

October 2006

Upper Beeding Parish Council News

The magazine for the Parish of Upper Beeding, Small Dole and Edburton



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Chairman's address – Your Parish Council Needs You !!

I hope you all had a good summer's break! The dark evenings are upon us and the delights of television beckon. What a prospect!?

May I make a plea that you seriously consider joining us on your Council.

We have an ever increasing workload which threatens to engulf us, so you see you would be welcomed with open arms! Please ring one of us for a chat to learn more, I would mention we are strictly non-political. OK so that's your evenings sorted out!

Now then, forget shopping Saturday afternoons and get round to the Memorial Playing Field to watch your football team U.B.F.C. - Contact Steph Gretton then to a village pub. Well SORTED!

Useful contact numbers

Neighbourhood Wardens: Paul Sweeney 07734 387 888; David Martin 07734 387 889; office 01903 813 236.
Have you ever thought of becoming a Junior Neighbourhood Warden ?

If you witness a crime in progress - dial 999. Crimestoppers (confidential service): 0800 555 111

Non-emergency calls to Sussex Police: 0845 60 70 999 or e-mail: contactcentre@sussex.police.uk

Police Community Support Officer: Vanessa Bretton phone / voicemail: 0845 60 70 999 extension 20242;
vanessa.bretton@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Faulty street lighting: Telephone 08457 581 622 or e-mail scc.solve@edfenergy.com or on line at www.westsussex.gov.uk and click on 'fault reporting'

Parish Plan

If you have not done so already – please return your completed questionnaires in the Freepost envelopes provided, or in the collection boxes provided.

The cost for the Parish Plan has been covered by a contribution of £800 from the Parish Council and a grant of £550 from West Sussex County Council.

Southern Water

Southern Water is continuing its campaign to reduce leaks from pipes. There are now 115 'Leakbusters' working around the clock and using specialist equipment to find and fix leaks. Customers can report any leaks they see by calling the freephone LeakLine number on 0800 820 999 or www.southernwater.co.uk/beatthedrought or www.beatthedrought.com



Young Driver's Skills Course: contact kim.adsett@westsussex.gov.uk for details

Henfield Theatre Company

proudly presents the multi award winning play

'The Crucible'

By Arthur Miller

This powerful classic by the great American playwright, Arthur Miller, is set in the town of Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. It is an intimate and timeless tale of love, loyalty and betrayal that is widely regarded as one of the greatest plays of the 20th century.

An overriding theme of *'The Crucible'* is the abuse of power. The power of the church and its ministers to the Puritan community is paramount to the whole witchcraft trial. Arthur Miller creates a world where the church and town authorities use fear as a method of controlling the townspeople, who counter by invoking the power of gossip and slander. "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely", and Miller's theme shows the domino effect of such corruption.

The catastrophic events of over 300 years ago still have a shocking relevance today. HTC promises a compelling and large cast costume drama to stir the mind. *'The Crucible'* reminds us to always question the status quo, as well as the power structures and authorities that we allow, by our vote and consent, to govern us.

The play runs from 19th to 21st October 2006 at Henfield Hall, with all performances commencing at 7:30pm. Tickets are priced at £7:00 and £5:00. Patrons and members ticket applications, please, to the box office at 'Henfield Furnishings', High Street, Henfield BN5 9DB tel 01273 492 204 by 23rd September 2006, after which the box office is open to the general public on 3rd October 2006.

How MINI do you want your MOTO ?

Don't – break the law by driving your mini-moto on roads, pavements, beaches or in parks

Don't – cause alarm and distress to others through illegal use of a mini-moto

Don't – risk losing your driving licence. Illegal use of a mini-moto could mean a ban from driving even if you don't have a licence yet

Don't cause injury to yourself and others by driving mini-motos on pavements and roads in your neighbourhood

