

July 2006

Upper Beeding Parish Council News

The magazine for the Parish of Upper Beeding, Small Dole and Edburton



Contact us :

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email: johnkate@amserve

Clerk: Ingrid Caygill Tel: 01903 810316

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Editor: Stephanie Shorey Tel: 01903 812913

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Editor's note – If you have any items you would like published in the newsletter, it would be most helpful if you could please send them in electronic format as email attachments to either the Clerk or to the editor (email addresses above). This saves a whole process of scanning and reformatting articles. Thank you – Stephanie Shorey

Useful contact numbers

Neighbourhood Wardens: Paul Sweeney 0773 438 7888; office 01903 813 236; email wardens.south@horsham.gov.uk **For crime in progress call 999.**

Faulty street lighting: Telephone 08457 581 622 or email scc.solve@edfenergy.com or on line at www.west.sussex.gov.uk and click on 'fault reporting'.

Police Community Support Officer: Vanessa Bretton can be contacted by email vanessa.bretton@sussex.pnn.police.uk or by phone / voicemail on 0845 60 70 999 extension 20242.

Youth Project

The Snack Wagon is returning to Upper Beeding village. It will be in the car park every Tuesday evening from 25th July to 22nd August.

Chairman's letter

Dear Parishioners, I am pleased to be able to report solid progress in certain areas. We are now liaising with our neighbours Steyning and Bramber on all matters concerning our three parishes. With mutual agreement, Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding have employed, on your behalf, Paul Sweeney our new Neighbourhood Warden, to replace Paul Thayre who resigned. Make yourselves known to Paul - he is very approachable.

For our very junior parishioners we will be refurbishing the Small Dole and Beeding children's play areas. Let's hope the vandals leave them alone.

On a personal note, I was honoured and thrilled to present the prizes at the Annual Dinner Dance of the Football Club at the Berkeley Hotel in Worthing. There were some 70 or so players and parents, managers and coaches present - I think I shook hands with everyone of them, they were so pleased to be co-operating with their Council. We all must keep supporting all their activities. These youngsters are the future of Upper Beeding.

Congratulations to Peter Thorogood and Roger Linton, co-owners of St Mary's House Bramber, on the award of an MBE for services to conservation and the arts. Surely, two of the finest reasons for getting an award.

Finally, support you Cricket Team who have just returned to their home turf on the Playing Field on Sunday afternoons. I am delighted to add that they won both their first two home matches.

Have a happy and peaceful summer, John Peake – Chairman, Upper Beeding Parish Council

For your Diary

The Small Dole Summer Show will be held on Mackley's Field, Small Dole on Saturday 12th August from 1:30pm until 5:00pm. Details / information from Frank Whitehead, email f.whitehead@btinternet.com

Small Dole WI summer meetings – 4th July - Mongolian evening; 12th September - Harvest Time; 10th October - Annual General Meeting. Meetings start at 7:30pm in Small Dole Village Hall. For more information tel 01273 494 947

Adur Bath Tub race will be held on 12th August at 2:00pm.

Leisure Connect Excursion Club

This Club has been set up for non-profit making groups of 6 or more people who live within Horsham District, helping you to enjoy some of the great shows and events that are on offer throughout the year. With this service, from Horsham District Council, you can choose from a great selection of all-inclusive outings such as shows, exhibitions and events in and around Horsham, combined with the convenience of organised transport to and from a collection point close to your home.

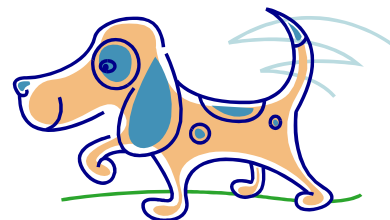
To book your place, please telephone The Capitol Box Office on 01403 750 220. If you would like to receive the programme of the Leisure Connect Excursion Club or subscribe to the Club, please contact Horsham District Council on tel: 01403 215 262, fax: 01403 215 268 or email leisure@horsham.gov.uk

Events in July include Music in the Park, Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibitions in Southwater and Warnham Nature Reserve and events in August include Music in the Park and a guided walk round Medicinal Herbs at Warnham Nature Reserve.

