



Welcome to the Winter edition

As we embrace the chilly charm of winter, our lovely village is all set for festive cheer. Despite the tardy arrival of autumn, the trees now flaunt resplendent hues, setting the stage for the village to soon don its festive decorations. Poppies grace the posts, prompting us to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

In a delightful burst of community effort, the village planters, once lying vacant, have been rejuvenated with evergreen perennials and spring bulbs. Thanks to the Adopt-a-Planter scheme, enthusiastic volunteers have tirelessly worked to plant these beauties. A heartfelt thank you extends to **Polhill Garden Centre** for their generous donation, making our planters flourish. Kudos to the dedicated volunteers who've adopted planters, ensuring they stay vibrant and healthy.

The ATC Road Survey conducted by Kent Highways focusing on the Orpington By-Pass (OBP) and Old London Road. The results show that compliance with speed limits on Old London Road at 82.7%, and below enforcement threshold at 86.1%. Meanwhile, OBP recorded over 99% compliance. The BMPC and Kent Highways are continuing to explore the possibility of reducing the posted limit to 40mph.

Our charming village came alive with laughter and joy this Halloween as neighbors embraced the spooky spirit. The streets transformed into a mesmerizing display of fantastic costumes and eerily decorated homes, making it a night to remember.

A special shout-out goes to **Nesbit House** for turning this Halloween into an unforgettable experience. Their efforts in organizing delightful treats and a gaming truck brought an extra dose of fun, ensuring everyone had a blast.

The competitive spirit continued with the Badgers Mount Residents Association Quiz Night 2023, where over 50 residents gathered. Congratulations to the "3 set of 2," the winning quiz team! A big thank you to everyone who participated, making it nearly a full house. Howes Chippy provided excellent fish and chips, topping up a fantastic evening.

The BMRA Christmas Fair on November 18th was a hit, drawing a great turnout with diverse local craft stalls. Santa's Grotto hosted 28 excited children, all thanks to the Christmas Elf diligently ensuring quality time for kids and parents alike. The Hall exuded festive vibes, complemented by ample servings of teas, coffees, and delectable homemade cakes by the Badgers Mount WI. Stay informed about upcoming events by joining the WhatsApp Out and About group. Sign up at socialevents.bmra@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIVAL

EDITORS PICK

Neighbourhood Plan FAQs Made Easy!

What's a Neighbourhood Plan?

- It's a community effort where residents like you help shape how our area develops.
- Neighbourhood planning is a way for our community to have a say in the future of Badgers Mount. It gives you the power to produce a plan with real legal weight that directs development in your local area. It helps you:
 - choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built
 - have your say on what those new buildings should look like
 - grant planning permission for the new buildings you want to see go ahead

Why have one?

- It gives us a legal voice in local planning. Developers can't ignore it unless they convince a special inquiry.

What can it do?

- We decide on housing details, like keeping roads clear with off-street parking. We also plan for different types of homes, from big to small, and ensure new developments match our community's vibe.

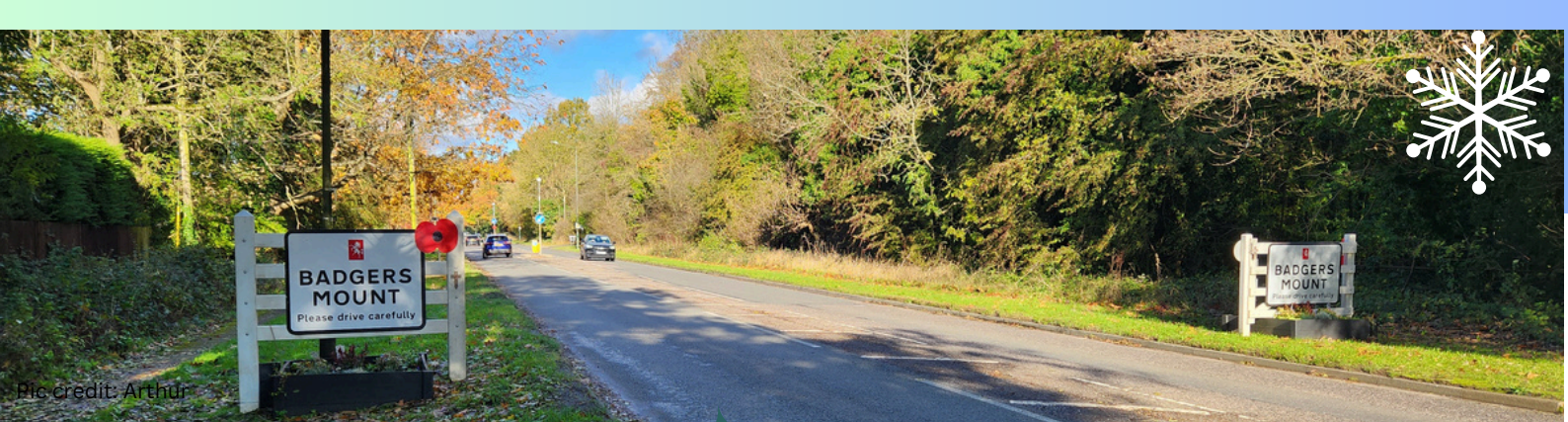
Any limits?

