



Our Community— Forward Together

Spring Edition
2013

Annual Parish Meeting—Your Meeting

Each year, by law, the Parish Council have to organise a special meeting for the residents of the parish – The Annual Parish Meeting. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council, although it is used to report back on the activities of the council. It is YOUR meeting.

This year two groups have been asked to present to the APM – Friend's of North Kent Marshes (well known for their activities both locally and nationally against any airport development in the Thames Estuary and many other local issues) and the Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society about their work in researching the history of the parish.

There will also an opportunity for local organisations to say a few words about their year and for the Parish Council to present their 'Annual Report' – published in this Clarion. There will be an opportunity to raise questions and the meeting can discuss any resolutions they would like to be passed to the parish for their consideration.

Each year we find out more about the wide range of activities in our areas, the organisations and often the volunteers that keep it all together (but always wish there was just that little more help from the local community).

You are invited to the

2013 Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 4th April, 7:30pm

Cliffe Woods School, View Rd, Cliffe Woods (entrance at rear)

Agenda

Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society —A Proud Past

Friends of North Kent Marshes— Airport Update

Lodge Hill, Chattenden Update

Parish Council Annual Report

Reports from local community organisations

Resolutions to be passed to Parish Council for consideration

Derek Green 1/9/32 14/1/13 —An example to us all

On Wednesday 6th February residents from the Parish joined family and friends of Derek Green at St Helen's Church to celebrate his life and contribution to the area. Derek was a Parish Councillor for 45 years (between 1962 and 2007) and had also been involved in the Memorial Hall (30 years) and Cliffe Fire Brigade (25 years). Always keen on, not only making sure things got done, he was also insistent that they were done correctly.



Derek played a full part on the Parish Council and managed the play area, recreation ground and helped organise carnival and events. He was also key in proposing changes to the 1970s plans for Cliffe Woods to include a recreation ground. He was key to getting the Cliffe Memorial Hall built and extended.

He took over his father's business transporting children to and from school, which grew into Greens of Cliffe – the local 'taxi' and minibus service.

He remained a 'critical friend' to the Parish Council after he stood down and often checked our Minutes to see what we were up to. His involvement in the local community was an excellent example to us all and he will be missed by his family, friends and local community. The Parish Council hope we will be able to mark his contribution in some way in the future.

People

The current Parish Council was elected in May 2011 and will run to May 2015 – the same date as Medway Council and Parliamentary Elections are due to be held. Since last year's APM the council have filled two vacancies: Vivienne Walton was co-opted at a special meeting just before last year's APM to fill the vacancy left by Lisa Mills; and Jim Corrigan returned to the Parish Council to replace Julie Moss stood down in the summer.

Both Julie and Lisa had been very active on the council and were missed. They had formed a partnership to help manage the parish allotments and were building up a relationship with the allotment holders (subsequently Ray Letheren and Dave Green have taken on that role).



Vivienne and Jim were soon involved in the parish, with Jim continuing his membership of the Cliffe Woods Community Association, Vivienne (and her husband Iain) also joined CWCA and are very active on that and the Youth Committee – more later.

At last year's APM we reported that Harold Weavers (former Parish Councillor for 45 years) had passed away. This year we also lost Derek Green who had also served the parish for 45 years (until 2007) – more details in this Clarion.

The parish continues to be well served by the joint clerks Mrs Alex Jack (Proper Officer) and Laura Farrelly (Responsible Finance Officer) and also the caretaker Dave Clark (with thanks to Michael Johnson and Cllr. Ray Letheren for holiday cover).

Finance (Chair Cllr. Ken Kentell)

(A draft financial year end summary and budget will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting or on request to clerks@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk)

The main source of income remains the council tax. Approx. a average of £23 per year (Band D) is charged to each residential property. Unlike Medway Council we do not receive any government grant or business rates.

