

Letter from the Chairman.

Well Christmas is over and we can now look forward to spring. 2009 looks set to prove financially challenging and therefore it is evermore important to look at where we can save money and ensure wise spending. Your Parish Council continuously monitors and reviews how money is utilised to the best benefit of its parishioners and within its strict financial regulations. You are always welcome to attend our Finance meetings to see for yourselves.

Getting away from the present financial climate, how many of you made a New Year's resolution? If only I had a magic wand mine would certainly be to find a successful proactive method of ridding our parish of litter, fly tipping and dog fouling. There are of course other issues, but these come to mind as I come face to face with them much too often. Many of you will have seen our new dog warden, Laura, she patrols quite a large area but is specifically paid by the Parish Council to visit Horton Road and Braeside Road. It has been extremely disappointing and frustrating to note the volume of dog fouling at Horton Road especially since the departure of our illegal encampment guests. It should not be necessary to point out that this is an area for children to play football and for other recreation. Please can those visiting with dogs clear up after them; the fixed penalty notices will be issued - you have been warned.

Fly tipping always seems to happen surreptitiously so constant vigilance and reporting is required.

Perhaps some of you may have some practical and helpful suggestions, if so I would like to hear them.

Jenny House - Chairman

St Ives First School - Outstanding!

By now many parishioners will be aware that St Ives First School - our school- has undergone an Ofsted inspection. The result was a richly deserved '*outstanding in all respects of its work*'

In context, this means that the school is rated among the top 10% of the 22500 community schools in the country.

It was noted that the school concentrates on providing a healthy, secure and caring environment in which our children enjoy coming to school and learning: behaviour between pupils and relationships between adults and pupils is outstanding. This is, perhaps, half the battle.

Careful attention to each child and a high quality tracking system in the hands of a dedicated and experienced teaching staff provide clear guidance to the support needed to maximise every child's individual potential at every stage. Tasks are set that are highly challenging and interesting engendering motivation. There is exceptional provision for basic skills, literacy, numeracy, investigation and technology skills and an exciting range of other activities and, in years 3 and 4 the opportunity to learn a range of musical instruments. So that, by the time our pupils leave in Year 4 they are generally well above the standard expected for their age both academically and socially.

I think you will agree that this is an achievement of which we are justifiably proud. So, if you are considering which school to send your children to - or know of someone who is pondering the same question - you can do no better than to look at St Ives First School. We know you will be impressed.

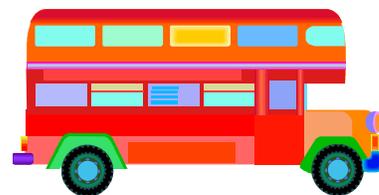
Try our web site www.stives.dorset.sch.uk Or call the School Secretary on 01425 475474 for an appointment

Mike Packham

...On behalf of the Parish...

Congratulations to St Ives First School, staff, pupils and volunteers on your OUTSTANDING Ofsted result!

WELL DONE!!



Buses

Reported by a Parishioner

The Number 36 bus service which runs from Verwood via Three Legged Cross, along Horton Road (with bus stops at the Woolsbridge Rd junction) to Ringwood, and thence via Ringwood, the Spur Road, the Bournemouth Hospital, back onto the A338 and on to Gervis Place in Bournemouth. It is an hourly service, much better, quicker and more comprehensive than the Ferndown bus.

Meet your POLICE team

Come along and meet your Safer Neighbourhood Team and raise your issues on a one-to-one basis at the Parish Office, rear of the Village Hall, St Leonards 12pm until 12.30pm on the following dates in 2009:-
17 March, 14 April, 19 May, 23 June

Village Hall

Got an event.....looking for a venue.....look no further
The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards has a range of rooms available go to www.stleonardshall.org.uk or contact Elaine on 01425 478177 for details.

There are always lots of groups meeting and activities going on at the Village Hall look on the list on the Annexe window or noticeboards.

Avon Heath Country Park Information and Misinformation

The latest mischievous rumour doing the rounds is that the tree felling in Avon Heath Country Park is to allow for building. This is nonsense. The Park is Green Belt and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and it CANNOT be used as a building site by developers. Felling on our SSSIs is a heathland management exercise and has nothing whatsoever to do with property development.

In the heathland context, most of the trees are weeds. That is why they are being felled. This allows the sun to warm the nutrient-poor ground, allows heather to flourish, and consolidates a very distinctive and rare habitat for animals and plants. There will always be some trees in the Park, they contribute to the habitat range and are a landscape feature, but they must be controlled or they will take over and destroy the heath.

