



Preston Parish Newsletter

Spring 2009

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Preston and Elmstone Newsletter. Sorry it's a bit later this edition but unfortunately our usual printer has succumbed to the difficult times we face and has gone out of business so we have had to find a new one.

This edition contains the annual report from the chairman of the Parish Council as well as the usual features - plus a somewhat different report from the School.

There are several entertaining events coming up, some of which are advertised here but do keep a watch out for the posters around the village and we hope to see you at many of them!



Preston Parish Council – Summary of the year

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council. The Council has again concentrated on forging ever closer links with other village organisations to promote efficiency of efforts, so much so that it is often difficult to 'claim credit' when others are also involved. Such cohesive working will always be to the benefit of the village. It is very pleasing to see that proposals for the village hall are advancing well with a cross section of villagers involved in the selection process for the appointment of architects.

Collectively, the village organisations have spotted many opportunities for outside funding of projects and have not been slow in exploiting them. Currently, we have secured funding for a new rights-of-way board, an outside drinking tap at the village hall, a footballers 'dugout' and more benches for the parish. As regards the latter, five more benches have been purchased, four will shortly be installed and the Parish Council is open to suggestions as to where the fifth should be sited.

We were very pleased to see the Village Design Statement completed and hope that you have enjoyed reading your personal copy. Although not

yet fully adopted by the District Council, we are confident that it soon will be and, in the meantime, it has already proved invaluable in steering the parish council when considering planning applications.

The Parish Council has also been working closely with our community police officer under the new PACT initiative and we have been making good progress with KCC Highways towards improved traffic calming through Preston village.

The Village Society goes from strength to strength and I hope that you will continue to give them your support for their current programme of fund raising activities.

It is heartening to see continued interest in the village with large numbers of residents willing to give their time and skills, and long may that continue. Those involved are too numerous to mention individually, but range from those who serve on village organisations to those who give small amounts of time for such things as the regular 'litter clean – ups', involvement in the revived neighbourhood watch or deliveries of Newsletters and 'flyers', and not forgetting those who contribute financially by sponsoring the excellent Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday April 22nd (commencing 7.30pm in the village hall –

refreshments from 7pm) when we hope to have presentations by Trevor Skelton (of Action with Communities in Rural Kent) on accessing funding for projects; by Sally Coleman (of Kent Police) on Neighbourhood Watch; and by PC Wayne Wright (our Community Police Officer), as well as the usual opportunity to learn more about the activities of your Parish Council and other village organisations.

Oliver Chapman, Chairman

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Oliver Chapman (Chairman)	01227 722162
Mike Fenney (Vice-Chairman)	01227 722300
Joyce Evans	01227 722477
Joan Foad	01227 722438
Pip Hazleton	01227 721267
Geoff Thomas	01227 722255
Pat Simpson	01227 722677
Clerk Frank Pinnington	01227 728460

Frankipin@hotmail.com

Meetings are held at the village school on the first Friday of each month (excluding August) at 7.30pm. At the beginning of each meeting a 15 minute period is available for parishioners to attend and to raise any issues of interest or concern, and meetings are open to the public. The agenda for each meeting is posted in the Parish notice board during the weekend prior to the meeting.

Village Society – March 2009.

With the worst of winter now behind us and the glorious springtime (weather permitting!) to look forward to, I am delighted to report progress on various fronts. We are gradually spreading the word on what the Village Society can mean to the parish as a whole and in particular, to the local organisations.

In February some of our team, namely Roger Ayling; Pat Simpson and Jan Rudolph, gave a presentation at the Women's Institute February meeting. This included a brief run down by Pat on the Village Society and its aims, an introduction to the newly formed Local History Group by Jan and a televised display of the old photo archive by Roger. All elements of the presentation were received with great interest and enthusiasm by the WI and their guests.

