# WHITELD BY A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRIPTIO

ou are reading the first newsletter of 2024 and our second since closing in Spring 2020 due to Covid. Unbelievably that is 4 years ago. Many of you remember the old newsletter and the response we have received since reviving it has been terrific. So, many thanks for all the good wishes and support.

To make it a success though we do need to encourage more advertisers to take up space, so please pass the newsletter around to any business owners you know, thank you.

For this issue I have taken a leap of faith, (Rev. Sean will approve) and gone for the old format of 8 pages, obviously this is better for you the reader but financially it is a gamble, however, I do believe the people of Whitfield deserve the best and so we will give it a go and hope we get the support it needs.

Whitfield is ever changing and having grown up here in this village, for 60+ years I have seen it change beyond my wildest dreams. My concern is that the village is growing but growing apart. If that makes sense. The village I lived in as a boy was a place where everyone knew each other, or certainly knew someone who knew of that person.

I was occasionally brought home by the village 'Bobby' having been caught scrumping apples or doing something I shouldn't. We were boys being boys, we weren't destructive or causing offense, just having fun. The 'Village Bobby' knew all the boys and all the parents, we were told off, it was never a major issue, and you learned your lesson, occasionally with a sore ear as a means of dragging you home.

People helped their neighbours, my mates and I cut lawns, cleaned the paths, carried out the rubbish for the elderly in the street. My parents looked out for neighbours making sure they had food and were comfortable.

Today I rarely see that village comradery, I do see a village that has spread and developed into parts. The tight community I knew has sadly become distant with clearly defined areas, I have even been told that some people have never even walked around the village.

We live in different times and our community has changed, we have double the residents and quadruple the vehicles on the road and this will increase. I firmly believe we would all like to be part of a fun and welcoming village.

To that end I am working with the Parish Council and Reverend Sean Sheffield; to revise the Whitfield Fete on September 21st, details are in the newsletter. Please spread the word and let's see if we can start to get the community back together again. It will be a modest start but will grow over time.We are working on other ideas for the community, if you have any of your own, please let me know. Until next time RK



01304 821000 www.rkgraphics.co.uk





# THE VERNAL EQUINOX

The Vernal Equinox (or official spring time) will occur

at exactly 3.06am on 20th March this year. That means the position of the Earth's axis is neither tilted towards or away from the sun. We can't see the axis or its position but we see the results: equal hours of daylight and darkness.

Now, I don't know about you, but I'm happy when I can say 'Ooh, 6 o'clock and it's still light!' (which, incidentally, will be 8 days before the Vernal Equinox).

It was an ancient Greek gentleman by the name of Hipparchus, who, armed with knowledge from previous ancient Greeks and Babylonians, developed a mathematical theory for predicting the Equinoxes on any given year. As well as creating the first known star catalogue, he's also credited with being the founder of the bane of my life at school: trigonometry. I do find Astronomy fascinating and without trigonometry, we wouldn't have the insight into our solar system, so I'm glad it exists, even if it did cause my brain to melt.

We also put our clocks forward on this night (a useful mnemonic is 'spring forward, fall back') but this has no effect on the Equinox times so why do we do it?

Over 100 years ago (1907 to be exact) a Kentish Builder by the name of William Willett published a pamphlet, titled 'The Waste of Daylight'. His proposal was a little convoluted (he wanted us to advance our clocks by 20 minutes every Sunday in April). But, by getting up an hour earlier when the days were becoming longer, the country would not only be more productive but cut down on its use of vital fuel. In 1916 the Summer Time Act was introduced and since then, we move our clocks forward and backward every year.

With today's flexible working hours, there's an argument for abolishing it but, according to a recent poll, opinion is divided. Some say DST causes up to 2 weeks' lack of sleep, irritability, even car accidents. On the flip side, longer daylight hours promote a more active lifestyle, safer driving conditions and a happier constitution. It's a balance, I suppose, and no more so than on 20 March. Happy Vernal Equinox! A M Knight



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# FAMILY FUN DAY KEARSNEY ABBEY, DOVER

RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL ROTARY CHARITIES Saturday 17th August 2024 ENTRY - 10am | 1st RACE - 12 noon

# WHITFIELD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet the second

Wednesday of every month (except August) in Whitfield village hall at 2.00pm, for an activity/speaker and a chat followed by refreshments and a raffle.

