



SPRING 2022

# BADGERS MOUNT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH

Goodbye Winter, hello Spring! Badgers Mount is afresh with new green leaves and bobbing heads of little white flowers in the woods and verges. The last 2 years have been hard for the Community, coming out of Covid, but it is time to step into spring with hope and optimism. We are not out of the woods yet, with the impending energy crisis, sharp increase in cost of living & the looming climate change challenge. Despite this, ours is one of the few Parishes in the Sevenoaks District Council where the Precept has been reduced by almost 38%. The Parish Council has also appointed a new Clerk, a local resident, to bring focus & deeper understanding of the issues facing the Parish. The ongoing Ukraine War has resulted in the Community coming together to help the less fortunate through two fundraising activities: a Bake Sale and a Books & Toy Sale. Both of these have been very successful and shown us what a wonderful & generous community we live in. We now look forward to celebrating Easter this month & the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June.

## PLANNING UPDATES

The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications for extensions to existing properties and new buildings and submits comments to Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) including, where appropriate, residents' comments. Recent decisions which are outside Badgers Mount but which affect us include: -

**Broke Hill Golf Club** – Following the refusal of the application by SDC, the applicant submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate who recently dismissed the appeal.

**Chevening House** – SDC refused the application for major earthworks to change the landscape of the southeast area of the site which would have meant up to 200 two way lorry movements per day at peak times of the work for over five years passing along the Orpington Bypass. The applicant has just submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate which will be held at a public enquiry. The date of the hearing will be advised in due course.

**Land off Wheatsheaf Hill** – Activities on the site continue to be monitored by Bromley Council enforcement officers as injunctions to stop work and not put mobile homes or fences on the site have been ignored.

**Skip site near Polhill roundabout**– Following the refusal of the Lawful Development Certificate for the site by SDC, the applicant appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. The appeal has just been dismissed.

## Upcoming Events

**Easter Egg Hunt**-Saturday 16th April around Badgers Mount, Collect quiz sheets from Johnsons Avenue after 11 am

Booking is necessary [socialevents.bmra@gmail.com](mailto:socialevents.bmra@gmail.com)

**Pedestrian Badgers** are a walking group, bringing together the health benefits of walking and neighborly chats with friends. Walks are every 5-6 weeks apart and last about 90 mins.

Next walk on Sunday 15th May at 10:30 am from Memorial Hall

Sunflower competition 2022 is to start soon. Seeds will be delivered to each household.

BMRA are sponsoring a young local resident with his Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. If you would like to support any of our other resident children, please contact the BMRA Secretary

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is temporarily paused pending revision of the delayed Sevenoaks District Local Plan. The current situation of our NP is as follows:

- 4 initial working groups were set up and have reported. These groups covered Housing and Development; Character and Heritage; Environment and Local Economy; and Infrastructure and Community Assets.
- Following discussion with our Planning Consultants, we have produced an initial draft outline NP. This contains a brief description and history of our community, followed by an initial set of Draft Policies or Visions. Each Policy contains one or more broad aims identified by the Working Groups; these aims allow us to identify specific action proposals for the community to take forward.
- The primary Policies identified to date are:
  - Climate Change – this is a central government initiative
  - Community Woodland – improved access and management
  - Community Greenspace – allocate a modest area of land for green/play/exercise
  - High Quality design of housing – maintain the ‘look’ of our community in the form of a Village Design Statement
  - Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity – establish and maintain a network of green infrastructure and habitat corridors
  - Connectivity and Road Safety – improve the existing Rights of Way and facilitate safe walking & cycling
  - Developer Contributions – links to the previous Policy in order to identify contributions for measures such as traffic calming and improving the pedestrian/cycling network
- These Policies form an outline which is anticipated to remain unchanged for several decades; specific proposals will be raised under the various policies for concrete changes. Based on initial community discussions, several possible proposals have been identified:
  - Pedestrian crossings
  - Provide a central village play area
  - Electric charging points
  - Signposted walks
  - Traffic calming
  - Bicycle trails
  - Improved Telecomms/Broadband
  - Improved bus services
- The Parish Council is currently trying to make progress on the first 2 of these (Pedestrian crossings and a central play area). Progress depends on gaining approval from the relevant owners/authorities and on amassing the required funding.