In addition to the main Village Society monthly committee meeting, the 'events' sub-committee continues to meet when possible; we had a meeting at the end of January and our last meeting was the 4th March. We are concentrating on events for fund raising; new projects of local interest and meeting the other local organisations to spread the word.

We have an ambitious program of events, all aimed at giving people an enjoyable time and raising funds for local causes in the process. Events planned are as follows.

April 17th – Dance in the Village Hall with 'Goosebumps' providing the music. (see separate piece in the Newsletter).

May (on a date to be finalised) Coffee Morning and Plant sale at Elmstone Court or the village hall.

June 21st – School Fete.

June 27th and 28th. The Village Society will have a marquee at the Steam Rally. On offer will be the Old Photo Archive, refreshments, and information about the Village Society.

July 19th – Sunday at 3.00 p.m. there will be a performance of classical music by Haydn, Handel and Mendelson by a wind quintet to be held in the gardens of Forstal House. Details to follow.

August or September (on a date to be finalised) Barn Dance – (or a dance in a barn) to be held at Preston Court. Details are still being discussed.

All the above events will be widely advertised so do keep your eye open for those that interest you.

Local History Group.

There is very strong interest in local history and as demonstrated in the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement, there is a rich source to draw on. We are very fortunate that one of our committee members, Jan Rudolph, has recently retired and with her background of KCC libraries she is admirably qualified to lead the group and so will be chairing the new Local History Group. If you would like to participate, you can contact Jan on 0 1 2 2 7 7 2 1 4 9 5 or email rudolphnews@hotmail.com,

We were very fortunate to have a meeting with Stewart Bligh – Head Archivist for Kent County Council on the 5th March. More details in a piece from Jan in the Newsletter.

We will continue contacting all of the village organisations and will keep you posted regarding progress.

Election of Village Society management committee.

You may recall that the Village Society effectively came into being at the last Parish Council open meeting. To get things off the ground, it was agreed that the existing Parish Plan Steering Committee simply carry on in their new role of the Village Society. The whole committee is up for re-election in two months time. Would you like to be a committee member? Is there someone you think would do a good job on the committee? Please contact the undersigned if you fall into either category. We will announce the election/re-election process and give you the details soon.

Neighbourhood Watch.

We have two new coordinators; Jan Rudolph has taken on the job of coordinator for the Santon area, contact details 01227 721495 or email rudolphnews@hotmail.com; Duncan Scott for the Forstal, contact details 01227 722282 or duncan@forstal.fsnet.co.uk

They both need deputies, please contact them if interested. The Notice Board in the centre of the village is soon to have a Neighbourhood Watch section. Keep an eye on this as we will post information on there if we feel it relevant to the parish.

We are hoping that Sally Coleman – our Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, will speak as a guest at the annual parish meeting on 2nd April in the village hall.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO BE A NW COORDINATOR IN YOUR STREET – it makes a difference!

Speed Watch.

Success at Last!

Volunteers Wanted!

You will no doubt remember that one of the major concerns expressed in the Parish Plan Questionnaire was that of traffic speed through the village. We now have a firm commitment from KCC Highway Services to provide the support and equipment to carry out a series of speed checks. The suggestion is for a speed check one day a month for four months; a KCC representative will be with us for the whole day and it is recommended that the day is split into shifts between four volunteers. Speed measuring equipment and Hi Viz jackets will be supplied by KCC.

This is very much a community driven initiative and the involvement of local people is paramount to its success. Please contact me if you would like to be involved, even if only for a couple of hours.

David Theoff – Chairman Village Society

Village Clean up

The next village tidy will take place on 28th March at 10.00 o'clock starting from the Village Hall car park. At the same time and probably running into the afternoon there will be a team cutting out the old diseased trees and pulling out the stumps at the southern end of the playing field with a view to enlarging the boundary of the cricket field and getting rid of the weeds and nettles.

