

Coopersale Chronicle

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A Guide to What's On in Coopersale
Published by the Coopersale Social Institute

April 2003

Hall Improvements

As regular readers will know, we had hoped to lay a new floor this coming summer. However, although we have been awarded a grant of £1,500 by Epping Forest District Council towards the cost, we have not been able to get a grant from the Community Fund (National Lottery). The cost of the new floor will be nearly £10,000 which leaves a shortfall of £8,500 which we cannot afford to take from our reserves, so unless a surprise benefactor appears with a generous donation, we shall have to postpone the project for at least another year, while we raise more funds.

Doreen Pavitt is planning a 60's & 70's Disco on Sat 25th April and a Bring and Buy Coffee Morning later in the year.

Chiefly Yourselves, a well known local group who perform Old Time Music Hall numbers throughout the country and abroad, have kindly agreed to hold a concert in the Institute Hall this autumn to help us to raise funds.

Please support these activities, and join some of the many groups which meet in the hall.

Institute AGM

The Coopersale Social Institute AGM will be held at 8.15pm on Wed 30th April in the Institute Hall. All residents of Coopersale and the surrounding area are welcome to attend.

In addition to electing members of the management committee, the meeting will receive reports from representatives of village organisations which use the hall, so if you want to learn more about the activities in the village, have new ideas, want to get actively involved in some way, or just want an evening away from the telly why not come along. You might even meet those neighbours you'd like to talk to but have never quite got round to.

If you would like to stand for election, would like to nominate someone to become a member of the committee, or want to suggest a topic for discussion, please contact Peter Newton on 574674.

Saturday Bookings

In the past we have only accepted full day bookings on Saturdays, as accepting a short booking meant the hall would be unavailable for all day bookings such as weddings. However, as such bookings are, unfortunately, rare we will in future accept Saturday bookings from individuals for as little as 4 hours, provided that they do not book more than 3 months ahead of the function.

60's & 70's Disco

The next public social function will be a 60's & 70's Disco on Sat 10 May. Admission £6.00 per head. Bring your own food and drink and some cash for the raffle. Have fun, meet new friends and support the hall. Contact Doreen on 576498 for tickets or to donate a prize for the raffle.

Moped Mayhem

As the letter in the adjoining column describes, we seem to be plagued by a small group of anti-social youths who seem to care nothing for our entitlement to peace and quiet. They race round the village on mopeds causing a disturbance, cutting up the grass and on occasions using footpaths and narrowly missing pedestrians. If you know who they are please tell the police, even if there is insufficient evidence of an offence to bring them to court. The police should log the incident and may well call on the registered keeper of the vehicle to make sure that it is fully roadworthy, warn them to improve their behaviour and will keep an eye open for further trouble in future. The more reports the police get about a problem or a particular vehicle the more notice they will take. So remember the phone number:

01992 561212

Protect Your Property

With this issue of the Chronicle, we are distributing a special marker pen for every home in Coopersale. These pens have been supplied by Essex Police and are designed to help trace stolen property. Use the pens to mark valuable items with your postcode; the mark will be invisible to the naked eye, but can be seen by the police with a special light. If the police find marked items which they suspect have been stolen, they can contact you to obtain proof that they were taken illegally and return them to the rightful owner.

So don't forget mark your valuables now - before it's too late.

Letters

Dear Scribe,

Although the recent changes to the shopping centre are welcome, the youth problem has merely moved. We are now seeing (and hearing) small mopeds, powered by angry wasps one assumes, trailing up and down Garnon Mead. On a couple of occasions a group has congregated in a solely residential area, to compare silencer efficiency. When the over-stretched police arrived a couple of hours later all was, of course, quiet but it appears I was the only one to call.

I have no qualms however, about calling the police when I see a potential problem and I would urge others to do the same when they see youths hanging around; police do not identify complainants. 'Nipping it in the bud', is the best way to dissuade these faceless youths from settling in to an area. Call the police the moment they turn up, get a friend in the area to do the same, make it untenable for them to remain or the authorities to ignore.

Residents can make a difference and should not just sit there enduring the jobs outside, believing someone else will call the police, while the value of their property plummets. In this day and age of course, never go out and confront them yourself

P. Issedoff

Vacancy

The Coopersale Social Institute Committee has a vacancy for a secretary. The duties are not onerous; the committee meets four times a year and other correspondence is limited and infrequent.

