

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council – June 2016

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Cllr. Bridget Veitch

At the May Parish Council Meeting my fellow councillors voted me back for a second year as Chairman. Thank you all for your confidence, and the support given to me throughout my first year.

As I write this, the end of May is cold and wet, and no doubt many of you have also put back on your heating. Hopefully true summer will arrive soon. Then we can enjoy the various summer events.

The first will be on the date of celebrations of the Queen's 90th Birthday. This is Sunday 12 June. There will be the annual Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Garden Safari. This allows you to visit 16 gardens, and appreciate the hard work and expertise of our resident gardeners. On the same day, there will be a tea party on the Jubilee Field in Sissinghurst, so there is no excuse for staying at home. Come and enjoy yourselves.

The next weekend, on Sunday 19 June, is Cranbrook's annual Fun Day. This is held on Rammel Field, and is started by a procession down the High Street, along Stone Street, and up The Hill. There are always many stalls, shows and things to do. Come and enjoy yourselves.

Sunday 26 June is the Armed Forces Day Service in St Dunstan's church at 9.30am, commemorating the centenaries of the battles of the Somme and Jutland.

We had the loan postal survey in April. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and distribute the envelopes, and to those of you who responded. The outcome was that 1038 envelopes were returned, representing 39% response rate. The votes were:

Yes 454, No 574, Spoilt 10. The majority of respondents were against the raising of the precept to pay for a loan for the construction of the Community Centre. We are therefore discussing fundraising options with professional fundraisers.

The planning application for the Cranbrook Engineering site and Wilkes Field have been submitted to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, and the details are now available on their website.

We still do not have formal notification of the date of change for the rota for the Civic Amenity vehicle (Refuse Lorry). This is now likely to happen in July.

I would like to remind you that all our Parish Council meetings, and the Committee meetings, are documented, and the minutes are available on the Parish Council's website. At the April meeting Mark Stevenson Senior Conservation Architect, TWBC, provided much information on the Providence Chapel. At the April Annual Meeting Jane Lynch, Head of Planning, TWBC, talked about the Gladman's appeal decision. The May meeting discussed the Brick Kiln Farm planning application.

These meetings were well attended by the public, who were given the opportunity to express their views.

Cllr Rook represented the Parish Council on a visit to Ilkley, where he unveiled a plaque recording the fact that the tune used for the well-known Ilkely Moor song is called Cranbrook.

Meanwhile, enjoy the strawberries and the short season of asparagus, and hopefully enjoy sunshine and the summer. Don't forget to visit our lovely museum and windmill.

POLICY & RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT:

Chairman Cllr. Peter Goodchild

Here we all are in the midst of decisions, decisions and yet more decisions. One difficulty is this... we are all invited to take part in decisions and then we find we are disappointed because the final decision doesn't always go the way we chose! "Ah, what's the point!?" we say in exasperation, trying not to be too bothered by the hype and jubilation from the opposite bench! Or again, in trying to push through with a vision, buckets of cold water are poured all over our hope-filled plans! Now please don't get upset at my thoughts today, because I am not about to wax eloquent on the issues that have concerned many of us over recent months... such as THE Referendum, Our 'loan survey', the issue of housebuilding in Sissinghurst and in Cranbrook, and of course the hope of The Community Centre rising from the centre of Cranbrook! (Yes, there are 5 more)

Just as an aside to my writings... one of the roles of this committee is to promote the valuable role of the Parish Council, and that is something we are currently addressing seriously. So please be encouraged by that and know that we welcome your humble contributions. (Thanks sincerely to those of you who offer them!)

Now back to my opening theme... There is an important document entitled: "Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council Standing Orders" which is concerned largely with the "How to" of running a parish council. A page of this recently took my attention, so let me share its treasure as it is SO relevant to how and why we work for the good of the whole. We are here to serve one another so that everyone can be helped to make this such a great place to BE! So here's a precis of the official 'recipe'.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

We (your councillors) are committed to behaving in a manner consistent with the following principles, and listed with the briefest of descriptions. (Please do challenge us if you see signs of these lacking in me or others here serving you)

SELFLESSNESS – never acting in ways to gain personal benefit either financially or materially.