Dog Fouling

Under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 which came into force earlier this year, allowing a dog to foul in public places is subject to a fixed penalty fine of £75. Please take a bag when you walk the dog and get into the habit of clearing up. Think about the children who walk to school or play football on the playing field.

Fly tipping, graffiti and dropping of litter are also liable to fixed penalties.



You can read all the Council meeting minutes and all Committee meeting minutes on the Council's website www.westsussex.gov.uk/upperbeeding

Booking the Tennis Court - contact the Booking Clerk on 01903 816 790

Rates of hire – Adults: £4.00 per hour for up to 4 adults; Juniors (under 16's) £2:00 per hour for up to 4 juniors.

Saltings Field Conservation Group

During the past twelve months, the Saltings Field Committee have attempted to maintain the Field in a good condition and this has been assisted by a volunteer group called the Green Gym. They are mainly from the Portslade, Brighton area and are retired people who seek exercise and a degree of companionship in undertaking conservation work. Rather than expend energy in a gymnasium, they seek an outdoor life and look after various sites in and around Brighton & district. Saltings Field is visited on about seven occasions during the year and is one of their favourites and during the months of more favourable weather conditions, often stay on after their morning work to have a picnic alongside the river. We are very grateful to them for their input for, nowadays, the committee is small in number and could not undertake the maintenance without assistance. Incidentally, Green Gym teams can be found throughout the country and is affiliated to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Small Dole Flower Power

By the time you read this our baskets will be on show, but any donations or offers of help will be gratefully received. All calls to Iris on 01273 494 361, please.

Thank you to Carol Elliott who watered the baskets all last summer on her own, and her friends Angela and Dick took over when she was away.



Steyning Wholefood Co-operative

A group of us from Steyning and Beeding get together periodically to buy in bulk from Infinity Foods so that we are able to benefit from lower prices.

If you prefer organic and whole foods and would like to know more, call 01903 812 847 or email drpnightingale@btinternet.com

Small Local Businesses

My name is Donna Bailey and I have lived in Upper Beeding with my family for 2½ years. I am a fully qualified Beauty and Indian Head Massage Therapist and run a business called Pretty Pampered! I offer a range of professional beauty treatments and Indian Head Massages. I work from my home, within a relaxing Treatment Room, and I also offer a mobile service at no extra charge. I offer both day and evening appointments.

To book an appointment, please call me on 01903 814 266.

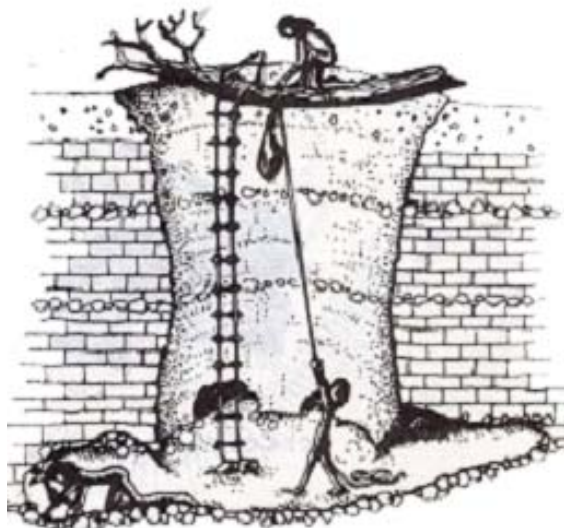
If you would like your small local business featured please send a short piece similar to the one above to either the Clerk upperbeeding.parishcouncil@virgin.net or the editor stephanie@redmini.co.uk

A History Of Beeding

Part 2 – The Stone Age

The Stone Age is divided into the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic (or Old, Middle and New Stone Ages) and was so called because early people made tools from flint and stone. They probably also used wood and bone, but these materials have not survived the many thousands of years since they were deposited.

