

A photograph of a forest path. The path is a narrow, dirt trail that winds through a dense forest. It is flanked on both sides by a thick carpet of small, vibrant blue flowers, likely bluebells. The trees are tall and slender, with their trunks leaning slightly. The canopy is thick with green leaves, and sunlight filters through in dappled patterns. In the foreground, a fallen log lies across the path, and a tree stump is visible on the right side.

Detling Parish Council

Annual Report 2011-12

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

May 2011 to May 2012

Geoffrey Cosgrove
Elected 2000

Chairman 2001 to present
Highways,

John Clayton
Elected 2003

Resigned Nov 2011

Michael Denny
Co-Opted 2008

Neighbourhood Watch

Mark Housden
Elected 2003

Vice – Chairman
Finance, Village Youth, Planning Committee

Janice Kennard
Elected 2003

Grants

Irene Bowie
Co-Opted 2011

Vice – Chairman

Simon Norcott
Co-Opted 2011

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Sherrie Babington 01634 - 867173
www.detlingparish.co.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Hugh Robertson MP

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR

Cllr Jenny Whittle

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Cllr Nick de Wiggondene

COMMUNITY POLICE

PSCO Quentin Moss

LOCAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Richard Cronin

SOLICITORS

Gulland & Gulland, Maidstone

BANKERS

Co-Operative

AUDITORS

Audit Commission

INSURANCE

Allianz Cornhill Insurance

Photographs: Jenny Cosgrove

Front cover: Amber Wood, off Broader Lane
Back cover: View from Monk's Meadow to Jade's Crossing

FOREWORD

This is our eleventh publication and it is hoped that this Annual Report helps the village keep in touch with all that has gone on throughout the year.

Over the past year the Parish has, like many others come under increasing pressure to save money and keep its cost down. We are very aware that we are dealing with public money and are keen not to waste any of it. We are going to lose our concurrent functions grant from Maidstone Borough and so we have put in place a 5 year budget to allow for this. One of the consequences is that this report is being published on our web site for the first time, with only limited copies available on request.

We had a few changes on the Parish Council last year. In September we welcomed Simon Norcott and a few months later we were disappointed to have to accept the resignation of John Clayton, who was working away from Detling. John had been on the Parish Council for over eight years and in that time had made a significant contribution to the Parish with his experience and local knowledge. In February we welcomed Irene Bowie.

In March our local correspondent for the Kent Messenger Richard Cronin left to go round the world and in his place Jenny Cosgrove stepped in to provide this valuable local service. We also welcomed our new PCSO Quentin Moss.

We were very pleased to be able to honour Mrs Gill Humfrey with the Villager of the Year award for her work to the community.

We held a competition to give our newly acquired land behind Hockers Lane a name and the winner and the new name for this field is 'Monk's Meadow' in honour of the excellent work and many hours of voluntary work put in to this field and Horish Wood by John Monk. We now have some bench seats so local visitors can sit and enjoy the views and wild flowers that have now established themselves.

One of our concerns in early 2012 was with South East Water, who were looking to renew and enlarge the water main right through the middle of Horish Wood. We attended several meetings and a route has been found with only one tree being felled and a few others to be trimmed. This work should be carried out in late 2012 or 2013.

In view of the current difficulty in the local economy the Parish started a Youth Initiative, using the skills and experience of local people to help those just starting out in the very tough jobs market and this is being supported and encouraged by Councillor Jenny Whittle.

It is good to see the re-modelled junction of The Street and Hockers Lane being used and so far it all seems to be working well and having an impact on traffic speeds at that location.

Following the success of the Joint Parishes Group in defeating the KIG planning proposal near Junction 8 Detling continues to play a key role in this group which is now focussed on representing the community interests in the Maidstone's Core Strategy.

We supported the KCC's faster broadband initiative and were pleased when much faster speeds were introduced into the village in April. We are still pushing to get the whole parish covered with this faster internet access.

A parish initiative was started to help the parish youth with a work scheme, where we utilised the experience of the parish councillors in coaching and training the village youngsters in getting their first jobs. We are fully supported by KCC in this and hope to see some early success.

