

Vinters Park Community Centre



Verity
Christian
Fellowship
continues to
flourish,
with a
congregation
now of just

over forty adults and children. A step on from the original ten people we started with.

One of our key ideas is that a church should be at the heart of its community. To this end we have been involved in a number of events held at the Community Centre over the past year.

Together with the pre-school Playgroup and The Women's Institute, we had a very successful Summer Fun Day in July. There was a free Car Wash in the year to support Fair Trade Fortnight and a Barn Dance for Children in Need in October. We also held a Christmas collection of toys, books and materials to be sent to the Starfish School Project in Malawi. We actively support the Residents Association in the work it is trying to do with teenagers on the Estate and assisted with the Vinters Youth Art event in November.

All these things however would be nothing without the support of the residents, and so we would like to say thank you to all who attended and took part. We already have a full programme for the coming year and look forward to seeing you there. Perhaps we might even see you on a Sunday Morning! (10.30am)

To find out more about us please visit our website at:

www.veritycf.org.uk or Phone Ian on: 07951 428 021

BEVERLEY BRIDGE CLUB

Do you play duplicate bridge? Are you looking for a club to join? Do you sometimes need a partner??

If so, the Beverley Bridge Club would like to offer you an invitation to join us on Friday evenings at the Community Centre.

We are a small, friendly club with between 5 & 8 tables. On the third and fourth Friday of each month we offer a 'host' system so you do not need a partner but you will be guaranteed to get a game. We start at 7.30, finishing at about 10.55, and the fee for visitors is £2.00 for the evening - and that includes tea and biscuits. So do come along and join us.

If you wish to telephone one of our committee members for more details, the Club Secretary is Peter Judges:01622 738866 & the Treasurer is Sylvia Lichfield: 01622 756467.

BACK TO THE CHAIRMAN

On Vinters Park there are 1505 homes and I'm sure that many new families have moved onto the Estate over the past 12 months. May I take this opportunity to say on behalf of the Residents' Association, welcome and I hope you enjoy Vinters Park Estate as much as we do.

If you need information about the Estate, please don't hesitate to phone me, I will try to help. Alternatively if you are interested in joining the Residents Association please contact our Secretary Keith Rogers for a nomination form.

Thank you for reading this years' Park Ranger and we, the Residents Association, look forward to meeting you at the A.G.M. on 13 April at the Community Centre. Our speakers will be the Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Peter Hooper and Nicola Bowden, Youth and Community Tutor, Valley Park School.

<u>Contact Details</u>	<u>Tel. No</u>
<u>Chairman</u> Gerry Kirrage	678498
<u>Secretary</u> Keith Rogers	755858
<u>Bookings</u> Sandra Shepherd	209720
<u>Premises Manager</u> Fred Burton	762584

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PARK RANGER

The Newsletter of the
Vinters Park Residents' Association
SPRING 2005

Residents of Vinters Park and Woodlands are invited to our Annual General Meeting at Vinters Park Community Centre on Wednesday 13 April at 8.15pm
Refreshments will be served from 8pm

AGENDA FOR AGM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2004 AGM
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. Matters arising from the Chairman's Report
4. Presentation of Accounts
5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee members. Nominations are invited before the AGM or on the evening.
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner or Hon. Auditor
7. Consideration of amendments to the constitution
8. A short presentation by the Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Peter Hooper
9. A short presentation by Nicola Bowden, Youth and Community Tutor, Valley Park School
10. Any other business

Constitution

The Agenda for the AGM includes an item on the amendment of the Constitution and the Committee recommends that Sub-Paragraph 6(a)(v) be amended by adding the words in **Bold Type** below:

6 (a)The Executive Committee shall consist of.....

(v) **e Finance, Bookings and Premises Managers who shall be appointed annually at the first meeting of the Executive Committee after the AGM to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the affairs of the Association, unless the Executive Committee considers it expedient to combine two or more of these posts in which case the reduced number of Managers shall be appointed."**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last year Vinters Park was the first area in Maidstone to have a 'Dispersal Order' in place for a limited period and the report from the police was very positive, but what did others think?

The following is a letter written by a youth who lives on Vinters Park as a reply to an article in the Downs Mail on the subject. The article had pointed out the problems caused by youths on the Estate. This letter was sent to the Downs Mail by the Residents Association but was not printed.

Bored, Not Bad

The Dispersal Order on the Vinters Park Estate was, in many respects, a step in the right direction (the direction being towards a safer estate). However, many residents felt it was only effective in the short term, as police were only able to "disperse" and not reform the youths.

The main problem on the Estate is not the crimes or the intimidation, but the generation gap between those who complain and those who are seen as the "troublemakers". If one is willing to complain, one should be willing to help make the circumstances better. The youth of Vinters are bored, not bad.

In truth, there are around 8 youths (out of all those on the Estate) that are serious troublemakers, and they, too, are bored. Simply saying that the parents of these youths should have more control is not enough. These few who are causes for concern have little or no respect for authority, even stretching as far as their own parents.

But these youths are young. 14 and 15 year olds should not feel excluded because of the stereotypes. The generation gap needs to be bridged, and the bridge needs to be understanding. This does not necessarily mean immediate integration, but an effort to see another point of view. This way, the youth feel more accepted, will seem and feel less intimidating and the Estate's generation gap will have been shrunk, at last.

This, I believe, is a start.

Vinters Park Community Centre

POLICING AND CRIME

(Extract from Chairmans Report of The Spring 2004 Park Ranger)

"Despite what you may think, the neighbourhood suffers no more or less than similar areas of Maidstone. There are certainly parts of the area that are subjected to more incidents, Snowdon Parade Shops being a magnet for what could be termed as ongoing anti-social behaviour, or is it a case of bored teenagers as there's nothing for the young people to do on the estate out of school hours or at weekends?"