As the council met to set this year's budget there was concern regarding national government council tax changes would affect how the council tax bills would be calculated this year and we needed to ensure the impact of residents was limited. At the time of agreeing our budget we received notice that the amount raised from each £1 that residents pay would be reduced and that we would have to raise our part of the council tax bill by over 7% just to stand still, although there has been a grant this year to offset that change we have been unable to get any assurance that this would be available in future years.

The precept for 2012/2013 was £43,252 and this has been increased by a small amount for 2013/2014 to £43,675. Budget savings were identified to offset some of our increased costs this year. We continue to seek to maximise our spending power on local improvements by using Medway Council's Rural Liaison Grant, and other grant sources as appropriate. This year we also received money from some specific planning applications in our parish (S106) which has to be spent on our youth facilities.

Planning (Chair Cllr. Chris Fribbins)

As a Parish Council we have to be consulted by Medway Council on any planning applications within our area or on our borders. We have responded to about 60 planning applications.

Estuary Airport

Again proposals from developers and architects for airports in the Thames Estuary and on the Hoo Peninsula and Cliffe itself have dominated the news. This should have been killed off by the previous consultation decisions over 8 years ago, but still it rumbles on and now it does not look like a decision on future airport capacity in the south east will be finalised until after the 2015 election.

It has been very frustrating because nothing has changed since the decision to reject a Cliffe Airport and the same environmental, economic, and operational reasons still apply. Cllrs Joan Darwell and Gill Moore on behalf of Friends of North Kent Marshes have continued to push our case, and that of the wider community, at every opportunity. This is a major time and cost commitment from them and I am sure they would want to be able to focus more on issues closer to home if they could – but amongst all that work they are still key to organising events in Cliffe with both the Diamond Jubilee and Autumn Fayre in St Helens Church and the Buttway.

There are some non-government consultations happening to try and put pressure on for an earlier conclusion, but that does not seem to have changed the national position, but has generated more work – and the opportunity for developers/architects to publicise their schemes again and again, as their glossy pictures of runways look good on the WEB and in the media – the story of environmental damage and the bigger impacts of these schemes is not so easy to demonstrate (although there have been some excellent posters). The Parish Council do intend to respond to the Howard Davies Airports Commission and do want to know what your views are. (I am hoping that the recent Mark Reckless MP's petition might help with that), but your comments are always welcome – for or against.



Lodge Hill/Chattenden

Right on our doorsteps (less than mile across the woods from homes in Cliffe Woods), this development proposes up to 5,000 houses, 5,000 jobs and a range of community facilities including schools, health, community centre, shops etc.). It has been a very long and drawn out process although an outline planning application was finally submitted last year.

There has been a lot of community consultation and involvement in the development of the plans, but there were some major issues still outstanding.

Highways – it was not clear how the Four Elms Roundabout and local roads could cope with the traffic that would be generated by the site.

Environmental concerns remained about the land around the site (and between it and Cliffe Woods – already a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)). The nightingales alone were of significant national value due to their number and there was concern about how that would be impacted by a large residential development in the area.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council—Annual Report 2013

Now English Nature has responded by expanding the current SSSI. Although the main feature is to designate the majority of the development site as a SSSI, there is also further expansion towards Cliffe Woods (map available at <http://www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk/html/lodgehill.html>). It now exists and is in force, although there is an opportunity for individuals and groups to object or support this move in the next few months before any final ratification.

So what does that mean for our area – in principle the SSSI designation is a good thing, but it puts a series of hurdles in place for the Lodge Hill development. If confirmed they will have to justify why their site should be developed and that there are no alternatives (some would see this as a positive step). However with the relaxation of national planning policy to promote building, this is likely to lead to planning applications being submitted for other sites on the grounds that their impact would not be as great as building on an SSSI. The Parish Council have previously reported on plans that a major Cliffe landowner has drawn up and there has also been interest in sites around Cliffe Woods in the past – so there is a real danger that the Lodge Hill housing allocation could move, in part or in total to other areas on the peninsula – and as it would be more split up, the community facilities would not be at the level proposed for Lodge Hill. If this does happen the likely local view would be to object, but if new planning guidelines force a major development on us, do we get involved in seeking the best deal for our area while we can?

