

Chairman's letter:

When I was elected Chairman of St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council I was determined that action would speak louder than words. I am very lucky to be able to work with so many dedicated Councillors who give of their time without cost to you, the Parishioners.

From my experience in business I realised that we need to tighten our belts in these very difficult economic times and show even greater control of our expenditure. Our Councillors have worked tirelessly to create the budget for the coming year April 2012 to March 2013.

The Localism Bill given Royal Assent on Nov 15th 2011 will almost certainly have an effect on our costs during the coming years as Parish Councils gain more responsibilities and have more say in local issues.

Our aim is to get closer to you, the electorate. Each councillor is now responsible for individual roads within the Parish. This will give us the chance to get to know you all and ensure you are able to make your views known, so that we can react to your needs and those of your neighbours. Giving you a voice in the way we do things is very important as we plan the way ahead. Details as to who has responsibility for your road can be obtained from the Parish Office or the Parish Web Site. More information as to what is going on in the Parish will also be available as we develop our website.

The Parish has a number of assets that we have to look after: Braeside Rd, Horton Rd and Jubilee Copse. Each one having different cost needs. Braeside Road being the home of our Tennis, Bowls and Youth Clubs plus a base for our Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The central point being our Village Hall where we

are endeavouring to maintain a high standard of accommodation for those using the three halls. The benefit of this is reflected in the ever increasing bookings. Congratulations to the Village Hall Management Committee.

Horton Rd and Jubilee Copse need regular maintenance of both the ground areas and the trees so that residents can enjoy a place to relax and play.

A substantial amount of our precept is spent on maintaining the control of the Parish.

The Parish Office is manned three days a week with our Parish Clerk working from home two days of the week. The idea behind this is to save costs and better utilisation of the Clerk's time. The Clerk can work uninterrupted. You would be amazed how much extra work our Clerk achieves whilst still being readily available for the needs of the parishioners. The cost savings have been quite substantial and our thanks go to Mrs Ann Jacobs for her excellent work and co-operation.

With everything that we have faced I am pleased that we have been able to hold this year's precept down to a nominal increase of approx. 66 pence per year per household. A little over a penny each week.

My message is hopefully clear to you all; we would like your input in to the way the Parish Council works and I hope to meet many of you at our meetings during the year where we welcome your participation in the Open Forum.

Our Annual Parish Assembly is on 18th April 2012 starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Braeside Road.

Councillor Ray Bryan
Chairman

**INVITATION TO THE
ANNUAL PARISH
ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY
18th April 2012**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6.45PM
TO START AT 7.00PM
PROMPTLY**

**IN THE MAIN HALL AT
THE VILLAGE HALL,
BRAESIDE ROAD, ST
LEONARDS**

Hear the annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council and take the opportunity to ask questions directly of the Councillors

***It's your Parish come along
and be part of it!***

Disclaimer

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Car Parking at the Village Hall

Parking is limited at the hall. If those using a car would park more considerately within the lines, car share or think twice before bringing their cars, this would help.

Remember that the hall is in use at all times, so please do not use it to park and go off elsewhere. In doing so you are stopping a hall user, which could lead to a loss of revenue for the hall.

The Internet Cafe /S for YOU!

Did you read the headline and almost move onto something more interesting? Have you been there, done that and got the T-shirt, as far as computers are concerned or are you just not interested in using one?

Well here's the reason why you need to read on, especially if you have applied for planning permission or someone nearby has. The District Council now publishes plans on the Dorset For You website. Using the website you can view the plans, additional information and comments submitted by both the public and other statutory consultees. A number of people have visited the Parish Office and been shown how to access this facility but now that the Internet Café has a very fast fibre optic connection, you can access this information more quickly by dropping in to use one of the Café's computers or indeed you can take your own laptop and use the fast connection. If you don't have a computer one of the staff will happily help you to find the information you need.

The Internet Cafe is a fantastic drop-in facility (no appointment necessary) and is held in the Committee Room at the Village Hall every Friday morning from 9.00-noon. The cost is only £1 per half hour (excluding any printing) and you can even get a cup of coffee for 50p. It is run by the Village Hall Management Committee and all profits from the Café and the Computer Classes (which run on Tuesday afternoons) are ploughed back into the funds necessary to run our hall. So if you want to access the web, have a computer query or want to enquire about courses, just pop in any Friday morning.

Are your trees in a safe condition?

Recently we have been experiencing high winds resulting in trees falling into roadways, plus branches and general tree debris. Many of us have trees that overhang roads and highways. If the tree(s) are not in a safe condition, resulting in falls into the roadway or highway causing third party damage, injury or in the worst scenario death, you could be held liable.

It is important to have your trees inspected to ensure they are in a safe condition and to take any required remedial action.

If the tree(s) has a Tree Preservation Order you must contact the Tree Officer at East Dorset District Council, on 01202 886201 who will advise and if required give permission for the required work to be carried-out.

Have you left a tempting offer in your car?