All comments and suggestions for improvement are welcomed. Please contact the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chair, Councillor Alistair Dunlop [cllrundunlop@gmail.com](mailto:cllrundunlop@gmail.com) or 0777 336 3147 to leave your views.

Residents are always welcome at our Parish Council meetings. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd (if required) Thursdays of each month in the Memorial Hall and Agendas are published on our website and notice boards so that you know what is going to be discussed.

We welcome all suggestions and feedback and we'd really like you to let us know if there is something that needs repairing (street lamps, kerbs etc), your comments on neighbouring planning applications or anything that you have comments/concerns about in our community. Each meeting has a public session where matters can be discussed. If you are not able to get to a meeting, you can email [badgersmountclerk@gmail.com](mailto:badgersmountclerk@gmail.com)

We are here to help wherever we can. Your views are important and we really like to hear them so please do come along and join us if you can!

### Speed reminder on unadopted roads

A reminder that the speed limit on Highland/Badgers Road and Milton/Johnsons Avenue is 20 mph. These roads are narrow, have blind bends and have no pavements for pedestrians to use.

### DOG FOULING

There are still some dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs. There have been recent complaints about dog mess on footpaths and even on other people's drives. There are 5 red dog waste bins around Badgers Mount, and Sevenoaks District Council has also advised that it is permissible to put dog waste bags in the 3 black litter bins along Old London Road, but please don't put general litter in the much smaller red dog waste bins. Dog faeces are sometimes seen on the ground near the dog waste bins, left by owners who are too lazy to bag and bin it! Remember that the person in charge of a dog can be fined £1,000 under the Dog Fouling Act (2016) for not clearing up responsibly.



### IDENTIFICATION TAGS FOR DOGS

It is a legal requirement that all dogs are microchipped, and the details must be kept up to date. The Government are set to introduce new rules saying that cats must be microchipped by the time they are 20 weeks old. Failure to update details could result in a £500 fine.

### CONTROL OF DOGS

Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992, all dogs in public places must have a collar and identification tag. You can be fined £5,000 for failing to comply with this requirement. Also remember that if a dog is worrying livestock, the farmer is entitled to shoot the dog, so keep it on a lead whenever you are near fields. There is no second chance option!



## BADGERS MOUNT FOR UKRAINE-BAKE SALE + BOOKS & TOYS SALE FUNDRAISER

On Sunday March 13th, 2022, the Badgers Mount Parish Council and the Badgers Mount Residents Association organised a Bake Sale Fundraiser at the Badgers Mount Memorial Hall to help raise money to support the Ukraine Crisis. The whole community got baking to get behind the cause to send money to **DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, British Red Cross**. It was very heart-warming to see the number of cakes donated by the residents – they looked amazing and were scrumptious. Fabulous contributions from local businesses came from Nesbit House, JJ Cakes, Polhill Garden Centre, Bojangles Café, Waitrose & Tesco were gratefully received.

Approximately 150-200 visitors walked in and enjoyed the delicious cakes, served with tea & coffee by a team of amazing volunteers from the Community. The event raised £1585 (matched by the BMRA & Barclays resulted in a total of £3585 contribution, and the Community could not have been more pleased with the outcome.

On Sunday April 3rd, 2022, a books & toys sale was organized towards the same cause raising another £700. A great example of what can be achieved if a whole community comes together to help others who are having to endure unspeakable hardships. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who came to support the fundraiser!



### FOOD BANK

Did you know that St. Margaret's Church, Halstead collects for the local Food Bank? Donations are always needed. If you would like to make a contribution, full details of what is accepted and where donations can be left can be found here

<https://www.knockholtandhalsteadchurches.org/whats-on/other-activities/food-bank.php>

If you think that our community should have its own donation point, please get in touch and let us know and we will see if we can set it up.

### BADGERS MOUNT WI

We are pleased to say that Badgers Mount WI continues with energy and enthusiasm. All of our members were very pleased to get back to 'normality' and a lot of catching up has been done over numerous cups of tea and delicious cakes. We have listened to some very interesting speakers with talks entitled 'Weather Lore – Fact or Fiction', 'Heroes and Villains of London', '4 Years as a Child in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp' and 'Crime Fiction – Why is it so Popular'. We held an Arts and Crafts afternoon in November when we decorated Christmas gift bags and made seasonal decorations. At our Christmas party we were entertained by Miss Vintage, whom we enjoyed so much that we have already booked her for Christmas 2022. We are looking forward to our tea party for the Queen's Jubilee and some more interesting speakers in the months to come.

