

Message from the Chairman

I am privileged to have been appointed as chairman for the current year.

So who is this new chairman you may say? Over the last two years although already a parish councillor, I have been actively involved in chairing and producing the Parish Plan, working closely with a dedicated and enthusiastic group of parishioners and this has given me a very valuable insight into to how you feel about the parish in which we live.

The environment is so important and we are fortunate to be surrounded by so many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

We are equally fortunate at this moment in time to live in an area, which has such a low crime rate, with the added bonus of a very active Home-watch to which we can all belong.

The Parish Plan has however, shown quite clearly that we do have issues requiring attention, it is therefore clearly within my remit to do my best as chairman, to take a lead along with my fellow parish councillors in making progress in those parts of the Parish Plan which are within our statutory powers.

It is important at all times to know the wishes and concerns

of our parishioners and we welcome attendance at all of our Open Forums held before each and every Parish Council Meeting.

Cll. Mrs Jenny House

Management of Forest

We are lucky to live in an area where we have a forest that can give us so much pleasure. I am sure at some time during the year many of us take time to appreciate it in some way, whether it be for a Sunday afternoon stroll, walking the dog, a bike ride, taking the kids to Moors Valley, or even just to look at it from afar, whilst driving past. If ever the 21st century is getting you down, I recommend you take a walk in the forest and you will feel like your batteries have been re-charged.

The Forestry Commission (FC) employ only a few people to manage our forest and to maintain a good standard it would be helpful if we, the public, could report to them if we have any comments to make or indeed if we observe any disturbance or changes happening within the forest area.

Recently the FC has taken action on the next stage of their management programme of Ringwood Forest within our parish. Five years ago they 'thinned out' and have now continued the process for the purpose of encouraging re-

generation. Some areas are to be cleared, especially close by to electricity cables. In some areas replanting will take place in the future, but thinning allows re-growth to occur naturally.

In May Andrew Norris of the FC kindly informed us of the work to be undertaken in the forest at Ashley Heath – otherwise known as 'Jack's Garden'. Manager Peter Brett first coined the name back in about 1982. 'Jack's Garden' is named after William John Davies a retired Head Forester who lived in an old FC property near the large house. He would walk the site without fail twice a day and kept Peter very informed as to the state of this bit of woodland and what needed doing. The name has stuck since then.

Recent forestry work involved felling around 20% of the trees to allow space for growth, with heavier thinning on the west and southern edges of the woodland. Main rides within the woodland have been opened up to allow more sunlight, which will encourage a wider variety of plants and animals. It is hoped that by the time that you read this in September the work will largely have been completed. The FC will return in five years time.

If anyone would like to see the maps that indicate the long-term vision for this woodland please contact the FC Office.

All of the work that we undertake is identified in our plans. These plans are up for review in the near future. A major part of this process is public consultation and we would be very interested to hear from anyone or any local organisation that would like a say in the future of this important doorstep wood.

If you wish to contact Andrew Norris at the local forestry office please telephone 01425 478582.

Cllr. Mrs Kay Redknapp

From Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team

I am PC 1758 Nigel Richards and as from the 30th April 2007 became the Community beat officer for West Moors, St Ives and St. Leonards. I have been a Police officer in Dorset for 6 ½ years mainly working in uniform as a response officer. Following my two years probationary period in Poole I was posted to the Eastern side of the county where I have stayed.

As I have worked in the area I do have some idea of what type and level of crime there. Saying that, I am looking forward to meeting as many people as possible in order that I can obtain your views regarding your concerns and crime and the policing of it. I'd like to think I am approachable so please don't hesitate to contact me on 01202 222 222 or e-mail stleonards-stivessnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk or in fact come and say hello when I'm out on the street.

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) 5355 Ben King as also been employed to the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Although he has only

been in his role for a short time he is full of enthusiasm that he brings from his previous job on the Dorset Police community support vehicle. Ben can be contacted in the same way as myself.

My main task is to make Dorset safer and more importantly to make you feel safer.

Nigel Richards PC 1758

Adoption of the new Model Code of Conduct for Members.