- Yes, it can't go against the Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan. We're chatting with them to avoid clashes.

How can you help?

- Join our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group! Share your thoughts on long-term priorities and help us shape our community's future. Just email badgersmountclerk@gmail.com





Pic credit: Arthur

THE GROWTH OF CAR CRUISING TREND

A CONCERNED CITIZEN



Car racing in the A21 / A224 area goes back a few years but, from Autumn 2022, incidents became frequent, with regular, organised meetings late at night, sometimes with over 100 drivers and spectators on the roads. These are highly dangerous events that pose high risk to the participants, spectators and the general public who get caught up while innocently driving through the area.

What are the Police doing about it?

In February 2023, the Met Police requested a large mobile motorway matrix board, for positioning on the Hewitts roundabout. This could flash up warning signs around car meetings, plain clothes officers on patrol and seizure of vehicles for those taking part. This has not yet been agreed.

By June this year, the Met had increased patrols along with Kent Police and liaises with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. The area remains a patrol hotspot.

The Met Police has advised that cctv cameras are going ahead but there has been a delay as the best positioned lampposts are managed by TfL who have not responded to the requests. Bromley Council has offered use of one of theirs which they believe would provide an acceptable view. This matter is ongoing.

The Met Police served Section 59 notices to all those whose vehicle registration numbers had been captured recently. This could lead to seizure of the cars if they return.

What are Local Councils doing about It?

It would be wonderful if there were a quick fix to this problem. If any district had found a way to stop it, others would have followed suit. So, for now, the districts are dealing with it as best they can, with Police patrols and reporting to the District Councils' Community Safety teams. Some other districts have injunctions in place banning car cruising. These have proven to be quite effective. Bromley and Sevenoaks Councils could do likewise. However, these require a lot of resource and expense and may still fail in court. Southend City Council has so far found that a Public Space Protection Order area, that enables on-the-spot fining of £100 to the offender, has proven more effective than their 3 year injunction but these too require appropriate resourcing to capture vehicles' registrations.

Three instances of car cruising were reported to Sevenoaks and Bromley Council Community Safety units with a view to instigating an ASB Case Review/Community Trigger. This requests a multi-agency review of how the ASB is dealt with.



A request for a review was submitted to Sevenoaks/Bromley Councils on 20 September. It was accepted on 5 October. Agencies from both districts will work together to review how the problem is to be dealt with. The outcome of the review should follow in November/December.

What are You doing about it?

Although the events have reduced lately, we must not drop our guard. We are urged to call the Police on 999 should there be a meeting and the incident should also be reported to Sevenoaks and Bromley Councils' Community Safety departments.

Loud cars with modified engines and exhausts seem to be a trend nowadays. The legality of some cars on the roads is something that the Police are also working on. For now, if we hear loud cars doing no more than passing through the area (maybe to/from a meeting elsewhere), there is little that can be done. If the noise is persistent, several cars for more than 10-15 minutes, it should be reported.

To report a car cruise meeting:

Call the Police on 999. The location is Hewitts Roundabout (London, postcode BR6 7QS) / M25 Spur Road (Kent, postcode TN14 7DX). Refer to Met Police -Proactive Safer Roads Team.

Report the incident (likely after the event) to the Local Authority Community Safety teams: community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk and community.safety@bromley.gov.uk

Phone calls and reporting are important. The more phone calls received by the Police, the more likely they will attend the incident. The more reports to the local councils that are made, the more likely they will take action.