MOVING FORWARD

In the past year The Residents' Association has been trying to tackle this problem and have found a new friend at Valley Park School to help us with this. Nicola Bowden has been employed as Youth and Community Tutor; her job description is to meet and work with the young people and other residents of Vinters Park. I am pleased to tell you that we now have regular meetings with Nicola, and others, including Sharon Whiffin, KCC Maidstone Detached Youth Worker and some youths from the Estate, where ideas are discussed for a way forward.

One idea was to hold a Spray Art Competition at the Community Centre which took place last November. About 20 youngsters came along and some excellent work was achieved. With the help of County Cllr Margaret Featherstone we were given permission to hang some of their work in Week Street (on the hording opposite Woolworths). I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave their support or helped at this event, including Cllr Dave Naghi and members of Verity Christian Fellowship.

We hope that this will be the first of many activities and initiatives to improve the situation and look forward to working together with the young people in 2005.

Nicola Bowden will be speaking at our AGM on 13th April.

The Community Centre still attracts many families and groups who wish to hire it for parties or meetings, so to keep the Centre up to a very high standard for users, 2005 will see a new flooring being laid (well it is over 18 years old!), and a kitchen (so is that!), and, if funds allow, a revamping of the gents and ladies toilets (good news!). A much needed new sign has been erected on the exterior as well as many changes necessary for new health and safety standards inside and outside the Centre.

Many groups use the Centre on a regular basis, but who are they you may be asking yourself. Well, who better to tell you than some of the groups themselves.

Woodlands Under 5's Preschool & Toddlers

Woodlands has been running on Vinters Park for nearly 30 years in different settings, and has seen many family generations through its doors. Now in Vinters Park Community Centre, Woodlands not only offers experience but also fun and friendly pre-school care for 2 and a half year olds to school age children. The sessions run every weekday morning from 9.15am to 11.45pm, and for pre-schoolers only, on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 1.45pm to 3.15pm. Each session costs £6.50 for children up to the age of 3 years old. Funded places are available for children over 3 years old. Taster sessions are FREE.

Woodlands also runs a very successful Toddler group, which is open to all children from birth to school age. Parents/carers can come along with toddlers on a Wednesday and Friday from 12.45pm. The costs are £2.00 for an adult and up to two children. A small cost of 50p is charged for each additional child, and for craft items. Toddlers runs throughout school holidays, where families with toddlers and school age children are also welcome. First visit is FREE. For more details or an information pack, please contact Woodlands on 01622 671131, during the times mentioned above.

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Slimming World

Slimming World meet in the hall every Thursday at 6pm. Come along and join us, plenty to eat on plan, no shortage of food, no faddy diets, just healthy eating. The more you eat the more weight you loose. Only £3.95 per week. If interested call Les: 01622 730252 or 07761 257643, or come along 6pm on Thursday.

Shin-gi-tai Karate Club

The Vinters Park shin-gi-tai karate club started as the result of a local parent asking me to set up a club at a convenient venue. Evening space was not available at any local venue but an hour on Wednesday afternoon was, so I decided to try this time slot while I looked around for a more convenient one which would be a little later in the day.

The club started in May 2004 with just two students and occasional visitors. Through local word of mouth and some advertising, it has developed to 9 members and 5 regular visitors each Wednesday.

Members of the club have won trophies and awards at local competitions and overall an excellent spirit has developed in this friendly club.

Our plans for the club are to keep it active at around 10 to 15 members and welcome visitors from other clubs who would like to experience our training methods in Shotokan Karate. We teach karate to suit as wide an audience as possible and do not look for elitist status through training superior athletes. Karate was intended for all and that is our audience.

At our adult class in Grove Green we were presented with a problem where we were unable to use the hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and luckily Vinters Park was able to come to our rescue so we now use the services for the adult class which has grown to 14 members and 7 regular visitors.

Our clubs grow from strength to strength and we look forward to a long association with the Residents Association.

MANDY ELLEN SCHOOL OF DANCE

Classes held at Vinters Park Community Centre

Mon	4.00pm Junior Disco	Ages 5 to 9
	5.00pm Senior Street Jazz	Ages 10 plus
	7.00pm Adult Tap	All Ages
	8.00pm Adult Dance	All Ages
Tues	4.00pm Junior Disco	Ages 5 to 9
	5.00pm Senior Street Jazz	Ages 10 Plus
Fri	4.00pm Pre School Dance	Ages 3 to 5
	4.30pm Prep/Primary Ballet	Ages 5 to 9
	5.00pm Prep/Primary Tap	Ages 5 to 9
	5.30pm Junior Disco	Ages 5 to 9
	6.00pm Grade One Ballet	Ages 9 Plus
	6.30pm Grade One Tap	Ages 9 Plus

ANGELS GIRLBAND

Hi, we're Angels, an all girl singing group. Claire Folliard, Jodie Page, Rina Marson, Louise Perry and Claire Gilham have been together for nearly two years now. We started out in 2003 after meeting and performing together in a charity show as a tribute to pop act Girls Aloud. From here the act was born. We have since performed with seasoned performers such as Davey Bee and Drew Cameron and have also worked alongside pop idol finalist Ric Waller and members of UB40.

Our forte includes tributes to various female divas such as Whitney Houston, Britney Spears, Atomic Kitten, The Honeyz, Destinys Child, Girls Aloud and The Sugababes. After a successful tour of Tenerife with international entertainer Tim Lane, last year and a busy calender we now own a P.A. system with microphones, various costumes, dance routines and a sound technician.

In November 04, we organised and hosted a Charity show for 'Children in Need' and raised £1500, using Vinters Park Community Centre for all of our rehearsals.

For more information about Angels or to hire the group please contact BG Promotions on: 07745 547068 or 07961 988120