You are welcome to come for three meetings, to get to now us, before joining our group. Also some other activities we have on offer are, walking/lunch group, Art group and Craft group.

We look forward to seeing you,WI

We here at the Whitfield News were honoured by the Whitfield WI, when we were asked if they could use our logo for the banner they were making.

Jane Henley Vice President (in navy) did the appliqué and construction, and Shirley Hall embroidered the name.

l am sure you agree they did a splendid job.





# **RENEWAL CHURCH**

On the 11th February 2024, Renewal Church Whitfield welcomed Mark and Judith Davies

to the church. Mark is taking up the position of Senior Leader at Renewal and is excited about this new season for the church. Mark and Judith moved to live in Whitfield in 2020 from Swansea and have made the village their home. The church uses Whitfield Village Hall as the place to hold their Sunday services.



Details of the times of the services can be found on the church website: www.renewalchurch.co.uk

The church can also be contacted via email: info@renewalchurch.co.uk

# **GATEWAY BOWLS CLUB**

Ever wanted to try you hand at outdoor lawn bowls? Come and join us and out experienced coaches at The Gateway Bowls Club. We are based at the former Old park Barack site in Whitfield, Dover, opposite the Dover Transport Museum. Free parking is available.

#### **INTERESTED?**

The club will be opening for the start of the bowling season on Saturday 20th April 2024, and coaching will be offered every Tuesday starting on 4th June at 4.30pm.

For more infortmation visit our website gatewaybowls.club Call us on 07707 381111 (Geraldine Miles) Email geraldine.miles27@gmail.com

# **DOVER SMART PROJECT**



One of the features in Whitfield often forgotten but used daily by hundreds of residents is our underpass.

Over the years it has seen several facelifts in terms of wall graffiti, some I know have been less popular some quite inspired.

Well, I am delighted to tell you that Dover Smart Project have arranged another redesign and facelift. The timetable for the underpass works is as follows:

Starting 4th March KCC highways will be weeding the area. They will also scrub the underpass making it as clean as possible.

The next phase is preparing the wall surfaces that will be 7/8th March, the current graffiti needs to be removed, or painted over ready for the new designs.

We are expecting the Graffiti artists to begin the transformation Monday I I th and on Wednesday I 3th Community paint day (all community members will be invited to send representation and participate). The whole process is expected to be finished by Thursday 14th.

There will be a community opening or unveiling and the organisers will provide more details when confirmed. Look out for more details on the website or via posters.

Mya Lawrence will be remembered within in this project; the organisers have spoken to Mya's mum who is happy to be involved.

Dover Smart project would like to thank, McDonald's in particularly Allison Mackentosh, who have raised funds and are the place to get the design sheets. Whitfield Parish Council for their donation, the National lottery and R K Graphics Limited who will be sponsoring the new signs at both ends of the underpass.



#### WHITFIELD UNDERPASS STREET ART PROJECT

Grab a design sheet from McDonalds and share your ideas





DOVER'S FIRST HYBRID FITNESS EVENT PENCESTER GARDENS, DOVER 14 SEPTEMBER 2024

ENTRY: £50 PER PERSON THIS INCLUDES: T-SHIRT & FINISHER MEDAL A CHANCE TO WIN PODIUM PRIZES









#### Thursday 30th May | 10am - 3pm

Whitfield Aspen School (Richmond) Richmond Way, Whitfield CT16 3PW

To enter a Team or for full details: Tony Cook - argcook@btinternet.com

<u>Headway</u>



GRAPHICS

# F

#### Whitfield Parish Council

Phone: 01304 827 416 Email: whitfieldpc@btconnect.com Web: whitfieldparishcouncil.org

The Parish Council continue to hold meetings on the second Tuesday of the Month and consider ways to maintain and improve the amenity of the Parish.

There are vacancies for new Parish Councillors. Applicants should contact the Parish Clerk. Full details of the process on the Website: www.whitfieldparishcouncil.org/councillor-vacancies/

#### January Meeting summary:

Council agreed the Precept demand on DDC of  $\pounds120,000.00$  for the 2024/2025 financial year. ( $\pounds50.71$  for a band D property).

