

# the Clarion

## Our Community— Forward Together

Spring  
Edition 2012

### Annual Parish Meeting 2012

Every year the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council organises the Annual Parish Meeting and there has been a lot happening in our area to report on. This is **YOUR** meeting and is a chance to hear what is going on in the local area. As usual it is surprising how much does happen in our Parish with the dedication and support of local people—just like you. There are many unsung members of our local community who help provide and maintain facilities, organise functions and events to provide something for the youngest to the oldest in our community or help protect our environment for future generations. Often they wish they had just a little bit more support and help from the local community—**YOU!**



#### Your Meeting

You are invited to :-

#### The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods 2012 Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 5th April 2012  
7:30pm to 9:30pm

At Cliffe Memorial Hall,  
Small Hall, Church Street, Cliffe  
Your chance to have your say about what  
is right and wrong in the parish

### Airport Consultation Set For Take-Off (Again)

So another aviation strategy consultation. Most of us remember the proposals for an airport at Cliffe and the major campaign that was fought against it. Despite the clear conclusions that an airport in our area was not feasible on economic and especially environmental grounds here we go again!

Actually for our Parish Council the threats to our area have never gone away. From a massive

harbour development across the Thames in Essex, ideas of flooding the marshes, Thamesside Terminal (Salt Lane), Merryboys Farm and a series of airport ideas in the estuary and on land, we have been monitoring and responding as necessary. For two of our councillors (Gill Moore and Joan Darwell) there have been many meetings and consultations that they have been involved with as Friends of North Kent Marshes and very little chance to draw breath.

It is a shame that we have not been able to move forward as a community as we should have after the previous victory, although there are some encouraging signs. Now we need to respond again and let those who look on the Hoo Peninsula and the Thames Estuary as an easy target and do not look beyond the runways and the much wider impacts that would hit us all - do you think the (already widened) A2 could cope. Where would the 70,000+ workers come from and where would they live.



#### It would be:

- unaffordable for the UK
- responsible for concreting over much of Kent
- a source of significant noise and pollution
- in the wrong location
- devastating for wildlife

Support our campaign visit

[www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk](http://www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk)

Campaign backed by Medway Council

Look out for more details on the consultation at [www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk](http://www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk) and our WEB site [www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk) Car stickers and posters available at locations across the Hoo Peninsula. Depending on the consultation process there may also be public meetings.

## Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

### Chairman's Annual Report 2011/2012

Last year in May a new Parish Council was elected and will run to 2015. Many of the existing councillors were elected unopposed and were joined by Steve Boosey, Colin Elliott, & Dave Green in Cliffe Village and Ian Petrie in Cliffe Woods. Jim Corrigan had stood down in Cliffe Woods, with Gill Moore and Joan Darwell also deciding not to stand in Cliffe.

The new council met in May and I took on the role of Chairman for the second time (after being the Chair 1990-1991 and Vice-Chair since 2000 alongside Ken Kentell as the Chairman). Ken has, and continues to be very committed to the Parish and I was pleased when he accepted the position of Vice Chair and more recently Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. At the time he was also caring for his wife Carol and it was sad when she died in November. We also had the loss of Harold Weavers who had been a councillor for 45 years until he stood down in 2001.

Since last year's elections we have had three resignations in Cliffe (Steve Boosey, Samantha Collins and Lisa Mills) thank you all three, for your time on the parish, it is a considerable commitment. Joan Darwell,

then Gill Moore, re-joined and we intend to co-opt someone in April to replace Lisa. We have also created a new Youth Liaison Committee (further details in this Clarion) and have strengthened our working with the Cliffe Woods Community Association (CWCA) and the Cliffe Memorial Hall (Cllrs Sue McDermid and Margaret Emblin in Cliffe Woods and Cllr Lynne Bush and Lisa Mills in Cliffe) - with positive results. Both village halls are looking at organising Diamond Jubilee events in early June and some progress is being made in building changing rooms in addition to other improvements at the Memorial Hall (see page 5 for more details).

We started the new council year with real concerns about our local fire station. With the change of retained

fire fighters to part time status across Kent the number at our local station had dropped to such a low level that there was a fear that it could close. We distributed a special edition of the Clarion and held a well attended public meeting in Cliffe with the local Medway Councillors and MP. We followed this up with a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Kent Fire & Rescue Service. Earlier this year there was a formal consultation on the closure of village fire stations across Kent, but although Halling has been scheduled for closure, ours is safe for now—but we need to keep an eye on the situation.