If you break the law your moto could be seized and crushed

You could also face - A driving ban, a fine, a criminal conviction

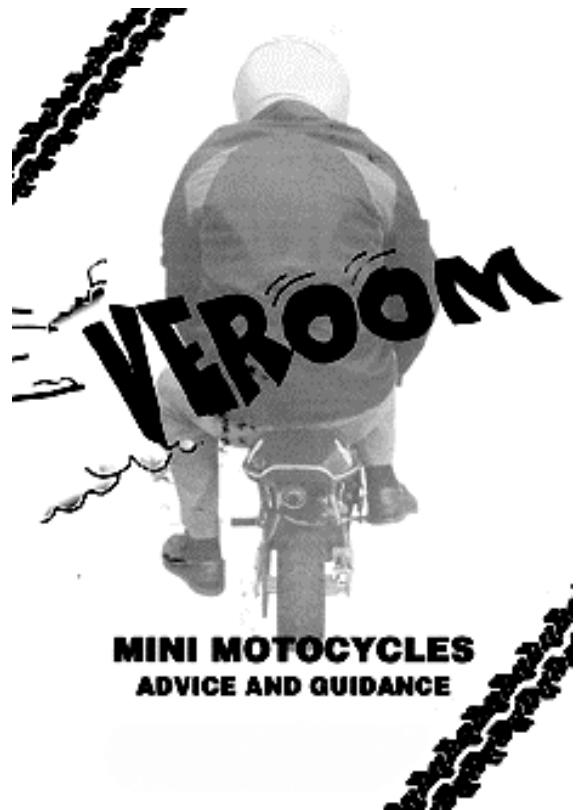
Do – drive your moto on a legal site

Do – contact your local police or local authority to find out the location of your nearest mini-moto track

Do – drive safely. You should wear safety clothing including a helmet

Parents or the owners of the vehicles can be classed as aiding and abetting if they permit the illegal use of vehicles. The provision of petrol by parents or owners is also aiding and abetting and they are also liable to prosecution.

Further details from www.respect.gov.uk



War Memorial

The Parish Council is proposing to refurbish the War Memorial located at the entrance to St Peters Church, Church Lane, Upper Beeding. We would like to hear from anyone whose relatives' names are mentioned on the commemorative plaque or have any other connection with the War Memorial. Please contact the Clerk e-mail – upperbeeding.parishcouncil@virgin.net or telephone 01903 810 316, if you know of someone, or have a story to tell connected with the War Memorial.

Local small business

Soocovers & Aloe Vera Products – We are Ted & Sue Thompson, we have lived in Upper Beeding since 1968. Our children grew up here and went to the local schools.

We supply Soocovers, a range of washable, waterproof, lined socklets, gloves, head caps, elbow, knee & neck covers for people with skin problems, such as eczema, psoriasis, cracked heels and dry hands. They are available in adult and children's sizes. Soocovers increase absorption of creams dramatically, nourishing your skin and softening rough areas.

We are also independent distributors of Forever Living Products; world leader in Aloe Vera natural health & beauty products. Be kind to your skin with our soothing lotions & nutritional drink gels. Suitable for all ages, and for your pets as well.

Our address is Adur House, Riverside, Upper Beeding. Website: www.freewebs.com/soco-skincare-covers

Contact us on 01903 815 557 or 07758 668 691 email: susanthompson@adurhouse.fsnet.co.uk

Small Dole Summer Show

The 62nd annual summer show in August again was successful, although it clashed with Adur bath tub race. As one of the few remaining village open air shows, good weather is critical, and although dull this year we escaped the rain. We thank all those who attended, and especially those who exhibited. As a result of the hot dry summer, flower and vegetable exhibits were much fewer than in previous years, yet there were over 300 entries displayed.

Together with woodcraft by the Tottington Woodlanders, numerous stalls by local societies, and music by the Patcham Silver Band, it was a great afternoon. The fun dog show was also well attended.

The show is organised by the Small Dole Horticultural Society, and is only possible with the help of active volunteers. The society is in need of an assistant secretary if we are to continue. This is an opportunity for a retired person to make an important contribution to the community, and we would welcome enquiries from anyone willing to volunteer. Please call Frank on 01273 492 855.



Council Meetings

The next Council meetings are on Tuesday 7th November and Tuesday 5th December starting at 7:30pm in the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall preceded by the Planning Committee meeting at 7:00pm.

The next Committee meetings, Planning, Amenities, Sports & Leisure and Finance & General Purposes, are on Tuesday 17th October, Tuesday 21st November and Tuesday 19th December.

Tennis Court, Sports Hall and Equipment Hire

Booking the tennis court (with flood lighting) – please contact the Booking Clerk on 01903 816 790. Rates of hire – adults: £4:00 per hour for up to four adults; juniors (under 16s) £2:00 per hour for up to four juniors.

