

July 2007

Upper Beeding Parish Council News

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



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Chairman's Address

Following the election on 3rd May, I have the honour of chairing your Parish Council and will do my very best to ensure that the Council acts in accordance with the views and opinions expressed by the Parish at large. Many of you expressed your thoughts through the questionnaire which led to the development of the Parish Plan and this document has been adopted by the Parish Council and will provide a blueprint for the council and its committees over that next five years or so. The various actions required have been delegated to the committees for action in line with the timetables set within the plan.

The Parish Plan is not only for the council to deal with. Bringing it to fruition will also require some degree of input from residents; volunteers are required to help, particularly in developing a Parish Design Statement. This document will list, amongst other things, the particularly unique features of the villages and the countryside areas of the parish. When completed the Statement will provide a strong level of guidance to future planning applications as well as planning authorities. If you can assist with this, or other parts of the Parish Plan, please contact the Clerk, me or the committee chairmen.

The Parish Council committees, led by councillors with a great deal of ability, will be working hard on their remits as well as the continuing efforts on playgrounds and sports facilities. These last two are major projects and will hopefully lead to greatly enhanced facilities for the Parish.

Other projects are in the pipeline and I hope to be able to bring them to the community at a later date.

There are vacancies on the Council following the election; notices will be posted shortly to advertise these and it is my hope that some of you will be able to come to the council with your applications. Talk to me or the Clerk if you are interested to discuss the part that councillors play in the community.

David Coldwell

Public involvement in Planning – the right to speak

Parish Council Planning Committee meetings – you may attend any Planning Committee meeting to comment on a planning application.

District Council Planning Committee meetings – please contact The Planning Department, Horsham District Council on 01403 215 187 or by e-mail planning@horsham.gov.uk

Council Members May 2007

David Coldwell – Chairman; Simon Birnstingl - Vice Chairman; John Peake; Stewart Christie; Andrew Purches; Peter Gilham; Robert Harber; Chris Bailey; Pauline Kentell; Frank Jones; Vic Gretton –

Committee Chairman – Simon Birnstingl (Amenities); Andrew Purches (Planning); Finance & General Purposes (Peter Gilham); Robert Harber (Sports & Leisure)

Upper Beeding Primary School – update Pokot School, Kenya

Thanks to your efforts and contributions to our fund raising, the school in Pokot is now built and open. Many children now have the opportunity to attend school and receive an education in their remote village which is a 'chance of a lifetime' for them. Mrs Connell, Headteacher is really excited to be making a visit to Pokot in the summer holidays to work at the school and be there at the official opening. Mrs Connell would love to be able to take some resources with her that would help as, although they now have a building, they have very little in it by way of books, pencils and general equipment. Everything would need to be fairly simple as there is no electricity or running water and class sizes are in the region of 50 to 60 to one teacher. Any money we can raise to fund resources would be great.

Parish Council Meetings

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. There is time set aside at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public who wish to speak.

The Parish Council Meetings for the rest of the year are as follows (Beeding & Bramber Village Hall, unless stated otherwise): Full council meetings on 3rd July, 4th September (Small Dole Village Hall), 6th November and 4th December.

Committee meetings are on 17th July, 18th September, 16th October, 20th November, and 18th December 18th.

All meetings start with a Planning Committee meeting at 7:00pm. Agendas are posted on notice boards during the week preceding the meeting.

Come along to meetings to see what we do! The Parish Council is keen to ensure that its membership fairly represents the community.

If you are interested in helping your community to develop we would like to hear from you.



Beeding and Bramber Horticultural Society

The Summer Show will be held on Saturday 25th August at 1:00pm in the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

Useful Contact Numbers

Neighbourhood Wardens: Paul Sweeney 07734 387 888; Hywell Parry-Jones 07734 387 889; office 01903 813 236. Have you ever thought of becoming a Junior Neighbourhood Warden? Please contact Hywell or Paul.