INTEGRITY – Now here’s an interesting one! To never compromise one’s position of trust by placing oneself under obligation from outside persons or organisations trying to influence. We should value our colleagues and staff with full respect and honour recognising one another’s responsibilities. Integrity, simply put, is the quality of being completely honest on the inside and on the outside!

OBJECTIVITY – Dealing with all people impartiality and with fairness. It is championing the needs of the whole community, with the whole community in mind.

ACCOUNTABILITY – To be always accountable to the public for decisions and actions being mindful of your office. You are working for the whole, you are not *in* a hole! (despite the haranguing of perennial complainers.)

OPENNESS – Openness and transparency in all decisions and actions, giving reasons for your decisions unless the law demands otherwise.

HONESTY – We have a duty to declare interests relating to public duties, always protecting the public interests. ”I solemnly undertake to always tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God!” Dishonesty is sometimes quipped as ‘being economic with the truth’. Apologies to accountants among us!

LEADERSHIP - We champion the interests of the community by our leadership and example of the previous six qualities! It will be very helpful to remember the words of the greatest leader that has ever lived, when he said: “I am among you as one who serves... If you want to be great, learn to be the servant of all.” If these qualities are lacking, you will soon see the rotten apple that needs to be removed from the otherwise pleasant dish on the table☺ So, don’t just tell us... show us how to live them, Thanks!

BURIAL GROUNDS AND PROPERTIES:
Chairman Cllr. Brian Clifford

FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN CRANBROOK AND SISSINGHURST

In the knowledge that our Parish Council Cemeteries and Properties are in good order, we now have the opportunity to make you aware of some of the services that our committee, through The Clerk, are available to Cranbrook and Sissinghurst residents and others who might want to share what we can offer.

Under the management of the Parish Council, on offer are meeting and social activities areas. **The Vestry Hall** which was built in 1859 from the proceeds of the sale of stock from Sissinghurst Castle Farm and is available for hire. It provides kitchen facilities and tables and chairs and has a very high ceiling. The Vestry Hall can be hired from 8.a.m. until 11.45pm but is not available on Sundays.

The Balcony in the Vestry Hall is also available but is not suitable for children.

Once the Parish Council offices, the **Council Chamber** was built in 1906 over the flat roof between the Hall and Caretaker's Cottage. This Chamber has a large central table around which 12 people can easily sit – it's ideal for committee meetings. The entrance to the Council Chamber is alongside the St. Dunstan's Church cemetery.

For both the Vestry Hall and Council Chamber hire of crockery, cutlery and wine glasses is available. In the Vestry Hall a sound system is also available for hire.

When, once the Old Fire Station was converted into the Information Centre and Parish Council Offices two **Conference Rooms** were created, and these can be hired for use, enabling smaller groups to have confidential meetings. Whiteboards and a Flip Chart are available.

In the Parish, the Council manages two **Burial Cemeteries** on in Sissinghurst and the other on the Tenterden Road between Golford and Cranbrook town centre. At Cranbrook Cemetery there is also available a Non-Denominational Chapel. Very beautiful stained glass windows designed by local artist Louis Woodford have been much admired by visitors to the Chapel.

All bookings for the Parish facilities, properties and cemeteries are handled by the Clerk in the Parish Office. Terms and conditions and fees are available.

At the discretion of The Clerk, normal fees are charged for any person who, at the time of death, was not a parishioner, but who was living out of the parish for reasons of care. Our Clerk and Deputy Clerk will of course discuss any potential bookings with you, and visits to the Vestry Hall and Council Chamber are welcomed.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Chairman Cllr. Graham Holmes

Following the May Parish Council meeting, I am pleased to report that the committee now comprises Cllrs. Brian Clifford, Andy Fairweather, Matthew Hartley, Nancy Warne and myself. We will be holding our first meeting on the 21st June when we will be discussing our programme for the coming year.

