

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER:

Thank goodness summer is on its way, this past year has been very difficult for all levels of Council.

We have experienced drought conditions in March 2012 and floods during the last quarter of 2012 and early 2013. Heavier than normal snow caused road conditions to become a hazard as we all tried to continue a normal working life in sub-zero conditions. With all the weight of the snow and ice on the trees many areas lost power and local teams worked day and night to restore power.

Your Parish Council has worked hard during the year to maintain a service to you the residents whilst trying to maintain costs. The coming years show signs of being even more difficult as we face further cuts in services at both District and County levels. If only people realised the cost of having to pick up litter discarded without thought or not picking up after your dog. As part of our future plans we, your local Parish Council, are trying to find ways of keeping this an area we are all proud to live in. Road sweeping, litter picking and keeping the verges cut are areas that have been identified by local people. Planning consents are monitored by your Parish Planning Committee and we have on many occasions attended East Dorset District Council Planning meeting to ensure that your views are noted. Several applications have been refused due to the pressure put forward by your local Councillors.

We fully support the local community in providing what has become a centre of excellence with the growing Braeside Rd complex. Both the Bowls and Tennis Club have grown in numbers; the Village Hall has been maintained to a very high standard in comparison to other

Village Halls in the area and maintains a high level of occupancy. Other Halls in the area receive large subsidies from EDDC; this council has to provide subsidies from our own coffers. A number of on-going issues within the Parish have seen much better attendances at our monthly meetings. It is great to see that you are interested in what is happening locally and are willing to help us make what at times are difficult decisions. Your thoughts and comments could make a difference.

Cllr Ray Bryan, Chairman

**INVITATION TO
THE
ANNUAL PARISH
ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY
17th April 2013
DOORS OPEN AT
6.45PM TO START
PROMPTLY
AT 7.00PM
IN THE MAIN HALL
AT THE VILLAGE
HALL, BRAESIDE
ROAD, ST LEONARDS**

The Chairman will give his annual report. Take the opportunity to ask questions directly of the Councillors and put forward ideas for the future. Hear of our efforts to source allotment land within the Parish.

***It's your Parish don't sit
in silence come along and
be a part of it!***

ALLOTMENTS

Some two years ago after the publication of the Localism Act I was asked with two other councillors to form a sub-committee to investigate the possibility of a site in the Parish for allotments.

To date we have investigated four sites, three not in our ownership and one other in our ownership. None of these were thought to be at all acceptable, for a variety of reasons.

At present the Parish have a report from an officer from EDDC whose job it is to help find suitable sites for this purpose. The site in question is the recreation field at Horton Road covenanted to the Parish Council by Lord Normanton.

A preliminary discussion was held on the 27th February at the Parish meeting at which several residents were present. They voiced their strong concerns and objections stating several reasons as to why this should not be allowed to happen.

A full investigation has yet to take place and several issues are yet to be discussed. It will be a long time before anything is likely to be decided and many misunderstandings have already taken place. The Parish Agenda which is always placed on the notice boards seven days before the meeting will always advise residents as to when this issue is likely to be discussed.

Cllr Ann Warman

BUS SERVICE UPDATE

On the 12th of February I attended a consultation meeting with the County Officers at the Community Centre in Ferndown. The object of the meeting was to establish with County whether their subsidy was adequate. It

was an extremely interesting meeting and the issues were discussed in full.

It was pointed out that new buses could cost anywhere between £100,000 to £180,000 and all costs had escalated over the past few years. With representatives from the bus companies present, it was obvious that the overall view was that the figure of £3 subsidy from Dorset County Council which has been in place for several years should rise. This £3 was for every journey on the buses taken by fare paying passengers. Concessionary fare ticket holders do not fall into this category. After a very long debate it was obvious that those present, who represented all Parishes had varying views, but the majority by far, felt that an increase was necessary. Suggestions from £5 to £20 were made. There was no majority view but the officers said they would go back and consider all that was said and await the result of the public consultation which can be filled in by going to www.dorsetforyou.com/busconsultation

Or alternatively, by filling in the form which can be obtained from the Parish Clerks office. (Open Tues, Weds or Thurs between 10.30am-12.30pm.)

Before the meeting closed I did personally thank the people from Wilts and Dorset Buses, for their hard work in delivering our very successful bus service, which is much appreciated by the residents of St Leonards and St Ives. They assured me that the service would continue as they realised just how well it was used.

HOT OFF THE PRESS. East Dorset District Council have voted to keep the subsidy towards concessionary fares until the year 2016, this includes pre 9.30am.

Ann Warman, Parish and District Councillor

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE TENNIS CLUB

Many village residents will pass the courts and see tennis being played and coaching taking place. Maybe you have wondered about the club: so a little news will be of interest. Our aim is to provide enjoyable tennis for all ages: currently from 3 to 80+ years and we think we fulfil this.