The parish will continue to monitor the position and report back via our web site <http://www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk/html/lodgehill.html> or a future Clarion.

Community Progress

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year did allow both villages to put on community events. In Cliffe, on the Sunday, the cold and rain prevented the full range of activities but was still a great success. Despite Monday starting even colder, the sun came out and the Cliffe Woods Community Association event was also a great success.

Cliffe then followed this up with an Autumn Fair on the Buttway (but mainly in the church because of the weather). The Church and School have also held a series of events throughout the year. The Memorial Hall also expanded their range of community events and helped raise much needed funds as well as allowing the village to have some fun.

In Cliffe Woods there were regular events at Cliffe Woods School, but with the closure of the Cerebral Palsy Centre in Cliffe Woods it looked like community events would reduce. However the Cliffe Woods Community Association, encouraged by the way the Jubilee Fair had gone, were soon planning a series of events – a Barn Dance, a series of Quiz Nights and a regular Summer Fair have already taken place or are being planned.

Youth (Cllr Rob Hunt)

The Parish Council have established a budget for local youth of £1,000 per annum and this has been used to support local Brownies and Rainbows as well as the Parish Council's own Youth Committee. We have also used funds available from Medway Council (Rural Liaison Grant) for youth events in the summer and new equipment for the parish youth clubs in both villages. The Medway Council Youth Outreach Worker Lindsay Hartney has also managed to find funding from other sources within Medway Council.

The Youth Club meets, usually, on the 1st Monday of each month in

the Cliffe Woods Community Centre and the 3rd Monday in the Cliffe Memorial Hall (7pm). There is a wide range of facilities on offer at both locations and often individual mentoring and help with job hunting for the older members.

Additional help from adults is always welcome and may allow the clubs to expand to other nights eventually. The Parish Council are still seeking volunteers from the youths themselves to form a 'Youth Parish Council' to advise on the use of the allocated budget and any issues they want to bring to the attention of the council

Play Area

We are proud of our play area in Cliffe and feel it is one of the best in the district, (*however the one in Cliffe Woods is owned and run by Medway Council and the range of equipment is more limited*).

A safety defect was found on one item of equipment by the play equipment provider that led to one item being out of use for a while, this has now been fixed.



A new source of funding has become available (Planning S106) and this has helped replace the surfacing around the breakdown truck and we are looking to install an additional item soon. It has proved to be very well used when the weather has been kind, let's hope for better weather this year.

We would like to do more in the Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground but are limited to what we can spend on other authorities responsibilities—we do press for better facilities and if we can identify money that can be used we will.

Recreation Ground

Like the play areas we own the recreation ground behind the Memorial Hall, but the other grounds at Cliffe Woods and APCM are owned and operated by Medway Council. Apart from one football team, and some pre-season hire from another team, there is no other regular user of our recreation ground. There has been a bi-annual charity event in August, but no other users since the carnival finished.

Ground hire charges are very low compared with Medway Council and we have kept them low while we try and provide replacement facilities for the pavilion that was destroyed by vandalism sometime ago. ***We urgently need more help to prepare community support for a grant application*** – we know there is money available but were turned down previously and need to build a strong case for a further application. Football changing rooms on there own are unlikely to be supported by the grant makers which is why a more comprehensive scheme involving the Memorial Hall has been drawn up.

We also need to acknowledge the help and assistance provided by Medway Council. The main grass cutting at the Memorial Hall, Play Area and Recreation Ground is carried out by them. There was a threat that this service could have been withdrawn, which would have been a major financial hit on the Parish Council.

