

COMMUNITY NEWS

IN BRIEF

Wine and wisdom

A WINE and wisdom evening is being held at St Matthew's Community Centre, Drewery Drive, Wigmore, on Saturday, January 17. Tickets are £6 and include a ploughman's supper but you need to bring your own drink and glasses. Call 01634 379139 to book.

Singing lessons

A FOUR-WEEK workshop for adult singers starts on Thursday, January 22, at All Saints Church, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham. Call Linda on 01634 845419 or Mary Murison on 01634 852341, ext 536.

Learn to sign

A FIVE-WEEK course on basic sign language starts on January 20 and runs on Tuesdays from 12.15-2.15pm at the Gillingham Adult Learning Centre. Call 01634 338400.

Craft market

AN CRAFT market is being held at the Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, tomorrow from 9am-noon. Call 01634 371941.

Past masters

GILLINGHAM and Rainham Local History Society meets tonight at the United Reformed Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham, at 7.15pm. Call 01634 854982.

Wine appreciation

INTERESTED in wine? Call The Rochester Wine Appreciation Society on 01634 270190 or 01634 308488.

Leisure seekers

PARKWOOD Leisure Club meets on Monday at St Paul's Church, Parkwood Green, Rainham, at 2pm.

Funding delight as village gets £9,000 in grants

■ Cash for improvements

by Jenni Horn
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BREDHURST has been awarded grants totalling £9,000 to help improve the community.

Two organisations in the village have received funding from the Kent Community Foundation Grassroots Grants scheme.

The first is the Village Hall Committee, which successfully applied for £5,000 to improve the centre in Hurstwood Road. The cash will pay for new windows.

The Bredhurst Woodland Action Group (BWAG) received a grant of £4,000.

The group was set up in 2005 to preserve and protect an area of ancient woodland which had been ruined by fly-tippers and off-road vehicles.



The money will mean BWAG can continue restoring woodland footpaths.

The Royal Engineers had previously given up their time to renovate hundreds of metres of paths, and plan to begin work on the next section by the end of January.

Vanessa Jones, chairman of Bredhurst Parish Council and BWAG, said: "We are delighted

to receive the funding. It is a nice way to start the new year in the village.

"The money for BWAG, combined with an additional £3,000 for the Kent Downs Area of Natural Beauty Unit and money we have raised ourselves, will mean we can join up two sections of previously renovated paths, creating a circular route people can enjoy.

"The funding for the village hall will mean we can give the building, which was built in the 1960s, some much needed TLC."

Meanwhile, Kent Police has stepped up patrols of the woodland in Bredhurst after a metal gate and two wooden kissing gates were stolen. Damage was also caused to other areas of the woodland BWAG had recently restored.



■ Above, the Royal Engineers helping to clear pathways; above left, Bredhurst village hall



OTHER AWARD WINNERS

- Sports trophy: Cadet Tom Brown, 14
- Attendance trophy: Cadet Sam Slocombe, 14
- Best NCO: Sgt Siobhan Weston, 17
- Best exam results: Cadet Darren Sutton, 15
- Community Cup: Cadet John Ellis, 14
- Best effort: Cadet Vanessa White, 16
- Shooting: Cpl Jordan Salt, 16
- Best flight: Typhoon Flight

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Looking smart to be the best

AWARDS were presented at the annual inspection of Gillingham Air Cadets.

With uniforms pressed and shoes polished, the 1039 squadron was inspected by Wing Cdr Alison Atkins, Officer Commanding, Kent Wing Air Training Corps.

It was one of her last duties before stepping down as head of the air cadets and she was presented with a bouquet to mark the occasion.

Flt Lt Paul Collins, Officer Com-

manding Gillingham squadron, said: "She has been a fantastic asset to the Air Training Corps and her successor has a lot of work to do to live up to her standards."

Among the awards presented on the night were Best Cadet which went to Tom Brown, 14, and the Dave Wood memorial trophy for leadership, which went to Flt Sgt Matthew Bairnsfather, 18.

Promotions were announced with Cadets Callum Jenkins and

Helen Lewis promoted to Corporal Cpl Jordan Salt promoted to Sergeant and Sgt Siobhan Weston promoted to Flt Sgt.

Promotions were: Cadets Callum Jenkins and Helen Lewis, promoted to Corporal; Corporal Jordan Salt promoted to Sergeant and Sergeant Siobhan Weston promoted to Flight Sergeant.

Flt Lt Paul Collins said: "All the trophies were aggressively fought for, but sadly each can only have one winner."

Donate that unwanted festive jumper

WHETHER it is an oversized jumper, a spare copy of a CD or some novelty slippers, chances are that most households have received a few unwanted gifts.

But they needn't be wasted, as the British Heart Foundation

(BHF) is offering an alternative home for these unsuitable gifts, by asking people to donate them to their local BHF Shop.

In December, charity shops often experience a drop in donations as people prepare for the

festivities. That means January is a crucial period for shops to receive much-needed stock.

BHF shops are in Chatham and Gillingham High Streets or call 0844 412 5000 to discuss collection options.