PLANNING IN THE PARISH

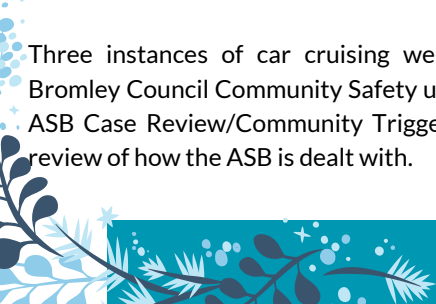
CLLR PLUMB

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications within the parish, and significant applications near the boundary with adjacent parishes.

The application to demolish Cedar Holme, Orpington Bypass and build a new dwelling has been approved after the proposed drive was revised as the original one would have damaged mature trees.

The first application to demolish Rosemount and Hengist, Badgers Road was objected to as the proposed four dwellings were so inappropriate to the area, and the planners agreed and it was refused. A recent revised application with four dwellings with a varied designs more appropriate to Badgers Mount is awaiting decision.

The Council continues to discuss with and support Halstead Parish Council with issues in their parish close to the boundary which affect Badgers Mount residents. An appeal against enforcement on the site just north of the roundabout has been dismissed so the order to clear the site remains in force





EMERGENCY PLANNING & RISK UPDATE

CLLR DUNLOP

This topic was mentioned at the Annual Parish Meetings held earlier this year. Following an assessment of historical local problems, the likely emergencies were assessed to be:

- Fallen trees and other debris from high winds.
- Loss of services – electricity, water.
- Flooding.
- Ice and snow.
- Sudden medical trauma.
- Local forest and scrub fires.

Fallen trees etc.: obtain appropriate qualified specialists to remove as necessary. This may be you if the tree is rooted on your property, local authorities or service providers if not. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of after-event cure, so keep an eye on your own trees and get an expert to prune them if required.

Loss of services: standby systems such as power generators are totally unaffordable for our small community. We have to rely on our own resources, which could include camping stoves or barbeques for cooking. NOTE: only do this outdoors as the Carbon Monoxide from a barbeque or badly adjusted camping stove can be lethal in a confined space. Rember, if you lose electricity your internet-connected router will not work. This meanst that any internet-connected security devices – such as Ring doorbells – will also not work. Depending on your router and computer system, they may need re-setting after a power cut, so even a short power loss could render them out of action. Stand-alone burglar alarms normally have an integral battery which will run for 6 to 12 hours so will still work during a power cut.

Floods: Luckily, we mostly live on a hill, so the main risk is flood water from heavy rain sweeping down clear pathways and roads. However, we have also had a few problems with broken main water supply pipes. These can provide a large amount of water in some surprising places. It is up to the water companies to fix them, but the PC has a small stock of sandbags and warning pickets/tape to divert water flows and provide warning of unsafe areas.

Ice and snow: Not very frequent nowadays, but still possible every winter. KCC maintain 3 grit and salt bins in the Parish, one in Badgers Road and two in Shacklands Road. The rest of the bins on unadopted roads and footpaths are maintained by the Parish Council. Please remember that the grit and salt in the bins is provided for use on the roads, not on your own drives.

Medical trauma: A defibrillator is situated outside the Memorial Hall. If you ring 999 for a suspected heart attack you will be given the code for the cabinet. As well as the training being organised by BMRA, Sevenoaks Fire Station are happy to lay on training so contact the BMPC Clerk if you need basic or refresher training.

Local forest and scrub fires: We haven't had a local problem here for several decades or more, but Climate Change is making fires of this type much more likely. There was an incident in a suburban area of London a year or two ago when a row of houses went up in flames. Generally, keep an eye on any bonfires and firepits. If your garden borders on the local woods keep an eye over the fence so as to prevent a buildup of potentially inflammable material. Don't just tip your prunings and grass clippings over the nearest fence, spread them out so as to prevent a potential fire source. Better still, take them to the SDC recycling centre at Dunbrik which is still free to use for this type of rubbish.

