

Community Events 2003

To be held at Vinters Park Community Centre

Fri 18th Apr- Good Friday Service 10.30 am.

Sun 20th Apr- Easter Sunday Breakfast Show.
10.30 am

Sun 8th June - Picnic in Vinters Valley

Sat 12th July - Summer Fete / Bar-be-que

Sat 20th Sept - Barn Dance

Sat 4th Oct - Craft Fair.

Sat 29th Nov - Rumours of Angels. *A Nativity Musical*

Sun 21st Dec - Christmas Carol Service



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
GOD'S CHURCH ON VINTERS PARK

SURVEY – Open spaces that could be improved in Vinters Park. Please indicate the location you are interested in. A separate sheet of paper may be used.

Upper Fullingpits Wood	
Linear open space off Commodore/Bonnington Roads	
Linear space off Bargrove Road to Valley Park School	
Open space off Bedgebury Close	
Open space off Newenden Close	
Open space off Ashurst Road	
Another place – please add details	

What does the place need?

(e.g., bin, bench, signpost, lighting, fencing, footpath, flowers etc.)

How will the 'need' improve the place?

(Consider social, safety and environmental benefits)

How could this 'need' be met by the community?

(Consider whether a local group or service, you or the Council could provide, sponsor or support the need)

Name

Address

Contact number/email address

Return form to: Vinters Park Community Centre

Email vpresidents@yahoo.co.uk



PARK RANGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
VINTERS PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2003

All residents of Vinters Park and Woodlands Estates are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Vinters Park Residents' Association, to be held in the Community Centre on Wednesday 30th April, starting at 8.15pm Refreshments will be served from 8pm.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Executive Committee is proposing a number of changes to the Constitution to bring it more up to date. The significant changes are: To include "gender" with "race or colour" among the areas against which there is no discrimination.

To make it clear that voting at the AGM is on the basis of "one member, one vote".

To delete the requirement of a minimum of two Group Members on the Executive Committee in view of the small number of Group Members.

To include a requirement for the Finance, Bookings and Premises Managers to be appointed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the AGM.

To make various amendments arising from last year's amendment authorising the appointment of an Independent Examiner or Auditor.

To provide for the AGM to be able to delegate to the Executive Committee the decision as to the honoraria to be paid to the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

To provide for nominations for Officers or Members of the Executive Committee to be

made in writing at any time before the meeting rather than 7 days before.

To dispense with the prior circulation of an Agenda to members of the Executive Committee as the Minutes of the previous meeting always form the basis of the agenda and contain the date of the next meeting.

To update the reference to the Trustee Investment Act to refer to the Trustee Act 2000.

To make a permanent provision for a second signatory to act in the event of the absence as well as the incapacity of the Finance Manager.

To amend the present provision relating to alcohol to read: "The Executive Committee shall, to the best of its ability, ensure that no alcoholic drink of any description is bought, sold or consumed within the Community Centre Building".

To revise the numbering of Clauses to reflect the deletion of certain Clauses over the years.

Anyone requiring to see a copy of the proposed amendments to the Constitution with a fuller explanation of the reasons may see these documents on deposit at the Town Hall in Middle Row or the Public Library in St Faith's Street. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary - Keith Rogers - on 01622 755858 or on email on vpresidents@yahoo.co.uk

AGENDA FOR AGM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Matters arising therefrom
4. Matters arising from the Chairman's Report
5. Presentation of Accounts
6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee members
7. Consideration of a motion to change the

Constitution in accordance with the above notice

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner or Hon. Auditor
9. A short presentation by the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Pat Marshall
10. Question Time: An opportunity to discuss matters of local interest with guests at the meeting including representatives of the Police and local schools
11. Any other business.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A very few words to start this report. As this is the second Park Ranger this year, I am keeping this introduction to the minimum - only to say - read this report and then come to our AGM prepared to ask questions.

Neil Sinclair - Chairman

LAW AND DISORDER

We continue to receive regular Police reports about Vinters Park. Ian Gedge used to be our liaison in these matters but he has moved on and John Ansell is now attending our meetings. There is very little new to report on policing in the area. There has been the usual rash of incidents involving young people and frequently involving alcohol. One of these incidents involved assault on off-duty police officers after which the perpetrators discovered that, as they were over 18, they could now be dealt with more stringently.

There are however younger "problems" coming along so we will have to wait and see whether or not they are able to learn when to stop!

The police are particularly interested in where any under 18's are obtaining alcohol and whether alcohol is being drunk in the immediate vicinity of the shops.