We need plenty of volunteers – please come and join us!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's annual parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30 in the village hall. All parishioners are invited and refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

Our main speaker at the meeting will be Trevor Skelton from 'Action for Communities in Rural Kent' which has provided grants for various village

initiatives. We will also have Sally Coleman from Dover Neighbourhood Watch present as well as PC Wayne Wright our community officer.

The design for our new village hall will also be on display.

Benches.

'Action for Communities in Rural Kent' provided half the funding for the new benches we are installing this year. Two of the benches will replace those outside the village hall. One will be placed in Court Lane and the other at the junction of the Street and Grove Road. The council welcomes suggestions for placing the fifth bench.

Police Surgery.

Two surgeries were held in January in the village hall by PC Wayne Wright. We are hoping to organise one surgery a month. Please watch the Parish Notice board for further details.

Pinch-points.

We are awaiting information from Kent Highways on the possible options available in placing pinch-points at the entrance of the village to slow speeding traffic.

Rights of Way Noticeboard.

The notice board is now in position and the map is to be installed by the end of

March.

Youth Club and Youth Workers.

The council is working with Dover District Council and two other local villages to submit a bid for funding for three youth workers for Preston.. We hope, if successful, to run a weekly Youth Club.

Frank Pinnington - Clerk to the Council

Preston & Elmstone Local History Project

Are you interested in discovering the history of Preston & Elmstone? Do you already know about the local area and have photographs, maps or documents at home? Has your family lived in the village for a while and you have memories of what the village used to be like?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes then this is the project for you and we would like to talk to you.

A new group has been formed with the aim of researching, preserving and promoting the history of Preston & Elmstone which we hope will lead to the eventual publication of a book. We are looking for people to join in and help with this work.

There will be many strands to this research for example the history of the football and cricket clubs, farming and related industries like the mills and blacksmiths, there are the shops and retail industries, transport and architecture. Preston School have material on their history so we will be talking to them and to the Church to see what records they hold locally. The history beyond living memory is interesting but we also need to record 20th century life for future generations. These records come in different formats including maps, minutes of meetings, newspaper articles, personal reminiscences and of course photographs.

Many of you will have seen the excellent archive of photographs collected by Roger Ayling at recent village events which is the basis of our project. We know there are lots more photographs out there and are anxious that they are not lost when residents move away so **please** get in touch and allow us to take copies. These images do not have to be very old and may appear to you unimportant but images from family weddings and events give fascinating insight into the real life of the village.

It is also surprising how quickly the appearance of a house can change when new people move in, which we have noted from Roger's archive.



Elmstone Court —1904



Elmstone Court—2004

We have met with Stuart Bligh, Manager of KCC Archives service who is very supportive of our project and has given us advice on funding sources and who to approach for practical help with storage and preservation. The Archives Service will in future let us have digitised images of documents of local interest to keep here and Stuart urged us to make a shopping list of what those items might be.

This is a very exciting project which we hope will appeal to many people so if you would like to get involved please contact me, Jan Rudolph 01227 721495 or Roger Ayling 01227 242317

Jan Rudolph

Come and party with Goosebumps!

Make sure you keep Friday 17th April free to come and dance to the music of Goosebumps at the village hall. Organised by your village society this is one of a number of social events planned for 2009 and all profits will go towards the village hall rebuilding fund.

Goosebumps is a Kent – based 5 piece band that some of you may have already heard at the local pub or one of many other events. They play a great selection of music from pop, jazz and blues to their signature jump jive numbers with an infectious and toe-tapping rhythm you just have to dance to. You can read more about them at www.goosebumpsmusic.co.uk.

The evening starts at 8pm and we'll be running a bar all evening. Complimentary snacks will help to keep up the energy levels and we'll have one or two special prizes to raffle. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the village shop, the Preston Nursery or any of the Village Society Committee members – See www.prestonparishplan.co.uk/pppcontact.htm for some of the names and phone numbers. If anyone needs to apply by post please send a cheque (made out to Preston Parish Plan Committee) and S.A.E. to the treasurer Alan Collier at Lodge Farm, Elmstone, CT3 1 HF

Do bring your friends along too - they can help to make it a really successful evening.