Village PC Ian Belsey will be moving to a new role and PC Cheryl Ellis will be taking over as the named PC for Whitfield.

DDC Cllr Roger Knight reported that he has successfully lobbied Officers at Dover District Council for additional emptying of the Dog Waste Bin at the Archers Court Road crossing, and that he has met with the Whitfield Brownie Leader to discuss the plans for a new Brownie Hut. Some concerns will be taken forward to DDC.

Council discussed Planning Applications and comments submitted. A new page to summarise Development Applications has been added to the Website for concerned Residents.

Consideration of the adoption of some of the 'green spaces' created in the new developments will be taken forward to future meetings.

KCC Highways have been instructed to go ahead with the proposed 30mph roundels and reminders on Archer's Court Road. There are now three projects resulting from the Highways Improvement Plan that are in various stages of progress.

A quotation of  $\pounds 6424.28$  was agreed for the annual Grounds Maintenance contract.

The damaged Spring Horse has been removed from the Small Play Area and the surface area made safe. A 'Betty Bee Spring Rocker shall be installed, at a cost of  $\pounds1,995.00$ .

A report from the Fete Group meeting included good initial ideas brought to the table. It was agreed that as plans progress Council will look at ways in which we can support the event.

#### February meeting summary:

Council agreed to investigate viability and payback of Solar Panels on the Pavilion roof to reduce gas and electric bills.

A Parish Council response to the KCC Bus Gate Enforcement Consultation in respect of the Bus Gates for Dover Fasttrack Scheme will be made, supporting their use and effective enforcement measures.

Council agreed to place a regular full column article reporting on Council activities in the Whitfield Village News at a cost of  $\pounds$ 125 to support its publication.

Whitfield Underpass Project. Council agreed to grant up to £1936 to the SmART project to cover remaining costs of renovation and painting a Mural. This will improve the safety and environment for users Schools and community groups will be involved and help to carry out the work.

Council agreed to grant £288 to the Litter Picking Group for equipment.

Council agreed to grant £1000 to the Pegasus to support their 2024 Summer Scheme.

#### **Damage to Football Pitches**

Whitfield Juniors Football reported pitches are being damaged by dogs digging holes and motorcycles churning the area. For the Safety of the children playing, this could result in matches having to be called off.

These activities on the Recreation ground are specifically prohibited by the By-Laws, Any persons identified will be reported to the Police for damage to property and may be fined up to level 2 on the standard scale.

### WHITFIELD COUNCILLORS



Cllrs Jim Back & Roger Knight, meet with MP Natalie Elphicke and Roads Minister, Guy Opperman MP to ensure that Government understands the problems we face every day on the roundabout.

Time flies when you are having fun! After nearly ten months as your District Councillor, I can't tell you how quickly that time has passed. In three years, I will be asking for your support again. So, why would you give me that support. It is a question I do need to work hard to answer. One thing I try to avoid is the political side of things, I stood for Whitfield, not for central Government, so judge me on that and I won't let you down.

So, in my 10 months, I have worked with the Parish Council, I have helped several residents, and now I am representing the Brownies.

You probably don't know but the land on which the Brownie Hut stands, and has stood for many years, is being sold to the Care Home next door. This has been a long running issue, which I am not happy about, but as a new Councillor I have come into office too late to stop the sale.

I am extremely disappointed in the DDC for allowing this to happen. What I can and will do is represent the Brownies and try to ensure they are treated fairly. There are plans to build a new hut, which is great, but in a position, in my opinion, that does not leave enough room for the outside activities they require. There is a compromise to be had, let's hope all involved will agree.

If you wish to help support the negotiations, I am sure the Brownies would be delighted to hear from you. You can request information from DDC.



Cllr Knight, with Pat Goldfinch, Kate and some of the parents, Brownies & Rainbows. It shows you their passion, it was heavy rain when we took this photo, yet they still turned out.

## THE JOY OF GIVING UP

"So what are you giving up for Lent then?"

I wonder if you have been asked that question in these past couple of weeks? Church goer or not. Follower of Jesus or not.