Booking of Sports Hall for badminton, volleyball and other activities – contact the Booking Clerk on 01903 816 790. Rates of hire: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm £5:00 per hour; 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm £7:00 per hour; Saturday-Sunday £8:00 per hour.

Available for hire: tables & chairs – contact Booking Clerk on 01903 816 790

W I Small Dole

10th October – Annual General Meeting

14th November – 'Behind Closed Doors'

12th December – Christmas Party

Meetings start at 7:30pm in Small Dole Village Hall. Further details telephone 01273 494 947

Beeding And Bramber Village Hall

In the 1920s Upper Beeding's Village Hall was on the upper floor of an old building that stood where the entrance to Saltings Way from the High Street has since been made. There was a men's club room, partly filled by a billiard table, a small committee room and no proper toilet facilities. The old primary school was the only place where larger meetings or entertainment could take place.

In 1927 a piece of land at the edge of Follies Field (where Dawn Close is now) was bought for £150 from Arthur Wood of Pond Farm on which to build a new hall. A committee of villagers was formed, plans were drawn up and fund-raising began. Subscriptions were invited from the wealthier members of the community, both in Beeding and Bramber. Others held concerts, sales of work, fetes and sports days to raise funds. In 1929 additional land was bought from Mr Wood for £70 in order to have spare land surrounding the hall. Gilbert M Simpson was the architect and W A Gates and Sons the builder. His tender of £2,555 was the lowest of six. Although all the money had not yet been raised, building began in September 1929 and members of the public were invited to "buy a brick". The main hall was planned to seat 250 people. The large room at the back was to be the men's room, with their billiard table taking pride of place. The smaller room was the ladies' room, for meetings of the WI, Girl Guides etc. There was a small kitchen, a cloakroom and toilets. It was completed in February 1930 and officially opened in March by which time there was still £800 owing. In June a Deed of Trust was signed, establishing a Board of Trustees and a Council of Management to run the hall. Fund-raising continued and in 1932 a bazaar was held which cleared the initial debt.

However, there has never been an end to fund-raising, as money has always been needed for maintenance, for the extension on the side built by Frank Duke in 1972, for the refurbishment of the toilets in 1993 and recent kitchen refurbishment.

So although the Village Hall is situated in Upper Beeding High Street it actually belongs to the people of Beeding and Bramber and not to either parish council. It is managed by a committee of elected volunteers from the villages together with representatives from the many organisations that use the hall on a regular basis. As hire charges do not cover the cost of maintaining the hall, it is dependent on a small fund-raising committee of volunteers to bring in extra money by holding events like the annual fete. The hall can also be hired for parties and receptions by calling Julie Bakter, tel: 01903 816 790.

The Village Hall is at the centre of village life, but if it is to continue to function it needs your support. You can help in all sorts of ways: volunteering to help with decorating and maintenance tasks, helping at events such as the annual fete, serving on fund-raising and management committees, or just attending the fund-raising events that are arranged. With more people helping, more fun events could be held such as a repeat of the 1972 "Comic Football Match" between Beeding Football Club and St Cuthman's Ladies, refereed by Arthur "Blind as a Bat" Bartle!

If you want to know more, or to help in any way, please contact the secretary, Maureen Toder at The Village Hall, High Street, Upper Beeding. Pat Nightingale, August 2006

Watch Democracy At Work

Parish Council and Committee meetings are Public Meetings

Do join Council and Committee meetings to gain greater insight into how decisions are made

You will be able to address concerns –

every Parish Council Meeting has a period of time reserved under 'Public Forum' for your concerns and comments

Upper Beeding Parish with Small Dole and Edburton Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who has helped so far with the Upper Beeding Parish Plan questionnaire. Upper Beeding was a hive of activity one night in August as we filled all the envelopes with questionnaires ready for delivery. It was hard work, but was helped along with plentiful supplies of tea and cakes.

The results will be due at the end of October and we look forward to the meetings of the Steering Group in November to create a Parish Plan for Upper Beeding, Small Dole and Edburton. The Parish Plan is a very important document as it helps guide the future of the parish over the next five years or so.