Our report from the school this edition is a little different from usual; it is the reminiscences of the Headteacher on her recent official trip to Kenya— and is published in “Elephant” typeface— naturally!

Preston Primary School

Our Partnership with schools in Kenya

In 2006, when I was looking for a school in either Africa or India to twin with, I was very lucky to be asked by Annie Elias if I was interested in a school in Kenya. When she told me it was in Nanyuki, I jumped at the chance to make contact as this was where I was born.

Annie’s sister, Gill and her husband John, were setting up a Safari Lodge in the Laikipia region of Kenya and undertaking a huge conservation project which involved conserving the area for wildlife and the local Maasai tribe,



developing the local schools and clinic, working with the womens’ group, employing Maasai men and women

and supporting their children in their education from primary school to university.

Little did I know then that this link would lead to such a huge commitment on our part as a small school, and to such a rewarding experience for myself and the children at Preston Primary School.

With the support of a British Council grant, Jennie Parker, my Assistant Headteacher and I travelled to Kenya in half term of February 2006 on a fact finding mission and had an amazing time, forging many links with the people in the area. We were very fortunate to stay in the lodge before paying guests started to arrive and travelled extensively around the area, not only getting to know the two new schools and nursery on the Kijabe Ranch we were to twin with, but also looking at good primary

schools outside the ranch and secondary schools.

On our return we set up a programme of links through sponsorship, fundraising and support, and included Kenya as a topic area within our Key Stage 2 curriculum. Parents and children have given their full support for our global partnership schools and without their help progress would slow down. The ranch would have to rely on guests to the lodge for support, but this is not always continuous.

This time I travelled with Annie, daughter Izzy an ex Preston pupil and Annie’s partner Paul who were going out for a holiday to the



lodge for the first time. I stayed in a tent in the camp with Gill and John, their 2 dogs, cat Cliff and a tame Eland (deer). More comfortable than it sounds- the tents came complete with flushing loo and shower, kitchen, lounge and dining area and camp fire and I woke up to beautiful sunrises each morning.

Two years on developments have moved on and progress is amazing. With support from Preston Pre School towards wages for N’kiloriti Nursery teacher, James Lelonguie, the nursery now has a new teacher to support James, Willy



....., and with well over 60 2-12 yr olds he is a welcome addition. Top Class can be extremely proud of the new kitchen and toilets

at N’kiloriti which have been built with a grant of £500 they managed to secure from This has given them a real insight into economic awareness and citizenship in real life which forms a part of our curriculum.

The kitchen, which has a store room for the beans, maize and porridge meal the children eat, and a bright and airy room for cooking, is

the envy of Nga'bolo Primary School. The resources sent by the school and the Elias family were very well received as they have an extremely limited selection of things to use with the children. Most learning is by rote, chalk and talk and singing.

It was great to see the girls wearing Preston dresses the day after delivering them.

James and Willy gave me a list of requests which will improve their life and these ranged from very basic needs such as a bucket to collect water from the storage tank, tea and sugar for their break, which I was happy to buy for them at market, (they have milk from their goats and cows), to a new classroom and staff room, which they desperately need to split their huge class up. At the moment they split the class by teaching one group under a big acacia tree 100 yards up the hill! Perhaps this could be our next project?

I spent the rest of my 2 weeks teaching and working with the teachers at Nga'bolo Primary School. I managed to teach all 5 classes and the nursery class. Class I had 72 pupils aged 7-9 years old, all of whom were well behaved and attentive, but marking books was really tricky.



I observed all the teachers teaching, made bold, clear teaching resources and held staff training sessions, answering many, many questions.



The teachers are a great team led by new headteacher Francis Legei and Deputy-James Wamai. and they loved to play Scrabble in English during their free time.

