

## Chairman's letter:

This year I was re-elected as Chairman of this Parish and am proud to be able to once again hold this office.

During this year we have much to do, we are under pressure to ensure that services provided by both County and District are maintained where possible.

During the last year we achieved excellent control of our finances under the Chairmanship of Cllr Jenny House hence a very small increase in our precept whilst still maintaining our reserves.

Cllr Noel Hindmarch, Chairman of our planning committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the views of the local people of St Leonards and St Ives were represented at District Council. My thanks also go to one of our residents Ken Brooks for all the work he does regarding planning. Our thanks must also go to Peter Walker who besides maintaining the Parish website also inspects to footpaths throughout the Parish (note not pavements).

ALL of the Councillors, elected by you the residents of St Leonards and St Ives give much of their spare time to help keep this area as we would all wish it to be.

Thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings, your voice is important to us and to the future of this Parish.

Cllr Ray Bryan, Chairman to the Parish Council

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**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
**At the Village Hall, Braeside**  
**Road, St Leonards**  
**on Saturday the**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November 11.00am –**  
**3.00pm.**  
**Come along and join the fun**

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**See the Parish Council table**  
**for information and future**  
**plans and projects under**  
**discussion**

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## Boundary Review

An East Dorset District Council Working Party (which includes Councillor Ann Warman) is finalising a submission to the Boundary Commission to reduce the number of District Councillors from 36 to 29. The Boundary Commission will confirm the number on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, after which there will be a public consultation. The proposal follows a reduction in Council Staff. District Councillors receive a basic small yearly allowance, so a reduction in numbers would help reduce pressure on East Dorset District Council's revenue budget.

It is not known at present how the review will affect our Parish, but it could entail changes to Ward boundaries and Parish Council numbers at the next Election in 2015. However, if Parish Councillor numbers were reduced, cost savings would be minimal as in our Parish Councillors give their time for free.

The last review was carried out comparatively recently in 2002, leaving some differences between Parish and District Warding. This is because the previous review left Parish Wards unaltered but changed District ones.

Cllr M Dyer

## **Boundary Review**

Want to know more:-

Cllr Mrs A Warman sits on the District Review Working Party Or by accessing [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/dorset](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/dorset)

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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS.

The Trustees of the hall have continued to maintain the high quality for which it is known. However, there continues to be the never ending problem of car parking. Through the years, additions to the complex have been made without recognition of the additional parking required. The Trustees are now getting complaints that the hall users cannot find parking spaces and have to park in the road. The users are suggesting that they may find a hall elsewhere if nothing can be done about it. The Parish Council are looking at ways of resolving at least some of the problem but it is a very difficult, costly exercise which would have to be paid for out of reserves or precept.

The Parish Council have requested a table at the **Hall Christmas Bazaar on the 10<sup>th</sup> November between 11.00am – 3.00pm.** If you have any questions to ask your Parish Councillors about Parish issues please call and see them or alternatively call in and have a bowl of soup.

We have replaced the cement area around three sides of the hall as it was becoming hazardous and we have succeeded in obtaining funding to resurfacing the main hall floor which will be done the second week in January. This will hopefully see the end of the intended refurbishment, but with a 38 year old building you never know what will occur next.

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR  
COMMUNITY HALL TO HELP  
RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS.  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November  
11.00am – 3.00pm.**

**Ann Warman.  
Chairman VHMC**

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### **THE INTERNET CAFÉ – IS FOR YOU!**

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 £2 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.

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### **Overgrown Vegetation**

Imagine that you are poorly sighted or disabled; do you not think you have a right to walk the pavement without brambles and bushes flicking you in the face or catching your feet? Please check the boundary of your property and the pavement and cut back that hedge or weeds if they are overgrown.

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 costs the Parish in administration time. 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 taxpayers' money (your money) by leaving it and you could be responsible for an accident!**

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### **Disposing of your Garden Waste**

**Your options:-**

#### **1. Green Bin/bag Scheme**

From late October most properties in East Dorset will have the opportunity of buying into the green bin/bag scheme. With the price of petrol and labour surely at £35pa for the 240L bin (or £25 for the bag) this is a good deal. Waste is collected in your bin or bags fortnightly from your property, no lifting, no petrol and no labour to dispose of it!

#### **2. Home composting**

It's free and a convenient subsidised compost bin can be purchased for as little as £21.49 (including delivery) from **Composting call 0844 571 4444 quote ref DORO7L** You also get the free compost!

