



NEWSLETTER

Edition 1 - May 2009

This is the first edition of the Borstal Open Spaces (BOSS) Newsletter! Our aim is to keep Borstal informed about what BOSS is doing in the village and keep people informed about any news that affects the open spaces or other related matters in Borstal. Borstal Open Spaces was set up in February 2006 and are going from strength to strength as a group. So if you are interested please come and join us at one of the events or get in touch to see how you can get involved! – **We hope you enjoy our 1st edition of the newsletter!**

POLICE award funds to help with clear up projects!



Presentation of cheque at BOSS AGM March

BOSS was identified by the Police as being a community group worthy of being allocated £400 from funds gained from unclaimed stolen property being sold. This money will be put to good use by BOSS – buying much needed equipment and helping to undertake tasks in the village.

The Police have asked us to help with a clear up of the footpath which runs from the back of the Co-op to the river (RR26) which we are currently organising, planned to take place on the **3rd October** - for more information please get in touch.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- * **Sat 16th May - Baty's Marsh Clear Up** –start at 9.00am until noon – Meeting place: Bottom of Manor Lane
- * **Sat 6th June - Viewing platform installation 1** - start at 10.00am – Meeting place: Bottom of Manor Lane
- * **Sat 11th July - Viewing platform installation 2** - start at 10.00am – Meeting place: Bottom of Manor Lane
- * **Sat 3rd October – Footpath (RR26) clear up**
- * **Sat 21st November – Tree cutting session** – Between the recreation ground fields.

We are also arranging litter picks and other events for later in the year, see our website or get in touch for more info.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME !
COME AND JOIN IN**

WHATS HAPPENING TO THE RECREATION GROUND?

BOSS has been in communication with Medway Council since 2006 in relation to their plans for a new sport pavilion and facility, BOSS and Real 60's battled with Medway council to get a temporary pavilion installed on the site until such time a new pavilion is built.

Medway Council plan is to apply for a Football foundation Grant to build the new facility and the match funding would come from section 106 contributions from the Riverside Development Project.

There has been a few different plans, which have been talked about including the position of a new pavilion, parking facilities and formalisation of the playing fields.

To date we are unable to report any solid plans, as it is still unknown when Medway Council will be in a position to apply for a Football Foundation Grant and the designs are yet to be finalised. There will be opportunities for the community to have their say as to what they would like to see on the site and BOSS will be continuing to lobby and keep in regular contact with the open spaces team at Medway council.



BIRD NEWS!

The usual birds have been appearing on the marsh and in gardens over the past few months. However we have added to our list, sightings of a pair of **GOLDCREST** – Britain's smallest songbird, which had not been noted previously by us in this area.



GOLDCREST – Dull green with a distinctive orange or yellow crown

Also **Whitethroats** and a **Grey Wagtail** have been spotted. **Little Egret** can also be regularly seen on the Marsh.

*Please see our website for more wildlife information
Including insects, butterflies, birds and mammals*

REAL 60 FOOTBALL CLUB

Real 60 FC has been playing at Borstal Recreation Ground for well over 25 years and was able to bring all its teams onto the same site by getting Medway Council to re-open the unused Shorts Way playing field between the old tennis courts and bowling green and The Esplanade about four years ago.

We are starting to plan our 50th Anniversary season celebrations and would be glad to know if any local residents remember the famous black and white stripes appearing for the first time.

We run a men's team, which progressed this season to one of the top Divisions in the Medway Messenger Sunday Football League, where they should finish in the top four or five. Most of the team kept together after they became too old for youth football; one of them has played for the club at Manor Lane for those 25 years



We were pleased to be able to obtain permission from the Kent Youth League for our under 14's to play home games now that the temporary changing rooms are on site. They had to play home games previously at a venue between Maidstone and Sittingbourne last season.

Our other sides play in the Medway News Youth League, in age groups between under 8 and under 18. An increasing amount of youngsters play "small-side", 6 players from each side on the pitch at any one time. Each fixture involves an A side from each club playing each other and then the B sides meet. A system of "rolling subs" is used, which means that more boys and girls can be used in each game. It seems to be that the younger the age group the more spectators and although we try and have different kick off times these aren't always under our control, so we do apologise that the car park can't always cope!

We are pleased to be able to work closely with BOSS and are gradually over-coming the litter problems, usually caused by other clubs being allowed to use the pitches.

Margaret and I are usually on hand on a Sunday morning, otherwise we can be contacted on 01634-319461.

Mark Agate – President Real 60 FC

NEXT EVENT IS NOT FAR AWAY MARSH CLEAR UP 16th MAY 2009

It's a fun event and a chance to explore the Marsh starts at 9.00am and there we be Tea, Coffee and biscuits for the helpers.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

Since forming in 2006 we have been beavering away with a number of activities and have held a number of events! We applied for a BBC Breathing Spaces Grant to renew the footpath surface between Shorts Way and Manor Lane and for, benches and notice boards – we were unsuccessful but Medway Council fortunately came up with some money to do the works that were specified in the Management plan – The notice boards have been installed and the footpath re-surfaced last in March – we now planning to install the benches and this will take place on the **6th June** and **11th July**.

We have held 4 Marsh clear up's and it is now getting easier to clear up every year! The first year we removed 200+ tyres from the site.



We have carried out 2 tree cutting sessions – to remove all the dead Elms from the footpath. The local scouts group made a number of bird boxes which have been installed in the trees around the recreation area.

We have carried out a number of litter picks and we held a BBQ & Burn for all the waste wood from the marsh around fireworks night!

OUR AIMS FOR THE FUTURE!

One of our main aims as BOSS, with the help of the local community is to keep the fields, marsh and footpaths clear of rubbish and help to enhance the wildlife on the site! After all we are so lucky to have these open spaces and be so close to the River Medway!

We would like to expand these activities to other footpaths, which seem to accumulate large amounts of litter. To do this we require more people to come and help! You can see a list of planned events on our website or on posters positioned around the village.

ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME!



We are currently applying for a Woodland Trust grant so we can hold a tree planting session later in the year, of native tree sapling so we can fill some of the gaps that have been made by clearing the dead elms. Hopefully we will have more information about this by our next edition of our newsletter.

If you would like to join us or take part in any of the events, either just turn up or get in touch! Even if you have some ideas about what we should be doing, or things which would be good for the area. You can do this either via the website or telephone one of the committee members, all contact details are on the website.

www.borstalopenspaces.org.uk

Compiled by newsletter editor – Kelly Tolhurst - Contact email: info@borstalopenspaces.org.uk or Tel: 07958 794082