We have our own very popular Head Coach, Paul Handford, who has two full time qualified coaches, Andy Wells and Carl Shoulders working with him, as well as a number of helpers.

This enables us to have over 120 youngsters enjoying playing, competing and joining in coaching sessions which include lively holiday clubs. Standards are high, beginners make progress and much fun is had!

The club has around 230 Junior and Senior members, most of whom play at least once a week. Our summer tournament was an outstanding success, triumphing over the weather. Over 220 matches were played during 5 months with 90 adult entrants. On Finals Day the balcony and clubhouse were full from 10am until the presentations in the evening. A stunning array of cup cakes, tasty baguettes and a flaming BBQ ensured members and guests alike maintained their energy.

Adult competition includes regular internal Box Leagues and informal club sessions, where all players mix in, on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays and on Friday and especially Tuesday evenings which are exceptionally popular.

We enjoy many social functions including mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas Club Night, a Chinese food night, quizzes and curry nights.

Recently introduced Cardio Tennis combines fitness with fun for most ages. If you hear some tennis to music with lots of laughter, that's what's going on! Contact Andy Wells on 07552 370019 if you want to know more.

Plans at present include refurbishing our excellent carpeted courts and before long we shall need to renew the floodlights, so prudent financial management is essential and we are lucky to have a very canny treasurer (Paul Woodruff) and supportive members.

St Leonards and St Ives Lawn Tennis club is affiliated to the LTA and was voted Dorset 'Club of the Year' in 2010. We are very proud of our contribution to the local community. Feel like joining us? We have some vacancies for playing and social members. Our year runs from April to April. Main contacts are Paul Handford (Head Coach), Sue Baker (Chair), Ann Warne (Hon Sec), and Jo MacMillan (Membership)

Phone 07709 821006 (Head Coach), or 01425 489388 or drop a note through the club letterbox near the courts at the rear of the village hall,

View our website <http://stleonards.hitstennis.com>
E-mail us at stleonardscoachingteam@hotmail.com

Or just have a chat to one of us when you pass by. We are YOUR local club!

DOES ANY SMALL POST OFFICE HAVE A FUTURE?

With the ongoing recession that has disproportionately hit the UK's High Streets, coupled with the trend towards purchasing online, it is clear that any attempt to reinvigorate the level of business across Post Office counters cannot be increased without regard to the long-term future of Britain's High Streets and it could be argued that the downturn is only really starting to kick in.

The collapse in January of three big retail names - HMV, Jessops and Blockbuster only highlights such problems and even in more affluent retail areas premises are being taken over by Betting Shops, Fast Food outlets and Charity Shops.

In many villages and small communities there are Sub-Post offices trapped in 'Last Shop in the Village' situations so the creation of a Post Office Bank could be very welcome. Never before has the slogan 'Use it or Lose it' been more important. You have been warned and this means YOU!!!!

Cllr Noel R Hindmarch

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 – 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.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Firstly, I must thank everyone who has supported the Village Hall since my article last year.

THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY DAY IS:-

SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2013 @ 11.00am – 2.00pm.

Please put this date in your diary.

The latter months of last year were spent working to raise much needed money towards the refurbishment of the main hall floor. The total price quoted was £4,000 and we managed to get grant funding from three sources which equated to £2,550. We then had to work very hard to raise the remaining £1,450. This we did by holding a Chinese night at CHEF da CHINA, which raised £424 and the Community day raised £813. This left us to find £217; a donation from one of the hall user groups has helped in this regard.

We had a large nearly new fridge freezer donated by a local resident, for which we are very grateful.

There are still improvements to be made but not immediately. A committee working party is slowly painting several rooms.

We have a very exciting fund raising event on JUNE 15th 2013, which is a concert by the DORSET POLICE MALE VOICE CHOIR but, due to numbers and space, it is to be held at St Mary's Church Hall, Ferndown, starting at 7.00pm; tickets £8. Book tickets now by ringing the number below so that you will not be disappointed. All the proceeds will be spent on the Village Hall. We are always looking for donations or any ideas on how to raise money, so please help, if possible, by contacting me on 01425 476319. Thank you.

ANN WARMAN. (CHAIRMAN)
01425 476319.

CHEER-UP SPRING IS ROUND THE CORNER

So much depressing news, recession, high prices at the pumps and so on and so on. How about reading something happier for a change?

Looking out of my window in early February, I noticed the pink rhododendrons were already coming out in bloom; the camellias were in bud and waiting to burst into a glorious profusion of colour.

Going into the garden the crocuses were clearly saying, we have arrived along with our friends the snowdrops. Birds busy at the feeding station fluttering happily backwards and forwards, even bravely taking a bath in the water feature. Although not always loved by many, I laughed watching the squirrels chasing each other across the back lawn. Just for a moment, everything was brought into perspective and Nature was clearly saying, “cheer -up spring is on its way.”