The gorse is being removed because it has become too old and 'woody'. In olden days, the gorse (known locally as 'furze')

was cut regularly by all and sundry and used as a fuel and this is what kept it under control. The gorse will grow again, its pungent, yellow flowers attracting insects for birds to feed on, and the new branches and foliage providing shelter for birds to nest.

If visiting the Park please pay attention to your dog, clean up after it and keep it under control especially in the bird nesting season.

Ringwood & Fordingbridge Club For The Blind

GIVE AND GET MORE OUT OF LIFE. IT'S OFFICIAL - VOLUNTEERING IS FUN AND DONATING TIME TO A WORTHY CAUSE IS A TREND THAT'S ON THE RISE

The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Club for the Blind is a non-profit charity run by volunteers to support the well being of people living with sight loss and visual impairment.

By running a successful fortnightly social club at Greyfriars Activity Centre we help reduce neglect, social isolation and loneliness and we are looking for people to come and join our volunteering team.

If you can spare a couple of hours volunteering, we have a varied range of tasks where you could share your skills and experience. Our volunteers help with driving, escort duties, catering, serving teas, administration work.

You can make a difference!

For further details of volunteering opportunities please contact:
Lynda Jones 01425 477864 or
Mary Peach 01425 470008

Parish Plan Monitoring Update

The Parish Plan Monitoring Committee is currently liaising closely with the Parish Council to achieve the Action Plan objectives. The Monitoring Committee are currently directly involved with East Dorset District

Council to ensure that at least the scheduled road and footpath sweeping maintenance is carried out throughout the year particularly during the Autumn. The Committee feel that many of the residential roads in this parish are in a poor state and we would welcome your comments on any specific problem in your locality. Please report your concerns in writing to the Parish Plan Monitoring Committee c/o Parish Office, Village Hall, St Leonards, Ringwood, BH24 2PJ

PLEASE SUPPORT THE



OF YOUR COMMUNITY!!

Sub- postmasters uniquely provide a mixture of commercial and public services. They are a unique breed of self-employed business people who also perform an important social role in our cities, towns and villages.

The Secretary of State, at the Department of Work and Pensions, has set up a task force to review what future services could be provided over post office counters with particular emphasis on all levels of local government in the UK.

This could be the best opportunity for over 20 years to stop the vicious spiral of loss of work and closures. We may finally have a chance to create a vibrant sustainable Post Office Network based on mail, Postbank, investments and new government services.

We are at the Heart of the Community. We are the bedrock of local retailing. Please support us before it is finally too late.

Cllr N R Hindmarch.

Spring is in the air!
Be a good neighbour.....

Please get your hedge trimmer out and cut back your hedge back away from the pavement.
Thank you



Local Parishioner In Nordic Challenge For Waggy Tails Rescue

At the end of March my wife, Susan Willetts, is to undertake an arduous (and very very cold!) challenge to raise money for the local Waggy Tails canine (mainly) rescue charity, now based in West Moors. Waggy Tails have been struggling to sustain their activities in recent months with the loss of their premises in Ferndown, where they had space for dogs awaiting homes and a vets clinic. They are now even more dependent on good foster homes for animals awaiting re-homing.

We have two wonderful dogs from this charity who have given us great pleasure. We have been very impressed with the efficiency and commitment of this charity which runs on a shoestring budget, its policy on not destroying any rescue animal, very careful monitoring of homes, and its willingness to re-home older dogs and those with medical issues. They pay all vets bills for such dogs. The (very few) staff and many unpaid volunteers are incredibly dedicated.

Hence my wife's insane decision to attempt a 6 day adventure driving a team of Alaskan huskies across 250 kilometres of Lapland frozen mountains and lakes, crossing the Norway/Sweden border in the process. If you think it's cold and wintry here...

We have paid the entire costs of £1500, plus the hire charge for outer clothing capable of withstanding temperatures down to -20 centigrade, and ALL monies raised will go directly to Waggy Tails without any deduction.

We would urge any individual or family thinking of having a dog to

consider Waggy Tails as the source-there is no shortage of choice-, but otherwise if you would like to contribute towards ensuring the survival and future of this charity, which currently has 35 dogs placed with households in St Leonards and St Ives parish, please send a cheque made payable to 'Waggy Tails Rescue' to Sue at 'Husky Challenge', 33 Bushmead Drive, Ashley Heath BH24 2HT.

