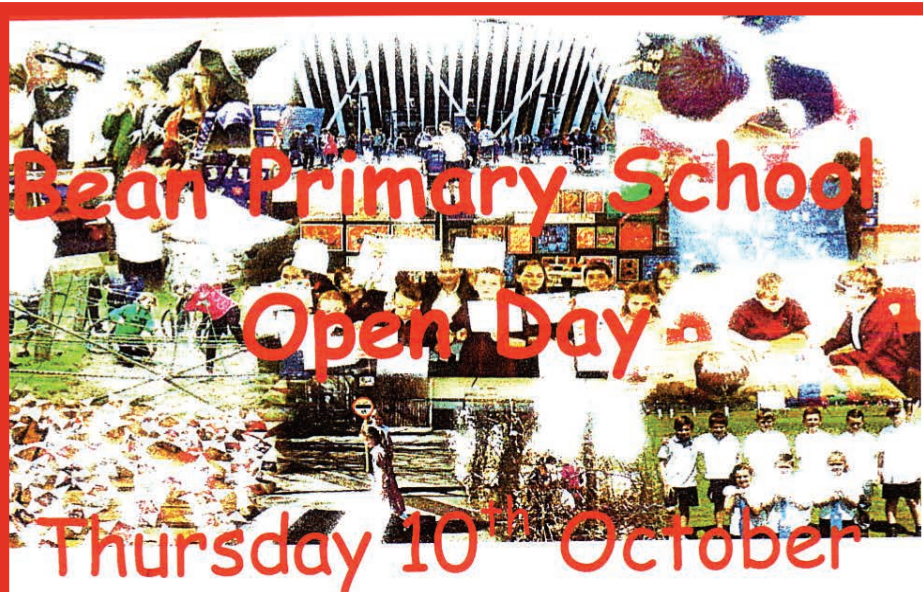


All children in Years 2 to 6 are welcome to come along.

We have ball games, music, various craft activities, table tennis, air hockey, outdoor games, tuck shop and themed nights.

We're back on Friday 13th September 2013.

Bean 2 Kids Club is held every other Friday night between 7pm and 9pm at Bean Primary School. Club leader: Colin - 07939 594891



at 9.30am

We look forward to giving prospective parents the opportunity to come in and look around our lovely school!

Ofsted November 2012 Judged us:

Achievement of Pupils	✓ Good
Quality of Teaching	✓ Good
Behaviour & Safety of Pupils	✓ Good
Leadership & Management	✓ Good

Our Early Years '...helps children to develop positive attitudes to learning...' Ofsted November '12.

THE MERRY CHEST CAFE

CHANGED HANDS on
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Friends of Beacon Woods Report

Some timbers on boardwalk have been replaced.

Areas of bramble and undergrowth cleared along the path at Shellbank end.

The Community Payback team have been twice, and continued working to clear fencing to the right of the entrance.

Chipping was completed, membrane purchased and the wood land path laid, all costs were initially covered from car-parking.

A couple of steps have been replaced.

Our Website updated with blogs. <http://beaconwood.webeden.co.uk/> please have a look!

Sighting of Glow worms were confirmed and reported, the Local paper ran an article about the Wood with the aim of recruiting volunteers.

We have contacted the local wildlife police –officer re fungi picking, before the autumn.

Money

Car parking currently raises about £45 a week we have had one £25 donation from Dartford Orienteering Club after they used the site for an event.

We have purchased all materials and paid for the chipping and we still have some money in the bank.

Future Work

We are looking for a temporary solution to muddy paths before the winter months.

(Continued on page 21)



Friends of Beacon Wood progressing the footpath

Pathway edges clearance should continue. Steps are in need of repair or replacement.

What can you do to help us?

We are always looking for help, contact us via the Parish Council or email :Friendsofbeaconwood@gmail.com

Most people are very careful about litter but a few spoil it for the rest of us.

Use the bins or take it home

We have dog waste bins at the Post Office pedestrian entrance and by the Car Park. **Clear up after your dog.**

We've had a few incidences of vandalism, if you see something, don't challenge, but take a discreet photo if you have a mobile phone that has this facility. Then report it to the Parish Council or email us.

Another Scam.

We have been notified of a new scam where residents are phoned from Apple at Bluewater stating that persons have been arrested using your card. Personal questions were then asked and in some cases a courier sent to pick up the card supposedly from the bank. This is a Typical type of scam which may be played around a different theme.

