

A question for residents:
What is the answer?

Guess what the most common complaint is that we have from residents of Vinters Park. You've probably guessed it right, young people hanging around certain areas i.e. Snowdon Parade shops, causing a nuisance. The police are always getting complaints regarding this and their first suggestion was for us to have a 'Shelter' erected for them somewhere on the estate where the youngsters would not cause a problem. Rumours of this got around which provoked fierce opposition from some residents who thought the Shelter might be erected near their homes. There seemed to be nowhere suitable for the shelter to go.

Then came the 'Dispersal Order' which gave a short term solution to the problem but did not have any long term effect.

In last year's Park Ranger we printed a letter written by a youth who lived on Vinters Park entitled 'Bored Not Bad'. In view of this the Residents Association, together with KCC Youth Workers for Valley Park Community School organised a program of events for young people aged 7 to 16. With funding from Patrick Sellar and Margaret Shaw we organised the following events over the Summer Holidays of 2005:-

- Disco Dancing
- Street Jazz Dancing
- Mother and Daughter Evenings
- Musical Theatre Workshop
- Football Coaching by Kent F.A.
- Basketball training

This all ended with an Artz Day which included activities such as a Magic Workshop, Face Painting, Spray Art and a Circus Workshop.

I would love to say that all these events were well attended but unfortunately this was not the case. In spite of the very professional looking, eye catching leaflets that were produced advertising these events, which were delivered to every home on Vinters Park, very few turned up to take part in these activities. In fact the Football and Basketball training had to be cancelled due to no takers. The Musical Workshop did not go ahead as no young people turned up and there were only a handful of girls who came along to the Disco and Jazz Dancing. The mother and daughter evenings were slightly better attended but still far less then we had hoped for.

Of all the events the Artz Day was the most successful with 28 young people joining us, although nearly half of these did not live on Vinters Park. Helped by members of Verity Christian Fellowship the day went really well and most of the young people who came said they had a really good time.

However, those who organised these events were left feeling bewildered and wondering whether all the time, effort and money that went into this was worthwhile as so few attended. As far as I know, none of the young people who hang around the estate came to any of these events.

So what can we do to help the problem of bored youngsters on the estate?

VPRA Contact Details		Tel. No.
Chairman	Gerry Kirrage	678498
Secretary	Barry Smith	670598
Bookings	Sandra Shepherd	209720
Premises Manager	Fred Burton	762584



Residents of Vinters Park and Woodlands are invited to our Annual General Meeting at Vinters Park Community Centre on Wednesday 19th April at 8.15pm
Refreshments will be served from 8pm

AGENDA FOR AGM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2005 AGM
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. Matters arising from Chairman's Report
5. Presentation of Accounts
6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee members. Nominations are invited before the AGM
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner or Hon. Auditor
8. A short presentation by the Mayor of Maidstone, Councillor John Horne
9. A short presentation by Mr. Ian Humphreys, Verity Christian Fellowship
10. A short presentation by Mr. Steven Songhurst, warden, Vinters Valley Park Trust
11. Any other business

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Flooring	Yes	Storage Cupboards	Yes
Kitchen Units	Yes	Toilets	No

Yes, 2005 has seen some major changes in the Community Centre. As we are going to press one of our regular users, The Mandy Ellen School of Dance, has found her own premises and has withdrawn her bookings with us. We wish her every success in her new building.

Youth

During the summer holidays various activities were organised and hosted by Members of the Residents Association together with Nicola Bowden (Youth and Community Tutor for Valley Park School). Each event had a different theme and was well executed on the day. The Residents Association would like to thank Patrick Sellar and Margaret Shaw for their very generous funding of these summer events.

Executive Committee

There have been some changes on the executive committee. Barry Smith has moved into the secretary's position and Keith Rogers has moved over to Vice Chairman. We always have room for more people, so if you would like to join, please phone Barry for a nomination form, or turn up at the A.G.M. and make yourself known.

I would personally like to say a huge thank you to Mr. Keith Rogers who, for 12 years, has helped several Chairmen to have a less stressful experience owing to his work as Secretary.

Christmas

It was my pleasure to take a very small part in the 2005 Woodlands Preschool Nativity. Animals, snowflakes and even Spiderman turned up to make it a brightly coloured and tuneful two days. A personal thanks and Well done! (You worked very hard ladies).