Notice is hereby given that on 16th May 2007 Members of the Parish Council of St Leonards & St Ives formally adopted the new Model Code of Conduct order 2007, NO. 1159 including paragraph 12 (2) and the 10 general principles of the code. If any Member of the public wishes to see a copy of the code they may do at the Parish Office during office hours.

Youth Club

The Youth Club at the rear of the Village Hall, Braeside Road is relaunching with an open day to be held on 22nd September 2007 12 noon - 4pm. The Action Activity Trailer will be on hand plus lots of arts and crafts and a BBQ. Bring your family along to this fun open day and see what's going on, meet the staff. See what possibilities are on offer.

Village Hall

Having recently taken over as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee I thought it wise to update our local residents of the current situation.

I would like to thank our previous administrator, Lisa, and ex-chairman Ken, for all their hard work in the past. We

have now carried out some refurbishment of the hall and it really does look very nice. We have two regular cleaners who set themselves a very high standard and the hall is looking pristine and would be an ideal venue for wedding and anniversary receptions.

We have a very active committee who have been helping with the maintenance and organising a fund raising event. It is our intention to hold two film matinee shows on September 25th and October 16th. For further information regarding the films, price of tickets, times etc., please contact the hall administrator Elaine Linden on 01425 478177. We have created our own website:

www.stleonardshall.org.uk and are earnestly trying to promote the use of the hall at very competitive rates. Please give us your support.

Ann Warman
Tel: 01425 476319.

Parish Plan - What's Next?

A monitoring group has been formed, separate to the Council to review and monitor progress on the Action Plans at the back of the Plan. Copies of the plan have been distributed to local groups and various other authorities and gradually steps are being taken to put this document into action. It has already been a most useful document in helping to obtain £22,500 in grant funding for refurbishing the play park.

University of the 3rd Age

U3A stands for the University of the 3rd Age, which is a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment. U3A is run by volunteers and provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly envi-

ronment. It is all about learning for pleasure. It consists of local U3As all over the UK, which are charities in their own right. Local U3As are learning co-operatives which draw upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership. It is all about sharing knowledge and enthusiasms. The teachers learn and the learners teach!

Between them U3As offer the chance to study over 300 different subjects in such fields as art, languages, music, history, life sciences, philosophy, computing, crafts, photography, walking and rambling, environmental issues, bridge and other card games for beginners, and many others.

There are no exams, assessments or qualifications to be gained. It is all about the fun and enjoyment of learning.

Most neighbouring towns have branches of U3A. Is it not time for a U3A to be started in St Leonards and St Ives? Is there a resident reading this who would be willing to take on the leadership role in organising this? The Village Hall is available for hire to provide space and there is plenty of advice and practical help available from neighbouring U3As and from U3A central office. Anyone interested is invited to contact Brian Kliger on 01425 474425, E-mail: ruthandbrian@talktalk.net for an initial chat.

Home Watch

Home Watch would like to congratulate the Parish Council Steering Committee for the Parish Plan 2007, and for reflecting the concerns on the many issues that were ex-

pressed by the residents. The presentation clearly defines the action required both in the short and the long term. Of prime importance to Home Watch were the findings within 'Crime Prevention and Security' and the Plan quite rightly confirmed that over 50% of the householders in the Parish do not belong to Home Watch. In partnership with the Dorset Police we continue to try to achieve a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, with the prime objective of increasing the level of safety for all of us. There is greater safety in numbers and the more of us that work together the more likely will we make our Parish an even safer place to live. The Home Watch Committee will be making, over the coming months, a concerted effort to increase membership. If you are reading this article, and you are not a member, please act now and join us. To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member – for only £1 per annum, per household, - please contact our Chairman, David Kerly, on 01202 874675, or our Membership Secretary, Julie Carter on 01425 475536.

Body Control Pilates®

Pilates is good for restoring movement to joints that are stiff and equally helps protect joints from sporting injury by training the body into maintaining good alignment. Classes are taught in the Committee room on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday morning, (there is a new beginners class), and Thursday afternoon and teatime, (new beginners class planned for the Autumn). If you wish to know more about Body Control Pilates® classes please ring Ann Dickson on 0776 3214738.