In the Palaeolithic, beginning some 600,000 years ago, ice sheets covered most of the country for tens of thousands of years at a time, interspersed with warmer periods, also lasting thousands of years. This part of the country was not actually covered in ice, but the ground was frozen and icy winds blew across it from the north making it an inhospitable place to live. In the warmer periods, with the melting of the ice, forests grew again and animals such as mammoths, hippopotamuses, horses and deer returned across the bridge of land that connected this country to the continent. Primitive hunter-gatherers returned also mainly sticking to higher land, or the gravelly sides of river valleys which were slightly less impenetrable than the forested lowlands.



Neolithic Flint Mine - reconstruction

Numbers of such people would be very small, therefore it is surprising that we actually have evidence of their presence in our area in one of the warm periods 250,000 years ago. A Palaeolithic hand-axe, found in a field west of Bramber Station, is in Lewes museum and a hand-axe of the Acheulian type, found near St Botolphs in 1979, is said to be the best example ever found in Sussex and can be seen in Steyning museum.

At the start of the Mesolithic, about 10,000 years ago, the ice sheets began to melt, sea levels rose and eventually, about 7,000 years ago, the land bridge to the continent was breached and this country became an island. The people who lived here were still nomadic, hunting deer, wild cattle and pigs in the forests, fishing in the rivers and estuaries and gathering wild plant foods. Later they learned to domesticate dogs, cattle and pigs, moving with their herds in search of food. They made much finer tools of flint, than their predecessors, scatterings of which have been found at Tottington Sands in the north of our parish.

In the Neolithic, starting about 5,000 years ago, probably as a result of new peoples arriving from the continent with new ideas, there were great developments in the way people lived. They learned to sow and plant crops, to weave fabrics and make pottery. They could now settle down and become farmers instead of constantly being on the move. This gave them the time to work together in various ways, such as to clear the forest, build causewayed camps like the one at Whitehawk and long barrows in which to bury their dead. They still used flint implements, some of which have been found on Edburton Hill and at Erringham and knew where to mine the best flints. On Cissbury Hill, near Findon, are many depressions in the ground which are the remains of about 150 flint mines, long ago filled in. Some have been excavated and a model of one can be seen at Worthing Museum. Next time, Man discovers how to use metals.

References

1. Flint Implements of the Old Stone Age, by Peter Timms.
2. Sussex Archaeological Collections, 118, (1980), 363-383.
3. A History of Sussex, by J.R. Armstrong.
4. A Historical Atlas of Sussex, edited by Kim Leslie and Brian Short.

Pat Nightingale, May 2006

!! Attention !!

!! All Beeding and Bramber Village Hall Users !!

Your Hall is in DANGER of CLOSING DOWN

**if we are unable to find a new Chairman soon for the
Management Council.**

**This hall belongs to you, the Villagers, NOT the Parish Council as
some people think.**

Upper Beeding Parish Council website – www.westsussex.gov.uk/upperbeeding

Council Members

John Peake – Chairman of the Council – 01903 815 362

Simon Birnstingl – Vice Chairman – Chairman: Amenities Committee 01903 817 090

David Coldwell – Chairman: Finance & General Purposes 01273 495 808

Pauline Kentell – Chairman: Planning 01903 812 022

Robert Harber – Chairman: Sports & Leisure 01903 879 598

Stewart Christie; Peter Gilham; Joyce Shaw; Chris Bailey; Frank Jones; Cllr Andrew Purches

Ingrid Caygill – Clerk – 01903 810 316

Julie Bakter – Booking Clerk – Sports Hall & tennis court 01903 816 790

Committee Members

Amenities Committee – Simon Birnstingl (Chairman), Chris Bailey, Peter Gilham, Pauline Kentell, Robert Harber, Joyce Shaw, David Coldwell, John Peake

