

St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council

"Help us to keep our Parish green and sylvan, treasure and protect our trees....."

**Newsletter
Autumn 2014**

Letter from the Chairman.....

May 2015 will be a busy time at the Polling Stations as Parish, District and National elections all take place on the same day. Parish boundaries remain unaltered (despite changes at the District), so we will continue to have South, East and West Wards. Several Councillors will be standing down, so it is not too early for interested people to start thinking about offering some of their time and experience to the Parish.

Chairs of our Committees and individual Councillors have made their own contributions to this Newsletter, so I will not steal their thunder, except to say that there has been steady progress by all.

Once again, my special thanks go to Peter Walker for his work on our Audit, and to Ann Jacobs for her dedication to the job.

Councillor Mike Dyer
Chairman

Speeding.....

Two of your Parish Councillors together with other interested residents have put themselves forward to assist the Police with a community speed watch scheme.

These people will receive training and then go out within the Parish to monitor roads. If caught exceeding the speed limit a letter is sent to the offender or in some instances they will get a visit from the Police.

Please watch your speed especially near the school and village green areas where children might be crossing.

Get on Yer Bike!

It's official: Britain is cycling!

The latest figures from Sport England show that cycling is now the third most popular sporting

activity in the country, and similar figures are available for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Bikes offer a unique combination of fun, fitness and practical transport, with millions of people cycling to work at least once a week.

We are fortunate to have great cycle routes in this area so why take the car? It's cheaper than the gym, no queues of traffic and it is really good for you! So if you are visiting the village hall why not cycle there. Bike racks are available at the main entrance and also close to the Tennis courts.

But please get a helmet, heads don't bounce well!!!

Watch out for Post box Changes

Owing to falling letter volumes, Royal Mail is to introduce new collection times and introduce 2000 different post boxes. Instead of removing un-economic boxes by volume of letter usage, local postmen or women will empty the box on their delivery round rather than providing a dedicated collection time.

These new post boxes will be trialled in rural Scotland and Northern Ireland and will be in addition to the current 115,301 boxes across the UK.

May I remind you that Dorset has more post boxes per heads of population than anywhere else in the World, not many people know that!!

Cllr N R Hindmarch

Cedar Avenue to A31 footpath

In August 2008 the Parish Council submitted an application to put the above path on the Definitive Map. At long last we have just heard that Dorset County Council are launching their investigation into our claim. Due to the volume of applications and priority criteria our case has taken 6 years to actually get to this stage even though we wrote to the Secretary

of State to review the delay. At the time it was supported by a significant number of witness statements. Some of you may have received letters from the County Council asking if you have any comment. Please take the time to respond. Thank you if you already have as it will help to maintain this very useful, historic cut through.

We will keep you updated.

Update on Resurfacing the A338

Recent Government announcements support our Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership. Dorset County Council gained a larger share for Partnership Projects than it thought. This results in £66 million of growth funding to develop Bournemouth Airport and the Port of Poole. Also there is a Government grant to provide funding for road repairs for the A338 between Ashley Heath Roundabout and Blackwater Junction. This will secure the long delayed resurfacing project, to start next year and have a target date for completion of Spring 2016, with the aim to deliver on time.

The award of funding including a 10% contribution from DCC enables the best of the private sector industry to work with the County Council to ensure the scheme's viability.

Preparation work will start in the near future and over the life span of works, there will be careful consideration given to the minimum of disruption for road users and local residents.

It is expected there is to be maximum coverage of information via the web in form of a "Live Blog" on www.dorsetforyou.com with regular updates and public user contribution will be encouraged.

DCC Councillor Peter Richardson

New Council May 2015

In May 2015 the existing Parish Council retires and the opportunity to become a Councillor is once more open. A Parish Council needs to reflect its community. The community is made up of all ages, ethnic groups and people of differing views. Instead of moaning why not step up and take on this opportunity to serve your community and have a say in local issues. Prior to May posters and advertising will inform the public how and when they can apply to be a Councillor. The role is unpaid. However, training is available and expenses are paid when travelling outside of the Parish. If you want to know more take a look on our website to see what goes on or contact a Councillor or the Clerk.