LIST OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| FOREWORD | 3 |
| THE PARISH COUNCIL | 5 |
| Population of Detling | 6 |
| Quality Parish Council | 6 |
| VILLAGER OF THE YEAR | 6 |
| Parish Chairmen | 8 |
| PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES | 8 |
| Planning | 8 |
| Web Site | 8 |
| THE VILLAGE HALL | 9 |
| PARTNERSHIPS | 9 |
| Hugh Robertson MP | 10 |
| Councillor Jenny Whittle Our County Councillor | 10 |
| Councillor Nick De Wiggondene Our Borough Councillor | 11 |
| PARISH OPEN SPACES | 12 |
| Horish Wood | 12 |
| Monk's Meadow | 12 |
| Scragged Oak Viewpoint | 12 |
| PARISH ORGANISATIONS | 13 |
| Detling Short Mat Bowls Club | 13 |
| The Detling Singers | 13 |
| Detling Church | 14 |
| Friends Of Detling Church | 15 |
| The Detling Companions | 15 |
| The Detling Society | 16 |
| The Women's Institute | 16 |
| FINANCIAL MATTERS | 17 |

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Established: 1884

The Detling Parish Council represents an electorate of 610 people on the electoral roll living in 310 houses. This is a drop of 45 people over an 8 year period.

The Parish is 6.16km long and varies between 250m to 1.42km wide, extending from the M20 through the village over the North Downs Scarp, roughly centring on Scragged Oak Road and extending towards the M2 in the north.

Detling is bordered to the South and West by Boxley Parish, to the East by Thurnham and the North by Stockbury and Bredhurst Parishes.

The Parish Council is composed of seven councillors. Elections are held every four years with the next election being held in May 2011. We meet in the Committee Room of the Detling Village Hall at 7.15pm on the first Tuesday of each month except January and August. Additionally, our AGM and Annual meeting with the Parish are held around the third week in May.

All meetings are open to the public and press. The council have benefited from a good level of support and attendance over the year.

Since the last election in 2011, there have been 11 Council meetings; the overall attendance rate of each councillor has been recorded as:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Geoff Cosgrove | 7 Meetings |
| John Clayton | 0 Meetings (Out of 6 Meetings) |
| Mike Denny | 9 Meetings |
| Chris Evernden | 11 Meetings |
| Mark Housden | 9 Meetings |
| Janice Kennard | 10 Meetings |
| Irene Bowie | 3 Meetings (Out of 3 Meetings) |
| Simon Norcott | 3 Meetings (Out of 8 Meetings) |

Over the past year, this gives an average attendance rate of 72% to each meeting, a decrease from 79% over the previous year.

The Parish has a permanent Planning Committee, which meets at 7pm, prior to each main Council meeting.

The Council is an equal opportunities employer with one part-time employee, our Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington. Sherrie has now been in the post since June 1998, working from home on behalf of the Parish. We share her services with the Parishes of Thurnham, Hoo and Leeds.

The Parish also benefits from the regular reporting of one of Kent Messenger's local correspondents; Richard Cronin, who keeps the village in the news on a weekly basis.

The Council has in place the following Policies and Procedures, in accordance with its Standing Orders, which are revised on a regular basis.

Equal Opportunities
Disability Policy
Financial Risk Assessment

Code of Conduct
Complaints Procedure
Parish Elections

Population of Detling

| Year | Population | Male | Female |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1801 | 253 | 126 | 127 |
| 1811 | 281 | 136 | 145 |
| 1821 | 321 | 166 | 155 |
| 1831 | 372 | 204 | 168 |
| 1841 | 318 | 179 | 139 |
| 1851 | 353 | 185 | 168 |
| 1861 | 344 | 162 | 182 |
| 1871 | 319 | 156 | 163 |
| 1881 | 336 | 161 | 175 |
| 1891 | 331 | 161 | 170 |
| 1901 | 289 | 136 | 153 |
| 1911 | 270 | 129 | 141 |
| 1921 | 281 | 132 | 149 |
| 1931 | 252 | 116 | 136 |
| 1941 | No Census owing to World War II | | |
| 1951 | 596 | 289 | 307 |
| 1961 | 748 | 373 | 375 |
| 1971 | 712 | 367 | 345 |
| 1981 | 792 | 405 | 387 |
| 1991 | 781 | 399 | 382 |
| 2001 | 777 | 380 | 397 |
| 2011 | | | |

With thanks to ONS
Geography, National Statistics

Quality Parish Council

Awarded: 2008 - 2011

Detling Parish Council was awarded the prestigious Quality Council Status in September 2008. Achieving Quality Status demonstrates that the Council meets certain standards expected from an effective, representative and active Parish Council.

The Parish Council were supposed to re-apply for this special status after the last election in 2011.

However, in this present economic climate it was felt that as there were no actual or perceived benefits from having this status in the eyes of Maidstone Borough Council then it would be a waste of money re-applying and so has been dropped.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Established: 2005

The Parish Council presented the community award for a person from Detling, who has made a significant contribution towards the life of the village.

We were pleased that Mrs Gill Humfrey was nominated and the Parish Council was extremely pleased to recommend this award in recognition of her voluntary help within the community.

David Humphrey volunteered to create the superb illuminated presentation certificate and the presentation was made by Sir Richard Alexander, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee at the village's annual Christmas Fayre on the 3rd December 2011.