Are you planning an extension or interested in knowing if your neighbour's application will affect your property in someway

East Dorset District Council supply the Parish Council with copies of all full and outline planning applications for them to comment on behalf of the residents of the Parish. The Parish is only allowed 21 days to respond to an application so is unable to make the applicant or neighbours aware of the date directly. The only way we can do this is via the noticeboards and website. Residents can comment in favour or against by writing direct to the Planning Authority at East Dorset District Council we would ask that you consider supplying the Parish Council with a copy as well.

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public. There is a public forum prior to each meeting where you may ask a question or make an observation on an application. You are also welcome to look at the plans during office opening hours of 10.30am to 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday (ring the Clerk to make sure the plans are still available as we are only able to keep them for a few days).

To find out when meetings are taking place look at your nearest Parish noticeboard (sited at: Doctors Surgery; One Stop; Post Office; A31 end of Boundary Lane; Oaktree Caravan Park; Hurn Road and the Village Hall) or on the web at www.stleonardspc.org.uk and you will see the agendas displayed and information of what will be discussed. Please note the Council can only discuss matters on the agenda.

In Need Of Protection?

The compulsory closure is now underway of up to 2500 Post Offices in both rural and urban areas spread over the next 18 months. This is designed to create a sustainable network for the future. They will all receive a payment to compensate them for their investment in the business.

The National Federation of Sub-Postmasters believe that the Post Office must now become a bank, learning from successful models in Europe. For the Government, this would also offer a solution to its financial inclusion objectives and maintain vital access to mails and financial services which so many small and medium sized businesses rely upon. This may also help turn around Post Office Limited's current £4 million per week losses.

Post Offices and local shops are essential if we are to have sustainable communities and begin to tackle global warming by reducing our carbon footprint.

Cllr Noel R Hindmarch

Dialaride

CAN WE HELP YOU?

For people in wheelchairs and those who have difficulty using public transport.

Pick up from your home to the destination of your choice.

Just a call away ring **01202 880699 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday**

There is an answerphone at other times

Complaining to the Council

If you have a complaint to make about any issue please leave your name, telephone number and/or address. Anonymous messages cannot be dealt with.

Footpath Liaison Officers

In a past issue we mentioned these **volunteer** people, however some people seem to have misunderstood exactly what they do. The Parish Footpath Liaison Officers only monitor the off-road paths and bridleways they do not tour the pavements.

Problems with pavements can be reported to the Clarence team at Dorset County Council on 0800 23 23 23 or to the Clerk on 01425 482727. An exact location is required.

St Ives School Celebratory Assembly

The 18th July was a very special celebratory assembly for all the pupils and parents, which involved not only the celebration of the pupils achievements by the award of suitably inscribed certificates from "doing their very best to being "a very special friend to another pupil but also the presenting of the annual individual and team prizes this year by Mrs. Jenny House Chairman of the Parish Council. It was as always a joyful occasion with each of the children glowing with pride as they were called forward and applauded by all for their achievements.

This year, not only was it the end of term but also the sad occasion of having to say

farewell to Mr. Stuart Calvert the Head Teacher for the last four years.

Stuart endeared himself to all by his infectious enthusiasm, energy and humour. Parishioners will recall his antics in the school's amateur dramatics presentations at Braeside Village Hall. Stuart also managed to increase the numbers on role at the school by close to 30% a remarkable achievement by any standard.

His departure was marked by a lengthy procession of celebratory certificates and good-bye presents from the children, staff, the parents' association and governors, culminating to the award of an item he had confessed to coveting for many a year – a Blue Peter Badge!!

Stuart has moved on to the headship of Barton C. of E. School and we now welcome Miss Laura Turner as our new Head.

Cllr. Mike Packham

Your Councillors

| Councillor | Ward |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Mrs Vivienne Bell | East |
| Jim Crow | South |
| Ray C. Dudman | West |
| Mike R. Dyer | South |
| Noel R.Hindmarch | South |
| Mrs Jenny House Chairman | East |
| Ivor Maddock | West |
| Mike C. Packham | East |
| Mrs Kay Redknapp Vice-Chairman | East |
| Mrs Steph Smith | East |
| Mrs Ann Warman | West |
| R (Bob) Warman | East |
| Graham J Willetts, | West |