If you would like to see what we're about, please do come along, we meet the 2nd Wednesday in the month at 2pm in the Memorial Hall.



## LONDON ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE (ULEZ)

The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan is proposing to extend the ULEZ, which is currently only inside the North and South Circular roads, to cover all the London Boroughs in 2023. It would have a significant effect on everyone in this area who does not have a compliant vehicle (most cars made after 2015 are likely to be compliant as are some earlier models, please check gov.uk) who will be charged £12.50 per day for cars to:

- Go to the doctors, dentists or chemists in Orpington, Chelsfield or Green Street Green.
- Go to hospital at Orpington or Locksbottom.
- Go shopping in Orpington or Bromley.
- Get fuel at Pratts Bottom.

The present system is enforced by ANPR cameras a short distance inside the boundary.

However, if enforced by a system which detects the moment you cross the boundary it would mean that you would be charged to:

- Drop off or pick up anyone from the ticket office at Knockholt Station (Sevenoaks Road passing the station is in Kent but road into the station is in the London Borough of Bromley).
- Travel round Hewitts Roundabout to get onto or leave the M25 as the whole of the roundabout is in Bromley.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ways-to-meet-the-standard>





<https://bmrashop.square.site/>

This is the new hub for checking in to social events (even free ones!), and Badgers Mount souvenirs for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We have launched exciting souvenirs like coffee mugs, tote bags and fridge magnets to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Make sure to reserve yours. There are even free mugs for children who live in Badgers Mount-reserve yours child's mug on the site.

Visit the website today!

**JUBILEE WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS**  
 For All Badgers Mount residents and families  
 We proudly present:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**  
**Children's Party**  
 11am>2pm  
 Entertainment, Party Food, Games, Face-painting and Lots, lots more

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**Wartime/Adults Bingo**  
 7pm arrival for Heads Down at 8pm  
 Glass of Bubbles on Arrival followed by Cheese & Biscuits (BYO Beverages)

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Residents Street Parties - 11am onwards**  
 Each street to organise their own celebrations (please fill the streets with colour and Laughter)  
 BBQs and Picnics encouraged

Please contact: [socialevents.bmra@gmail.com](mailto:socialevents.bmra@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to support with the events in any way

**WhatsApp groups:**

There are 2 WhatsApp groups for all Badgers Mount residents:

- 1st:** for anything of a social nature
- 2nd:** ICE (In Case of Emergency) is for important matters to get the word around quickly. You could add an ICE contact to your mobile.

**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS ONLINE.....[www.badgersmount.net](http://www.badgersmount.net)**

The village website has now been online for 20 years. First appearing online in March 2002. Originally created to cover the Badgers Mount Residents' Association, over time the website expanded to cover more local information. Some of the most popular pages are the **House Locator** page which shows the location of all the houses in the un-numbered roads as they can be hard to find, the **Live Local Traffic** page always has regular views especially when there's a problem on the surrounding road network. The **Planning** page has saved local planning searches and information on the Green Belt etc. is also a very active page. There a lot to explore from maps and photos to power cut information and more

*We'd love to keep in touch & keep you updated*



We, your Parish Council, would like to be able to communicate with you directly in the most cost efficient and timely way as possible. This means we can keep you up to date with the most important matters concerning our Parish- improve safety and convenience of local road and footpath networks, help with future developments, planning issues, protecting the green belt, improve underlying administration: e.g. verge trimming, salt bins for winter, flowers around village to just name a few. We are here to represent the community at higher forms of Government & keep you informed.

We will continue hard copies of our communications where required, but for most households, email is the most convenient option. We promise not spam you. In case you have multiple people in your house who'd like to sign up, please email the Clerk.

So if you would like to hear from us, please fill the form below, tick the consent form & return it to the Parish Clerk's post box at **Montclare, Orpington Bypass, Badgers Mount TN14 7AG**. Alternatively, you could email [badgersmountclerk@gmail.com](mailto:badgersmountclerk@gmail.com) or even sign up on the website [www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.badgersmountparishcouncil.org.uk)

Name

Email address

I consent to Badgers Mount Parish Council holding these details for the purpose of communication with me about information regarding the Village and District that I may be interested in