The citation read:

"This year the Parish Council was pleased to award Mrs Gill Humfrey, Villager of the Year for 2011.

Gill has made a significant contribution to the Village in many ways over the past year and has been doing so for many years previously.

But first a bit about Gill, back in 1987 she formed the Detling Heart of Kent Hospice to help raise funds towards the actual building of our local hospice, this entailed thinking of and organising all sorts of entertaining events. These were well run and thereby well attended. This village organisation ended about 6 years ago but Gill still continues to raise money "unofficially" for this very worthwhile cause.

Gill also ran the over 50s club for many years and has continued since it was reformed as the "Detling Companions", an invaluable sociable quarterly tea party with entertainment in the Village Hall. She also organises fortnightly coffee mornings at the church and this is such an important event, now that the village shop and post office have closed and there is now nowhere for people to meet and chat.

She also quietly and tactfully runs the "Pastoral Committee" for the church, which keeps an eye on the villages housebound, bereaved and ill. With admirable support from her husband David she organises lifts, runs errands, does shopping and tries to help wherever there is a need.

Gill also serves on the Parochial Church Council and has done so for many years, now reliably and efficiently undertaking the role of secretary. Again with the full support of David she organises the church's cleaning rota and as a gifted flower arranger decorates the pulpit beautifully at every festival throughout the year.

It's a shame that we can't have joint winners for this award; as David would equally deserve, for his unstinting and loyal support. In fact it is David's skill and effort that produces these excellent presentations that would look good in any home.

But, we haven't finished with Gill, she is the first to lend a hand with work around the village, she is a wonderful cook and willingly helps with the homemade teas at the church and ceaselessly gives support to fundraising events and charities around the village.

We are sure there is other work Gill does for the village, which we are not aware of or have not mentioned here; such as her voluntary time and effort helping on the Village Hall Management Committee, but overall we feel she has made a significant contribution to Detling and so the Parish Council is very pleased to recognise her efforts, which so deserves our appreciation at this time. Such a busy life unselfishly helping others deserves a big "Thank you" from a grateful village."

For this coming year, 2012 we will be pleased to receive nominations by September.

Past recipients of this award have been:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|---|
| Mrs Gill Humfrey | 2011 | Presented by: Sir Richard Alexander Bt |
| Mrs Tikki Gulland | 2010 | Presented by: Mr John Clayton |
| Mr John Monk | 2009 | Presented by: Mr Geoff Cosgrove TD |
| Mrs Margaret Cooke | 2008 | Presented by: Mike Tamsett MBE |
| Mrs Leslie Savage | 2007 | Presented by: Reverend Elizabeth Attawell |
| Mrs Thelma Ford | 2006 | Presented by: Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart CBE |
| Mrs Pat Follett | 2005 | Presented by: Mr Geoff Cosgrove TD |

Parish Chairmen

| Term of Office | Years in Office | Chairman |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1884 - 1899 | 15 | W F Mercer |
| 1899 - 1904 | 5 | J N Badcock |
| 1904 - 1913 | 9 | R Cooke |
| 1913 - 1927 | 14 | W J Naylor |
| 1927 - 1931 | 4 | Charles Brown |
| 1931 - 1946 | 15 | F Croft |
| 1946 - 1968 | 22 | A Hooker |
| 1968 - 1973 | 5 | Stanley E Rowe |
| 1973 - 1988 | 15 | Norman Bingham |
| 1988 - 1992 | 4 | Alan G Cooke |
| 1992 – 2001 | 9 | Gavin McLaggan |
| 2001 - 2012 | 11 | Geoff Cosgrove |

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Planning

Mark Housden, Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Parish Council was consulted on 20 Planning Applications this year.

The Council made objections to 8 of the Planning Applications, concerning the following sites:-

Web Site

Contact: Parish Clerk

Established: 2005

www.detlingparish.co.uk

The Parish Councils website is now fully operational and holds valuable information for the parishioners of Detling.

All village organisations are invited to contribute to this site, for further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 01634 867173 or email detlingparishcouncil@sherriebabington.co.uk.

THE VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No. 269784

Contact: Sir Richard Alexander Bt

Established: 1976

01622 - 858361

This year has seen the effects of the economic situation in that a number of regular hirers have had to, regrettably, either cancel or seriously curtail their bookings. It will be appreciated that this has meant, for the Hall, a static income which obviously restricts the amount of improvements which we can make to the facilities which we are able to offer to hirers.

We have, however, been able to make one improvement - the installation of much better quality audio equipment with new speakers, microphones and the ability to play CDs. Further improvements, including to the structure of the building, are either in hand or being planned.