I would like to draw your attention to an initiative that has been gaining momentum in recent weeks. Two public meetings were held in March and May to look at options that might be available to help promote the Town and surrounding areas. These meetings were a joint effort on the part of the Cranbrook Business Association and the Parish Council, the feedback for which suggested that there was considerable interest in taking the matter further. A group has now been formed to create an organisation through which businesses, charities, groups, clubs and residents can volunteer to collaborate to promote Cranbrook, Sissinghurst and its surrounding villages. The Council will be represented at future meetings in order to provide all the help that it can.

This seems a good opportunity to mention a number of forthcoming events in the community which will benefit from your support:

Cranbrook in Bloom Garden Safari on the 12th June

Cranbrook Family Fun Day on the 19th June

Cranbrook Literature Festival on the 30th September and 1st October

Looking further ahead, the Cranbrook Apple and Craft Fair takes place in October and the Cranbrook Traders are proposing to organise a Cranbrook Goes Crackers event just prior to Christmas.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:

Chairman Cllr. Francis Rook

This time my report is about the land that the Parish Council has stewardship.

These consist of The Allotments behind the houses in Oatfield Drive. It is a wonderful spot in the heart of Cranbrook with the fertile land yielding up a wealth of horticultural riches for those who persevere in cultivating the earth. There is a waiting list for plots and prospective tenants should get their names down in the parish office. After inspection this year we found the plots in very good order and those whose area is neglected will be getting a letter to enquire whether they wish to continue with its tenancy, so get your name down quickly to get on the waiting list and you might not have that long to wait.

The Ball Field is the area behind St. Dunstan's Church, it comprises of the small Ball Field with the swings on it and climbing frame etc. for the benefit of the under 14s. The roundabout is undergoing repairs and a new coat of paint. We would very much like to put new more up to date equipment there but the cost is horrendous. However I am going to put it on the agenda for the following meeting.

There is also the larger area with plenty of room to play football, rounders, or family picnics.

There is the annual ROSPA inspection of all the play equipment in July and I am sure we will get the usual clean bill of health (and safety).

Jockey Lane Car Park is in good order and like the Regal Car Park has flower beds and planters looked after by Cranbrook in Bloom. The Regal Car Park, on which we have a 20 year lease to prevent TWBC implementing charges for parking, is in good order with the recycling bins area being surprisingly tidy. There is an area in the centre that has had some paving slabs missing and we are after quotes to get them replaced, however it is difficult to find a contractor to tackle the job. The Tanyard Car Park is also in good order with very little litter although a tree stump seems to have fallen across the River Crane and needs a careful eye kept upon it. Thankfully it is not impeding the flow of water.

Finally we looked at the Crane Valley and apart from a bit of litter it was also in good order and now awaiting the members of The Kent High Weald Project who have through the Parish Council obtained a grant of about £10,000 to extend the board walk towards the steps from the car park and to redo the said steps which will make them more user friendly, plus also tackle the bridge made of railway sleepers and do the necessary repairs.

This may seem mundane but is the very necessary work of this Committee that keeps our town and environment in good order.

PLANNING & PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT:

Chairman Cllr. Alison Bunyan

Gladman Appeal

I would be surprised if you haven't heard the result of the appeal by Gladman for the 60/65 houses on the hop garden in Common Road, Sissinghurst. Unfortunately, they won. The inspector agreed with all the reasons for refusal but basically houses are needed and the Borough council does not have the 5 year supply – so that trumps everything else. Many people are angry with TWBC but as far as the appeal goes they certainly did their utmost to get the right result for Sissinghurst and as far as the housing numbers goes – it is very difficult for any Borough Council to keep up to date when planning policy and housing requirements change so rapidly. We hope that we will be able to influence what will be built and gain as much for Sissinghurst as possible. It will certainly change the feel of the village.

