

Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 52nd Year of Publication

September
3/17

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 the
AGM held in the Community Centre on Monday
4th September 2017 at 8:15 pm
With special Guest Speaker from
Ebbsfleet Development Corporation**

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**THE COPY DATE FOR THE December 2017
BEAN'S TALK is the 1st November 2017**

Common abbreviations used in the newsletter

KCC Kent County Council

Cllr. Councillor

DCLG Dept. for Communities and Local Government.

DBC Dartford Borough Council

KHS Kent Highway services

HE Highways England

RA Residents Association

PCSO Police Community Support Officer

Some items of interest from the BRA meeting held in April 3rd & 24th plus June

April 3rd

Secretary's report:

Ashley Johnson (Assistant Secretary) reported that there had been 36 items of correspondence on 11 topics since the previous meeting:

- 1 x Police
- 1 x KCC
- 5 x Highways England
- 1 x Northfleet Objectors
- 10 x DBC
- 1 x Beanstalk & History
- 2 x BPC & Country Park
- 9 x EDC
- 3 x Consultations
- 2 x CPRE
- 1 x Meetings Notices

Community matters and meetings:

- **Beacon Drive/Drudgeon Way-** proposed development for 6 homes – may be discussed by DCB on 20th April.
- **Bluewater** - West Village 20% expansion. Some local authorities still objecting (Bexley/Gravesham etc.). Likely to come to DCB on 20th April.
- Bluewater have applied for an urban beach and fairground rides in **West Village Car Park** during summer (19th June - 17th September). Observation: need to cross road.
- **Royal Oak** – Demolition for a Pair of 3-bed semis approved, plus 1x 4 bed detached. Drainage soak away too close to sewerage pipe. Pond management - developers have still not talked with the Parish

Council regarding its future upkeep. It was noted that frogs have been killed trying to reach the pond to spawn. **The matter will be raised at the next Parish Council meeting.**

- **Garden City** - The A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet junctions improvement were discussed at 15-Mar-17 EDC Board in secret session, but 4 residents + Forestrall met CEO on 29-Mar-17. EDC will investigate if cottages & stables could relocate within Triangle.
- **Highways England** - Bean Interchange - answers have been received by those who commented on the scheme. RA has just received theirs. Retention of low level route likely. Will continue talks with RA. Atkins replacing Halcrow/Hyder JV as consultant for Stage 2 - could this help?
- **KCC** - programme for extra markings and road signs at A2 junction - KCC want Bluewater to help pay for them as they have no money. Bluewater might help, but note KCC should have money in the next financial year.
- **Paramount** – November submission, but no Community Liaison Group meeting.
- **Lower Thames Crossing** - decision after KCC elections in May 2017?

April 24th

Secretary's report:

Assistant Secretary reported 23 items of correspondence on 9 topics since 3rd April:

- 1 x Police
- 3 x Highways England
- 1 x Northfleet Objectors re Paramount
- 6 x DBC
- 3 x Parish Council & Country Park
- 2 x EDC
- 3 x Consultations
- 3 x CPRE
- 1 x Meetings Notices

Community matters and meetings:

- Inspection of the Bean Triangle on 10th May at 10am. EDC Interim Chief Executive and Chief Planning Officer are due to attend.

- DCB had long debate about housing in Stone Parish. Bluewater expansion not debated, but approved, therefore, did not find out about short term Works at Bean.
- Beacon Drive/Drudgeon Way 6 houses not on Agenda - next DCB? Very long time.
- Lower Thames Crossing to be east of Gravesend - some changes made. Some money available to Dartford and Thurrock for Works before crossing opens in 10 years-time.

June

Secretary's report:

Ashley Johnson (Assistant Secretary) reported that there had been 46 items of correspondence on 13 topics since the previous meeting:

- 1 x Police
- 1 x KCC
- 4 x Paramount
- 1 x Northfleet Objectors
- 3 x DBC
- 1 x Beanstalk/ History
- 8 x BPC & Country Park
- 8 x Bean Triangle
- 11 x EDC
- 2 x Consultations
- 2 x Bluewater
- 1 x Meeting Notice
- 3 x BD/DW Application

Community matters and meetings:

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC):

- EDC reply on Ightham Cott said DBC senior Officers looking at Bean Triangle.
- 17 May 2017 EDC Board - 6 questions asked. New school in Eastern Quarry called Cherry Orchard. Name was Watling St home of Mr Oliver, demolished for quarrying.
- **Beacon Drive/Drudgeon Way:**
- DCB meeting on 15th June 2017. Not sure if Agenda includes 6 homes on the site. These 6 houses would overlook existing

dwellings. No guarantee that any existing or new trees wouldn't be cut down in the future, exposing these dwellings even more.