A Plea to cut back your hedges

At this time of year when we have had the sun and rain many hedges really do need a cutback. I am often inundated with complaints. If your hedge is protruding it is a nuisance to anyone walking on the pavement, often it obstructs sightlines at junctions and when it rains it gets pedestrians wet. Now is the ideal time for a good cut and it will help your hedge to thicken up at the bottom.

Your New Look Post Office

The Parish Council was sorry to see Nicola Baker leave the Post Office after so many years, but very pleased to welcome Gemma Probyn as the new Postmistress. Gemma took over the Post Office at St Ives at the beginning of June. The premises have been refurbished but they continue to stock a wide range of goods, much longer opening hours mean that it is even more convenient to use this essential local business and with free parking outside. They also stock the caddy liner bags for the small brown food recycling bins.

We wish Gemma the best of luck in her new role and hope that the Parish will support this community asset.

Opening hours for shop & Post Office are 6.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat and 6.30am-1pm Sunday

Verges - Grass Cutting

A combination of a mild wet winter and spring created problems with the timing of cuts. This has left grass verges in some areas extremely overgrown.

After a number of complaints from residents and pressure from local Town and Parish Councils a full review of the County Council's grass cutting services is now underway to ensure it becomes a more targeted and effective service. An additional £100,000 funding has been made available by the County Council.

A wider review is now taking place at EDDC level in consultation with Parish and Town councils to assess how highway vegetation should be managed in future. The review will look at the different requirements of Urban and Rural areas.

In the meantime the EDDC have put in place a recovery plan so they respond to the needs and concerns of communities.

Cllr Barry Goringe.

Lions Hill Deer

There is a small herd of deer grazing on private land adjacent to the open area on Lions Hill. Although the deer are fenced off occasionally dogs have been seen chasing the deer. If a deer is in calf they will often miscarry as a self-preservation mechanism. Please therefore be aware and ensure your dog is under control when close by on the Castleman trail or on Lions Hill.

Community Coffee Mornings

Now taking place at the Annexe at the Village Hall, every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon. Homemade cakes, craft items, second hand books and a weekly raffle. All money raised from the stalls and raffle go to the Braeside Age Concern Day Centre.

These are now proving very popular and offer a friendly and welcoming place to come and chat for all ages.

Tennis Success and Aspirations for the Future

The village Tennis Club has had another very successful season. Many of you will have seen the throngs of Juniors and Infants (4-18 years old!) having group coaching every weekday after school and Saturday mornings. We can boast the 2nd highest number of youngsters in Dorset competing regularly (after West Hants TC with its huge number of courts and coaches!).

A lot of tournaments are organised across the County for the various age groups from mini reds upwards and we take our turn at hosting these (usually on a Sunday). Next winter we even hope to enter our older Juniors in the adult league as a Men's 5 team to give them adult match experience.

Our team of 3 coaches headed up by Paul Handford also run a successful holiday scheme which anyone (non members welcome) aged 7 – 15 can join. This runs for 4 days a week throughout the summer holidays. Ideal fun packed days for all ages and great if you have grandchildren visiting! See our website for more information. (www.stleonardstennis.org.uk)

Adult teams do well too, with 10 teams in the summer leagues this year and 14 teams proposed for the winter.

Not everyone likes to play in teams and there are plenty of opportunities to come and play socially at any club sessions which happen 5 times a week: 3 mornings and 2 evenings. Many members also choose to just make up a 4, book a court and play.

Our membership fluctuates, but generally we have about 200 members with nearly half the Seniors living within the Parish and a third of the Juniors and Infants. We are a friendly club and always welcome more members.

With all our Junior/Infant success we'd like to build a mini court to add to our facilities. This would free up an extra court during coaching time allowing more people to play. We'd also like the

opportunity to build a practice training wall, ideally where it could be used by everyone.