However, it is pleasing to report that a full rolling programme of maintenance has been carried out by our Caretaker, Penny Day, ably assisted by her husband. For this we are very grateful and extend our thanks to them. The employment of Mrs Day has proven a boon to the Hall in many ways, not least in that the carpet in the Meeting Room was giving real cause for concern, but it is now regularly cleaned and does need outside contractors to apply heavy cleaning. The Hall, in spite of reduced bookings, continues to be enjoyed by Hirers and they appreciate the facilities that we are able to offer. There have been no serious problems this year with the majority of Hirers leaving the Hall in a good condition.

We have had to say goodbye to some Committee Members this year, but welcomed others to take their place and we know they will be an asset to the running of the Hall.

As ever, the Christmas Fair proved a success and, under the very able management of Penny Day, raised a very respectable sum towards our maintenance costs.

Again, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support during the year.

PARTNERSHIPS

During the course of the year the Parish Council has been very pro-active in its liaison with external authorities and bodies.

Kent County Council
Maidstone Borough Council
Kent Association of Local Councils

Kent County Showground
English Nature
British Trust of Conservation Volunteers

The Maidstone Police
Maidstone Area Mobile Library
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

Kent Wildlife Trust
Action Communities in Rural Kent
Kent Men of Trees

Of our more regular contacts and partnerships we maintain close working relationships with our Member of Parliament Hugh Robertson MP and Maidstone Borough Councillor Nick de Wiggondene.

The year 2011/2012 has been, for me, quiet easily the busiest since I entered Parliament a decade ago. As Minister for Sport and the Olympics, I have day to day responsibility for the London 2012 Olympic Games. This is the world's largest sports event and it comes to London for the third time, after 1908 and 1948, later this summer.

I hope that as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to enjoy this remarkable event. The demand for tickets has been extraordinary but there are many other ways to join in the celebration. The Olympic torch comes to Maidstone, over-nighting at Leeds Castle on 19th July and there will be events at both the Castle and Mote Park. There are a number of events such as the cycling road race, the marathon, the triathlon and most of the Cultural Olympics that are free to view. Finally there are still tickets available for the Paralympics, including admission passes for the Olympic Park.

Following on from the Jubilee, the summer of 2012 promises to be a memorable one for the country. I hope that you all get the opportunity to enjoy as much of it as possible - whether in person, in the community or on television.

Councillor Jenny Whittle Our County Councillor Elected: 2009 01622-734897

It has been an extremely busy year, representing 13,000 residents across 15 parishes and being responsible for one of the largest children's social services departments in the country. The bulk of the enquiries I receive from residents relate to appeals for school admissions and transport, road repairs, requests for salt bins and support for adult social care packages. I do my best to help every resident who seeks my help and this report outlines what I have been doing and am involved in locally to support residents and businesses.

At the request of the Parish Council, I have funded a scheme at the top of **Hockers Lane** from my Member Highway Fund (a £25,000 annual allocation for highways schemes in each electoral division) to deter vehicles from using this route as a "rat-run" to other destinations. The ugly amico barrier will be removed shortly by Kent Highways. At the request of local residents and Detling and Thurnham Parish Councils, I am also going to allocate some of this fund to paint yellow lines in an appropriate spot at the bottom end of Hockers Lane to deter vehicles parking and creating an obstacle on the road. I have also funded salt bins in Whitehill Road.

I have worked with Kent Highways to deliver a dramatic improvement in gritting and snow clearance for the parishes I represent – but I am always open to suggestions of reviewing the operation! Kent's 60 salting lorries worked around the clock to keep main routes open and I hope that residents agree that the response has vastly improved.

I voted with my Conservative Councillor colleagues to freeze Kent County Council's Council Tax charge for the second year running for 2012-13. This is much needed during a very difficult financial climate - and against a context of reducing government grant, increasing demand and around £350m savings to be found over a four year period.

We will shortly be launching a Kent Jobs for Kent Young People Fund to provide apprenticeship opportunities for school and college leavers and graduates. It is a tragedy that so many young people are not able to find jobs and KCC will do everything we can to help provide a kick-start to our local economy to help provide that first step on the employment ladder.

I attended the opening of the Bluebells Respite Centre last September and was involved in helping to get this up and running as Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services at KCC. I am very proud of this facility which is providing vital respite breaks for families in Detling and beyond.

And finally

Please contact me if you need my support or advice. I can be contacted on either 01622 734897 or jenny.whittle@kent.gov.uk.

Councillor Nick De Wiggondene Our Borough Councillor Elected: 2011

As I come to the end of my first year representing the Ward of Detling and Thurnham on Maidstone Borough Council I would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful and supportive, especially my predecessor Cllr Horne who, despite his retirement, continues his sterling service to Detling with excellent advice and counsel.