Paramount:

- Liaison Group Meeting to be held on 20th June 2017. The topic will be "Highways". Two spaces for Bean RA, 1 BPC, but none for CPRE or Northfleet Objectors.

KCC extra road markings:

- Following DBC approval of the 20% expansion of Bluewater, the General Manager, Robert Goodman said he was meeting KCC on 13th June about extra road markings and signs at Bean Interchange. Bluewater have agreed to contribute to the cost. A reminder was sent about other matters raised by BPC & RA in October 2016.

Highways England (HE):

- Bean Interchange - New consultants - W S Atkins. Not known when handover will be, but will try to find out more.

Special Meeting with Police:

On the 24th April 2017, Bean Residents Association held an extra ordinary meeting starting at 19:30h and invited the local residents to meet our community policing team

Sgt Dave Crompton and PC Tony Quilter were welcomed to the meeting with Bean residents. Told that there had been 4 crimes reported up to 24th April. Due to an increase of police presence there had been fewer crimes. Reminded that if a crime is not reported then it does not exist. Those attending were promised that the police would try to attend more Residents/ Parish Council meetings in the future.

The following matters were brought up:

- Loads of gas cylinders (legal highs) have been found between Beacon Drive and Hope Cottages. Told that this was happening all over. PC Quilter will chase up if given licence plate numbers. Sgt Compton said that there was a DBC Space Protection Order banning people with legal highs and a £100 fine for a 1st offence. Classed as anti-social behaviour.
- Colin Smith said that criminal damage and the theft of fuel had occurred from the Community Bus.

- A burnt-out car found in Thrift Wood. Previously owned by a Bean resident, but sold on. It was for the landowner to remove it. Stolen cars have been dumped there before.
- Crime Stats for 2016 show 212 crimes for Bean. 51 - anti-social behaviour, next was criminal damage.
- Best roads were Watling Street and Claywood Lane. Worst were Bramble Avenue and at or near Sandy Lane Subway.
- Facebook threats classed as violent crime as is harassment.
- Speed checks - PC Quilter says he must assess risks when setting up checks. Has to have somewhere to pull vehicles over. Mr Oldcorn was concerned over speeding vehicles in Stonewood/Beacon Drive/School Lane as hazardous for pedestrians.
- Fly tipping - vehicles have been fly-tipping around. Prosecutions have been made in Hawley, Southfleet and other areas.
- At meeting in July could have a CSU officer - being recruited. Perhaps the Community Warden will also attend. Jan Becket mentioned that a surgery with Community Wardens in the Hall is in the pipeline.
- Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) - it was suggested that more communication between NHW and police and community wardens was needed.
- PC Quilter has visited the school to speak to pupils, parents, assistants and teachers. Head teacher has put measures in place re parking.

Sgt Compton and PC Quilter were thanked for coming to the meeting. The next meeting with Police is 7th August-2017. Advised to contact PC Quilter if matters arise beforehand.

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Other Community News:

- **Trees** - 3 trees have been planted in Bean Lane in memory of Alison Sakellariou (former Chair of Bean PC, and BYCC Trustees and others who have served our community. Donations for the trees were received from Bean PC, BYCC Trustees and the Bluewater Community Forum.
- **Community Warden:** Planning to hold a surgery in Bean Village Hall
- **The Parish Council:**
 - Dog poo bags - The Parish Council have bought some dog poo bags and Bean dog owners can collect a pack of 50 bags on the 1st and 2nd Mondays at the Community Hall 15mins before meetings start.
- **Hall :**
 - On 31st March 2017 a Deed of Surrender relating to Bean Youth Club between The Bean Parish Council and the remaining sole Trustee, referred to in the lease between the parties dated 22 February 2000, was signed by both parties. In this Deed of Surrender *the Tenant (Bean Youth Club) surrenders and yields up to the Landlord (Bean Parish Council), with full title guarantee, all his estate, interest and rights in the Property and the Landlord accepts the surrender.* This surrender means that the Bean Youth Club can no longer operate and will be closed as a charity and the building, formerly known as Bean Youth & Community Centre, owned by the Parish Council, will now be managed by the Parish Council as a Village Hall.
- Country Park path from Post Office to the Country Lookout has been upgraded with the help of a grant from our KCC Councillor Jeremy Kite. This work coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Country Park and the FoBW are hoping to organise a ceremony to mark this event, attended by representatives from Bean School, at which Jeremy Kite will officially open the path.
- Parish Council –are investigating the possible purchase and installation of a defibrillator which will be sited in the village for use by the public - easy to follow instructions.
- The Parish Council have ordered an additional 2 chair trolleys to enable the easy moving of the chairs.