We'd also like to build even better links with the local schools – we are always on the lookout for the next Andy Murray. Did you know he started at a local club like ours which had just 4 courts?

Road to Wimbledon Success for local lad!

Luca Moore and Matt Lane, who both live in the Parish, were our club qualifiers in "The Road to Wimbledon" Under14 Club Knockout Tournament. The winner and runner up went through to the Dorset County Finals, this year held at Bournemouth Gardens. The standard was high but Luca and Matt were not daunted by the occasion surviving the knockout rounds to meet each other in the finals!

Luca won the very close encounter which Paul Handford (our Head Coach) proudly witnessed. By the time you read this Luca will have played in the Finals of this National Competition on the famous grass courts at **AELTC Wimbledon** on August 11th against some of the 44 other county winners and 20 runners up from across the UK. Nationwide well over 10,000 youngsters entered the competition. What an amazing achievement, well done!

Village Hall Update

The big project of removing the moss of the roof has now been undertaken. Because we have a vaulted roof it necessitated the removal of the moss manually and it took two men about 11 days, the roof has also been sprayed with a moss repellent. Hopefully this work will prevent moss for a long time which will lengthen the life of the roof. The work has cost us approximately £2,300. Money which we have had to earn with events to raise funds.

Events to put in your diary are:-
NOVEMBER 15TH CHARITY COMMUNITY DAY 10.00AM - 2.00PM. Come enjoy our well known sausage rolls and homemade soup as well as finding many bargains for Christmas. We

hope Father Christmas will be there. SATURDAY 22ND

NOVEMBER 2.30PM. A talk on aviation by Phil Holt. A very special aircraft will be the subject this time and the details will be disclosed on the purchase of tickets @ £6.00 each.

SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 2015 6.30PM -7.00PM Our famous race night, real horse races on film, real tote and buy a horse or race for which there could be a prize. Every table has it's own buffet and hopefully some homemade deserts. I have also had donated a water colour painting by a well known artist. I am raffling this picture at £1 per ticket and the picture is worth approximately £150. This can be seen at the Village Hall on request.

For further information please contact the Chairman Ann Warman on 01425 476319.

Notice of work at the Village Hall

At the end of October the patio and slab paths which are at the rear of the village hall leading to the Bowling Club and Tennis Clubs will be uplifted, power washed and re-laid. Currently the surface has become uneven and the ground has washed away since the slabs were laid. The Council decided to reuse the existing slabs to keep costs down and avoid waste. The paths will be laid in tarmac instead of the slabs to avoid future maintenance work as the existing slabs are prone to breaking.

We apologise for any inconvenience to site users and ask you to abide by any diversions around the building whilst the work is underway for your own safety.

LIONS HILL SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) – owned by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust

For some time I have been concerned about the apparent reduction in conservation management on the publicly accessible part of the nature reserve, and lack of signage, interpretation boards and information. Thankfully the lottery-funded Great Heath Project (led by

the Dorset Wildlife Trust (www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

will be considering funding an upgrade to the signage and information on the site and also on the Castleman Trailway which bisects it. There is also a new volunteer group starting to do practical conservation management work across all the heathland reserves in East Dorset, including Lions Hill. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Sally Wright on 01202 692033. The group will meet up every Wednesday, starting on October 1st .

If you walk your dog on the heath please ensure it is under control and keeps to the paths, AND pick up dog waste. (there is a dog waste bin on the trailway at the Grosvenor Close junction). As well as being anti-social, dog waste not picked up enriches the soil, allowing unwanted grass growth on the heathland and unnecessarily adding to the management challenge .

Cllr Graham Willetts

Aerial Slide has had to close

Our younger residents may have noticed that the aerial slide has been taken out of service. It was installed in 1993 and I know it has been very well used by children of the Parish and the many temporary visitors, maybe even a grandparent or two. After 21 years faithful service and I am sure a great deal of fun it had begun to show signs of rot in two of the main structure posts. After close monitoring for the last 6 months and seeking expert advice it was decided that in the interest of safety it should now be closed permanently.