Emergency Sub-committee – (Keith Nethercote-Bryant UB), John Peake (UB), David Coldwell (SD)

Finance & Gen Purposes Committee – David Coldwell (Chairman), Robert Harber, Stewart Christie, Peter Gilham, Frank Jones, John Peake, Simon Birnstingl

Planning Committee – Pauline Kentell (Chairman), Robert Harber, John Peake, Frank Jones, Stewart Christie, Chris Bailey, Joyce Shaw, David Coldwell, Simon Birnstingl

Sports & Leisure Committee – Robert Harber (Chairman), David Coldwell, Frank Jones, Chris Bailey, Peter Gilham, John Peake, Simon Birnstingl

Council appointed representatives to –

The Burial Board – Frank Jones, Robert Harber

Horsham Association of Local Councils – David Coldwell, Joyce Shaw

Sussex Association of Local councils – David Coldwell, Joyce Shaw

Campaign for the protection of rural England – Joyce Shaw

Action in rural Sussex – David Coldwell, Joyce Shaw

Saltings Field Conservation Society – John Peake

UB Village Hall Management Committee – Chris Bailey

SD Village Hall Management Committee – David Coldwell

Parish Floral Display (Beeding in Bloom) – Pauline Kentell

UB Football / Cricket Clubs – Robert Harber

Upper Beeding & Small Dole Youth Project – Robert Harber

Meeting Schedule 2006 – Council / Committees

Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday in the month –

Tuesday, 4th July – 7:00pm Planning; 7:30pm Council – Small Dole Village Hall

Tuesday, 5th September – 7:00pm Planning; 7:30pm Council – Beeding and Bramber Village Hall

Tuesday, 7th November – 7:00pm Planning; 7:30pm Council – Beeding and Bramber Village Hall

Tuesday, 5th December – 7:00pm Planning; 7:30pm Council – Beeding and Bramber Village Hall

Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday in the month – Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

Tuesday, 18th July 7:00pm; Tuesday, 19th September 7:00pm; Tuesday, 17th October 7:00pm;

Tuesday, 21st November 7:00pm; Tuesday, 19th December 7:00pm



Upper Beeding Football Club

The Football Club in partnership with Horsham District Council is running a soccer school on 29th and 30th August from 10:00am to 4:00pm on the playing field for the 6 to 12 year age group. For further information, please contact the Football Club. The 6-side junior / senior tournament will be held on 15th and 16th July on the Playing Field.



Beeding In Bloom

Although we have not been able to put up hanging baskets this year, we are making the most of our containers which have been planted up in shades of mauve, pink and white. We have mainly used geraniums and diascias this year as these are drought-tolerant and have mulched all our containers and flowerbeds with bark chippings. B&Q in Shoreham have supplied us with all our peat-free compost and bark chippings under their Better Neighbour Grant Scheme. Our AGM took place on the 10th May and included a plant sale which raised over £70.

It is 10 years since Beeding in Bloom started working to make Upper Beeding a brighter and more interesting place to live. We are proud to say that we have been quite successful, but there is plenty more that could be done. Please see the last page of this newsletter for an entry form for this year's Beeding in Bloom garden competition.

South East In Bloom

South East In Bloom will be judging Upper Beeding on Monday 3rd July from 9:30am onwards. Our Work Parties will be out during the previous week making sure that our Village looks at its best for the judges. Marks are lost if the pavements and gutters are full of weeds and litter so please help us by making sure your road looks its best.

Village Garden Competitions

We will be judging all the entrants for this on Tuesday 18th July. Entry forms have to be in by Saturday 15th July so if you haven't already entered don't delay. Forms are available from Beeding News in the High Street. Categories being judged are – "Best Commercial Property", "Best Front Garden", "Best Hanging Baskets/Containers" and "Best Allotment".