If you found the questionnaire interesting and feel you could contribute towards one of the key topics: housing, transport, environment, young people, older persons, community safety, health, lifelong learning, leisure or business then please get in contact with the Steering Group Chairman, David Coldwell. We would be delighted to welcome new Steering Group members to ensure that the community is fully involved in the preparation of its Parish Plan. Please contact David Coldwell on 01273 495 808 or email david.coldwell@btinternet.com

A History Of Beeding 3 – the Bronze Age

We saw how in the Neolithic people became less nomadic and learned to farm the land, mainly on the Downs and along river valleys. They made flint tools, round-bottomed pottery vessels and buried their dead in long barrows.

From about 2400BC successive waves of people reached this country from northern Europe, mainly Holland and Germany. They are known as “Beaker people” after the shape of their flat-based, decorated drinking vessels and were possibly the first of the people that we later called “Celts”. They were semi-nomadic stock-raisers but also grew some corn and barley and could make woven clothing. They carried polished stone axes and continued to exploit the flint mines for material for their flint tools and arrow heads. One of their barbed and tanged arrowheads was found on Edburton Hill in the 1930s. Bronze was still rare in the early Bronze Age and although some knew how to work in copper and even in gold, few had such precious metal objects. The dead were buried in a crouched or sleeping position, together with some of their possessions, under round barrows (tumuli) of earth, often just below the summit of a hill. There used to be a dozen or more on Beeding, Edburton and Truleigh Hills but most of them have now been ploughed out. In one of the Beeding barrows was a rare faience bead, while a large barrow in Hove revealed an amber cup, a polished double-headed axe, a bronze dagger and a whetstone which can be seen in Brighton Museum.



Meanwhile in Wessex, a powerful group of Beaker people were responsible for building the great monuments of Stonehenge and Avebury and the construction of many other earthworks and monuments such as Silbury Hill.



By the Middle Bronze Age, agriculture was becoming more efficient. People lived in farmsteads on land they had cleared on the Downs such as at Park Brow (near the Steyning to Sompting road). They lived in round huts within a banked enclosure, grew crops in small square fields, kept animals and were connected to their neighbours by an extensive system of trackways. From about 1500BC urn-shaped pottery was made and it became the custom to cremate the dead. Their ashes were placed in burial urns and buried either in the sides of existing round barrows, or in new ones. Some were buried directly in the ground, with many together forming an urnfield or early cemetery. Continuing use of the same burial site was shown on Steyning Round Hill in 1949 when a farmer who was ploughing sliced off the tops of about 20 urns dating from the Middle and Late Bronze Age which surrounded an earlier Beaker burial in a cairn. A fragment of a bronze knife and a clay loom weight were also found.

By the Late Bronze Age the use of a simple hand plough had been introduced. The bronze-making industry was so well established that there was widespread use of bronze tools such as palstaves (a type of axe) and bronze weapons such as daggers and spears. About 1931, a socketed spearhead was found in a field north of Bramber Castle and casts of it can be seen in Brighton and Lewes museums. Travelling smiths went from one homestead to another, making repairs or part-exchanging new equipment for old. It is thought that sometimes they accumulated more items than they could carry and buried them, expecting to return another day. This did not always happen and they were lost and forgotten, to be discovered again in modern times. This is possibly the reason for the hoard found at Bramber in 1981 when the lake in Clays and Fever fields was being excavated and 98 items, mostly spears were discovered, now in Worthing Museum. However there were also some indications of settlement nearby, together with the find of a crucible, so this may also have been the site to which the wandering smith had returned.

From about 800BC the ox-drawn plough was introduced by new people arriving from Holland and Germany. Later immigrants brought swords, sickles and horse-equipment showing that carts were in use. They knew how to make cauldrons and buckets from sheet bronze. These improvements in agriculture and technology led the population to grow and prosper and though we do not yet have evidence for settlement in our village, Bronze Age people were all around.

References: 1 Collins Field Guide to Archaeology in Britain, by Eric S. Wood; 2 A Historical Atlas of Sussex, edited by Kim Leslie and Brian Short; 3 Site monumental records, WSCC. Pat Nightingale August 2006.

Beeding & Bramber with Botolphs Church Trust

Beeding & Bramber with Botolphs Church Trust are holding a 'Gardeners' Question Time on Sunday 1st October at St Mary's House. For tickets please call 01903 816 205

Beeding in Bloom

Judging for the village 'Best Garden Competition' took place on Tuesday 18th July, another very hot day. A member of the Henfield Flower Club was kind enough to officiate as judge. There were 19 entries, 3 of which were allotment holders, the first time this category has been included. A buffet presentation was held in the Rising Sun on Saturday 29th July. The cup was presented to the overall winner by Tony Sullivan, the Chairman. Prizes and certificates were presented by Cllr Alan Fisher, one of our District Councillors.