75 Not Out

Coopersale has had a cricket club for over 75 years, in fact since 1927.. Its origins were certainly from the Coopersale Social Institute and almost certainly from the Pub.

Although it has always been a small club, we have produced some very good cricketers, most notably Stuart Turner of Essex used to play for us. The ground is leased from the Gaynes Park Estate and is now the only mown area on which local children are able to play in relative safety, away from roads etc and while it is a private field, we accept that this is a vital facility for the community and are happy for local people to use it provided no damage is done to the playing surface and club house. Sadly we have suffered from vandalism but we have always maintained that this mindless minority will not get the better of us.

Coopersale Cricket Club only plays friendly sociable cricket on a Sunday afternoon and usually the matches are at home. We always welcome families of players as well as just players themselves, and many wives, girlfriends and children attend the matches. Equally important is that we have our own bar facilities!!

Unfortunately membership numbers have been falling over the past few years to the extent that the club is in danger of folding. As the Cricket Club is the only sports club left representing the village it would be a shame if it had to close. In addition to this, the land would revert to Gaynes Park and would not be maintained for anyone to use and in the end would probably be built upon.

Regardless of your age or standard we would love you to come and play for us. While we do not currently have a colts' section, there are youngsters playing already so if you are under 18 don't feel that you won't be welcome.

The new season starts in early May so if you are interested please contact David or Graham Hancock on 560205 or 560714.

Crosses and kisses

Easter is approaching, and in the week before it, the Church relives and retells the last days of Jesus, before his death on the cross on Good Friday, and his rising to new life on Easter Day. Crucifixion remains one of the cruellest ways to kill a person, and we believe that in dying that innocent and courageous death Jesus showed his love for each and every one of us.

Explaining Crucifixion to young people can be a challenge, but I often explain it to them in the symbol of signing crosses at the bottom of a letter, which represents kisses and a sign of our love. So too the cross reminds us of Jesus' costly and unconditional love for each and every one of us.

But it is costly love: the kind of costly love that is sometimes required in war, where lives can be lost to safeguard our freedom. As I write military action has begun in the Gulf, so I commend to your prayers Her Majesty's Forces in the Gulf, their relatives and friends, and the people of Iraq, who are as special to God as we are.

I hope you have a peaceful and hopeful Easter. If you wish to join us for any of our services, you are always welcome, and we shall be continuing in our prayers for the situation in Iraq over the Easter season.

The services at St. Alban's Church are as follows:

Palm Sunday (13/4): 11.00am Parish Communion and blessing of Palms

Good Friday (18/4): 9.00am Meditations on the Cross

Easter Day (20/4): 11.00am Parish Communion

With my best wishes,

The Rev'd Jonathan Lawson, Vicar for Coopersale

Institute Committee

The Institute Management Committee consists of four elected members and others nominated by village organisations associated with the Institute. The elected members are appointed at an annual general meeting. All residents of the neighbourhood aged 18 and over are entitled to attend the AGM.

The following elected members of the committee are standing for re-election at the AGM:

Peter Newton
Cliff Tredgett
David Keehner

The following local groups nominate representatives to serve on the Institute Committee:-

Coopersale Horticultural Society
Coopersale Floral Art Club
Coopersale Snooker Club
Coopersale Group 2000

The committee currently has two co-opted members:-

Mrs Doreen Pavitt - Fund Raising
Mrs Letitia Berry - Epping Town Council

In addition the committee appoints a Treasurer and Secretary and may co-opt other members to the committee as required.

Annual Financial Report

Although the Institute's annual accounts have not been checked, the indications are that this has been a good year. Income, at approximately £10,900 is over £400 up on last year.

The major expenses this year have been repairs to the structure under the floor and the new front doors, so we have increased our reserves by over £3,000. Routine day to day expenses - heating, insurance, cleaning etc - come to over £6,000 per year and on top of that we need to put money aside to pay for major repairs and re-decoration. It costs over £2000 to paint the inside of the hall.

Most of the income comes from hiring the hall to Coopersale Pre-school and the organisers of various classes, eg Karate, Tap Dancing and Aerobics as well as to individuals and village clubs and societies. The hall is booked most weekday evenings for one or more activities; however, we could take more weekend party bookings.

We are fortunate to have an energetic fund raiser on our committee in Doreen Pavitt. Unfortunately very few village residents seem interested in supporting the functions she organises and many of the Golden Jubilee functions planned last summer had to be cancelled.

If you have trouble reading this Chronicle ring Chris on 572568 and ask for a large print version.