If you have an idea for a project for your road then let us know and get involved. Ring Tricia on 01903 812 366 if you would like to become a member of either our committee or work party.

Beeding in Bloom Poster Competition 2006

Winners –

Gemma Tyler; Grace Mulvancey; Jack Lamb; Lucy Morgan; Sam Pope; Maise McLeod; Eilish Bowman; Charlotte Mulvaney; Nadine Davis; Shannon Gray; Helen Trott.

The Poster Competition was sponsored by Ashley Dawe Property Maintenance.

Life is for Living

Want to find out more about the services and activities available for you? Then make sure that you put a date in your diary to attend one of this year's Life is for Living events.

Life is for Living is an exhibition event for over 50s, that is funded by Horsham District Council and organised in partnership with a number of different organisations. Now in its third year, the event offers an opportunity to find out about different services, try out new activities and meet new friends.

This year's events are being held on –

13th September at Henfield Village Hall from 12:00pm – 4:00pm

11th October at the Drill Hall, Denne Road, Horsham from 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Entrance to both events is free and if there is a group of you that want to go transport can be arranged through the Council Leisure Connect Scheme: telephone – 01403 215 262

For more information about the Life is for Living events call –

Nigel Tinkler (HACVS) 01403 255 277, Shelley Denman 01403 215 122 or Clare Ebelewicz 01403 215 137 or email community.development@horsham.gov.uk

Beeding & Bramber Horticultural Society

Affiliated to the National Dahlia Society; the thirty fourth Summer Show of flowers, fruits, vegetables, floral decorations, handicrafts, children's work & cookery will be held in the Beeding and Bramber Village Hall, Upper Beeding on Saturday, 26th August 2006 from 2:00 to 4:00pm – admission 50pence

Hillside

hillside – definition: the side or slope of a hill

However, if the lower case 'h' is changed to a capital 'H' the word Hillside has a totally different meaning, particularly if you are a member of the local scout association. Hillside is the camping ground of about twenty-one acres on the east side of the A2037 just south of Small Dole. Hillside was developed on land acquired by three people described in the Trust documents as a 'Sussex Gentleman', a 'Barrister-at-Law' and a 'Solicitor' in 1935, with some additional woodland added to the site in 1936. It has been a designated scout camp site since it was officially opened on 18th September 1937 by Lord Somers KCMG, DSO, MC, who was Deputy Chief Scout.

The Camp Warden, who resided in Small Dole, was well known to all those who camped in the first thirty years of Hillside's existence. Dave Hedger became Warden in 1935 and continued his work at Hillside until a few years before he passed away in 1968 aged 94 years.

The camp site is held in Trust as a Registered Charity, particularly for members of the local scout districts. This was originally defined as the Hove and District Boy Scouts Local Association and consisted of the area of the Borough of Hove and the Urban Districts of Portslade, Southwick and Shoreham-by-Sea. Like other organisations, revisions of areas now means that the camp site is primarily for members of the Hove & Portslade and part of the Adur Valley Scout Districts. The Beeding and Bramber Scout Group, being part of the latter District, holds regular weekly meetings at the site.

Over those seventy years Hillside has seen many changes, and has certainly not escaped the many events which have occurred in normal everyday life in that time. During the Second World War, for instance, civilian camping was banned although Hillside was used for day visits. The Canadian military forces camped at Hillside for a period during the War. In 1941, after approaches to the Ministry of Defence, special permission was given to permit limited Scout camping to resume with a small number of well-hidden tents of dark canvas.

Typical of stories of that era is that in warm weather campers would sneak across the road and bathe in the flooded clay pit, then owned by Beeding Cement Works. This is now the Horton Landfill Site. Perhaps as the beaches were out of bounds the muddy waters of the clay pit proved to be a great attraction! In 1967 the Scout Training complex was opened and other renovation work undertaken to the chapel and camp fire circle. All these facilities exist today with upgrading work completed on the toilet and shower facilities in the Training complex. In 2001, a new Bunk House was opened with accommodation for twenty-eight (four rooms with six bunks and two rooms with two bunks), toilets and showers and facilities for the disabled.