The main issue of the year has been the core strategy which is responsible for the future of development throughout the Borough. Here in Detling the main concern has been to protect the AONB and its surroundings and also the area north of Junction 8. Despite success in defeating the KIG proposals we need to be continually vigilant until we find a more permanent way of protecting the area from inappropriate development. In that, I would like to thank all those who made submissions to the public consultation. A new draft will be issued during the summer and I will update residents at that time.

It is a matter of continued regret that it has not been possible so far to find a replacement community shop and post office. We all know local services are vital for villages and not everyone owns a car. I have been corresponding with the Post Office who are still looking for an alternative site and operator. If you have any ideas how this could be taken forward both they and I would be delighted to hear from you.

Over the past year the new recycling system has bedded in. This is very important and has now taken our total recycling percentage from the frankly awful 18% to over 50%. During last year there were some complaints locally about food boxes not being taken and I believe this has now been remedied but I would ask you to call me if there are any problems with this.

We were very happy that the Halifax quality of life survey declared the Maidstone area one of the top 10 places in the country to live, but that does not change that fact that times are still very difficult. Therefore we are working to renovate parts of the borough that have been too long neglected and to bring new jobs and investment to the whole area. Much of this has been focussed around the town centre (High St, Mote Park and Museum) but we are now looking at further investment and at what can be done over the next few years, with a particular emphasis on improving rural quality of life, services and jobs. When I have more information on this I hope to be able to involve local residents directly with these ideas.

I always visit if a resident has an issue or problem I can help with. Please do email or call me if I can assist.

PARISH OPEN SPACES

The Parish is dissected by a network of 24 separate footpaths, bridleways and byways totalling 10.7km in length.

There are an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and byways in the Parish, in varying condition and with good and poor way markings. A survey of all paths is still to be conducted in conjunction with KCC's Parish Paths Partnership, as the starting point of a proper maintenance plan.

Horish Wood

Contact: Geoff Cosgrove

Purchased for the Parish: 2005

01622 – 630462

There is not a lot to report this year, John Monk, as usual has been busy working in the woods to maintain access and keep the woods and grassland tidy. All the fencing has now been completed to the A249 and we have added some rabbit mesh alongside the fence to the motorway, but everyone must still be careful if they let their dogs run free.

The wood and grassland are now becoming established and this will be an excellent facility for years to come.

Just a note for all village areas and that is a plea to keep things tidy, pick up dog mess and put it in the litter bins provided around the village. We understand that if dog mess is bagged it can go into the ordinary litter bins.

Monk's Meadow

Contact: Geoff Cosgrove

Purchased for the Parish: 2010

01622 – 630462

This field behind Hockers Lane was named Monk's Meadow in a competition run by the Parish and it has lived up to its name.

John Monk has put in a huge effort in creating paths and tidying up the whole area. We have been pleased with our purchase and the masses of wild flowers and the views have certainly made this a place to walk and enjoy. John has also made and installed some benches so that the views and tranquillity of the area can be enjoyed by all.

Scragged Oak Viewpoint

Contact: Parish Clerk

Established: 2002

Scragged Oak Viewpoint is the triangle of land between Scragged Oak Road and the A249 containing beech woodland and chalk grassland known for its biodiversity and glorious views over the Kent countryside. In the 1990s the area became an eyesore and a place for fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Kent Highways have granted Detling Parish Council a formal 'licence to cultivate' and the council is now managing the site. The viewpoint is now one of Kent Wildlife Trusts roadside nature reserves

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

The Parish has for its size a very active and varied social life. Here are the annual reports from some of our Parish Organisations:

Detling Short Mat Bowls Club

Contact: David French

Established: 1984

01622 - 750369

Detling Short Mat Bowls Club have had a poor season this past year which unfortunately will result in the club being relegated to the 2nd division of the Maidstone District Short Mat Bowls League. The club has suffered a few misfortunes of having some of our more experienced players being unwell and unable to play, however we have had some new members join who are showing promise and hopefully we will be able to provide a stronger line up next season.

The club still welcomes new members and looks forward to receiving enquiries from interested potential players. Any enquiries can be directed to myself on 01622 750369 or to Olive Monk on 01622 736903.

The Detling Singers

Contact: Edward Rubie

Established: 1974

01622 - 880404

www.detlingsingers.co.uk

The Detling Singers are pleased to report another successful year, during the first half of the year we concentrated on increasing our repertoire at our Monday evening practices. This enabled us to perform our new concert programme at the following venues:

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| July | - | 'Music at Mary's' at St. Mary's Church, Boxley. |
| September | - | 'Music for an Autumn Afternoon' at Thurnham Church. |
| December | - | 'A Christmas Celebration' at Maidstone Care Centre. |
| | | Detling's Christmas Concert in Detling Village Hall. |
| | | 'A Christmas Celebration' at Wisdom Hospice, Rochester. |
| | | Christmas Eve carols at The Heart of Kent Hospice. |

The Christmas concert in the Village Hall was a great success, the hall was nearly full! We were particularly grateful to Detling WI who organised interval refreshments and managed the raffle.