They were joined by Steph Elliot and Rosie Pelham from Simon Langton Girls School. They are working at the ranch, the school and the clinic during part of their gap year.

The children at the schools have a real sense of purpose about their education and work extremely hard. They have a great sense of humour and although they appear to be so desperately poor, they are rich in family life, respect and culture. Apart from cases of ringworm, scabies and colds, the children are very fit and active and many walk 3 or 4 miles to school, surviving on kidney beans and maize cooked in oil, water and salt for school lunch every day. Many take half their meal home with them. I had school dinner every day and this is really very tasty and nutritious. As government stocks of beans and maize meal can be so unreliable and often goes "missing", the lodge company Regensis Ltd, pays for the food to ensure that the children do not go hungry.



The isolation of the area makes some things we take for granted extremely difficult and this was brought home to me when a 7yr old girl fell from an acacia tree (why she should climb it when they have such fearsome thorns I'll never know!) and she dislocated and broke her elbow. She was in acute pain but no landrover was able to take her to clinic for 6 hours and treatment was minimal. She had to wait until 4.00pm the next day before she could be taken to Nanyuki for an x ray - a 2 hour, rocky, bone-shaking drive away. And she smiled all day whilst waiting outside for transport. I hope to hear soon about her progress.



The conservation area is developing well and in 2 years wildlife is on the increase. I spent several hours watching elephants wreaking havoc amongst the trees and winding their way down the



hillside on their way to the lugger and bore holes for a drink, while I sat on a rock overlooking the most beautiful, expansive Kenyan landscape as the sun set.



Impala, Kudu and Dik Dik, the smallest of the deer, are thriving and soon lions will move in with this abundance of available food and a small part of the Kenyan landscape will be preserved.



Rain and water is desperately short, and until the March rains appear drought conditions are in

force and grazing is becoming very difficult to find. But, life continues, and the Maasai deal with their hardships with dignity and fortitude and I am proud to have been a part of this beautiful, colourful country, particularly the Kijabe Ranch, where I made many friends and met my "foster daughter", Naanyu Meshami. I miss the space, the peace, the Africa time and the lack of paperwork! We have lots to learn about the quality of life.....



**Penny Day
Heateacher**



Reading Group

A Reading Group is up and running in the village and will be meeting once a month at a group members house. We will be discussing *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon at the meeting on 25 March and *Engleby* by Sebastian Faulks in April. We have borrowed enough copies of the books for our members free from the Kent Library Service so we do not have to buy our own copies.

If you would like to join us please call Jan Rudolph on 01227 721495

Jan Rudolf

This is an extract from an article which was in the Independent newspaper on Saturday, February 7th

The 50 Best Garden Centres

Preston Plant Nursery

This is run by real enthusiasts, says Tad. "They have been growers for years and have sap in their veins. They should win an award for sheer knowledge and passion." This nursery has now expanded to include a retail site into which all their devotion and hard work is poured.

Where: The Street, Preston, Canterbury, Kent (0800 035 1169; www.prestonnursery.co.uk)



Many congratulations to Fran and Tim Offord who later was interviewed on Radio Kent.

Preston Steam Rally

The rally takes place this year on the 27th and 28th June.

This year's event will be better than ever, of course, with lots more steam engines working on the sort of jobs they were actually designed to do.

These will include steam ploughing and vintage tractors cultivating behind the church, stone crushing and road building. The usual miniature train giving rides for children will have a much bigger brother attending this year all the way from the famous Bowaters railway at Sittingbourne. We welcome a steam locomotive which will give adult rides in a carriage.

The sawbench will be hard at work slicing up baulks of timber and another will be producing fence posts from chestnut coppice grown in on the farm.

We were the first steam event to go "Green" last year as most of the steam engines were steamed on timber grown on the farm rather than burning coal.

We also plan to show the strength of one of the engines by towing a trailer carrying a huge locomotive and the working horses are all looking forward to a weekend of hard work and will be giving rides and demonstrations.