If you witness a crime in progress – dial 999. Crimestoppers (confidential service): 0800 555 111

Non-emergency calls to Sussex Police: 0845 60 70 999 or e-mail: contactcentre@sussex.police.uk

Faulty street lighting: Telephone 08457 581 622 or e-mail scc.solve@edfenergy.com or on line at www.westsussex.gov.uk and click on 'fault reporting'

Hedge trimming

Please be careful when pruning hedges and trees in case there are birds nesting in them. If you plan to do any such work try to set aside some time before you start to watch the comings and goings of birds which may indicate that there is a nest. You may have to delay the work until the young birds have fledged; usually only a week or two.

If you haven't pruned your hedges please leave them until August, when most birds have finished nesting.

August pruned hedges and trees have enough time to fill out again before they stop growing, and the plants will look better over the winter months. Normally you should only need to prune hedges once or twice each year.

Remember, it is illegal to disturb nesting birds.





You Can Make A Difference!

Volunteering is open to all and there are numerous opportunities available to young and old.

- Meet new people – volunteering can be a very sociable activity.
- Gain new skills – new experiences for all, including students and young school leavers
- Keep active – youngsters want to keep fit and more and more older people are volunteering
- Use existing skills – some people want to use their skills for a good cause
- Take on a challenge – try something different and add to your CV or Duke of Edinburgh award
- Enjoy! – have the satisfaction and pleasure of helping others around you

It isn't always necessary to make a big time commitment to make a really valuable contribution – perhaps to someone else's life or to the general well-being of the neighbourhood.

If you feel you would like to learn more about helping others please contact the Horsham Volunteer Centre on 01403 232 100 or email horshamvolunteer@btconnect.com

Beeding in Bloom - South East in Bloom

South East in Bloom will be judging Upper Beeding on Monday, 2nd July from 11:30am. 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 pavement and gutters are full of weeds and litter and if grass verges have not been cut so please help us by making sure your road looks its best.

Village Garden Competition

We will be judging all the entrants for this on Thursday 19th July. Entry forms will have to be in by Monday 16th July, so if you have not already entered don't delay. Forms are available from Beeding News in the High Street. Categories are –

'Best Commercial Property'; 'Best Front Garden'; 'Best Hanging Basket and Container display'; 'Best Allotment' and 'Best Neighbourhood Award' for groups of 3 or 8 gardens.

Open Gardens Day

We are having an Open Gardens Day on Sunday, 15th July between 10:00am and 5:00pm. This should be a great day. Not only will there be many interesting gardens to visit but there will also be displays of willow sculpture, paintings, photography and other local crafts. There will also be vegetables and unusual plants for sale and light refreshments available. Cost of entry will be £3=50 and tickets will be available from Beeding News or the Towers Convent car park on the day.

Poster Competition 2007 – the Winners

(The Poster Competition was sponsored by Ashley Dawe Property Maintenance)

Reception & Year 1 - first: Lauren Ottley, second: Rebecca Starley

Year 2 - 1 Alice Brookshaw; second: Gemma Tyler

Year 3 & 4 - first Sam Pope; second Lucy McGuire; Highly Recommended: Ellie Hammond

Year 5 - first: Eleanor Pope; second: Eilish Bowman

Year 6 - first: Lydia Sayers; second: Victoria Standing

Finally a plea: Beeding in Bloom really does need extra helpers for our Work Parties, and from time to time a bit of extra muscle would be really welcome. Contact Tricia on 01903 812 366 for information on any of the above items.



A History Of Beeding 6 – The Belgae

We have now reached the time of recorded history when the names of tribes and their leaders are known, and events can be dated.

In the first century BC, across Europe, people were on the move. The Romans were working their way northwards, “pacifying” the native tribes on the way. They would first send in an envoy to offer them trade and other inducements, such as amphorae of wine from the Mediterranean. Some of the tribes gave in and formed allegiances with them, others like the Gauls in Brittany, supported by the southern British, fought to the last, but eventually were conquered.

