

Dear Parishioners,

Reading through the newsletter you will be aware of the challenges we all face in the future. One must not feel despondent however uneasy we all may feel about the stringent times ahead. Your Parish Council has been working on preparing budgets and alternative strategies to minimise areas of concern as much as possible. We do, however, require the goodwill, understanding and assistance of everyone in the Parish to achieve this aim.

Everyone is being encouraged to take part in the bigger society and to be more self reliant. That is laudable if one has the energy, commitment and a sense of public service. We are all going to be called upon to look after ourselves and be aware and prepared to help other people.

There are, of course, many people in this Parish who have been here before. The majority of our citizens are quite elderly and often live alone. Their personal experiences of difficult times in the past have provided them with the fortitude and grit that enabled them to cope when younger.

I would ask you all to think of the community as a whole in the times to come and be prepared to take that extra step to help each other. In this respect there could be no better example to us all than the late Cllr. Michael Packham, whose obituary follows this letter.

Our area is beautiful and the people who live here are a good example of all the best in this country. So I would ask you to be as patient as you can with us if

we sometimes cannot provide everything that has been automatically expected before.

Cllr. Stephanie Smith
Chairman
St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council

Obituary – Parish Councillor Michael Packham

Councillor Michael Packham sadly passed away on the 30th June 2010. Councillor Packham had served this community since May 1995, over 15 years. He was held in high regard by his colleagues on the Council and brought a wealth of experience and knowledge gained in his professional life having served in the Air Force and in a number of countries.

His particular interests were in youth, serving as a Governor on the St Ives First School Board of Governors for many years, and on the Planning Committee. He was one of the two Councillors who initiated and worked on the Parish Plan which he saw as a tool to try and get the spirit and wishes of the residents across to other tiers of government and the Council. He could always be relied upon for his sense of fairness and equality. He attended his last meeting on the 7th January 2010, although unwell he came in on an icy and freezing cold afternoon and sat in a room with no heating for the meeting. That was his level of commitment. He took his service to the public seriously and gave it 110% serving as Chairman in 2000/2001.

He was held in high regard and will be greatly missed by his colleagues on the Council and at

the School. His demise is a great loss to this community. Typical of the man one of his last wishes was to leave something to the community he cared so passionately about, this we hope to report on in more detail shortly.



Flying of Model Aircraft

The Council has not given permission for the flying of model planes or other model aircraft at Braeside Road Recreation Ground or Horton Road Village Green. These sites are totally unsuitable for this purpose. We would also point out that such use is a breach of the Air Navigation Order (1) Article 74.



St Leonards & St Ives Home Watch "Twitter" feed

The Home Watch website www.2saints.org.uk has now added a one-way "Twitter" feed to its home page. This provides the very latest information on the whereabouts of and the duties being undertaken by the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) – PC Tony Tester and PCSO Steve Winning, as well as updates on criminal activity within the area. This gives local people

the most up-to-date information about what is going on in their community. The SNT team can also keep the website visitors up-to-date with the latest witness appeals, meetings and events. The "Twitter" connection strengthens the Home Watch partnership with the police in making our community an even safer place to live.

New Pressures on Parish Council Amenities

The Parish Council is only responsible for its own lands and specific properties, which until recent times has not caused any financial issue. In addition the Parish Council has provided grants in support of bodies who offer specific assistance or an amenity to our parishioners, examples of this are; Age Concern, Dial-a-ride, Greyfriars, Citizens advice, Air Ambulance etc.

Although the Village Hall is built on Parish Council land it is in fact a leasehold property held by The Trustees of the Village Hall and run by the Village Hall Committee. The Village Hall is recognised as a facility available to all Parishioners and as such, the Parish Council has continued to provide substantial assistance to the building upkeep by way of grants and gifts, a recent example being a grant of £12,000.00 towards heating replacement and a sum of £5723 towards the cost of replacement hall windows.

Dog fouling has been an ongoing problem over the years and originally the arrangement was for Dog Warden services to be provided by EDDC. It soon became clear that this was severely lacking and as a result, the Parish Council is paying into a scheme for Dog Warden services.

Although street sweeping is a DCC provided service, the Parish Council had brought to its attention that additional service

was required to assist in keeping the Parish tidy. As we could not elicit this from the Local Authority, the Parish Council has again dipped into its funds to pay for the services of a Lengthsman.

The monetary squeeze on Local and District Authorities is becoming increasingly clear.