At the start of the millennium the Trustees were fortunate to be supported in this particular development by a substantial grant from the National Lottery Charities Board, which, with other funds raised locally, has ensured additional and much appreciated opportunities being available at Hillside.

In recent years, on account of the increased facilities it has been possible to extend the list of those using the camp site. Nowadays, Hillside has become a base for those taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme events; for members of the Scout Association from all parts of the county - indeed country - and members of the Guide Association. Also visiting Hillside have been members of St John Ambulance, Air Training Corps and children from schools in the area, including many disabled boys and girls.

Nestled quietly in sight the South Downs and within easy reach these days of all areas of East and West Sussex, Hillside is a well used facility by not only members of the Scout Association, but many other young people as well. We have certainly moved on from the days of the cold shower; from semaphore and Morse code to the telephone and computer.

Hillside still provides the fun, the friendship, the training and the inspiration that all past users of the camp site have enjoyed and many still cherish.

Fund-raising For Hart

Just a reminder that Henfield Lacemakers will be at the Small Dole Horticultural Show on Saturday 12th August. Come along and see work in progress on the lace tablecloth being made to raise funds for HART. Draw tickets will be on sale and there will also be Beaded Tea Light Holders for sale – not to be missed! Come and guess the number of hours that it will take to make the tablecloth. There will be a prize for the winner. Every penny raised is going to HART.

Henfield Lacemakers meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month in Small Dole Village Hall from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. If you are a lacemaker or would like to learn lacemaking, do come along to one of our meetings. We are very much a self-help group (there are only 9 of us at present) but we can always put anyone wanting to learn in touch with a teacher. For a taster – why not come along and have a go on the 12th August? For more information, telephone Jane Martin on 01273 493 924.

The Amenities Committee – Chairman: Simon Birnstingl

The Annual Parish Meeting provided a useful forum to consult with parishioners about their thoughts on our amenities. Significantly for me, those present agreed that we should plant more trees in the Parish. The great thing about planting trees is the sense in which we are giving something to the future. This is made particularly important given the unknowns of climate change. Trees act as climate moderators, giving cool shelter in the summer and protection from frost in winter; they also act as windbreaks. Because we are uncertain about the exact effects of climate change we will have to plant a mixture of trees.

One of the issues often raised with regard to our amenities is vandalism. As a parish we have been completely open about the costs incurred. We now have a policy of pursuing that cost from anyone caught committing acts of vandalism. We have been successful in our first case. Hopefully we are sending a message that we will not stand for vandalism here and go somewhere towards recouping the approximately £10,000 cost to parishioners last year. Please, if you see anyone carrying out acts of vandalism call the Neighbourhood Wardens:

Paul Sweeney 0773 438 7888; office 01903 813 236; email wardens.south@horsham.gov.uk

For crime in progress call 999. The wardens can act as witnesses so that you do not have to if you do not want to.

On a more positive note, with the help of the wardens and Horsham District Council we are making progress towards refurbishing the children's play areas in Upper Beeding and Small Dole. We are inviting companies to tender for two phases of work:



Phase 1 – the removal of existing swings and concrete bases and replacing with safety surfaces and units of four toddler swings and four junior swings (an increase to eight swings in all at each site).

Phase 2 – the repair of the surface occupied by the zipwire and installation of an assault course style game. The exact games used will be decided in consultation with pupils at Key Stage 2 in Upper Beeding Primary School. This phase will also include the removal of the seesaw and animal rides in the Bramley Play Area and their replacement with a roundabout and games chosen by pupils at Key Stage 1. In Small Dole we will be looking to install an additional game by the slide.

Once we have the tenders in hand, hopefully by the end of July, we will start to apply for funding. We believe we will be able to start phase 1 towards the end of the summer. Phase 2 will take a little longer and we hope to start work early summer 2007. Watch this space!