There was disappointment when we tried, yet again, to get our resident's views on plans for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and on how the parish should develop and had a very poor response to our questionnaire (still available on our WEB site). Those that attended the public meeting heard about some of the

issues and opportunities that faced us. The decision is whether to let it happen or get involved and shape it the way we want. We are still progressing a Big Lottery Bid for even more improvements to the Memorial Hall



that will benefit both villages and would want to work with the CWCA on future improvements to their hall.

In the Government's October Statement we heard that yet another consultation would be carried out (from March/April this year) on aviation policy and although Heathrow third runway would be ruled out, major airports on the Hoo Peninsula and in the Thames Estuary would be considered again (after being ruled out eight years ago). Cllrs Gill Moore and Joan Darwell will be heavily involved in the campaign to get this idea dropped again. In 2013 we also expect a consultation on a Lower Thames Crossing.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Community News

## Chairman's Report 2011/2012

(Continued from page 2)

But there is much to look forward to in 2012 and beyond with the Parish Council ready for action. We have had a much more stable year and have been fortunate to receive Rural Liaison Grant money from Medway Council and 'Section 106' planning money for improvements to our Play Area (and we were able to allocate some for additional equipment in the Cliffe Woods Recreation Ground). Cllr Jim Wenban has helped organise and chase our sub-contractors.

Mrs Alex Jack and Laura Farrelly have settled in their clerk roles and Dave Clark continues to keep the Cliffe Woods Car Park, the Cliffe Recreation ground & play area and the Buttway tidy (Cllr Ray Letheren has also stood in as a volunteer to cover).

Budget time has come around again and we were keen to control our costs. However, unlike other authorities

on the Council Tax bill, we do not receive any external support and have to rely on our local residents. In previous years we were able to use some of our reserves but cannot reduce them further. The 2012/2013 precept now raises £43,252 with a council tax band D of £22.75 for the year (other bands are calculated from that figure) - up from £21.23 last year. So although this will show as about 7% increase it will only mean £1.52 for the year (< 3p per week).

We will continue to seek, additional, external support for other improvements in both our villages and hope Medway Council's Rural Liaison Grant will continue at the level we have had in previous years.

*Chris Fribbins*

Chair, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council

## Community Action Against Crime (Neighbourhood or Home Watch)

### The aim of Watch Schemes

- To reduce local opportunities for crime, thereby deterring would-be thieves and vandals.
- To establish a community spirit so that everyone can contribute towards the protection of their property by mutual co-operation and communication.
- To inform the co-ordinator or the Police of any suspicious activity.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can be large, covering, for example, most of the households on an estate, or they might involve just half a dozen houses, it depends on the area and what people living there want.

Members of Watch Schemes are not vigilantes; patrolling the streets is a job for the Police, they will act on the information supplied by residents. But if you want to help the Police in the most direct and practical way of all, why not volunteer to be a Special Constable? You can obtain details from your local Police Station.

A lot of schemes have been running for many years but people move on, and members are not replaced.

### How can I set up a Scheme?

If you want to get involved in a Watch Scheme and find out about schemes and how they operate, your local Police will tell you if there is a Scheme in your area or help you set up one of your own.

Contact [www.direct.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpolicing](http://www.direct.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpolicing) or John Haddaway on 01634 792131 or [kcm.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kcm.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk)

# Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

[www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk)

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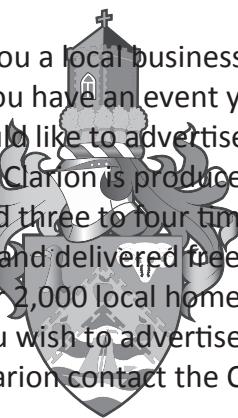
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## Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

### Cliffe Village Ward

James Wenban	222620
Lynne Bush	222103
Julie Moss	222142
Gill Moore	222205
Colin Elliott	220877
Dave Green	221173
Joan Darwell	220121
Vacancy	

### 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

## Cliffe-at-Hoo Historical Society

Last year a group of local historians got together to form a local history forum to share knowledge, expertise and help to keep Cliffe's heritage safe for the future.

As you may or may not be aware we are lucky enough to live in a very historically important area of the U.K. The society's aim is to share information on the numerous archaeological sites found locally to help raise awareness and help future generations in the study of the historic landscape of this part of Kent and the role it has played in making Great Britain what it is today.

To date we have managed to identify over 100 new sites to be included in Kent's Historical Environment Records (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record) and we continue to work closely with archaeologists to identify and record the historic wealth that Cliffe has to offer.

Our more recent areas of research have focused upon: Early archaeology, St. Helen's Church, Cliffe's changing landscape, the manors of Cliffe, the industrial sites, Cliffe during times of war and photographic images of Cliffe.

At present we have 180+ members who are regularly updated with news, information and have the opportunity to participate with the work of our local archaeologists.