The fun fair will run on Saturday evening when we will have some seriously good entertainment in the beer tent - so everyone is welcome to return around 7 o'clock for an evening of fun.

The trade stalls get more interesting and varied every year and we have lots of good ones booked in already.

Just to remind everyone, there will be a Church service at 10.30 on Sunday morning on a fairground ride rather than in the church, this is definitely not to be missed!

Admission charges have not been increased and Saturday evening entertainment in the beer tent is FREE

So please come!

If anyone has spare time on or before the event and would like to get involved I am sure we can find you a job to do - so just let us know.

Lorna Listbrain

Book Review

These last few weeks I have been enjoying a series of detective novels I first discovered 30 years ago. In 1978, John was working as a consultant on a tourism study for the Kenyan Government and the kids and I accompanied him to Kenya.

We had soon run through the books we had brought with us, but then we then discovered the Nairobi main library. It was surprisingly well stocked with all kinds of books, including a series by Maj Sjowall and Per Wahloo, a Swedish husband and wife writing team.

They wrote ten books in the Martin Beck series, over ten years beginning in 1965, although it wasn't published in England, by Victor Gollancz, until 1968. The two authors were both journalists, they were married and had two sons. They lived in Malmo in south Sweden and they wrote the novels in the evenings after dinner and putting the children to bed. The stories seem to be regarded by the reviewers as some of the great masterpieces of crime fiction ever written, inspiration for writers of the current crop of detection novels such as Rebus and Wallander. They are regarded as possibly the first authors to produce a true reflection of police procedure, and throughout show that Martin Beck and his colleagues beaver away at their cases as jobs and are very dissatisfied when they do not come to a satisfactory conclusion. Although, Martin Beck is the main character, throughout the ten books you also track the careers of his colleagues over that period of time.

The first book is called *Roseanna*; the body of a young woman is dredged from the beautiful Lake Vattern, she has been raped and strangled. Detective Inspector Beck begins his painstaking investigation, he is a master of human nature and relentless in his pursuit of criminals. He is a dogmatic and gloomy individual, who lives for his work, trapped in a dull marriage with two children who he rarely sees. In *The Man Who Went Up in Smoke*, Beck travels to Hungary looking for a missing journalist. In the next book, *The Man on the Balcony*, two children disappear and are murdered, followed by *The Laughing Policeman* in which 9 passengers on a bus are gunned down by an unknown assassin; in *The Fire Engine that Disappeared* a house explodes killing three people. At first Martin Beck and his men don't suspect arson until they find a peculiar link between the explosion and a suicide committed that same day. In *Murder at the Savoy*, Martin Beck has had the courage to leave his unsatisfactory marriage and he is sent to Malmo from Stockholm to solve the murder of Victor Palmgren, a powerful industrialist. Book number seven, *The Abominable Man* he has to solve the death of a high ranking police officer slaughtered in his hospital bed. In *The Locked Room* a corpse is found shot through the heart, with no firearm in sight—how can it be suicide? Martin Beck has by now met the woman who begins to break through his personal shield of melancholy. Martin Beck is sent to Anderslov in rural southern Sweden to locate a missing woman in *Cop Killers*, then finally in *The Terrorists* he and his colleagues are assigned to protect an American Senator on a visit to Sweden.

I enjoyed every book reading them in sequence, and I would point out that the title is not necessarily an indication of the subject, but rather refers to a small incident in the narrative. I particularly like the underplayed humour, which I think develops more strongly book after book and although I knew that the writers are committed Marxists their point of view is rather gently inserted into their descriptions of Swedish life.

Although we have always thought of Sweden as extremely liberal we discover a society driven by a need to conform and riven with snobbery. Apart from some obvious differences in police techniques such as the use of communication and DNA testing, the stories have withstood the test of time extremely well apart from the fact that Stockholm police men regularly used public transport to travel around the city, I think even British police in the 60's and 70's routinely used police transport in the course of their work.