As a member of your local PACT Committee, I was dismayed to hear that, despite continued advice, folk are still leaving items of value in sight in their vehicles, resulting in theft from vehicles.

Even if just popping out for a minute or going for a short walk on the heath it is enough time for the opportune thief to delight in the tempting offer you have left in sight. Even leaving your vehicle unlocked whilst you go to pay at the petrol station.

It is essential to ensure all doors are locked including the sunroof and boot.

Ensure mobile satellite equipment is removed from it's cradle and locked away safely along with any parcels, bags etc.

As the Police say "Don't make it easy for the thief to empty your car".

Cllr Mrs J House

St Leonards and St Ives Village Hall by Chairman Ann Warman

With grant assistance from your Parish Council, East Dorset District Council and County Council we have been able to continue the much needed refurbishment of the three halls which were very tired and in need of attention. We used our funding from all three Councils for the new windows in the main hall and some money from the Parish Council towards the new lights and power points in the main hall. Since 1975 the main hall has only ever had two power points which proved rather limiting.

We unfortunately had a bad leak in the annex hall which lifted the parquet flooring and our insurers agreed to pay the full replacement price for the entire floor of £4,532.

On November 19th last year we held a very successful community day which raised in excess of £800. We intend to repeat this event on **November 10th** this year, so please put this date in your diary. Father Christmas was a huge success with the children. We need the support of the local people to enable us to afford some of the small essentials necessary to run the hall.

We have also been very fortunate and received a number of donations from local people for which we are very grateful.

We have lost a whole year's bookings on Saturday mornings in the main hall. Unfortunately the young lady holding the dancing classes has fallen ill and it is thought to be long term. We therefore have availability on Saturdays that we would like to book in order to maintain our revenue.

If wishing to make a booking for the hall or to view it, please ring our administrator Geraldine on 01425 472499 answer phone or mobile 07847 430815. Her response is usually within the day but if very urgent please ring me (Ann Warman) on 01425 476319. **COMMUNITY DAY SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2012 11.00am – 3.00pm.**

Councillors appointed roads to monitor

Each Councillor is now monitoring a specified Road. If you have a specific concern ring the Clerk and she will arrange for that nominated Councillor

to make contact with you and hear your concern or issue.

Good Neighbours Scheme

Need help for a variety of things? The **Good Neighbours Scheme is still running. Call 07933 202112** if you need help, such as returning books to the library, collecting shopping or prescriptions and many other things. Give them a call as they are also keen to hear from potential volunteers.

Parish Office Opening Hours and Council Meeting Times

The Parish Office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is so that the Clerk can work from home on Mondays and Fridays. This has been found to be far more productive and has allowed the Council to cut overtime and, for now to still meet the additional work and demands being directed to Local Councils from Central Government. Please bear in mind that there is only one member of staff so, if on leave, the office will also be closed. Provided the internet connection is working you can still make contact via email on any week day.

All meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees now start at 7pm. They are open to the Public and at the very start there is a Public Forum where the Public can directly ask a question or make a statement. A 2 minute time limit applies. The Council may not be able to comment on the evening but will give you an indication of when an answer will be available.

St Leonards & St Ives PACT

Your PACT Panel recently met and the following points were discussed.

Activities in Wattons Lane. The Police reported that following the clearance of vegetation the number of cars has seen a large drop. The next action by the Rangers will be the closing of lay-bys.

Car Park on Hurn Road. The intended changes to this will take place before February half term. A

fence will be installed to separate walkers, etc, from cars, and signs limiting parking to 6 hours will be erected.

Youth Services. The Youth Club has re-opened and a meeting will be held with the Leader to encourage representation on the PACT Panel. The Forest Rangers have offered to involve the Youth Club in forthcoming work on the Castleman Trailway.

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team has held several street corner meetings, including the Sheduction vehicle. These were well attended.

Any comments for your PACT Panel should be made to:
Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01202 222222 or 07825 521779.
Or Brian Frecknall (Chair) at v.frecknall@btopenworld.com
Or your Home Watch representative.

Tough Trading Times as a sub-postmaster and small local retailer

There can be little doubt that the economic conditions facing Sub-Postmasters and other Self Employed small business people in the UK are the most difficult they have been for decades, with many businesses and families facing reduced income and rising costs.

With this in mind, trials for new services were carried out in various parts of the country, to potentially secure increased business, including:-

- Rural signing-on, where people in rural areas claiming Job Seekers Allowance were required to sign on at a Post Office.
- A check and send service for customers who are applying for State Pension, or Pension Credit.
- Applications for a National Insurance Number.
- Further Local Authority Services for Post Offices to become the "front office" for

many Council and Local Authority Services.

- The checking of the Public's driving licences and insurance documents, as required by the Police.

Furthermore, by building on our strengths, as the trusted alternative to High Street Banks and the largest travel money supplier in the UK, together with our long term agreement with Royal Mail to continue as the largest UK retailer; the year ahead could see the Post Office established as an independent business, as steps are taken on a path that may eventually lead to mutualisation.

Please support all of your local businesses otherwise one day they will be gone and even building houses in the Green Belt will not bring them back.