About 75BC, a Belgic tribe of mixed Celtic and Germanic origin, from an area in the south of present-day Belgium, moved north to settle in Kent, Essex, and Hertfordshire. When Julius Caesar came to reconnoitre this country in 55BC and returned with a military expedition the following year, one of his purposes was to quash their support of the Celts in Gaul. Commius, king of the Belgae on the continent, was his envoy. Commius negotiated a peace treaty with the Belgae and returned to the continent with the Romans, but in 52BC he turned traitor, joining Vercingetorix, the Gaulish king, in a rebellion against them. When defeated, he fled to Wessex in southern Britain with his tribe, the Atrebates, spreading out to reach Sussex about 51BC. The branch of his tribe that lived between Selsey and the Adur became known as the Regni. Commius was already familiar with Britain, but also understood the Roman world, and continued to trade with them. The Channel was not seen as the barrier it is today, when we are linked by road and rail to all parts of the country. The sea and rivers were the highways of the time, so the hilltop towns such as Cissbury were abandoned; instead, new towns were built in the lowlands near the coast, such as one in the Chichester area.

In contrast, the Britons of East Sussex and our area east of the Adur, remained independent and their hillforts, such as at Devil’s Dyke, continued in use until conquered by the Romans in 43AD. This shows the early division between East and West Sussex!

The Belgae brought many innovations that improved the standard of living. They introduced the lathe for turning wood and a superior plough. This had a mould-board and coulter, with which to turn the furrow and so the heavier soils of the Weald and river valleys could now be ploughed. It was pulled by 8 oxen, so instead of fields being square, as on the Downs, they were long and narrow, to minimise the number of times the animals had to be turned. Their patronage of smiths led to the production of some of the most highly decorative and artistic Celtic metal-work ever seen in this country, mostly in the eastern counties.

Pottery was now much finer and made by specialists, using a potter’s wheel. Roman and Gallic wares were imported into the Selsey area. But on our side of the Adur, pots were still hand-made by the native Britons, slightly influenced by the more eastern Belgic styles of Kent. Globular pots of this period, with decorative arcing and swag designs have been found at Devil’s Dyke and Kingston Buci whereas at the Park Brow farmstead, west of the Adur, styles intermediate with the western Atrebates were found.

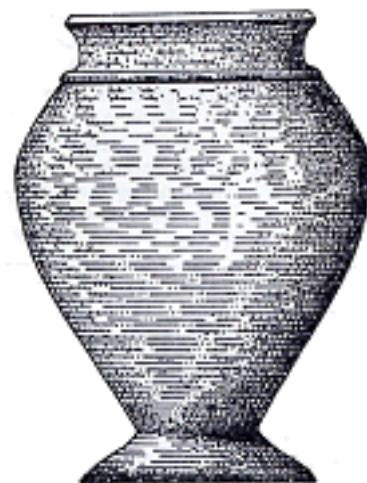
Coins were introduced, at first through trade, like the stater of Alexander, found in a stream in Bramber and now in Worthing Museum. Home-produced coins bore the name of Commius, and his sons and a coin of Tincommius has been found at Bramber Castle.

Among the Belgae were a powerful class of people known as Druids who led the religious life of the people. Possibly associated with them is evidence of a wooden structure found on Lancing Down beneath the remains of a later stone temple, together with pottery of this period and silver coins of Tincommius and Verica.

In 20BC Commius was succeeded by his son Tincommius, who in 7BC was ousted by his brother Verica. Verica ruled for 40 years and was in allegiance with the Roman household. When therefore he was threatened by the expansion of the Catuvellauni from the north in 40AD, he fled to Rome to ask for their protection, as did Adminius of Kent, giving Claudius an excuse to invade Britain, “to pacify the natives”.

Though little of the above may appear to be related to our parish, the events described are essential to understanding the next phase in our history – the arrival of the Romans.

References: 1 Celtic Britain by Lloyd Laing; 2 Collins Field Guide to Archaeology by Eric S. Wood; 3 An Historic Atlas of Sussex, edited by Kim Leslie; 4 Sussex by E. Cecil Curwen; 5 Sussex on the Eve of the Roman Conquest by A.E. Wilson.



**A Wheel-turned
Cremation Urn**