The good news though is that the Council has engaged a company to source a replacement. Any replacement will depend on available resources and it may take a while to obtain sufficient funding however, the Council has been putting some funds away over the last couple of years so hopefully the replacement will be with us by next Summer.

We will update you in our Spring Newsletter.

Keep hold of your bike

The Police are reporting an increase in thefts of cycles and recommend that you purchase and use a "D type lock rather than the flexible steel cable type lock.

Our Green and Sylvan Parish

This Parish is renowned for its sylvan setting. In fact we have two large Special Character Areas defined by this factor and the high leafy hedges. Many of the Trees are protected and whilst this can be an irritant when leaves and needles fall, without them we would just be in an ordinary housing estate. The trees give back in many ways reducing carbon dioxide levels; absorbing noise; producing oxygen, encourage wildlife; filter and absorb pollution; offer shade and shelter and have aesthetic value.

If you have bought a property in this Parish which has established trees the search carried out by your Solicitor will have revealed whether they are the subject of a Tree Preservation order. If they are you must contact the District Council before doing any work on them. Fines of up to £20,000 are applicable for anyone not getting permission. So if you have any doubt ring the Tree Section first.

So can I reduce its height?

Consent will only be granted to prune the tree where the work will improve the structure/longevity or is required to prevent damage to adjacent buildings or overhead cables. Pruning may be granted for either reasons but only if the tree is able to tolerate the work. When you bought the house you also bought the trees.

I am a keen gardener, how will the trees affect me?

Leaves, twigs, flowers, fruit, pollen and dead branches are a normal consequence of living with trees and are not sufficient justification for felling or pruning. Trees cast shade which will increase as the trees grow. Evergreens cast shade all year round and their leaf litter decomposes slowly and can alter the acidity of the soil. Deciduous trees produce a lot of mulch. Lawns tend to be patchy beneath tree canopies although there are

shade tolerant seed mixes available. Gardening beneath trees can provide an opportunity to grow shade loving plants.

Will the roots undermine my property?

In some cases trees can cause damage to a building; however, it is a complex and unpredictable interaction between rainfall, foundation design, soil type and vegetation. Any prospective purchaser would be advised to obtain a full structural survey. If there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that, on the balance of probabilities, the tree is causing damage, then the council will allow it to be removed.

The drive is cracking, can I replace it?

Possibly, but you may not be allowed to sever the roots, fell the tree or use the surface of your choice. Check with the Tree section if you have a concern.

What if the tree is dangerous?

Public safety is paramount. If the tree is subject to a tree preservation order contact one of the tree officers at the District Council.

Please note that a tree is not necessarily considered dangerous due to its height and spread.

What if I want to build a new extension?

If the proposed extension would result in the loss of, or would seriously damage any protected trees, then you may not be allowed to build.

EDDC Tree Section can be called on 01202 886201

Help us to keep our Parish Green, love your trees, look after them.

Allotments

The Parish Council continues to progress this amenity on your behalf. More work is still to be done in respect of confirming access. Those registered on the waiting list will be receiving regular updates by email or post.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chairman

Cllr M R DYER (South Ward)

Vice Chairman

Cllr R ADKINS (East Ward)

East Ward

Cllr R BRYAN
Cllr B P GORINGE
Cllr C HOUSE
Cllr Mrs J HOUSE
Cllr Mrs A WARMAN

South Ward

Cllr J CROW
Cllr N R HINDMARCH

West Ward

Cllr R C DUDMAN
Cllr M J HOCKLEY
Cllr R WARMAN
Cllr G J WILLETTS

Alternatively look for your nearest Parish Council noticeboard at:-
The Village Hall; Post Office;
Doctors Surgery; One Stop (near the crossing); Hurn Road layby
Oak Tree Caravan Park

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public. The full Council meets on the last Wednesday of every month in the Committee Room at the Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards. Meetings start at 7pm.

Residents can contact

Dorset County Councillor Peter Richardson Tel: 01202 829 778
e-mail:
richardson372@btinternet.com

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