Noel Hindmarch

Castleman Trailway Surfacing Improvements 2012

Nearly 5.5 Kilometres (3.4 Miles) of the Castleman Trailway is to receive a new surface to make it more cycle, wheelchair and Pushchair friendly.

These works are to be funded by the Verwood Developer Contributions and form part of a suite of works focused around the B3071 corridor serving the communities of Verwood, Three Legged Cross and West Moors. All works aim to increase use of sustainable transport in the area.

Whilst the Trailway will remain open during works we apologise for any delays you may experience. Please follow the safety directions given by our contractors.

The section of Dorset Countryside old railway line between Horton Road and Westmoors Plantation (Moorlands Rise) will have the central reservation removed. Instead of having two narrow paths separated by a bank we will have one 2.5 metre path

with a level surface beside. This will not only make maintenance easier but will also make it easier for Trailway users to pass each other. The bank itself is not a heritage feature but simply the overburden left from the installation of the high pressure water main beneath the old track bed. Perhaps you did not know that underground the Trailway is being used to transport water from Blashford Lakes (Hampshire) to Canford Heath reservoirs (Poole)!

Dorset Countryside & the Borough of Poole are working together to further develop the entire Castleman Trailway. For more information on the Castleman Trailway visit:

www.dorsetforyou.com/castlemantrailway

E-mail: p.jones@dorsetcc.gov.uk

To complete a Castleman Trailway Users Questionnaire and register as a supporter of Castleman Trailway. Visit:

www.dorsetforyou.com/392702

Paul Jones
Castleman Trailway Ranger

Obituary: Mr Brian Kliger

In August 2011 the Parish lost a very good friend, Mr Brian Kliger. Many of you will have known of him through his considerable efforts in respect of Conservation work amongst many other things. He organised the volunteers for Jubilee Copse; Avon Heath and Lions Hill and tackled heath conservation with an energy and enthusiasm which many of us (much younger) could only look on with awe. In addition he was one of the two Volunteer Rights of Way Liaison Officers; and the Conservation Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Parish. He was an inspiration to us all and he will be greatly missed.

Rights of Way in the Parish

Rights of Way in the Parish are monitored by a volunteer Rights of

Way Liaison Officer (ROWLO). The ROWLO walks and inspects the Rights of Way in the Parish each year.

The role involves walking the paths (note not pavements). If a problem is found the ROWLO contacts the relevant body i.e., County Council Rights of Way Team, Avon Heath Rangers or the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust. Without regular inspections paths can easily become lost in the undergrowth or obstructed. The ROWLO also ensures signage is maintained to protect these paths for future generations. Historically these paths go way back in time, beyond the motor car. They are a right of way, but please, it is not a right to take liberties! Please make sure you do not litter, keep to the path, if passing through a gate close it behind you and respect the path for others to enjoy.

If you want to find out more about the 17 different footpaths go to Dorset Explorer on the Dorset for you Website and you can locate them all.

Folly Farm - Dell Wood

You may have seen in the press that the area known as Folly Farm, adjacent to the slip road off the A31, has been leased to the Lantern Community by the owners, Ringwood Town Council. The 25 year lease provides full public access, whilst allowing the school to use it as an integral part of its educational work. In return, the Lantern Community will make parking available and manage the maintenance of this 4.4 acre woodland site. Your Parish Council will be part of a group which will monitor the management of the area and ensure that residents' best interests are protected.

If you would like more information, have any suggestions or would like to become a "Friend of Dell Wood", please contact The Parish Clerk.

Youth Club

Freedom Youth Club is based at St Leonards and St Ives Village Hall, Braeside Road.

The Club currently meets on a Wednesday evening from 7.00pm to 9.00pm for year 7 and 8 students and offers a host of activities including pool, darts and table football. Our latest acquisitions are a 42" 3D Plasma TV with 3D Blu Ray player.

Recent 'out of club' activities have included ice skating, ski bobbing at Snowtrax and skittles. Whilst in the club, we have made burgers and pizzas and had makeup and nail evenings.

From the September 2012 Term the Wednesday evening will change to a 'Teenage Evening' for students in years 9,10, 11 and 12. In addition, from the September Term, the Club will also be opening on a Monday evening for year 7 & 8 students. Current year 6 students will be able to come along and visit the Club this summer to have a look at the facilities.

For more information please contact the Chairman, Steve Moody, on 01202 893306 or 07850 624220.

Finding out about Your Council

Parish Council website on www.stleonardspc.org.uk. Alternatively look for your nearest Parish Council noticeboard at:-

The Village Hall
Post Office
Doctors Surgery
One Stop (near the crossing)
Hurn Road layby
A31/Boundary Lane
Oak Tree Caravan Park

Mrs A Jacobs, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Village Hall, St Leonards, Ringwood, BH24 2PJ Telephone: 01425 482727 Office hours Tuesday-Thursday 10.30am to 12.30pm Email: office@stleonardspc.org.uk Web Site: www.stleonardspc.org.uk