#### **3. Household Recycling Centres** at Verwood and with a free voucher at Millhams

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### **Smoke Gets In Your Eyes**

Many of us have fairly large gardens, which leads to the accumulation of garden debris.

Ah we may think, let's have a bonfire! But do we think what the

consequences might be before we light it? Bonfires are not environmentally friendly and are a health hazard to those with asthma or breathing difficulties. They can also be extremely dangerous if the wrong things are burnt!

The fire can easily get out of hand and would be a disaster in this area of sensitive heathland and dense woodland. Smoke has this terrible habit of travelling in the direction of the wind which could be a danger to traffic.

Without thinking you may have caused a nuisance to neighbours or passers by. None of us want to bring in our washing covered in smuts or smelling of smoke. If it's a nice day or evening there may be a neighbour enjoying sitting in the garden. There is nothing worse than having to close all our windows because a neighbour's bonfire has smoked us out. The smoke may also have travelled to many other gardens. If you really must have a bonfire, think about lighting it when the light goes down say on average after 7:00pm.

We now have the opportunity purchase bin collected fortnightly for an annual fee of £35 and of course we can all use the recycling centres.

If you really must light a bonfire, please be considerate and make sure your waste is dry and safe to burn. Please do not burn when windy and avoid burning at weekends and bank holidays when your neighbours are more likely to be using their gardens. Keep the fire under control, check the weather and if windy or damp do not burn. Do not burn household rubbish, aerosols rubber, plastics, foams or paints, even some wood types can give off toxic smoke.

All we ask is that you think about the consequences of your bonfire and to be a good neighbour.

Cllr Mrs Jenny House

## **Antisocial nuisance**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 can be used to deal with people who act unreasonably and cause a statutory nuisance to neighbours. This will be used if regular burning is taking place causing a persistent problem and a statutory nuisance can be proved. Your first point of call in this situation is to go and politely speak to your neighbour. If the problem is persistent and talking has not helped you can report the complaint on the Dorset For You website. You will need to give your name and address. Keep a diary if the problem is persistent with dates and times as this will be needed as evidence. If, however, smoke is drifting across the Highway and could cause a danger to traffic, under the Highways Act 1980 anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road faces a fine if it endangers traffic. Call the Police in this case on 101.

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## **Rubbish Bag sales**

Historically the Parish Office has always sold the different bags for waste. However, with the new Dorset Waste Partnership scheme about to start the County Council will no longer supply bags to the Parish Council for sale. The Parish Council will not be able to purchase sufficient quantities to guarantee a viable commercial rate. From October the Parish Council will no longer be selling bags. Stockists will be published shortly. But make sure any bags you buy for your food waste bins are compostable with the compostable logo on:-



Biodegradable is totally different and of no use in these bins, alternatively you can wrap food waste in newspaper.

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## **Reporting Road Defects**

Did you know you can now report road defects on line? You will get an automatically generated enquiry number which allows you to track your enquiry.

To report an issue go to [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) – select roads and “report a defect option” make sure you give specific location details. The enquiry number comes up after you have filled in the online submission form; make a note of it so that you can find out how things are progressing at a later date.

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## **Post Office Mutualisation?**

Concerns have been expressed that this may result in a few large supermarket chains taking over the majority of Post Offices and would have serious implications for the proposed change of ownership of Post Office Ltd to a mutual structure.

And finally.....

Postmen and Women are taking part in a pilot mapping project to record precise co-ordinates for home and business addresses. Royal Mail workers are using special satellite receivers to record GPS longitude and latitude and altitude data for every property in East Anglia. If mail volumes continue to decline the project could provide a new stream of revenue.

Cllr N R Hindmarch

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## **Future Council Projects and expenditure:-**

The Council has some long outstanding issues which it is currently trying to resolve. The two main ones requiring significant investment are:-

- Lack of parking at the Braeside Road Recreation Ground
- Lack of Allotments

## **Car Parking at the Village Hall**

Parking at the Village Hall is limited and from time to time spaces are at a premium requiring the need to park in Braeside Road. A working party has currently been set-up to look at all options and endeavour to find a reasonable way forward. It should be noted however, that provision of additional car parking is likely to be very expensive in relation to the number of extra spaces made available.

In the mean time, we ask that care is taken to park within the lines so as not to take-up more than one space, or make it too difficult to park in what is left of the space beside you. Think twice before using your car or consider car sharing and please do not use the car park to leave your vehicle and go off somewhere else.