Graham Willetts



St Leonards and St Ives Tennis Club

Our local tennis club offers new membership from the 1st April for everyone - whatever your age or ability. For further details please phone the club directly on 01425 489388 or call round and see the facilities we can offer you for yourself - we have 4 Grand Slam All Weather tennis courts all of which are floodlit at no extra cost. We also have a modern clubhouse with showers, kitchen facilities and a balcony overlooking the courts.

We are a friendly local club offering tennis at all levels and a good social life thrown in for free.

Paul Handford our Head Coach can be contacted directly on 0770 9821006 if you are interested in individual or group coaching, available from the age of 4 up to whenever!

We have social afternoon and club sessions and also run

various teams in leagues so I am sure there is something here for everyone - so give us a ring, find a tennis racquet and come and give us a try!

I look forward to seeing some new parishioners on our tennis courts soon

Sue Baker Chairperson

St Leonards & St Ives Home Watch

Annual General Meeting

is on: SATURDAY 18th April at 10am at BRAESIDE VILLAGE HALL.

During the morning two Magistrates will be giving a very interesting talk on their role in the local Courts. They will tell us: What they do. Where they fit into the Judicial System. How they make their decisions. And more!!

East Dorset Section Commander, Inspector Mike Darkin, will be informing us of the many innovative schemes to combat problematical areas of criminality and what Home Watch can do in meeting the objective of working together for a safer community.

If you are not yet a Home Watch member do come along as you will be able to join us on arrival. We look forward to meeting you and don't forget to put the 18th April in your diary.

Age Concern Day Centre at The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

With spring on its way, our programme of events is well developed for the year ahead. Five visits to Branksome Dene Chine with Fish and Chips from Chez Fred are booked for warmer weather. Trips to local Pubs for lunch are planned whilst the cold wind blows. Jane our keep fit teacher and Tony's giant scrabble are booked through until next year. Brockenhurst College are taking us via talks and pictures around beautiful Dorset and then we shall write poetry, listen to music and do various crafts associated with spring. Speakers and musicians will entertain us too. All this is possible because of a wonderful group of volunteers who run the Day Centre and also enjoy all the activity.

Members join us because they are unable to get out on their own, so we have a minibus to

pick up many of them. Also voluntary car drivers. (We always need more car drivers to cover holidays and illness etc.) After 6 years of driving our minibus, our driver is having to leave us this summer.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

Midas training will be given and any out of pocket expenses will of course be paid. Please pop in and see us and the minibus on a Monday from 10am to 3pm at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards, or ring Judy for more information on: **01425 476935.**

Without volunteers none of the above would be possible.

COME AND JOIN US!

WANTED

Community Resilience Officer - Voluntary Post

Are you organised, methodical, keen to help your local community when they need help most?

Under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004 Parish and Town Councils are required to review the facilities and resources available for use in any incident and have a plan ready for implementation. Communities should be able to put in place actions to provide 'self help' locally for incidents affecting them for up to the first 72 hours, by which time other emergency services should have been able to respond.

Plans will be stored electronically by Dorset County Council and be available to all those who could assist in a response.

The first stage is for parish and town councils to select a person to be the Community Resilience Officer to champion this process and be the focal point for the gathering and dissemination of data. The Emergency Planning Service of the County Council will hold information events to help and support parish councils in this process.

We all hope that nothing major will happen but if it does a plan goes a long way to alleviating the seriousness of the incident and could save lives, including yours or your neighbour.

Could you help? Please contact the Parish Clerk for further information on 01425 482727.

Improving Community Spirit in conjunction with The Annual Parish Assembly

Invitation to the Parish

**On Friday 15th May 2009
In the Main Hall**

**At The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards
Doors to open at 7.00pm**

Various local groups and organisations will be available to exchange information and encourage more participation in the community following which the Parish Council will then hold the **Annual Parish Assembly.**

The official Council reports will be given between 7.30pm & 8pm.
The assembly will close by 9pm.

This is an opportunity to speak directly to the Council and other local groups and organisations. We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs A Jacobs, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Village Hall, St Leonards, Ringwood BH24 2PJ

**Telephone: 01425 482727 office hours Tuesday-Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm
Email: stleonardsstives@dorsetparishes.gov.uk Web Site: www.stleonardspc.org.uk**