Ball Court/Youth Shelter

The ball court remains popular, but less so on darker evenings – although there is some lighting, by arrangement, with the Village Club. The Youth Shelter is also a positive site for many, but like the ball court has suffered from some vandalism and other anti-social behaviour (ASB) by a minority. The Parish Council were considering the removal of the shelter, but at the moment it is ‘on probation’ as we take other measures in the area. We have had issues when some youth have been chased away from the Youth Shelter and ended up at the Six Bell’s bus stop and caused damage there as well as general ASB.

A number of measures have been put in place and will be added to in coming weeks (see Allotments).

BMX/Skate Park.

This has been established for a couple of years now and proves very popular with a wide age range. We have had the first major maintenance carried out, added a non-slip surface to the bumps as well as finally fixing the damage on the concrete base.

Allotments (Cllrs Ray Letheren and Dave Green)

There is still a waiting list for allotments at the Cliffe Recreation Ground. Although the weather was terrible last year (and it hasn’t improved much yet) allotment holders have generally been putting in a lot of work to manage their plots. Cllrs Dave Green and Ray Letheren have been working with them to understand their issues.

The parish also took delivery of some free tree seedlings and these are being planted on-site.

Like the youth shelter and ball court there has been some ASB which is extremely concerning for allotment holders who have managed their plot and plants only to have them damaged or even destroyed.

Following this anti-climb paint has been put on a number of surfaces that are likely to be used to gain unauthorised access into the allotments. We are installing a lockable barrier to the Cliffe Memorial Hall, Small Hall, Car Park and investigating CCTV cover for the area which could be in place soon.

Cliffe Woods Car Park and the Buttway

It has been good to see the Buttway put to good use with the Diamond Jubilee and Autumn Fayre, however spoilt by the weather. There is concern about the drainage on the tarmac area, and we hope to see that resolved soon.

The Cliffe Woods Car Park has had a number of oversize vehicles entering the car park and damaging the signs, but not causing the amount of damage to the barriers we had before (not sure about the top of their vehicles?). There is also a concern regarding the Town Road end of the car park and a worry that there could be some significant subsidence and potential cost for the parish – for that reason we have been unable to repair the surface at the entrance to the Community Centre (we are also waiting for Medway Council to patch the footpath to the doctor’s surgery, which is Medway’s responsibility).

The Clarion and WEB www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

The Clarion is normally produced two or three times a year, more if necessary (March for the Annual Parish Meeting, and October). Adverts help with the cost and keep the council tax bill down. Usually the latest edition is available on the Parish Council web site before it has even been printed or delivered (thanks to Richard Jones of Cliffe for doing the delivery, usually single

handed).

The Clarion and website are produced by Cllr. Chris Fribbins. Comments on either are welcome as well as suggestions for items etc.

Footpaths and Common Land (Cllr. Gill Moore)

We have many excellent public footpaths in our area. RS84/RS84A between Cliffe and Cliffe Woods is one of the best (it is not many years ago that parts of this were not passable in the summer with weeds and nettles). The Parish Council keeps an eye on the paths in our area and brings problems to the attention of Medway Council who are ultimately responsible for them – but sometimes direct action or involvement of other locals gets things done quicker – Gill has led some of this.

Medway Council

The unitary council of Medway provides almost all the local community services in our area. Most of the issues brought to the Parish Council are often the responsibility of Medway Council and we liaise closely with them. In some cases they must consult with the Parish Council, but often do anyway, on plans and policy for affecting our area.

We often get excellent service and response from Medway Council, but it can be patchy and continual budget pressure on them does not help.

Gravesham Borough Council / Kent County Council

As the Parish Council borders on KCC/GBC we are consulted on a wide range of issues from both councils and respond as necessary.

Liaison with local organisations

Both village halls – Cliffe Memorial Hall and Cliffe Woods Community Centre are supported by a grant of £5,000 each from the Parish Council.