REPORTING FALLEN TREES & HIGHWAY FAULTS

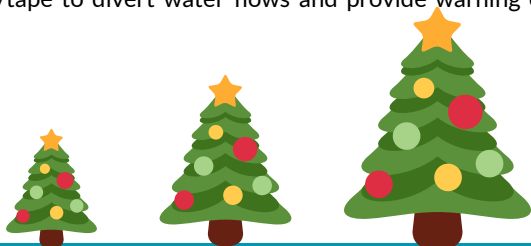
CLLR PLUMB

Anyone who sees faults concerning roads should report them to KCC. Routine, non safety, faults are easily reported using the online system on the KCC website (www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem). Safety faults, including fallen trees, must be reported by phone.

During office hours (Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm), phone 03000 41 81 81. This can also be used if you can't use the on-line system to report routine faults.

Out of hours, safety faults should be reported on 03000 41 91 91.

If you see something that needs attention, please report it. It is better that it is reported a number of times than assuming that someone has reported in when, in fact, no-one has.





HAPPENINGS IN BADGERS MOUNT

ARTHUR

What a busy lot of Villagers we have been since Spring. The footpath from Highland Road to Milton Avenue has now been made into a safe walkway. Lots of areas have been cleaned and trimmed – a disadvantage of living in the country, vegetation grows and needs regular maintenance, to keep it neat and tidy. Harold's Bench is to have a plaque. An unveiling ceremony at SR 649/ Saunders Spring Wood will be announced soon. We have entertained ourselves with Beer Tasting and Gin Tasting, while keeping competitive at a Games Night. The youngsters have also been catered for with Junior Crafting and a Reading Challenge. Lots of steam and energy was let off at an Under 12's Disco, which will be repeated soon. Their Fairy Garden is growing well and now has a sofa to rest on and watch the world go by. Sunflowers: there have been some great results. If you managed to grow any well done, take a bow. There can only be one winner, who is Martin Cox

Hewitt's Racers; traffic, both speed and quantity on Orpington By Pass, as well as the Drones are all in hand and are being monitored. account.

THE BADGERS SETT

ZENA

Monthly ladies social evening
8pm on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Badgers Mount Memorial Hall.
Come along and meet the other ladies who live in Badgers Mount. Purely social - a chance to share news. Like a coffee morning but in the evening! Wine as well as coffee!
All ladies welcome.
2023 Dates : 26th October, 23rd November, 28th December (tbc),
2024 Dates : 25th January, 22nd February, 28th March, 25th April, 23rd May, 27th June, 25th July, 22nd August
Contact Zena socialevents.bmra@gmail.com



BADGERS MOUNT WI

KAREN

Badgers Mount WI have had a busy summer enjoying talks on different topics including the pollination of plants by many interesting creatures, the wonderful world of Harry Houdini, gruesome murders in Whitechapel and perhaps the most surprising of all, the revelation that the first PE college for girls was housed in Dartford from the 1890's thru to the 1960's and that after the principal at the time had visited the USA and seen basketball, she invented a 'fairer' game, with 'Dartford Rules' - namely NETBALL! A dozen of our ladies met at Polhill Garden Centre for an afternoon chat with tea and cakes as a change of venue for one of our knit and natter afternoons. We thoroughly enjoyed our fund raising afternoon tea for WI members only, on 1st November. We also provided the refreshments at the BMRA Christmas Fair on November 18th and are also looking forward to our Christmas Carol Service at St Margaret's in early December and our own Christmas celebration afternoon also in December which this year is made even more special as we shall also be celebrating 70yrs of Badgers Mount WI. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings, look out for the posters around the area advertising our forthcoming speaker and if you see one who may be of interest to you or if you just fancy having a dip into our WI afternoon then please do come along. All details are on the BM website.



Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday 5th December, 2023** : 3:45 pm start Nesbit House Christmas Carols and Lights Switch On.
- **Friday 22nd December, 2023** : 7.00pm carol singing A really traditional evening singing carols that we all know. Time to really start your Christmas count down celebrations.
- **Saturday 27th January 2024** : Annual Defibrillator Training. Alongside soup and a roll. Please book for the free training as places will be limited.
- **March 2024** (date tbc) : Wine Tasting

Events in Memorial Hall unless specifically stated



Explore festive delights at Badgers Mount Residents Association shop! Discover a fantastic array of Christmas items – ideal for thoughtful gifts or treating yourself. Don't miss out on the holiday cheer! #ShopLocal #ChristmasJoy <https://bmrashop.square.site/>

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