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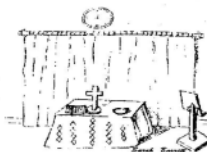
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St Nicholas at Bean



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who contributed to woollie collection this year. Those who have spent many many hours grasping the knitting needles and those who have supplied the wool. The result this year was fantastic once again, in fact we had a problem displaying all garments even when we used the window sills, it became a little darker inside. Caring for others is a very important part of our Mission here at our Fellowship in Bean. Once again this year we will be collecting 'Shoe Boxes'. For the last 20 years or so Bean has contributed to this worthy cause which brings joy and makes Christmas a time to remember for, in excess of 40,000 children,. Your concern and love for them is much appreciated. They can be left at the Community Centre any Sunday between 9.30 am and 11.30am up until Harvest Sunday which is 1st October. You will no doubt be reading this newsletter when you have returned from your holiday this year. During this period many Post cards will have arrived on your door mat. Please don't throw them away, by all means blank out your name and address but drop them into the Village Hall on a Sunday morning. Mission Aviation Fellowship, a very deserving charity are able to sell them on and raise Thousands of pounds in the process. We have sent a few hundred cards to them over the last few years. Our Toy Service this year will be held on St. Nicholas day, 3 rd December. Please bring your gifts unwrapped, but with a separate piece of wrapping paper. They will be delivered to the Ellenor Lions Hospice where they will be wrapped and distributed to the children in their care. Another token of our love for those in need. This village should be proud of its contributions to charity, not only through the church, but also many other organisations here. Keep up the good work it is much appreciated. 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.

St Nicholas at Bean



Ran out of table space and needed to use the window sills to display our woolie's

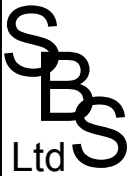
Seems like there is just enough time for; a quick check of text and twitter messages, before the crowds start to come in!



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Bean Then And Now

That a village the size of Bean has a High Street, a couple of Lanes, a Drive, a Farm, a few Roads, three or four groups of Cottages, a Hill, a Close, an Old Stables and a New Stables, and one remaining pub is not rare. That a hamlet that features in Domesday Book has grown into a village that has lost much of its once rural nature isn't uncommon either. Even the fact that the hamlet has had a mid-60s estate buttoned onto it is not rare in and around London. Those who can remember the ruined city after the blitz can well understand why people wanted to get away from the ugly squalor that remained, with few resources available to bring about the transformation that we now see. In the lane where I live there are probably four or five families that have been here since the estate was built. When I remark that I've lived here now for 21 years they tend to smile scornfully at this newcomer, who dares to write the odd thing about the village.

Back in the late sixties the village seems to have had something going for it, something that seems to have vanished over the years. When talking to the odd village character from those days I hear of fairs and fun runs (long before the 'keep fit' fun runs became fashionable) that really were fun, with footballs being booted up the High Street in a rough and tumble game that seems to have resembled Australian Rules.

The village fair was resurrected by the Parish Council, organised by the much-missed Alison Sakellariou, who did so much for the village, now sadly to be remembered by a memorial tree, after being taken from us by illness that few of her friends even guessed at. There's a lot of truth in the old saw: 'Only the good die young'. The fair collapsed some years before Alison died as the original idea was for residents to take over the fair's organisation from the Parish Council but sadly nobody was interested

Some of the older inhabitants of Bean moved here when the estate was built, returning to an area that they had loved in the forties and fifties, when many people from the East End of

London used to spend their Summer holidays, living in ramshackle self-built huts, picking hops in the countryside surrounding Betsham, which back then (and probably still by a few locals) was called 'Bet's-ham' not 'Bet-sham'. Sadly, those hop fields are long gone. You need to go east to Faversham before any Kentish hops can be seen. The younger generation now drink cold imported Lager, not our delicious traditional cellar-temperature brews (51°F).

Now even the few remaining orchards have been grubbed out or left to overgrow. I'm sure many are still hoping that the one remaining cherry orchard on the Betsham-Longfield road will continue to be harvested, giving us the taste of the real English fruit for a few years yet.

The majority of us who live here now can hardly guess at what it must have been like to live in the village, while all the new building was happening in the once-beautiful orchard on the hill that overlooked the High Street. There are a few hardy elders, who still walk School Lane along the line of the unpaved road that led to Sandy Lane and the old Pub at the junction, The Royal Oak (the sign for which used to hang defiantly beside a splendid Weeping Willow, with not an oak in sight).