Brick Kiln Farm

In Cranbrook there is another even larger development planned. The site for about 250 homes is Brick Kiln Farm and Corn Hall Oast. The first application for the Brick Kiln site was lodged in March and at a very well attended full council meeting, the Parish Council recommended refusal. There were a lot of reasons – full details on the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council website/minutes.

The site was identified about 9 years ago as being suitable for development and it is highly likely that the Site Allocations Document will confirm this. It is due to be published any day now. Again we hope that we can influence the developers to design an excellent scheme for delivery to be built in phases over the next 10 years.

On the subject of new housing, the Borough is to start a new consultation to identify bits of land for building the next tranche of houses up to 2033. This consultation will be call Strategic Housing and Employment Land Assessment – (SHELA). We have not been notified of the start date of the consultation as yet. If it follows the same pattern as the previous one, people will be invited to identify areas of land belonging to themselves or anyone else for inclusion in the assessment – we will try to keep you informed.

MORE PARISH NEWS



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

Do your mealtimes feel like a juggling act?

Mealtimes can be a busy time for families and often residents find themselves trying to juggle many other tasks while trying to cook for everyone.

Whether it's trying to get the kids organised or catching up with household chores, it is tempting to try to fit in other pressing jobs while waiting for food to cook.

There are many of other distractions that can cause you to take your eye off of your cooking: maybe the phone ringing or a text message or even a knock at the door.

Or maybe taking a few moments to catch the end of a favourite TV programme or to check your social media newsfeed or helping with homework... whatever the activity, you can be sure that it is preventing you from concentrating fully on your cooking.

In a hectic home it's easy to get diverted for longer than you intended, and even forget all about your cooking. For most of the time, the worst that may happen is that you burn the dinner, causing a bit of an inconvenience. But sadly, as Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) knows only too well, unattended cooking can lead to a serious fire, that could result in severe damage to your home and may put you, and your family, at risk.

Unfortunately, over half of all the fires KFRS attends start in the kitchen and the majority are caused by unattended cooking, a build up of grease and fat on the cooker, or by kitchen mishaps, where items such as tea towels, chopping boards or washing baskets have been placed on a hot hob.

By taking a few moments to work out what is coming between you and a fire safe mealtime, you can avoid a fire of this type happening in your home.

Make fire safety your main ingredient and help prevent a kitchen fire in your home by following these tips:

- Keep an eye on your cooking and remember to switch off your cooker if you have to leave the room
- Use a timer for items placed in your oven or grill to remind when your food is done and to save it from burning
- Plan and prepare - if you know you have a busy week ahead, try and plan in advance and prepare meals that do not require lots of cooking
- Avoid storing or placing household items on your cooker or stove
- Keep your cooker, grill and oven clean to avoid a build up of grease and fat that could start a fire
- Keep children and pets well away from you cooking area
- Ensure electric cookers, toasters and microwaves are turned off at the mains when you have finished using them
- Fit a working [smoke alarm](#) on each floor of your home and test it weekly to ensure it provides early warning in the event of a fire.

For further fire safety advice visit www.kent.fire-uk.org/cooking or call 0800 923 7000.

Golford Chapel will be open on the following days from 10.00am to 4.00pm:

Every Wednesday through to the last Wednesday in September – 24th



+

Fathers Day – 19th June
Armed Forces Day 25th June

**For private openings please contact the Clerk,
 who will be happy to arrange this for you.**

New non-emergency number

From **14 November** call **101** to:

- report non-urgent crime
- speak to your local officer
- make an enquiry

101 is available
24 hours a day,
seven days a week.
Each call will never
cost more than 15p,
even from mobiles.



Need immediate help?

If life is in danger or crime is in progress call **999**.

If Deaf or speech impaired text '**Police**' and your message to **60066**.