Cliffe Memorial Hall (Cllr. Lynne Bush)



Liaison with the Memorial Hall has continued to improve in recent years. This has been a year of action with financial support from a number of sources, including the Parish Council, and hard work by a few people. Windows and blinds have been replaced (thanks to a Veolia Environments Grant) and a re-paint has brightened up both halls and associated areas. New tables and chairs have been purchased recently, with some help from the Parish Council. There has also been a series of social events (including quiz nights and dances) raising money for hall improvements as well as having a good time.

It is hoped that the good work by a few people will encourage use of the halls and perhaps lead to more people coming forward to help. It would be good to see a stronger management committee – **You can help.**

**Need to report a crime or anti-social behaviour
but not an emergency RING 101**



Speedwatch

For a number of years four teams have been monitoring the traffic on the B2000. and have sent in reports monthly so that letters may be sent to those that continually speed through the streets.

Unfortunately these team are all of an age and now there is only one team left to do any checking.

The villages need at least four teams of people to be affective, the need for four is because there is a lot of information to collect when a car speeds by the monitoring point. Speed (which is on the screen of the camera) make of vehicle, colour, registration number, time and date. It sounds simple but the vehicle is out of sight very quickly, and doubts sets in over one of the parts and all is lost.

All the reports are sent to the police speed watch team once delivered to Brian Cornick.

So required urgently are at least three or four teams to bring our efforts back to be effective once more.

For more information contact the Parish Clerk or Brian Cornick (01634 222907)



FREE Household Collection for Electric Goods

Medway Council is providing FREE household collections of waste electrical and electronic items.

This service is being managed by Sweep Kuusakoski, working in partnership with Medway Council and Veolia Environmental Services.

By offering this free of charge service, your residents are still entitled to their one free bulky waste collection every year from the council for other items - an added benefit to the scheme.

All waste is **responsibly recycled** at our processing centre in Sittingbourne and we are the only waste processing centre in the world to have Nulife technology that separates lead and glass used in the older style TV and monitor screens, so residents can be assured that 97.39% of their waste is recycled, by 100% renewable energy, with the small portion of waste left going to 'waste to energy' production.



Cliffe Woods Community Association (Cllr. Margaret Emblin)

There has been a connection between the Parish Council and the CWCA since the hall was built and it is now extremely strong with four other Parish Councillors also members of their committee.

The Diamond Jubilee was a success and is likely to lead to a regular summer fair. It has also encouraged them to do more – already a barn dance and quiz night has been held, and more are planned, alongside the indoor boot fair during the winter months (around first Sunday of each month October to April). Funds raised in this way will be used for further improvements to the hall and not just running costs.

The building is bright and clean and maintained to a high level. The Social Club has had some success, in grim economic times; with a percentage of their takings going to the CWCA this helps the running costs of the centre and bumper months .

Health Liaison (Cllr. Sue McDermid)

Although not a Parish Council responsibility, we did recognise the major impact that local health services have on our residents. Cllr. Sue McDermid has led on this for a few years now. She has established good relations with the Cliffe Woods surgery and via Cliffe residents and councillors; something similar is being put in place there.

Brett Group

After concerns about speeding lorries some years ago, we have established a regular liaison committee to discuss parish and Brett's business issues and plans.

Police Liaison

There has been a local concern about the level of policing and especially the poor communication between different parts of the force. They continue to be under budget pressures and the need to work smarter, but we have had a series of problems brought to our attention by local residents and Parish Councillors themselves that are not acceptable to the parish. We have had assurances from the police that we will be seeing improvements very soon.

The election of a Police and Crime Commissioner at the end of 2012 may help us have better input into the policy side of policing. Parish Councillors have met with Ann Barnes at a number of events since her election to outline our concerns. Ultimately, however it is the operational side of policing that affects local residents more.