Kerne Clemence accompanied the choir on the piano at each performance and was again persuaded to play a surprise solo piece. His beautiful playing of 'Walking in the Air' from The Snowman, was very much appreciated

Unfortunately, a proposed visit by the choir to Dover Castle to sing carols in the Great Tower before Christmas had to be cancelled and we are hoping it can be rearranged for a later date.

As I write this report, we are preparing a new programme for a concert at All Saint's Church, Northfleet at 7.30pm on 6th October 2012. To follow the Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics, our programme will have an English theme and will include selections from Oliver and My Fair Lady, both by English composers.

This year, Detling's Christmas Concert will be on **Saturday 15th December 2011** in the Village Hall. Saxophones Plus will be joining us again as guest instrumentalists.

We have welcomed some new singers to the choir this year and invite anyone who would like to see whether singing appeals to them, to get in touch. New singers are welcome, we meet to sing on Monday evenings in the old school hall, new songs are learnt and old favourites revisited. A warm welcome awaits to all interested in joining us for an introductory evening of part singing.

Detling Church

Contact: Rev'd Susan Hollins

Established: 13th Century

01622 – 758606

Submitted by: Gill Humfrey

The number registered on the electoral roll by the end of 2011 remained at 50. Average attendance at services during the year was 25, with substantially higher at festivals and special services. Our weekly 10.30 a.m. communion services enabled our three priests to rotate with our other benefice churches of Boxley and Grove Green, and all age services were held monthly for families and young people.

Our principal Churchwarden has continued to shoulder the heavy responsibilities with dedication and efficiency, dealing not only with church matters but the continued management of Detling primary school buildings. Part of this site has been developed by Kent /County Council into a respite home for disabled children called Bluebells, while Detling pre-school Ducklings continues to occupy the schoolyard buildings.

Specific events and developments during the year have included:

1. Heating and lighting in church. Heating has now improved with under pew heaters on time switch operation, while the longlife/low energy lighting has become entirely satisfactory.
2. Fund Raising. Our financial problems continue to cause concern. We have carried on our "Open Doors at St Martin's" programme with Sunday afternoon cream teas in the churchyard, one specially marking the 60th Anniversary of the Festival of Britain. An organ recital by Paul Savage was fully subscribed and our Taste of Christmas sale of Christmas fare and crafts was again well supported. A Pudding Evening was held in the village hall, a coach trip to Kew Gardens proved popular, and the Friends of Detling church continued to hold fund-raising events for the church fabric fund, notably a Garden Safari event in the summer. In all £3,000-600 was added to our funds.
3. A bible study group met regularly under the leadership of Bryan Follett, and a benefice Lent study course was also held.
4. Christmas event. Sadly our Search for the Christ Child has had to be discontinued owing to administration problems, but a very successful Carols for Candlelight service filled the church to capacity.
5. Charitable Giving. The church has been able to support Water Aid, and the Bluebells Group in the old village school.
6. Detling Companions. This group continued to provide contact with the elderly, bereaved and sick, bringing house visits quarterly tea parties in the village hall and coffee mornings fortnightly in church. Transport is arranged for hospital visits, Doctor's appointments and prescription collections.
7. Detling News. This has flourished under John Faller's editorship and wider advertising has helped production costs/
8. Our PCC secretary was honoured in December to receive the Villager of the Year award from the parish council.

Friends of Detling Church

Submitted by: John Faller

Established 1989

01622 – 730628

The fund raising year started with the Garden Safari which was held on 19 June. Although a little showery, the event attracted a lot of visitors to the village and as a result over £900 was raised by the Friends with an additional £250 raised by Open Doors who ran a concurrent tea stall in the church. Of the funds raised, £300 was donated to the Heart of Kent Hospice, joint beneficiary of the event.

The second event was a wine tasting which was held on 29 October. The event turned out to be a very informative and interesting evening with the 22 tasters enjoying the occasion. The wine expert was excellent in making the evening educational with advice on how to assess the various wines on offer. The event raised £107 to the funds.

The Christmas Fair stall was the third event and the Friends were grateful for the large donations of book and general quality gifts. Over £180 was raised with the surplus goods forwarded to the Heart of Kent Hospice.

The final event of the year was the ever popular Quiz Night which was held on 18 February. Run as always under question master John Munson, the village hall was almost at maximum capacity indicating the popularity of the event. With 6 rounds of questions the question master ensured that the winning team had good general knowledge. A mid-event ploughman's meal was provided and the evening ending with a win for 'The also rans'. In total, £527 was raised. It was at this event that a presentation of £4,500 was made to Detling PCC as reported in the March edition of Detling News.