For more information on **101** visit www.kent.police.uk/101



Protecting and serving
the people of Kent

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL/KENT COUNTY CONSTABULARY
RURAL PARTNERSHIP

Emergency Services – Police, Fire & Ambulance Service – 999 (or 101)

For calls where Life and Property are in danger. When a crime is being committed.
When there is a Road Traffic Collision and there is serious injury.

Crime Stoppers- 0800 555111

If you have any information about any crime. Calls are free and totally anonymous
and you could be eligible for an award.

Police Community Support Officer – PCSO Lee Jules

Mobile 07772226048

KCC Community Warden

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst – Adam Osbourn – Mobile 07813695741

Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-Ordinator – 01622 604395

For information on setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme please contact
Jacqui Blake on the above number



Introducing a better quality transport service

A new and improved patient transport service is being launched across Kent and Medway on 1 July 2016. Tough new measures to raise standards are being introduced, with greater emphasis on customer care and getting patients home from hospital promptly.

The new service is provided by G4S which is taking over from NSL whose contract expires on 30 June.

G4S's performance will be measured against a Patient Charter, developed by people who use patient transport services in Kent and Medway. There are tighter timescale targets for collecting and dropping off patients before and after their appointments or when going home after an inpatient stay.

The bookings line is a freephone number open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

G4S will start taking and making calls from 20 June (two weeks before the handover date) for appointments from 1 July onwards.

Until **30 June**, the bookings line number will remain **08432 241 888**.

From **1 July**, the bookings line number will be **0800 096 0211**.

All bookings made with NSL for dates from 1 July onwards will be transferred to G4S and patients will receive a telephone call to personally reassure them of this.

The criteria for eligibility for patient transport services are not changing – these are set nationally.

Hospital staff are being trained on the online system used by G4S which enables them to track patients' bookings in real-time, so they can update patients if there is any delay.

The procurement and mobilisation was led by NHS West Kent CCG, which has worked intensively over many months with both organisations, all NHS trusts and all other CCGs in Kent and Medway to ensure a smooth handover for patients.

The patient transport service provides free transport for people whose medical condition means they cannot get to or from their place of care (a hospital, hospice or clinic) in any other way. Eligible patients can book transport to get them to and from outpatient and inpatient appointments.

For further information about the new patient transport service in Kent and Medway, including a leaflet, poster and feedback form, please visit www.km-pts.co.uk

The Millionaires Squadron – Cllr.Graham Holmes

The September sun was setting over the picturesque Wealden landscape, life was beginning to return to a semblance of normality in spite of the daily struggle that took place in the skies overhead. However, for some the day had been quite different. For the pilots of RAF Fighter Command there had been their daily brush with death and for some it would be the last time they saw that green and pleasant land for which they had been fighting. For the enemy, the sensations would have been similar save for some for whom captivity would be the outcome. For the occupants of a cottage in Matfield, there remained the matter of what was left of a Hawker Hurricane that had deposited itself in their rear garden. This then was the situation in a corner of Kent on the evening of the 6th September 1940.

Away at the Headquarters of RAF No.11 Group, responsible for defending the skies over the south east, it was time to do some arithmetic. With some reports still to come in, it was calculated that the enemy had lost 44 aircraft destroyed whilst the Royal Air Force had lost 22 with 7 pilots killed or missing. Claims of enemy aircraft destroyed were always somewhat exaggerated and the totals were subsequently changed to 35 destroyed. Fighter Command could easily replace lost aircraft, but not so its pilots.

The day had begun with the promise of fine weather, a little cooler than usual with patches of haze in the Straits of Dover and the Thames Estuary. Those in charge of Fighter Command knew that with such good conditions, the enemy would be looking for a maximum effort, but the difficulty lay in predicting the main targets. Since the opening shots were fired in the Battle of Britain in July, the Luftwaffe had concentrated most of its major bombing efforts on the airfields of the south and south east with the intention of reducing the capacity of Fighter Command to defend the area. The bombers were accompanied by swarms of fighters whose principle task was to escort the bombers and engage Fighter Command as it rose to confront the threat. The Luftwaffe's objective was to remove Fighter Command from the area and create air superiority and thus pave the way for an invasion of the British Isles.