If you would like to know more, or join with us more information can be obtained e-mailing the society on: [info@cliffehistory.co.uk](mailto:info@cliffehistory.co.uk) or by phoning, Dan on 01634 220853 or Dave Green, the Parish Council's liaison contact on: 01634 221173 or by visiting our website at [www.cliffehistory.co.uk](http://www.cliffehistory.co.uk)



## 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 most local level, of local government. There are 16 councillors, (8 from Cliffe Woods and 8 from 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 2012/2013**, 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 and 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 help fund Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods—and work is underway to get them restarted. 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 an active part in the community and join us?**

## Village Hall Improvements

**The Cliffe Memorial Hall** is due a makeover and thanks to the support of the villagers who signed the support forms, £49,900 has been raised, to enable the installation of double glazed windows, a new boiler, soffit and fascia replacement, install some new kitchen cupboards in the small hall and maintain the floor in the small hall, there may also be enough money to spruce up the toilets.



The majority of funds were donated by the Veolia Environment Trust with additional funds from the Strood Rural Ward Councillors and the Parish Council. You, (the community) have helped too, contributing to the stall at the Village Fayre last year and taking part in two quiz nights (*the parish council team won the last one!*). All the money raised from those events has gone to the project fund. There has also been help from local shop keepers displaying posters and getting people to sign the forms, and donations for raffle prizes for the stall.

The boiler has been replaced, the window replacement is due to start on 2 April, followed by the other small jobs.

The new look Memorial Hall is coming soon.

A date for your diaries, Saturday 2 June 2012, Big Band Swing Night in honour of our Queen's Jubilee, 2 course meal, (pie, pots and peas, plus dessert) glass of "fizz" on arrival. **Tickets are £15 each, and can be purchased from Anita 01634 221718, Mary 01634 255299, or Lynne 01634 222103, posters will be displayed in the villages, giving more detail.**

**At the Community Centre in Cliffe Woods,** the Community Association is continuing to improve the hall and is looking at holding the first of what is hoped to be an annual Cliffe Woods Village Fair (on Monday 4th June). The Social Club has been refurbished and now provides a much warmer welcome to all. As the local Pub for Cliffe Woods it means you can 'drink and walk'. Funds raised by the Social Club go towards the maintenance and improvement of the Community Centre. With the help and support of the local community further changes are planned.

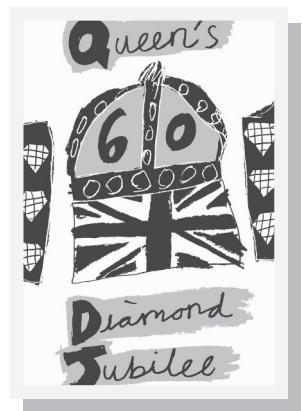
## A Year of Celebration

Planning is underway for a series of events over the Diamond Jubilee Weekend (Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 4th June (Bank Holidays on Monday and Tuesday).

Cliffe Memorial Hall will be holding the Big Band Swing Night on Saturday 2nd (see above), Sunday 3rd will see special events in and around St. Helen's Church. The Cliffe Fayre is moving to that day along with the Big Lunch and the London River Pageant will be shown on the big screen in the church.

Cliffe Woods are planning a Fair at the Community Centre, Parkside Car Park and Village Green on Monday 4th June. It is hoped this will become a regular annual event.

More details of these events will be available on the Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council WEB site and hopefully there will be a leaflet drop to all houses. Put the dates in your diary now. If you can help at any of the events contact the Parish Council, St. Helens, the Memorial Hall or Cliffe Woods Community Association.



## Youth Matters

The Youth Liaison Committee of the Parish Council have been discussing youth issues and are looking to arranging a series of Youth Club nights in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. The aim will be to discuss what they would like and get them more involved in decisions that affects them. Initially this will be a 3 month trial on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month in alternate village halls. We have contacted other agencies and they have indicated support for our plans. We are also trying to track down as much equipment from previous Youth Clubs to get us going. **If you know of any equipment that could be useful please contact the Parish Council.** Already some adults have offered to help out, although more are needed. 'Every little bit helps' contact the Parish Clerk if you can help out.

We would also like to form a Youth Parish Council with youth representatives from both villages, to influence decisions about their facilities and needs.

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ME8 9PN

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Calypso Café Dates  
9th March, 13th April, 11th May,  
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14th September, 12th October,  
9th November, 14th December

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12th June, 3rd July, 7th August,  
4th September, 2nd October,  
6th November, 4th December

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For more information please contact Sylvia Wolfson  
on 07557 111060, email [Sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:Sylvia.wolfson@alzheimers.org.uk)