Shoreham airport visit



On 13th June, the Chairman, the Clerk and Keith Nethercoate-Bryant attended the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Shoreham Airport (Art-Deco) building. There was a splendid buffet, informative talks and a fly paste of vintage aircraft.

The airport owners, Brighton, Hove & Worthing will this month lease the airport to Erinaceous plc on a 150 year agreement. We spoke to Nigel Cummings, the Chief Executive of Erinaceous who told us that the airport will continue to support, with staged investment, aviation related business improving commercial interests and facilities of the aircraft world.

We were not aware of any interests our Council may have in these agreements! The Chairman of the Airport Consultation Committee (Mike Ayling) advised members to report back to their respective bodies and reassure them that there was nothing Members heard that should give them any cause for concern.

Joint Parishes Burial Board

AGM - 17th July at 7:30pm, St Botolphs Church, St. Botolphs. All Invited.

Bonfires

What's wrong with a bonfire? They cause a nuisance to neighbours from smoke and smell. Garden bonfires create dioxins and other toxic pollutants. Smoke and smells can aggravate respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis and affect those with heart problems. Bonfires produce carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming, and animals such as hedgehogs often take shelter in piles of garden waste, such as prepared bonfires.

Getting rid of your rubbish: Get an Original Organics garden composter - freephone: 08000 858 088. The Council's Acorn recycling scheme collects garden waste and flat, non-corrugated card from the new brown lidded bins. This includes twigs and small branches up to 15cm in diameter. Use your nearest civic amenity site to recycle and dispose of your waste.

Don't's: Please do not burn household waste, nappies, tyres, plastics, foam and paint. Do not use petrol, engine oil or methylated spirits to ignite a fire.

What the Law says – it is an offence to cause a statutory nuisance from regular bonfires. Persistent offenders could be prosecuted by the Council and be fined up to £5000.

Beeding in Bloom Garden Competitions 2006

Judging will be held on the morning of Tuesday 18th July

Please enter me for: -

- Best Hanging Basket & Container Display
- Best Front Garden
- Best Allotment

Additional marks will be gained for use of drought - tolerant planting.

Name:

Address:

Tel.no.:

All entries should be handed in to "Falcons", High Street or returned to Beeding News by Saturday, 15th July.

Planning Committee

"Do a little something for the newsletter," they said. "Well," I said, what can you say about planning, it's a bit 'cut and dried'." Then I thought about it. When we, as a planning committee, receive planning applications from Horsham District Council for comment, we look at each one carefully and judge it on its own merits. I always try and think if I would like 'that' built next to me, or is it too close to that person's home. What affect will it have on the Parish as a whole? Will it spoil the character? Will it cause over-parking? Does it fit in with its surroundings?

I think we have done a pretty good job recently, although there have not been very many planning applications generally. If you do have a problem, or think that something is not quite right, please let us know asap. Don't forget to quote a planning application number if you know it. Once bricks and mortar are applied there can be a problem reversing the situation.

You can look up planning applications on the Horsham District Council's website and, of course, contact them directly or you can view planning applications locally at the Steyning Centre. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings, you are always welcome. Planning meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Tuesday in each month. Pauline Kentell, Chairman – Planning Committee, Upper Beeding Parish Council

Early morning bird walk

On a spring morning in April we set out on our early morning bird walk to a cacophony of birdsong. In all, we recorded forty-six species of birds, though I have to confess, I didn't see them all (too busy chattering!). My favourites were the spotted woodpecker boring out a hole in the trunk and throwing the bits of wood out, and the little owl sitting wisely in his tree. Thank you to Keith Noble for his time and expertise identifying and finding the birds. Thank you to The Castle pub in Bramber for cooking us a super breakfast, and a huge thank you to David Geere for arranging it all.



Look out for the walk next year, it really opened my eyes to see the fantastic range of birds we have on our doorstep.