The winter ice and snow and non clearance of side roads soon brought its own problems. The Parish Council learned from parishioners that D.C.C had given misleading advice as to who was responsible for Grit Bins. Issues of Liability and health and safety arose as to the safe usage of the grit. Despite conflicting advice the Parish Council is still seeking a sensible way forward with Dorset County Council.

The latest issue is the cessation of weed killing by Dorset County Council. The Parish Council does not have the resources but hopes to utilise Ferndown's recently purchased mechanised weed sprayer, but it will be another cost to find.

If continued pressure is placed on this Parish Council to carry out work previously the responsibility of others, then there is going to be much to consider, not only in the administration costs, at present we only have one not full-time Parish Clerk and a very small office but also, training, labour, equipment, maintenance and insurance costs, which at present are not included in our Precept or budgeted for.

Cllr Mrs Jenny House Chairman of Amenities.

Village Hall

As always a hive of a vary varied range of activities including Pilates, Art, wood turning and many others find out more by looking at the website www.stleonardshall.org.uk . The hall now has a new Administrator Geraldine Bowles who can be contacted on 07847 430815 or on stleonardshall@hotmail.co.uk.



Internet Café at the Village Hall

Each Friday Morning 9am – 12.30pm Two PC experts are present to act as Mentors. The principle aim is to give newcomers to the Internet a chance to try out the Internet at a minimal cost of £2 per half hour. Visitors can bring their own laptop or use one of the 6 laptops which we have installed in the Hall. At these sessions we also offer advice and assistance with any computer related subject The Internet Cafe is registered with UKOnlineCentres which is a government funded organisation which offers online training from the very basic keyboard and mouse to a large range of online courses. These courses require you to register with the UKOnlineCentre and then you can do any of the courses available either in the Internet Cafe or in your own time at home provided you have Internet access. These courses are free. Progress through the courses is monitored and simple tests are provided.

Various Training Courses are also available including a family history course.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact Graham Ledbrook at St Leonards
Tel 01425 474849
Email gledbrook@hotmail.com

Keeping the pavement and Highway Clear and Safe

It is the responsibility of all landowners or occupiers on whose land the hedge and trees are growing to ensure that their trees or hedges do not interfere with the safe use of public footways and roadways or obscure street lights and road signs. The **full width** of the footway should be kept clear and to a clear height of 2.2m (or 7 ft 2

inches). The carriage way should be kept clear to a height of 5.2metres of 17 feet from the road surface.

We are currently inundated with complaints from residents about overhanging vegetation which besides costing in administration time is most annoying to the residents and visitors to this Parish, and may lead to an accident if left. The County Council has the legal power to take enforcement action where voluntary co-operation is not forthcoming and can then arrange to carry out the work and charge the landowner or occupier. This is costly and time consuming to you the taxpayer. In the meantime if an accident happens attributable to the overhanging vegetation, it exposes the owner or occupier responsible to a claim from the injured or damaged party, which could be substantial.

So please, please cut your hedges back, you are wasting the taxpayers money (your money) by leaving it and you could be responsible for an accident!



Never too old!

If you are anything like me, I am sure you will have happy memories of those halcyon days out with friends on a cycle ride in the countryside, and have perhaps been heard to say "If only I was a few years younger". Well here is your chance to rekindle those memories for real and NO we are not too old. Moors Valley Country Park offers a number of courses with the specific object of making it possible to as they say "get on your bike"! In fact, I was most surprised to learn that a scheme called "Pedal Back the Years"

was started in 1998 by the Rangers.

Not sure you can still ride a bike or perhaps you never had the chance to learn, well, why not try the "**1-2-1**" Tuition. This consists of 3 sessions over 3 weeks, approximately 1 ½ hours each session. The courses are in the Moors Valley Events Guide and there are about 5/6 courses each year, cost £54 and includes tuition, bike hire, parking, refreshments and vouchers for cycle hire. Next course is: **Wednesdays 3rd, 10th and 17th November.**

If you know you can still pedal that bike, but just need to regain a little more confidence, why not take advantage of the "**Get Back in the Saddle**" course. After September this will be done over one day and include basic bike maintenance and riding on quiet roads. If required you will be provided with the right size bike and helmet and explained how the gears work etc. before setting off on a leisurely ride. Cost £35 includes bike hire, lunch parking and vouchers. £25 with own bike. Next course is: **Tuesdays 30th November and 29th March**

Once you feel confident, there is a programme of "**Health Cycle Rides**", which last for about an hour. Cost free if you have your own bike (cycle hire available for £2:00). Why not give it a try? Recapture your youth in good company. Next ride: Every Wednesday 10 -11am (meet for 9.45am at bike hire in Moors Valley – no need to book)

Local Rides in East Dorset

Each month Moors Valley Rangers lead a ride in an area in East Dorset. The gentle leisure rides will last approximately one hour and use quiet lanes and tracks. Locations are Wimborne, Amyesford and Gussage All Saints. They rotate from month to month.