Prize winners were as follows -

Commercial property

First Place	Riverside Caravan Park
Highly Commended	Beeding News

Best Front Garden

First Place & Overall Winner	Tony & Elaine Ellmer, Henfield Road
Second Place	Lynda Piper, Deacons Way
Highly Commended	Doddy Fortune, Countryside Farm Park



Best Hanging Basket & Container Display

First Place	Ann Ball, Henfield Road
Second Place	Sally Vickers, Undermill Road

Best Allotment

First Place	Geoff Dunstone, Countryside Farm Park
Second Place	Denise Rose, Countryside Farm Park

We would also like to thank those who have helped us with watering our various containers.

Saltings Way planters – Will and Sue Pilfold and Roger Paxton

Mary Staley's Memorial planter is looked after by Fred and Sue Platz

Village sign basket – Audrey Leazell

St Peters Green planters – Helen Young & the Brownies, Regina Vine & Bryony Brooks

Hyde Square planters – Hyde Square shop owners

Our thanks also to all members of our Work Party who do the planting and weeding, all the residents who have helped tidy up the village before the judging and particular thanks to Marion who keeps our streets tidy.

Paid help needed by Beeding in Bloom to water their hanging baskets in summer 2007.

If you are interested, please contact Tricia on 01903 812 366.

South East in Bloom

The South and South East in Bloom competition took place on Monday 3rd July when Upper Beeding received a Silver Award from the South East in Bloom judges.

The two RHS judges were shown around the village by three Committee members on a very hot day. The Committee would like to express their thanks to everyone who helped the village look so good at the time. Also to the people who have been watering before and since to ensure it still looks colourful. Special thanks to Audrey Leazell for both planting up and watering the village sign basket, it really looks spectacular.

**West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service / Community Fire Service: home fire safety checks
and Free Smoke Alarm!**

For this service from your local fire fighters, ring freephone 0800 32 86 487

How Victim Support Sussex Works

The core activity of both the VS (Victim Support) and WS (Witness Service) branches centre on supplying advice, guidance and other assistance to help victims and witnesses as comprehensively as possible, and giving on-going training to volunteers and staff in order to deliver services in the most effective way possible.

The Work of the Victim Support Branches

Victims of crime are referred to branches from a range of sources – the police, probation and the other main crime prevention and criminal justice agencies; charities; minority / youth organisations; self-referrals.

On receiving these referrals, priorities include – contacting the person who has been referred and, where necessary, allocating them to a volunteer who will then contact them and visit / see them as they wish; offering victims emotional support and practical help; for self-referrals, offering a range of options for advice and counselling; providing fully trained support to those considered especially vulnerable, including children; maintaining contact with victims as long as they feel a need; assisting with Criminal Injuries Compensation Authorities (CICA) claims at all stages of the process, including formal CICA meetings and accompanying victims to court and giving support with WS volunteers.

The Work of the Witness Service Branches

Prosecution witnesses are referred to branches mainly from the police, defence witnesses are referred from the relevant solicitor.

On receiving these referrals, priorities include – providing an accessible service to both prosecution and defence witnesses who attend court to give evidence in 'Not Guilty' trials; working in close partnership with the police, CPS and the courts to reduce the number of trials that are ineffective because of witness issues

The Witness Service provides – practical, emotional and confidential support to all witnesses; an enhanced service (for example, home visits) to young witnesses (17 and under) and to vulnerable and intimidated adult witnesses; special needs requirements, where necessary, including informing relevant partnership agencies - the police, courts, Crown Prosecution Service etc; the opportunity for witnesses to have a pre-trial visit to court; extra support for witnesses - for example the use of video-link rooms in open court; advice and information for witnesses regarding the outcome of a trial; referral for witnesses on to other relevant agencies after the trial, if required.

External Relationships

Through the organisation's relationships with crime prevention, criminal justice and other relevant agencies and community organisations, representatives from VS and WS attend local forums and offer external training and other outreach activity. This helps to raise awareness of victims and witnesses and to raise the profile of the organisation's service provision throughout the county.