Those tasked with watching the skies for the enemy, the Royal Observer Corps and the men and women manning the south coast radar stations were already in position. The chief of No.11 Group, Air Vice Marshall Keith Park, had to use his intuition to decide where that days attacks would fall and he decided that, on the balance of probabilities, in addition to the airfields, the Luftwaffe's main effort would be against the aero industry factories around Weybridge and Brooklands. He also considered the possibility of other industrial targets along the Thames Estuary. Messages were therefore sent to a number of airfields in both No's 10 and 11 Groups to come to immediate readiness.

The first “blips” began to show on radar screens at around 8.00am and the initial incoming raid was plotted as it approached the coast. It was estimated that there were some 300 enemy aircraft involved. It was impossible to be precise about the targets at this stage, but Park issued the order to “scramble” a number of squadrons to patrol certain areas and intercept the incoming raid. One of the squadrons to receive the order was No.601 at Tangmere in West Sussex and they were tasked with patrolling an area over Mayfield.

No.601, County of London Squadron had the dubious distinction of being dubbed the “Millionaires Squadron”, as a result of its historical background. It had originally been formed at RAF Northolt on the 14th October 1925 after a group of wealthy aristocratic young men decided, following a meeting at White’s Club in London, to create a reserve squadron. The officers were handpicked in a somewhat unconventional fashion by its first commanding officer, Lord Edward Grosvenor, and involved assessing an individual’s behaviour after consuming large quantities of alcohol. Candidates were expected to continue to conduct themselves like gentlemen despite being inebriated. Those selected went on to dismiss the strict discipline of the regular air force and tended to favour flying jackets with red silk lining and blue ties in place of the regulation black. What they lacked in discipline they made up for in courage and tenacity when war came. Gradually, however, the wartime losses and the need for pilots saw changes in both selection and personnel although the squadron still attracted a diversity of individuals.

Two such pilots racing out to their waiting Hurricanes that morning were Flt.Lt. Carl Davis and Pilot Officer Juliusz Topolnicki. Davis was born in South Africa of American parents and had been educated in England, becoming a British citizen in 1932. He joined 601 Squadron and was commissioned in August 1936. By September 1940 he had shot down six enemy aircraft and had acquired the Distinguished Flying Cross. Topolnicki was Polish and arrived in England in late 1939 and was commissioned into the Volunteer Reserve at RAF Eastchurch in June 1940. Altogether 11 aircraft from 601 took off at about 9.10am from Tangmere and were ordered to climb to 15,000ft and head east to meet the incoming raid. Eventually some 50 Messerschmidt Me109E’s were sighted ahead at 20,000ft in sections of 4 or 5 aircraft, having already been engaged by other fighters. At the controls of one of those Me109’s was Leutnant Max Himmelheber who, that day, was flying with the 1st Gruppe of Jagdegeschwader 2. Himmelheber was the Gruppen Adjutant and usually flew with the staff flight but for some reason he had gone with the 1st Gruppe. Perhaps there had been a shortage of pilots or he simply needed a change from his administrative duties! Meanwhile, Pilot Officer Topolnicki had selected two 109’s and broke away to engage them from astern. Firing at the nearest enemy aircraft he noted hits that brought forth a stream of black smoke, but he was injured by splinters from his victim’s aircraft and was unable to see what became of it. Recovering he turned his attention to the other 109 and fired some short bursts at point blank range causing the pilot to put his aircraft into a vertical climb, prior to baling out.