Many thanks to all those who helped out or supported the events.

The Detling Companions

Contact: Gill Humfrey

Established: 2003

01622 - 730139

The Detling Companions meet quarterly in the village hall and enjoy the facilities it provides. We have been entertained by the Boxley Handbell Ringers who came in January to give us a varied programme of music which was very enjoyable. Mr Roy Carey came in April to show us slides of interesting places in villages near Maidstone. In July we were entertained with a musical quiz with David Humfrey at the piano and in October we were pleased to welcome the Rev: Sue Austin who regaled us with stories of her week on duty in Westminster Abbey which she undertakes each year.

The committee work hard to provide a delicious tea on each occasion and we hold a raffle to defray the cost of hiring the hall.

If asked we are happy to collect prescriptions for people and to help generally with errands and hospital visits if needed. We are always hoping more people will come to the tea parties as transport is provided for those unable to get to the hall without help.

The Detling Society

Contact: John Owen

Established: 1982 - 2012

01622 - 737940

The Detling Society held its final meeting on 2 April 2012.

Due to lack of support from the residents of Detling, it was decided to suspend its activities, although if a volunteer materialises by 30 June 2012 who is willing to continue to organise meetings, full assistance will be given to any such person. Failing this, the Society's remaining funds will be passed to the Detling Village Hall Management Committee.

The Women's Institute

Contact: Anne Spain MBE

Established: 1949

01622 - 676773

The Detling W.I. meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall. At the moment we have 35 members with most of them attending meetings. The average is 30

Our programmes this past year have been quite varied and our Outings included a trip to France and Bruges in October. We also visited the Lavender Farm on the 3rd July, had a lunch with Stockbury W.I. and visited Danson House in Bexley.

We helped out at various venues for other village groups, especially those using the Village Hall. We had various speakers throughout the year, such as, *Caring for your carpets*, and *Farewell to Kent in the 1800's*, when the poor in the Parish were assisted to emigrate. We were enlightened about the *Chelsea Pensioners*, their lifestyle etc and thoroughly enjoyed all our speakers and their various subjects, including a detailed, humorous demonstration on *Walking Stick Making*.

On the 18th May we held our AGM. Mrs. Ann Spain MBE, our President, was re-elected, as were the Committee Members.

The Annual Spring Dinner was once again held at Oad Street Craft Centre and, in October, our Harvest Supper was held in the Village Hall. This event is always open to partners and friends. As is our normal practice, the W.I supported the Detling Village Christmas Fayre, providing cake and bric-a-brac gift stalls. Also W.I. members manned the kitchen providing refreshments.

Detling W.I. once more was asked to organise the Carol Service in December for the North Downs District. This was held at the Citadel in Maidstone attended by more than 150 members. Spiced apples juice, tea, coffee and mince pies were served to all those who attended.

Our chosen local charity for 2011 was F.O.D.C. We presented a cheque for £300 to them at our Christmas Party, a fitting end to a good year.

We now look forward to another very busy year of 2012 and extend an invitation to anyone who would care to join us.

Contact Details. Ann Spain.MBE President 01622 676773
Kathy Tanton Secretary 01622 735757

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The parish council is able to raise money directly from the public in order to carry out its functions. Its powers to do this are found in Section 150 of the Local Government Act 1972.

This money is raised through the rates and is known as the Precept. It currently represents only about 3% of a householder's total rates bill. The splits for a band E property are about:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Kent County Council | 69 % | an increase of | 0.0% over 2010 |
| Police Authority | 9 % | an increase of | 0.0% over 2010 |
| Fire Authority | 5 % | an increase of | 0.0% over 2010 |
| Maidstone Borough Council | 15 % | an increase of | 0.0% over 2010 |
| Detling Parish Council | 3% | an increase of | 3.9% over 2010 |

Our precept also equates to £54.95 per house. This year we voted to increase our precept to £18,519. One of the reasons for such a large increase this year is that Detling runs on very low turnover and margins and the past few years we have been drawing down our reserves to keep in line with auditor recommendations.

Our other main source of income comes from the Borough Council's Concurrent Functions Fund, this is a fund awarded to the more rural parishes of the Borough to use for a number of local activities and projects. We are able to do many things from this source but are aware that this fund is not secure and we know that this will decrease by 30% over the next few years.

The councillors have also agreed not to draw general attendance expenses for their work on the parish council and give their time free.

Supporting Notes to Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2011

Assets - Value over £1000.00 only.

Village Hall insured for £638,447.00 awaiting updated valuation from VHMC

Horish Wood, asset value £55,000.00

Bus Shelter, insured for £2,000.00

Hockers Lane Land, asset value £14,000.00

Borrowings.