- 1 Stores would not contact the Customer,
- 2 Personal details should never be discussed over the phone,
- 3 If you ring your bank always use the number shown on your Statement,
- 4 Sometimes the phone line is kept open by the offenders when they speak to you so use another phone to check with your bank, even if it means using a neighbours phone.

DO NOT GET CAUGHT OUT.

Stephen P. Gay
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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.



TURNAROUND PROGRAMME

(Helping to make Dartford Families Stronger)

Voluntary Action Within Kent are working with Dartford Borough Council and Kent County Council to support local families who are facing complex and often multiple problems.

The Turnaround Programme aims to provide practical help and advice through dedicated workers, to empower families to improve their circumstances, taking control of their lives. Our input is to offer families additional support through volunteer mentoring relationships.

As a Turnaround mentor you will support one family to continue to tackle challenges that they have identified through actions and plans that they have developed. This may be in relation to debt, employment, education and training, parenting, health, confidence and self-esteem.

As a VAWK volunteer you will:

- Be supported by the Turnaround project officer
- Receive comprehensive training
- Undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check (previously CRB)
- Receive all out of pocket expenses
- Work with one family for six – twelve months
- Receive support from the wider multi-agency team

Mentoring really does make a difference. Many families just need a little extra support and encouragement to get through the hard times.

For further information and to become involved as a volunteer contact Sarah Wilson

Reported Crime figures at the June meeting;

- 1 x Arson - At the Bean commuter park,
- 2 x theft of motor vehicle - Page Close and Beacon Drive
- 2 x theft from motor vehicle - Hope Cottage and commuter Park
- 1 x Attempted theft from motor vehicle - Bean Commuter park,
- 2 x vehicle interference - Bean commuter Park
- 1 x burglary other than dwelling - Bean Lane,
- 1 x attempted burglary other than dwelling - Bramble Avenue.

reported June crime figures for Bean:-

- 3 x Criminal Damage - Beacon Drive & Bramble Avenue
- 1 x Taking Vehicle without Owner's Consent - Bramble Avenue
- 1 x Theft from Motor Vehicle - Beacon Wood Country Park
- 2 x Theft Miscellaneous - Watling Street & Drudgeon Way

I hope the above is self explanatory but should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Tony

PC 13045 Tony Quilter

Neighbourhood Beat Officer

07870252387

Neighbourhood Watch

Yvonne Martin mentioned that a motorbike had been stolen on 25th June from Ladywood Road, Darenth, and She also warned about a scam regarding the sale of house alarms - if approached notify the police

FORSALE

SLUMBALUX Camouflage, youth's sized sleeping bag 26oz **£5-00**

50% polyester, 50% Cotton, polyester filled, USED good condition

☎ 01474 704062 - Bean

5 secondhand Range Rover P38 ali wheels

with 3 good tyres (5mm tread).

☎ 01474704062 - Bean **£80-000 ono.**

Be aware of a con man operating locally

I have been informed about a group of road scalping layers who have already conned one person in Sutton at Hone area and have approached another re laying road scalplings for an alleged £75 per load and then charging £75 per square metre.

The frontman is a well dressed male who has 'the gift of the gab' and is very persuasive. He asks to come to your property and do the deal, then calls in a lorry load of other men and when presenting the inflated bill becomes very menacing when challenged.

DO NOT even contemplate this cold calling as you will get ripped off.

They are targeting properties with large areas to resurface but will obviously look at large driveways and other areas such as car parks.

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. Kim Hil

Mobile 07811 271252

Community Warden

(Control Centre)



01732 885712

Crime Stoppers



800 555 111

Hall Bookings

Tuesday 4.00 - 7.00pm.

Dance fever

Elaine Coombs



703239

Tuesday 8.15 - 9.05pm.

ZUMBA Fitness

Jo Regan



07927 196307

Wednesday 1.30 pm.

Young at Heart

Jess



07746 082182

Wednesday 5.00 - 6.00pm.

Beavers

Contact the committee

Neil Warburton



707382

Wednesday 6.00 - 7.30pm.

Cubs

Neil Warburton



707382

Wednesday 7.45 - 9.30pm.

Scouts

Neil Warburton



707382

Sunday 10.00 - 11.00am.

St. Nicholas Church, Don White



705430

Mon - Fri 9.15 - 12.00 noon.

Jumping Beans Pre-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. Desait and Partners

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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