You will observe that the Village Hall Management Committee erect an “A” Board clearly requesting that only users of the Village Hall use the Village Hall Car Park, these being the spaces beyond the “A” Board. Braeside Road entrance to the car park, up to the waste containers is available for users of all the other facilities on the Braeside site.

If parking in the road, please ensure you are not obstructing entrances and driveways of nearby residents. The Parish council has no powers or control to prevent vehicles being parked on the public highway.

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## **Allotment Provision**

Demand is growing and the Council has a duty to review this issue and has been looking at various options. Again the cost will need to be met if land can be found and this will be substantial.

An option we are looking into is garden sharing which has little if any cost to the taxpayer. We have mentioned this before but had little feedback from the public. Such a scheme will

require organisation and is not worth pursuing unless there is sufficient interest by both those willing to share their garden with those willing to garden. Normally the reward is a share of produce.

The Council seeks your thoughts on these issues. Please write in with your opinions on future expenditure. Please come along on the 10<sup>th</sup> November to the Parish Council table and let us know your thoughts.

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### **Meetings of the Parish Council**

To save costs the Parish Council is reviewing its meeting schedules. There is no change to the full Council meetings, which with the exception of the Clerk's Leave period will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of every month (excluding December). Planning will continue to be held every third Thursday. Amenities and Finance Committees are currently subject to change so please refer to the Parish noticeboards and website for exact details.

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### **Planning Concerns**

Whilst the Parish Council is only a consultee in planning matters, the Planning Committee consider each plan very carefully taking into account any representations from the public. It is therefore very important for those of you who have concerns to attend the Planning Committee Public Forums, enabling your concerns to be fully discussed. If a vote is cast in objection to a plan, a request is usually made for it to be referred Committee if we are at variance with the case officer. When plan or plans go to Committee at EDDC, both the public and the Parish Council have the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes each. Giving your reasons in public can have far more impact.

The two District Councillors who sit on the Committee at EDDC are Councillors Mr. Mike Dyer and Mrs Ann Warman.

Those of us sitting on the Planning Committee, thank all of you who take the time to attend our Public Forums and hope to see more of you in the future.

Cllr Mrs Jenny House  
Vice Chairman of Planning

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### **Buses in the Parish**

For two years I have been trying to get a bus route for the local people that includes the side roads of the Parish making it more accessible to our elderly and younger residents in particular. This originated from a request by the residents of Hesketh Close off Sandy Lane. When the X36 was cancelled, I enlisted a lot of public support and help from Wilts and Dorset, DCC and the Parish Council. We managed to persuade W&D that the X38 would be a suitable replacement if it was used on the right route.

After meetings with officers from both W&D and D.C.C. the decision was made to introduce the X38 on a new route which started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The new route comes up the A31 from Ferndown into Woolsbridge Road, turns right into the service road down to the end when it turns left into Sandy Lane along Sandy Lane into Woolsbridge Road and then into Lions Lane to the end and joins up with the old route to Ringwood.

There are problems being notified to me which I relay to my contact at Wilts and Dorset who is being extremely helpful. A meeting held in September will hopefully solve the minor problems that have arisen. The reason for the buses being late is that they are used by so many people. Keep on using the buses and any problems please ring me at **01425 476319**.

Many thanks for your support and please continue to help me by advising of any issues.

Ann Warman East Dorset District Council.

## **FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL**

### **Your Councillors are:**

Chairman  
Cllr R Bryan (East Ward)  
Vice Chairman  
Cllr. M R DYER (South Ward)

EAST WARD (East of Woolsbridge Road towards Ringwood, Avon Castle East of Hurn Road):-

Cllr B P GORINGE  
Cllr. C HOUSE  
Cllr. Mrs J HOUSE  
Cllr R ADKINS  
Cllr. Mrs A WARMAN

South Ward (South of A31 Grange Estate, West side of Hurn Road, Matchams Area):-

Cllr. J F CROW  
Cllr. N R HINDMARCH

West Ward (West side of Woolsbridge Road and North of the A31):-

Cllr. R C DUDMAN (West Ward)  
Cllr M J HOCKLEY (West Ward)  
Cllr. R. WARMAN (West Ward)  
Cllr. G J WILLETTS (West Ward)

Parish Council website on [www.stleonardspc.org.uk](http://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: <a href="mailto:office@stleonardspc.org.uk">office@stleonardspc.org.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stleonardspc.org.uk">www.stleonardspc.org.uk</a>
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