Medway Council Rural Liaison Committee / KALC (Medway)

The Rural Liaison Committee is run by Medway Council and allows the parishes of their area to come together to discuss issues of concern and be briefed on areas affecting them. It would be rare for the Parish Council to miss one of these meetings and always take an



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Cliffe Home Front (returns)

'Spirit of the Forties'

St Helens Church & Buttway

Saturday 15th June 2013

Children's Rides - Craft Stalls – Cake & Produce Stalls etc. - Coconut Shy Bric-a-Brac
Plate Smash - Raffle Range – Spinners & Weavers

St Helens 'Lyons' Tea Room with waitresses in 'Nippy' Uniform Tea & Homemade Cakes
WW11 displays, with stories from local people & community spirit bought about in such difficult times.
Please come share your stories

· NO ESTUARY AIRPORT INFORMATION STAND

Free posters & Car Stickers · *Stalls inside & out – fun for all the family whatever the weather!*

Proceeds to SHINE

Organised by Friends of the North Kent Marshes (www.northkentmarshes.com)

Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Cafes and Support Groups

Come and join us at the Dementia Cafes. A friendly and supportive monthly café for people with dementia and their carers, family and friends.

The Dementia Café (Chatham), The Harbour Room, Amherst Court, Palmerston Road, Chatham, ME4 6LU 2nd Friday of the Month. 1pm-3pm Light refreshments and free parking available

The Harbour Room Dates : 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November, 13th December

The Dementia Café (Rainham) St Paul's Church, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood, Rainham ME8 9PN. 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month. 1pm-3pm Light refreshments and free parking available

St Paul's Café dates: 5th & 19th March, 2nd & 16th April, 7th & 21st May, 5th & 19th June, 2nd & 16th July, 6th & 20th August, 3rd & 17th September, 1st & 15th October, 5th & 19th November, 3rd & 17th December

Support Groups for people with dementia or caring for someone with dementia who wish to gain mutual support, advice and understanding about their diagnosis.

Peer Support Group (Rochester), The Thorndike Centre, Longley Road, Rochester ME1 2TH
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month 10am- 1pm Refreshments, a light lunch and free parking provided

The Thorndike Centre dates: 6th & 20th March, 3rd & 17th April, 1st & 15th May, 5th & 19th June, 3rd & 17th July, 7th & 21st August, 4th & 18th September, 2nd & 16th October, 6th & 20th November, 4th & 18th December

Carers Group (Hoo), Walter Brice Centre, Tiley Close, Hoo ME3 9AE 2nd Wednesday of the Month 10am- 12pm. Light refreshments and free parking provided

The Walter Brice Centre dates: 13th March, 10th April, 8th May, 13th June, 10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November, 11th December

The Dementia Cafes and Support Groups are being funded by Medway Council and NHS Kent & Medway

For more information please contact Sylvia Wolfson on 07557 111060, email Sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk

YE OLDE TIME

BARNDANCE

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL - 7.00PM
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Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

17 Graveney Close
Cliffe Woods, Rochester
Kent, ME3 8LB

Clerks

Mrs Alex Jack (PO)
Mrs Laura Farrelly (RFO)

Phone:
01634 566166

Email :
**clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-
pc.gov.uk**

Chair Chris Fribbins
5 Englefield Crescent
Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent,
ME3 8HB

Email:
chair@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk

Vice-Chair Ken Kentell
52 Englefield Crescent
Cliffe Woods, Rochester, Kent
ME3 8HD

Email:
vicechair@cliffeandcliffewoods-
pc.gov.uk



Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

James Wenban	222620
Lynne Bush	222103
Jim Corrigan	220373
Gill Moore	222205
Colin Elliott	220877
Dave Green	221173
Joan Darwell	220121
Vivienne Walton	221710

Cliffe Woods Ward

Margaret Emblin	220904
Chris Fribbins	566256
Ken Kentell	221434
Robert Hunt	222042
Alan Taylor	220689
Sue McDermid	220864
Ray Letheren	222224
Ian Petrie	221862

A Proud History

It seems there has ever been so much interest in the history of our parish area. There are two main groups working on researching and publishing their findings :

Cliffe-at-Hoo Historical Society – www.cliffehistory.co.uk &
Cliffe History Project - <http://cliffe-history.org.uk/>

There has also been interest from national organisations such as RSPB who commissioned a report in 2007 into their Cliffe Pools reserves - <http://tinyurl.com/cliffepools>

The wider 'Hoo Peninsula Growth Area Historic Landscapes Project' by English Heritage also did a lot of detailed work in our area, and are due to be publishing their report next year.



