

Welcome

Welcome to the 5th information leaflet from the Parish Council. Normal business is resuming and we are using this opportunity to provide village information. On the inside page you will find a traffic proposal.

The Parish Council are looking, with the aid of the village Gridlock group at what could help the flow of traffic and the safety of our villagers. It is a pragmatic, small but achievable step and we would like your support. If you would like to get involved with the bigger next steps please contact

✉ gridlockstm@gmail.com

The Hub

The Hub is still up and running so please, if you are in a pickle, give it a go.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up. It is heartening to realise what a caring village we are.

We've been asked if the Hub can proactively ring up villagers. We can't but if you as an individual, group or church member contact your neighbours and recognise a need, even just the "would like regular phone calls" type, the Hub can ask the registered volunteers to follow up. Just let us know.

VE Day Celebration Booklet

We hope you enjoyed the positive pictures catching the essence and spirit of St Margarets despite Lockdown. It's on our webpage & Facebook page if you would like to revisit it.

General

As and when the lockdown loosens, it would be nice if we can remember and support those who we relied on in our hour of need. Thank you particularly to the Village Shop, the Post Office, Sandra's and Jeb.

And how would we have survived without our dustbin men, community warden, postmen & doctors surgery?

New PCSO

Please welcome PCSO Tyler Harris. He will be working solely for the St Margarets ward. All the best and our thanks to Conner Fennessy who will now be covering Whitfield only. ✉ Tyler.Harris@kent.police.uk

Rest assured Stephen Noddings our Community warden is not going anywhere.

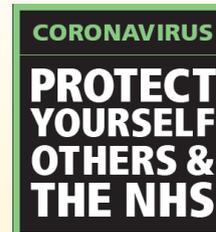
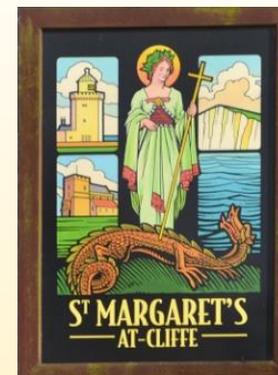
Your village needs you!

There are only six of us on the Parish Council. There are three vacancies. We are all volunteers and are brought together because we love the village and want to make it even better. There is only so much we can do and there is so much that could be done.

Before you just accept or criticise what we are doing, maybe you can roll up your sleeves and join us. We are currently meeting virtually; training and support is provided. Give it a go! You will be made very welcome.

We are all in this together

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Issue 5

CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS REGARDING PROPOSAL BY YOUR PARISH COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL "NO PARKING," DOUBLE YELLOW LINES IN ST. MARGARET'S.

For many years, the Parish Council has received calls from villagers to "do something" about the traffic issues in the village. A group of concerned, pro-active residents prepared to analyse the flow/congestion and to fight to get traffic improvements in the village, was set up and it is called Gridlock. (new members welcome) Working with the Parish Council, we attempted to get KCC/Highways assistance but with little success. Gridlock were due to meet the KCC cabinet minister for transport when "lockdown" came into force, so that meeting was suspended.

The good news now is that the latest Parish Council approach to KCC has found a supportive ear, if no budget. Input from Gridlock's comprehensive analysis and the fact that the Stagecoach bus company were considering the suspension of services through the village if the traffic issues they encountered were not resolved have helped significantly. One quick result was KCC Highways arranging for a simple pictorial sign at the top of Granville Road to stop coaches trying to use this road which had resulted in dangerous reversing in the past.

For our next achievable, pragmatic but potentially greatly beneficial step of this co-operative initiative, we have identified several locations where double yellow lines should assist enormously. The map below indicates in RED (for clarity only) where the yellow lines are proposed.

POSITIONS OF PROPOSED NEW "NO PARKING," DOUBLE YELLOW LINES. (Shown in RED for clarity).				
1. Small section at the top of the Granville Road Junction.	2. The Bay Hill Boat Roundabout.	3. The Dip in Sea Street.	Please make your views known by leaving a message on 01304 892535, in writing to Parish Council, Village Hall, or by email to: info@stmargaretspc.co.uk	
4. Junction Reach Road / Royston Gardens.	5. At the bottom of Bay Hill from the Carpark and including the first hairpin bend and part of the second hairpin bend.			



As a parish we need to provide evidence that we have carried out a full consultation before Highways can proceed.

We know that parking in some of these locations is often a question of convenience, but on the other hand they often pose a danger to other road users and pedestrians, and it is this danger we are hoping to remove or at least minimise. Some, such as the Sea Street lines, we hope will improve the flow of traffic, improve the safety at the school gates and ensure that the vital bus service to the village continues.

We are sure you can think of other locations, but we are concerned if we make this application too large it won't get past the first hurdle and we realise too, that people have to park somewhere.

Community support is the only way this will progress.

The Gridlock group are looking at other initiatives to improve the flow of traffic and the safety of pedestrians who face traffic on the roads. Improved signage, safe crossing locations and making clear indications for both drivers and pedestrians alike is a key element of the action.

The Parish Council are able to pay for this proposal with our village precept but anything bigger or more complex (including expanded consultations) cannot be funded locally. so there will almost certainly be a need for sourcing funds elsewhere, through fundraising or perhaps from you directly, or a combination of both.

Please provide your feedback by 10th July.