The Merlin engine of Topolnicki's Hurricane was giving him trouble so he decided to return to Tangmere, but almost immediately his aircraft was hit and went out of control causing Topolnicki to take to his parachute. He eventually landed on the top of a tree at Plum Tree Farm, Staplehurst from where he was transferred to the Leeds Castle Hospital. By strange coincidence his name is taken from the Polish word, topola, meaning poplar – as in the tree of the same name!

One of the Messerschmidt's shot down by Topolnicki was that flown by Lt. Max Himmelheber. After the war he recalled that his unit, "got involved in an air battle with British fighters. I received a hit in the radiator of my aircraft so that the engine was not able to work. I found myself at 10,000m and attempted to glide to one of our Red Cross boats in the Channel and then bale out. Approaching the coast, I flew over at about 2,000m, a military airfield and was attacked by two Hurricane's which caused me to bale out. I landed in a meadow and I was badly wounded, I was taken to a civilian hospital in the small town of Maidstone and then I was operated on. After a week I was taken to a military hospital in Woolwich".

Meanwhile, Flt. Lt. Carl Davis, the 609 Squadron ace had finally met his match and was shot down and killed. His Hurricane crashed in the garden of Canterbury Cottage in Matfield at about 9.30am. Later, following the removal of Davis' remains, the owner of the cottage charged curious locals sixpence to gain access to the garden and view the wreck, with the proceeds of several pounds being donated to the Spitfire Fund.

It had not been a good morning for 601 Squadron. Four of its Hurricane's failed to return to Tangmere and two of its pilots, Flt. Lt. Davis and Ft. Lt. Willie Rhoades-Moorhouse, had been killed. Despite the losses Fighter Command had done its job. Keith Park had correctly guessed the Luftwaffe targets in the morning raid and he had patrols operating in all the right places. A further attack in the early evening was met with equal tenacity and the overall bombing results were poor so far as the Luftwaffe were concerned. That night Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering gave a banquet for his air fleet commanders and announced that he would be taking personal command of the battle and would settle for nothing less than total victory. The next day, the 7th September saw the Luftwaffe change tactics and begin the blitz on London, thus sparing the vital airfields of Fighter Command. A mistake of huge historical significance.

Sadly, Pilot Officer Juliusz Topolnicki was killed in a flying accident near Exeter on the 21st September 1940 and is buried at Exeter Higher Cemetery. His squadron colleague, Flt. Lt. Carl Davis DFC is buried at St. Mary's Churchyard, Storrington, Sussex, close to the family home.

THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FROM THE CLERK:

I have been heartened lately by how smart our parish is looking. I am always banging on about litter and people not picking up after their dogs. I am starting to see improvements and I think that our community is taking more pride in our surroundings. I hope this continues.

There are a lot of people in our community who beaver away to enhance our surroundings, all the volunteers who do not always get the thanks they deserve. Two ladies (you know who you are) have been on their hands and knees outside the Parish Office taking the weeds out of the flagstones. Thank you. There are a lot of residents who regularly pick up litter. Thank you. Cranbrook in Bloom and Sissinghurst Flower Show Society – all the flowers and troughs. Thank you. All those people who organise or help out at events. Thank you.

We have a wealth of tourist attractions around the Weald. We are already seeing tourists who come specifically to see garden attractions and come into the office to pick up brochures of those local to us. They also then are guided towards our lovely Museum and Windmill. Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to enable these venues to be enjoyed by both local people and tourists.

The English summer is here, sometimes anyway! I hope we get good spells of sunshine for everyone to get out to enjoy the many lovely walks around the parish. We still have packs of walks which you can collect from the office and they are still free! Another facility which is free is the recreation grounds in both Cranbrook and Sissinghurst as mentioned in the report by Cllr. Rook. It is great when families can have a picnic and the children can run round and let off steam.

Clerk: Mrs. Coral Kirkaldie
Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Lori Ham

Newsletter Published by Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council
The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook,
Kent TN17 3HF
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www.cranbrookandsissinghurstpc.co.uk'