There is also a large amount of documentation prepared by Bob Hutchings (former Parish Councillor) which is a rich source of material from around the UK as well as artefacts and evidence on and in the ground (when you know what you are looking for). There is a growing consensus about the importance of Cliffe, not just locally but nationally. Historically there had not been any care given to protecting our heritage and there would have been a lot found, but not recorded in detail when the Cliffe Pools were excavated for the cement industry over a century ago. Even now some people use metal detectors to find and remove objects without it being recorded correctly and damage vital information.

Friends of North Kent Marshes have been working with the Cliffe History Project and a large display of historic information (especially the 1940's) was displayed along with the Parish Council Archive of photographs at the Cliffe Autumn Fayre (selections of which are displayed each year at Cliffe Fayres).

The Parish Council also have a link to the Cliffe-at-Hoo Historical Society via Cllr. Dave Green, and have included some of their information in past Clarions. **They have accepted an invitation to present at the Annual Parish Meeting (Thursday 4th April, 7:30, Cliffe Woods School, View Road, entrance around the back).** This is an incredible treasure for our area and something that should be made much more of. The Parish Council will do what they can to help promote and protect our "Proud History".

Events for the Diary

**St Helen's Church and
the Buttway, Cliffe**

Saturday 15th June

Cliffe Home Front—Spirit of the 40s
(including
the Parish Council Historic Photo Collection)

Friday 12th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July

St Helen's Flower Festival
including :

Saturday 13th July
Cliffe Summer Fayre

**Cliffe Woods Community Centre,
Parkside, Cliffe Woods**

Watch noticeboards and web

Regular Quiz Nights planned
Cliffe Woods Summer Fair

Barn Dance

**Cliffe Memorial Hall,
Church St. Cliffe**

Events Planned watch noticeboards and web

Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed for over 100 years. We are a nationally recognised, and the most local level, of local government. There are 16 councillors, (8 for Cliffe Woods and 8 for Cliffe). The council meets monthly, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. There are a small number of committees that also meet to discuss specific issues in more detail before making recommendations to the Parish Council. The Clerks manage the parish on a day to day basis and the Caretaker looks after the recreation ground and play area in Cliffe and helps keep the Buttway and Cliffe Woods Car Park clean and tidy and helps with general maintenance.

The Parish is funded through the local council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of Medway Council, police and fire services—**this will raise £43,252 in 2013/2014**, and is, for band D, 45p per household per week! We also raise funds from other sources for large schemes such as the Cliffe Ball Court, Cliffe Play Area, BMX/Skatepark and the allotments and receive a Rural Liaison Grant from Medway Council to spend on other improvements.

We are consulted on planning applications in our Parish as well as local, regional or national issues affecting our area. We also take an active part in liaising with Medway Council, the police and the longer term strategic plans for our area. We also run the Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods—and work is improve them further. Funds are also available to support neighbourhood watch schemes, the grass cutting in the churchyard of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe (£1,000 a year) and to support our two village halls (£5,000 a year, each).

All members have to stand for election every four years, if there are more nominations than positions, polling takes place on the same day as the Medway Council elections. (May 2015 is the next date). In between elections any vacancies can be filled by a by-election if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly additional members are co-opted. **Why not take a more active part in the community and join us as a councillor or a non-councillor member of one of our committees (especially the Footpath and Common Land, Youth, and Allotments Committees)?**