What must it have been like living in Bean when Beacon Hill was being carved out of existence as a clay quarry or when the peace was frequently shattered by the testing explosions from the Black Powder Mill, the ruins of which can still be discovered with a bit of 'off piste' exploration in the Country Park?

JWT, Bean, March 2017

The Bean Community Bus

The community bus is valuable community resource which we should cherish, we are in real danger of losing the bus if people don't volunteer to drive it. All you need is to be between the ages of 25 & 70 years with a clean licence, (may be that's the problem; no one has a clean license!). If you are interested please contact the editor. See front page for full contact details

Refuse Collection issues in Bean

The following information from Dartford borough Council

Dartford BC is a Waste Collection Authority and we have contracted Amey to carry out our refuse collection services, Kent County Council is a Waste Disposal Authority and they have contracted out the running of the Pepperhill Waste Transfer Station to FCC Environment. Amey have the right number of staff and vehicles to get all of our collections done, but for various reasons FCC struggle to run Pepperhill. Each of Amey's vehicles usually need to tip twice each day, normally this takes less than 20 minutes but this can sometimes take an hour or more. When tipping takes a long time Amey's vehicles lose time emptying bins, sometimes to the point of not being able to finish a day's work. We are in such a situation at present. This matter is being taken up strongly with KCC and FCC, but we do not have direct control over the situation and the matter is complicated by contractual arrangements between the two of them.



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John The Milk



Our dad was known to most of you as "John the Milk" for the service he provided to the village over many long years. He could be found delivering the milk regardless of the weather and even collecting peoples shopping one particularly bad winter. Nothing was too much for him to do for the village. From starting out as one of the helpers to progressing to being Santa and delivering presents to the

children every Christmas eve .He was a sucker for animals and we had various pets including the normal dogs, rabbits, ferrets etc. but two of his loves were budgies until all escaped one day thanks to the aviary door being left open by my sister and tropical fish which he travelled all over the country to show and was always so proud when he came away with the first prize in a category or even better best in show award. But all these were topped when he can home from Sevenoaks Market to announce he had bought a donkey and it was being delivered later!! Mum was not impressed.... Fudge duly arrived and was homed in a field down the road. He was a firm favourite with the grandchildren especially Rachel who even rode him to school one day. But his most favourite must have been



Rosie his little Jack Russell who he could very often be seen chasing after she had escaped. As I said previously dad loved the village and at one point we had two minibuses from Bean going away to Wall Park Holiday Camp in Brixham Devon for a number of years. While there he always joined in all the competitions especially the Donkey Derby's which is probably why he ended up buying Fudge. On the annual trip to Margate from Bean school he could always be found in the sea marshalling all the kids pulling the around on various Lilo's or boats.

He was a very generous man and if you happened to mention you collected something such as elephants there was always one there waiting for you when you visited that he had purchased at the local auction or retrieved from the dump which were two of his jobs after he "retired". When the great grandchildren visited there was always a bag of fruit or a packet of biscuits for them to take home. Dad definitely liked a drink and spent many a happy hour in either The Royal Oak or The Black Horse. When milk was still delivered on a Sunday he could very often be found going straight from a party to do the milk round dragging all and sundry with him but especially his great mate Peter Stapley who he really missed after he passed away.



John Martin

Who sadly passed away earlier this year. May everyone hold you in fond memories



14 Archers Cottages

1901 saw the family of Charles Frederick Young in 14 Archers Cottages. Born in Southfleet in about 1855, he had married Emily Elizabeth Austin at Northfleet on 7 Oct 1895. Their first three children, Laura, Frederick Austin, and Gertrude Emily had been born in Northfleet. There would be a fourth child, born in 1903, but sadly he died soon after birth. By 1911 he and his family were living at No. 2 Stonewood Cottages, Bean. He died Dec 1927 in the Dartford area aged 72. His wife Emily Elizabeth Austin died in June 1944 in the Tonbridge area aged 82. By 1911 Charles Lucking a farm labourer from Little Baddow Essex had moved in with his wife Ada. They had been married for 6 years and had one child. Living with them was Charles' brother William. Charles died 1916 at the age of 37 in the Dartford area, Ada died July 1960 aged 80 They had two sons, both of whom would appear to have remained in the Dartford area.