Cost: £7 includes bike hire and delivery. £3.50 with own bike. Next rides: **Thursdays 11th November, 13th January, 10th February and 17th March.**

There are of course many other events such as Power Walking, Healthy walks etc. for more information go to www.moors-valley.co.uk or, for further information telephone 01425 470721

Many thanks to Marc Thompson Recreation Ranger Moors Valley for providing so much information.

Cllr. Mrs Jenny House

Concerned about Housing Development in the Parish? Want to know more ?

East Dorset District Council is the Local Planning Authority, responsible for approving all planning development within the Parish. The Parish Council is a statutory Consultee and is supplied with copies of all full and outline planning applications. Most applications are decided by the Case Officer and the Parish Council is given 21 days to respond to an application. The Planning Committee of the Parish Council meet every three weeks to ensure that they can comment on each application. The public can get involved in a number of ways if they wish to give an opinion on an application. So if you "hear" that some development or extension is planned near you, or just spot the yellow sign and want to know more you could:-

1. Attend the Parish Council meeting and speak in the public forum.
2. Write in to the District Council direct but please copy your letter to the Parish Council as well.
3. Go on the Dorset for You website www.dorsetforyou.com select "planning applications" on the right hand side and then select "East Dorset Planning Applications Search". You can then find the property and application.

Viewing Planning Applications

Plans can be viewed at the Parish Office, rear of the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards. Office opening hours 10.30am to 12.30pm Tuesday to Friday **ring the Clerk** to make sure the plans are still available. Alternatively they are available at the District Council Offices at Furzehill, near Wimborne.

Meetings

Meetings of the Parish Council are advertised on the Parish notice boards (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.

Supporting an Application: The above also applies if you wish to support an application.

Recycling to save lives

**AIR
AMBULANCE**



SERVING
DORSET & SOMERSET
Charity No. 1078685

The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance came into service in March 2000 and has attended to over 6,000 incidents. The aircraft responds mostly to emergency calls such as road traffic collisions and sporting incidents. On average it receives 3 to 4 calls per day, but during busy periods and summer months, it can be up to 8.

The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, needs £3,800 a day to keep its helicopter and highly trained crew in the air. As a charity, the service relies on the generosity of individuals and organisations to help it continue its life-saving work. Airborne within three minutes of a 999 call, the Air Ambulance can reach most of its operational area within nineteen minutes. It needs an area only half the size of a tennis court to be able to land. It can then transport patients to the appropriate hospital for their injuries - being able to do this will make the difference between life and death for many patients.

You can help this vital service by recycling your unwanted clothes, shoes and household textiles.

Next time you clear out remember the banks at West Moors Memorial Hall and The Angel Inn, we urgently need your donations.

For more information on your nearest textile bank and how to help the Air Ambulance visit www.bagitup.org.uk. For more information about the air ambulance, see www.dorsetandsomersetairambulance.org.uk or ring 01823 669604

Body Control Pilates ®

For posture, strength, flexibility, balance and co-ordination. Village Hall, Braeside Road, on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday mornings and at various times on Thursdays. If you have good basic fitness and would like to know more please ring Ann Dickson on 0776 321 4738 Also please look at bodycontrol.co.uk. Pilates clones are taught in the Committee Room at the Village

Wooden Bus Shelter on the A31

In March of this year the wooden bus shelter adjacent to the footbridge near the Avon Heath Country Park was demolished in an accident. We have now received the insurance payout including uninsured excess and are in the process of replacing the shelter. Due mainly to costs and the fact that it is in the Green Belt we are replacing it with another wooden shelter of a similar style but have been told we also need to apply for planning permission so there will be some delay.

Elections to the Parish Council

Parish Councillors serve for a period of 4 years at the end of which an election is called. The current term ends in May 2011. If you would like to know more look at the Parish Council website for further information. Nomination papers have to be submitted before the end of March next year

Moors Valley Producers Markets

A new initiative which is to be held on the 2nd Friday of the month from 10am to 2.30pm including a special extra market on Sunday 5th December, (10am to 4pm) Reduce your carbon footprint this Christmas and buy locally. A wide range of local food and craft stalls will be on display near the Visitor Centre.

Mrs A Jacobs, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Village Hall, Braeside Road, 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