Although there are always a few burglaries on Vinters and Woodlands it is fortunately not a major problem. There does, however, seem to be an increase in the number of thefts from cars. It would be sensible not to leave items that even appear to be valuable in your cars or at least ensure that they are not visible.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Committee have been very keen to support this and in fact have made the Hall available free of charge on more than one occasion. It was unfortunate, however, that a political party requested its use, for this purpose. As the Association is apolitical it was felt that in future the Association should not provide the Hall, free of charge, for any politically motivated organisation.

We are still attending the "Police Area North" meetings which has provided some useful information on their activities in this and surrounding areas. Incidents should always be reported so that they are officially recorded.

CCTV

The Association have made their contribution available to the Council, whenever it is requested, and are now awaiting the early installation of the camera.

CONDITION OF THE ESTATE

The Committee continue to keep a close eye on the general maintenance of the Estate. We have been particularly concerned, this year, with cleaning up the plagues of graffiti, the resurfacing work on various roads and the new footpaths. Although we cannot claim credit for these works being carried out, the Committee have consistently advised the Council, over several years, of the needs for these maintenance works and improvements.

More recently we have been discussing ways in which "bulk refuse" collection from the Estate might be improved and the dangers of cars being parked too close to corners - in many roads but especially at the top of Hampton Road.

The committee also continue to maintain a close watch upon Planning Applications, the most worrying of which is the application to demolish a house in Marston Drive to allow the building of 19 houses adjacent to the Eastfield Residential Home. This development is very much in line with Government policy and the thinking behind the "Local Plan Review." Its application, however, raises many important issues of principle that need to be dealt with.

URBAN FORUM and LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

In more general terms Mark Cannon is representing the Association on the "Maidstone Urban Forum". This body is intended to liaise with Borough Council Committees and it is thought will be most useful considering Transport and Open Spaces/Parks/Gardens. To help this body we have included, on our back page, a brief survey, for you to complete, that considers the open spaces available on Vinters Park.

We have also been asked to comment on the "Local Plan Review" that has been delivered to every house in the area. Comments on this document would be welcomed at the AGM or in writing.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

As has been said elsewhere the bookings for the Hall remain healthy and, within limits, we are always seeking to improve the facilities in the Hall. Our Premises Manager - Bernard Bell-chambers- continues to maintain the Hall as efficiently as ever.

During this year we have installed a small PA system. It was felt to be a more practical alternative to a Loop System and has so far been effective. It will be used at the AGM and is available for Hall users. However, anyone using it will have to provide their own microphones.

The Hall has not required any major maintenance or improvement this year although the issue of Storage Space has been raised by regular users. Unfortunately we have had to say, very firmly, that no new space is available in the Hall and in fact the only way that we could see such space being provided would be by building a small extension. In the meantime if anyone is storing equipment in the Hall that is not being used could they please find somewhere else to put it.

FINANCIAL

Financially the Association is in a good condition. There are no arrears in payments and our bookings are very steady.

As a Charity the Association is not being run for a profit and we are therefore always considering ways in which we can prudently spend this money.

Chris Kirrage has now taken on the role of Finance Manager and is maintaining our tradition of good financial management.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

We have spent much time, this year, in reviewing our Constitution and the front page of this publication carries a notice about this. We have had to review and tidy up various clauses that have become redundant or outdated. Your comments will be appreciated.

An era came to an end this year with the departure of the Stubbins to Lincolnshire. John was a founder member of the Association and has sup-

ported us over many years. Margaret was our "Bookings Manager" for many years and more recently was our "Finance Manager." They will be much missed.

We were very fortunate that replacements were quickly available in the persons of Chris Kirrage (moving from Bookings to Finance) and Lesley Cannon. They are maintaining the good work. The Hall continues to be well booked and the Finances are as healthy as ever.

E-MAIL

The Association now has two e-mail addresses

- 1) For bookings :- vpccbookings@yahoo.co.uk
- 2) To contact the Committee :- vpresidents@yahoo.co.uk

Who knows we might even get a Web Page one of these days.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

It has been a pleasure, this year to see a number of Community Events being run on the Estate. The credit for this goes to "Verity Christian Fellowship" who are deeply committed to this work.

Events have included a Jubilee Street Party, a Christmas Fete and also Carols. The Committee's policy has always been to support anyone wishing to organise such events, so long as they are appropriate and well organised. In that respect the Youth Event that was held at the Hall was certainly well organised, however the problems that arose while it was running have provided some salutary lessons and reminders of the care that has to be exercised when you are running such an event. The Committee would not rule out holding such an event again, but would be very careful in making sure that it was properly organised.

Mark Ashdown represented us on the Management Committee of the "After School Club" at Valley Park School. Regrettably this club has had to close because of insufficient support.