Cllr. Mrs Jenny House.

YOUR NHS

“No decision about me without me” is at the heart of the government's reform of the NHS. The idea is to shift decision making as close as possible to you the patient.

The new NHS comes into being from 1st April 2013 and will be a radical change from the way things have been run hither to. Newly formed Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will decide the services to be delivered and commission providers (hospitals and others) to provide them.

CCGs have to be able to be able to show how they will ensure inclusion of patients, the public, communities of interest, local communities, health and well being boards, and local authorities (parish councils) in their commissioning decisions. They have to develop procedures for gaining a broad range of views, analysing and acting on them. The process needs to be transparent and it should be evident how the views of individual patients, the various groups and the public are translated into clinical commissioning decisions and acted on.

Easy to say or write down. As always the problems are in the detail of how to do it.

Most of us in the parish are patients of Cornerways or Ringwood Medical Centre both of which come under West Hampshire CCG which is based in Eastleigh. It also has one of the largest geographic areas to cover.

To meet its obligations the West Hampshire CCG has set up a Communications and Engagement Group comprising representatives of a range of interest groups and geographic areas. This area and indeed West New Forest which is the geographic area of which we are a part was not represented.

The purpose of the group is to facilitate two way communication between the CCG and local areas

and patient groups. The intention is to consult as widely as possible particularly with hard to reach groups (that is you).

A further aim of the group is to explain local health services and how expectations are to be met, enhance public understanding of how the new system is intended to work, and demonstrate accountability.

I have been appointed to the group as a patient member which means at my own cost (no expenses paid) but have for the moment undertaken to facilitate communication and consultation with various groups in the locality. Through these newsletters I will involve the Parish Council in any consultations. I will also involve other interest groups if I am aware of their interest. One such group is the Cornerways Patient Participation Group of which I am a member, and which I urge Cornerways patients to support.

Paul Thackray

FUN AT ANY AGE

These days age really does only need to be a number and it is up to each of us how we approach maturity. I loved the little book written by Jenny Joseph who wrote, When I am an old Woman I shall wear purple.

For sometime now, our hard working Parish Clerk has been researching and applying for grants towards something known as an adult recreational gym. It all started when one of our much-valued councillors Michael Packham passed away and his wife gave the Parish Council a donation towards the gym. Michael was always a lively character with a fun sense of humour and to see this equipment installed at the recreation ground in Braeside Road was something he had wanted to see come to fruition. Many parishes are now installing these in their recreation grounds

So what are they you may ask? They are pieces of outdoor fun gym equipment, which anyone of

any age can enjoy. No need to wear embarrassing lycra, no instructor shouting, more, more!

If, like me, you have spent time with your young grandchildren watching them play endlessly in the play park, how great would it be to be able also to have as much fun?

Although there are still some challenges to overcome, with the help of the Parish Clerk and the support of your councillors, we will continue to progress this in 2013.

Cllr. Mrs Jenny House

HAVE YOU EVER MADE THE SCOUT OR GUIDE PROMISE?

Young people in our Parish are still promising to "do their best" and are having fun developing the sense of adventure, self-sufficiency and good citizenship envisaged by Lord Baden- Powell back in 1907.

Anyone with young people interested in joining Scouts or Guides should contact David Carter on 01425 473630 or acecarter@lineone.net. (We would also be delighted to welcome adult helpers or leaders!). Our Joint Scout and Guide Headquarters is situated behind the Braeside Village Hall and was officially opened in 1983 complete with a band and an RAF fly-past.

During the intervening 30 years the building has served its purpose well but is now in need of a face-lift. Grants are being applied for primarily to resurface the floor and replace damaged interior partitions but more needs to be done on a self-help basis. In particular the kitchen needs refurbishing.

David would be glad to hear from anyone who can help source or offer practical advice or assistance regarding the kitchen re-fit or materials for internal painting. The (unpaid) leaders work hard to encourage the young members and anyone

previously involved in voluntary work will appreciate how valuable both practical and moral support can be in sustaining their enthusiasm.

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FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL

Your Councillors are:

Chairman

Cllr R Bryan (East Ward)

Vice Chairman

Cllr M R DYER (South Ward)

East Ward

Cllr B P GORINGE

Cllr C HOUSE

Cllr Mrs J HOUSE

Cllr R ADKINS

Cllr Mrs A WARMAN

South Ward

Cllr N R HINDMARCH

Cllr M Dyer

Cllr J Crow

West Ward

Cllr R C DUDMAN

Cllr M J HOCKLEY

Cllr R WARMAN

Cllr G J WILLETTS

Parish Council website on www.stleonardspc.org.uk

Noticeboards are sited 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 to Thursday 10.30am to 12.30pm Email: office@stleonardspc.org.uk Website: www.stleonardspc.org.uk