This time of Lent we find ourselves in now, as we journey towards Easter, seems to have become an alternative, or indeed for some, a new, New Years' time of resolution. This 6-week period between the pancakes of Shrove Tuesday and the Easter eggs sitting ready for the celebrations of Easter Day;

when many of us attempt valiantly to give up chocolate, booze, swearing, smoking, Facebook, Netflix or some other indulgence in an attempt to observe the 'fasting' of a Holy Lent.

Of course many of us observe this time as a response to Jesus' 40 days spent in the wilderness, a time when he fasted, was tempted and was being prepared for his ministry. And so Lent, is a time of self-examination, reflection, and a time for us to be aware of the possibilities of new life in Jesus Christ. Many of us 'fast' from the things we crave and enjoy, to help us focus on God as we prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Easter Day as we celebrate the risen Jesus Christ, and shout with joy, "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!"

But fasting is not so common as it was in Jesus's day, when it was part of the rhythm of a faithful life, and dare I say it, religious life. And although our giving up of something can feel significant to us, the reality is that in our culture of abundance and over-indulgence, I wonder what this giving up really signifies today. The craving, boredom, or restlessness we feel when we are fasting is meant to point to and symbolize a hunger only God can fill.

But let's face it, we don't like giving things up do we?

In fact our giving up can lead to us being irritable, miserable, and downright grumpy with those around us, as we feel we are being cheated and losing out on the only things that bring us joy. Or we make a point of telling anyone that will listen (as often as we can) just what we are sacrificing for the sake of observing a Holy 'fasting' Lent.Almost becoming a martyr to our 'giving up'.

But I wonder if there is another way. A way of recovering and rediscovering joy during Lent, and still reflecting on that wilderness journey of Jesus in those 40 days in which he was alone and tempted.

Perhaps we need to recall part of the message he gave to his disciples that flocked to hear him talk on that hillside in northern Israel. When he said (amongst other things), "and when you fast, do not look gloomy", "but when you fast comb your hair and wash your face."

In other words, let your sacrifice this Lent be one of joy. Let your giving up point you towards God, who satisfies all our needs. Smile, laugh, rejoice, and think not of the things you think you are missing out on, but the abundance that you have. The relationships that fulfil and sustain and surround you in family and friends.

Of what you have, rather than what you feel you do not have.

Joy is infectious and tends to spread to those around us.

Joy adapts and changes as it is shared, and enables us to endure the most difficult of times.

Joy has the ability to change things.

Joy is not as difficult as it sounds, it just sometimes takes our intention and commitment.

So yes, why not observe a Holy fasting Lent, abstain from those things that we know perhaps are not that good for us anyway. But do so with joy, and rejoice this Lent in your giving up. 'Wash your face', smile and rejoice with those around you.

Be blessed this Easter! Revd. Sean, St. Peter's Church

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### SERVICES & EVENTS IN MARCH

Sunday 3rd March Whitfield Village Hall @ 10.30am

Sunday 10th March Mothering Sunday Service St. Peter's Church @ 10.30am

Sunday 17th March Whitfield School Hall (Mayfield) @ 10.30am

Friday 29th March Good Friday Service St. Peter's Church @ 12.00pm

Sunday 31st March Easter Morning Celebration St. Peter's Church @ 11.00am



For more information contact: Revd. Sean Sheffield vicar@bewsboroughparish.org 07710 423432



Whitfield

GRAPHICS

Rotary 🕻

Club of Dove

# WHITFIELD GARDENER'S SOCIETY

Whitfield Gardener's Society has been running for

about 70 years in various forms. At the moment, it has about 80 members, but the society would love to see more Whitfield villagers in its ranks especially the young and those keen on gardening.

The society has a committee, and this is led by Richard Bates and his deputy Mick Burkimsher.

It is  $\pounds 15$  per year to be a Whitfield Gardener's Society member. This entitles members to attend the talks/meetings for free, have a programme of events and show details, and to enter the shows.

Whitfield Gardener's Society talks/meetings are held in Whitfield Village Hall (CT16 3LY) on the second Monday of most months (see programme).

The hall opens at 7pm. The whole meeting runs from 7.30 to about 9.30pm with the talk usually lasting for about an hour then there are refreshments at 50p for a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit, then the raffle is held. After which we all go home.