2006

The committee is very keen to ensure that the Community Centre is of the highest standard and a nice place to hire, so the toilets go back on the list of jobs to be done in 2006. Lighting, outside Notice Board and outside slabs are to be looked into as well. This, I'm sure, will make Vinters Park Community Centre a place in keeping with our fine estate

Your Community Centre is used by many groups who are a very nice bunch, so it's over to them to encourage you, maybe, to join them:-

Vinters Park Community Centre

Vinters Park WI

Vinters Park WI meets at the Community Centre on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:45pm.



We have speakers on varied subjects. We also have a competition, cards and sales tables. The scrabble group meet also at the Community Centre once a fortnight.

Other activities include a darts team who meet at a local pub, a craft and whist group who meet at a member's home and these activities are held once a fortnight. We also play 10 pin bowling once a month.

If you are interesting in joining please contact 01622-754507

Shin-gi-tai Karate Club



Clubs in Grove Green, Vinters Park, West Malling, Loose and Leybourne

The shin-gi-tai group of clubs operates six days per week (Monday to Saturday) at locations around Kent. (Grove Green, Loose, Larkfield, Vinters Park, Leybourne and West Malling). We have around 200 regular students ranging from novice to black belt. We currently teach ages from 5 to 75.

We teach the Shotokan Style karate to children and a more comprehensive system based on Shotokan to adults. In addition we conduct private tuition in karate and self defence.

The Vinters Park venue hosts our Wednesday children's club at 4:15pm every week and on the third Tuesday of each month we hold the adults club there at 8:30pm as the regular venue is not available

Contact: Malcolm R Bates, 3rd Dan
ISOK, ASKDF, ISKU, ISKK, AMA

Tel: 01622 736990
email: shin-gi-tai@mmaconsultancy.com

Verity Christian Fellowship



Verity Christian Fellowship has now been going for five years and has certainly grown since its beginning. Then there were less than a dozen of us, today our congregation numbers over fifty. We continue to believe that the church has an important role to play in the community. Perhaps some of you may have had your car washed during our Fair Trade promotion, or have attended the summer fete. You may also have given to the Starfish Project, building a school in Malawi. If so then we thank you for your support and hope you have enjoyed being part of what's going on. We believe that Vinters Park is a great place to live, and by bringing people together we can make it even better. So watch out for coming events. Everyone is welcome, and remember being involved is what makes community. Our services are held at 10:45am every Sunday.

Vinters Park Community Centre

Woodlands under 5's Pre-School

Woodlands Under 5's Pre-School is based in Vinters Park Community Centre. We provide high quality sessional care and education for children between the ages of 2½ to 5 years. We offer a high adult to child ratio and aim to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment for your child. We are members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and pride ourselves on the excellent OFSTED reports we have received from our regular inspections.

For a copy of our Prospectus or further details, please call the Pre-School on:
01622 671131.

Woodlands Baby & Toddler Group

Come and meet other parents with young children at the Woodlands Baby and Toddler Group which meets every Wednesday from 12.45 pm to 2.45 pm at Vinters Park Community Centre. There is a charge of £2.00 for each adult and up to 2 children which includes a drink and biscuit for the children and tea/coffee for the adults. Additional children 50p. First visit is free. There are plenty of activities for the children to enjoy.

KODO KARATE CLUB

SHOTOKAN KARATE:
FROM BEGINNER TO BLACKBELT

CLASSES ON:
TUESDAY 6:30 to 8:15 PM
THURSDAY 7:30 to 9:00 PM

CONTACT: ROB REID on 07977 216902

Kent Family History Society

The Maidstone Branch of the Society which holds its Committee Meetings at Vinters Park Community Centre holds its main meetings at St. Paul's Church, Boxley Road, Maidstone on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

The Society exists to assist members researching Family history in Kent and has branches throughout the County as well as in most Commonwealth countries.

Information is available on our website:
<http://www.kfs.org.uk>

Maidstone Computer Club

Maidstone Computer Club meets once a month on the 1st Thursday of each month. Its aims are to promote the understanding of computers and how they work. It deals mainly with the Microsoft windows operating system and associated software packages. New members are always welcome.

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 £4.25 per week.

If interested call Les: 01622 730252 or 07761 257643 or come along at 6pm on Thursdays.