For further information or advice, contact Worthing Victim Support, Room 217, Town Hall, Worthing, West Sussex BN1 1HA

Horsham District Community Handy Van

What is the Handy Van Service? It is a not-for-profit service covering small jobs, repairs and minor adaptations for more vulnerable members of the community. (No decorating or gardening jobs).

Who qualifies for the service? The service is offered to victims of crime referred by the Police; registered disabled or people in receipt of disability benefits; referrals from social and caring services; other vulnerable groups.

Examples of work – door chains, locks, spy holes, key safes, smoke detectors; replacing batteries, stopcocks (with new SureStop switch); draft proofing, curtain rails, light bulbs tubes; new toilet seats; a 10 point home health and safety check including advice on crime prevention, fire safety and trip hazards.

SureStop remote water switch offers a valve body and rocker switch that can be sited up to 4 metres away from the stop cock valve.

Hours of work – Monday to Thursday from 8:30am – 5:30pm; Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm. The Handy Van Operative will carry an ID card and will arrive in either a blue or white van, clearly marked with the Handy Van logo.

How to book a job – To use this service all you need to do is call 01403 22 60 05

How much does the service cost? The cost is £18.50 (including VAT) which will cover the call out and up to two hours of work. Jobs that will take up to one hour will cost £10.

How to pay? We will normally send an invoice once the work is carried out. Payment should be made by cheque payable to Saxon Weald but if you do not have a bank account, special arrangements can be made to pay by cash.

Tottington Woodlanders – Charcoal Burning

The kiln is first loaded with a layer of wood known as 'brown ends', which are pieces of wood from previous burns that have not quite turned into charcoal. A small space is left in the centre at the bottom of the kiln, and a channel from the vents around the bottom is cleared for starting the burn.

The kiln is then loaded with pieces of wood which have been cut during the coppicing season – end of October to the end of March. The wood is packed in layers to the top of the kiln.

The fire is then started by pushing a paraffin soaked rag through one of the vents at the bottom, which in turn ignites the brown ends.

The logs settle into the kiln and the lid is placed loosely on the top. Once all the moisture and gas have been driven off, the lid is placed tightly in place and sealed with damp sand. Soil is then placed around the base to reduce airflow and to ensure an even burn.

The kiln is left for several days to cool down before the lid is removed and the charcoal is extracted, graded and bagged; this is a very dusty dirty job. It takes between six and eight tonnes of timber to produce one tonne of charcoal. www.tottingtonwoodlanders.org

Photos courtesy of David Pearce



Amenities News

You may have read that there is a widespread outbreak of a tree disease, Horsechestnut Bleeding Canker, affecting the UK. Our parish is sadly not immune: I have inspected many of our trees with the help of our tree warden and other parishioners and we have identified about half a dozen trees that appear to be infected. There may be more. We will treat them as appropriate but it seems likely we will have to take drastic action, including felling in some cases.

The disease is caused by fungi, *Phytophthora cactorum* and *P. citricola*. Generally it seems to infect the bark of horsechestnuts but it can affect other trees such as limes, maples, oaks and birches. Nobody knows how it enters the tree, but a third party such as an insect host is suspected. The increased incidence may be down to climate change.

The symptoms of the disease are a thinning of the crown of the tree, smaller leaves and bleeding lesions on the trunk and branches leaking a brown or black liquid. If a limb or the trunk is completely girdled it will die and could present a hazard if it falls. Other details can be found at <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/ByUnique/INFD-6KYBGV>

Fortunately the Council is developing its tree planting plans so any losses due to this disease can be mitigated by replanting.

I have better news for parents with young children. We have received the tenders for the refurbishment of our play areas and they are excellent. I am very excited at the prospect of having new, modern play equipment for children and their families to enjoy.

The Council will inspect the plans and put them on display for public inspection at future Council meetings, so come along if you are interested. We are now in a position to choose which company we want to carry out the refurbishment so public opinion would be welcome. Keep an eye on the notice boards!

Simon Birnstingl - Chairman Amenities

Beeding & Bramber History Society talks

Wednesday 1st November – The Flint Miners of Cissbury

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Social

Meetings start at 7:45 pm in the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall

More details from drpnightingale@btinternet.com

Beeding & Bramber Scout Group will be running its local postal service this Christmas at a cost of 15p per card using postage stamps purchased from Beeding News, Beeding Garage and the Cake Decor shop in Hyde Square; available for sale from 2nd December until last posting at 12:30 pm Saturday 16th December.