Members of the public can attend each talk for a fee of  $\pounds$ 3 per person. The meeting on 11th March is about pruning and then the meeting

on 8th April which is about allotments followed by "the Poison Garden" on 13th May.

The Society has a sales table at each meeting selling a few plants and bits and pieces donated by members which are available to buy for a small cost. These help to generate funds along with the raffle.

Whitfield Gardener's Society holds 3 shows a year one in Spring; one in Summer and one in the Autumn in Whitfield Village Hall. The dates of these are:

#### Spring show Saturday 13th April 2024 Summer show Saturday 20th July 2024 Autumn show Saturday 21st September 2024

To enter a show a person needs to be a paid-up member. However, after the judging the shows are open to the public from 2.30 to 4pm so people can see what people have grown, cooked, or crafted. There are refreshments at the shows too.



# Do you love flowers, meeting people and learning a craft?

Why not come to Dover Flower Club? We are a friendly bunch of people with one thing in common - a love of flowers. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall at 7.15pm, other than August & December.

There are monthly demonstrations, talks or workshops. Our March demonstration called ' Spring Walk' by Ellouise Hasler Scott.

For further information please contact: Mig Kimpton 07831 838851 or Cicely Finnis 07977 334672. Visitors are always welcome, come and see us soon.

# WHITFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Have you ever considered becoming a School Governor, well here are the Whitfield Aspen School Board of Governors, what a great bunch; Why not join us?

Whitfield Aspen School has just over 600 children attending its Mayfield and Richmond sites. This includes 175 children who attend the Specialist Resource Provision, Aspen. We are a truly inclusive school!

There is no denying that we are a larger than average Primary School, however, we feel proud to still be able to deliver a village-feel welcome to our students every day, with staff at the gate to greet and say good-bye. The large sites hide a total of 35 classrooms with a large majority of them seeing a maximum of 26 children in each for the mainstream classes and 15 for the SRP classes.

Our unique school allows us to enjoy some amazing resources like mini buses, therapy pool, sensory playgrounds, break-out rooms and large open spaces. Our new field at Richmond is due to open after Easter. I am sure that both staff and children are excited at the thought of being able to run free and play football ALL lunchtime!

We are also blessed with staff who have experience working across the site. This allows us to support all learners and provide a curriculum that is both rich, targeted and challenging. We also have access to therapists who support children across the school to improve their wellbeing.

Our website has lots of information that you might find useful. Please visit us at www.whitfieldaspenschool.co.uk

# THE 3G PITCH

Fingers crossed; Whitfield is likely to have a brand new 3g sports pitch in 2025. Working together DDC, Turner Schools, DAFC Youth Section, Dover Rangers, Kent FA, Football Foundation, Dover Rugby, Dover Netball, Whitfield Juniors, Active Kent.



If all things come together as planned, a new community facility will be installed at Dover Christ Church Academy Whitfield.

Full details will be circulated soon, but you heard it here and we fully support the much-needed fantastic facilities. Well done all concerned.

#### WHITFIELD EVENING WI CHECK US OUT

We've ditched the jam but still sing Jerusalem! Want to make new friends, enjoy belonging to a friendly group? Then come and see what we have to offer You can be sure of a warm welcome at WHITFIELD EVENING WI Find us at WHITFIELD VILLAGE HALL 3RD MONDAY EACH MONTH

> 7pm - 9pm All members have to be over 18 years Contact 01304 820444



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#### Temple Ewell Nursing Home Wellington Road, Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent, CT16 3DB

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| NHS Help                             | 111          |
| Whitfield Fire Station               | 01304 820042 |
| Dover Fire Station                   | 01622 692121 |
| Dover District Council               | 01304 821199 |
| Dr Chaudhuri S & Partners, Whitfield | 01304 820756 |
| Lydden Surgery                       | 01304 832160 |
| Dover Health Centre                  | 01304 865500 |
| Whitfield Post Office                | 01304 826858 |
| Whitfield Parish Council             | 01304 827416 |
| Tesco Pharmacy (Mon-Sat, 8am-8pm)    | 01304 581000 |
| Parish Clerk: Jo Matcham             | 01304 827416 |
| SCHOOLS                              |              |
| Whitfield Aspen Primary School       | 01304 821526 |
| Dover Christ Church Academy / Aspen2 | 01304 820126 |

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