If you haven't read these books give them a try, they are currently listed by The Book People at a bargain price of £9.99 for the ten, published by Harper Perennial.

P. Simpson - Editor

Sicilian Spaghetti with Meatballs



I first ate this spaghetti dish in a Sicilian restaurant in California, I was so impressed I asked how they made it and the following is my version of how they told me to make the meatballs.

Ingredients -For the meatballs:

- 500 grms beef mince
- 20 grms (about a serving spoon) pine nuts
- 20 grms (a serving spoon again) sultanas
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Small finely chopped onion

Spaghetti Sauce

- 1 finely chopped medium sized onion

A tin of chopped tomatoes plus a small tin of tomato puree, or a bottle of tomato passata

A good pinch of dried oregano, clove of garlic crushed, a good handful of fresh parsley chopped,—pepper and salt to taste

Method: Mix the meatball ingredients together in a bowl until it is well amalgamated together and make twelve meatballs from the mixture; meanwhile make the sauce by frying the onion, add the tomatoes and other ingredients and simmer gently for about half an hour. Fry the meatballs in a splash of olive oil, turning them gently to brown all over. Add the tomato sauce to the meatball pan and continue to cook another thirty minutes. Serve with spaghetti sprinkled with grated parmesan cheese.

Editor

Action *with* Communities in Rural Kent



Community groups and Parishes in **Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Thanet, Shepway and Swale** have a new opportunity to access cash and other support to improve facilities in their rural communities.

For three years from April 2008 **Action with Communities in Rural Kent** is administering two new funding streams on behalf of The Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust:

The **Small Projects Grant** offers up to £15,000 for small projects based on local need that will significantly improve the quality of life for rural communities

NB – this grant is not available to parish councils

Application deadlines and panel review dates are:

2nd March for a decision on 30th March

4th May for a decision on 2nd June.

Application forms and full guidance notes are available online at www.ruralkent.org.uk or I can be contacted directly:

Trevor Skelton

Rural Officer East Kent

01303 850816 or 07771661871

trevor.skelton@ruralkent.org.uk

Preston Short Mat Bowls

We have two teams in the East Kent league—one doing very well and the other struggling a bit. We have our own tournaments and a special John Read day of Pairs which is always enjoyable.

We meet at 7.30 p.m. On Mondays and Thursdays in the winter and on Monday in the summer as several members play bowls outside.

We have a few vacancies and are always pleased to see new faces if you are interested in joining. We have two free visits with the use of our bowls before deciding to join

Preston, Elmstone and Stourmouth Horticultural Society

Our first meeting of the year is on 10th March at 7.30p.m. and every second Tuesday in the month in the Village Hall.

If you are interested why not come along to one of our meetings?

Our Society's annual Flower Show is on the 25th July 2009 in the Village Hall.

COME & DECORATE CUP CAKES

ALL AGES VERY WELCOME TO THE

Great Cup Cake
Decorating Session

Only £1 for a box of 3 cakes
decorated by you

Cakes supplied by Preston W.I. & Village Hall trustees

MONSTER cake sale

+

books, games, greetings cards etc

Easter Saturday, 11 April 2009
Preston Village Hall
10.30 – 1pm

Refreshments available

Raffle

All proceeds to Preston Village Hall Renovation Fund - Charity No. 302819

Whist Drives

As from 1st May, Whist Drives

Will take place at

7.30 p.m.

In the Village Hall

All are welcome!

Village Hall Bookings Secretary

We are very sorry that we will be losing our booking secretary for the village hall. Ruth Roberts has been our booking secretary for a very long time but feels it is time to move on. If you are interested, please contact Martin Knight on 01227 728523, to find out the details.

An honorarium is payable each year.

Next edition The next edition is due to be published by the end of June. Copy should therefore be sent to the editor by the end of the first week in June, i.e. by Sunday 7th.

This edition of the newsletter was sponsored by the Preston Parish Council