15 Archers Cottages

Christopher Wright a general labourer was living here with his wife, two children, two boarders and a servant in 1901. He had been born in Teynham in 1878. He came to Milton in 1897 when he married Georgina Chapman. By 1901 they had two children, Lawrence Eric born 1899 in Milton and Emma Lucy born 1900 in Stone. There would be another child Ivy Gladys born 1902. By 1911 the children were living with an uncle in Milton Regis, but as to where their parents were, that is one of life's mysteries. There were three people with the right Christian names all marrying in the Milton area, so perhaps that is where they ended up. By 1911 Harry Smith, from Chipping Ongar had moved in with his family. He was a worker in the Powder Mill. He had married Ellen Selina Austin at Stone Church on the 14 May 1894. His father was George Thomas Smith, an engineer, and her father was John Austin, a labourer. By 1911 they had been married 16 years and had four children, the youngest two Marian and Ida Nellie were living with them at the time. Previously in 1901 Harry and Ellen had been living at Bean Cottage which I think was one of three cottages near Prospect Place. Their two eldest children were living with them at the time, Elizabeth Mary and George Henry. When Elizabeth Mary married William Ernest Austin at Stone in 1921 they were still living at 15 High Street, Bean, and Harry's occupation was given as a pipe fitter. His second daughter Marian married Charles

Leslie Lucking, the boy next door as he was living at No. 14. Harry was then described as a labourer but when youngest child Ida Nellie married Augustine Banham in 1932 he was back to a pipe fitter. Harry Smith died aged 83 at West Hill Hospital and Ellen Selina Smith died aged 83 at Southern Hospital. Both were buried on the same day 7 July 1954 at Stone Cemetery.

A FISHY QUIZ

1. She leads Scotland
2. Lets call the Doc back.
3. You can do this on the ice.
4. Here is a slippery customer
5. RUTTOB
6. Have with blancmange or just wobbly
7. All the items are in
8. Don't go on about it
9. A small one
10. He could sing in an opera
11. This one could make you laugh
12. He/she will take your money
13. This one will fly you over the sea
14. Can't you find the answer?
15. A Rainbow?
16. This is a sticky one
17. Does it play a harp?
18. A boat had once been anchored here
19. A small starter
20. Use this one can catch a bigger one.

Email the editor with your Answers



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Oasis Counselling Service

The service is based at The Vineyard, 24, Market Street, Dartford, DA1 1EZ, telephone number 01322 294430, website address

www.oasiscounsellingservices.co.uk. Oasis Counselling offers clients a professional, quality service. We cover general counselling issues, anger, depression, low self-esteem, self-harm, abuse, bereavement, and relationship issues and more. We also work with couples and families.

We are a charity and need sessions to be funded. A one hour session is valued at £45 each, £60 for couples but we work on a donation basis, depending on the client's ability to pay. For those unable to donate £25 or more, we offer 8 bursary-funded sessions, as the fund allows, encouraging each client to donate at a level enabling them to value the service offered.

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES and USEFUL NUMBERS.

The Bean Village Web site and e-mail addresses are on the front cover.

POLICE

Emergency calls 999 /112	Non emergency calls	101
Neighbourhood Police Officer	PC Tony Quilter	07811 984126

Dartford Borough Council and Kent Community Wardens

Crime Support Unit DBC	Mark Sailsbury	01322 343434
Community Warden.	Paul Hassell	07813 713285
Community Warden	Control Centre	01732 885712
Crime Stoppers		800 555 111

Bean Village Hall Bookings

999	Bean Parish Council	01474 832
Tuesday 4:00 - 7:00pm. Dance fever	Jo Regan	07927 196307
Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30pm Zumba	Laura	07731 303925
Wednesday 1:30 - 4:00pm. Young at Heart	Contact the committee	
Wednesday 6:00 - 7:30pm. Cubs	Neil Warburton	01474 707382
Wednesday 7:45 - 9:30pm. Scouts	Neil Warburton	01474 707382
Thursday 5:00- 6:30pm. Brownies	Janette Williams	07908274153
Thursday 7:30 - 8:30pm Fitsteps	Kay	07751 497716
Sunday 10:00 - 11.00am. St. Nicholas Church,	Don White	01474 705430
Mon - Fri 9:15 - 12:00 noon. Jumping Beans Pre-School	Allison Barrass	07771864937

Doctors

Swanscombe and Bean Partnership	Bean Surgery, High St. Bean	01474 707236
Dr. Bora	Beacon Drive, Bean	01474 708672

Church

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

The Rector is The Rev David Houston 01474 833252

Sunday Service is held in the Community Centre at 10am

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@btintenet.com

Bean Parish Council meet on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. in the Bean Community Center. All Bean residents are welcome to attend. 01474 832999

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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