As at the close of business on 31st March 2011 there were no loans to the Council outstanding.

Leases.

Detling Village Hall is leased to the Detling Village Hall Committee from 1975 until 2025. Rent is one pound per annum.

Car parking spaces at the Village Hall are rented to Kent County Council for ten pounds per annum. Seeboard Wayleave. £8.19 payable every four years.

Debtors. VAT £4,614.94

Creditors Audit Fees £500.00

Outstanding Cheques. There were no outstanding cheques.

Tenancies. None.

Service Expenditure

Concurrent Functions Grant of £6,041.00 received from Maidstone Borough Council.

Advertising and Publicity. Monthly Newsletter.

Pensions. The Council made no pension contributions during the year.

Earmarked reserves.

The Cooperative Account is an earmarked reserve for a recreation field for the Village. This fund having previously been known as the Playing Field Fund.

Earmarked reserves.

The Cooperative Account is an earmarked reserve for a recreation field for the Village.

DETLING PARISH COUNCIL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011

| | <u>Year ended</u> <u>31st March 2011</u> | | <u>Year ended</u> <u>31st March 2010</u> | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> |
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | | |
| <i>Precept</i> | | 16,859.00 | | 15,939.00 |
| <i>Interest</i> | | 54.61 | | 69.27 |
| <i>Service Income</i> | | 6,041.00 | | 6,060.00 |
| <i>VAT</i> | | 4,614.94 | | 1,208.42 |
| <i>Rents/Hire Fees</i> | | - | | - |
| <i>Parish Plan Income</i> | | - | | - |
| <i>Other Income</i> | | 2,147.08 | | 552.45 |
| <i>Grants</i> | | 250.00 | | 9,465.00 |
| <u>Total Income</u> | | <u>29,966.63</u> | | <u>33,294.14</u> |
| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | | | | |
| <i>General Administration</i> | 13,538.02 | | 14,759.79 | |
| <i>Service Expenditure</i> | 4,083.50 | | 5,544.34 | |
| <i>VAT</i> | 4,614.94 | | 1,208.42 | |
| <i>The Old School Field</i> | 14,989.18 | | 6,074.67 | |
| <i>Other</i> | 8,467.91 | | 939.61 | |
| <i>W/off unrecoverable debtors</i> | - | | - | |
| <u>Total Expenditure</u> | | <u>45,693.55</u> | | <u>28,526.83</u> |
| SURPLUS/-DEFICIT | | <u>(15,726.92)</u> | | <u>4,767.31</u> |

DETLING PARISH COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2011

| | <u>Year Ended</u> <u>31st March 2011</u> | | <u>Year Ended</u> <u>31st March 2010</u> | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>£</u> |
| <u>FIXED ASSETS</u> | | - | | - |
| <u>LONG TERM ASSETS</u> | | | | |
| <i>Investments</i> | - | | - | |
| <i>Long term Debts</i> | <u>-</u> | | <u>-</u> | |
| | | - | | - |
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | | | |
| <i>Stocks & Shares</i> | - | | - | |
| <i>Re-imbursable VAT</i> | - | | - | |
| <i>Debtors</i> | 4,614.94 | | 2,427.82 | |
| <i>Temporary Lendings</i> | - | | - | |
| <i>Payments in Advance</i> | - | | - | |
| <i>Cash in Hand</i> | <u>16,328.17</u> | | <u>34,842.21</u> | |
| | 20,943.11 | | 37,270.03 | |
| <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u> | | | | |
| <i>Creditors</i> | 500.00 | | 1,100.00 | |
| <i>Temporary Loans</i> | - | | - | |
| <i>Bank Overdraft</i> | <u>-</u> | | <u>-</u> | |
| | 500.00 | | 1,100.00 | |
| <u>Current Assets less Liabilities</u> | | <u>20,443.11</u> | | <u>36,170.03</u> |
| | | <u>20,443.11</u> | | <u>36,170.03</u> |
| <u>REPRESENTED BY:</u> | | | | |
| <i>General Fund Brought Forward</i> | 19,855.94 | | 15,186.84 | |
| <i>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</i> | (15,726.92) | | 4,767.31 | |
| <i>Transfer from Earmarked Reserves</i> | 14,800.00 | | - | |
| <i>Transfer to Earmarked Reserves</i> | (13.35) | | (98.21) | |
| | | 18,915.67 | | 19,855.94 |
| <i>Earmarked Reserves</i> | 1,514.09 | | 16,215.88 | |
| <i>Interest on Reserves in Year</i> | 13.35 | | 98.21 | |
| | | <u>1,527.44</u> | | <u>16,314.09</u> |
| | | <u>20,443.11</u> | | <u>36,170.03</u> |

